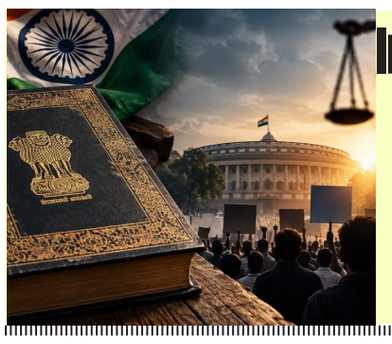
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India's Democracy: A Constitutional Vision for the Future

OPINION 06

Sukumar's Surprise Heroine Hint

BOX-OFFICE 12



OBTUSE ANGLE



by BP ACHARYA

TG to Lead in Defence Industry

Chief Minister addresses Raksha Expo-2026 Curtain Raiser; invites global investors to Telangana



HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 24

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has reiterated the state government's ambition to transform Telangana into India's largest industrial hub for the defence sector, with a strong focus on defence manufacturing, space, aerospace, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence (AI) and drone technology. Addressing the Raksha Expo-2026 Curtain Raiser programme in Hyderabad, the Chief Minister said the event would serve as an international platform bringing together domestic and global defence companies, research institutions, startups, industry leaders and security experts to exchange ideas and explore new technological opportunities.

He called upon industry stakeholders to strengthen their investment plans in Telangana and work collectively towards making India a global leader in defence technology and manufacturing.

Raksha Expo to Become an International Platform

The Chief Minister said his vision was to develop Raksha Expo into a prestigious international platform where stakeholders from across the defence sector could meet, deliberate and collaborate. Representatives from several leading organisations and companies, including DRDO,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

India Score Double Win at Commonwealth Kabaddi



Ahmedabad, October 24: The Indian men's and women's teams delivered impressive performances on Saturday at the inaugural Commonwealth Kabaddi Championship 2026, being held at the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex in Naranpura, Ahmedabad, Gujarat. The men's team defeated Uganda 44–30, while the women's team registered a dominant 32–16 victory over Singapore. In the men's section, India produced an excellent all-round performance to secure a 14-point victory over Uganda.

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₹150 Crore for Long-Term Drought Measures

Village meetings to be held to formulate plans based on public opinion

Project to be implemented in coordination with local public representatives

Minister for Revenue, Housing and Information and Public Relations Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy



Hyderabad, oct 24: Telangana Revenue, Housing and Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy has announced that permanent drought mitigation measures will be undertaken in three mandals of the state at a cost of ₹150 crore to ensure that people and farmers can withstand drought conditions whenever they arise. As per the directions of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, the areas were selected in accordance with Central government guidelines, keeping in view factors such as their historical vulnerability to drought, the prevalence of rain-fed agriculture, socio-economic backwardness and the livelihoods of farming families. The project aims to ensure the efficient utilisation of water resources and improve the livelihoods of farming households. The initiative is being taken up with support from the National Disaster Fund (NDF).

The Minister held a review meeting with officials from the Agriculture and Disaster Management departments at the State Secretariat on Saturday. The meeting discussed the implementation of a drought-resilient agricultural approach in Telangana, the identification of permanent solutions for drought-prone areas, the proposed project's action plan and the effective utilisation of funds. The three selected mandals are Midjil in Mahabubnagar district, Uppununthala in Nagarkurnool district, and Makthal in Narayanpet district. The Minister said the Agriculture Department would serve as the nodal agency under the supervision of the Disaster Management Department. He instructed officials to coordinate with public representatives and establish committees at the village and mandal levels to ensure the systematic implementation of the project.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

TPCC chief alleges constitutional institutions being weakened





Hyderabad, Oct.24: The TPCC Legal Cell executive committee meeting was held at Indira Bhavan in Gandhi Bhavan on Saturday under the chairmanship of Legal Cell chairman Ashok Goud. Addressing the meeting, TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud said the legal profession commanded great respect but also came with numerous challenges. He noted that several political leaders had made a mark in public life after beginning their careers as advocates.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

"Dindi to Be Scrapped, Palamuru Project Completed"

Hyderabad, Oct.24: Mahabubnagar BJP MP DK Aruna has demanded the immediate cancellation of the Dindi Lift Irrigation Project, alleging that it would deprive Palamuru farmers of their rightful share of water. She insisted that every drop of Srisailam backwater allocated for the region should be utilised for Palamuru. Addressing a media conference here at the BJP state office, Aruna demanded that the Palamuru-Ranga Reddy project be completed according to its original Jurala-based design under GO 72. She accused

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 ➤

Irrigation 'Blunder': Uttam Hits Out at BRS



Hyderabad, October 24: Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Saturday launched a sharp attack on the previous BRS regime, accusing it of committing a "historic blunder" by abandoning the original Pranahita-Chevella irrigation project and redesigning it around Medigadda as part of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme (KLIS). He announced the final time-bound roadmap for rehabilitation of KLIS barrages at a press conference at the Secretariat Media Centre while outlining the technical assessments, design approvals and execution milestones for Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages.

Minister Vivek Venkataswamy, Colonel Parikshit Mehra, a tunnel engineering expert associated with the rehabilitation mission, Engineer-in-Chief (General), Ramesh Babu and several elected representatives were present at the media conference.

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Tiger Shroff Car Firing: 10 Arrested

MUMBAI, oct 24: The Mumbai Crime Branch is investigating a firing incident reported on October 18, 2026, involving Bollywood actor Tiger Shroff's car. According to the details of the investigation, the shooters allegedly received instructions and updates from a handler through phone calls and messages before and after the incident. Investigators suspect that someone may have monitored television news coverage of the incident and alerted the accused when their faces appeared on screen. Police are examining this possibility as part of their efforts to establish the communication chain and identify the individuals who allegedly coordinated the operation.

Anil Pandit, who is suspected to be in the United States, is being investigated for his alleged role in the case.

BRS MLAs Issue Water Crisis Protest Warning

BRS delegation visits Kaleshwaram Project, flags Godavari water going downstream

BRS demands immediate water lifting to avert major crisis

HYDERABAD, OCT 24



BRS legislators from Hyderabad and Ranga Reddy districts warned Cwhief Minister Revanth Reddy that they, along with the people of Hyderabad, would stage a protest at his residence if the government failed to lift water from the Kannepalli pump house and take immediate steps to avert the looming drinking water crisis in the city. BRS MLAs Devireddy Sudheer Reddy, Madhavaram Krishna Rao, KP Vivekanand Goud, Marri Rajashekar Reddy and Bandari Laxma Reddy, along with former minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao and former MLA Gandra Venkata Ramana Reddy, visited the Kannepalli pump house, which form part of the Kaleshwaram project. The delegation sought to draw attention to the large quantities of Godavari water flowing downstream and eventually into the sea, even as Hyderabad faces growing concerns over drinking water supplies. The BRS leaders said that the Congress government was failing to utilise the available water by operating the pumps at Kannepalli, thereby aggravating the city's water crisis. According to estimates cited by the delegation, more than 750 TMC of Godavari water had flowed into the sea since June. The leaders argued that lifting even around 250 TMC could have helped replenish reservoirs and tanks, improve groundwater levels and meet Hyderabad's drinking water needs.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

PD Act Invoked Against Offender in Cyberabad



Hyderabad, oct 24: Sri Dr. M. Ramesh, I.P.S., Commissioner of Police, Cyberabad, invoked the Preventive Detention (PD) Act against a dangerous notorious property offender, namely Nagaraju Raghu Varma @ Nagaraju Karthikeya Raghu Varma @ Vamshi @ Alluri Vijaya Ram @ Col. Karthikeya Singh as "Goonda" and detained him in Central Prison, Cherlapalli, Medchal district with a view to prevent him from indulging in further criminal activities. The detenu is a native of West Godavari, Andhra Pradesh, who migrated to Hyderabad and initially worked as a driver. Subsequently, with an intention to earn easy money and lead a luxurious lifestyle, he started indulging in property and other criminal activities. He impersonated a Police Officer and deceived people by falsely claiming that criminal cases had been registered against them at various police stations. He threatened them with legal consequences and extorted money on the pretext of helping them. He also kidnapped targeted persons and robbed money from them by threatening them with firearms. From 2017 to 2026, he was involved in 14 criminal cases relating to cheating, kidnapping, robbery, extortion, criminal intimidation and offences under the Arms Act, 1959. He had previously been detained twice under the PD Act, in 2021 and 2024, by the Cyberabad Police Commissionerate. However, after his release from preventive detention, he resumed his criminal activities and was involved in four more cases of kidnapping, extortion and robbery by impersonating a Police Officer.

In connection with the latest cases, he was arrested by the Jagadgirigutta Police, Cyberabad, and lodged in jail. Considering his continued involvement in criminal activities despite the earlier preventive actions, he has once again been detained under the PD Act and lodged in jail.

TPCC chief alleges constitutional institutions being weakened

➢FROM PAGE 1

Mahesh Kumar Goud recalled that he, too, had aspired to become an advocate but could not pursue the profession. Criticising the functioning of constitutional institutions in the country, Mahesh Kumar Goud alleged that they were being systematically weakened. Expressing concern over certain court verdicts, he accused the Union government of using the Election Commission to serve its political interests. The TPCC President further alleged that central investigative agencies, including the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and the Enforcement Directorate (ED), were being used at the discretion of the Union government. Ministers D. Sridhar Babu, Ponnam Prabhakar and Vivek Venkataswamy,AICC secretary Sachin Sawant, AIPC chairman and former MP Madhu Yashki Goud, MLAs Madhusudhan Reddy and Nayini Rajender Reddy, former MLA Eravathri Anil, MLC candidate Sama Ram Mohan Reddy, several party leaders and Legal Cell executive committee members attended the meeting.

₹150 Crore for Long-Term..

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The programme aims to improve living standards in the selected areas and reduce the financial hardships faced by people during periods of inadequate rainfall. Village Assemblies to Shape Action Plans The Minister stressed that local public representatives must be actively involved in implementing the drought mitigation project. Gram Sabhas must be conducted in every village of the selected mandals, and comprehensive action plans should be prepared based on public opinion and local requirements.

He instructed officials to ensure that every rupee spent by the government was utilised transparently and responsibly to achieve the intended objectives. He said government objectives could be realised at the grassroots level only when officials, public representatives and villagers worked together in a coordinated manner.

Priority for Women, Youth, Farmers and Traditional Occupations

The Minister emphasised that the needs of all sections of society, including women, youth, farmers and families dependent on traditional occupations, must be taken into account while preparing the plans. He pointed out that drought affects not only agriculture but also rural employment, household incomes and traditional livelihoods. Therefore, he called for an integrated plan incorporating permanent solutions suited to local conditions and ensuring benefits for every section of society.

Continuous Monitoring to Ensure Effective Utilisation of Funds

Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy reiterated that every rupee allocated to the project must be put to effective use. He directed officials to continuously monitor fund utilisation, the selection of works, implementation procedures and outcomes at the grassroots level. He said the success of the project should not be measured merely by the expenditure incurred or the completion of works. Instead, the primary consideration must be the tangible benefits delivered to people and the progress achieved in addressing drought-related problems. Principal Secretary of the Disaster Management Department Rahul Bojja, Agriculture Commissioner Surendra Mohan, Agriculture Department Director N. Gopi and other officials attended the meeting.

Sheri Satish Reddy Leads Mega Graduate Voter Enrollment Drive in Balaji Nagar

Key TPCC leaders and division cadres launch a full-scale campaign to ensure 100% voter registration across the Kukatpally Assembly Constituency.



Medchal-Malkajgiri, October 24, 2026: In a strategic move to consolidate support among educated youth and urban intellectuals, the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) launched an extensive Graduate Voter Registration Drive in Balaji Nagar Division under the Kukatpally Assembly Constituency.

Organized under the leadership of Sheri Satish Reddy, Ex-President of the Kukatpally Constituency Congress Committee, the initiative aims to maximize voter enrollment for the upcoming Rangareddy–Mahabubnagar–Hyderabad Graduates' MLC Elections.

The campaign event saw key party leaders in attendance, highlighting the strategic importance Congress attaches to winning urban graduate constituencies. TPCC Official Spokesperson Dr. Satyam Srirangam, senior party leader Sadhu Pratap Reddy, and former Kukatpally Assembly MLA candidate B. Sanjeeva Rao attended as chief guests to spearhead the effort.

Addressing the gathering, senior Congress leaders emphasized the crucial role of educated citizens in safeguarding democratic institutions. They urged all eligible graduates across the constituency to exercise their constitutional right by enrolling on the electoral rolls. The party leadership announced plans to deploy dedicated division-level teams to ensure 100% voter registration among eligible graduates in the coming weeks.

The mobilization drive drew widespread participation from key grassroots leaders, including Balaji Nagar Division Congress President Rajesh Goud, senior leader Gottimukkala Jashwanth Rao (Deshal), Christian Minority Coordinator Mekala Michael, former Joint KPHB Division President Tammineni Praveen Kumar, former Corporator candidate Vittal Reddy, along with several division functionaries, wing leaders, and party cadre.

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

TG to Lead in Defence Industry

➢FROM PAGE 1

HAL, BDL, MIDHANI, Tata Group, Airbus, Safran, Skyroot, Lockheed Martin and Bharat Forge, were among those participating in the programme.

He said Raksha Expo would provide an important platform for global Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), defence officials, security professionals and startups to showcase innovative ideas and advanced technologies. The event is expected to encourage collaboration between established industrial players and emerging technology companies, helping strengthen India's defence manufacturing ecosystem.

Hyderabad's Strategic Importance in Defence

Highlighting Hyderabad's strategic position, the Chief Minister said the city was home to several important research institutions and defence-related establishments. Hyderabad and its surrounding areas host key strategic facilities associated with the Indian Army and the Indian Air Force. The city's established industrial ecosystem, research capabilities and skilled workforce make it an important destination for defence and aerospace investments. He also highlighted Telangana's contribution to the Indian Navy despite being the only landlocked state in southern India.

The Chief Minister referred to the Very Low Frequency (VLF) naval radar facility being developed in the Damagundam Reserve Forest in Vikarabad district, underlining the state's contribution to the country's strategic infrastructure.

Skilled Youth to Drive Defence Manufacturing

The Chief Minister stressed that a strong pool of skilled and talented human resources was essential for the growth of the defence and aerospace industries. He noted that Telangana had access to premier educational institutions, including IITs, IIITs, NITs, ISB and BITS, which could help develop the technical talent required by advanced industries.

The state government is developing the Young India Skills University to prepare industry-ready professionals. Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) have also been transformed into Advanced Training Centres (ATCs), while established incubation centres are supporting innovation and entrepreneurship. He said Telangana would continue to strengthen its skill development, research and innovation ecosystem to meet the growing requirements of the defence industry.

India Must Move from Defence Imports to Exports

The Chief Minister expressed his aspiration to see India emerge as a global leader in defence technology, moving from dependence on imported military technologies to developing and exporting advanced indigenous defence products. He observed that defence capabilities were necessary not only to fight wars but also to preserve peace. The ability to deter potential adversaries from initiating conflict, he said, provides a country with a strategic advantage.

He called for coordinated efforts among governments, industries, research institutions and startups to strengthen India's technological capabilities and establish the country as a major global defence manufacturing power.

Telangana Rising Vision 2047

The Chief Minister recalled that the Telangana Rising Vision 2047 document was unveiled last year, outlining the state's ambition to become a US$1 trillion economy by 2034 and a US$3 trillion economy by 2047. He stated that Telangana accounts for more than 2.5 per cent of India's population and contributes approximately 5 per cent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The state aims to increase its contribution to 10 per cent of India's GDP by 2047. According to the Chief Minister, defence manufacturing, aerospace, space technology and their allied industries will play a significant role in achieving these economic objectives. He said expanding investment in these sectors would help create high-value employment, encourage innovation and strengthen Telangana's position in the global industrial landscape.

Aerospace and Defence Policy 2.0 Soon

The Chief Minister said Telangana was pursuing a clear development strategy and remained committed to creating a favourable environment for investment and industrial expansion. He emphasised that political and ideological differences should not become obstacles to investment and economic development. Announcing a major policy initiative, he said the state government would soon release Aerospace and Defence Policy 2.0, aligned with the objectives of Telangana Rising Vision 2047. The proposed policy is intended to support the further development of the state's aerospace and defence ecosystem and attract investments across emerging technology sectors.

He also called for greater participation in cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, drone technology, space research and other allied industries.

CM Invites Investors to Double Their Investment Plans

The Chief Minister urged companies that had already planned investments in Telangana to consider doubling their proposed commitments. He assured investors that the state government was prepared to extend the necessary support to facilitate industrial establishment, expansion and long-term growth. He said Telangana had the talent, resources, industrial infrastructure and determination required to achieve its ambitions. The Chief Minister called upon industry leaders, international companies, research organisations and startups to work together to establish Telangana as India's largest defence industrial hub.

Global Investment Summit in December

The Chief Minister invited investors and industry representatives to participate in the Invest Telangana Global Summit, scheduled for December 7, 8 and 9 at Bharat Future City, Hyderabad. He said the inaugural Global Summit held last year had been successful and that the forthcoming edition would be organised on a much larger scale. Expressing confidence in Telangana's industrial potential, he called upon all stakeholders to collaborate in strengthening India's defence capabilities and establishing the country as a leading global power in defence manufacturing and technology.

TGSPDCL Upgrades Erlapally Substation to Boost Regional Grid

A new ₹1.20 crore transformer resolves low-voltage and overloading issues for over 6,000 domestic, commercial, and agricultural power consumers across six villages.



Medchal-Malkajgiri, October 24: In a key move to reinforce power distribution infrastructure and cater to surging electricity demand, the Telangana Southern Power Distribution Corporation Limited (TGSPDCL) commissioned an additional 5 MVA power transformer at the Chevella, (erlapally) substation on October 24, 2026.

Executed at an investment of ₹1.20 crore utilizing Transmission & Distribution (T&D) funds, the project complements the substation's existing 5 MVA capacity. The upgrade also involved installing new 33 kV High Voltage (HV) and 11 kV Low Voltage (LV) circuit breakers to streamline operations. The expansion effectively addresses persistent low-voltage and line-overload challenges across three critical 11 kV distribution feeders: the Erlapally, Kammeta, and Industrial 24 Hours feeders.

The infrastructure enhancement will deliver uninterrupted, stable power to 6,192 consumers spread across six key localities—Gollaguda, Kammeta, Erlapally, Yenkapally, Tangaturu, and Kothapally. The user base comprises 3,542 residential, 754 commercial, and 1,896 agricultural consumers. Officials noted that the increased capacity will prove particularly vital during peak agricultural pumping periods, ensuring stable voltage and preventing grid failures. Key TGSPDCL officials present during the charging ceremony included DE (Protection) Haimanand, ADE (Protection) Pawan Kumar, ADE (Operations, Chevella) Sainath, AE (Operations, Chevella) Rajender, and AE (Protection) Shankar.

Irrigation 'Blunder': Uttam Hits Out at BRS

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Uttam Kumar Reddy asserted that Telangana would have been far better equipped to withstand the prevailing El Niño-induced drought conditions had the original Pranahita-Chevella project been completed without modifications. He alleged that the diversion from the original project design was driven by considerations other than the long-term interests of farmers. He claimed that a project originally envisaged at a cost of around Rs. 38,000 crore had eventually contributed to an enormous financial burden on the State, without delivering the promised irrigation benefits. The Minister argued that completing Pranahita-Chevella as originally planned would have strengthened irrigation infrastructure across north Telangana, reduced vulnerability to rainfall deficits and helped farmers cope with recurring droughts.

He also criticised the previous government for failing to complete several other irrigation projects, including the SLBC tunnel, Devadula and Sitarama projects, despite incurring substantial expenditure.

"The diversion of Pranahita-Chevella to Medigadda was a historic blunder," he said, accusing the previous regime of placing an unsustainable debt burden on the State while leaving critical irrigation infrastructure incomplete. The Minister said the government had engaged national and international experts to oversee the rehabilitation of the Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages.

Telangana Leads in Utilisation of Krishna and Godavari Waters

Telangana recorded the highest agricultural acreage, the highest utilisation of river waters and the highest paddy production in the Krishna and Godavari basins, Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister said.

He asserted that the State's irrigation achievements must be assessed on the basis of facts and ground realities rather than political rhetoric.

Four milestones to drive rehabilitation

Uttam Kumar Reddy said that a broad timeline for taking the rehabilitation programme forward was finalized. Concept designs were completed by the end of September, while estimates and government approvals are targeted for October-end.

Agencies are expected to be mobilised by the end of November, and works are scheduled to commence on all fronts by December-end. The overall target is to complete rehabilitation before the next monsoon in 2027, subject to technical clearances and implementation progress.

