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Drug Abuse: Beyond Personal Harm, a Question of Public Safety

OPINION 06

Sai Pallavi's Fierce Cop Avatar

BOX-OFFICE 12



OBTUSE ANGLE



by BP ACHARYA

TG, Maharashtra form joint panel to review Tummidihatti height

HYDERABAD, OCT.26



In a major step toward resolving a long-standing inter-state water debate, a high-level Telangana delegation led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy met Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis at the Sahyadri State Guest House in Mumbai on Monday. The two states agreed to constitute a joint committee of senior officials to re-examine the technical, environmental, and submergence aspects of increasing the proposed Tummidihatti Barrage height across the Pranahita River from 148 metres to 152 metres.

The delegation included Telangana Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, the Chief Secretaries of both states, and senior officials from the respective Irrigation departments. Technical viability and gravity-based flow Opening the bilateral talks, Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy presented a detailed technical case for raising the barrage height to 152 metres. He explained that the 2016 agreement specifying a 148-metre height fails to adequately address the irrigation requirements of the backward, tribal-dominated Adilabad region.

Highlighting current challenges around energy demands, high power costs, climate change, and operational sustainability, the Minister stressed that a 152-metre structure offers the most viable long-term solution by maximizing gravity-based water conveyance. To address downstream concerns, the Minister conveyed that the Telangana government is fully prepared to compensate Maharashtra farmers whose lands may be affected by submergence, matching Maharashtra's prevailing land acquisition guidelines and compensation standards.

Socio-economic context and historical aspirations

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy emphasised that the project extends beyond irrigation, framing it as an instrument for social and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

DGPs and IGPs Conference to Be Held in Tirupati from Dec 4 to 6

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah to Attend

Amaravati, October 26: The conference of Directors General of Police (DGPs) and Inspectors General of Police (IGPs) will be held from December 4 to 6 at the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER), Tirupati. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah and other dignitaries are expected to attend the conference. In this regard, Andhra Pradesh Chief Secretary G. Sai Prasad chaired an inter-departmental committee meeting at the State Secretariat on Monday to review the arrangements to be made for the event. The Chief Secretary directed officials of the concerned departments to make comprehensive and foolproof arrangements, leaving no room for errors. He also issued department-wise instructions on the preparations required for the conference.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

Om Birla: BRICS Forum Strengthens Global South

NEW DELHI, OCT 26



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla said that the BRICS Parliamentary Forum would play a crucial role in strengthening the voice of Global South countries across the world. He was speaking at the inauguration of the 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum, held on Monday at the Parliament of India in New Delhi. He welcomed parliamentary delegates from member and partner countries attending the event.

Om Birla noted that the completion f 20 years since the establishment of BRICS reflected the grouping's growing importance in international affairs. He recalled that BRICS countries represent nearly half of the world's population. He emphasised that mutual trust, dialogue, and diplomatic efforts among nations are essential to addressing challenges such as international conflicts, economic instability, terrorism, and climate change.

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Gyanesh's Removal Will End Protests: Rahul

New Delhi, OCT 2: Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi said that protests would come to an end within 30 seconds if Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar were removed from office. Congress leaders, responding to the difficulties faced by traders in Delhi, said they understood their problems and would stand by them. Rahul Gandhi strongly criticised the Central Government over allegations of vote theft. He alleged that the government had brought the national capital to a standstill by suspending metro services and closing roads. He said that the right to vote was of utmost importance in a democracy and warned that electoral irregularities could threaten not only people's democratic rights but also their financial security and their children's future. Rahul Gandhi stated that public confidence in the electoral system was essential to protecting traders' shops, their hard-earned savings, and their children's future. He demanded that Prime Minister Narendra Modi take action against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. Rahul Gandhi asserted that removing Kumar from office would bring the protests to an immediate end.

Bank Fraud Case: Setback for Raghurama Krishna Raju in SC



New Delhi, oct 26: Raghurama Krishna Raju and the directors of Ind-Bharat Power Gencom Limited suffered a setback in the Supreme Court in a bank fraud case. The apex court dismissed their petitions seeking the quashing of the FIR registered against them. The bench made it clear that it could not interfere with the investigation into the case. The CBI is investigating allegations of bank fraud amounting to approximately ₹237 crore and the diversion of funds in connection with the case. The court directed the investigating agency to continue its investigation and file a charge sheet within 16 weeks. With this decision, the accused have suffered a setback in their efforts to get the FIR against them quashed.

"Congress desperate for power, creating anarchy": T-BJP Chief



Hyderabad, Oct.26: Telangana BJP president N. Ramchander Rao on Monday accused the Congress of creating political unrest out of frustration over being out of power at the Centre, while criticising Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy over the state's alleged drought and drinking water crisis. Addressing a press conference at state BJP office in Hyderabad, Rao condemned Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's reported remarks about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's father, alleging that Congress leaders had abandoned political decorum. He announced plans to burn Congress effigies in Hyderabad and district headquarters in protest.

Rao also defended the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, rejecting

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Amit Shah to Visit TG; BJP to Hold Major Event on November 2

Protecting democracy is the goal; Union Home Minister to participate in the 'Lok Tantru, Beed Tantr' programme

Hyderabad, oct 26: Union Home Minister and senior BJP leader Amit Shah is scheduled to visit Telangana on November 2. He will participate in the BJP's 'Lok Tantru, Beed Tantr' programme, which the party is conducting across the country in the name of protecting democracy. Through this programme, the party aims to strengthen the democratic system and raise public awareness about democratic values. The BJP's Telangana state leadership is making arrangements to organise the event on a large scale in the state as well. In view of Amit Shah's visit, party workers are preparing to ensure the programme's success.

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El Niño Impact: Fertiliser Sales Plunge Sharply Across India

New Delhi: Fertiliser sales across India have declined significantly due to the impact of El Niño and a rainfall deficit. Sales of major fertiliser categories fell between April and September 2026 compared with the corresponding period last year. Sales of complex fertilisers containing nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, and sulphur recorded the steepest decline, dropping by 22.2%. Sales of muriate of potash fell by 11.7%, while urea sales declined by 4.1%. Rainfall during the southwest monsoon was 12.6% below normal, affecting the agricultural sector.

Initiate measures to prevent loss of life and property

Declare holidays for educational institutions wherever necessary: AP CM ChandraBabu



Amaravati, oct 26 : Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu directed the officials of coastal districts to take all precautionary measures in advance, following Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) warnings that the system could intensify into a severe cyclonic storm by tomorrow and affect the State. Officials informed the Chief Minister that the severe cyclonic storm was likely to cross the coast near Yanam, between Bapatla and Visakhapatnam, on October 28. Moderate to heavy rainfall is expected in several districts from Srikakulam to Nellore from tomorrow afternoon, accompanied by strong winds along the coast. The officials said heavy to extremely heavy rainfall was likely on October 28 and 29 in the North Coastal Andhra districts, Konaseema, East Godavari, West Godavari, Eluru, Krishna, NTR, Guntur, Palnadu, Bapatla, Prakasam and Nellore districts.

The Chief Minister directed officials to keep the Central Government informed of the precautionary measures being taken by the State to tackle the cyclone. The Chief Minister ordered comprehensive measures to prevent loss of life and property. People living in flood-prone and low-lying areas must be shifted to cyclone shelters. He stressed that elderly persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women and infants should be given top priority while relocating people to safer places.

Officials informed the Chief Minister that arrangements were underway to shift 4,711 identified pregnant women across the State to Primary Health Centres, Community Health Centres and hospitals.

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TPCC appoints five-member panel for 'Vote Bachao–Desh Bachao' rally

Hyderabad, Oct.26: Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president and MLC B. Mahesh Kumar Goud has appointed a five-member coordination committee to oversee arrangements for the 'Vote Bachao – Desh Bachao' national rally scheduled to be held at Ramlila Maidan in New Delhi on November 1. The committee comprises Ministers Ponnam Prabhakar Goud and Vakiti Srihari Mudiraj, along with MPs Dr. Mallu Ravi, P. Balaram Naik and Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy.

The committee has been entrusted with coordinating the participation of leaders from Telangana in the rally and making necessary arrangements for their travel, accommodation and other facilities to ensure their smooth participation. The members will oversee arrangements for the Telangana delegation and coordinate logistical requirements to ensure that the participating leaders face no inconvenience.

Congress MLA flags funding disparity, threatens indefinite fast

Hyderabad, Oct.26: Congress MLA Anirudh Reddy, who represents Jadcherla Assembly constituency, has threatened to launch an indefinite hunger strike involving 30,000 people to press for the development of his constituency. Questioning the allocation of bills to constituencies represented by Ministers while other constituencies are allegedly being neglected, he asked what would happen to the remaining MLAs and their constituencies.

Speaking at a media conference in Jadcherla on Monday, Anirudh Reddy said, "In Nagarkurnool, bills worth ₹5 crore were released following the death of a contractor. Will bills be released for Jadcherla only if I die? If that is the case, I am ready to sacrifice my life for the development of my constituency."

The ruling Congress MLA asserted that the government could sustain itself only if all constituencies received equal attention and development. He called for a united struggle across party lines to secure development funds and address the constituency's needs.

Raj Gopal Reddy's Efforts Ensure Water Diversion from Edula to Shivannagudem

Dindi Lift Irrigation Scheme Set to Benefit Devarakonda and Munugode Constituencies

As a ruling party MLA, Komatireddy Raj Gopal Reddy reportedly mounted pressure on the government to secure approval for diverting water from Edula Reservoir.

Administrative approvals worth Rs. 1,800 crore obtained for water diversion works.

Tenders invited and works underway to supply water to reservoirs in Devarakonda and Munugode constituencies.



DEVARAKONDA, OCT 26

A significant step has been taken towards supplying water to Shivannagudem Reservoir from Edula Reservoir, thanks to the efforts of Munugode MLA Komatireddy Raj Gopal Reddy. The Dindi Lift Irrigation Scheme is expected to become a major source of relief for the Devarakonda and Munugode constituencies.

According to the account of his efforts, Raj Gopal Reddy exerted considerable pressure on the government, despite being an MLA from the ruling party, to ensure that water would be diverted from Edula Reservoir in the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district. The completion of the Shivannagudem project has been a long-standing priority for him. While in the opposition, he fought for the project and the rights of displaced families. Now, as a ruling party MLA, he is pressing the government to complete the necessary works and ensure water reaches the drought-prone areas.

Allegations of neglect by the previous government

The Shivannagudem Reservoir was inaugurated by then Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao on June 12, 2015. However, the previous BRS government allegedly delayed the project without finalising a clear source for supplying water, despite undertaking initial construction works. In contrast, the Kaleshwaram project, which was launched later, on May 2, 2016, was completed on June 21, 2019, the account states.

The previous TRS government was accused of neglecting irrigation projects intended to benefit the relatively backward Devarakonda and Munugode constituencies in Nalgonda district.

Discrimination alleged in land compensation

The previous government also faced allegations of discrimination in providing compensation to families who lost their land for the Shivannagudem Reservoir. According to the account, farmers affected by the Kaleshwaram project received higher compensation and were paid more promptly, while displaced families in the Shivannagudem project area were not properly paid even the comparatively lower compensation due to them. It is claimed that the resignation of Raj Gopal Reddy prompted the authorities to expedite compensation payments in the affected villages. His intervention, according to his supporters, helped secure justice for families displaced by the reservoir project.

Ministers convinced to approve water diversion from Edula

After the Congress government assumed office, Raj Gopal Reddy reportedly took Finance Minister Bhatti Vikramarka and Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy to the Dindi project site.

He explained the ground realities and emphasised that diverting water from Edula Reservoir in the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district was a viable way to supply water to the reservoirs serving Devarakonda and Munugode constituencies. Before this, he held several lengthy review meetings with members of the Telangana Retired Engineers Forum to examine possible sources of water for Shivannagudem Reservoir and identify a practical solution.

Rs. 1,800 crore in administrative approvals

While serving as an opposition MLA during the previous TRS regime, Raj Gopal Reddy raised the concerns of families displaced by the Shivannagudem Reservoir in the Assembly. Now, as a ruling party MLA, he has reportedly pressed the government to secure Cabinet approval and administrative clearances worth Rs. 1,800 crore for diverting water from Edula to reservoirs in Devarakonda and Munugode constituencies.

Tenders have been invited for the works, and construction is reportedly in progress.

Regular reviews to expedite project works

Raj Gopal Reddy is said to be in regular contact with senior irrigation officials to monitor the progress of the works to bring water from Edula to Shivannagudem Reservoir. He is also consulting retired engineers, including Shyam Prasad Reddy and other members of the Retired Engineers Forum, to review the project's status, identify potential obstacles and discuss measures to overcome them.

Focus on long-term development

The account criticises the previous government for spending ten years in power without completing key irrigation projects in Nalgonda district. It also questions why local TRS leaders, who were then ruling party MLAs, did not press the then Chief Minister for the completion of these projects.

It alleges that some of these leaders are now criticising the Congress government and Raj Gopal Reddy for political reasons.

ith the development of Munugode constituency as his stated priority, Raj Gopal Reddy is holding regular reviews with officials at various levels and pursuing decisions intended to benefit future generations.

His supporters say his continued efforts to secure water for the region have drawn appreciation from residents who expect the project to improve irrigation facilities and support agricultural development in Devarakonda and Munugode constituencies.

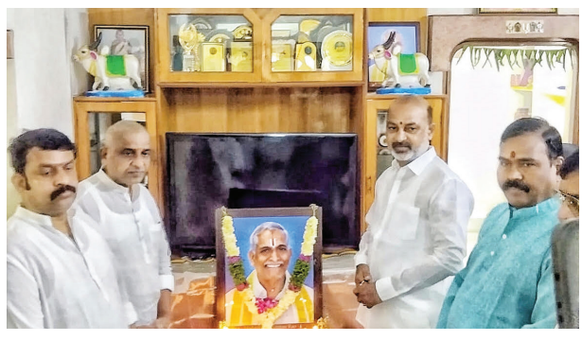
Cyberabad Civic Body Receives 59 Prajavani Grievances

Civic Bottlenecks Take Center Stage at Cyberabad Municipal Headquarters as Public Grievances Reach 59 Petitions in Single-Day Drive

Medchal-Malkajgiri, October 26: The Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC) office registered a significant surge in public grievances during its weekly Prajavani public hearing program held on Monday, October 26, 2026. Local residents from across the region turned out in large numbers to voice pressing urban challenges, resulting in a official total of 59 formal applications filed across multiple administrative circles and zones. A comprehensive breakdown of the submitted petitions reveals that issues pertaining to Town Planning and Engineering departments overwhelmingly dominated citizen complaints, reflecting widespread public concern over unaddressed infrastructural deficits, unauthorized constructions, and civic maintenance bottlenecks throughout the municipality.

Leading the total grievance count, Circle 52-Kukatpally logged the highest number of complaints, recording 19 petitions that were heavily led by 17 applications under Town Planning alongside single petitions for Engineering and Urban Biodiversity Development (UBD). Circle 51-Allwyn Colony registered the second highest volume with 16 petitions, driven primarily by 13 Town Planning grievances, 2 Engineering complaints, and 1 Revenue matter. Meanwhile, Circle 53-Moosapet filed 10 petitions distributed across Engineering (4), Sanitation (4), and Urban Community Development (2), whereas the zonal administration for Kukatpally Zone directly processed 10 complaints comprising 9 Town Planning cases and 1 Administrative issue. Circle 50-Madhapur recorded 4 applications split equally between 2 Engineering and 2 Town Planning issues. With Town Planning alone accounting for 41 out of the 59 total petitions, municipal officials assured attending citizens that all grievance applications have been tracked and routed to appropriate departmental heads for immediate time-bound redressal.

Bandi Sanjay Consoles Madhavaram Kantha Rao on Father's Demise



Paying floral tributes to the late Laxman Rao, the Minister remembers him as a noble soul who touched many lives.

Medchal-Malkajgiri, October 26: In a moment of shared grief and respect, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar personally visited the residence of Kukatpally BJP leader Madhavaram Kantha Rao on Monday to offer his deep-felt condolences on the passing of Kantharao's beloved father, Madhavaram Laxman Rao.

Paying solemn tributes at the portrait of the deceased, the Union Minister fondly remembered late Laxman Rao as a compassionate human being whose life was defined by selflessness and a noble commitment to social service. Offering strength and comfort to Kantharao and his grieving family, Bandi Sanjay prayed for peace for the departed soul.

The emotional visit was attended by prominent party leaders, including Vaddepalli Rajeshwar Rao and Yanjala Padmayya, along with numerous party workers who joined in honoring the memory of Madhavaram Laxman Rao.

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TG, Maharashtra form joint panel to review Tummidihatti height

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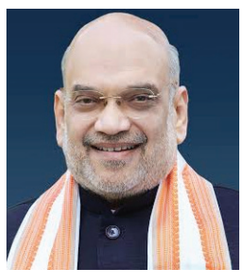
economic transformation in a region historically marked by economic backwardness and socio-economic unrest. Invoking the legacy of tribal icon Komaram Bheem and the Jal, Jangal, Zameen movement, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy noted that efforts to secure water for the region have spanned over five decades, starting October 6, 1975. He highlighted how the proposed barrage, along with planned civilian and defense airport facilities in Adilabad, could serve as a growth engine and a physical bridge strengthening economic ties between northern Telangana and border districts in Maharashtra. "The Tummidihatti Barrage is not merely an irrigation structure; it is a catalyst for economic upliftment in one of the country's historically neglected tribal regions," Revanth Reddy urged, calling for cooperation in a spirit of shared brotherhood and mutual growth.

Maharashtra's response and road ahead

Responding positively to Telangana's request, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis expressed a willingness to reconsider the proposed height enhancement, noting his personal and cultural affinity for the border region. However, Fadnavis emphasised that technical rigor, land impact assessments, and administrative protocols must precede any final consensus. He stated that if the revised proposal does not adversely impact Maharashtra's communities, his administration would support Telangana's water goals in the larger national interest. Concluding the high-level meeting, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy invited Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis to attend the upcoming Invest Telangana Global Summit, scheduled for December 7–9 at Future City in Hyderabad. Fadnavis responded positively, expressing interest in attending the event.

Amit Shah to Visit TG; BJP to Hold Major Event on November 2

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However, the complete schedule of his visit, the venue, and other details are yet to be announced. Laxman Says Rahul Gandhi and Kharge Must Apologise for Remarks Against Modi

BJP MP criticises Congress leaders and advises them to stop personal attacks

BJP MP Laxman has demanded that senior Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge apologise to the public for making personal attacks against Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He strongly condemned the remarks made by Kharge at a public meeting in Patna. Laxman criticised the Congress party, alleging that it was unable to accept Modi's growing popularity across the country, the development initiatives undertaken by the Union government, and welfare schemes aimed at helping the poor. Laxman stated that criticism is a normal part of politics, but making personal attacks against someone holding a high constitutional office, such as the Prime Minister, is inappropriate.

He said that Congress leaders who speak about the Constitution and social justice should behave responsibly. He also remarked that people cannot be influenced by false propaganda and will not give in to blackmail politics. Laxman advised Congress leaders to stop making derogatory remarks and instead focus on public issues.

Initiate measures to prevent loss of life and property

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The Chief Minister directed officials to keep medical teams and ambulances ready at health centres in the affected districts. He also instructed them to deploy seven National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams and eight State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) teams across 11 vulnerable districts. Additional forces should be kept on standby in NTR and Visakhapatnam districts.He directed officials to coordinate with the Marine Police, Navy and Coast Guard to ensure their services were available for rescue and relief operations.Officials reported that all fishermen who had ventured into the sea had been brought back safely to the coast, with 30,043 boats reaching harbours safely. The Chief Minister instructed officials to ensure that fishermen do not venture into the sea until the cyclone weakens and normal conditions return.

The Chief Minister directed the officials of Agriculture department to ensure that harvested paddy was moved to safe locations to prevent damage. He also called for precautionary measures to protect horticultural crops spread across approximately 1.82 lakh hectares that could be affected by the cyclone. He instructed officials to ensure adequate stocks of essential commodities at ration shops and to restore electricity supply immediately wherever disruptions occur.

The Chief Minister noted that the Tandava, Raiwada, Yeleru, Tammileru, Yerrakalava and Tadipudi reservoirs could receive water up to their full storage capacities.He also directed officials to ensure that streams, rivulets and canals remained free of obstructions to facilitate the smooth flow of water.The Chief Minister instructed district collectors to take strict action against attempts to spread misinformation about the cyclone through social media.He further directed officials to assess the likely impact on individual areas and declare holidays for educational institutions wherever necessary.

Saving Every Drop: KKP Zone Launches Massive Water Conservation Drive

Medchal-Malkajgiri, October 26: Kukatpally Zone authorities launched a water conservation awareness rally in the Kukatpally Zone on Monday, October 26, 2026, to promote responsible water usage in response to growing climate risks. The movement was led by Executive Director M. Santhosh Reddy, Director (Cyberabad) B. Narayana, General Manager (Kukatpally Zone) S. Harish Shankar, DGM (Kukatpally) D.V. Trinatha Rao, DGM (Allwyn Circle) Srinivasa Raju, and DGM (Moosapet) Sri Chandrashekar, along with local managers and field linemen. The procession started from the Executive Director's office and moved through key areas across the Kukatpally Zone.

The campaign was prompted by warnings of severe El Niño conditions, which threaten to reduce rainfall levels and severely impact future water availability in both urban and rural areas. Recognizing the imminent water crisis, officials organized community-focused awareness programs across several residential colonies to emphasize the urgent need to save water. This initiative directly supports UN Sustainable Development Goal 6 for Clean Water and Sanitation as well as Goal 13 for Climate Action by encouraging local action against climate-driven resource shortages.



During the outreach, team members used loudspeakers and pre-recorded voice broadcasts to reach households across Kukatpally, Moosapet, and Allwyn Circle. Officials advised residents to eliminate water waste, fix leaks, prevent overhead tank overflows, and practice mindful daily consumption. Emphasizing that every drop of water is precious, organizers highlighted that individual conservation habits and responsible community action are crucial to preventing future shortages and ensuring long-term water security across the region.

DGPs and IGPs Conference to Be Held in Tirupati from..

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Additional DGP Madhusudhan Reddy, Principal Secretary to the Home Department Kumar Vishwajit, Principal Secretary to the General Administration Department J. Shyamala Rao, Commissioner of Secondary Health Chakradhar Babu, SIB Deputy Director Ambika, IPS officer Kanti Rana Tata and other officials attended the meeting. TR&B Secretary K. Shashidhar, Tirupati District Collector Dr. Venkateswar, the Superintendent of Police and officials from other departments participated in the meeting virtually.

Om Birla: BRICS Forum Strengthens Global South

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He called for greater participation of Global South countries in global development and urged that their interests be given due importance on international platforms. He said parliamentary cooperation was crucial to further strengthening democratic systems.

He also suggested that parliaments should be made more effective by prioritising the aspirations of young people and promoting transparency, accountability, and public participation.

Om Birla said the real strength of BRICS lies in bringing countries with diverse cultures and viewpoints together to work towards common goals. He called for collective efforts to achieve inclusive and sustainable global development through mutual cooperation.



"Congress desperate for power, creating anarchy"...

➢FROM PAGE 1

Congress allegations of large-scale wrongful deletions. He challenged Revanth Reddy to identify eligible voters whose names had been unfairly removed in the Chief Minister's native village of Kondareddypally. Targeting the Chief Minister's proposed November 1 rally in Delhi against SIR, Rao alleged that the state government was neglecting drought and drinking water shortages. He claimed that around 330 out of 600 mandals in Telangana were affected by inadequate rainfall and that Hyderabad was relying heavily on water tankers. Rao announced a BJP padayatra on November 2 under the slogan "Loktantra Bachao – Arachakata Hatao" (Save Democracy, Remove Anarchy), saying Union Home Minister Amit Shah would participate.

Ministry of Home Affairs
Government of India

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Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister



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ESCI Training Programmes Advance the Vision of Viksit Bharat and Atma Nirbhar Bharat

- Director Col. Harpal Singh



HYDERABAD

The Engineering Staff College of India (ESCI), Hyderabad, inaugurated a combined divisions training programme on October 26, with around 80 engineering professionals from across the country participating. Col. Harpal Singh Grewal, Director, ESCI, inaugurated the programme by lighting the ceremonial lamp. Addressing participants, he stressed the importance of continuously upgrading professional knowledge and competencies to keep pace with technological advancements and national development priorities under Viksit Bharat and Atma Nirbhar Bharat. He appreciated the Heads of Departments for selecting industry-relevant topics, including Hydraulic Gates and Hoists for Major Irrigation Projects by the WRD and QP divisions; Change Management and Creative and Inventive Thinking by the M&T Division; and Cyber Security Best Practices for Managers and Executives by the IT Division.

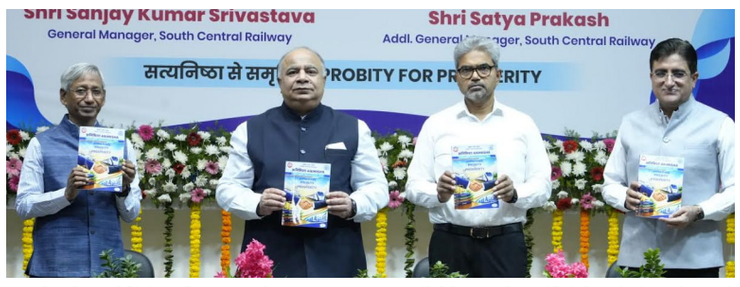
These programmes aim to strengthen technical expertise, managerial effectiveness and innovation.

Col. Grewal urged participants to enrol as members of the Institution of Engineers (India) and attend the 41st Indian Engineering Congress, scheduled in Hyderabad from December 18 to 20, 2026. He encouraged engineers to submit technical papers for presentation and publication in the Springer Journal. Highlighting Hyderabad's blend of heritage and technological advancement, he noted that its Global Capability Centres and knowledge hubs offer exposure to emerging technologies, industrial practices and global professional standards.

Several ESCI department heads and senior faculty members attended the inaugural programme and interacted with participants.

'Integrity Builds Trust, Trust Drives Progress And Progress Brings True Prosperity'

- **Shri Ravi Gupta, IPS (Retd), Executive Vice-Chairman & Director General, CGG/ Telangana**
- **South Central Railway Observes Vigilance Awareness Week**
- **59th Edition of Vigilance Bulletin 'Animisha' released on the occasion**



HYDERABAD

South Central Railway is observing "Vigilance Awareness Week – 2026" from 26th October to 01st November, 2026 with the theme - "Probity for Prosperity". To commemorate the Vigilance Awareness week, an inaugural function was held today i.e., 26th October, 2026 at Rail Nilayam, Secunderabad.

Shri Ravi Gupta, IPS (Retd), Executive Vice-Chairman & Director General, Centre for Good Governance, Telangana (Ex-Director General of Police, Telangana) graced the occasion as Chief Guest. Shri Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, General Manager, SCR; Shri Satya Prakash, Additional General Manager, SCR were the Guests of Honour. Shri Ashish Mehrotra, Senior Deputy General Manager, SCR was also present on the occasion. Principal Heads of the Departments, Divisional Railway Managers, Secunderabad & Hyderabad Divisions and other senior officials and staff were also present on the occasion.

The function commenced with the General Manager, SCR administering the Integrity pledge to the officers and staff. On the occasion, the Chief Guest, Shri Ravi Gupta along with General Manager, Additional General Manager and Senior Deputy GM released the 59th edition of Vigilance Bulletin "ANIMISHA". The bulletin is also available on the official website of South Central Railway.

Speaking on the theme of Vigilance Awareness week - 2026, Shri Ravi Gupta, IPS (Retd), Executive Vice-Chairman & Director General, CGG, Telangana stated that probity does not just mean avoiding financial corruption but requires working ethically and putting forth your best. He emphasized that Integrity is not just a moral virtue but an essential foundation for building trust and growth of the Nation. He quoted "Jaha Satyanishta hai, wahin Vishwas hai; Jaha Vishwas hai, wahin Vikas hai aur Jaha Vikas hai, wahin Vastavik Samrudhi hai" (Where there is integrity, there is trust; where there is trust, there is progress; and where there is progress, there is true prosperity). Strive to do the right thing even when no one is watching and only then the institution will progress, he added.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Sanjay Kumar Srivastava, General Manager, SCR stressed on the importance of preventive vigilance. He stated that the duty of the vigilance department is not to detect wrongdoings but to prevent irregularities, strengthen systems and ensure accountability. He stated that as Railways is dealing with millions of passengers and handling large volumes freight traffic, it is essential that the system works with transparency and upholds the trust of passengers and customers.

Earlier, Shri Satya Prakash, Additional General Manager addressed the gathering. He called upon the officers and staff to pledge towards upholding integrity and commitment to values on which our constitution has been founded. Shri Ashish Mehrotra, Senior Deputy General Manager, SCR presented the welcome address and briefed on the significance of vigilance awareness week.

Zero Tolerance for Water Misuse: HMWSSB Slaps 20K Penalty on Paradise Hotel

- **Commercial establishments warned of strict legal action as water board steps up surprise checks.**



HYDERABAD

Taking a stern stance against the misuse of drinking water, the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB / Jalamandali) has imposed a fine of ₹20,000 on the management of the famous Paradise Hotel. The action followed inspections conducted by officials from Division-16 under the Khairatabad zone. During the drive, authorities caught the hotel (CAN: 612182839) violating norms by squandering drinking water.

In addition to penalizing the establishment ₹20,000 on the spot, Jalamandali officials issued a strict warning to the hotel management, instructing them to implement water-saving practices immediately and prevent further wastage. Reiterating their commitment to resource conservation, Jalamandali authorities cautioned that strict disciplinary and legal action will be taken against any commercial establishment or individual found wasting drinking water in the city.

BJP slams Kharge over "Modi ka baap bhi jayega" remark

HYDERABAD

The Telangana BJP on Monday criticised Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge over his reported "Modi ka baap bhi jayega" remark at a public meeting in Patna, accusing the Congress of lowering political discourse through personal attacks on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's family. BJP state chief spokesperson N. V. Subash, in a press statement, said the Congress should focus on governance, development and public issues instead of making personal remarks against political opponents. He alleged that the party was resorting to such language out of frustration over Modi's popularity and its own political setbacks. The controversy erupted during Kharge's address in Patna on Sunday after an audience member reportedly interrupted him, saying Modi would not leave office. Kharge responded with the remark, triggering a commotion. The Congress defended Kharge, claiming that a BJP worker had first insulted his late father. It also maintained that Kharge's reference was to the RSS as Modi's ideological mentor, rather than his biological father. Subash urged the Congress leaders to uphold the dignity of public debate and engage in discussions on policy and performance rather than personal attacks.

GITAM strengthens career support for students through three dedicated verticals

HYDERABAD

GITAM Deemed to be University has strengthened its student support services under the Training, Mentoring & Career Guidance (TMCG) wing of the GITAM Career Guidance Centre (GCGC), with dedicated teams now handling training, mentoring and alternate career guidance.

Announcing the initiative, Dr. Rojeena Mathew, Director -TMCG, said the move strengthens the central TMCG team by appointing dedicated points of contact across all three campuses, ensuring students receive consistent and well-coordinated support at every stage of their academic and professional journey.

The Training and Competency Development (TCD) vertical will focus on making students industry-ready through company-specific training, global certifications, AI-based practice platforms, GCGC credit courses, expert-led upskilling sessions, CoCubes and CT3 assessments, and hackathons.

The Career Counselling and Mentoring (CCM) vertical will offer faculty and professional mentoring, career counselling, strength and interest mapping, and personalised career planning to help students make informed decisions.

The Alternate Career Services (ACS) vertical will guide students towards paths beyond conventional placements, including study abroad, competitive exams such as CAT, GATE, IIT JAM, GPAT and CSIR NET, UPSC Civil Services and other government jobs, and defence careers.

Central coordinators have been named for each vertical. R. Sampath Kumar and A. S. Padmaja, Assistant Directors, and G. Vishnu Priya, Assistant Manager, will coordinate TCD activities. Prof. P. Sarita, Deputy Director, and Ranjana Fernando, Deputy Manager, will lead CCM,

while Dr. B. Ravikanth, Deputy Director, will head ACS. Campus-level points of contact have also been appointed across the university's three campuses, working closely with the central team to help students reach the right support easily. The university said the initiative reflects its commitment to providing accessible, personalised and comprehensive career support to every student.

BRS backs NHM employees' indefinite strike

HYDERABAD

BRS general secretary R.S. Praveen Kumar on Monday extended support to the indefinite strike by National Health Mission (NHM) employees at Indira Park, accusing the Congress government of neglecting their demands despite the employees being on strike for 14 days.

Addressing the protesting employees, Praveen Kumar alleged that the government had failed to provide job security, implement pay scales and extend adequate service benefits to healthcare workers who played a crucial role in protecting public health, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

He recalled that the previous BRS government, led by former chief minister K. Chandrashekar Rao, had increased NHM employees' salaries in 2018 and accused the present government of refusing to engage in meaningful discussions with the protesters.

Praveen Kumar also criticised the alleged non-implementation of maternity leave provisions for health department employees, contrasting their situation with benefits available in other government departments and private companies.

He said allocating Rs.100 crore from the state's Rs.3 lakh crore budget could help address the employees' concerns, including the implementation of the Employee Health Scheme for those injured while on duty. Assuring the protesters of the BRS's continued support, Praveen Kumar said his party would fight for their demands until they were addressed.

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

E-Tender Notice No. C-SG-PT-Towers-02 Dated 08.10.2026 PUB/764/26

DyCSTE/Projects/Tele/SC acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders for the for the following work.

Tender Number and Date: C-SG-PT-Towers-02 dated 08.10.2026 (Corrigendum No.01, dated 23.10.2026) **Name of Work:** Ground Infrastructure Works for Provision of Kavach in Purna (Excl.) – Akola section of Nanded Division of South Central Railway., **Estimated Project Cost Rs.:** 12,30,67,451.33 Ps. **Bid Security Rs.:** 24,61,400.00 Ps. **Completion Period of Work:** 12 Months, **Bid Closing Date (Bid Due Date):** 09.11.2026 at 11.00 hrs, **Bid Opening Date:** 09.11.2026 after 11.00 hrs, **Validity of Offer:** 120 Days from Bid Closing Date, **Cost of Tender Booklet:** Rs.0/- **Reason for issue of Corrigendum:** Updating tender document (Page No. 14)

All bidding is in Indian Railway e-tendering portal **www.ireps.gov.in.** Manual offers are not allowed against this tender. Further details can be seen in **www.ireps.gov.in.**

Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/ Projects/Tele/Secunderabad

Open E-Tender Notice No. CAO/Con/ RSP/SC/08/2026-Capital (works) Dated 24/10/2026 PUB/765/26

For and on behalf of President of India, the undersigned invites e-tender for the following works up to 11.00 hrs on 17.11.2026.

Sl. No. 1, **e-Tender No.:** CONST-CAO-RSP-26-016, **Name of the work:** Secunderabad Division: KZJ-BPQ Section: Construction of Proposed RUB of size 1 × 6.0 m × 5.0 m RCC box in lieu of LC-79 at KM 195/23-25 between Sirpur Khagaznagar and Vempalli Stations by Air-Pushing method and RCC Retaining wall on both sides., **Approx Tender Value in Rs.:** 15,86,75,553.48 **EMD Rs.:** 31,73,500.00 **Completion period (in Months)**12, **Defect liability period (in Months)** 48, Works considered similar in nature to works Standard eligibility criteria: A.III Any Bridge work by Box Pushing/Air Pushing method under the Railway Track and under Traffic conditions.

•Tenders should participate through e-tendering only and no manual offers will be considered.

•Tender conditions/other particulars are available in the Tender documents on IREPS website at **www.ireps.gov.in**, in which can be downloaded, view modification, if any and can be participated through the website as mentioned.

Visit our site at "www.ireps.gov.in"

Dy.Chief Engineer/Con/RSP/ Secunderabad

Open e-Tender Notice Nos. C/E.29/Elec/M/SC/57/LC/OT/2026-27 Dt. 24.10.2026 PUB/766/26

For and on behalf of President of India, the undersigned invites e-tender for the given below work up to 15.00 hours on 18.11.2026

Sl. No. 1, **e-Tender No.:** C/E.29/Elec/M/SC/57/LC/OT/2026-27 e-tender No. E-M-SC-57-OT-2026-27, **Name of the work:** Secunderabad Division Electrical Department-(i)-LC-88-VKB-PRLI - Provision of new gate lodge near Relay Hut for gate Signaling at LC-88 In VKB-PRLI Section. (ii) - LC-104-VKB-PRLI - Provision of new gate lodge near Relay Hut for gate Signaling at LC-104 In VKB-PRLI Section. (iii) - LC-6MB - DKJ-BDCR - Provision of new gate lodge near Relay Hut for gate Signaling at LC-6MB In DKJ-BDCR Section. (iv) - LC-34 - VKB-PRLI - Provision of Gate Relay Hut for gate Signaling at LC-34 at KM No.66/13-14 In VKB-PRLI Section. (v) - LC-89-VKB-PRLI - Provision of Gate Relay Hut for gate Signaling at LC-89 at KM No.187/34 in VKB-PRLI Section. – Electrical arrangements., **Tender Value in Rs.:** 65,30,416.00 **EMD Rs.:** 1,30,600.00 **CTF Rs.:** 0.00 **Completion period (in Months)** 6 Months.

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

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer /M/ A880 Secunderabad

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

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to protect the people who matter the most

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Keep nomination updated.