CWPRS, AFRY and IIT Bombay involved

The government has engaged the Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS) for investigations and M/s AFRY, in association with IIT Bombay, for design formulation. A coordination committee comprising technical experts and senior officials from the Irrigation and CAD Department, the Central Designs Organisation and the State Dam Safety Organisation has been constituted to coordinate the rehabilitation programme in line with NDSA recommendations. The Technical Oversight Committee (TOC), constituted by the Union Ministry of Jal Shakti on June 30, 2026, reviewed the rehabilitation strategy at meetings held on July 31 and October 14 in New Delhi. He explained that the rehabilitation designs and additional works are to undergo technical scrutiny by the TOC and the Central Water Commission (CWC). The department is also planning an integrated instrumentation and monitoring system to track seepage, uplift pressures and structural behaviour during and after rehabilitation. The broad designs propose extending the stilling basins to 66 metres at Medigadda and Annaram and 58 metres at Sundilla, compared with their existing lengths of 46.8 metres, 45 metres and 30 metres, respectively.

BRS MLAs Issue Water Crisis Protest Warning

➢FROM PAGE 1

Addressing a press conference at Kannepalli after the visit, MLA KP Vivekanand Goud said that BRS working president KT Rama Rao (KTR) had visited the site in July, demonstrated how water was going to waste and cautioned the government about the possible impact of El Niño and the impending water crisis. "Instead of addressing these concerns, Revanth Reddy threatened to give a belt treatment to the engineers who suggested lifting water. Now, it is the people who will give a belt treatment to Revanth," he said.

Vivekanand Goud alleged that the Chief Minister had woken up to the gravity of the situation only after nearly 800 TMC of water had reportedly flowed into the sea. He maintained that just 10 TMC of water would be sufficient to meet Hyderabad's drinking water requirements for a year and urged the government to immediately resume water lifting from Kannepalli to ease the crisis. MLA Marri Rajashekar Reddy said residents in his constituency and several other parts of Hyderabad were complaining about irregular water supply and low pressure.

"People in our constituencies are complaining that they receive water only once every three days, and even then, the pressure is low. Water Board officials say that the Singur and Manjeera reservoirs are drying up. We came here to ascertain the facts about water availability," he said.

He alleged that the Congress government's negligence had contributed to the prevailing drought-like situation and argued that Hyderabad and other parts of Telangana could have been better protected from the crisis if the government had ensured adequate water storage in reservoirs.

MLA D. Sudheer Reddy criticised the government over its failure to address concerns regarding the Medigadda barrage, including the suspected blast targeting its piers. "There has been no action on the complaint regarding the suspected blast targeting the piers of the Medigadda barrage, even after three years, and no repair work has been undertaken either. Revanth is betraying Telangana to justify his false propaganda against the Kaleshwaram project," he alleged.

Sudheer Reddy also pointed to the growing dependence on water tankers in Hyderabad, stating that around 7,000 tanker bookings were being made in October. He said the situation was reminiscent of the peak summer months and reflected the seriousness of the city's water shortage. Former minister Errabelli Dayakar Rao accused Revanth Reddy of deliberately undermining the Kaleshwaram project and failing to address the emerging water crisis despite having the means to do so.

"Revanth is not resolving the crisis despite having the opportunity to do so, and he is damaging Hyderabad in the process. Our MLAs have come here to urge the government to act. At least now, the government should take steps to lift water," he said. Questioning the Chief Minister's ability to continue in office if he could not resolve the crisis, Errabelli recalled how former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) had ensured the availability of water, power and other essential services even during the COVID-19 pandemic. Former MLA Gandra Venkata Ramana Reddy also launched a sharp attack on Revanth Reddy, alleging that his diversionary politics would not shield the government from criticism over its alleged inefficiency. He said the Chief Minister had lost the moral right to govern and demanded that the government immediately begin lifting water from Kannepalli, warning that valuable Godavari water was continuing to flow into the sea while Hyderabad faced the prospect of a drinking water crisis.





Second Day of Desha Dharma Rakshana Yagam Held with Chandi Homam

HYDERABAD

The second day of the Desha Dharma Rakshana Yagam was held under the leadership of Srikanth Sharma, founding president of Hindu Dharma Chakram, and Vani. The programme featured a 13-chapter Chandi Homam.

The homam was conducted under the guidance of Brahma Sri Chebiyyam Raghava Sharma and Karanam Naresh Sharma. Geetha Murthy, a member of the BJP National Council, and her husband performed the rituals as the yajamana couple (principal participants conducting the yajna).

Renowned spiritual discourse exponent Nittala Kiranmayi was felicitated by the organisers.

Varalakshmi Sharma, Lalitha Sharma, Kanaka Durga, Akella Sharma, Nalini, Saritha, Kavya, and hundreds of other women participated in the programme.

Addressing the gathering, Toguta Madhavananda Swamy said that Dharma does not need protection, as it ultimately overcomes those who follow the path of Adharma. He emphasised that human values are the most important aspect of Dharma and stated that Dharma can be upheld only when all family members are respected within their homes. The programme concluded with the singing of the national anthem, Jana Gana Mana, by Baby Srikari and Baby Srikriti.

The organisers announced that Sri Sri Vidya Shankara Swamy, head of the Pushpagiri Peetham; MP Eatala Rajender; and Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar are expected to attend the final day of the programme tomorrow.

Leather Common Facility Centre Planned in Gachibowli: Sridhar Babu

- **Eco-friendly tanneries proposed at Rukmapur; expected to generate 1,000 jobs**

HYDERABAD

The Telangana government plans to establish a Common Facility Centre (CFC) in Gachibowli to strengthen the State's leather industry and promote entrepreneurship among Scheduled Caste (SC) youth, IT and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu said on Saturday.



The proposed centre will be developed on 3.5 acres under the hub-and-spoke model. It will provide artisans with support in design, product development and branding to help improve the value and marketability of their products.

At a review meeting with senior officials of the Telangana Leather Industries Promotion Corporation (TGLIPC) at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat, Mr. Sridhar Babu said the government was taking steps to establish eco-friendly tanneries conforming to international standards at Rukmapur in Choppadandi mandal of Karimnagar district. The proposed facilities are expected to generate employment for around 1,000 people.

The Minister also said steps were being taken to establish flatted factory complexes under the Micro and Small Enterprises Cluster Development Programme (MSE-CDP), following the plug-and-play model, at Jammikunta in Huzurabad constituency and Armoor. He directed officials to conduct field inspections and submit a report on the lands previously allotted to LIDCAP and their present status.

Industries Department Special Secretary Krishna Aditya, Director Nikhil Chakravarthy, TGLIPC Vice-Chairman and Managing Director Prashanth Kumar, and Telangana State Leather Industrial Promotion Cooperative Society Limited president Dr. Arepalli Rajender attended the meeting.

40 cases booked against motorists caught using cell phones while driving

HYDERABAD

Kulsumpura traffic police registered 40 cases against the motorists caught using mobile phones while driving during a special enforcement drive at Rethi Bowli Junction on October 24. The drive was conducted under the supervision of Golconda Zone ACP Dhanalakshmi, following directions from senior officials. Violators were counselled on road safety and the dangers of distracted driving. Inspector K. Rajendra Prasad led the drive along with station personnel.

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GITAM Inaugurates Rotaract Club Leadership Team

HYDERABAD

GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, inaugurated the Rotaract Club's 2026–27 term, reaffirming its commitment to fostering student leadership, community service and social responsibility.

The ceremony commenced with the traditional lighting of the ceremonial lamp by Chief

Guest Dr. G. S. S. Prakash, District Rotaract Chair, and Guest of Honour Rotarian J. Yogeshwar Reddy, along with other distinguished Rotary and Rotaract dignitaries.

The event marked the induction of new members and the formal installation of the club's leadership team, followed by board pinning and the unveiling of the annual year plan. These





milestones signified the beginning of a new chapter of student-led initiatives focused on community engagement, service and leadership development.

Supported by the Rotary Club of Iris Hyderabad, the Rotaract Club at GITAM Hyderabad aims to provide students with meaningful opportunities to develop leadership skills, engage in community-oriented initiatives and contribute positively to society. Guided by the Rotary motto, "Service Above Self," the club seeks to inspire a spirit of volunteerism, teamwork and social responsibility among students.

The ceremony was attended by DV-VSR Varma, Resident Director, and Ambika Philip, Director – Hospitality & Campus Life, along with other distinguished guests and members of the Rotary and Rotaract fraternity. The inauguration marked the beginning of a promising year for the newly installed leadership team, with a renewed focus on empowering students to become responsible leaders and active contributors to society.

BANARAS LOCOMOTIVE WORKS, VARANASI-221004

Bid No.: E-28/2026-2027 **TENDERS NOTICE** Date: 21.10.2026

E-Tenders are invited for & on behalf of the President of India for the supply of following items. Only e-offer will be accepted for which vendors must have Class III Digital Signature and registration on IREPS. The details of tenders are in the following sequence S.No., Tender No. (Due Date), Part No., Description and Quantity. **S.No.:- 01,** 03251223B (11.11.2026), Wind Screen Wiper Assembly, PL. NO. 29169446, 10 Set. **2.,** 03261009A, (13/11/2026), COMPLETE SHELL ASSEMBLY FOR WAP-7 LOCOMOTIVE Drg. No. 29176591 Alt-c to PL No. 29176591, Qty. 96 Set. **3.,** 09265005, 06/11/2026, Supply, Retro-fitment and commissioning of BRUSHLESS DC MOTOR BASED CAB MOUNTED COMPACT HVAC (COOLING CAPACITY 1.75 TR) FOR DIESEL ELECTRIC LOCOMOTIVE. PL NO.18050116, (Spec no. W DG4/EL/PS/059 REV.01) & RDSO DOCUMENT - MP.IB.EM.01.02.19 REV.-00 (AUG.2019)., 200 Nos. **4.,** 08261631, Open Tender, (11/11/2026), Set of Helical Springs For WAP7 1209-01.115-008 Alt-2 1209-01.115-009 Alt-2 1209-01. 015-010 Alt-2 specn: CLW/MS/3/SPEC/ELDO-BOGIE/004 ALT-3 (PL No. 29045034), Qty. 80 set. **5.,** 04261603 13.11.2026 3D Adjustable 360 degree Rotational Modified Driver Seat for three phase locomotives to PL No.-29171726, 10000 Nos. The details of above tenders are available on **www.blw.indianrailways.gov.in** and **www.ireps.gov.in**. **CORRIGENDUM S.No.:- 6., Tender No.:-** 04251104, **Bid No.:-** E-30/2025-26, **Rev.:-** 10, **Existing due Date:-** 15/10/2026, **Revise due Date:-** 30/11/2026, **S.No.:- 7., Bid No.:-** E-26 2026-27 **Tender No.:-** Tender No. 10251258 MACHINED PISTON, **Revision:-** 02, **Details of Corrigendum:-** (1) This Tender opened on 27/10/2026 instead of 12/10/2026 **S.No.:- 8., Bid No.:-** E-24 2026-27 **Tender No.:-** Tender No. 10261404 KIT OF TURBO DOWELLING COMPONENTS, **Revision:-** 01, **Details of Corrigendum:-** (1) Quantity read as 121 Nos instead of 161 Nos. All other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

PRO/BLW/S-30 **SMM/Shell**

blwvaranasi "Website: http://blw.indianrailways.gov.in

Construction of Warehouses for the Benefit of Farmers Is Welcome

- **Foundation stone laid for a 10,000 Metric Tonne Capacity Warehouse at Old Suryapet**
- **Ramreddy Sarvotham Reddy, Graduate MLC Candidate and AICC Member**

SURYAPET



Ramreddy Sarvotham Reddy, Congress candidate for the Nalgonda–Khammam–Warangal Graduates' MLC constituency and AICC member, said that the construction of warehouses to help farmers store their harvested crops was a welcome initiative.

He said the people's government was supporting farmers by constructing warehouses to ensure the safe storage of paddy and other agricultural produce.

On Saturday, he performed the Bhumi Puja (groundbreaking ceremony) for the construction of a warehouse with a storage capacity of 10,000 metric tonnes at Atmakur (S) mandal headquarters. The Telangana State Warehousing Corporation is undertaking the project at an estimated cost of Rs. 7 crore.

Speaking on the occasion, he expressed happiness over the construction of a warehouse with a large storage capacity to benefit farmers in the mandal.

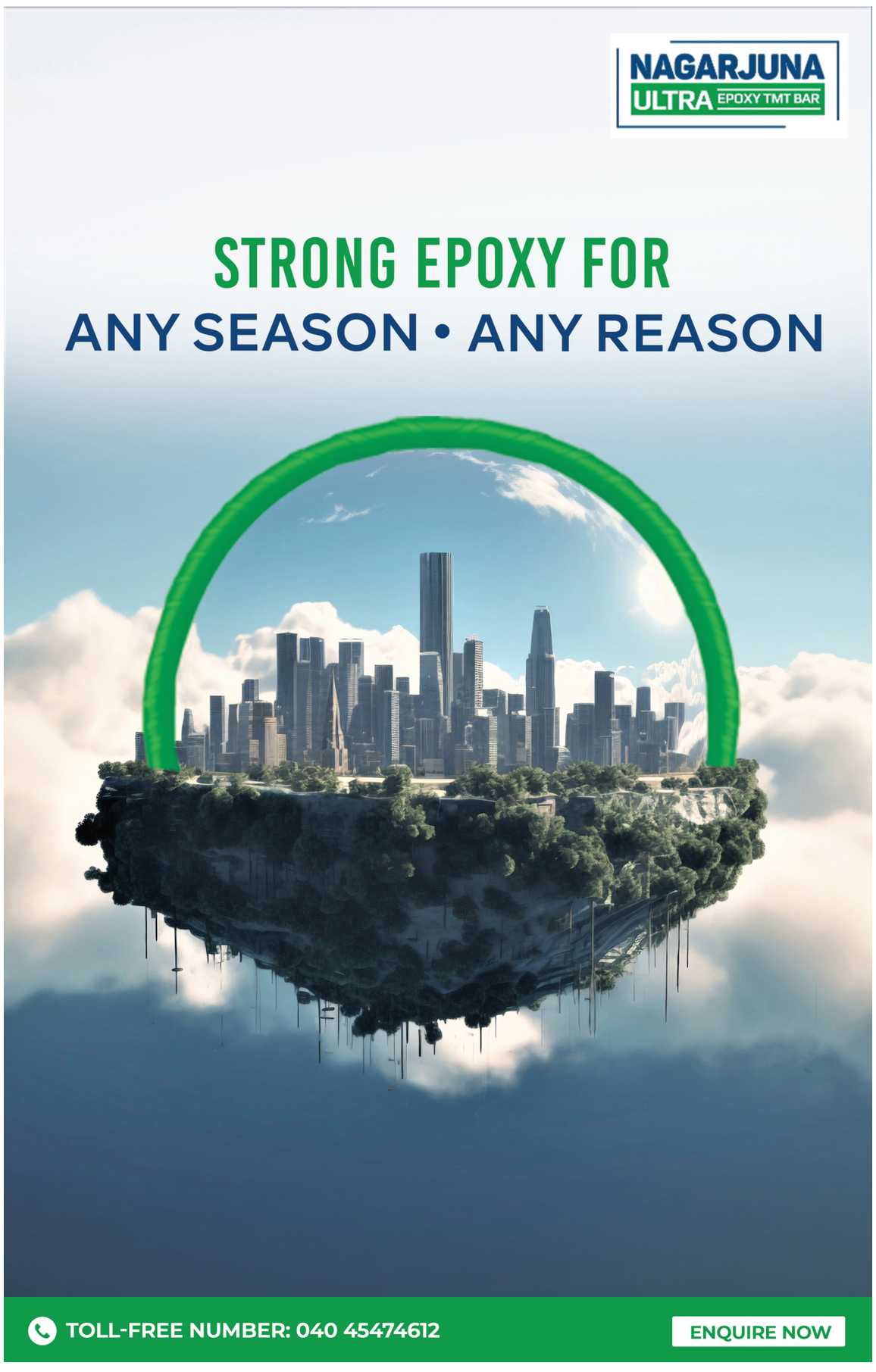
He pointed out that farmers were facing a shortage of proper storage facilities for paddy and other agricultural produce, forcing them to dry their crops on roads. He also noted that untimely rains often caused paddy to become wet and germinate, resulting in losses to farmers.

He stated that storage facilities were being expanded to prevent such difficulties and protect farmers' produce.

He directed the officials of the Warehousing Corporation and the contractors to work in coordination and complete the construction within six months, making the facility available to farmers. He also stressed that quality standards must be strictly maintained throughout the construction process.

Senior State Congress leader Pothu Bhaskar, District Congress leader Morishetti Lakshadi, Atmakur (S) Mandal Congress President Musku Ramachandra Reddy, Market Committee Director Pachipala Venkanna, former Sri Dandu Maisamma Temple Chairman Tangella Karunakar, DCC official spokesperson Purushotham, sarpanches and others participated in the programme.

Tighten the headline and subheadsRemove repetition about storage benefits



TGPCB initiates action against construction projects over air pollution

HYDERABAD



The Telangana Pollution Control Board (TGPCB) has initiated action in view of the complaints received regarding air pollution caused by construction projects in and around Nanakramguda and Kokapet. To examine environmental compliance and the status of air pollution control measures adopted by the construction projects, the Board has constituted Rolling Task Force teams and is undertaking intensified inspections and monitoring. In this regard, the Task Force Committee reviewed the environmental compliance status of 19 construction projects in Nanakramguda and Kokapet at a review meeting held at the TGPCB Head Office on Saturday. Representatives of the respective projects attended the meeting. Following a detailed review of the compliance status of individual projects, the Committee recommended the levy of environmental compensation on projects found to have major non-compliances and the forfeiture of Bank Guarantees furnished by certain projects in which minor non-compliances were identified. The Committee also recommended the issuance of Closure Orders to two captive Ready-Mix Concrete (RMC) plants associated with construction projects that are operating without obtaining the Consent for Operation orders required from the Telangana Pollution Control Board. The Committee further recommended issuing directions to non-complying construction projects to take corrective measures to rectify the identified non-compliances within 10 days. As per the recommendations of the Committee, the Telangana Pollution Control Board will take further action by issuing orders for the levy of Environmental Compensation, forfeiture of Bank Guarantees, directions to non-complying projects to rectify the identified violations.

SHORT TAKES

BRAOU takes frugal AI expertise to intl workshop in Malaysia

HYDERABAD

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University (BRAOU) showcased its initiatives in technology-enabled education at an international workshop on Frugal AI in Education, jointly organised by the Commonwealth of Learning, Canada, and Open University Malaysia. Prof. G. Pushpa Chakrapani, Academic Director, and Sushumna Rao, EdTech Manager, represented the university at the workshop. Prof. Pushpa presented a paper titled "Small Models, Big Possibilities – Exploring Frugal AI at BRAOU", highlighting the potential of affordable artificial intelligence in education.

he workshop brought together delegates from Malaysia, Vanuatu, Mauritius, Samoa and other countries to exchange research ideas and explore academic collaborations. During the visit, Prof. Pushpa met representatives of the Malaysia Telugu Association and explained BRAOU's online programmes, including B.Com., M.Com., MBA and M.A. Telugu, which enables students to pursue higher education irrespective of their location. Association representative Satya Sudhakaran expressed interest in collaborating with the university and said the association would promote BRAOU's online courses .

Dream of Providing House Sites to Journalists Will Be Fulfilled: Ponguleti

- **Action plan underway to allot plots in habitable areas free from legal complications**
- **People's government committed to journalists' welfare**

HYDERABAD



Telangana Revenue, Housing and Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy has made it clear that the state government will fulfil the long-pending aspirations of journalists who have been waiting for house sites for several years.

In a statement released on Saturday, the Minister said the government was preparing an action plan to provide house sites to journalists in suitable residential areas, ensuring that the allotments would be free from legal complications.

Recalling the developments during the tenure of former Chief Minister Dr. Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy, the Minister said orders were issued in 2008, during the undivided Andhra Pradesh, allotting land to the Journalists' Housing Society. However, the process of allotting house sites to journalists remained stalled for a prolonged period because a case relating to the matter was pending before the Supreme Court. He pointed out that even after the legal hurdles were removed in 2022, the issue did not receive a comprehensive and lasting solution under the previous governments.

The Minister said that within a few months of assuming office, the People's Government led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy took the initiative to address the long-pending issue of house sites for journalists. On September 8, 2024, a programme was organised at Ravindra Bharathi, where land was handed over to the Journalists' Housing Society, fulfilling a demand that had remained unresolved for nearly two decades.

However, following the Supreme Court's final orders, legal complications arose once again, making it necessary to find a permanent solution to the issue. Against this backdrop, the Minister said he had held several discussions with Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and fellow Cabinet colleagues and conducted a comprehensive review of the proposal to provide house sites to journalists.

"Our government is committed to fulfilling journalists' dream of owning a house. We are taking the necessary steps to allot house sites in suitable residential areas where journalists can live with dignity alongside their families, ensuring that the legal problems faced in the past do not recur. Journalists need not worry. The government is working sincerely to find a permanent solution to their long-standing problem," Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy assured.