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OR

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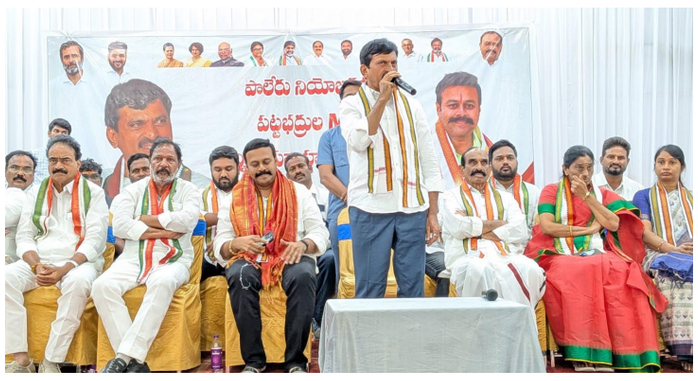
SHORT TAKES

Congress MP accuses BRS of misleading people on Godavari waters

HYDERABAD: *Congress MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy on Monday hit back at the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) over its criticism of the Telangana government's Godavari water utilisation, stating that present water levels make pumping operations through the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project physically impossible. Speaking to reporters at Gandhi Bhavan, the Bhongir MP clarified that water can only be lifted through the project once the level reaches 93.5 meters, whereas current levels stand at approximately 89 meters. He noted that similar low-water conditions prevail across the Medigadda, Annaram, and Sundilla barrages. Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy accused the previous BRS government of compromising the state's interests by agreeing to cap Telangana's share of Krishna River waters at 299 TMC during its decade-long rule. He further alleged that BRS leadership was actively spreading misinformation regarding Godavari water management to cover up past failures.*

Welfare Schemes Will Be the Strength Behind Sarvotham Reddy's Victory





- **Graduate voter registration drive should be taken up as a mass movement**
- **Our family shares an inseparable bond with Palair**
- **State Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and AICC Member Ramreddy Sarvotham Reddy**

PALAIR

State Minister for Revenue, Housing, and Information and Public Relations Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy stated that the welfare schemes and development initiatives being implemented by the People's Government would be the key strengths behind the victory of Congress party candidate Ramreddy Sarvotham Reddy in the Nalgonda–Khammam–Warangal Graduates' MLC elections.

A preparatory meeting for the Graduates' MLC elections was held on Monday at TCV Function Hall in the Edulapuram Municipality area of the constituency. The meeting was presided over by PCC General Secretary Baby Swarna Kumari. Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy addressed the gathering along with Congress candidate Ramreddy Sarvotham Reddy.

The Minister called upon Congress party cadres to work collectively to ensure the victory of party candidate Ramreddy Sarvotham Reddy in the Nalgonda–Khammam–Warangal Graduates' Legislative Council elections. He urged party workers to undertake the registration of every eligible graduate as a voter on a mission-mode basis. He advised party workers to first identify graduates belonging to Congress families and ensure that they were registered as voters. Subsequently, he called for accelerating the registration process by creating awareness among other eligible graduates.

The Minister stated that Ramreddy Sarvotham Reddy and his family had a longstanding association with the Congress party. He recalled that the family of late leaders Ramreddy Venkat Reddy and Ramreddy Damodar Reddy had served the Congress party for generations.

Every Graduate's Registration Should Be the Target — MLC Candidate Ramreddy Sarvotham Reddy

Congress party candidate for the Graduates' MLC elections Ramreddy Sarvotham Reddy stated that he had travelled approximately 10,000 kilometres so far to accelerate the voter registration process across the graduates' constituency. He said that he had the patience and perseverance required to meet people and fulfil the responsibility entrusted to him by the party.

He noted that Graduates' MLC elections were different from general Assembly elections. He clarified that he had never sought the MLC ticket and that he was committed to standing by the party workers who had placed their trust in his father.

He stated that the party had nominated him with the intention of providing him an opportunity to raise public issues and represent the people's concerns.

He revealed that approximately 3.17 lakh graduates had registered as voters so far. Pointing out that the Congress party had a strong organisational network across the three undivided districts, he urged party leaders and workers in the Palair constituency to work in coordination and achieve the voter registration target. Former Telangana State Warehousing Corporation Chairman Rayala Nageswara Rao, District Congress Committee President Noothi Satyanarayana Goud, Telangana Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Commission member Ramreddy Gopal Reddy, Municipal Chairperson Anitha, senior state Congress leader Pothu Bhaskar, Ramreddy Charan Reddy, Congress leader Morishetti Lakshadi, other Congress leaders and workers, and graduate voter registration volunteers participated in the meeting.



BDL observes Vigilance Awareness Week 2026 with the Theme "Probity for Prosperity"

HYDERABAD

Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) commenced its observance of Vigilance Awareness Week-2026 on Monday. The awareness week, being held across all BDL units and offices, is centred on the theme "Probity for Prosperity," highlighting the role of integrity, ethical conduct and transparency in strengthening good governance and contributing to national prosperity.

As part of its outreach initiatives, a 'Gram Sabha' was organised at Kanakamamidi village in Moinabad Mandal, Ranga Reddy District, Telangana to extend the message of vigilance and integrity to the community.

A skit, in Telugu, was also staged by BDL employees to spread awareness among community members about the importance of vigilance, integrity and ethical conduct. Banners, highlighting Vigilance Awareness, were displayed to raise public awareness. A walkathon was also organised to spread the message of vigilance and ethical conduct among different sections of society. The Integrity Pledge was administered to employees across all BDL Units and Offices as a part of Awareness Week.

D.V. Srinivas Rao, Director (Technical), G Gayatri Prasad, Director (Finance), Commodore Sujay Kapoor (Retd.), Director (Production), Spurthi Reddy, IRS, Chief Vigilance Officer, BDL and other senior officials participated in the programmes held as a part of inauguration of Vigilance Awareness Week.

During the week, BDL will organise various competitions to promote ethical values and integrity among employees and their families. These include essay writing, slogan writing, quiz and poster-making competitions for employees, their spouses and children, as well as students from schools and colleges. The observance will culminate in a valedictory function on 5thNov 2026, featuring a keynote address by the Chief Guest.

Through these initiatives, BDL reiterates its commitment to fostering a culture of integrity, accountability, transparency and ethical decision-making among its employees and stakeholders, in keeping with the theme "Probity for Prosperity."

Hyderabad police bust Nepal-based murder-for-gain gang

HYDERABAD



In a major operational breakthrough, the Hyderabad city police have busted an alleged Nepal-based international murder-for-gain gang involved in the murder of Tanuja Ranjan, wife of retired IPS officer Ray Vinay Ranjan, arresting four key accused, including the domestic help who allegedly facilitated the crime.

Announcing the breakthrough at a press conference here on Monday, Hyderabad Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjana said a joint team of the Special Investigation Team (SIT) and Jubilee Hills Police apprehended the accused near Nampally Railway Station. Police seized incriminating material and Rs.51,130 in cash from them.

The murder occurred during the intervening night of May 7 and 8, 2026, at the victim's residence in Prashasan Nagar, Jubilee Hills. According to investigators, the accused allegedly entered the house with the help of the domestic worker, restrained and gagged the victim, causing her death by suffocation, and fled with 225 grams of gold jewellery and other valuables. The domestic help, Dharma Tiruwa alias Kalpana, allegedly maintained contact with gang members and provided information about the household and its valuables. Police said the gang members conducted a recce before executing the robbery.

Initially, police arrested prime accused Sunil Bahadur Aauji alias Sunil Pariyar and alleged receiver Dilip Bahadur Mijar alias Sonar on May 22, recovering 26 grams of stolen property.

A dedicated SIT was constituted on May 19 to track Nepal-based gangs involved in property offences across Telangana. The team conducted extensive searches in several states and spent over five months gathering intelligence along the India-Nepal border.

The four accused arrested on Monday were identified as Dharma Tiruwa alias Kalpana, Ganesh B.K., Chandra Bahadur Tamang alias Shanker Lama, and Ganesh Bahadur Shahi. Police said the gang split into smaller groups after the crime and distributed the stolen property before fleeing to Nepal. Investigators also found that some of the accused had previous criminal cases against them.

As part of its wider crackdown, the SIT executed five pending non-bailable warrants against absconding Nepalese nationals and apprehended another alleged habitual property offender, Jeevan Chand alias Jiban, who was wanted in eight property offences registered across Telangana and other states. Sajjanar appealed to residents, apartment associations and gated communities to verify the identities and backgrounds of domestic workers, cooks, watchmen and caretakers before employing them. He stressed the importance of checking identity documents, contacting previous employers and landlords, verifying residence history, and monitoring suspicious activity.

Citizens have been advised to report suspicious movements or activities to the police through emergency numbers 100 or 112, the Hyderabad City Police WhatsApp helpline at 94906 16555, or the nearest police station. The operation was conducted under the supervision of DCP Task Force Vaibhav Raghunath Gaikwad and DCP Jubileehills A. Ramana Reddy, with personnel from the SIT and Jubilee Hills Police Station.





Protecting the Vote of the Poor Is Essential to Safeguarding the Constitution: Minister Vakiti Srihari

- **BJP must abandon its alleged conspiracy to delete votes, says Minister**
- **Make the 'Vote Bachao – Desh Bachao' protest meeting in Delhi on November 1 a success**
- **Congress cadre responsible for ensuring Sama Ram Mohan Reddy's victory in the Graduates' MLC election**

NARAYANPET

State Minister for Sports, Dairy Development and Animal Husbandry Vakiti Srihari has asserted that protecting the right to vote is equivalent to safeguarding the Constitution and democracy. He said that every citizen's vote is invaluable in a democratic system and that the Congress party would strongly resist any attempts to deprive people of this fundamental right. Addressing a meeting organised in Narayanpet as part of the 'Vote Bachao – Desh Bachao' campaign, the minister alleged that the BJP was resorting to unfair means to return to power at the national level. He expressed concern that millions of votes were being deleted in the name of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process.

Srihari stressed that the revision of electoral rolls must be conducted transparently and impartially, ensuring that no eligible voter is deprived of their right to vote. He called upon the authorities to put an end to what he described as the BJP's approach towards the deletion of votes.

Recalling that Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Constitution guarantees every citizen the right to vote, the minister said voting was not merely a responsibility but also a powerful means for citizens to make their voices heard in a democracy. He warned that losing the right to vote would seriously undermine a citizen's participation in the democratic process. He called for protecting the voting rights of the poor and disadvantaged sections of society to uphold the spirit of the Constitution.

The minister said the Congress party had introduced several important reforms and worked for public welfare. Protecting the rights of the poor, ensuring social justice and safeguarding democracy were among the party's principal objectives, he added. Governments elected by the people must remain accountable to them, and any attempt to undermine voting rights must be resisted through democratic means, he said.

Srihari appealed to Congress leaders, party workers and supporters of democracy to participate in large numbers in the 'Vote Bachao – Desh Bachao' protest meeting scheduled to be held in Delhi on November 1 and make it a success. He urged party workers to take the campaign for protecting voting rights to every section of society.

Praising Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, the minister said he had taken a bold step towards social justice by undertaking a caste census.

He noted that reliable information about the social and economic conditions of different communities was essential to ensure justice for all sections of society. The Congress government was working towards equal opportunities and social justice, he said.

Referring to the forthcoming Palamuru–Rangareddy–Hyderabad Graduates' MLC election, Srihari said it was the responsibility of every Congress worker to ensure the victory of party candidate Sama Ram Mohan Reddy. He called upon party workers to ensure that every eligible graduate was registered as a voter, communicate the party's policies to the public and work collectively to achieve the party's electoral objectives.

AICC observer Ravindra Das, DCC president Prashanth Reddy and other leaders participated in the meeting along with Minister Vakiti Srihari.

Jagga Reddy Performs Bhumi Pooja for Construction of Arches at Guru Nanak Mandir



SANGAREDDY

Jagga Reddy visited Guru Nanak Mandir in Sangareddy town and offered special prayers on Monday. As promised during the last Guru Nanak Jayanti celebrations, Jagga Reddy performed the Bhumi Pooja for the construction of two arches in Brahmanawada, Sangareddy. One arch will be constructed at the entrance leading to Guru Nanak Mandir, while the other will be erected on Bhavani Mandir Road near the shrine.

Earlier, Jagga Reddy visited Guru Nanak Mandir and offered special prayers. On the occasion, representatives of the mandir brought several issues to his notice. He assured them that the problems would be resolved soon.

Jagga Reddy also instructed TPCC General Secretary Thopaji Ananth Kishan to develop the Naga Devata temple located under a peepal tree on the mandir premises. He emphasised that the existing idols should remain in their present positions while the development works were undertaken.

Sikh community leaders Dr. Sardar Surender Gopi Singh, Sardar Tejender Singh, Sardar Swaran Singh, Sardar Satpal Singh, Dr. Sardar Bharat Singh, Sikh religious leader Gurudev Singh, TPCC General Secretary Thopaji Ananth Kishan, Municipal Chairperson Kuna Vanitha Santhosh, and leaders Bongula Ravi, Kuna Santhosh, Mahesh Mudiraj, Srihari, Sudeep, Naren and Sudhakar, among others, participated in the programme.

Cyberabad police invoke PD Act against notorious offender

HYDERABAD

Cyberabad Police have invoked the Preventive Detention (PD) Act against Derangula Ravi alias Gaja, 24, a notorious property offender accused of involvement in 64 criminal cases between 2008 and 2026. Cyberabad Police Commissioner Dr. M. Ramesh ordered his detention in Central Prison, Cherlapalli, to prevent further criminal activities.

A resident of Dayananda Nagar in Suraram Colony, Jeedimetla, Ravi allegedly targeted pedestrians and isolated houses, threatening victims with knives and other weapons to extort valuables. He was also involved in house burglaries, snatching, assaults and two-wheeler thefts, police said.

Banned Chinese manja seized in Hyderabad, three held

HYDERABAD

The Commissioner's Task Force, Rajendranagar Zone, along with Kalapathar Police, seized a huge haul of banned Chinese manja worth approximately Rs.1.89 lakh and apprehended three persons in a raid near Golden Jubilee School in Kalapathar on October 25.

The accused were identified as Mohammed Kaleem (27), a kite trader from Tadban, Mohammed Younus (51), a school-bag stitcher from Tadban, and Fahadullah Khan (24), a delivery executive from Khajipura.

Police seized 140 bobbins and 100 bundles of synthetic manja, along with three mobile phones. The total value of the seized property was estimated at Rs.1.89 lakh.

During preliminary inquiry, Kaleem allegedly revealed that he had entered the banned manja trade after learning about its profitability while working at a kite shop in Falaknuma. He allegedly established contact with a supplier named Vicky through Instagram and procured the material by transferring money through online payment platforms, including PhonePe.

The consignments were reportedly dispatched through courier services. Kaleem subsequently started his own kite business in the Kalapathar police station limits and allegedly supplied the banned manja to local sellers, police said. The alleged main supplier, Vicky, reportedly a resident of Jabalpur, Uttar Pradesh, is absconding. Police are making efforts to trace him. The three apprehended persons and seized property were handed over to Kalapathar Police Station for further legal action.

Police appealed to citizens to report the illegal sale, storage, transportation or use of banned Chinese manja through Dial-112 or Hyderabad City Police helplines. They urged the public to avoid synthetic manja, which poses a serious threat to people, birds and animals.

NTR Health University to Introduce Quantum Biology Course

VC Calls for Dedicated Medical Academy

VIJAYAWADA:





Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Chandrasekhar has called for greater emphasis on medical research and the establishment of a dedicated Medical Academy in Andhra Pradesh to provide continuous training for doctors, enhance professional skills and promote research. He also announced that the university would soon introduce an innovative course in Quantum Biology. The university celebrated its 40th anniversary, marking its Ruby Jubilee, in a grand manner at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Kala Vedika in Vijayawada on Monday. Presiding over the celebrations, Vice-Chancellor Dr. P. Chandrasekhar, in his welcome address, expressed happiness over the university completing four decades of service. He recalled that Dr. Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao, the late Chief Minister, had established the university in 1986 with the vision of creating India's first university dedicated to health sciences. Over the past 40 years, the university has made significant progress in medical education and earned international recognition by producing lakhs of professionals in allopathic medicine, dentistry, AYUSH, nursing and pharmacy, he said.

Rs. 13 crore allocated for medical research

Dr. Chandrasekhar said the university had allocated approximately Rs. 13 crore to encourage medical research. It was introducing new courses in line with the latest developments in healthcare, he added. The university had launched post-doctoral fellowship programmes in specialised fields such as gynaecological endoscopy, laparoscopic surgery, cochlear implant surgery, reproductive medicine, fetal medicine and paediatric critical care.

It was also offering certificate courses in research methodology, biostatistics and hospital infection control. The proposed Quantum Biology course would open up new opportunities in medical education and research, he said.

Medical education to embrace AI and digital technologies

The Vice-Chancellor observed that medical education in the future would become increasingly integrated with artificial intelligence (AI), digital transformation and simulation-based technologies. He said the university was equipping students with modern medical knowledge and preparing them to address future challenges in healthcare through the adoption of emerging technologies.

Call for a dedicated Medical Academy in Andhra Pradesh

Dr. Chandrasekhar appealed to the State government to establish a dedicated Medical Academy in Andhra Pradesh to promote continuing medical education, professional development and research.

He pointed out that IAS officers had the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) in Mussoorie, while judicial officers had a Judicial Academy in Bhopal. Similarly, doctors in the State needed a dedicated institution for continuous training, exposure to advanced medical knowledge and research activities.

Referring to an idea proposed by Justice Durga Prasad, Chairman of the High Court Committee, the Vice-Chancellor urged the government to amend the Dr. NTR University of Health Sciences Act and introduce a separate chapter to provide a statutory framework for establishing the Medical Academy. He expressed confidence that the proposed academy would significantly strengthen doctors' professional skills, continuing medical education and medical research.

Doctors must combine technology with human values: Dr. M.K. Ramesh

Dr. M.K. Ramesh, Director of the Medical Assessment and Rating Board of the National Medical Commission (NMC), called for training internationally competitive doctors who could effectively use advanced technologies while upholding human values, empathy and ethical standards. Congratulating the university on completing four decades, he said it had produced numerous talented doctors for the country and earned a distinctive place in medical education as India's first university dedicated to health sciences. Dr. Ramesh said higher educational institutions would need to transform into multidisciplinary universities by 2030 in accordance with the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP). In this context, specialised health sciences universities should review their objectives, academic approaches and future plans, he observed. He stressed the need to modernise teaching methods, strengthen research programmes and focus on skill development to make medical education more effective and responsive to changing requirements.

India emerging as a global healthcare destination

Dr. Ramesh pointed out that the cost of medical treatment in developed countries such as the United States and European nations had risen considerably, while patients often faced long waiting periods for treatment. In contrast, India's ability to provide quality healthcare at comparatively affordable costs was a major advantage, he said. With highly skilled medical professionals, proficiency in English and the capacity to deliver affordable treatment, India was emerging as a major destination for international medical tourism. He urged healthcare institutions to make greater use of the growing interest among foreign patients in receiving treatment in India. He also called for expanding faculty development programmes in medical colleges to improve teaching skills. Students should be encouraged from an early stage to develop a research-oriented outlook, a questioning attitude and scientific thinking, he said. Emphasising that the relationship between doctors and patients would remain vital despite technological advancements, Dr. Ramesh said mutual trust, empathy and ethical values could never be replaced by technology. He urged educators to integrate technological progress with a humane approach and prepare students to meet the evolving challenges of the medical profession.

Vice-President, Governor and other dignitaries attend

Vice-President of India C.P. Radhakrishnan, Andhra Pradesh Governor Justice S. Abdul Nazeer, State Minister for Information, Public Relations and Housing Kolusu Parthasarathy, Member of Parliament Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni), NMC representative Dr. M.K. Ramesh, former Vice-Chancellors of the university, Executive Council members, former Registrars, eminent medical experts, faculty members, alumni and current students attended the celebrations. Earlier, Minister Kolusu Parthasarathy and District Collector Dr. G. Lakshmisha accorded a warm welcome to Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Kala Vedika in Vijayawada.

Dr. Patharia, who is engaged in the upliftment of the disabled, is honoured with the "Award of Appreciation"

S. N. VERMA



New Delhi: Dr Kusum Patharia, national president of the Social Justice and Women Empowerment Board, was honoured with the 'Award of Appreciation' by the Association of Rehabilitation Professionals and Parents (ARPP) in New Delhi for his continuous efforts to bring positive changes in the lives of Divyangjan, their upliftment and their rights and respect. Speaking on the occasion, he said that this honour is not only for the individual, but for his determination and service. He said that for me, receiving this award is a symbol of great joy, pride and self-satisfaction. The significance of a man's life is not in how much he has earned for himself, but in how much hope, how much faith and how much light he could convey in the lives of others. Dr. Kusum Patharia said that the true progress of society is possible only when everyone, regardless of their physical conditions, deserves education, respect and equal opportunities. Persons with disabilities are not entitled to our sympathy, but to equal rights, opportunities and self-respect. Giving them a chance to move forward is not a favour, but a moral duty of society. She said that this honour is not just an achievement for me, but a reminder of the responsibility with which I am moving forward on the path of social service. As long as even the last person in the society is deprived of honour and equal opportunities, our work of service is incomplete. He was Dr. Amarkesh Mahendrau and all the honourable institutions and colleagues associated with this event have expressed their heartfelt gratitude. He said that this honour will continue to inspire me to work for the upliftment of Divyangjans, women and disadvantaged sections of the society with greater loyalty, sensitivity and dedication because true social service is not that in which one's name is high, but that in which a bowed person has the courage to live with his head up.

Chennai–Bhagat Ki Kothi Trains to Be Diverted

CHENNAI, OCTOBER 26

Train services between Dr MGR Chennai Central and Bhagat Ki Kothi will be diverted on select dates in December due to engineering works at Satlana, Dudia and Dundara stations on the Luni–Samdari–Bhildi section of Jodhpur Division, North Western Railway has announced.

Train No. 20625, Dr MGR Chennai Central–Bhagat Ki Kothi Superfast Express, scheduled to depart Chennai Central at 7.35 pm on December 17 and 18, 2026, will run via Mahesana, Palanpur, Marwar and Luni. The train will skip stoppages at Patan, Bhildi, Raniwara, Marwar Bhinmal, Modran, Jalor, Mokalsar, Samdari and Luni. Similarly, Train No. 20626, Bhagat Ki Kothi–Dr MGR Chennai Central Superfast Express, scheduled to depart Bhagat Ki Kothi at 5.40 am on December 20, 2026, will be diverted via Luni, Marwar, Palanpur and Mahesana. It will skip stoppages at Luni, Samdari, Mokalsar, Jalor, Modran, Marwar Bhinmal, Raniwara, Bhildi and Patan.

Andhra Pradesh CM asks coastal districts to prevent loss of life due to cyclone

AMARAVATI, OCT 26

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Monday directed the authorities in coastal districts to take all precautionary measures to prevent loss of life and property due to a severe cyclonic storm likely to cross the coast on October 28. Officials informed the Chief Minister that the severe cyclonic storm 'Arnab' is likely to cross the coast near Yanam, between Bapatla and Visakhapatnam. Moderate to heavy rainfall is expected in several districts from Srikakulam to Nellore from Tuesday afternoon, accompanied by strong winds along the coast. The officials said heavy to extremely heavy rainfall was likely on October 28 and 29 in the North Coastal Andhra districts, Konaseema, East Godavari, West Godavari, Eluru, Krishna, NTR, Guntur, Palnadu, Bapatla, Prakasam and Nellore districts. The Chief Minister directed officials to keep the Central Government informed of the precautionary measures being taken by the State to tackle the cyclone.

The Chief Minister directed that people living in flood-prone and low-lying areas be shifted to cyclone shelters. He stressed that elderly, persons with disabilities, pregnant women and infants should be given top priority while relocating people to safer places.

Officials informed the Chief Minister that arrangements were underway to shift 4,711 identified pregnant women across the State to Primary Health Centres, Community Health Centres and hospitals.

The Chief Minister directed officials to keep medical teams and ambulances ready at health centres in the affected districts. He also instructed them to deploy seven National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams and eight State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) teams across 11 vulnerable districts. Additional forces should be kept on standby in NTR and Visakhapatnam districts.

CM Naidu directed officials to coordinate with the Marine Police, Navy and Coast Guard to ensure their services were available for rescue and relief operations. Officials reported that all fishermen who had ventured into the sea had been brought back safely to the coast, with 30,043 boats reaching harbours safely. The Chief Minister instructed officials to ensure that fishermen do not venture into the sea until the cyclone weakens and normal conditions return. The Chief Minister directed the officials of the Agriculture department to ensure that harvested paddy was moved to safe locations to prevent damage. He also called for precautionary measures to protect horticultural crops spread across approximately 1.82 lakh hectares that could be affected by the cyclone. He instructed officials to ensure adequate stocks of essential commodities at ration shops and to restore electricity supply immediately wherever disruptions occur. The Chief Minister noted that the Tandava, Raiwada, Yeleru, Tammileru, Yerrakalava and Tadipudi reservoirs could receive water up to their full storage capacities. He also directed officials to ensure that streams, rivulets and canals remained free of obstructions to facilitate the smooth flow of water. The Chief Minister instructed district collectors to take strict action against attempts to spread misinformation about the cyclone through social media.

Tirupati Regional Conference Secures 67 MoUs Worth ₹11,731.68 Crore, with Potential to Generate 20,879 Jobs

Investments worth ₹85,561 crore across five regional conferences, with the potential to create over 1.56 lakh jobs

31st CII Industrial Regional Conference successfully held at Sri City.. MSME Banking Grievance Redressal Mechanism Portal launched

S.S. Rawat, Special Chief Secretary, Youth Advancement, Tourism and Culture Department.. Promoting self-employment through the vision of "One Family – One Entrepreneur"

Promoting investments to drive the state's economic development and create employment opportunities for youth

— Dr. Y. Yuvraj, Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh

SRI CITY, OCTOBER 26

The Tirupati Regional Conference, held as part of the 31st CII Partnership Summit, concluded successfully with the signing of 67 industrial Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) involving proposed investments of ₹11,731.68 crore, with the potential to generate employment for 20,879 people. With this conference, the five regional conferences conducted across Andhra Pradesh have concluded successfully, said S.S. Rawat, Special Chief Secretary of the state's Youth Advancement, Tourism and Culture Department.

The Tirupati Regional Conference was held on Monday at the auditorium of Krea University in Sri City. The event was attended by S.S. Rawat, Special Chief Secretary, Youth Advancement, Tourism and Culture Department, Government of Andhra Pradesh; Dr. Y. Yuvraj, Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department; A.P. Chiranjivi Chowdary, Principal Secretary for Processing; Sagili Shanmohan, CEO of the Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board; Dr. S. Venkateswar, District Collector; Shubham Bansal, Director of Industries; A.S. Dinesh Kumar, Vice Chairman and Managing Director of APIIC; Pattamsetti Ravi Subhash, Managing Director of APTDC; Yashwanth Reddy, Executive Director of APIIC; Sekhar Babu Gedam, CEO of the Andhra Pradesh Food Processing Society; Viswa Manoharan, CEO of APMSMDC; C. Srinivasa Raju, Chairman of Sri City; Ravindra Sannareddy, Managing Director of Sri City; investors; and other dignitaries. As part of the programme, the chief guests visited specially arranged MSME exhibition stalls near the auditorium, organised under the initiative "One Family – One Entrepreneur."

Address by S.S. Rawat, Special Chief Secretary

Speaking on the occasion, S.S. Rawat said the five regional conferences organised by the Andhra Pradesh Government had concluded successfully, with the objectives of promoting regional investments, accelerating industrial development and creating employment opportunities for young people. He said the conferences were intended to expand industrial investments across all regions of Andhra Pradesh and make effective use of local resources and business opportunities. He expressed satisfaction that the final regional conference, held ahead of the 31st CII Partnership Summit, had been successfully conducted at Sri City. Rawat highlighted the industrial importance of Sri City and the Srikalahasti region. He said employment opportunities could be expanded by developing MSMEs, supporting local entrepreneurs and establishing linkages between small businesses and large industries. A total of 21 MSME enterprises participated in the conference at Sri City. He added that the government was working to create a favourable investment climate across the state through new industrial policies and regional development plans. Expressing optimism about the 31st CII Partnership Summit scheduled to be held in Visakhapatnam on November 12 and 13, 2026, he said the event would attract further investments, business partnerships and industrial opportunities to Andhra Pradesh. He invited industrialists, investors and representatives of relevant sectors to participate in large numbers and contribute to the state's industrial progress.

The MSME Banking Grievance Redressal Mechanism Portal was also launched during the programme.

At the fifth and final regional conference, held on Monday at Krea University in Sri City, a total of 67 MoUs were signed covering Tirupati, Chittoor, Annamayya, YSR Kadapa and SPSR Nellore districts. These agreements are expected to attract investments worth ₹11,731.68 crore and create employment opportunities for 20,879 people. Of these, 50 projects proposed across the respective regional districts involve investments of ₹7,380.68 crore and have the potential to generate 16,612 jobs. Eighteen of these projects are proposed to be established exclusively within Sri City.

Address by Dr. Y. Yuvraj, Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department

Dr. Y. Yuvraj said the state government was formulating plans to encourage regional investments, create employment opportunities for young people and strengthen the industrial sector. Under the principle of "One Family – One Entrepreneur," the government intends to promote self-employment and improve people's economic conditions.

As part of India's vision to become a developed nation by 2047, the government will focus on increasing per capita income, reducing poverty and improving living standards. He said Visakhapatnam, Amaravati and Tirupati would be developed as major economic hubs, with priority given to expanding industrial infrastructure and attracting investments. The development of the Vizag–Chennai, Hyderabad–Bengaluru and Chennai–Bengaluru industrial corridors is expected to create a favourable environment for establishing industries.

The government also aims to strengthen transportation and logistics through proposed high-speed and bullet train routes, expansion of national highways, the Bhogapuram Airport project and improved air connectivity for the Sri City region. Yuvraj said the state government was committed to comprehensive economic development through youth skill development, effective utilisation of local resources, support for small and medium enterprises, and greater public awareness of entrepreneurial opportunities.

As part of the "One Family – One Entrepreneur" initiative, the government is taking steps to establish MSME parks in every Assembly constituency. Of the 175 parks planned across the state, work on 153 parks is progressing.

The five districts, including Tirupati, have a total of 31 MSME parks, with approximately 2,053 acres of land available. Since June 2024, 914 acres have been allocated to MSMEs in this region, paving the way for investments of ₹3,885 crore and the potential creation of 41,622 jobs.

Address by Amudavalli Ranganathan, Executive Director, CavinKare Private Limited

Amudavalli Ranganathan said Andhra Pradesh was among India's leading fruit-producing states. However, tomato farmers in the Madanapalle region continued to face difficulties due to inadequate market prices for their produce. She stressed the need to develop a robust supply chain connecting farms to international markets to ensure remunerative prices for farmers. She said the Tirupati region had favourable resources for the tomato, dairy and logistics sectors. Small entrepreneurs could also benefit by supplying raw materials, packaging and other services to multinational companies operating in Sri City, including Mondelez, PepsiCo and Kellogg's. She highlighted the significant opportunities available in the production of mango pulp, tomato paste and powder, dairy products, snacks and ready-to-cook foods, as well as in establishing cold-storage facilities, food-testing laboratories and packaging units. She urged entrepreneurs to take advantage of the incentives and capital subsidies offered to industries under the Andhra Pradesh Food Processing Policy 4.0. She added that additional incentives for entrepreneurs from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, as well as entrepreneurs with disabilities, along with dedicated support for Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), self-help groups and cooperative societies, could help create more employment opportunities.

Address by Taizo Iwami, Managing Director, India Metal One Steel Plate Processing (IMOP)

Taizo Iwami said his Japan-based company had been operating successfully in Sri City with the support of the Andhra Pradesh Government and the Sri City management.

The company manufactures fabricated steel products required by leading construction equipment manufacturers such as Kobelco, Hitachi, Komatsu and XCMG, and exports its products to the United States and countries in the Middle East. He said the company began its business operations in Sri City in 2011 and commenced production in 2012. It subsequently expanded its operations in 2019 and 2022. The company's investment, which stood at ₹20 crore initially, has now grown to ₹400 crore. Its revenue has increased from ₹250 crore to ₹800 crore, while its workforce has expanded from 130 to 800 employees. The company aims to employ 1,000 people by March 2027, with priority given to local candidates for 75% of the jobs. Production at its second plant is scheduled to begin in November 2026.

EDITORIAL

Economic Growth and the Common Man: Making Development More Inclusive

India has emerged as one of the world's major economies, supported by expanding infrastructure, digital transformation, industrial development and a growing consumer market. However, economic growth becomes meaningful only when its benefits reach ordinary citizens. For millions of families, the real measure of progress is not merely an increase in national output, but whether they can afford essential goods, secure stable employment, access quality education and healthcare, and build a financially secure future.

One of the major challenges facing the Indian economy is the uneven distribution of economic opportunities. While several sectors have experienced rapid expansion, many households continue to struggle with rising living costs. Expenses on food, housing, transportation, education and medical treatment consume a substantial share of family incomes. For middle-class households, particularly those dependent on fixed salaries, managing these expenses while saving for the future has become increasingly difficult. Low-income families face even greater pressure because a larger proportion of their earnings goes towards basic necessities.

Employment remains another critical concern. Economic expansion must generate sufficient productive jobs for India's large working-age population. Although technology, manufacturing, infrastructure and services offer new opportunities, many workers remain employed in informal or insecure occupations without adequate social protection. Young graduates also face difficulties finding jobs that match their qualifications and skills. Strengthening vocational training, apprenticeships and industry-linked education can help bridge this gap.

Small businesses and micro, small and medium enterprises are essential to employment generation and local economic activity. Yet many face difficulties accessing affordable credit, adopting modern technology and competing with larger enterprises. Simplifying regulatory procedures, improving payment discipline and expanding access to finance can help these businesses grow and create more jobs. Supporting rural enterprises and labour-intensive manufacturing would also distribute economic opportunities more widely.

Public investment in education, healthcare, transport and housing is equally important. Affordable and accessible public services reduce the financial burden on households and improve their ability to participate in economic growth. Better government schools, stronger primary healthcare and reliable public transport can make a tangible difference to ordinary families. Targeted welfare measures should protect vulnerable sections without weakening the long-term sustainability of public finances.

The government must also ensure that economic policies encourage productive investment while protecting workers and consumers. Stable prices, transparent regulations and fair competition are essential for maintaining public confidence. Meanwhile, tax policies and welfare programmes should be designed to support inclusive development and improve access to essential services. India's economic ambitions are significant, but growth cannot be judged by headline figures alone. The quality of employment, purchasing power of households, access to public services and reduction in economic insecurity deserve equal attention.

A stronger economy is one in which prosperity creates opportunities across income groups and regions. Ensuring that ordinary citizens share in the benefits of development is not an obstacle to growth; it is the foundation of sustainable progress. India's journey towards becoming a developed nation will be more meaningful when economic advancement translates into better living standards, greater security and genuine opportunities for all.

Drug Abuse: Beyond Personal Harm, a Question of Public Safety

" The distinction between addiction and criminal conduct must remain central to public policy. Dependence is a health condition that may require sustained treatment; an offence is an act for which legal responsibility must be determined."



Drug abuse is commonly viewed through the lens of addiction, deteriorating health and family distress. But this perspective overlooks a wider concern: the harm that substance use can inflict on people who have no part in it. When drug use contributes to dangerous driving, violence or crime, the consequences can extend well beyond the individual. Innocent people may lose their lives, their livelihoods or their sense of security. The challenge, therefore, is not merely to prevent substance dependence but also to protect society from the harm that may accompany it.

The consequences are particularly stark on the roads. A person driving under the influence of intoxicating substances can put pedestrians, two-wheeler riders and other motorists at risk. A moment of impaired judgement can cause a fatal accident or leave someone permanently disabled. For the victim's family, the consequences may include the loss of its principal breadwinner, mounting medical expenses and an uncertain future. The person responsible may have chosen to take the risk, but those affected had no opportunity to consent to it. Enforcing laws against driving under the influence is thus not simply a matter of traffic regulation; it is an essential measure to protect the public.

Personal safety presents another dimension of the problem. Substance use may impair judgement or contribute to aggressive behaviour in some circumstances, but it would be wrong to assume that everyone who uses drugs becomes violent. Nor can intoxication be invoked to excuse sexual assault. Responsibility for such crimes rests with the perpetrator. Effective prevention requires prompt investigation, accountability under the law, protection for vulnerable people and meaningful support for survivors. No individual's consumption of an intoxicating substance can diminish another person's right to bodily autonomy, dignity and safety.

The financial pressures associated with addiction may also contribute to theft, fraud or other offences in some cases. This does not make crime an inevitable consequence of dependence, nor does it justify treating every person with an addiction as a potential offender. Many need medical care and rehabilitation. Yet where crimes occur, the harm to victims is real. A household may lose its savings, a small trader may suffer a serious financial setback, or an elderly person may be deprived of financial security. A humane approach to addiction must not come at the cost of justice for those harmed by criminal conduct.

The economic burden extends beyond individual losses. Drug-related health problems and injuries place demands on medical services, while policing, investigations and judicial proceedings require public resources. Families may lose income, employers may lose productive workers, and communities may bear the costs of premature deaths and reduced productivity. Resources that could have supported education, healthcare and development may instead be diverted towards managing preventable harm. The consequences of drug abuse, therefore, cannot be measured solely by the money spent on substances or the number of people who develop dependence.