He further asserted that journalists had been provided house sites during the Congress government's tenure in the past and made it clear that the Congress government would once again take steps to fulfil their aspirations.

The Minister emphasised that the People's Government accorded priority to the welfare of journalists, who serve as a vital link between the public and the government and play a crucial role in the democratic system.

He reiterated that the government was committed not only to resolving the long-pending problems faced by journalists but also to providing the facilities necessary for them to lead a dignified life. The government, he said, was moving forward towards an acceptable and permanent solution to ensure that journalists' dream of owning a home becomes a reality.

Seethakka backs women journalists' right to question

HYDERABAD

Minister for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Dr. Danasari Anasuya Seethakka on Saturday said that treating women journalists who question those in power as enemies over their demand for Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's resignation posed a serious threat to democratic values.

She said the strength of democracy lay not in suppressing questions but in having the courage to answer them.

Seethakka was speaking after inaugurating the National Conference of Women Journalists, organised by the Indian Journalists Union (IJU), as chief guest at Tourism Plaza in Begumpet, Hyderabad. A large number of women journalists and media representatives from various States attended the conference. Addressing the gathering, the Minister stressed that women journalists must be able to discharge their professional responsibilities without fear or intimidation. Bringing the truth to light and questioning those in power were their professional rights, she said.

Seethakka expressed serious concern over allegations of attacks and sexual harassment against women journalists covering protests demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

She also called for an impartial examination of reports that cases had been registered against women journalists in connection with the incidents.

The Minister further alleged that attacks on women's freedom and safety were increasing under the BJP and RSS, and said the issue warranted serious attention.

CS seeks time-bound action to secure CSS funds

HYDERABAD

Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju has directed all departmental Secretaries to accord the highest priority to securing the funds due to the State under Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and to take immediate, coordinated and time-bound measures to expedite their release from the Government of India.

The Chief Secretary conducted a comprehensive review meeting with senior officials at the Secretariat on Saturday to assess the status of implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes, onboarding requirements, expenditure reporting, closure of Single Nodal Agency (SNA) accounts and other procedural requirements relating to the release of Central funds. During the review, the Chief Secretary underscored the need for expeditious action by all concerned departments to ensure that eligible Central assistance is secured without delay. He directed the departmental Secretaries to identify and resolve all pending issues, complete the prescribed formalities and ensure effective inter-departmental coordination for the timely release and utilisation of funds.

The review covered Agriculture, Panchayat Raj and Rural Development, Education and Scholarships, Home, Rural Water Supply, Housing, Municipal Administration and Urban Development, Transport, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and other departments. The Chief Secretary reviewed the department-wise position of Central funds due to the State, pending onboarding and compliance requirements, expenditure reporting and the status of SNA account closures.

In accordance with the directions of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, the Chief Secretary directed all departmental Secretaries to treat the mobilisation of Central funds as a matter of priority and ensure the expeditious completion of all requirements necessary for their release.

He instructed the departments to undertake immediate reviews at their level and closely monitor progress through the CM Review mechanism and the CM Dashboard.



IIIT-H opens MSIT admissions for Jan 2027; fee fixed at Rs.1.5 L per semester

HYDERABAD

The International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad (IIIT-H) has opened applications for the January 2027 cohort of its revamped Master of Science in Information Technology (MSIT) programme, combining computing foundations, applied AI research, entrepreneurship and industry experience.

Developed by the Consortium of Institutions of Higher Learning (CIHL) in collaboration with IIIT-H's Centre for Educational Technology and Learning Sciences (CETLS), the four-semester, full-time residential programme will focus on practical, technology-driven learning. The degree will be awarded by IIIT Hyderabad.

Students will begin with core subjects, including algorithms, data structures and computer systems, before progressing to applied AI projects with research centres. The third semester will focus on developing technology-based ventures and pitching products to early-stage investors. In the final semester, students whose ventures secure funding will work towards launching startups, while others will undertake industry co-op placements.

IIIT-H Director Prof. Sandeep Shukla said the programme aims to equip students with strong computing and AI foundations, research experience and the skills to translate ideas into products or ventures.

Applicants must have completed 16 years of formal education and be willing to work with computer science, AI and mathematics. Final-year students awaiting results are also eligible. Admissions will involve an aptitude assessment through GRE, GATE or the MSIT Entrance Examination, as applicable, followed by interviews for shortlisted candidates.

The first application cycle closes on November 7, with the examination scheduled for November 11. The second cycle closes on December 7, with the examination on December 11. The final admission list will be announced on December 20, and classes will commence on January 2, 2027.

GDG DevFest–2026 Concludes on a Grand Note in Hyderabad

- **Telangana's largest technology gathering brings together over 3,000 developers**
- **Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu unveils Pre-AGI avatar as Telangana's AI Minister**

HYDERABAD



DevFest–2026, organised by Google Developer Group (GDG) Hyderabad, concluded successfully, giving a significant boost to technological advancement, artificial intelligence (AI) innovation and youth skill development in Telangana. Held at the JRC Convention and Trade Fairs in Hyderabad, the event attracted more than 3,000 participants, including students, software developers, engineers, technology professionals, architects and startup founders.

The conference featured four dedicated tracks covering Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AI/ML), cloud infrastructure, DevOps and mobile technology. More than 30 industry experts participated and shared insights into emerging technologies, practical experiences and innovative developments.

Telangana AI Minister Unveils Pre-AGI Avatar

The major highlight of this year's DevFest was the unveiling of a Pre-AGI (Pre-Artificial General Intelligence) AI avatar by Telangana Minister for IT, Electronics and Communications, Industries and Commerce, and Legislative Affairs, Duddilla Sridhar Babu, for the first time on a live public platform. The initiative marked the beginning of a new approach to enabling citizens to interact with government leadership through advanced artificial intelligence technology.

The AI avatar was developed using HumAIn, an enterprise-grade platform created by TensorGo. The initiative was undertaken under the guidance of Saikrishna, Technology Adviser to the Telangana Minister for IT, Electronics and Communications.

Telangana Aims to Become a Global AI Hub

Addressing the conference, Minister Sridhar Babu delivered a keynote address on the theme "Innovation at Scale." He said the state government aimed to give young innovators a pivotal role in transforming Telangana into a globally recognised artificial intelligence hub.

He observed that young people possessed immense talent and ambition, and the government was focused on building the technological ecosystem necessary to transform their ideas into practical solutions and take them to the global stage.

The next major breakthrough in AI, he said, could emerge from a student, a startup or a young developer. He expressed the hope that Telangana would provide a platform for such innovative ideas to flourish.

Employment Opportunities and Emerging Technologies

The conference was organised around the central theme, "Build, Secure, Scale: Developers and Builders in the Agentic Era." It offered participants opportunities to gain new knowledge through hands-on technical training, live coding sessions and expert presentations.

A special facility enabled job seekers to share their digital resumes quickly with recruitment agencies and employers using TechMagic rewritable NFC smart badges.

Organisations such as Google for Developers, Logitech, Lyric AI, MetLife and MSI participated in technology demonstrations, recruitment activities and employment-related initiatives. Special emphasis was placed on connecting eligible candidates with suitable career opportunities.

Environmental Protection Gets Priority

The organisers implemented measures to discourage single-use plastics during the event. More than 3,000 participants were provided with reusable Google-branded water bottles.

The initiative reflected the organisers' commitment to environmental responsibility alongside technological progress.

Focus on Enhancing Youth Technology Skills

GDG Hyderabad Lead Arshad Dewani said the enthusiasm of participants, the scale of activities and the depth of technical discussions at this year's DevFest were remarkable.

He said the event brought together live coding sessions, discussions on emerging technologies and recruitment opportunities on a single platform. He added that the conference had contributed to Telangana's efforts to build the technologies of the future within the state.

Over the past 13 years, GDG Hyderabad has played an active role in developing the regional technology community. It has connected with more than 200,000 technology enthusiasts and maintains an active membership of 20,000 developers.

Annual Technology Celebration Led by the Developer Community

DevFest is an annual event that brings developers together from across the world to exchange knowledge, explore emerging technologies and enhance their technical skills. Google Developer Groups operate independently and are driven by local communities to encourage innovation within their respective technology ecosystems.

DevFest–2026 emerged as an important platform for providing quality technical training to young people, strengthening industry connections and expanding employment opportunities.

"Dindi to Be Scrapped, Palamuru Project Completed"

from page 1

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy of reviving a proposal that could divert water through the Dindi Lift Project at the expense of farmers in the united Mahabubnagar district.

Aruna alleged that the previous BRS government, led by former chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao, had shifted the project's approach from Jurala to the Srisailam backwaters at Narlapur in 2015 and subsequently issued GOs 105 and 107 to facilitate the proposed diversion of 0.5 TMC of water per day towards the Dindi Lift Project. She claimed that farmers and local representatives had opposed the move and stalled the works.

She argued that alternative projects, including Puttagandi Lift, SLBC (AMR) and Nakkalagandi, could address the fluoride problem in Devarakonda and Munugode areas of Nalgonda district without affecting Palamuru lands. She questioned the silence of Congress ministers and MLAs over the proposed canal network, which she claimed would affect more than 30 villages and stretch across nearly 60 km in the district.

Accusing the Congress government of betraying Palamuru farmers, Aruna said Revanth Reddy owed his political rise to the people of the region but was now pursuing decisions detrimental to their interests. She warned that people would hold Congress representatives accountable if they failed to defend the district's irrigation needs.

Aruna also expressed concern over the condition of the Nettempadu, Bhima, Kalwakurthy, Koil Sagar and Palamuru-Ranga Reddy projects. She alleged that reservoirs had not been adequately desilted or repaired despite the government being in power for nearly three years. She further claimed that the allocations of 15.9 TMC under the RDS and 17.84 TMC under Jurala were not being fully utilised, with floodwater flowing downstream.

Top Priority Must Be Given to Securing Central Funds: CS

HYDERABAD



Telangana Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju has directed officials of the concerned departments to coordinate and take urgent measures on a war footing to secure the funds due to the state under Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS).

At a review meeting held at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat on Saturday, the Chief Secretary reviewed the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes, the onboarding process, expenditure reporting, closure of Single Nodal Agency (SNA) accounts and other related issues with senior officials.

Speaking on the occasion, he stressed that every department must pay special attention to ensuring the full utilisation of funds available to the state under Central government schemes. He instructed officials to expedite all procedures required for the release of funds and immediately resolve pending issues. The Chief Secretary reviewed the status of Central funds department-wise, covering Agriculture, Panchayat Raj, Rural Development, Education, Scholarships, Home, Rural Water Supply, Housing, Municipal Administration, Urban Development, Transport, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and other departments.

He sought detailed information from officials on the funds due from the Centre to each department, pending procedures, submission of expenditure details, closure of SNA accounts and other related matters.

Highest Priority to Central Funds as per Chief Minister's Directions

The Chief Secretary made it clear that, as directed by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, secretaries of all departments must accord the highest priority to securing funds due to Telangana under Central government schemes.

He directed officials to continuously monitor progress on these issues through the Chief Minister's Review programme (CM Review) and the CM Dashboard.

The Chief Secretary instructed all departmental secretaries to immediately review matters under their respective jurisdictions and complete the procedures required for the release of funds at the earliest. He also asked them to coordinate with the concerned Additional Secretaries of the Union government to resolve pending issues. He said that, wherever necessary, he would issue Demi-Official (D.O.) letters on their behalf to expedite the process. He further stated that he would personally speak with the concerned Secretaries of the Central government in New Delhi and make efforts to ensure the release of funds due to the state.

Emphasising that funds available under Centrally Sponsored Schemes would further strengthen the implementation of various development and welfare programmes in Telangana, the Chief Secretary directed all departments to act responsibly and ensure that there were no delays in securing the funds.

Special Chief Secretaries B.M.D. Ekka and Dana Kishore; Principal Secretaries Rahul Bojja, Sandeep Kumar Sultania, Yogita Rana, Ahmed Nadeem and Christina Zongthu; Secretaries Gaurav Uppal, Surendra Mohan, Shruti Oza, Divya and Ilambarthi; Law Secretary Papireddy; Vijayendra, Kanthi Wesley and other senior officials attended the meeting.



Rajya Sabha MP Diwakonda Damodar Rao Meets KCR on His Birthday

GAJWEL : Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament Diwakonda Damodar Rao met BRS party president K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) on the occasion of his birthday and sought his blessings. KCR extended birthday greetings and wished him well.

Sharmila invites Azharuddin to daughter's wedding

HYDERABAD: Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee (APCC) president Y. S. Sharmila Reddy paid a courtesy call on Telangana Minorities Welfare Minister Mohammed Azharuddin on Saturday and invited him to attend her daughter's wedding. During the meeting, the two leaders exchanged pleasantries and held a brief interaction. Azharuddin conveyed his heartfelt wishes to Sharmila Reddy and her family.

Satna-Devendranagar, Rewa-Churhat Rail Sections Dedicated to Nation

Railway Minister and Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Inaugurate Satna-Devendranagar and Rewa-Churhat Rail Sections.. Devendranagar-Churhat New Passenger Train Service Flagged Off; Will Serve as a Lifeline for Local Students, Patients and Daily Commuters

Mineral-Rich Vindhya Region Connected with Major Industrial and Transport Centres Across the Country, Boosting the Rural Economy of the Region

A historic milestone was achieved today in the expansion of rail connectivity in the Vindhya region of Madhya Pradesh. In the presence of Hon'ble Union Minister for Railways Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw and Hon'ble Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Dr. Mohan Yadav, Satna-Devendranagar and Rewa-Churhat rail sections were inaugurated. On this occasion, the new Devendranagar-Churhat passenger train service was also flagged off. Railway Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw joined from New Delhi in the programme through video conferencing. The programme held at Churhat Railway Station was attended by Deputy Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shri Rajendra Shukla, Member of Parliament from Rewa Shri Janardan Mishra, Member of Parliament from Sidhi Shri Rajesh Mishra, along with other public representatives and dignitaries. The programme held at Nagod Railway Station was attended by Minister of State in the Government of Madhya Pradesh Smt. Pratima Bagri, Member of Parliament from Satna Shri Ganesh Singh, Member of Parliament from Khajuraho Shri Vishnu Datt Sharma, along with other public representatives and dignitaries.

Railway Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw said that improved rail connectivity is establishing a new lifeline for the Vindhya and Bundelkhand regions. He said that the project would fulfil a long-standing demand and improve access to education, employment and healthcare services for the people of the region. Shri Vaishnaw referred to the expansion of railway connectivity across the country and highlighted the work undertaken in Srinagar, Mizoram and at the Pamban Bridge. He also mentioned the recent achievement of connecting Raoghat in Chhattisgarh and Tanda Road in Madhya Pradesh to the railway network. The commencement of rail operations on the Devendranagar-Satna and Rewa-Churhat rail sections under the Lalitpur-Singrauli Railway Project will further strengthen connectivity in the Vindhya and Bundelkhand regions. He said that improved rail connectivity would accelerate industrial development in Madhya Pradesh and expand economic activities. The Railway Minister stated that railway projects worth approximately ₹1 lakh crore are underway in Madhya Pradesh. These include new railway lines, doubling, construction of third and fourth railway lines,



and gauge conversion projects. Work is being undertaken on railway sections such as Lalitpur-Singrauli, Satna-Rewa, Katni-Singrauli, Jabalpur-Gondia, Bina-Bhopal-Itarsi, Itarsi-Nagpur, Ratlam-Khandwa, Indore-Budni, Indore-Dahod and Indore-Manmad. He said that the completion of these projects would pave the way for the introduction of new train services in the state. In the coming years, more than 100 long-distance trains and 50 to 60 short-distance train services, such as MEMU and Intercity trains, could be introduced. Regarding station redevelopment, Shri Vaishnaw stated that Khajuraho station is being developed with architecture reflecting the culture and heritage of Madhya Pradesh. In addition, redevelopment work is being undertaken at several stations, including Ashoknagar, Balaghat, Beohari, Nainpur, Narmadapuram, Chhatarpur, Orchha, Shivpuri, Harpalpur, Chhindwara and Seoni. He also mentioned that approximately 80 railway stations in the state have been included under the redevelopment programme.

Emphasising the environmental commitments associated with the railway project, the Railway Minister referred to the felling of trees in the Anna region. He stated that a plan had been made to plant more saplings than the number of trees felled. He directed the General Manager, Divisional Railway Manager and District Magistrate to visit the site and inspect the plantation, ensure the survival of the planted saplings and plant new saplings wherever required. Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Dr. Mohan Yadav said during the programme that the new rail connectivity marked a fresh beginning for the Bundelkhand and Vindhya regions, bringing railway services to areas that had remained unconnected by rail. He described the occasion as a Diwali gift for the people of the region. Dr. Yadav said that the 541-km-long Lalitpur-Singrauli Railway Project would strengthen connectivity between Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, benefiting the regions of Lalitpur, Chhatarpur, Panna, Satna, Rewa, Sidhi and Singrauli.

The Chief Minister said that improved rail connectivity would provide farmers access to larger markets, facilitate freight transportation for industries, create opportunities for young people and students, improve access to healthcare services and promote tourism. He said that connectivity would boost economic activities in the mineral-rich Bundelkhand region, particularly benefiting the diamond trade in Panna. He also appreciated the railway projects being undertaken in Madhya Pradesh, including the Omkareshwar Jyotirlinga-Khandwa railway line.

Rewa-Churhat Railway Line to Benefit Sidhi District

The approximately 65-km-long new railway line from Rewa to Churhat has been constructed at a cost of approximately ₹1,070 crore. The project was completed with the completion of the final approximately 22.5-km railway line section between Rampur Naikin and Churhat. With rail connectivity extending to Churhat, residents of Sidhi district have gained an opportunity to connect with the national railway network. This railway line is not merely a new mode of transportation for the region but also a means of creating new development opportunities. It will facilitate access for students to educational institutions, patients to better medical facilities, and young people and working professionals to employment and business opportunities. Considering the availability of limestone and other minerals in the region, along with the potential for the cement industry, rail connectivity is also expected to encourage industrial activities and freight transportation.

BJP DISCUSSED ON PREPRATORY WORKS FOR MLCs AND GHMC ELECTIONS

HYDERABAD, OCT 24

A high-level meeting with state party office-bearers discussed on present prevailing political situation, MLC elections and other issues in Telangana state. A meeting of key leaders and state office-bearers from nine districts within the Greater Hyderabad limits was held at the BJP State Office here under the chairmanship of State BJP President N Ramachandar Rao.

On this occasion, guidelines were given to the party cadres with the sole objective of winning the upcoming Graduates' MLC elections. A call was given to mobilize workers right from the booth level and reach out strongly to the public. The meeting also discussed the 'Loktantra Bachao - Bheed-tantra Hatao' (Save Democracy - Remove Mobocracy) movement launched by the BJP against actions that suppress democracy. It was decided to intensify grassroots struggles by countering the autocratic policies of the Congress government in Telangana. The meeting was attended by State Party Incharge Sunil Bansal, Co-Incharges Abhay Patil and Smt. Rekha Sharma , State Organizational General Secretary N Madhukar , MP and state saha in-charge Mrs Rekha SharmaTelangana BJP Joint Organizational General Secretary Dashrath along with party MPs, MLAs, MLCs, and nine District Presidents under GHMC.

Probe on as video showing black magic involving PM's photo surfaces online

MAU (UP): (Oct 24) An FIR has been lodged against an unknown person, and an investigation has been initiated following the emergence of a video showing what appears to be black magic involving a photograph of Prime Minister Narendra Modi near a cremation ground, officials said on Saturday. According to the police, the video, which has been circulating on social media, shows items such as a coconut, lemons and orange powder arranged around a photograph of the prime minister on the banks of the Saryu river in Dohrighat police station limits. Upon learning of the incident, the police registered a case against an unidentified individual and launched a probe.

General Manager, Southern Railway inaugurates Kavach Lab and new facilities at S&T Training Centre, Podanur

CHENNAI , OCTOBER 24

Shri U. Subba Rao, General Manager, Southern Railway, inspected the Zonal Signal and Telecommunication Training Centre (ZSTTC), Podanur on 23rd October, 2026. During the inspection, the General Manager inaugurated a Kavach Lab, an IP-based Integrated Passenger Information System (IPIS) Lab, and smart interactive panels in all classrooms. He also laid the foundation stone for the new G+2 Gents' Hostel, a Computer-based Examination Hall and a Signalling Model Room in the outdoor yard.

At the Founder's Day function organised at the S&T Training Center, the General Manager launched the Centre's Institutional Training Management System (ITMS) web portal, which digitises training records from a trainee's reporting to relieving. Technical posters and pamphlets on cybersecurity, Earth Leakage Detectors, resetting procedures of axle counters in automatic signalling sections and Kavach handover and takeover checklists were also released. Best Trainee awards for the year 2024 and 2025 were presented. Shri Vijai Singh Meena, Principal Chief Signal and Telecommunication Engineer, Southern Railway; Shri Panna Lal, Divisional Railway Manager, Salem;





Shri S. Nageswara Rao, Chief Signal and Telecommunication Engineer, South Western Railway; Shri Arindam Chatterjee, Chief Workshop Manager, S&T Workshop, Podanur; and other senior officials of Southern Railway took part in the events.