There is also a less tangible but significant social cost: the erosion of public confidence in personal safety. Fear of dangerous driving or violence can influence how people use public spaces, travel and participate in everyday life. Parents may worry about their children's safety, while women may feel compelled to restrict their movements. Drug abuse is not the sole cause of such insecurity, and its contribution should not be exaggerated. Nevertheless, when substance use is associated with reckless or criminal behaviour, it can deepen existing anxieties and weaken trust within communities.

These risks call for a response that goes beyond periodic raids and public awareness campaigns. Law enforcement must focus on disrupting illegal drug supply networks, while action against impaired driving must be consistent and credible. Crimes involving violence, sexual assault and theft require timely investigation and accountability, with victims receiving appropriate legal and social support. At the same time, treatment, counselling and rehabilitation must be accessible to those struggling with dependence. Schools, colleges, families and workplaces can contribute by recognising warning signs early and encouraging people to seek professional help before their problems become more severe.

The distinction between addiction and criminal conduct must remain central to public policy. Dependence is a health condition that may require sustained treatment; an offence is an act for which legal responsibility must be determined. Treating every person with an addiction as a criminal can discourage people from seeking help. Conversely, allowing addiction to become an excuse for harming others undermines the rights of victims. Public health interventions and law enforcement are not competing approaches. One seeks to reduce dependence and support recovery; the other protects citizens and upholds the law.

The effectiveness of drug-control policy must consequently be judged by more than the number of arrests made or awareness programmes conducted. A meaningful assessment would ask whether preventable deaths and injuries have declined, whether drug-related crime has been reduced, whether treatment is reaching those who need it and whether communities feel safer. Such outcomes demand sustained coordination between healthcare services, law enforcement agencies, educational institutions and local communities.

The central issue is one of social responsibility. People struggling with addiction deserve access to treatment and an opportunity to recover. But those who have done nothing wrong must not be left to bear the consequences of another person's dangerous or criminal actions. A policy that recognises only the needs of the person using drugs is incomplete; one that relies only on punishment is equally inadequate. The objective must be to reduce substance dependence, hold offenders accountable and prevent innocent people from becoming its unintended victims. Drug abuse is a personal struggle for some, but its consequences can become a public crisis.



D. JAIRAM
Subject Expert – Current Affairs
Founder & Mentor
Sri Jairam Competitive Academy

Congress Trapped in the Politics of Abusive Rhetoric and Confrontation



In a democracy, the ruling party and the opposition may be political adversaries, but their language should reflect ideological competition rather than personal hostility. Political differences are a source of democratic strength; however, when disagreements degenerate into personal jibes, family-directed remarks and derogatory language, the quality of political discourse deteriorates and the dignity of democratic institutions is undermined. In Indian politics, the increasingly aggressive remarks made by several Congress leaders against Prime Minister Narendra Modi, followed by the controversial statement delivered by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge in Patna, have once again brought the issue of political decorum into sharp focus.

On October 25, 2026, at an event organised in Patna to commemorate the 139th birth anniversary of Dr. Shri Krishna Singh, Bihar's first Chief Minister, a remark by Kharge triggered a political controversy. Responding to a comment made by a person present at the gathering, he reportedly said, "Even Modi's Baap will be gone." The statement drew sharp criticism from Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leaders, while the Congress attempted to explain the remark in its ideological context. According to media reports, the individual concerned subsequently maintained that his entire statement had not been heard. The various parties involved have offered their own interpretations of the episode. Yet, beyond the political sparring, a fundamental question remains: Is this really the appropriate way to express opposition to a person holding the highest political office in the country?

Kharge is a senior Congress leader with decades of political experience and the responsibility of leading the party as its national president. It is only natural to expect a greater degree of restraint, maturity and judgment from a leader of his stature. If an unfavourable remark is made during a political gathering, it can be countered with reason, facts and confidence. But when the response descends into personal references and family-directed language, the substantive issue recedes into the background, while the controversy over words takes centre stage in the news. In politics, words are not merely spontaneous reactions; they are also a test of a leader's public responsibility and democratic values.

The history of sharp and controversial remarks directed at Narendra Modi within Congress politics provides a broader context for this debate. During the 2007 Gujarat Assembly election campaign, Sonia Gandhi used the expression "merchant of death" to describe Modi. In the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, Mani Shankar Aiyar's "chaiwala" remark also triggered a major political controversy. In subsequent years, Rahul Gandhi's slogan "Chowkidar Chor Hai" brought political discourse further into the realm of personalised accusations. Each of these statements had its own political context, and the speakers offered their respective justifications. Nevertheless, their public impact raises an important question: Can criticism of a political leader be confined to his policies, performance and decisions, or has personal ridicule increasingly become an accepted instrument of political engagement?

Priyanka Gandhi and other Congress leaders have also launched sharp political attacks on Modi and his government on several occasions. It is important to recognise that strong criticism is not inherently undignified. Raising tough questions about government policies, unemployment, inflation, social harmony, democratic institutions and administrative decisions is a constitutional responsibility of the opposition. The problem arises when policy disagreements become entangled with personal insults and sarcasm begins to replace reasoned argument as a means of gaining political traction. It would be unfair to place every statement by every leader in the same category. However, recurring controversies of this nature undoubtedly warrant serious reflection on the declining standards of political language.

Herein lies a significant challenge for the Congress. Its credibility and effectiveness as an opposition party will ultimately depend on how successfully it builds a meaningful public discourse around issues that directly affect people's lives. Addressing farmers' concerns, creating employment opportunities for young people, strengthening education and healthcare, reducing economic inequality and advancing social justice are among its most important responsibilities. If public debate repeatedly narrows down to personal attacks on the Prime Minister, there is a real danger that substantive policy discussions will be pushed aside. This can also weaken the very foundations of the opposition's criticism. When political discourse revolves around personalities rather than public issues, democracy gains little from the exchange.

At the same time, Narendra Modi's public persona and international engagement remain significant dimensions of Indian politics. His overseas visits, dialogue with world leaders, participation in international forums and efforts to strengthen economic and strategic partnerships are closely connected with India's evolving global role. His supporters regard these initiatives as evidence of India's growing prestige and influence on the world stage. However, a fair assessment of any Prime Minister's tenure cannot rest solely on international standing. It must also take into account domestic policies, economic outcomes, social inclusion and the overall record of governance. The true beauty of democracy lies in its ability to recognise a leader's achievements while preserving the freedom to critically scrutinise his decisions.

It is also worth considering that the more personal and insulting the language directed against a political leader becomes, the greater the possibility of provoking a defensive reaction among his supporters. It would be inaccurate to conclude that Congress's criticism of Narendra Modi has always produced the same political consequences. Electoral outcomes are shaped by numerous factors, including leadership, organisational strength, local issues, candidates, alliances and voters' expectations. Nevertheless, one political risk is undeniable: when the opposition relies more heavily on personal remarks than on evidence, policy arguments and credible alternatives, it risks losing the opportunity to communicate its message effectively to the electorate. Conversely, the BJP, too, must not limit itself to reacting to controversial statements by its opponents. It must remain accountable to the public on the basis of its own performance, policies and governance.

The language of politics has a profound influence on the behaviour of society. When senior leaders lose their composure on public platforms, there is a risk that hostility and bitterness will spread among their supporters and political workers as well. Social media further intensifies this tendency, allowing a brief excerpt from a speech to dominate the entire public discourse, often at the expense of context and substance. Political leaders must therefore consider the social consequences of their words and the dignity attached to their public office before speaking. There is a fundamental difference between humiliating a political opponent and defeating an opponent's argument. In a democracy, the latter matters far more.

Ultimately, whether it is the Congress or the BJP, the real strength of a political party is determined not by the aggression of its rhetoric, but by the quality of its ideas, the effectiveness of its policies, its commitment to public service and the trust it commands among the people. Criticising Prime Minister Modi is a democratic right, but such criticism must be grounded in facts, reason and substantive arguments. Similarly, whether it is Congress president Kharge or a leader from the ruling establishment, everyone in public life must recognise that disagreement should never be allowed to degenerate into personal humiliation.

Political decorum is not merely a matter of formal etiquette; it is an essential pillar of the democratic spirit. Governments will change, leaders will come and go, and the political fortunes of parties will rise and fall. But the words spoken in public life often remain etched in the collective memory of society long after the immediate controversy has faded. Indian politics therefore needs the language of dialogue, not bitterness; the strength of arguments, not the sting of insults. For in a true democracy, it is ideas that must prevail—not personal humiliation.



LALIT GARGG
Writer, Journalist,
Columnist

Global Catholic Congress Supports Call for Child Marriage Free World

Just Rights for Children, which launched the Child Marriage Free World campaign, is working to end child marriage globally, including in India
The Global Catholic Congress Summit witnessed the participation of prominent leaders from 44 countries
The Congress's support comes ahead of November 27, the International Day for the Elimination of Child, Early and Forced Marriage

NEW DELHI:

The Global Catholic Congress, comprising prominent leaders from 44 countries, has extended its support to a call for Child Marriage Free World (CMFW). Just Rights for Children, a civil society network working for child protection, had launched the campaign for CMFW aiming to end the practice by 2030. Just Rights for Children is working to end child marriage globally through its CMFW initiative. The organisation, which is the largest civil society network in India, is working in 782 districts with the help of over 300 NGO partners for the protection of children.



The summit held in Italy's Rome brought together senior Catholic clergy, archbishops, bishops and other leaders from India, the United States, Canada, Africa, Australia, Singapore, the Middle East and Europe among others. The representatives also took a pledge to fight child marriage in their communities. Their support underscored the role faith leaders play in guiding community members and challenging harmful practices prevalent in society.

Global Catholic Congress works to protect the civil and fundamental rights of the Catholic community on religious, social, cultural, educational and economic aspects.

Rajeev Kochuparambil, President of the Global Catholic Congress, said, "Every child deserves a childhood filled with dignity, education, safety and hope. Ending child marriage is a collective moral responsibility that calls upon families, communities and faith institutions to stand together. The support of members of the Global Catholic Congress from 44 countries reflects our shared commitment to protecting children and building a world where no child is deprived of their childhood through marriage. We must turn this commitment into meaningful action and work together towards a Child Marriage Free World by 2030."

This is the first time the world will observe November 27 as the International Day for the Elimination of Child, Early and Forced Marriage. The United Nations General Assembly had adopted a resolution to this end in September. November 27 is also the anniversary of the Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat campaign which was launched by the Indian government in 2024.

Bhuwan Ribhu, founder of Just Rights for Children, welcomed the support, saying, "We warmly welcome the Global Catholic Congress's support for our Child Marriage Free World campaign. Faith leaders are powerful voices of conscience who can play a decisive role in preventing child marriage. Their collective commitment sends a clear message that no tradition or custom can justify violating a child's rights. When faith stands with justice and the protection of children, child marriage can end in one day. This solidarity is a vital step towards ensuring every child can learn, grow and realise their full potential"

Prominent leaders at the gathering included Global Catholic Congress vice-president and general convenor Middle East Benny Pulikkakara, general secretary Dr Josekutty J Ozhukayil, former Global Catholic Congress President Biju Parayanilayam, Kerala minister Adv Mons Joseph, Kerala government Chief Whip Apu John Joseph, Global vice-president Joby George, and Delhi president Adv Dr K C George, municipal counsellor Rome Dr Teresa Lis Sebastian and chevaliar Prof K M Francis

Among the spiritual leaders in attendance were His Beatitude Major Archbishop Mar Raphel Thattil, Bishop Mar Remigious Inchananiyil, Arch Bishop Mar Andrews Thazhath, Archbishop Mar Tharayil, His Excellency Bishop Mar John Nellikunnel, Bishop Mar Joy Alappattu (US) Bishop Mar Jose Kalluvelil (Canada) Bishop Mar Tony Neelankavil and prominent Priest Fr Dr Philip Kaviyil, Fr George Kudilil (Media), Fr Sebastian Thoomulil, Fr Harshajan Pazhayattil, Fr John Puthuva, Fr Jolly Vadakkan Apostolic Visitor Gulf, Fr Michael Vettikattu, MD Deepika, and Fr Geo Kadavi.



Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini addressing the gathering at the state-level Maharishi Valmiki Jayanti programme in Chandigarh. 26/10/2026

CM Saini Says Valmiki's Ramayana Shows the Path to Righteous Living

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 26

Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that through the Ramayana, Maharishi Valmiki introduced the world to the ideals of Maryada Purushottam Lord Sri Ram. His composition is not merely an epic but a timeless guide that shows humanity the path to living a righteous life. The teachings of Maharishi Valmiki inspire us to cultivate patience, hard work, unwavering faith, compassion, education and social harmony. Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini was addressing the state-level birth anniversary celebration of Maharishi Valmiki, organised at Sant Kabir Kutir under the Sant Mahapurush Prachar-Prasar Yojana on Sunday. He paid floral tributes to the statue of Maharishi Valmiki, bowed in reverence and extended greetings and best wishes to the people of the state on the occasion of Prakash Parv. On the occasion, the Chief Minister also announced Rs. 31 lakh for the Valmiki hostel under construction in Hisar and said that he would visit the site soon for the foundation-laying ceremony.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that Maharishi Valmiki was a great saint who lit the lamp of knowledge in times of darkness. He provided shelter to Mata Sita at his ashram during a difficult period and also imparted quality education and values to her children. Education and values helped them develop a distinct identity. He said that the life of Maharishi Valmiki teaches us that no matter how difficult the circumstances may be, one should never lose patience.

Citing the example of Lord Sri Ram's life, the Chief Minister said that when Lord Ram was supposed to be crowned king, he was instead sent into exile. However, he remained patient, accepted the circumstances and moved forward. The Ramayana teaches us that any goal can be achieved through patience, hard work and unwavering faith.



South Coastal Railway cancels 61 trains in view of cyclone Arnab

VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT 26

South Coastal Railway has cancelled 61 trains in view of cyclone 'Arnab', which is likely to cross the Andhra Pradesh coast on October 28. South Coast Railway announced cancellation/short termination/short origination of several trains in the interest of passenger safety. Visakhapatnam-Kirandul and Kirandul-Visakhapatnam Night Express have been cancelled from October 29 to November 4. Visakhapatnam-Koraput Passenger will remain cancelled from October 27 to October 30, while the pairing train stands cancelled from October 28 to October 31. Visakhapatnam-Koraput and Koraput-Visakhapatnam Intercity Express are cancelled on October 30 and October 31, respectively. Visakhapatnam-Kirandul and Kirandul-Visakhapatnam Passenger are cancelled from October 27 to October 30. As many as 53 trains on various routes within Andhra Pradesh, which were scheduled to leave on October 27 and/or 28, have been cancelled. The cancelled trains include Rajahmundry-Vijayawada Junction, Machilipatnam-Vijayawada Junction, Machilipatnam-Gudivada Junction, Vijayawada Junction-Bhimavaram Junction, Bhimavaram Junction-Nidadavolu Junction, Vijayawada Junction-Narsapur, Narsapur-Rajahmundry and Kakinada Port-Rajahmundry.

Passengers have been requested to check the train-wise cancellation details, note their journey commencement dates and verify train status before proceeding to stations.

Meanwhile, the Andhra Pradesh state government has released Rs. 27 crore to 20 districts for relief operations in view of the cyclone threat.

Karnataka CM Shivakumar Vows to Take Up Sugarcane Farmers' Demands with Mills, Centre

BENGALURU, OCT 26

Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Monday said the government would consult sugar factory owners, sugarcane farmers and legislators before taking a decision on the demands of sugarcane growers, adding that several mills had not paid the additional Rs 250 per tonne promised to farmers despite pressure from the government. Addressing the media in Belagavi, Shivakumar said he had held discussions with legislators and officials and sought their opinions on the issue, which affects both north and south Karnataka.

"Many MLAs have arrived, and more will join. MLAs are representatives of the people



and voters. They have told me about the pressure they are facing, and I have asked them to share their views at the meeting. I have also sought the opinions of officers. This is an issue concerning the entire state, and many MLAs and officials have expressed their views," he said. The Chief Minister said the government would first hold discussions with sugar factory owners to understand their position before meeting farmers again.

"Protecting farmers is our duty. I have already met farmers during my visit to Kittur, where they explained their demands and grievances. After speaking to factory representatives, I will meet the farmers again. I will also consult our legislators before deciding on the next course of action," he said. Shivakumar said the government would also take the Centre into confidence, as several decisions related to the issue would require the Union government's involvement.4 "We will take the Centre into confidence. Many decisions have to be taken by them. The state government's share is only 10 per cent, while the Centre has 90 per cent of the responsibility. I have to speak to them as well. After completing these discussions, I will speak to the media," he said. Questioning whether all the demands being raised were practical, the Chief Minister said the state government had earlier pressured sugar factories to pay an additional Rs 250 per tonne to farmers, but it had information that several factories had not complied. "Our government had pressured factory owners to pay Rs 250 more per tonne to farmers. However, many of them have not paid the amount, and we have information about this. I will discuss their demands with them and explore what solutions can be worked out," he said.

Bengal CM Vows Fair Probe into Kolkata Pandal Fire

KOLKATA, OCT 26

West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Monday said that his government will not shield anyone responsible for the stampede at the Chorebagan Sarbojanin Durga Puja pandal in Kolkata, in which 19 people were killed. "This is the new West Bengal. The government will not shield anyone responsible for such incidents. We will not term any incident as a small incident or bring conspiracy theories," the Chief Minister said. The Chief Minister also sought advice to complete cultural events smoothly in the future and prevent a repeat of the Chorebagan incident. He promised to organise all the festivals smoothly in the future. The Chief Minister expressed grief over the Chorebagan incident while attending the Vijaya Sammilani programme at the Milan Mela premises on Monday. Taking a dig at the previous government, he said that this time no one had to go to the High Court to perform Durga puja. Suvendu Adhikari alleged that earlier, the microphone could not be played at a specific time and that immersion would not take place along a specific route. The Chief Minister, however, is reluctant to blame any community for this. He claimed that these incidents used to take place due to the failures of the previous government. "It is the responsibility of the government to protect the religion. People have understood this. Taking lessons from the Chorebagan incident, special precautionary measures are being taken during Chhath Puja, Jagaddhatri and Kartik Pujas. The puja committees and administration need to be alert in advance," he said.

Vigilance Awareness Week-2026 Inaugurated at BLW

General Manager Shri Ashutosh Pant Administers Integrity Pledge to Officers and Employees



Varanasi: In accordance with the directives of the Railway Board, Vigilance Awareness Week-2026 is being observed at Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW) from October 26 to November 1, 2026. In this connection, an oath-taking ceremony on the theme "Probity for Prosperity'' was organized at 11:00 AM on October 26 in the Swagati Hall of the Administrative Building.