In his address, the General Manager said that with great advancement in technology in the S&T department comes great responsibility, and that staff should not adopt any short cuts while working on safety-critical systems. He urged the Centre to ensure that competent staff come out of the Institute, and that they keep abreast of the latest changes in technology through continuous learning and knowledge sharing. He also suggested interactive kiosks at supervisors' offices in the field for refreshing topics through Q&A, adoption of AR/VR technologies to provide immersive learning in the latest technologies and safety-critical systems, and an AI-based troubleshooting app to assist technicians in the field. Functioning since 1960, ZSTTC Podanur trains Signal and Telecommunication staff of Southern Railway and South Western Railway. In 2026 (up to September), the Centre conducted 88 courses and trained 1,332 staff. Since 2024, it has trained 622 staff on Kavach, the indigenous Automatic Train Protection system. The programme ended with a cultural show by trainees and faculty.

YSRCP's Ambati Rambabu Accuses SEC of Acting as Naidu's 'Puppet'

GUNTUR, OCT 24

YSR Congress Party Guntur District President and former Minister Ambati Rambabu on Saturday alleged that the Andhra Pradesh State Election Commission (SEC) has become a "puppet" in the hands of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, "facilitating forced unanimous elections through violence and intimidation". Addressing the media at his camp office in Andhra Pradesh's Guntur, Rambabu came down heavily on the N. Chandrababu Naidu-led government for "destroying democracy through collusion" between the ruling TDP-led coalition, police and the SEC, ahead of the scheduled local body polls. He claimed: "Despite Supreme Court directions to protect candidates, YSRCP nominees were prevented from filing nominations, their papers torn in police presence and the media barred from nomination centres to conceal TDP atrocities. Police placed opposition leaders under house arrest while facilitating ruling-party candidates." Rambabu also condemned the alleged police assault on former Minister Vidadala Rajini, who was reportedly pushed to the ground while assisting a candidate. On Friday, YSRCP demanded an independent investigation by the State Election Commission into the incident and action against responsible officials. The video of the alleged police assault on the YSRCP leader was widely circulated on social media, with the opposition party highlighting it as another incident of police highhandedness during the ongoing nomination process for the local body elections. "Senior leaders Pinnelli Ramakrishna Reddy, Bolla Brahma Naidu and Namburi Shankara Rao were confined to their homes, preventing them from distributing B-Forms and assisting candidates," the YSR Congress Party leader said. Further, Rambabu highlighted attacks extending beyond YSRCP, including purported assaults on Jana Sena leader Bellamkonda Srinivas's family and BJP candidate Suresh in Kadapa.

"Police promised protection over the phone but remained spectators during attacks on candidates, including women," he said.

Ambati Rambabu also claimed that YSRCP had identified 54 police officials, including IPS officers and Sattenapalli DSP Hanumantha Rao, for their "involvement in electoral irregularities". He urged legal action against them through the High Court and Supreme Court, condemning the misuse of police machinery for CM Naidu and his son, Cabinet Minister Nara Lokesh's "political interests".

APCPDCL Reviews Preparedness in View of Cyclone Warning

Officials Directed to Remain Alert to Ensure Uninterrupted Power Supply in Cyclone-Affected Areas: CMD P. Pullareddy

Vijayawada : In view of the warning issued by the Andhra Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority regarding the possibility of strong winds and heavy rainfall due to a low-pressure area over the east-central and southeastern Bay of Bengal, APCPDCL Chairman and Managing Director Sri P. Pullareddy held a review meeting with the Superintending Engineers of all districts under the corporation to assess preparedness and ensure the safety and reliability of the power supply system.During the meeting, the CMD directed officials and staff to remain alert and take all necessary precautionary measures in anticipation of the cyclone. He instructed the officials to be prepared for possible damage to electrical poles and power lines due to strong winds and heavy rainfall. He emphasized the need to keep adequate manpower, vehicles and repair equipment ready to restore power supply at the earliest in the event of disruptions. Field-level staff should remain readily available, while officials must closely monitor the situation and coordinate effectively to respond to emergencies.



The CMD informed that control rooms had been established at all circle and division levels to coordinate emergency response and power restoration activities. He also made it clear that, in view of the impending cyclone, no electricity employee should avail leave, ensuring the availability of adequate staff to attend to emergencies and maintain essential services.

Stressing public safety, the CMD directed officials to create awareness among consumers not to touch fallen electrical wires under any circumstances. He further instructed them to respond promptly to reports of electrical hazards and power supply interruptions and take immediate necessary action. Sri P. Pullareddy emphasized that all officials and staff must work in close coordination to minimize power disruptions, ensure public safety and restore electricity supply as quickly as possible in cyclone-affected areas.

Degree is not just for career, but opportunity to contribute to nation-building: Gujarat CM

GANDHINAGAR, OCT 24

Earning a degree is not merely about building a career but also an opportunity to contribute to nation-building, Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel said on Saturday, addressing the first convocation ceremony of K.N. University at Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar University.

Urging graduates to look beyond securing good jobs or establishing businesses, Patel said: "Young people should combine knowledge with humility, success with compassion and strength with responsibility."

He emphasised that education should help build character, strengthen the nation and allow people to serve society. Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, the Chief Minister said education had increasingly become a means of empowering young people in the 21st century, extending beyond the pursuit of degrees. Quoting PM Modi, he said: "In university examinations, questions are asked from the syllabus, but in the examination of life, everything is 'out of syllabus'." "While academic progress is measured through grades and marks, success in life depends on continuous hard work and perseverance," he added. Highlighting PM Modi's 25 years of public service, the Chief Minister said the Prime Minister had worked tirelessly for the country and its people. Drawing a lesson from his life, Patel said: "Hard work does not make you tired; rather, the satisfaction of working hard is a reward in itself." Patel expressed confidence that many of the graduates would pursue their own start-ups or business ventures. "Initiatives promoting start-ups, science and skill development had helped create opportunities for young people to become entrepreneurs," he said. Referring to the state's higher education sector, the Chief Minister said education, research and skill development had emerged as key pillars of the state's development under PM Modi's guidance. "The emphasis on higher education during PM Modi's tenure as Gujarat Chief Minister had helped private universities, including K.N. University, provide quality education," he said.

SARAS Mela–2026 Promotes Women's Entrepreneurship, Financial Inclusion and Handloom Development

VIJAYAWADA, OCTOBER 23, 2026:

The First National SARAS Ajeevika Mela–2026 at Punnami Ghat, Vijayawada, continued to empower Self-Help Group (SHG) women and rural entrepreneurs through initiatives promoting institutional credit, digital financial inclusion, enterprise development and traditional crafts.

Stree Nidhi Credit Cooperative Federation Limited, Andhra Pradesh, highlighted institutional credit facilities and its ₹12,000 crore credit disbursement target for 2026–27, including ₹9,000 crore for livelihood loans and ₹3,000 crore for enterprise loans. The initiative aims to support women in expanding livelihoods and establishing sustainable micro-enterprises, particularly in food processing and value addition.

The State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC), Andhra Pradesh, convened by Union Bank of India, organised an interactive session with SHG women and Lakhpati Didis at the Learning and Knowledge Pavilion. The session, attended by Dr. G. Lakshmisha, IAS, District Collector, NTR District, and representatives of Union Bank of India, Stree Nidhi and SERP, created awareness about SHG credit, Lakhpati Didi, MUDRA, PMEGP, PMFME and other banking schemes. Successful entrepreneurs shared their experiences and highlighted the role of financial support in growing women-led businesses.



The Ministry of Textiles, through the Weavers Service Centre (WSC), Vijayawada, and the National Handloom Development Corporation (NHDC), Vijayawada, conducted awareness activities on October 23 and 24 for SARAS Mela exhibitors. The programme featured live loom demonstrations and information on key initiatives, including the National Handloom Development Programme, Raw Material Supply Scheme, IndiaHandmade portal, Handloom Mark, India Handloom Brand, Weavers MUDRA and the e-Dhaga mobile application. The sessions also provided an opportunity for artisans and weavers to discuss challenges and seek guidance on available support.

These initiatives reflect the collaborative efforts of the Ministry of Rural Development, DAY-NRLM, SERP/APSRLM, banking institutions and the Ministry of Textiles to strengthen women's financial independence, improve market access, promote entrepreneurship and sustain traditional handloom livelihoods.

EDITORIAL

Indian Agriculture Needs Resilience, Not Just Relief

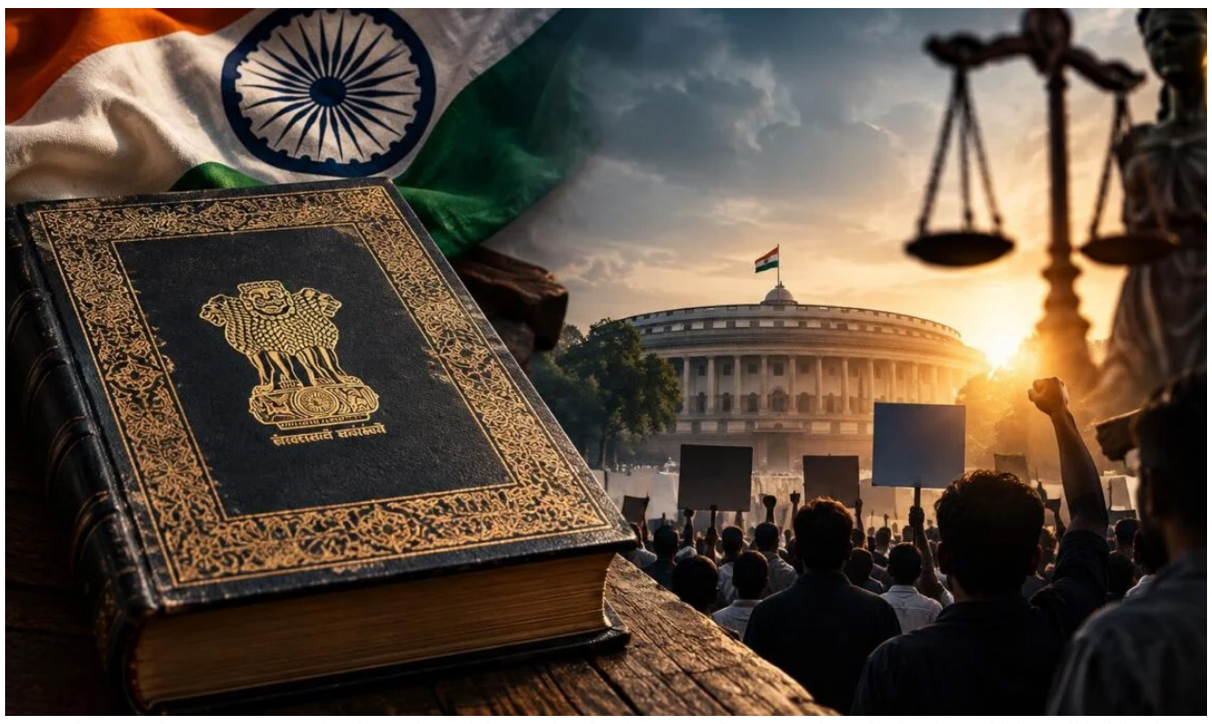
Indian agriculture remains the backbone of rural livelihoods, yet millions of farmers continue to face uncertainty over rainfall, crop prices, input costs and market access. Government support through subsidies, loan waivers, minimum support prices and compensation for crop losses provides necessary 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.

India's Democracy: A Constitutional Vision for the Future



On October 25, 1951, India embarked on a remarkable democratic journey with the beginning of its first general elections. The exercise continued until February 1952, bringing millions of citizens into a political process unprecedented in scale and ambition. A country emerging from colonial rule, struggling with poverty, illiteracy and the consequences of Partition, had made a bold choice: the future of the nation would be determined by the people themselves. Nearly 173 million citizens were eligible to vote in the elections to the first Lok Sabha, which had 489 seats. The decision to introduce universal adult suffrage at the very beginning of the Republic reflected an extraordinary faith in the people and in democracy as the foundation of nation-building.

The significance of that decision extends far beyond the successful conduct of an election. India did not make political participation conditional on education, wealth or social status. Every adult citizen was recognised as an equal participant in the democratic process. At a time when many newly independent nations were struggling to establish stable political institutions, India entrusted its diverse population with the responsibility of choosing its representatives. This was not merely a constitutional arrangement; it was a commitment to building a nation in which political authority derived from the consent of its people.

More than seven decades later, India's democratic journey offers valuable lessons in the relationship between constitutional ideals, public participation and national development. The country has conducted successive general elections on an extraordinary scale, accommodated diverse political opinions and witnessed changes in governments through the ballot. Regional parties have strengthened the representation of local aspirations, while the participation of women and historically disadvantaged communities has expanded the social reach of democratic politics. These developments demonstrate the adaptability of India's constitutional framework and the enduring importance of popular participation.

The Constitution has been central to this achievement. It provides the institutional framework within which political competition takes place, defines the responsibilities of government and protects the rights of citizens. Fundamental rights, parliamentary government, an independent judiciary and the federal distribution of powers together form the foundations of the Indian Republic. These provisions are not isolated legal principles; they create the conditions in which a diverse society can pursue common goals while preserving its differences.

India's democratic experience also demonstrates that unity does not require uniformity. The country's linguistic, cultural, religious and regional diversity is reflected in its political life. Elections enable different communities to express their priorities, while representative institutions provide a framework for reconciling competing interests. The federal system allows states to respond to their distinctive circumstances within the larger national framework. This combination of national cohesion and regional participation has been an important feature of India's democratic development.

The relationship between democracy and development is equally significant. Political participation gives citizens a voice in determining public priorities, from education and healthcare to infrastructure, employment and social welfare. Governments are expected to respond to these needs through policies that improve living standards and expand opportunities. Economic progress, in turn, can strengthen democracy by enabling more people to access education, information and public services. The two reinforce each other when development remains inclusive and public institutions function effectively.

The constitutional commitment to social justice gives this relationship a deeper meaning. Political equality is an essential starting point, but the larger objective is to ensure that every citizen has a meaningful opportunity to participate in the country's progress. Expanding access to quality education, improving healthcare, creating employment and reducing social inequalities are therefore important elements of democratic nation-building. When disadvantaged communities gain greater access to opportunity, democracy becomes more representative of the society it serves.

The evolution of technology is creating new possibilities for democratic participation. Digital platforms have widened access to information, enabled citizens to engage with public issues and made government services more accessible. Technology can also improve transparency and administrative efficiency when supported by reliable information, strong safeguards and digital inclusion. Ensuring that rural communities, economically weaker sections and people with limited digital access benefit from these developments will be important to the next phase of democratic progress.

The future of Indian democracy will also depend on the quality of public participation. Elections provide the most visible expression of citizenship, but democratic engagement extends beyond polling day. Citizens contribute through community initiatives, public consultations, local government, civil society organisations and informed debate. Political parties, educational institutions and the media can strengthen this culture by encouraging reasoned discussion and helping people understand the constitutional principles that shape public life.

As India continues its economic and technological transformation, the Constitution remains a shared framework for navigating new challenges and opportunities. Its enduring value lies in combining political freedom with social responsibility, individual rights with collective aspirations, and national unity with regional diversity. The task ahead is to translate these principles into tangible improvements in the lives of citizens while preserving the democratic institutions that make such progress possible.

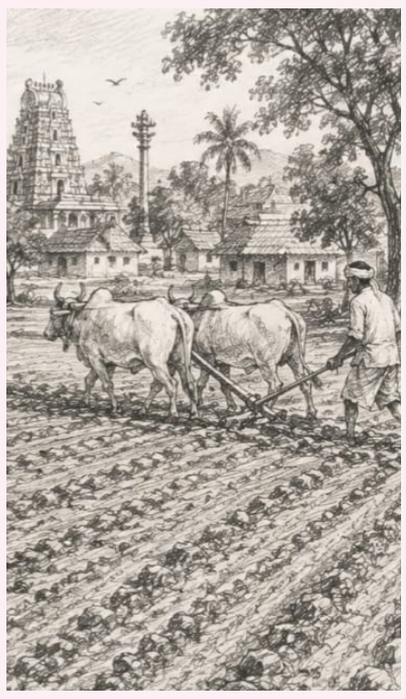
The first general election of 1951–52 was an expression of confidence in the Indian people. It established that a nation of extraordinary diversity could build its political future through universal participation and constitutional government. That confidence remains one of independent India's most valuable inheritances.

India's democratic journey began with the belief that every citizen has a stake in the nation's future. Its continued success will depend on how effectively that belief is translated into equal opportunity, inclusive development and a lasting commitment to constitutional values.



K AMARAVATI
MEMBER

BEFORE BREAD, ALL ELSE IS IN VAIN

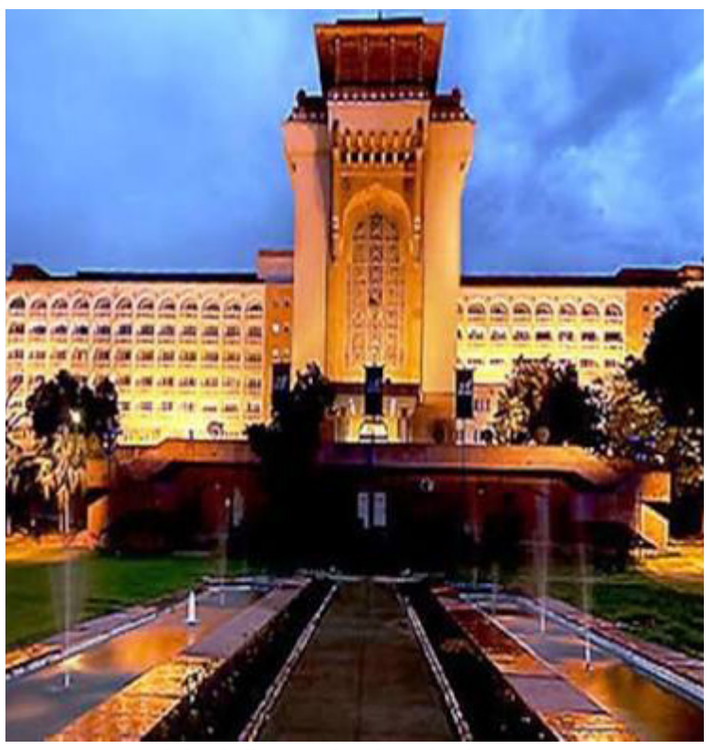


The hand that sows the dawn in silence
Returns at dusk with empty palms
The hand that bargains death for profit
Sleeps beneath cathedral psalms.
Vice builds vineyards crowned with gold,
Their towers bruise the painted sky
Yet fields that nourish nations still
Hear hungry children softly cry.
The earth remembers every tear
Entrusted to its patient clay;
Each drop returns as bread for life,
Though few recall the price to pay.
A seed is never grain alone
It is tomorrow's hidden breath,
The quiet syllable God whispers
Against the grammar taught by death.
The plough is older than the throne,
Older than empire, crown, or creed
For kingdoms rise by sharpened swords,
But life itself begins with seed.
The wind may praise the cedar's height,
The sea exalt the mountain's name
Yet every palace ever raised
Must bow before a stalk of grain.
Gold has never ripened wheat.
Marble has never conquered thirst.
The proudest vaults of human wealth
Lie helpless when the fields are cursed.
What age is this that crowns the cup
Where poison sparkles into wine,
Yet leaves the bowl of harvest bare
Where calloused hands seek bread divine?
If one lone farmer folds his hands,
The stars will keep their ancient fire;
Yet cities dressed in mirrored light
Will perish beneath silent hunger.
Libraries cannot season bread.
Coins cannot blossom into rice.
Markets may measure every cost,
Yet never learn life's sacred price.
The merchant's silk shall fade to dust,
His ledgers vanish into flame;
History will remember instead
The nameless shoulders without fame.
For every empire writes in stone,
And every kingdom writes in steel
But Earth and Heaven write their truth
In furrows carved by humble zeal.
When monuments become but sand,
When banners fade and thrones are past,
One timeless truth shall still remain
The farmer was the first and last.
He buried hope in lifeless soil,
Entrusted darkness with the dawn;
While mighty hands pursued their pride,
He kept creation moving on.
Before bread, every empire is dust.
Before the harvest, every crown must fall.
The world endures not by the wealth of kings,
But by one faithful hand
Placing a single seed into the darkness,
And believing the light will return for all.

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

ASHOKA HOTEL AT 70- Where Che Guevara, Castro and Arafat stayed

VIVEK SHUKLA



26 October, 1956. It was a new dawn for the capital's hospitality world. Delhi was a small city then and manageable too. In this backdrop, the newly built Ashok Hotel was to be inaugurated in Chankayapuri. The mood was upbeat and electric. The hotel was built by the government. A large number of government officials and hotel staff members were present at the inauguration. Among them was a dignified Parsi gentleman from Mumbai, Professor E. B. Doctor, the architect who had designed the hotel. He had created a remarkable building that would go on to become one of the capital's most recognisable landmarks.