During the ceremony, BLW General Manager Shri Ashutosh Pant administered the integrity pledge to officers and employees. All participants pledged to discharge their duties and responsibilities with honesty, impartiality and transparency, and to remain vigilant against corruption at all times. On the occasion, Chief Vigilance Officer Shri Ankur Chandra highlighted the significance of Vigilance Awareness Week and stated that it is observed during the week in which the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India, falls. This year's theme,'Probity for Prosperity" ', conveys the message of strengthening ethical values in society and at the workplace and fostering a corruption-free work culture.

The primary objective of Vigilance Awareness Week is to promote ethical conduct, honesty, transparency and accountability among officers and employees. Through this initiative, an appeal was made to accord the highest priority to integrity in organizational functioning and to strengthen public interest and institutional trust. The ceremony was attended by Principal Chief Electrical Engineer Shri Manish Kumar, Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer Shri Vivek Sheel, Principal Chief Materials Manager Shri Alok Agrawal, Principal Financial Adviser Shri Muktesh Mittal, Principal Chief Engineer Shri Ram Janam, Principal Chief Personnel Officer Shri Lalji Chaudhary, Principal Chief Medical Officer Dr. Sunil Kumar, Inspector General-cum-Principal Chief Security Commissioner Shri Devraj Kumar Maurya, Deputy General Manager Shri Sagar, Deputy Chief Vigilance Officer Shri Neeraj Singh, along with other senior officers and a large number of employees.

Five Killed, Several Injured in Guwahati Shooting

Guwahati, October 26: At least five people were killed and several others, including women, injured in a shooting near a hotel in Guwahati's Bora Service area on Monday. The firing reportedly took place at Hotel Bilas Inn, in a lane near a Kalyan Jewellers outlet. Guwahati Police Commissioner Partha Sarathi Mahanta visited the scene and said the bodies had been recovered and would be sent for post-mortem examinations. Police have launched an operation to identify and arrest those responsible. The injured were taken to Gauhati Medical College and Hospital for treatment. The identities of the deceased and the motive behind the shooting remain unclear. Meanwhile, the Assam Congress criticised the state's law-and-order situation, questioning public safety in Guwahati. The party expressed condolences to the victims' families and urged the government to take immediate action and ensure accountability.

Southern Railway observes Vigilance Awareness Week from 26th October to 1st November 2026

CHENNAI, OCTOBER 26

Shri T. Venkatasubramanian, former Chief Vigilance Officer of NLC Ltd & Coal India Ltd. graces inaugural function as Chief Guest.. SR General Manager calls upon employees to uphold 'Probity in every decision, integrity in every action and prosperity for the nation'
Integrity Bulletin 2026 and handbooks for field staff released

Southern Railway commenced the observance of Vigilance Awareness Week 2026 on Monday, 26th October 2026, with the aim of fostering integrity and transparency among employees, rail users, stakeholders and the general public. The week-long programme, from 26th October to 1st November 2026, is being observed with emphasis on the theme "Probity for Prosperity".



The inaugural ceremony at Southern Railway Headquarters in Chennai was graced by Shri T. Venkatasubramanian, Retired Principal Chief Mechanical Engineer, Southern Railway and former Chief Vigilance Officer of Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited and Coal India Limited, as the Chief Guest. Southern Railway General Manager Shri U. Subba Rao, Additional General Manager Shri Vipin Kumar, Senior Deputy General Manager and Chief Vigilance Officer Shri V. R. Lenin, Principal Heads of Departments, Divisional Railway Managers of the six divisions and Chief Workshop Managers participated in the event, with several joining through video conferencing. The General Manager administered the Integrity Pledge to all officers and staff of Southern Railway.

Shri U. Subba Rao, General Manager, highlighted that vigilance should not be viewed merely as a mechanism for detecting corruption or initiating disciplinary action. Its primary objective should be prevention through robust systems, simplified procedures, effective internal controls and greater transparency. He further emphasised that integrity is the collective responsibility of every officer and employee. He concluded by urging all employees to make "Probity in every decision, integrity in every action and prosperity for the nation" their guiding principle.

Chief Guest Shri T. Venkatasubramanian, in his keynote address, highlighted the following aspects:

- Emphasised leveraging technology to achieve organisational goals and improve efficiency.
- Highlighted e-hygiene as a key pillar of preventive vigilance and stressed the importance of training at all levels.
- Explained the benefits of e-Office in ensuring transparency and accountability.
- Shared practical insights on government contracts, tender publication and post-tender modifications.
- Cautioned that good drafting cannot cover logical inconsistencies and emphasised uniformity in official procedures.

Integrity Bulletin and Handbooks released

To mark the occasion, the Vigilance Department released the Integrity Bulletin 2026, featuring best practices and case studies. The following handbooks and guides were also released:

- Procedure for Handling Warranty Rejection
- Checklist for Civil Engineering Works
- System Improvements and Case Studies – Engineering Department

Throughout Vigilance Awareness Week, Southern Railway will conduct seminars, quiz competitions and outreach across all divisions and workshops. These initiatives will reinforce the message that vigilance is a continuous and collective responsibility.

Vigilance Awareness Week–2026 Inaugurated

Prayagraj, October 26, 2026: Vigilance Awareness Week–2026, being observed from October 26 to November 1, 2026, was inaugurated at the Central Organisation for Railway Electrification (CORE), Prayagraj. The programme commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by Shri Ashok Kumar Verma, General Manager/CORE, followed by the floral tribute to the portrait of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. On this occasion, all officers and employees of the organisation took the integrity pledge and reaffirmed their commitment to honesty, transparency and ethical values in the discharge of their official duties.

Dr. S. S. Negi, Chief Administrative Officer, Shri J. C. Chaurasia, Principal Chief Engineer, and several other senior officers were present during the oath-taking ceremony. The programme was conducted by Shri Saurabh Mishra, Deputy Chief Vigilance Officer. During Vigilance Awareness Week, the Vigilance Department/CORE will organise various awareness activities, including seminars, speech competitions, essay-writing competitions, quizzes and drawing competitions for the children of railway employees. These activities aim to promote awareness of integrity, ethics, transparency and the prevention of corruption among officers, employees and their families.

USS Colorado picked for AUKUS Australia rotation

WASHINGTON

The United States has designated USS Colorado as its first submarine for a planned rotational force in Western Australia beginning in late 2027, the three AUKUS partners announced on Monday.

The Virginia-class fast-attack submarine will be assigned to Submarine Rotational Force–West, which is projected to host up to four American submarines and one British submarine at HMAS Stirling, a Royal Australian Navy base.

The designation was announced in a joint statement by US Secretary of War Pete Hegseth, Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Richard Marles, and British Defence Secretary Wes Streeting. The announcement comes ahead of a US submarine maintenance period beginning later this week. The partners said that activity would further demonstrate Australia's growing ability to sustain American and British nuclear-powered fast-attack submarines.

Rubio to host G20 foreign ministers in Atlanta

WASHINGTON

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio will host foreign ministers of the G20 in Atlanta on October 30-31, with Washington putting threats to freedom of navigation, energy and food security and supply chains at the top of the agenda, the State Department said on Monday. The meeting will be the last major ministerial gathering of the grouping before President Donald Trump hosts the G20 Leaders' Summit in Miami in December. "Secretary of State Marco Rubio will travel to Atlanta, Georgia from October 30–31 to host the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting," the State Department said in a media note. "Under President Trump's leadership, the United States is returning the G20 to its core economic mission of driving growth, strengthening economic security, and delivering results for the American people," it said.

Bangladesh measles outbreak claims six more lives, death toll reaches 1,233

DHAKA



As Bangladesh grapples with an unprecedented measles outbreak, six more children died from symptoms of the disease on Monday, pushing the death toll to 1,233 this year, local media reported. According to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), the deaths were reported in the 24 hours leading up to Monday morning.

The latest six fatalities from the disease were identified as suspected, Bangladeshi media outlet UNB reported.

Reports suggest that while the number of confirmed deaths remained at 104, the total number of suspected deaths climbed to 1,129. The DGHS recorded a total of 1,388 new suspected measles cases during the 24-hour period, bringing the overall tally of suspected cases to 222,552

Additionally, 78 new confirmed cases were reported, increasing the total to 23,478 during the same period.

Speaking to The Sunday Guardian earlier this month, former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said that the measles "epidemic" was the result of "state negligence" and the collapse of decades-old immunisation system.

Hasina accused the former Muhammad Yunus-led interim administration of disrupting vaccine procurement through its political and administrative decisions, leading to a considerable immunisation gap.

She alleged that Bangladesh's measles-rubella vaccine stocks were exhausted in March 2026, followed by a sharp decline in vaccination coverage. She also claimed that the authorities failed to launch a supplementary vaccination campaign at the scheduled time. Hasina further criticised Prime Minister Tarique Rahman-led BNP government, alleging that the authorities failed to take adequate action after the severity of the outbreak became evident

"More than one thousand children dying from a preventable disease is not an ordinary administrative failure," she added. The former Prime Minister called for uninterrupted vaccine supplies, targeted immunisation campaigns for vulnerable communities, real-time disease monitoring, expanded paediatric healthcare facilities and an independent probe into the alleged procurement and vaccination failures.

Despite Bangladesh reinstating vaccine procurement through UNICEF in April, followed by an emergency vaccination drive, the epidemic is unlikely to be quickly contained given the speed of transmission, said Be-nazir Ahmed, former director of disease control at DGHS earlier this month, Bangladesh's leading newspaper 'The Daily Star' reported. Last month, public health experts linked the resurgence to gaps in previous vaccination coverage and shortcomings in hospital and patient management, including delays in detecting infected children and isolating them at home.

Speaking to 'The Daily Star', public health expert Mushtuq Husain said children generally need three to four weeks after vaccination to develop sufficient immunity. "Therefore, the current wave of infections, hospitalisations and deaths may continue for at least another month," he added.

UN chief sees opportunity for understandings on Hormuz navigation, Iran nuclear issue

CAIRO



UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said here on Monday that there was an opportunity to reach understandings to help ensure freedom of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz and resolve issues related to Iran's nuclear program through peaceful means.

Guterres made the remarks during a meeting with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi in Cairo, where they discussed escalating tensions in the Gulf, the Palestinian issue and reform of the United Nations, according to a statement from the Egyptian presidency.

A lasting and sustainable peace in the region cannot be achieved without a just settlement of the Palestinian cause, Guterres said, stressing that it will remain the central issue in the Middle East until a final resolution is reached, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Expressing deep concern over developments in the West Bank, he called for measures to halt violations against Palestinians and urged the international community to fulfil its responsibilities to protect Palestinians in both Gaza and the West Bank.

Both sides affirmed the need to move forward with reforming the United Nations system, including the Security Council, in a manner that enhances its representation and fairness and strengthens its ability to respond effectively to contemporary international challenges and crises.

Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi on Sunday reiterated that the administration of the Strait of Hormuz and routes in the waterway will not be the same as they were in the past, according to the official news agency IRNA. Araghchi made the remarks at a ceremony in the Iranian capital Tehran, while stressing that "fundamental and strategic" changes have taken place in West Asia following the US-Israeli war against Iran.

"We must accept that new realities have taken hold. The routes in the Strait of Hormuz will not be the same as they once were, and the strait's management will also not be as it was in the past," he said. "There are matters on which we have held negotiations, and these negotiations will continue."

The minister stressed that the region's security must be ensured by regional countries and without reliance on foreign forces, "who have come to the region aiming to safeguard their own interests and protect Israel, and whose continued presence will lead to nothing but insecurity for the entire region."

He added that Iran was ready to cooperate with all regional countries.

Concluded most discussions, now fine-tuning India-US trade pact: Piyush Goyal

NEW DELHI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Monday that India and the US have sorted out most of the issues in their proposed bilateral trade pact and are now giving the finishing touches to the agreement that has to be signed. "We have concluded most of the discussions on the India-US trade deal. Now we are fine-tuning the agreement," Goyal said while speaking at the India-Netherlands Business Forum in The Hague. He also said India is holding trade negotiations with eight other countries.

The minister's remarks come close on the heels of President Donald Trump telling reporters in the White House that the US and India were "pretty close" to making a trade deal. "We're going to make a deal...It's going to be a much different kind of deal than we've done," Trump said.

Similarly, the US Ambassador to India, Sergio Gor, sounded a positive note, saying major issues involved in the talks had been addressed and the two countries were close to finalising an agreement.

Goyal has stated earlier that India has stated in the trade talks with the US that the final agreement must give its exporters a competitive advantage over rivals in other countries.

Meanwhile, Goyal also met with Members of Parliament from the Netherlands to discuss new opportunities for advancing India-Netherlands relations. "Discussed the potential of the India-EU FTA to boost market access, diversify supply chains, and unlock fresh investment opportunities," he said in a post on X.

The minister further stated that he also emphasised the importance of collaboration in advanced manufacturing, renewable energy and innovation to build a resilient, future-oriented economic partnership in his talks with the Dutch leaders. Goyal is on an official visit to Germany and the Netherlands from October 22–27 to deepen India's strategic economic partnerships,

expand bilateral trade and advance industrial and technological collaboration with the two countries. During the Berlin leg of the visit from October 22–24, he participated in the Berlin Global Dialogue.



Infantry is the Back Bone of Indian Army

(On the occasion of "Indian Infantry Day" on 27 October)

The infantry is the first combat arm in any army. The Indian army traced their origin to the British East India Company, where Indians were employed to protect their trading stations. They maintained three armies, namely Bengal army, Madras Army, and Bombay army initially. These infantrymen served in the two world wars with distinction. Each Regiment consists of more than one infantry battalion, and each battalion is headed by the officer of the rank of Colonel.

The battalion is further divided into five companies, each company is commanded by an officer of the rank of a Major or a Captain. A company will have three platoons, which in turn have three sections. An infantry battalion usually has a strength of 15 - 20 officers and 650 to 800 other ranks. Infantry is divided into two main categories; light infantry and heavy infantry. The light infantry is mobile and agile where as heavy infantry is designed to be heavily armed and armoured. Both are now essential to the success of modern military operations. Infantry is one among four major combat arms of Indian Army, other three being Armoured Corps, Mechanised Infantry, and Artillery.

Indian Infantry Day:

Infantry is the largest fighting arm of the Indian Army, celebrating "Infantry Day" on 27 October annually. This day aims to acknowledge the contributions of infantry in protecting the country against all odds by neighbouring countries. This day in commemorated to honour the brave soldiers of the infantry who fought and laid their lives during the Indo-Pak War in 1947. The operation was started on 27 October 1947 to protect the people of Kashmir from the Pakistani invaders after Maharaja Hari Singh of Kashmir had signed the instrument of Accession of Kashmir to India. The Indian Air Force carried out the task of flying the troops of 1st Sikh Regiment into Srinagar on this day in 1947. Indian Army is celebrating it as the 79th Infantry Day by paying tributes to the brave hearts who sacrificed their lives while protecting the country's borders.

The largest fighting arm of Indian Army is the Infantry, is the back bone of the Indian Army. The infantry soldiers are physically fit, aggressive, well trained, and disciplined men in uniform. The infantry units are modernised, equipped and trained to make the Indian Army among the best in the world.

-Capt Dr Burra Madhusudhan Reddy
9949700037.

Egyptian parliament authorises Sisi to take measures to support Saudi Arabia

CAIRO

Egypt's parliament on Monday approved authorising President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi to take measures to support Saudi Arabia, according to a statement by the parliament's general secretariat.

The parliament approved the authorisation by a two-thirds majority during a plenary session, the statement said.

The authorisation allows the president to take necessary measures to support and defend Saudi Arabia, its sovereignty and its holy sites against any external attacks, in accordance with a decision adopted by Egypt's National Defence Council on October 18, the statement added. On October 17, Sisi said Egypt was prepared to take "any measures" requested by Saudi Arabia to defend the kingdom's security and sovereignty, but stressed that such action "requires parliamentary approval."

He called for an emergency parliamentary session to authorise intervention if requested, while stressing that he was speaking "strictly in terms of defence" rather than waging war. Later on, Egypt's official MENA news agency reported that Egypt's parliament postponed a vote on authorising the military to defend Saudi Arabia until October 26.

Pakistan: Imposition of emergency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa exposes administrative failure

ISLAMABAD

Pakistan government's imposition of emergency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province has showcased administrative failure, weakened provincial autonomy and the military's increased intervention, a report has detailed. The decision to impose an emergency in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa is not only about security concerns, it detailed.

"The civil-military hybrid government may have quelled the potential political trouble for it, but it has given rise to several problems, concerns, and doubts — all being detrimental to Pakistan's democracy and stability.

The political opposition over the prolonged imprisonment of former Prime Minister Imran Khan could have been handled properly," a report in leading Sri Lankan media outlet 'Daily Mirror' stated.

"But the use of the emergency has exposed the administrative failure, weakened provincial autonomy and increased intervention by the military. It would be very difficult for the Islamabad government to convince its people and the international community of the genuineness of the security crisis and to justify the removal of a politically inconvenient but elected government," it added.

Pakistan government's decision removed the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)-led provincial government. Notably, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa has continuously witnessed militant violence.

However, the Pakistan government has failed to provide evidence of the threats posed by alleged collusion between the Imran Khan-founded party and militants. Pakistan federal government's decision came as PTI supporters were holding a long march to Islamabad demanding the release of Imran Khan and restoration of constitutional supremacy.

THE VILLAGE THAT LIVES IN OUR HEARTS

Pochamma,a pillar of the village who assisted,If someone fell ill due to the bad elements or disease, be it the evil sight,the wind or dust.She would treat them using good age-old, traditional remedies passed down through generations. It was a matter of faith; in those days, faith was both a means of livelihood and the very thread that held life together. That is how things were back then. Near the village Office the meeting spot, the elders would sit together, chatting idly and sharing stories of pastime that brought a sense of ease and comfort. In those days, the entire village lived happily, free from burdens or sufferings.Lakshmaiah is the village elder;a man who holds no official authority, yet is a truly noble soul who is always the first to step forward whenever anyone is in need or facing a crisis.

"Grandma! Where are my brothers? Where is my sister? Where have they gone? I don't see them anywhere!" asked Anjaiah, her young grandson, pressing her for an answer. Ramakka, his grandmother, brought him a plate of food. "Eat, my child, eat," she said, affectionately stroking gently his hair with her fingers. The entire village was immersed in the festive spirit, filled with song and dance. A special highlight of this floral festival is from the day of 'Engili Pula' the beginning day to 'Saddula Bathukamma' the grand finale, that's seen in groups of women and girls gather together, singing songs as they encircled around the Bathukamma is the pleasure point. And beautifully arranged with floral stacks is its specialty.

"What's the matter, Narsakka? Haven't the children arrived yet for the festival?" asked Rambai, the neighbor. "Not yet, dear! My son says he's tied up with work. Even though the children have holidays, he claims he's stuckup,who knows what kind of work or what city he's in!" Narsakka replied. "That's the beauty of these ties and relationships and it brings joy to those who witness them and happiness to those who speak of them. That's just how life in the village is," remarked Kashaiah, the village elder, as he walked through the marketplace, his words were revealing the very heart of the village.