Over the decades, the hotel has welcomed presidents, prime ministers, heads of state, political leaders, revolutionaries, business tycoons and celebrities from across the world. Among its distinguished guests have been Cuban revolutionary Che Guevara, Cuban President Fidel Castro and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Che Guevara visited Delhi on June 30, 1959, and stayed at the hotel for nearly a week.

Whose Vision Gave Delhi a Grand Hotel

There is an interesting story behind the making of the Ashok Hotel. According to an account associated with its construction, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was attending a UNESCO meeting in Paris in 1955. During the meeting, he proposed that India should host the following year's gathering in New Delhi. The proposal was accepted.

When Nehru returned to India, his advisers pointed out a major problem. Delhi did not have a sufficiently large and well-equipped hotel to accommodate the many international delegates and dignitaries expected to visit the capital.

Nehru wanted the problem solved quickly. He asked his officials to identify suitable land for a new hotel in New Delhi. A committee selected Professor E. B. Doctor of Mumbai.

Doctor accepted the challenge and produced what was arguably one of the capital's grandest public buildings in the years following Independence.

B. P. Ojha, an acclaimed sports commentator who has visited the hotel for the first time in 1967, recalls "It became my favourite hotel once I visited there and since then I have visited there countless number of times to attend marriage functions or to have the dinner or coffee at their premier Frontier restaurant and Coffee shop. It is a matchless place. "

"I have not seen such a spacious hotel, with a massive lobby, large rooms and a huge convention hall. The Ashok has a touch of royalty. It is remarkable that such a grand hotel came up nearly six decades ago," says Ojha who retired as a senior official of Finance Ministry.

The Ashok's architecture remains one of its greatest attractions. Its lobby is particularly impressive. Large chandeliers hang from the ceiling, creating the feeling of entering a palace rather than a hotel.

A statue of Lord Vishnu, which has been part of the hotel since its early days, adds to the distinctive character of the space. It was gifted by Dr. Karan Singh, the former Union Minister.

The Ashok has also been associated with important social occasions in India's political and business circles.

In 1968, Indira Gandhi hosted the wedding reception of her elder son, Rajiv Gandhi, at the hotel. The hotel became a popular venue for large celebrations, particularly weddings attended by hundreds of guests. During the wedding season, it is not unusual for high-profile families to choose the Ashok for their ceremonies and receptions. A wedding here often means a gathering of 500 to 1,000 guests. Its vast convention hall, grand setting and extensive grounds make it especially attractive for large functions.

The Ashok also has a place in the story of Indian business. During the 1970s, Dhirubhai Ambani reportedly stayed there regularly. He preferred a room overlooking the lush greenery of Nehru Park. It was also the favourite hotel of Rajesh Khanna. "Before becoming an MP, he used to stay here only.

From an Undeveloped Chanakyapuri to a Diplomatic Landmark

Before the Ashok came up, the area around Chanakyapuri looked very different. There were stretches of bushes and informal settlements, and much of the neighbourhood remained undeveloped. The growth of Chanakyapuri and the rise of the Ashok went hand in hand. As embassies and diplomatic residences appeared, the hotel became an important part of the capital's international identity.

Delhi and the National Capital Region now have dozens of luxury hotels. Yet the Ashok retains a distinctive place in the city's history because it belongs to a period when India was building the institutions and infrastructure of a newly independent nation. The hotel's name is popularly pronounced "Ashoka" by many people in Delhi, although its official name became The Ashok in 2007.

"Delhi has changed beyond recognition since 1956. Its roads are busier, its skyline is taller and its hospitality industry is far more competitive. Yet the Ashok retains its old-world charm,"concludes B.P. Ojha. Even after seven decades, it has not lost its youthful spirit. It remains one of Delhi's grand old landmarks, where the history of the capital, the story of Indian diplomacy and the memories of generations of visitors continue to meet.



VIVEK SHUKLA

Rajasthan Attracts ₹11,739 Crore Investment Proposals in September

JAIPUR, OCT 24

Rajasthan Chief Secretary V. Srinivas said investment proposals worth Rs 11,739.27 crore were registered on the Raj Nivesh portal in September 2026. A total of 31,892 applications were approved between April and September, exceeding the 29,536 approvals recorded during the entire previous financial year.

The Chief Secretary shared these findings while releasing the monthly impact assessment report for September 2026 under the first phase of the state's Deregulation and Compliance Reduction initiative. According to the report, investment proposals included Rs 4,840 crore in the defence sector, Rs 3,058 crore in tourism and hospitality, Rs 1,000 crore in solar equipment manufacturing, and Rs 744 crore in real estate.

Together, these four sectors accounted for approximately 82 per cent of the total proposed investment. Srinivas said reforms had been completed across all 23 priority sectors identified under Phase I. The measures aim to simplify procedures for entrepreneurs, reduce compliance requirements and ensure timely delivery of services.

Protesting Jamia students clash with guards; all classes moved online

Jamia Millia Islamia shifted all classes online until further notice after students demanding the restoration of campus union elections clashed with security guards. The confrontation erupted when guards moved to remove tents set up by protesting students.



Jamia Millia Islamia in Delhi has shifted all classes online with immediate effect after students protesting for the restoration of campus union elections clashed with security guards on Saturday. Chaos erupted on the campus when security guards, who had been monitoring the protest, moved to remove tents set up by the protesting students. A video of the incident showed students and security guards engaged in a scuffle, with some protesters attempting to pull their fellow mates and security guards away and pacify the situation. Since October 12, the student protesters have been demanding the reintroduction of elections to the Jamia Millia Islamia Students' Union (JMISU). The union was disbanded in 2006 following incidents of campus violence that led to academic disruptions.

'FREE SHARJEEL IMAM', 'FREE KASHMIR' POSTERS SURFACE

The ongoing protest has also been caught up in a controversy over posters and slogans that appeared on the campus, including those calling for the release of Sharjeel Imam, a JNU PhD scholar who has been jailed in connection with the anti-CAA protests and is facing anti-terror charges. Posters bearing slogans such as 'Free Kashmir', 'RSS go back' and 'Free Sharjeel Imam' have added to the controversy. On Friday night, Congress MP Imran Masood was briefly detained by Delhi Police after visiting Jamia to express solidarity with the protesting students. Masood distanced himself from the controversial posters and said he did not support the slogans. He also questioned the action taken against the students and called for their reinstatement. "Those who want to break this movement should understand that Kashmir is an integral part of India. We would even give our lives to keep Kashmir as an integral part of India," Masood told India Today TV's sister channel, Aaj Tak. Union Minister Giriraj Singh criticised Opposition leaders over their silence on the controversial slogans, questioning Rahul Gandhi, SP chief Akhilesh Yadav and Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray. He asked whether those behind the slogans wanted to see India "broken apart once again" and called for them to be exposed.

JAMIA SHIFTS CLASSES ONLINE

In a notice issued on Saturday, the university's Office of the Registrar said all courses would be conducted online until further notice, citing the prevailing situation and the need to ensure the safety and security of students on campus. The university described the move as a precautionary measure, stressing that academic activities would continue without disruption despite the change in the mode of teaching. The notice was issued by Registrar Professor Md Mahtab Alam Rizvi. All deans, heads of departments, directors, faculty members and students have been directed to follow the online class schedule and ensure regular participation. The order applies to all courses, rather than being limited to a particular department or programme. However, the notice does not specify a date for the resumption of physical classes.

FACULTY ASKED TO MAKE ONLINE ARRANGEMENTS

Faculty members have been instructed to make the necessary arrangements to conduct classes through online platforms and provide students with the academic support and learning materials required to continue their studies. The university has not specified when physical classes will resume. Further updates and instructions regarding the arrangement will be communicated through its official channels. Students should therefore follow the online schedule and any instructions issued by their respective departments regarding class links, learning resources and participation.

GIRIRAJ SINGH SLAMS OPPOSITION

Reacting to the protests and the row over the controversial slogans, Union Minister Giriraj Singh questioned the "silence" of Opposition leaders, including Rahul Gandhi and Akhilesh Yadav. "I want to know why there has been no statement yet from Rahul Gandhi, the AAP, Akhilesh Yadav, or Uddhav Thackeray on this matter. Who are these people, and what is their intent – do they wish to see India broken apart once again?" Singh said. "At Jamia, slogans like 'Free Kashmir' and messages in support of Sharjeel Imam were written on the walls. What kind of mindset does this reflect? It is now time for the people of this country, all true patriots, to consider how to deliver a befitting reply to such individuals. Those responsible for these actions must be exposed," he added.

Rajasthan: Six killed in Churu road accident; 5 members of family among dead

JAIPUR, OCT 24



Six people, including five members of the same family, were killed in a collision between a truck and a car on the Sadulpur-Taranagar road in Rajasthan's Churu district on Saturday. The accident occurred near Dadreva village at around 8:30 am. According to preliminary information, the family was travelling from Somsisar village in Taranagar tehsil to offer prayers at Gogamedi when their car collided with a truck.

The impact was so severe that the car was badly mangled, trapping its occupants inside. The deceased included five members of the family and the car's driver. The victims included men, women and children. A six-month-old infant was among those who died in the accident. A seven-month-old girl sustained serious injuries and was rushed to a nearby hospital for initial treatment. She was subsequently referred to a hospital in Churu for advanced medical care. According to eyewitnesses, the collision triggered panic in the area. Residents and police personnel worked together to rescue those trapped inside the wreckage. Some of the occupants died on the spot, while one reportedly succumbed to injuries during treatment.

After receiving information about the accident, the Sadulpur police team, led by Sub-Inspector Satyaprakash Jangid, reached the spot and initiated rescue and relief operations with the assistance of local residents.

The bodies were taken to the Government Sub-District Hospital in Sadulpur for post-mortem examinations and formal identification. The police have launched an investigation to establish the circumstances that led to the collision. The deaths of five members of the same family have plunged Somsisar village into mourning, with grief spreading across the surrounding region.

Rajasthan Governor Haribhau Bagde and former CM Ashok Gehlot have expressed condolences for the deceased.

Telangana teen gang-raped by 7 people, including 3 minors, on Dussehra

Police said the seven accused, all of whom have been arrested, kidnapped the girl on Dussehra while her parents were away working in their fields and took her to a neighbouring village, where they gang-raped her. A 15-year-old girl was sexually assaulted by seven people, including three minors, in Telangana's Siddipet district on Dussehra while her parents were away working in the fields, police said. A case has been registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act. According to police, the incident took place on Dussehra when the girl's parents had gone to work in their fields. The seven accused kidnapped the teenager and took her to a neighbouring village, where the crime took place. The accused dropped the girl near her village the following morning.

Haryana Clears Rs220 Crore Projects, Saves Rs18.81 Crore

CM Nayab Singh Saini Chairs High-Powered Works Purchase Committee Meeting in Chandigarh*
Projects Cover Solid Waste Management, Roads, Water Supply and Urban Infrastructure*

Chandigarh, October 24



The High-Powered Works Purchase Committee (HPWPC), chaired by Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini, approved development works with a total negotiated value of ₹219.91 crore during its meeting held in Chandigarh today. Through negotiations, the state government achieved savings of ₹18.81 crore against the quoted amount of ₹233.68 crore, ensuring economical utilisation of public funds. Local Bodies Minister Sh. Vipul Goel was also present in the meeting.

The approved Urban Local Bodies projects cover municipal solid waste management, road construction and repair, water supply, sewerage, drainage, street lighting, green belts, parks and other urban infrastructure across the state. Of the 13 Agendas presented in the meeting, 11 were passed while two were deferred.

The committee approved ₹18.70 crore for processing daily generated municipal solid waste in the Narnaul cluster, covering Narnaul, Mahendragarh, Kanina, Nangal Chaudhary and Ateli Mandi. The municipal solid waste processing project in Gurugram was approved at a negotiated cost of ₹38.79 crore, while a similar project at Partapgarh village in Faridabad was approved for ₹17.14 crore.

The committee also approved project for shifting of milk dairies in Hisar. It also approved a project for the upgradation, repair and maintenance of green belts and parks, including parks in newly approved colonies and parks for persons with special abilities.

A banquet hall in Ward No. 20 of Municipal Corporation Panipat was approved at a cost of ₹17.94 crore. The construction of a model road from Agra Chowk to the end of Shardhanand Park on both sides in Palwal was approved at ₹9.28 crore.

The committee also approved construction of an office building for Municipal Corporation Faridabad at Ballabgarh. Works for the augmentation of water supply, sewerage, drainage and street lighting in Sihi village, Ward No. 39, Faridabad, were approved at ₹17.77 crore. Similar works in Bhudena village, Ward No. 35, Faridabad, were approved at ₹13.85 crore.

The rebuilding and repair of road carpeting in Sirsa city, where roads had been dug up for laying a stormwater drainage system, was approved at a negotiated cost of ₹13.29 crore.

Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said the quality of development works and their timely completion are the top priorities of the state government. He directed the concerned departments and executing agencies to ensure that all projects are completed within the stipulated time frame without compromising on quality.

Chief Secretary Sh. Anurag Rastogi, Deputy Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Dr. Yash Pal, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Sh. Sudhir Rajpal, and other senior officers were present in the meeting.

Additional General Manager Inspects Lalit Narayan Mishra Railway Hospital





Gorakhpur, October 24, 2026: North Eastern Railway Additional General Manager Vinod Kumar Shukla conducted a detailed inspection of Lalit Narayan Mishra Railway Hospital in Gorakhpur on October 24, 2026. During the inspection, he reviewed the medical facilities being provided to patients, cleanliness and the medicine distribution counter. Principal Chief Medical Director Dr. Sushma Bhaskar Mate, senior doctors, healthcare personnel, and supervisors from the Engineering and Electrical departments were present on the occasion. The Additional General Manager directed the concerned officers and staff to ensure that patients visiting the hospital received better medical facilities and did not face any inconvenience. He inspected the ultrasound, X-ray and other medical equipment available in the newly established Emergency Medical Department. He particularly emphasised strengthening the maintenance of these facilities to ensure that patients arriving in emergency situations could undergo the necessary diagnostic tests without delay.

Mr. Shukla also instructed officials to maintain cleanliness throughout the hospital premises, observing that a clean and well-organised environment was extremely important for patients' health and treatment.

He directed the concerned authorities to ensure proper cleanliness arrangements in all major areas of the hospital and give special attention to patients' convenience.

The Additional General Manager stated that providing advanced medical facilities to patients was a priority. He urged all concerned officers and employees to discharge their duties with dedication, promptness and sensitivity to ensure that every patient visiting the hospital received accessible, safe and quality medical care.

NFR Inaugurates 'The Terminal' at Guwahati Railway Station

MALIGAON, 24 OCTOBER, 2026

Bringing Dining, Shopping and Recreation Together



Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR) introduced a new dimension to passenger amenities with the inauguration of "The Terminal", a dedicated dining, shopping and recreation space at Guwahati Railway Station on 23 rd October, 2026. Shri Chetan Kumar Shrivastava, General Manager of NFR, inaugurated the facility in the presence of Shri Niraj Sahay, Principal Chief Commercial Manager, NFR, and Shri Samir Lohani, Divisional Railway Manager, Lumding. Located in the old Passenger Reservation System building area on Station Road, Panbazar, the facility offers passengers, families and visitors a convenient space for refreshments and leisure. Developed by Lumding Division under the New Innovative Non-Fare Revenue Ideas Scheme (NINFRIS), the project has transformed an underutilised railway asset into an attractive commercial and leisure hub. Spread over 27,381 square feet, the facility has been awarded to Fusion Edge Solution under a five year contract valued at Rs 2.27 crore. The initiative combines improved amenities with productive utilisation of railway assets and generation of non-fare revenue. The Terminal brings together a dining zone featuring national and international quick- service restaurant brands, a flea market showcasing local handicrafts, souvenirs and retail products, and an indoor soft play area for children. These facilities provide varied food choices and opportunities for shopping and recreation, making waiting time more comfortable for travellers and accompanying families. The marketplace also offers regional artisans a platform to showcase their products and reach a wider customer base. With dedicated seating, thematic lighting, landscaped spaces and thoughtfully designed interiors, the facility provides a welcoming environment with provisions for safety, hygiene, fire protection and security in accordance with railway standards. The initiative reflects NFR's commitment to enhancing passenger convenience, promoting regional commerce and generating sustainable non-fare revenue through innovative utilisation of railway assets.

Uttarakhand's Folk Culture Takes Centre Stage at Barkot Youth Festival

Rural youth and women's groups showcase talent in folk music, dance, drama, painting and poetry; Badiethi Nyaya Panchayat receives ₹1 lakh cheque for winning Yamunotri MLA Champion Trophy

SUNIL THAPLIYAL





Barkot (Uttarkashi), Uttarakhand : A block-level youth festival celebrating Uttarakhand's rich folk culture was organised in Barkot under the aegis of the Youth Welfare Department. Rural Youth Mangal Dals, Mahila Mangal Dals and teams from schools and colleges participated enthusiastically, showcasing their talent through folk songs, traditional dances, drama, painting and poetry. The festival was jointly inaugurated by Barkot Municipal Chairman Vinod Dobhal and Tehsildar Renu Saini. The guests highlighted the important role of young people in preserving and promoting the region's cultural heritage, noting that such events provide a platform for rural talent while connecting the younger generation with traditional art forms and customs. Participants presented vibrant performances reflecting Uttarakhand's folk traditions, local customs and rural life. Melodious folk songs and colourful traditional dances created a festive atmosphere, while the drama competition featured performances on various social and cultural themes. The event also recognised achievements in the Yamunotri MLA Champion Trophy. Badiethi Nyaya Panchayat, the winning team, was honoured with a cheque of ₹1 lakh. The festival aimed to encourage hidden talent in rural areas, promote awareness of traditional cultural practices and provide young people with opportunities for creative expression. Organisers said such initiatives help preserve folk traditions and pass them on to future generations. Among those present were Youth Mangal Dal District President Azad Dimri, Prithvipal Singh Rawat, Block Youth Welfare Officer Lokendra Negi, sector in-charge Siddhi Bhatt, judges Vijay Dobhal, Arvind Rawat, Ruby Gautam, Naresh Rawat, Avatar Singh Chauhan, Janak Rawat, Govind Rana, Prakash Chauhan and Bachan Raunta, along with other participants and officials.

Report flags Pakistan's sponsorship of Khalistanis in North America through fundraising networks

TORONTO

Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) appears in multiple independent assessments as an external sponsor of the Khalistan campaign operating from North America, helping establish and sustain drug-cartel networks involving Punjabi-Canadian operators because traditional diaspora donations have proved insufficient to maintain desired levels of activity, a report has highlighted.

Writing in 'Khalsa Vox', Harleen Kaur mentions that the extremist movement is not a spontaneous expression of diaspora grievance but a sustained political and organisational enterprise. The Canadian law enforcement and intelligence agencies, the report suggested, should treat the financing of the Khalistan campaign as a priority for rigorous, evidence-based scrutiny considering that the funding sources have become a matter of national security.

"Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) has run a multi-year series of non-binding 'referendums' across Canadian and American cities. It maintains legal and advocacy infrastructure, stages regular public events, produces propaganda, and supports legal defence and lobbying efforts. These activities require continuous funding for venues, logistics, materials, personnel, communications, and travel. Many of the people involved entered Canada or the United States as asylum seekers or temporary residents who described themselves as having fled with few resources. The operational scale of the campaign raises a basic question: where does the money come from?" questioned Kaur.



The report cites that the Department of Finance's 2025 Assessment of Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Risks in Canada states that Babbar Khalsa International and the International Sikh Youth Federation — both listed terrorist entities under the 'Criminal Code in the Politically Motivated Violent Extremism' category — have been observed by law enforcement and intelligence agencies to receive financial support originating from Canada.

"The assessment notes that these groups are suspected of raising funds in Canada and elsewhere. Previously they maintained extensive fundraising networks; today they operate through smaller pockets of committed individuals. Documented methods include soliciting donations from diaspora communities, abuse of non-profit and charitable organisations, cryptocurrencies, and criminal activity. CSIS has separately confirmed that a subset of Canada-based Khalistani extremists continues to use the country as a base for the promotion, fundraising, or planning of violence primarily in India," the report details.

Highlighting the nexus, it mentions that criminal proceeds form a documented financing channel for listed entities operating on Canadian soil.