A lively bustle took over every household. Throughout the village, people lay on cots placed in their front courtyards, breathing in the fresh breeze, gazing up at the stars as if conversing with them, and reminiscing about days gone by. That, indeed, is the true joy of village life. It's stark contrast to the memories of the city from which those, visiting the festival.

For nine days, the village women were immersed in non-stop, joyful festivities;their conversations and daydreams stirring the very depths of the heart. As everyone reminisced about the times when their mothers and grandmothers were still with them, the full gaze of essence of what had been lost rose vividly before our eyes.

One woman tried to hide the stinging tears welling up in her eyes by shielding them with the edge of her sari. By then, that void, that profound ache,had surged within everyone's heart, flowing like the river Godavari. Grandpa! Did Grandma ever tease you?" asked their granddaughter, Alekhya, with a mix of laughter and a hint of trepidation. "Oh, my! Your grandpa can hold anyone captive with just a glance, yet he puts on an air of complete innocence—like a pure, guileless soul! You should have seen his playful side back in his younger days. But then again, that old spark never really fades, does it? We're just a couple of old folks now, tucked away in a corner yet as long as we're still around, we get to enjoy all your sweet, endearing ways!" Grandma remarked, her words flowing with the ease of a seasoned storyteller. That's the essence of it as the love, the bonds, and the friendshipsu found within the stories of a village.

With the Saddula Bathukamma festivities concluded, Dasara dawned at the doorstep. As the time drew near for their home and village to empty out once again, Balakrishna and his children felt a growing sense of unease. Though they were loath to return to the stifling heat, the dark, cramped rooms, and the narrow, congested alleys,such is the relentless, cyclical nature of life but for they had no other choice. It was as if the children's education were calling out for them to return, a silent, persistent summons that weighed heavily on Balakrishna's mind.

"How wonderful the atmosphere of this village is, and how precious the bonds with the people and kin here, all of which I left behind," thought Balakrishna. "If only spring could bloom within me once again! Here, in the lap of this soil, I could find the same serene rest as I once did in the embrace of my mother's heart." Though he knew it might not come to pass, the profound sentiment that born from the love of his village and the blessings of his mother, took a powerful hold on him, stirring his very soul.

And so, Balakrishna headed back to his village. Though he held a job in the city, he chose to return to the land be a mission of practicing integrated, cooperative farming that benefited the entire community. The fruits of this labor were shared equally by everyone in the village. The warmth of the people and the deep-rooted affection for the village blossomed once again, much like fresh green leaves and ripening fruit appearing on a tree. The entire village celebrated this as a 'festive gift' (panduga inam). The joy felt at the return of a free, unburdened life, back to the village, knew no bounds; it soared beyond the very skies ,My dear friend!

If every village were to think this way by reclaiming the innocence of childhood and revitalizing the collective life of the community, our rural areas would once again shine with great vitality, becoming, as they once were, the backbone of the nation! That, indeed, would be the greatest gift of the festival. "Come, let us also head in that direction," my heart whispered.



— Dr. T. Radha krishnamacharyulu
9849305871

Hyundai expects 2.5 lakh mid-size SUV sales in 2027

NEW DELHI, OCT 26

Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Hyundai Motor India Ltd (HMIL) Tarun Garg said on Monday that the company is expecting sales of at least 2.5 lakh units of mid-size sport utility vehicles (SUVs) in 2027. He made the forecast considering the rapid growth of the segment for the past several years and the ability of Creta and the newly launched Bayon to attract diverse buyers. Bayon's deliveries are expected to begin during the ongoing festival season, and Garg said the aforementioned target was a baseline rather than a ceiling. Garg forecasted that the company will sell around 1.7 lakh units of the Creta in 2026. "The mid-SUV segment today is 16.5 per cent of the market already," he noted. The mid-size SUV segment in India has grown at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 25.6 per cent over the past five years and is projected to record 64 per cent volume growth between calendar years 2026 and 2032.

Sensex rises 483 points, Nifty above 22,750 as IT, metals lead rebound

markets recovered on Monday after a weak start, with the Sensex rising nearly 483 points and the Nifty closing above 22,750, supported by buying in metal, IT and other heavyweight stocks. However, elevated crude oil prices, a weak rupee and continued geopolitical uncertainty kept investors cautious.



The BSE Sensex rose 482.92 points, or 0.66%, to close at 73,606.75. The index had opened at 72,990.04 and slipped to an intraday low of 72,514.57 before recovering to its day's high at the close.

The NSE Nifty 50 gained 153.20 points, or 0.68%, to settle at 22,753.20. The index also recovered from its intraday low of 22,387.35 to close at the day's high.

METAL, IT AND PHARMA STOCKS SUPPORT MARKETS

Buying in metal stocks helped lift the benchmarks, with the Nifty Metal index rising 2.21%. The Nifty Pharma index gained 1.76%, while the Nifty IT index advanced 0.87%. Among Sensex stocks, Adani Ports was the top gainer, rising 2.72%. Eternal gained 2.56%, while Tata Steel rose 1.52%. Bharti Airtel added 1.43%, and ITC advanced 1.24%. Reliance Industries gained 1.01%, while Infosys rose 0.91%. On the other hand, Bajaj Finance fell 0.76%, HDFC Bank declined 0.56%, and HCL Technologies lost 0.42%. Power Grid and Maruti Suzuki also ended lower.

BROADER MARKETS RECOVER

The recovery extended to the broader market, where the Nifty 100 rose 0.73%, the Nifty 200 gained 0.82% and the Nifty 500 advanced 0.85%. Midcap and smallcap stocks also rebounded after the sharp correction in the previous sessions. The Nifty Midcap 50 rose 1.25%, the Nifty Midcap 100 gained 1.19%, and the Nifty Smallcap 100 advanced 1.38%. Sectorally, the Nifty MidSmall IT and Telecom index gained 2.34%, while the Nifty MidSmall Healthcare index rose 2.19%. The Nifty Chemicals index added 0.11%. Consumer durables was among the few weak pockets, declining 0.21%, while the Nifty Media index slipped 0.34%. India VIX, which measures expected market volatility, rose 1.73% to 17.15, indicating that uncertainty remained elevated despite the rebound.

CRUDE OIL AND RUPEE REMAIN IN FOCUS

Crude oil prices eased on Monday but remained elevated amid continuing tensions in the Middle East. Brent crude futures fell 1.40% to $115.09 per barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate crude declined 1.85% to $101.36. The rupee also remained under pressure, falling 0.3% against the US dollar to 95.1850 as importers increased dollar purchases. Elevated oil prices and foreign fund outflows added to the pressure on the domestic currency.

High crude prices remain a concern for India because they can raise the import bill, fuel inflation and put pressure on corporate margins.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Investments Limited, said Indian equities recovered from early losses, supported by value buying and strength in metals, power and healthcare stocks. However, elevated crude prices, geopolitical uncertainty and caution ahead of policy decisions by the US Federal Reserve, European Central Bank and Bank of Japan continued to limit investor confidence.

"Mid- and small-caps also witnessed some recovery after last week's sharp correction, although investors remained selective, favouring earnings visibility and valuation comfort," Nair said. He added that early quarterly results indicated a commodity-led earnings boost in power generation, metals and refining, but warned that high energy costs and interest rates could moderate overall corporate growth in the coming quarters.

Investors will track crude oil prices, geopolitical developments and upcoming central bank decisions for further direction. The market's ability to sustain the recovery will also depend on quarterly earnings, foreign investor flows and whether buying in beaten-down midcap and smallcap stocks continues.



Curb Corruption and Irregularities with the Support of Vigilance

Director (Projects & Planning) Sri.K. Venkateswarlu

SINGARENI BHAVAN, OCTOBER 26, 2026

SCCL Director (Projects & Planning) Sri.K. Venkateswarlu said that employees should perform their duties with integrity and honesty and report irregularities they observe in the system with the support of the Vigilance Department. Such action, he said, would help build a corruption-free society. Vigilance Awareness Week was inaugurated on Monday at Singareni Bhavan in Hyderabad. Speaking at the programme, Sri. Venkateswarlu said that misconceptions about vigilance still persist among some people, and the week is being observed to address them. He commended SCCL's employees and staff for their commitment and honest work, which helped the Company overcome financial difficulties. He said SCCL ranks among the country's most transparent public sector organisations and urged employees to work together to uphold the Company's good reputation. He also said vigilance activities should be recognised as an integral part of the governance system, adding that honest employees need not fear. Director (E&M) Sri.M. Tirumala Rao, Executive Director (STPP) Sri.Chiranjeevi, General Manager (Personnel & Welfare) Sri. Ajay Kumar, General Manager (Power Projects) Sri. Guruprasad, and officers, employees and staff from various departments attended the programme.

Govt may review LTCG tax on equities in coming weeks

At present, long-term capital gains on the sale of listed equities are taxed at 12.5%, without indexation benefits. The tax applies to gains exceeding Rs 1.25 lakh in a financial year.



On October 13, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said the government was keen to hear views on the removal of LTCG tax.

The government may review the long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax on equities in the coming weeks, ahead of the Union Budget, Moneycontrol reported, quoting sources familiar with the discussions. The move could affect both foreign and domestic investors, as the Centre examines ways to make Indian equities more attractive. According to the report, the government is considering changes to the existing LTCG tax structure, including a review of the tax rate in comparison with those in major economies.

WHAT IS THE CURRENT LTCG TAX ON EQUITIES?

At present, long-term capital gains on the sale of listed equities are taxed at 12.5%, without indexation benefits. The tax applies to gains exceeding Rs 1.25 lakh in a financial year. For unlisted shares, the Rs 1.25 lakh exemption limit does not apply, according to the report.

Indexation allows investors to adjust an asset's purchase price for inflation over time, reducing the gains on which tax is calculated. The current equity LTCG framework does not provide this benefit.

WHY IS THE GOVERNMENT CONSIDERING A REVIEW?

The Centre has held several meetings with industry representatives, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), banks and other stakeholders to discuss the LTCG framework and its impact on capital outflows, according to the report. A government official said that a decision on restructuring the tax could be taken soon, the report cited. A senior banking official familiar with the discussions said there was recognition within the government that the tax structure needed to be reviewed to improve the competitiveness of Indian equities and make them more attractive to foreign investors. The government is examining the proposals, including those related to LTCG, the report mentioned. The review comes amid significant foreign portfolio investor (FPI) outflows from Indian equities. According to data from Central Depository Services Ltd (CDSL), cumulative FPI outflows from equities reached Rs 3.1 lakh crore in 2026 so far. This is substantially higher than the Rs 1.7 lakh crore withdrawn during the whole of 2025, the report mentioned. The government is examining whether changes to the tax framework could help make Indian equities more competitive for foreign investors.

AI giant Anthropic files for IPO, plans Nasdaq listing under 'ANT' ticker

Anthropic's IPO filing points to growing demand for its AI services among large businesses

Anthropic, the company behind Claude AI, has filed for an initial public offering (IPO) in the US, outlining its growth plans as it looks to expand its artificial intelligence business. The filing comes at a time when market volatility has led several companies to delay their planned stock market listings.



Anthropic's shares are expected to trade on the Nasdaq under the ticker symbol 'ANT.' However, the filing did not disclose key details of the offering, including the number of shares to be sold or the proposed price range. The prospectus highlights Anthropic's rapid growth over the past year, supported by heavy spending on artificial intelligence by major technology companies. However, it also points to the costs and challenges involved in developing AI systems that could transform the global economy. Anthropic's IPO filing points to growing demand for its AI services among large businesses. The company's growth comes amid significant investment in AI by major technology firms. This spending has helped drive a rally in AI stocks, while also raising concerns about high valuations and rising debt.

ANTHROPIC OUTLINES FIVE CLASSES OF SHARES

The filing details a share structure comprising five classes of common stock: Class A, Class F, Class E, Class T and Class N, reported The Economic Times. Each Class A share carries one vote, while Class N shares have no voting rights. According to the filing, holders of Class N shares are primarily strategic business partners. Class F shares carry 50.1% of the company's total voting power, giving this class a significant role in its voting structure. The filing also names Long-Term Benefit Trust and Founder LLC among shareholders holding more than 5% of the company.

MAJOR INVESTMENT BANKS NAMED AS IPO UNDERWRITERS

Anthropic has appointed several major financial institutions to underwrite its IPO. Goldman Sachs & Co. LLC, Morgan Stanley & Co. LLC, JPMorgan Securities LLC and Citigroup are among the underwriters. Barclays Capital Inc., Wells Fargo Securities LLC, BofA Securities Inc. and Deutsche Bank Securities Inc. are also part of the group. The filing comes as companies weigh their IPO plans against market volatility and investor concerns over valuations. Anthropic is pressing ahead with its listing plans while setting out both its ambitions for AI development and the financial challenges involved in building the technology.

Apple unveils all-new iPad mini with OLED display, A20 Pro chip and AI-powered features

NEW DELHI, OCT 26



Apple on Monday introduced the next-generation iPad mini, featuring a redesigned thinner and lighter form factor, a larger OLED display, the new A20 Pro processor, and enhanced artificial intelligence capabilities powered by iPadOS 27. The new iPad mini comes with an 8.5-inch OLED display, larger than its predecessor while maintaining a similar overall footprint due to significantly slimmer bezels. Apple said the Super Retina XDR display offers more than twice the peak brightness of the previous-generation model, deeper blacks, a 2,000,000:1 contrast ratio, and support for the P3 wide colour gamut. The tablet is also available with an optional nano-texture display designed to reduce glare in bright environments. At just 5.4 mm thick, the latest iPad mini is Apple's thinnest mini tablet yet. It is available in midnight and starlight finishes and carries an IP67 rating for water and dust resistance, making it suitable for outdoor and on-the-go use. Powering the device is Apple's new A20 Pro chip, built using a 2-nanometre process. The company claims the processor delivers up to 60 per cent faster multithreaded CPU performance, up to 2.7 times faster graphics performance, and up to 4.5 times faster AI processing compared with the previous generation.

The chip features a 7-core GPU with Neural Accelerators integrated into each GPU core, while the top-end 512GB variant includes a Dual 16-core Neural Engine for advanced on-device AI workloads.

Apple has also enhanced the device's multimedia capabilities with an Acoustic Display system that integrates specially designed woofers and tweeters into the display structure to deliver improved audio quality, higher volume levels, and stronger bass response.

On the camera front, the iPad mini now features a 12MP Center Stage front camera positioned on the landscape edge for video calls and online meetings.

The rear houses a 12MP Wide camera with Smart HDR 4, support for 4K video recording at up to 60 fps, and an Adaptive True Tone flash aimed at improving photography and document scanning. Connectivity has also received a major upgrade. The tablet is equipped with Apple's new N1 wireless networking chip, enabling support for Wi-Fi 7, Bluetooth 6, and Thread technology. Cellular variants feature Apple's next-generation C2 modem, which the company says delivers up to 50 per cent faster cellular data speeds while improving power efficiency. The new iPad mini runs iPadOS 27 and introduces the latest version of Apple Intelligence and Siri AI. Apple said Siri AI can understand personal context, analyse on-screen content, assist users across messages, emails and photos, and answer questions across a broad range of topics. The software also includes upgraded AI-powered photo editing tools, a new Image Playground app, and Safari's Notify Me feature for tracking changes on websites.

Nearly 43 pc of Indian two-wheeler buyers now consider EVs: Report

NEW DELHI, OCT 26

Nearly 43 per cent of Indian two-wheeler buyers are actively considering an electric vehicle, up from 30 per cent in 2024, with nearly one in four scooters sold in the country now being electric, a report said on Monday. The report from Boston Consulting Group (BCG) said about 1.8 lakh Indians are buying their first electric two-wheeler each month. Electric two-wheelers accounted for 9.9 per cent of all two-wheeler sales in FY27 so far, covering April-August 2026, up from 5.5 per cent in FY24. EV penetration among scooters jumped to 24.1 per cent from 16.8 per cent over the same period. Electric scooters have grown at 54 per cent CAGR between FY22 and FY26, more than three times faster than petrol scooters. Consumer resistance to electric two-wheelers is also easing, with outright rejection falling to 29 per cent from 38 per cent in 2024.

REC records strong AUM growth of Rs 26,537 Crore in Q2 FY27

LED BY GRowth in renewable portfolio of Rs 8,064 Crore and Growth in networth of 14% on yoy basis.. PAT RECORDED AT Rs 7,540 CRORE

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 26, 2026

The Board of Directors of REC Limited, today approved the standalone and consolidated financial results for the quarter and half year ended September 30, 2026.

KEY HIGLIGHTS

- GROWTH IN AUM BY 26,537 CRORE, LOAN BOOK AT 6.17 LAKH CRORE ON 30.09.2026
- ONE OF THE largest Renewable ENERGY Portfolio at ₹ 86,660 CRORE; GROWN BY 27% ON YoY BASIS
- Highest Disbursement (among peers) IN POWER SECTOR of ₹53,541 crores in Q2 FY27
- Highest Disbursement (among peers) IN POWER SECTOR of ₹79,207 crores in h1 FY27
- Growth in networth of 14% on yoy basis
- FIRST ISSUER OF SEBI/ RBI Pilot project Tokenised bond

Robust sequential Growth in Loan Book: Q2 FY27 vs Q1 FY27

India's peak power demand scaled new peak in FY27, demonstrating the robustness of the power sector and its ability to meet new emerging challenges in a cohesive and positive manner. The strong power offtake coupled with REC's relentless focus on technology-driven credit assessment & customer-centric solutions, resulted in strong AUM growth. The Loan Book of REC increased by 5% sequentially during the quarter reaching ₹6.17 lakh crore as of September 30, 2026, reiterating the fact that REC remains the largest standalone financier in the power sector. With Ministry of Power's continued & targeted efforts, the financial health of power utilities continued to improve, reflecting in lower sectoral credit risk premiums. REC has been adequately passing on these benefits to the sector in line with market and still maintained a healthy NIM of 3.22% during H1 FY27. With strong operational and financial performance, REC recorded a profit after tax of ₹ 7,541 crores during the half year ended September 30, 2026, translating into an annualised EPS of ₹57.27. Backed by sustained profitability, the Company's capital base further strengthened with Net Worth increasing by 14% year-on-year to ₹94,325 crore. Continuing Company's consistent dividend payout tradition, the Board of Directors has declared the Second Interim Dividend of ₹3.50 per equity share (face value ₹10 each) for FY 2026-27. REC continues to maintain pristine asset quality and resolved a Stage III asset of ₹4.16 crore during the quarter, resulting in net NPA reaching 0.11% as of September 30, 2026. The Stage-II loan assets also reduced by 80% to ₹3,235 crore as on 30.09.2026 as compared to last year, driven by focused recovery efforts and effective monitoring.