"Illegal drug trafficking is identified as the highest money-laundering threat in Canada, involving billions of dollars annually. A subset of Punjabi-Canadian organised crime groups has long controlled significant portions of the cocaine, methamphetamine, and fentanyl trade moving through Western Canada and Ontario's trucking corridors. Since 2007, more than 200 gang-related homicides in British Columbia alone have been linked to rival Punjabi-Canadian gangs contesting that trade. Trucking companies have repeatedly served as cover for bulk shipments; major seizures, including hundreds of kilogrammes of cocaine in Peel Region, have involved Indo-Canadian suspects," the report emphasises while asserting that Indian investigators and Canadian law-enforcement sources have already flagged that a portion of these revenues is diverted toward diaspora political campaigns, legal defence funds, and organisational support.

"In at least one reported case, financial intelligence traced tens of thousands of dollars from a raided drug house to a registered Canadian charity associated with pro-Khalistan causes," it said.

Kaur details that high-profile figures involved in the organisation of so-called referendums have faced firearms charges. These, it said, are not abstract concerns but patterns repeatedly observed by Canadian police and intelligence agencies.

Artists Add Beauty to the World Around Us

(On the occasion of "International Artist's Day" on 25 October)

When one is born with a creative gift, that creativity flows into many different areas. The word artist encompasses painters, photographers, sculptors, musicians, dancers, writers, actors, digital artists, and many more. For example, Picasso was a painter, sculptor, ceramicist, poet, and play writer. Artists work hard to create their work. They add beauty to the world around us. Art offers a connection to the past. Artists record our history, indelibly. They also unearth truths. Through their work, they tell stories and pass on traditions. Artists have a unique way of connecting to the people around us. In a world full of bad news, one of their most important roles is to offer messages of hope.

International Artist's Day

International Artist's Day is observed annually since 2004 on 25 October to honour artists, bring awareness on importance of artists, and their invaluable contributions they make to thrill mankind. One of the greatest Artists of the world is Pablo Picasso who was born in October 25, 1881. In commemoration of his birthday, this day is celebrated globally. On this day the programs like quiz, helping poor artists, buying a painting, visit to art gallery, organise art event or classes, start learning an art, play musical instrument, support local artists, encourage children to perform an art, and/or honour great artists of your locality. This day is meant for unfolding the hidden talents in us. No matter the art form, the country or locality or region, the era were active in, the event urges for appreciation towards all artists. This day also promote other festivals and events, and provides a platform for artists to be seen and heard.

It is important to encourage future generations, especially children to be creative, innovative and think outside the box as well as to introduce them to artists from all around the globe. Let's support for artists around the world, those passionate, creative, and mood-breaking individuals who enrich our lives through beauty, gave a voice to social issues and movements that impact us all, and who show us the world in a way we might never have imagined. The world famous artists from India includes Raja Ravi Varma, M F Hussain, Rabindranath Tagore, Nalini Malari, S H Raza, Amrita Sher-Gil, Theban Mehta, F N Souza and many more, who introduced the artistic essence of India to the entire world.

- Capt Dr Burra Madhusudhan Reddy
9949700037.

EAM Jaishankar hosts African Heads of Mission, discusses rise of Africa in multipolar world

NEW DELHI

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar on Saturday hosted Heads of Mission from African countries, with discussions focusing on various aspects of the India-Africa partnership, the rise of Africa in a multipolar world and new possibilities for people-centric cooperation.

"Delighted to host Heads of Mission from Africa this afternoon. The India-Africa partnership is one of shared histories, common aspirations and Deep South-South solidarity. We discussed its different aspects, the rise of Africa in a multipolar world and new possibilities for our people-centric cooperation," EAM Jaishankar posted on X.



Earlier this month, EAM Jaishankar chaired a conference of India's Heads of Mission in Africa in Addis Ababa, saying India and Africa share deep linkages built upon Global South solidarity, strategic autonomy, multipolarity and common development aspirations. "We held in-depth discussions on taking forward our partnership across trade, investments, connectivity, development partnership, and capacity building," he had said. The conference came a day after the EAM laid out his vision for the India-Africa partnership in an address in the Ethiopian capital, where he said partnerships of the future must "help create capabilities, not promote dependencies", and called for a reformed UN Security Council with fair representation for Africa.

"It is no longer sufficient to describe India and Africa only through the vocabulary of historical solidarity. History has given us trust," EAM Jaishankar had said, stressing that the relationship must now evolve.

He said development partnerships could be built on mutual respect. "They need not be prescriptive, condescending or conditional. They can be based on respect and equality, shared capabilities, and most of all, shared prosperity," he said. On global governance, EAM Jaishankar said India worked resolutely during its G20 Presidency in 2023 to secure permanent membership for the African Union, and "the same logic now applies to the reform process of the UN Security Council".

India and Italy hold inaugural maritime security dialogue in Rome

ROME

India and Italy held their inaugural maritime security dialogue in Rome, discussing avenues for cooperation in maritime situational awareness, countering illicit maritime activities and safeguarding critical maritime infrastructure, the Indian Embassy in Italy said on Saturday.

The dialogue, held on Friday, enabled a productive exchange of assessments on the maritime security environment and cooperation in the maritime domain, the Embassy said, describing it as "a new chapter" in the India-Italy Special Strategic Partnership. "The inaugural India-Italy Maritime Security Dialogue in Rome on 23 October enabled a productive exchange of assessments about maritime security environment and cooperation in maritime domain. Both sides discussed avenues for cooperation in maritime situational awareness, countering illicit maritime activities and safeguarding critical maritime infrastructure," the Embassy posted on X.

The Indian delegation, led by Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) Joint Secretary (Disarmament and International Security Affairs) Subhashini Narayanan, also held interactions at the Academia Navale, the Italian Hydrographical Institute, Polo Nazionale della Subacquea and the Italian Coast Guard. In May, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Italian counterpart Giorgia Meloni agreed to launch a dialogue on maritime security, with the aim to strengthen maritime security cooperation, coordination.

Russian air defences down nearly 1,300 Ukrainian drones in past day

MOSCOW

Russian air defence systems shot down 1,297 Ukrainian drones and five cruise missiles over the past 24 hours, the Russian Defence Ministry said Saturday.

The intercepted missiles included one SCALP air-launched cruise missile and four long-range Neptune cruise missiles, the ministry said in a statement.

Russian operational-tactical aircraft, attack drones, missile forces and artillery also struck energy and transport infrastructure used by Ukrainian forces, sites used to store and launch long-range drones, and temporary deployment points for Ukrainian armed formations and foreign mercenaries in 147 areas over the past 24 hours, according to the ministry.

Meanwhile, three people were found dead after rubble was cleared following a Ukrainian missile strike on an enterprise in the Russian city of Oryol, regional Governor Andrei Klychkov said in a social media post.

The strike occurred Friday afternoon as workers were leaving the facility for the day. Eight other people were injured, five of whom were in critical condition, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Meanwhile, US First Lady Melania Trump has brokered a temporary ceasefire between Russia and Ukraine in the southern Ukrainian city of Oleshky, securing an agreement to halt military operations to allow humanitarian assistance and the evacuation of civilians trapped in the war-ravaged city.

The ceasefire, scheduled to take effect on October 29, will establish a designated safe passageway for aid deliveries and civilian evacuations.

The agreement follows direct negotiations conducted by Melania Trump and her representative with Russian and Ukrainian leadership. The First Lady served as the "Exclusive Intermediary" between the two countries, helping establish the objectives, procedures, timing and operational arrangements.

The White House described the agreement as a humanitarian intervention aimed at assisting thousands of civilians, particularly elderly residents who remain in the frontline city.

"The situation in Oleshky is dire. Oleshky is a front-line war city on the brink of disaster," Melania Trump said.

Ballistic missile attacks rock Yemen's Aden



ADEN (YEMEN)

Loud explosions were heard in Yemen's southern port city of Aden, the seat of the internationally recognized government, on Saturday following a ballistic missile attack, a local security official told Xinhua.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Houthi group fired nearly four ballistic missiles at the city, with some striking near Aden International Airport and key military facilities in the Khormaksar district, and another hitting the Coast Guard Troops headquarters in Al-Tawahi district.

The blasts shook buildings across parts of Aden, residents told Xinhua, with plumes of smoke seen rising from the targeted areas. Casualties and damage were not immediately known.

The attack marked the latest in a series of Houthi missile strikes on Aden. On Wednesday, the Houthis claimed a ballistic missile strike on a Saudi military operations room at Badr military base near Aden International Airport, Xinhua News Agency reported.

On Tuesday, a military source with the Southern Giants Brigades told Xinhua that government forces, supported by the Saudi Arabia-led coalition, had made "little headway across several fronts" and had yet to achieve a major territorial breakthrough.

"The fighting is continuing, but significant gains have been limited to advances by our forces near Bab al-Mandeb," a strategic strait as the southern gate of the Red Sea, said the source, who requested anonymity.

Earlier this month, strikes hit the airport grounds, a military base in the Al-Buraiqa district, and the Al-Ma'ashiq Presidential Palace compound. The government said the October 15 attack on the palace compound killed five people and wounded 16 others.

The renewed strikes come amid intensified fighting between the Houthis and government forces backed by the Saudi-led coalition. Yemen has been mired in conflict since late 2014, when the Houthis seized Sanaa and much of northern Yemen, prompting the coalition to intervene in 2015 in support of the internationally recognised government.

France records 135 arrests during demonstrations by early Saturday afternoon

PARIS

French police had made 135 arrests during demonstrations across the country by 1 p.m. local time (1100 GMT) on Saturday, French Interior Minister Laurent Nunez said at a press briefing.

Nunez said 136 public order incidents had been recorded nationwide during Saturday's demonstrations, with 35,000 people counted in public spaces nationwide so far.

Several French cities have authorised demonstrations for Saturday, including Lille, Strasbourg, Mulhouse, Grenoble, Marseille, Toulouse, Amiens and Paris, French television channel BFM TV reported. For security reasons, the Paris public transport operator RATP said 24 metro stations in Paris would be closed from 9 a.m. local time (0700 GMT) on Saturday. In Lyon, where



demonstrations have been banned across a large part of the city center, small gatherings have been dispersed by law enforcement officers using tear gas grenades, BFM TV said. Nearly 15,000 supporters of the National Rally (RN) are expected in Orleans on Saturday and Sunday for the far-right party's congress and the launch of RN leader Marine Le Pen's presidential campaign, French daily Le Monde reported. Meanwhile, between 20,000 and 30,000 opponents of the far-right party are expected to gather in the city on Saturday.

Nunez said on Friday that 70,000 police officers and gendarmes would be deployed nationwide for the demonstrations. Soldiers from the French army's Operation Sentinelle would also be mobilized to help prevent violence during the protests, Xinhua News Agency reported. Nunez said last week, that more than 2,000 people were arrested during violent protests across France.

Material damage was considerable, affecting several hundred businesses, he said.

"Demonstrating is a fundamental right. Causing disorder through coordinated violence is not," Nunez said.

The clashes erupted in late September over poor conditions in schools and teacher shortages. The movement quickly expanded into nationwide anti-government demonstrations driven by soaring living costs, high fuel prices, public sector budget cuts, criticising President Emmanuel Macron's administration.

EU role under scrutiny after Pakistan's restrictions on artists

BRUSSELS

Pakistan's restrictions on dance performances of actresses, detention and intimidation of poets and journalists have raised growing concerns over freedom of expression, prompting questions about the European Union's (EU) response and its preferential trade relationship with Islamabad, a report has stated.

It noted that such pressure extends beyond theatres to other spheres of public expression.

"Three actresses, Urooj Khan, Nayab Khan and Masooma Malik, have been ordered to provide explanations within 48 hours for dance moves that cultural authorities in Pakistan's Punjab province have described as "obscene". The Punjab Arts Council has issued notices requesting their responses and warning of possible sanctions. However, no penalty has yet been announced against them. A few weeks earlier, in August, eight other actresses had been banned from performing on theatrical stages across the province for one month, also over performances deemed inappropriate by the authorities," Greek lawyer, writer and journalist, Dimitra Staikou wrote in European Times.

"These decisions do not concern political statements or accusations of blasphemy. They concern the way women dance in front of an audience. In Pakistan, restrictions on artistic expression can begin long before a criminal court becomes involved: with the assessment of a performance and an administrative authority's decision on who is allowed to appear on stage," she stated.

Staikou highlighted that Pakistani filmmaker and researcher Roshaan Khattak, based in Britain, has reported receiving death threats that he believes are linked to his investigation into human rights violations in Balochistan. His personal account was published by the London-based organisation Index on Censorship on July 21, 2026. According to the report, although these cases differ in their legal and factual circumstances, together they illustrate the pressures faced by those who write, investigate or engage in creative work in the public sphere. It noted that such cases also raise questions about Europe's role, particularly as the European Commission documented a deterioration in freedom of expression in Pakistan on July 16, 2026, while the country continues to benefit from preferential access to the European market. "The question is not only what happens to artists and creators inside Pakistan, but also what European institutions do when the very mechanisms for protecting rights that they invoke prove inadequate," it noted.



In its assessment of Pakistan, the European Commission also documented a rise in enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings in Balochistan between 2023 and 2025, with those responsible continuing to evade accountability.

"This finding adds another dimension to allegations involving people working in the cultural sphere: the risks described concern not only the ability to publish a work, but, in some cases, even the personal safety of those who participate in public debate," the report in European Times mentioned.

Retiring at 58? Know how long your EPF savings will earn interest

Retirement at 58 does not mean you have to withdraw your Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) savings immediately. You can leave the money in your account for some time and continue earning interest. However, there is a limit to how long the interest will be credited, and missing this window could affect your retirement planning.

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has addressed this question in a post on X, explaining how long a retired employee's EPF account continues to earn interest and when it is advisable to withdraw the accumulated savings. In its post, EPFO asked subscribers to understand the rules on interest after retirement.

HOW LONG DOES YOUR EPF ACCOUNT EARN INTEREST AFTER RETIREMENT?

According to the information shared by EPFO, an employee who retires at the age of 58 can continue earning interest on their EPF balance for the next three years, up to the age of 61. This means retirees do not have to withdraw their entire EPF savings as soon as they turn 58 to continue earning interest. They can leave the money in the account during this three-year period and earn interest on the eligible balance. However, once the account becomes inoperative after this period, it will no longer earn interest, as explained in EPFO's graphic. The organisation has advised retirees to withdraw their EPF savings rather than leave the money in an inoperative account beyond the period for which interest is credited.

WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR EPF ACCOUNT AFTER 61?

For employees who retire at 58, the three-year period provides some time to decide how to use their retirement savings. But leaving the money untouched beyond the age of 61 may mean losing the benefit of further interest on the EPF balance. For instance, someone who retires at 58 and leaves their accumulated savings in the account can continue earning interest until the age of 61, according to EPFO's post. After that, the account becomes inoperative and interest is no longer credited.

Kotak Mahindra Bank Q2 profit jumps 26 pc on core income, drop in provisions

MUMBAI: (Oct 24) Kotak Mahindra Bank on Saturday reported a 26 per cent jump in its consolidated net profit for the September quarter at Rs 5,645 crore. On a standalone basis, the private sector lender reported a 29 per cent increase in profit after tax to Rs 4,212 crore, aided by core income growth and lower provisions.

SEBI Plans Graded Broker Compliance, AI Sandbox and Bond Market Reforms

MUMBAI, OCT 24

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is working on a graded compliance framework for stockbrokers, a regulatory sandbox for artificial intelligence (AI) applications and a market-making mechanism for corporate bonds, Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey said on Saturday. Addressing the 16th ANMI International Capital Market Convention here, Pandey said the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) was examining a compliance regime that would vary according to a broker's scale, client exposure and reliance on technology. "We are fixing this to improve capital efficiency and lower the compliance burden," he said. The regulator is also developing a market-making framework to boost secondary market trading in corporate bonds. Under the next phase of Demat 2.0, tokenised corporate bonds will be allowed to trade in the secondary market, a move that will improve liquidity, reduce settlement risks and speed up access to funds, according to Pandey. The market watchdog is further exploring an AI sandbox that would allow new tools to be tested in a controlled environment while giving regulators an opportunity to build safeguards around their use. According to Pandey, the regulator was finalising guidelines on the responsible use of AI based on a tiered framework that would include accountability standards, data controls, kill switches and human oversight, in line with recommendations from the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO). Pandey said SEBI would extend the automated give-up and take-up facility in the cash segment to custodial clients such as portfolio management services (PMS) and alternative investment funds (AIFs), reducing the need to block funds while awaiting custodian confirmation. On investor protection, the SEBI chairman warned that unregistered investment advisers and social media influencers or finfluencers were increasingly shaping retail investment decisions. Notably, about six in ten investors rely on finfluencers for at least some investment decisions. While many such operators promise quick riches and fraudsters often misuse the names of legitimate brokers to deceive investors.



To combat such fraud, SEBI has introduced measures including validated UPI handles, the SEBI Check platform and verified labels for trading applications to help investors distinguish authentic entities from fraudulent ones.

Pandey added that SEBI would make it easier for overseas investors, including non-resident Indians, to invest in India through digital onboarding, simplified know-your-customer processes and reduced paperwork while maintaining regulatory safeguards.

Jio IPO Defies Weak Market Sentiment with Record ₹7.40 Lakh Crore Demand

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 24, 2026

Breaks the previous record for public bids by ₹47,000 crore
Large institutional investors place bids worth nearly ₹3.87 lakh crore, with the QIB category fully subscribed within 10 minutes
- First IPO in the world to receive over 1 crore applications, with Jio attracting more than 1.38 crore applications

The Jio IPO has stunned the market by attracting investor demand worth approximately ₹7.40 lakh crore. Strong confidence among large institutional investors, enthusiasm among retail investors, and participation from existing shareholders and employees have propelled the IPO of Jio Platforms to several historic milestones. The country's largest IPO, worth ₹30,213 crore, received more than 1.38 crore applications, with the final subscription crossing 22 times.

Jio set these benchmarks in the IPO market at a time when equity markets were under pressure. Selling by foreign investors, elevated crude oil prices and global uncertainties had weakened market sentiment. Against this backdrop, the demand for Jio's IPO exceeded even market experts' expectations. The issue also broke the previous record in terms of the value of public bids. In October 2025, the public bidding for LG Electronics India's IPO attracted bids worth approximately ₹4.43 lakh crore. Jio's non-anchor bidding attracted around ₹4.90 lakh crore, exceeding the previous benchmark by approximately ₹47,000 crore, or 11%. In addition, Jio's anchor investors had placed bids worth approximately ₹2.50 lakh crore. Demand from large institutional investors, in particular, far exceeded expectations. The Qualified Institutional Buyers (QIB) category attracted bids worth approximately ₹3.87 lakh crore and was subscribed 70.55 times. The quota for this category was fully subscribed within the first 10 minutes. The entire IPO was subscribed in just 100 minutes. Anchor investors also saw strong interest from global funds, insurance companies and domestic mutual funds. The strong momentum continued until the final day, with institutional demand witnessing a substantial surge. Alongside large institutions, individual investors also recorded unprecedented participation in the Jio IPO. The retail category alone set a record, receiving more than one crore applications. The category reserved for existing Reliance shareholders received over 21 lakh applications, while the employee category attracted more than 2 lakh applications. The retail portion was subscribed 2.72 times, the shareholder quota 7.60 times and the employee quota 2.93 times. Jio also became the first IPO in the world to receive more than one crore applications overall. Another distinguishing feature of India's largest IPO was that it was entirely a fresh issue. This means existing shareholders did not sell any of their stake through the offering. The subscription momentum was equally exceptional. The IPO was subscribed 3.16 times on Day 1, 5.57 times on Day 2 and 22.19 times by Day 3. After setting one record after another, investors are now focused on the share allotment and listing. As per the scheduled timeline, allotment is set for October 26, while Jio Platforms is proposed to list on the stock exchanges on October 28.





India continues to clock robust growth amid global uncertainties: Report

NEW DELHI, OCT 24

As global growth is forecast to slow from 3.5 per cent in 2025 to 3.1 per cent in 2026, India's economic resilience is increasingly evident as it sustains growth despite geopolitical tensions, volatile energy markets, trade uncertainty, and tighter financial conditions, according to a new report.

Major global institutions' upward revisions to GDP forecasts reinforce India's standing as a leading global growth engine, says the report in Tanzania-based The Guardian (IPP Media). "Export diversification, digital transformation, fiscal discipline, and energy security will strengthen competitiveness and sustain long-term, inclusive economic growth," it noted. The IMF recently raised India's growth forecast to 7.0 per cent for both 2026 and 2027, making it the fastest-growing major economy and highlighting strong domestic drivers and resilience to external shocks.

"A principal source of India's economic strength is its large and diversified domestic market. Household consumption, business investment, and public expenditure on infrastructure together create a broad base of economic activity. This domestic orientation helps cushion the economy when external demand weakens or international markets become volatile," said the report. Notably, private consumption drives sectors ranging from automobiles and housing to tourism, healthcare, and finance. Rising incomes, urbanisation, digital access, and improved connectivity expand demand and support business investment and innovation. The rapid adoption of digital platforms has transformed domestic economic participation. "Digital payments, online commerce, digital public infrastructure, and technology-enabled government services have reduced transaction costs and expanded market access. Small businesses can reach customers beyond their immediate geographical areas, while digital financial services facilitate payments, credit assessment, and formalisation," the report mentioned. Moreover, infrastructure investment in transport, logistics, power, and digital connectivity strengthens India's resilience by lowering costs, expanding market access, and improving the flow of goods and services. India's exports are expected to reach $1 trillion, an all-time high in 2026-27, with a target of $2 trillion by 2030. The manufacturing sector also grew by 9.2 per cent in Q1 FY27. India's economic landscape demonstrates remarkable adaptability, having successfully navigated global volatility through strong domestic fundamentals and proactive policy management, said the report.

INALSA Launches Complete Sliding Care, India's First 2-in-1 Standing Garment Steamer and Iron

NOIDA, OCTOBER 2026

INALSA, one of India's leading small appliance brands and part of Spain's Taurus Group, today announced the launch of Complete Sliding Care, India's first 2-in-1 standing garment steamer and iron. Built for homes that want a professional finish without switching between appliances, it pairs a dedicated steam pump with a digital display on the handle, making it the only standing garment steamer in India to offer 7 heating levels and 3 steam levels at the touch of a button. Finished in Matte Black, the INALSA Complete Sliding Care carries an MRP of ₹21,999 and is available at an introductory offer price of ₹11,999, backed by a 2-Year Complete Product Warranty. The box includes the main unit with a detachable water tank and height adjustable double poles, the base, an ironing board with protective cover, an iron holding bracket and an iron protective cover. It is available on Amazon and Flipkart and at leading retail stores across India. Most standing steamers rely on gravity to feed water from the tank to the boiler, which leads to weak bursts, spitting and pauses in the middle of a garment. Complete Sliding Care uses a dedicated pump that actively pushes water to its 2500W boiler, delivering steady steam for as long as the session needs. It is ready to use in 40 seconds, and the 1.2 litre translucent, detachable water tank makes refilling and cleaning easy. Anti-drip protection, a pressure release safety valve and automatic shut-off keep everyday use safe. The real difference shows in the finish. A regular steamer relaxes wrinkles but cannot give a shirt collar or a trouser crease a sharp edge, while a dry iron struggles with delicate and embellished fabrics. Complete Sliding Care does both. Users can steam a silk saree or a blazer hanging vertically, then lay the board flat and use the extra-large ironing plate to press collars, cuffs and pleats to a crisp finish.



Speaking on the launch, Mr. Jitendra Chauhan, CEO of INALSA, said, "Indian wardrobes have changed. The same household now owns office shirts, linen kurtas, silk sarees and heavy denim, and no single iron or steamer has handled all of them well. People either buy two appliances or settle for an average finish. With Complete Sliding Care, we wanted to solve that in one product. The pump gives you steam that does not stop halfway through a garment, and the digital display on the handle lets you choose the exact temperature for the fabric in your hand instead of guessing on a dial. It is the most complete garment care product we have built, and we are proud to bring it to Indian homes."

Control sits right at the user's fingertips. The digital display on the handle offers 7 heating levels for ironing, from 80°C for delicate silks up to 200°C for heavy linens, along with separate Low, Medium and High steam settings, so each fabric gets the right heat and moisture. The ironing board tilts to 45°, 90° and 180°, moving from an angled position for steaming to a flat surface for pressing, while the telescopic double poles offer 4 height levels to suit different users. A 90° rotatable handle lets users change their grip comfortably as they move across different areas of a garment.

Sambudla Dominates F4 Round 3, Takes Points Lead

CHENNAI, OCTOBER 23, 2026

The Madras International Circuit in Chennai witnessed thrilling wheel-to-wheel battles, dramatic recoveries and a historic breakthrough as Round 3 of the F4 Indian Championship, part of the Indian Racing Festival 2026, delivered three action-packed races on October 22 and 23. Goa Aces JA Racing's Luviwe Sambudla emerged as the weekend's standout performer, claiming two victories and a third-place finish to take the championship lead, while 15-year-old Aaron Mehta of Kolkata Royal Tigers made history by becoming the youngest race winner in the championship's history.

Sambudla turned a five-point deficit into a 21-point championship advantage, moving to 138 points ahead of Kichcha's Kings Bengaluru's Aris Kyriakou on 117. Across the 3.717-kilometre circuit, Sambudla showcased exceptional pace and racecraft, winning the opening two races from sixth on the grid before completing his weekend on the podium. Speed Demons Delhi's Ntiyiso Mabunda was equally impressive, finishing second in all three races, while Mehta delivered a composed performance under pressure to secure his maiden victory in the final race. The 16-driver field, representing eight franchise teams, arrived in Chennai with Kyriakou leading the standings after a consistent run of podium finishes. However, challenging wet-weather conditions and fiercely contested battles quickly changed the complexion of the title fight. The opening race saw Kyriakou take the early lead, with Mehta initially keeping pace and Sambudla making up two places on the opening lap. As the wet conditions tested the field, Sambudla worked his way past Mehta for second before capitalising on a loss of rear grip from Kyriakou on lap nine to seize the lead. Ntiyiso Mabunda, who started tenth for Speed Demons Delhi, produced an impressive recovery drive, overtaking Mehta and Kyriakou to move into second, while Goa Aces JA Racing's Aryan Narola also joined the fight at the front. With rain returning to the circuit, Sambudla pulled clear to win by 9.606 seconds, setting the fastest lap in 1:48.647. Ntiyiso Mabunda completed a remarkable climb from tenth to second, with Narola finishing third. Mehta crossed the line fourth, while Kyriakou had to settle for fifth. Speed Demons Delhi's Krishay Gutte finished sixth as the highest-placed Indian driver. The result handed Sambudla a 10-point championship lead and shifted the momentum decisively in his favour. Sambudla carried that form into the second race, once again starting sixth under the reverse-grid format. Working his way through the field, the Goa Aces JA Racing driver secured his second consecutive victory in 33:22.590 after 13 laps, but the contest proved considerably closer. Ntiyiso Mabunda maintained the pressure throughout, finishing just 1.211 seconds behind the winner, while Sambudla recorded the fastest lap in 1:50.071. Ntiyiso Mabunda's second consecutive runner-up finish underlined his consistency, while Kyriakou recovered to third for Kichcha's Kings Bengaluru after his difficult opening race. Narola maintained fourth for Goa Aces JA Racing, followed by Gutte of Speed Demons Delhi, who again led the Indian contingent, and Mehta in sixth for Kolkata Royal Tigers. With the top six separated by just 5.414 seconds, the race highlighted the increasingly competitive nature of the field. Sambudla's second victory extended his championship advantage over Kyriakou to 14 points heading into the final race.





The weekend's defining moment came in the third race, as Mehta converted pole position into a breakthrough victory. The Kolkata Royal Tigers teenager held his nerve through a race punctuated by incidents, a red flag and a safety car intervention before resisting a late charge from Ntiyiso Mabunda to win by just 0.546 seconds.

Mehta initially retained the lead as Narola of Goa Aces JA Racing challenged strongly through the opening corners. However, the slippery conditions soon caught several drivers out, with Kyriakou of Kichcha's Kings Bengaluru running wide into the grass and becoming stranded in a deep puddle, while Swarnav Das of Kolkata Royal Tigers also slid off the circuit. The incidents prompted a red flag to allow the stranded cars to be recovered, with the field subsequently resuming behind the safety car. Kyriakou and Das were forced to restart from the back of the field, while Narola resumed in 13th.

Following the restart, Mehta gradually established a lead of approximately 1.5 seconds over Sambudla. However, the retirement of Hyderabad Blackbirds' Bhuvan Bonu, who had been running fourth, brought out the safety car and erased the advantage. As the race approached its conclusion, Ntiyiso Mabunda closed rapidly on Mehta, setting up a tense final-lap battle. The Speed Demons Delhi driver looked for a way through, but Mehta defended his position to secure his first championship victory and make history at just 15 years of age. Ntiyiso Mabunda finished second for the third consecutive time in Chennai, while Sambudla secured third to cap his double-win campaign. Das recovered from the back of the field to finish fourth for Kolkata Royal Tigers, ahead of Godspeed Kochi's Mahlori Mabunda in fifth. Kyriakou mounted a recovery drive from 16th to sixth, while Kichcha's Kings Bengaluru's Enzo Rujugiro finished seventh. Narola climbed to eighth and recorded the fastest lap of the race in 1:39.676. The weekend also tested the resilience of the wider field, with Ahmedabad Apex Racers' Mathias Alexander Forland retiring after one lap in the opening race. Godspeed Kochi's Lily-May Watkins and Hyderabad Blackbirds' Janine Wermuth also encountered difficulties in the wet conditions, highlighting the fine margins that shaped the three races. The Chennai round has significantly reshaped the championship battle, with Sambudla moving from five points behind Kyriakou to a 21-point lead after winning twice and finishing on the podium in all three races. Ntiyiso Mabunda's three consecutive second-place finishes highlighted his consistency, while Mehta's historic maiden win added another milestone to a weekend defined by close racing, challenging weather and determined recovery drives.

With the championship continuing into its next round, Sambudla leaves Chennai firmly in control of the standings, while Kyriakou faces the task of closing the gap. Mehta, meanwhile, emerges as one of the weekend's breakthrough performers after converting his pace into a landmark victory for Kolkata Royal Tigers.

Beyond Diabetes

Why Healthy People Are Tracking Their Blood Sugar



The Growing Trend of Tracking Blood Sugar

A small, round patch worn on the upper arm has become an increasingly familiar sight in gyms, offices and social gatherings. While such devices were once primarily associated with people living with diabetes, they are now attracting the attention of healthy individuals, fitness enthusiasts, athletes and people interested in improving their lifestyle. Many wear these patches to understand how their bodies respond to food, exercise, sleep and stress. These devices, known as continuous glucose monitors (CGMs), offer a window into the body's changing glucose levels throughout the day. By displaying readings on a smartphone, they allow users to observe patterns that conventional blood tests cannot show continuously. For people with diabetes, this technology can be an important part of managing their condition. For people without diabetes, however, the benefits are less certain. The growing popularity of glucose monitoring reflects a broader interest in personalised health, preventive care and wearable technology. People increasingly want to understand their bodies rather than rely solely on general dietary advice. Yet the ability to collect more health data does not necessarily mean that every reading is meaningful or that everyone needs to monitor it. Understanding what these devices can and cannot tell us is essential before deciding whether to use one.

What Exactly Is a Continuous Glucose Monitor?

A continuous glucose monitor is a small medical device designed to measure glucose levels throughout the day and night. It typically consists of a sensor attached to the skin, often on the upper arm. A tiny filament sits just beneath the skin and measures glucose in the interstitial fluid, which surrounds the body's cells. The readings are transmitted to a compatible smartphone or receiver, allowing users to follow changes in glucose levels in near real time. Depending on the device, the system may also provide alerts when glucose reaches specified thresholds or changes rapidly. Unlike conventional finger-prick testing, which provides a measurement at a particular moment, a CGM offers a continuous picture of glucose patterns. This can help users understand how levels change after meals, during exercise, while sleeping and in response to other daily activities. For people with diabetes, particularly those who use insulin or experience fluctuations in glucose, this information can support treatment decisions and help identify potentially dangerous highs or lows. The technology has also become attractive to people without diabetes who want to explore their metabolic responses. However, CGMs measure glucose in interstitial fluid rather than directly in the bloodstream. Their readings can lag behind blood glucose changes, particularly when levels are changing rapidly. They can also produce inaccurate readings under certain circumstances. These limitations matter when interpreting results, especially for people who do not have a diagnosed condition.

Why Are Healthy People Using Glucose Patches?

Understanding How Food Affects the Body

One of the main reasons healthy people try CGMs is curiosity about nutrition. People may wonder whether a bowl of rice, a slice of bread, a sweetened beverage or a serving of fruit causes a substantial rise in glucose. They may also compare these responses with meals containing vegetables, protein, healthy fats and fibre. The resulting graphs can make the relationship between food and glucose more visible. A person might notice that a particular breakfast produces a larger rise than expected, while another meal is followed by a more gradual change. Such observations can encourage people to think more carefully about portion sizes, meal composition and eating habits. For example, including fibre-rich vegetables and protein in a meal may help moderate the rate at which glucose rises. Nevertheless, individual readings should not be treated as a simple ranking of foods from healthy to unhealthy. Glucose responses vary between individuals and can be influenced by the amount eaten, the timing of the meal, recent physical activity, sleep and other factors. A single reading cannot establish whether a particular food is beneficial or harmful overall.

Investigating Afternoon Fatigue and Energy Levels

Many people experience tiredness or sleepiness after lunch and wonder whether fluctuations in blood glucose are responsible. A CGM may appear to offer an explanation by displaying glucose changes around the time symptoms occur. However, post-meal fatigue has several possible causes, including meal size, sleep quality, dehydration, stress and the body's natural daily rhythm. A glucose rise after eating is a normal physiological response and does not automatically explain why someone feels tired. People should therefore avoid assuming that every period of low energy is caused by a glucose spike or that flattening their glucose graph will necessarily improve their energy levels. Persistent or unexplained fatigue deserves an appropriate medical assessment rather than a conclusion based solely on wearable data.

Managing Weight and Improving Eating Habits

Weight management is another reason people are drawn to glucose-monitoring devices. Watching readings change after meals can make dietary choices feel more immediate and personal. Some users may become more conscious of sugary drinks, oversized portions or highly refined snacks. For some individuals, this feedback may encourage healthier routines. However, there is limited evidence that routine CGM use improves weight management or long-term health outcomes in otherwise healthy people without diabetes. Glucose levels are only one aspect of metabolism. They do not directly measure calorie intake, nutritional adequacy, body-fat changes or overall dietary quality. A meal that produces a relatively small glucose response may still contain excessive calories, salt or saturated fat. Conversely, nutritious foods such as fruit and whole grains can produce noticeable glucose rises while remaining valuable parts of a balanced diet. Sustainable weight management depends on overall eating patterns, physical activity, sleep and other lifestyle factors rather than the pursuit of a perfectly flat glucose curve.

Supporting Fitness and Athletic Performance

Athletes and gym-goers may use CGMs to explore how their bodies respond to different meals, training sessions and recovery routines. Some hope to identify suitable times to eat or determine which foods help them feel energised during exercise. The information may help users recognise patterns in their daily routines, but glucose data alone cannot determine athletic performance or recovery. Exercise responses differ according to intensity, duration, training status and individual physiology. For most recreational exercisers without diabetes, a balanced diet, adequate hydration, appropriate carbohydrate intake and sufficient recovery remain more established priorities than continuous glucose monitoring. Athletes with specific medical or performance concerns may benefit from professional guidance when interpreting their readings.

Family History and Preventive Health

People with a family history of diabetes may be particularly interested in monitoring glucose because they want to identify possible problems early. Others may have excess abdominal weight, a history of elevated blood sugar during pregnancy or concerns about their metabolic health. These concerns are reasonable, but wearing a glucose patch is not a substitute for recommended screening. A CGM cannot independently diagnose prediabetes or diabetes, and apparently normal readings do not rule out either condition. Appropriate laboratory tests, including fasting plasma glucose and glycated haemoglobin (HbA1c), are used to assess blood sugar status. Depending on the individual's circumstances, a clinician may recommend additional testing. People with risk factors should discuss an appropriate screening schedule with their healthcare provider rather than relying on a consumer device for reassurance.

Exploring the Effects of Sleep and Stress

Some users notice glucose changes during stressful meetings, periods of poor sleep or unusually demanding days. Stress hormones can influence glucose regulation, while inadequate sleep may affect the body's response to insulin. A CGM may help users observe these patterns and consider how their daily routines affect their well-being. However, it cannot identify the precise cause of every fluctuation. Changes may reflect several overlapping influences, and the device cannot independently diagnose a sleep disorder, hormonal problem or stress-related condition. The most useful approach is to view glucose readings alongside broader lifestyle patterns rather than interpret every change as a warning sign.

What Can a Glucose Patch Genuinely Teach You?

Used thoughtfully, a CGM can make certain aspects of everyday physiology easier to understand. It can demonstrate that the same food may produce different responses in different people and that glucose levels naturally change throughout the day. Users may also observe that taking a short walk after a meal can help moderate the post-meal glucose response. Combining carbohydrates with protein, fibre and healthy fats may influence how quickly glucose rises. Sleep quality, stress and physical activity can also affect glucose patterns. These observations may reinforce established health advice by showing how everyday habits relate to physiological changes. Instead of viewing nutrition recommendations as abstract instructions, users can see how their own bodies respond.

However, the value lies in recognising broad patterns, not reacting to every individual reading. The data should support sensible lifestyle choices rather than create a constant search for numerical perfection.

Not Always a Problem

One of the biggest misunderstandings surrounding CGMs is the belief that every rise in glucose is harmful. In reality, glucose naturally increases after eating because carbohydrates are broken down and absorbed into the bloodstream. The body normally responds by regulating glucose levels through insulin and other mechanisms. Physical activity, stress and other physiological processes can also influence readings. A temporary rise does not automatically indicate insulin resistance, prediabetes or diabetes. The interpretation of glucose data depends on the individual's health status, the size and duration of the change, the circumstances in which it occurs and other clinical information. A single peak on a smartphone graph cannot establish a diagnosis. People without diabetes also lack the same clearly established CGM interpretation frameworks used in diabetes management. Although researchers are investigating glucose patterns in healthy populations, the significance of many short-term fluctuations remains uncertain. Consequently, trying to eliminate every glucose rise may create unnecessary anxiety without providing a proven health benefit. A CGM provides glucose estimates, but it is not a stand-alone diagnostic test for diabetes or prediabetes. Medical diagnosis relies on established laboratory tests interpreted according to accepted clinical criteria. Someone with normal-looking CGM readings may still have an abnormal laboratory result. Similarly, an isolated high reading does not necessarily indicate disease. Anyone concerned about diabetes should consult a healthcare professional and undergo appropriate testing.

The Hidden Downsides: Anxiety, Skin Problems and Cost

Continuous access to health data can be reassuring for some users but stressful for others. Repeatedly checking glucose readings may encourage people to worry about normal fluctuations or interpret every change as a sign that they have made a mistake. This can turn eating into a process of numerical evaluation rather than a balanced activity that provides nourishment and enjoyment. Over time, excessive monitoring may undermine a healthy relationship with food. There are also practical considerations. Adhesives may cause skin irritation, and sensors need periodic replacement. Depending on the device and local pricing, the recurring expense can become significant. Users should consider whether the information they gain justifies the cost. For people without diabetes or another clear medical indication, the benefits of continuous monitoring remain uncertain. Spending money on a sensor may be less useful than investing in nutritious food, regular exercise, preventive medical check-ups or professional dietary advice.



Why a Glucose Spike Is It Can Produce Inaccurate or Misleading Readings

CGM sensors have limitations. Because they measure glucose in interstitial fluid, readings may lag behind changes in blood glucose. Sensor placement, pressure on the sensor and other factors can also affect accuracy. Certain medications may interfere with some devices. Unexpected readings should therefore be interpreted cautiously. If symptoms do not match the displayed result, users should follow the manufacturer's instructions and seek medical advice when necessary.

It May Encourage Unnecessary Food Restrictions

Some people begin avoiding fruit, rice, whole grains or other nutritious foods because their glucose rises after eating them. This can lead to an unnecessarily restrictive diet. Food choices should be based on overall nutritional value, portion sizes, dietary needs and individual medical circumstances. A temporary glucose increase does not automatically make a food unhealthy. People who become preoccupied with food numbers or have a history of disordered eating should be particularly cautious about using devices that encourage constant monitoring.

Who Might Benefit Most From a Glucose Patch?

CGMs have established uses in diabetes management, particularly for people who need help monitoring glucose fluctuations and making treatment decisions. Their use in people without diabetes is a different question. Individuals with prediabetes, significant diabetes risk factors or particular clinical concerns may wish to discuss glucose monitoring with their doctors. In selected circumstances, a clinician may consider a short period of monitoring as part of a broader assessment or lifestyle programme. However, the decision should be based on an individual's medical needs rather than a general belief that everyone benefits from knowing their glucose levels continuously. The usefulness of the device depends on whether the readings can answer a meaningful clinical question and lead to an appropriate action. There is no universal rule that a healthy person needs to wear a CGM for a particular number of weeks. The duration, if monitoring is appropriate at all, should depend on the purpose and professional guidance.

Who Should Think Twice Before Using One?

Healthy individuals with normal check-ups and no particular risk factors may gain little from routine glucose monitoring. Those who become anxious about health data or feel compelled to check numbers repeatedly may find the experience counterproductive. People who have struggled with disordered eating should consider the possibility that continuous feedback could intensify food-related fears or restrictive behaviours.

SHORT NEWS

Athletics

Four track and field records improved at National Junior Meet

CHENNAI: Telangana's Lodenge Ramu, Uttar Pradesh's Tanu Chaudhary and Chuki Birda of Rajasthan set new marks as four records were erased in track and field events on the second day of the 41st National Junior Athletics Championships 2026 here at Chennai's Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on Saturday. Telangana's Lodenge Ramu erased a decade-old national record in the men's U18 400m. His gold-winning time of 46.80 seconds was better than Chandan Bauri's previous record of 46.99 seconds.

GUJARAT

500 youths from six states, UT take part in drug-free India campaign

GANDHINAGAR: Around 500 youths from six states and a Union Territory took part in a drug-awareness programme organised by the Sports Authority of India (SAI) at the Heartfulness Centre in Gandhinagar on Saturday, using traditional Indian games, fitness challenges and Zumba to promote a healthy, drug-free lifestyle. The programme, organised by SAI Regional Centre Gandhinagar under the 'Fit India Movement' in collaboration with MY Bharat, was held under the theme 'Nasha Mukt Yuva, Viksit Bharat'.

Tilak comes clutch, Nitish puts hand as India beat NZ to take 2-0 lead

CHRISTCHURCH



Tilak Varma came up with another clutch performance to headline India's come-from-behind win against New Zealand in the second T20I at the Hagley Oval here on Saturday.

With their backs against the wall at 70/5 in 10.5 overs, Tilak smashed a match-changing and unbeaten 51 from 26 balls to guide India to a much-impressive four-wicket win with a successful chase of a strong 181 in Christchurch with one ball remaining. Nitish Kumar Reddy also put up a crucial and unbeaten hand of 26 from 13 balls and hit the winning runs for India on the second-to-last ball off Jacob Duffy to help the visitors achieve a 2-0 lead in the five-match series.

This overpowered Mitchell Santner and Glenn Phillips' efforts, who had put New Zealand in strong positions. Santner displayed a stellar effort of 4-21 as spinners received great help from the surface, and even the speedsters gained from the slowness of the surface, which was the same as the opening match of the series, which saw India chase down 226. This time, the used surface gripped, with batters finding it hard to score.

Earlier, Phillips had scored a crucial 70 from 43 balls, while Bevon Jacobs had made 58 from 46 deliveries to take the team to a strong total of 180/5 on a tricky surface.

India began the chase with eight straight dot balls as Matt Henry bowled a maiden first over to Sanju Samson, beating his bat thrice in the six balls. The visitors were off to a mark on the ninth ball when Abhishek Sharma miscued Jacob Duffy at deep point.

Abhishek could well have been dismissed for just one had Duffy not overstepped in the second over, as the Indian opener was caught out at deep square by Nathan Smith, only for the umpire to raise his hand for a no-ball. Abhishek hit a four on the next ball, and that kick-started India's chase as they raced to 37/0 from four overs after a maiden first over.

However, the helpful conditions for the bowlers were soon on display when Duffy got Samson for 14 on a slower ball, caught at cover. Returnee Vaibhav Sooryavanshi could not make much of an impact as he fell on four from eight balls to Nathan Smith, with Daryl Mitchell taking a sharp catch at cover.

New Zealand captain Santner came into his own and removed Abhishek in the first over he bowled, as the batter could not clear the long, deep mid-wicket. Santner put the visitors in further hole when he got Shreyas Iyer and Axar Patel in the same 11th over, as the Men in Blue were in big trouble at 71/5 after 11 overs.

In-form Naman Dhir put up a decent fight, and although he was dropped by Bevon Jacobs at point, which was a sitter, he gave hope to India for a chase. The all-rounder made 31 from 17 balls, and although most of the other batters struggled, he looked good, including against Michael Bracewell, whom he hit for a six and a four in the 14th over.

However, Santner got Dhir in his final over to complete his four-wicket haul, and it became even more difficult for India. Nitish Kumar Reddy joined Tilak Varma in the middle, and the two did not give up.

With 46 needed off 18 balls, Nitish and Tilak took 17 runs from Duffy's third over to keep India alive. Tilak hit back-to-back fours on the first two balls of the 18th over, with Glenn Phillips misfielding one at deep mid-wicket. The Indian vice-captain showed nerves of steel with a crucial pulled four and a six to end the over as the equation was brought to 11 off the final six balls.

Duffy came for the final over with the hosts penalised for a slow over rate and forced to bring one extra fielder inside the 30-yard circle. Tilak drilled the bowler for a four through covers on the second ball and completed his fifty on the next ball with a couple.

Tilak was disappointed with Nitish for not running a close second run, but Nitish finished things with a double towards the deep backward square leg on the second-to-last ball to finish the game.

Earlier, Phillips and Bevon Jacobs put up impressive half-centuries to lead New Zealand to a decent total of 180/5. With New Zealand in trouble at 41/3 after 5.2 overs, Phillips (70 off 43 balls) and Jacobs (58 off 46 balls) put up a fighting 116-run partnership for the fourth wicket to lead the comeback for the hosts in the second match, which was played on the same venue and the same pitch as that run-scoring first T20I.

The surface, however, behaved much better for the bowlers this time around, with the batters finding it hard to hit the hard lengths, and the Indian bowlers also bowled well, especially in the powerplay and then at the death.



'Whole India believes in you', Tilak reveals Gambhir, Kotak's advice after stellar chase

CHRISTCHURCH

Moments after leading India to a brilliant come-from-behind win over New Zealand in the second T20I at the Hagley Oval in Christchurch on Saturday, Tilak Varma revealed what special message he received from coaches Gautam Gambhir and Sitanshu Kotak ahead of his match-winning unbeaten 51.

Tilak and Nitish Kumar Reddy dug deep to pull off a brilliant last-over win as the India vice-captain scored an unbeaten 51 from 26 balls, while Nitish also scored an unbeaten 26 from 13 deliveries to help India chase down 181 with four wickets in hand and one ball to spare.

Tilak was clutch once again, mirroring the performance of his Asia Cup final against Pakistan, as he played a big role in pulling off what looked like an unlikely win for the Men in Blue.

The Southpaw was deservingly handed the Player of the Match during the post-match presentation, where he revealed the advice of head coach Gambhir and batting coach Kotak ahead of the second T20I.

"(Thoughts when he went in after losing 5 wickets) I was just thinking about playing till the end. Just before today's game, I was talking with coach Gautam sir and Sitanshu Kotak Sir. I was talking with both of them, and they said one thing: 'We all believe, and the whole of India believes in you. If you stay till the end, then you will win the game for us'. "So that's what was going through my mind. I wanted to take the game as deep as possible, and at the end of the day, again, what everyone has believed and has done. So I'm really proud of myself," Tilak said after the game.

India were in all sorts of trouble as they slumped to 70/5 after 10.5 overs. A fresh Tilak was joined by the in-form Naman Dhir, who also made a strong impact with 31 from 17 balls and put up a 42-run stand for the sixth wicket.

Tilak revealed that he passed a message to Naman to stay till the end and keep the scoreboard ticking. "I was telling Naman that we'll stay till the end, and especially the wicket was slightly slower today, compared to the last game. So, I was telling Naman that we'll push hard in running between the wickets when spinners were bowling.

"So, that's what our plan was, and we pushed hard when they were bowling, and unfortunately Naman got out in the last over of Mitchell Santner. Otherwise, I think we would have finished the game in the 19th over, sorry, 18th over. So, credit goes to Naman as well, the way he batted," he added.

Commonwealth Kabaddi C'ship: Indian men and women extend winning run

AHMEDABAD



India's men and women teams continued their winning runs at the inaugural Commonwealth Kabaddi Championship 2026, defeating Uganda 44-30 and Singapore 32-16 respectively on the second day of the competition at the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex in Ahmedabad on Saturday.

The Indian men's team relied on a disciplined defensive performance to overcome an improving Uganda side.

After Uganda narrowed the gap to 3-4 in the opening minutes, India took control through a combination of raid and tackle points before inflicting an all-out to establish a 13-4 lead. India maintained a two-digit advantage for the remainder of the match.

Shivam Patare led the scoring with eight points, while Naveen Kumar and Bharat contributed six points each.

Aditya Shinde and Pankaj Mohite added four points apiece. The Indian women's team also registered a comfortable victory, beating Singapore 32-16. Sakshi led India's scoring with six points, while Renuka, Anu and Suman contributed four points each. Captain Nidhi Sharma added three points.

Arthi Selvan was Singapore's leading scorer with four points. In other matches on Saturday, Bangladesh defeated Canada 67-28 in the men's competition, with Mijanur Rahman and Julfikar Akash scoring 10 points each.

Bangladesh dominated the raiding department, scoring 45 raid points against Canada's 19, and inflicted five all-outs. Anand and Manpreet Singh scored 10 and eight points respectively for Canada. Sri Lanka registered a comprehensive win over Malaysia, with Milinda Chathuranga scoring 16 points and Viduranga adding 11. Sri Lanka outscored Malaysia 35-21 in raid points and 9-5 in tackle points.

Singapore's men defeated Scotland 50-28, securing their first victory of the tournament. Mohammed Aadil Mutalib scored 10 points, and Vishnuvarthan Deva added seven as Singapore built a 31-11 half-time lead.

They finished with a 28-11 advantage in raid points. In the women's competition, Kenya edged Sri Lanka 23-20 in a closely contested match dominated by defensive efforts. Neither side managed an all-out. Kenya scored 15 raid points against Sri Lanka's 11, while Sri Lanka held a narrow 9-8 advantage in tackle points.

Scotland's women defeated England 53-36, impressing their delegation with an attacking display. Kirstey Martin scored 25 points, while McPherson and Steele contributed six each.

Akhshay Ambeda led England's scoring with 19 points. Scotland registered 38 raid points against England's 26 and restricted their opponents to four tackle points.

India women will face Uganda at 6:45 p.m. on Sunday, while the men's team will take on Malaysia at 8 p.m.

Badminton: Sindhu storms into final of French Open 2026, will meet An Se Young

PARIS



Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu stormed into the final of the BWF French Open 2026, beating Hina Akechi of Japan in three hard-fought games in the women's singles semifinals at the Arena Grand Paris on Saturday.

In the match played on Court 1, Sindhu recovered from the loss of a close second game to win 21-10, 20-22, 21-16 in the match that lasted 73 minutes.

She next faces World No. 1 An Se Young of South Korea, who defeated Nozomi Okuhara of Japan 21-12, 21-19 in just 45 minutes, setting herself up to extend her record as the player with most titles on the BWF circuit.

In her semifinal clash, Sindhu started strongly, comfortably taking the opening game 21-10. However, Akechi held the lead through the latter half of the second game, with Sindhu briefly moving ahead at 16-all and holding it for the next two points, but the Japanese shuttler managed to level the game to force a decider.

The decider saw a close contest, with the scores level at multiple points. Sindhu dominated most of the game before Akechi fought back to level the scores at 14-all and take a 16-15 lead. But the Indian star remained error-free, winning six consecutive points to close out the decider 21-16 and seal her place in the final.

This marks Sindhu's second BWF World Tour Super 750 final of the season, following her title-winning run at the Japan Open in July

Sunday's summit clash with reigning world champion An Se Young will be their 11th meeting on the circuit and their third encounter this year. A win would mark Sindhu's first victory over the South Korean.

Looking ahead to the final against An Se Young, Sindhu said, "I have to give her a good fight, a tough fight. Every point matters. I know we've played a lot of times and she's been doing really well. She's been at her top form. But I think tomorrow is a different day. Every day is a new day. I just have to go out there and give my best. Rest decides that particular day. So yeah, I'm ready to give a fight."

India Score Double Win at Commonwealth Kabaddi

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Shivam Patare led the raiding department with eight points, including six touch points and two bonus points. Naveen Kumar and Bharat contributed six raid points each, while Aditya Shinde added four points. India scored 27 raid points, 11 tackle points and six all-out points in the match. In defence, Ajit Pawar led the team with three tackle points, while Nitesh, Yogesh Dahiya and Deepak S. contributed two tackle points each. India also dominated in successful tackles, completing 11 compared to Uganda's three. For Uganda, Mulaire Douglas emerged as the top scorer with nine raid points.

Okidi Carnold and Sengendo Jimmy followed with five points each. Although Uganda matched India's tally of 27 raid points, the African side fell behind in defence, allowing India to secure a convincing 44–30 win. Meanwhile, the Indian women's team registered a comprehensive 32–16 victory over Singapore. Sakshi led India's raiding effort with six points, while Renuka and Anu scored four raid points each. Nidhi Sharma added three points to the team's total. The Indian women's team accumulated 19 raid points, nine tackle points and four all-out points. In defence, Suman led the team with four tackle points, while Muskan Sharma contributed two. Riya Kumari, Sabahi Gadhavi and Ritu added one tackle point each. For Singapore, Aarthi Selvan was the leading scorer with five raid points.

Anandarajan Sindini and M. Vishvalaha Devi contributed four points each. Despite scoring 16 raid points, Singapore failed to register a single successful tackle against India. The victories at the inaugural Commonwealth Kabaddi Championship highlighted the Indian teams' balanced performances in both raiding and defence. As part of the upcoming fixtures, the Indian women's team will face Uganda on Sunday, October 25, at 6:45 p.m., while the Indian men's team will take on Malaysia at 8:30 p.m.

MUMBAI INDIANS ELEVATE KIERON POLLARD AS HEAD COACH

A defining figure in MI's success, the remarkable 16-year association of Kieron Pollard within the #OneFamily enters a new chapter

MUMBAI



Mumbai Indians are pleased to announce the elevation of Kieron Pollard to Head Coach, extending one of the most enduring player-to-coach associations in cricket.

Mrs. Nita M. Ambani, Co-Owner, Mumbai Indians, said: "Pollard joined Mumbai Indians as a young 22-year-old and, over the past sixteen years, has become an integral part of our family. As a player, he gave us many unforgettable moments, and as a coach, he has continued to share his experience, passion and deep understanding of the game. We are delighted to see him take on this new responsibility as Head Coach. Polly knows what it means to wear the MI jersey and what it takes to play for the Paltan. I am confident that he will bring the same commitment, belief and determination to this role. I wish him every success as he leads the team into its next chapter."

Pollard brings an exceptional understanding of Mumbai Indians, its culture and the demands of competing at the highest level. Having been part of T20 cricket's evolution, he brings valuable insight into the game's changing dynamics, tactical demands and increasingly competitive landscape.

His journey with MI as a player and, more recently, as Batting Coach gives him a unique perspective on the franchise's success and a strong foundation to lead the team into its next chapter.

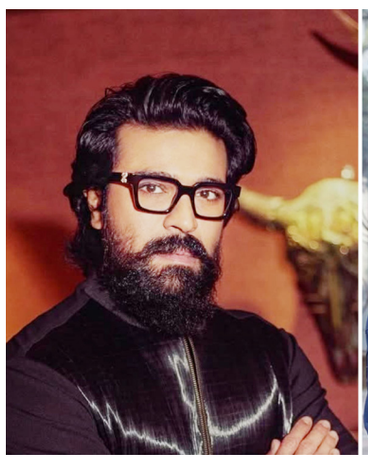
Kieron Pollard, Head Coach, Mumbai Indians, said: "It is an honour to take on the role of Head Coach of Mumbai Indians. MI has been a huge part of my life and career, and the bond I share with this team,

the players and the Paltan means a great deal to me. Having experienced this journey as a player and then as a coach, I understand what Mumbai Indians stands for and the responsibility that comes with representing the Blue and Gold. I am grateful to Mrs. Nita Ambani, Akash Ambani and the entire MI family for their trust in me.

I look forward to working closely with the players and support staff, building on the team's legacy, helping our talent grow and giving the Paltan many more reasons to celebrate."

Pollard's appointment reflects Mumbai Indians' commitment to building on the team's legacy while continuing to develop talent, strengthen its culture and pursue excellence on and off the field. His leadership will be rooted in the experience of having been part of MI's most successful years, alongside the ambition to shape the team's next chapter.

Sukumar's Surprise Heroine Hint





Ram Charan's next film with Sukumar is already generating considerable buzz, even before it goes on floors. While there has been plenty of discussion about the film's music director, the latest excitement is around the possibility of a fresh Bollywood face joining the project. Anit Padda, who shot to nationwide fame with Saiyaara, is now being linked to the film as its potential leading lady. A video circulating on social media claims that Sukumar dropped a hint about the heroine using the initials "AP". This has fuelled speculation that Anit could be in consideration for the prestigious project. If the reports turn out to be true, the young actress could be paired with Ram Charan for the first time. However, Anit is not the only name doing the rounds. Sara Arjun, who grabbed attention with Dhurandhar, is also being linked to the project. Neither casting speculation has been officially confirmed so far. The makers have recently opened an office for the film, and a formal launch ceremony is expected soon. The project is reportedly aiming to begin shooting before the end of this year. For now, Anit Padda's possible entry has become one of the most talked-about aspects of the film. With fans eager to see Ram Charan and Sukumar reunite after Rangasthalam, the choice of heroine could be another major talking point as the project takes shape.

AK 47: Family, Fury & Violence



Victory Venkatesh and director Trivikram Srinivas teamed up for the prestigious film Adarsha Kutumbam. Finally, the film is heading for a grand release on October 30th, and the team launched the trailer for the movie today. The film hints at a family entertainer, but this time, it is slightly different from usual Trivikram entertainers. The trailer surprises everyone because of the action elements and violence in the film. Usually, we don't expect bloodshed in a Venkatesh film crafted by Trivikram. But this time, it's different. The trailer packs an ample dose of fun, with Trivikram's trademark one-liners. But at the same time, it also has action in the right proportion. In other words, this time, it is a family entertainer but with more commercial elements. The trailer does not directly reveal the storyline but raises curiosity around the family playing the central roles. Venkatesh is paired with Srinidhi Shetty in the film, and their chemistry seems to be a USP. Venkatesh balances being a family man with being someone who goes to any extent for his family. The world and characters are well established in the trailer, which raises a lot of curiosity to watch the film now. Devyani Sharma, Yuvina Parthavi, Nivetha Pethuraj, Nara Rohit, Pujita Ponnada, Rao Ramesh, and Brahmaji play key roles in the film. Thaman is composing the music, while China Babu of Haarika & Hassine Creations is backing the movie. The film will hit the screens on October 30th.

Rajeev's Emotional Confession About Suma



Actor Rajeev Kanakala became emotional while speaking about his wife, TV host Suma, at the fifth anniversary celebration of her initiative, Festivals for Joy. Rajeev said he felt they had not supported Suma enough because she was always strong enough to support herself and the people around her. He praised her work and congratulated her on the initiative's milestone. Suma, who was seated in the audience, was visibly moved by his words.

Idupu Kayitham: Wedding Vibes Of TELANGANA



Idupu Kayitham is strengthening its musical appeal with Gadapa, its second song, which was released today at a grand launch event. While the film's first single, Srilatha, turned into a chartbuster with numerous reels across social media. Now, the latest song takes audiences into the heart of Telangana's marriage traditions. Gadapa track focuses on the beautiful transition a woman experiences after marriage, portraying the love, expectations, responsibilities, and relationships that become part of her new life. Abhinaya Srinivas' lyrics are a major strength, expressing these emotions through words. Folk singer Telu Vijaya brings the composition to life with an emotional and heartfelt rendition. Music director Suresh Bobbili once again proves to be one of the film's biggest assets. His composition blends emotion with the cultural identity of the story, creating a distinct musical atmosphere that complements the traditions shown on screen. Priyadarshi and Naga Durga share an appealing chemistry, and their presence gives the song a personal touch, making the marriage-related moments more engaging and memorable. The makers also used the occasion to grandly announce December 11 as the film's theatrical release date. Idupu Kayitham is directed by Vamsi Reddy Dondapati and produced by Bunny Vas and Thabitha Sukumar under Bunny Vas Works and Sukumar Writings. The ensemble cast includes Abhinav Gomatam, Shivajyothi (Teenmar Savithri), Sujatha (Jordar Sujatha), Chandravva, Mounika Reddy, Racha Ravi, Bithiri Sathi, Abhay Bethiganti, Mime Madhu, and others.

Kayadu Lohar Steps In For Sreeleela



According to Valaipechu, Kayadu Lohar has been approached to play the female lead in Ajith Kumar's Daredevil, replacing Sreeleela, who reportedly exited due to scheduling issues after the shoot was delayed. The film's financing is said to be in place, with shooting expected to begin on November 2 at Ramoji Film City in Hyderabad.

Triptii Dimri Stuns With Her Elegant Charm



Tripti Dimri, who is coming up with Spirit starring Prabhas, has built a loyal fan base with performances that balance quiet intensity and range. Bulbbul and Qala earned her strong critical praise, while Animal made her a national name. Bad Newz and Bhool Bhulaiyaa 3 added more hits to her list. She clicked at an event , she wore an ITRH saree in an icy blue shade that fades into soft lilac, covered in fine sequins. She paired it with a strapless sweetheart corset blouse in purple, richly embellished with crystals. The pallu falls over one arm, while her long dark hair flows in loose waves. Soft, glowing makeup and a couple of rings finish the look. Spirit, directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga, is her next big release, and fans are eagerly waiting.

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