REC continued to expand its presence in strategic growth sectors. The renewable energy portfolio grew to ₹86,660 crore with YoY growth of 27%, reflecting Company's commitment towards India's clean energy transition. The portfolio of newly entered non-power infrastructure and logistics sector has increased to ₹61,637 crore, representing over 10% of the overall loan assets, underscoring REC's position as one-stop solution for all financing needs across the infrastructure sector universe. REC maintained a strong capital position, with a CRAR of 24.04% and CET 1 capital of 20.91% as on September 30, 2026, well above RBI-mandated minimum of 15% and 9% respectively, providing ample capacity to support future business growth.

During the quarter, REC was honored with the Data Center Champion Award 2026 and Silver Awards for Best Corporate Bond Issuer and Best PSU Issuer, highlighting its excellence in infrastructure financing and debt capital markets. Company also successfully issued India's first Pilot Issue on Tokenised Corporate Bonds Under SEBI Regulated Sandbox Framework with issue size of ₹500 crore. Demonstrating deep investor confidence and enthusiasm for cutting edge market innovations, the issue received an overwhelming market response from investors, clocking a book building of ₹796 crore. With a diversified presence across power, renewable energy, infrastructure, and logistics, REC is well-positioned to capitalize on emerging growth opportunities. The Company continues to play a pivotal role in advancing India's infrastructure transformation while supporting key policy initiatives and fostering long-term value creation.

Tata Consumer Q2 profit rises to Rs 470 cr, revenue up 14 pc led by India business

NEW DELHI: (Oct 26) Tata Consumer Products Ltd (TCPL) on Monday reported a 15.65 per cent year-on-year increase in consolidated net profit to Rs 470.14 crore in the September quarter, led by volume growth in domestic business, improved margins, price increases and effective input cost management.

The company had posted a net profit of Rs 406.51 crore in the July-September period a year ago, the Tata Group's FMCG arm said in a regulatory filing.

Its revenue from operations rose by 14 per cent to Rs 5,661.13 crore in the second quarter of FY27, compared to Rs 4,965.9 crore in the year-ago period.



November Getaways

Nine Incredible Places to Explore in India

November is one of the most rewarding months to explore India, as pleasant weather in many regions creates favourable conditions for sightseeing, outdoor adventures and cultural experiences. With the southwest monsoon having largely withdrawn, many destinations become more accessible, while the intense summer heat has eased across much of the country. Although temperatures and rainfall vary by region, November generally offers a comfortable window for travellers seeking a memorable holiday. India's geographical and cultural diversity makes it possible to plan very different kinds of journeys during this month. History enthusiasts can explore magnificent forts and ancient temples, nature lovers can venture into national parks and mountain landscapes, and beachgoers can enjoy the return of the tourist season along the coast. Spiritual destinations offer opportunities for reflection, while adventure hubs attract those seeking trekking, rafting and outdoor activities.

November also brings a lively atmosphere to several wbecome busy, regional food traditions take centre stage and local cultural experiences provide insights into India's varied lifestyles. However, the month also signals the beginning of the peak tourist season in many destinations, making advance planning advisable. From Rajasthan's royal cities to Kerala's peaceful waterways, these nine destinations offer memorable experiences for different kinds of travellers.

Jaipur, Rajasthan: A Celebration of Royal Heritage

Jaipur, the capital of Rajasthan, is an excellent destination for travellers interested in history, architecture, shopping and traditional cuisine. Popularly known as the Pink City, Jaipur combines royal grandeur with the energy of a modern urban centre. November's relatively pleasant weather makes exploring its historic landmarks and colourful neighbourhoods more comfortable than during the summer months.

Amber Fort, located on a hill overlooking the surrounding landscape, provides a glimpse into Rajasthan's royal past. Its imposing gateways, courtyards and elaborately decorated halls reflect the architectural traditions of the region. The City Palace offers further insights into Jaipur's history through its historic buildings and royal collections, while the Hawa Mahal remains one of the city's most recognisable landmarks. Its distinctive façade, featuring numerous small windows, was designed to allow royal women to observe street life while remaining unseen. Beyond its monuments, Jaipur offers an engaging introduction to Rajasthan's traditional crafts. Johari Bazaar and Bapu Bazaar are popular shopping destinations, with jewellery, textiles, handicrafts, footwear and souvenirs. Visitors can browse block-printed fabrics, blue pottery and decorative items that reflect the region's artistic traditions. Food is another important part of the Jaipur experience. Dal baati churma, kachori, ghewar and other regional specialities introduce visitors to Rajasthan's distinctive flavours.

Jaipur, Rajasthan:

Jaisalmer, Rajasthan: An Escape into the Golden Desert

For those drawn to desert landscapes and distinctive architecture, Jaisalmer offers an experience unlike India's coastal and mountain destinations. Situated in western Rajasthan, the city is famous for its golden sandstone buildings, historic fortifications and sweeping sand dunes. November is a favourable time to explore Jaisalmer because daytime temperatures generally become more comfortable for outdoor activities. The desert can be extremely hot during summer, while winter nights may become cold. Travellers visiting in November should therefore carry light clothing for the day and warmer layers for evenings. Jaisalmer Fort is the centrepiece of the city's historic landscape. Unlike many other forts, it remains a living settlement, with homes, temples, shops and restaurants operating within its walls. Walking through its narrow lanes allows visitors to experience the relationship between traditional architecture and everyday life. The elevated setting also offers attractive views across the city. The elaborate havelis of Jaisalmer are equally impressive. Patwon Ki Haveli, Salim Singh Ki Haveli and Nathmal Ki Haveli are known for their carved stone façades, decorative balconies and intricate details. These structures reflect the wealth and craftsmanship associated with the city's historic trading communities. A trip to the Sam Sand Dunes or nearby desert areas adds another dimension to the holiday. Camel rides, jeep excursions and sunset views are popular activities, while some camps organise cultural performances and traditional Rajasthani meals. Travellers should select responsible operators that prioritise animal welfare and environmental protection. Jaisalmer is ideal for couples, photography enthusiasts and heritage lovers seeking a desert adventure. Those planning an overnight stay in a desert camp should check accommodation facilities, transport arrangements and safety provisions beforehand.

Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh: Spiritual Experiences Along the Ganges

Varanasi is one of India's most important spiritual and cultural destinations. Situated along the River Ganges, the ancient city attracts pilgrims, historians, photographers and international visitors interested in India's religious traditions. November's comparatively comfortable temperatures make it easier to explore the ghats, temples and narrow streets. However, the city can become particularly crowded during religious festivals and auspicious bathing occasions, so travellers should check the local calendar when planning their visits. A sunrise boat ride on the Ganges is among the most memorable ways to experience Varanasi. As daylight spreads across the river, the ghats gradually become active with prayers, bathing rituals and other daily activities. The historic buildings along the waterfront are illuminated by the morning light, creating a distinctive atmosphere for photography and quiet observation. The evening Ganga Aarti is another major attraction. Priests perform coordinated rituals involving lamps, incense and devotional chants as crowds gather along the river. The ceremony offers visitors an opportunity to witness the continuing importance of religious traditions in the city's public life. Kashi Vishwanath Temple is among Varanasi's most significant religious landmarks. Visitors should check current entry arrangements and security guidelines before planning a visit. The city's narrow lanes also contain small shrines, traditional shops, sweet stalls and establishments serving regional food. Varanasi is famous for its silk-weaving heritage, particularly Banarasi silk sarees, which are known for their intricate designs and craftsmanship. Exploring reputable textile shops can provide insight into this important local tradition. For spiritual travellers and culture enthusiasts, Varanasi offers more than conventional sightseeing. Respect for local customs and sensitivity towards religious ceremonies are essential to experiencing the city meaningfully.

Rishikesh, Uttarakhand: Adventure and Riverside Tranquillity

Surrounded by the Himalayan foothills and situated along the Ganges, Rishikesh combines spirituality, wellness and adventure. The town attracts yoga practitioners, pilgrims, nature lovers and travellers seeking a break from busy urban life. November generally offers favourable conditions for walking, sightseeing and exploring the surrounding landscape. The retreat of the monsoon improves access to many outdoor areas, although weather conditions and river levels can affect the availability of adventure activities. The Ram Jhula area and other riverfront locations provide opportunities for photography, leisurely walks and observing daily religious activities. Access arrangements around some bridges and surrounding areas may change because of infrastructure work or safety measures, so visitors should check current local guidance. Rishikesh is widely associated with yoga and meditation. Several ashrams and wellness centres offer sessions and retreats for visitors interested in relaxation, mindfulness and spiritual learning. Travellers can choose a short introductory class or a longer programme depending on their interests. Adventure seekers can consider white-water rafting, trekking and guided outdoor excursions. However, rafting availability depends on river conditions, seasonal restrictions and official permissions. Visitors should use authorised operators, follow safety instructions and wear appropriate equipment. The town's cafés and restaurants offer a range of vegetarian meals, regional dishes and international cuisine. Exploring these establishments can complement a relaxed day of sightseeing. Rishikesh suits solo travellers, couples, wellness enthusiasts and adventure seekers. Whether the aim is to practise yoga, enjoy the riverfront or participate in guided outdoor activities, the town offers several ways to experience the Himalayan foothills.

Hampi, Karnataka: Discovering the Legacy of Vijayanagara

Hampi offers a fascinating journey into India's medieval history. Located in Karnataka, the UNESCO-listed archaeological landscape preserves the remains of Vijayanagara, once one of the most powerful kingdoms in southern India. Its enormous granite boulders, ancient temples and stone monuments create a remarkable setting for history enthusiasts and photographers.

November is generally a favourable time to explore Hampi because temperatures become more manageable after the summer heat. The archaeological area is extensive and involves considerable walking, so comfortable footwear, drinking water and sun protection remain important. Virupaksha Temple is a significant religious landmark and an important centre of worship. Its towering gateway and surrounding historic streets reveal the area's continuing cultural life. The Vittala Temple complex is particularly famous for its stone chariot and elaborate architectural features. Other notable attractions include the Royal Enclosure, Lotus Mahal and Elephant Stables. Together, these structures provide insights into the architectural, cultural and administrative traditions of the Vijayanagara Empire. Hampi's natural surroundings are equally captivating. Rocky hills, enormous boulders and riverbanks offer opportunities for landscape photography and exploration. Early mornings and late afternoons are particularly suitable for visiting viewpoints, when the light is softer and outdoor conditions may be more comfortable. Local guides can help visitors understand the significance of individual monuments and the broader history of the empire. Since the attractions are spread across a large area, travellers should allow sufficient time to explore rather than attempting to cover everything in a single day. Hampi is ideal for history enthusiasts, backpackers, photographers and culturally curious travellers seeking an experience that combines archaeology with striking natural scenery.

Kaziranga National Park, Assam: Exploring India's Wildlife Heritage

Kaziranga National Park in Assam is a compelling destination for wildlife enthusiasts. Recognised as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, it is internationally known for its population of the greater one-horned rhinoceros and its extensive grasslands, wetlands and forest habitats. November generally falls within the period when the park begins welcoming visitors after the monsoon-related seasonal closure. However, opening dates and access to individual ranges depend on official decisions and prevailing conditions. Travellers should confirm the current operating schedule before booking a safari. The park supports a rich variety of wildlife. In addition to the one-horned rhinoceros, visitors may encounter wild water buffaloes, deer, elephants and numerous bird species. Tigers also inhabit the wider ecosystem, although sightings are never guaranteed. Jeep safaris are a popular way to explore authorised areas of the park. The experience depends on the weather, time of day, wildlife movement and the range visited. Early-morning excursions can offer opportunities to observe animals in the grasslands, while afternoon trips provide a different perspective on the landscape. Kaziranga is also attractive to birdwatchers, as winter approaches and migratory species add to the diversity of birds found in the region. Wetlands and open habitats can provide rewarding opportunities for observing waterbirds. Beyond the national park, visitors can explore Assamese food, traditional handloom products and local village life. Choosing responsible accommodation and tour operators helps support surrounding communities and conservation efforts. Wildlife tourism requires patience and sensitivity. Maintaining a safe distance from animals, following guide instructions and avoiding litter help protect the environment. Kaziranga is best suited to nature lovers, photographers and families interested in biodiversity and conservation.

Alleppey, Kerala: A Relaxing Journey Through the Backwaters

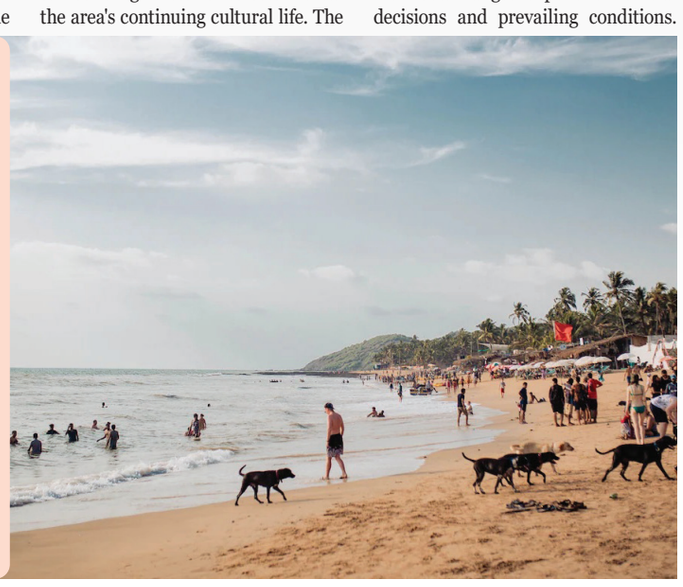
Alleppey, officially known as Alappuzha, is one of Kerala's most recognisable backwater destinations. Its network of canals, lagoons and waterways passes through landscapes of coconut palms, paddy fields and villages, offering a slower way to experience the state. November generally provides favourable conditions for exploring the backwaters after the southwest monsoon. However, rainfall can still occur, so travellers should check local forecasts before departure. A houseboat journey is among the most popular activities in Alappuzha. Travellers can observe village life along the waterways, watch traditional fishing practices and enjoy views of coconut groves and agricultural landscapes. Some journeys include meals prepared with local ingredients, offering a taste of Kerala's cuisine. Houseboat experiences vary in price, facilities and routes. Visitors should compare accommodation standards, safety arrangements and environmental practices before booking. Smaller boats and guided canoe trips can offer a more intimate way to explore narrow canals. The region also provides opportunities to discover local markets, temples, churches and traditional settlements. Kerala's food traditions, including rice-based meals, coconut-rich curries and regional seafood dishes, add to the experience. Alleppey is particularly suitable for couples, families and travellers seeking a peaceful break. It can also be combined with Kochi, Kumarakom or selected hill stations, depending on the duration of the trip. Responsible tourism is important in the backwaters, where water quality, waste disposal and the environmental impact of tourism require attention. Choosing operators that manage waste responsibly helps protect the waterways and the communities that depend on them.

Shillong, Meghalaya: Scenic Hills and Northeast India's Culture

Shillong, the capital of Meghalaya, offers a refreshing combination of hill scenery, cultural experiences, waterfalls and lakes. Its green landscapes and relaxed atmosphere make it an appealing destination for travellers seeking to explore India's Northeast. November usually brings cooler weather and less monsoon rainfall than the summer months. These conditions can be favourable for sightseeing, although evenings may be cold and local weather can vary. Ward's Lake provides a pleasant setting for leisurely walks, while viewpoints around the city offer perspectives across the surrounding hills. Local markets showcase regional produce, handicrafts and everyday life, and museums provide opportunities to learn about Meghalaya's communities and traditions. Shillong also serves as a convenient base for visiting nearby attractions. Elephant Falls is a popular excursion, while Umiam Lake offers scenic views surrounded by hills. Travellers with additional time can explore Cherrapunji, known for its dramatic cliffs, waterfalls and living root bridges, or Dawki, famous for the waters of the Umngot River. These excursions require careful planning because road conditions, travel times and weather can influence the itinerary. Visitors should allow sufficient time for journeys and check local conditions before travelling to remote areas. Shillong's food scene offers opportunities to experience regional dishes alongside familiar Indian and international options. Local markets and small restaurants provide a glimpse into the area's culinary traditions. The destination appeals to families, couples, solo travellers and nature enthusiasts. Warm clothing, comfortable footwear and a flexible schedule can make the journey more enjoyable.

Goa: Beaches, Heritage and Coastal Relaxation

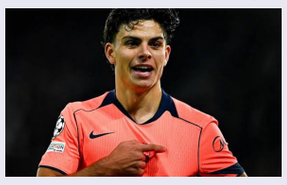
November marks the beginning of the main tourist season in Goa, making it a popular destination for beach holidays, coastal cuisine and cultural exploration. Following the monsoon, many tourism businesses resume regular operations, and the landscape often appears refreshed by the rains. Goa's beaches cater to different preferences. Some stretches are known for restaurants, markets and nightlife, while others offer a quieter atmosphere for relaxation. Travellers can spend time walking along the shore, enjoying authorised water activities or watching the sunset. Swimming should be limited to areas where conditions are considered safe, and visitors should follow lifeguard instructions. North Goa generally appeals to those seeking a lively atmosphere, entertainment and a wide choice of accommodation. South Goa offers several quieter coastal areas, although individual beaches differ in character and facilities. Selecting the right base depends on whether visitors prioritise nightlife, family activities, privacy or access to sightseeing attractions. The state's Portuguese-influenced heritage provides another reason to visit. Old Goa contains important historic churches, including the Basilica of Bom Jesus and Sé Cathedral. In Panaji, the Fontainhas neighbourhood is known for its colourful heritage houses, narrow streets and distinctive architecture. Goan cuisine is central to the travel experience. Fish curry and rice, regional seafood preparations, vegetarian dishes and traditional sweets reflect the state's coastal environment and cultural influences. Local markets and small family-run restaurants provide opportunities to discover flavours beyond resort menus. As demand increases in November, accommodation and transport costs may rise. Booking hotels and travel arrangements early can help visitors manage their budgets. Goa is particularly suitable for couples, groups of friends and families seeking a combination of beaches, heritage and relaxed dining.



SHORT NEWS

FOOTBALL

Defender Espart sidelined for seven weeks due to injury



MADRID: FC Barcelona have suffered another injury setback, with the club confirming on Monday that defender Xavi Espart will be sidelined for around seven weeks after injuring his ankle in Sunday's Clasico against Real Madrid. "Tests carried out have confirmed that Xavi Espart is suffering from an injury to the syndesmosis joint in his right ankle due to a collision with an opposing player in the game against Real Madrid. The player will be out for around seven weeks," the club said in a statement on its official website on Monday. The 19-year-old signed a new contract extension earlier in October after making an impressive start to the season.

National Jr Athletics

Haryana's promising thrower Nishchay breaks National U18 discus throw record



CHENNAI: Haryana's promising thrower Nishchay stamped his authority in the men's U18 discus throw, setting a national record on his way to winning the gold medal at the 41st National Junior Athletics Championships at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Chennai on Monday. Nishchay began his gold medal campaign with an opening throw of 64.72m. It was better than the previous national and meet record of 64.09m recorded by Arjun in 2010. He further improved the national mark to 66.75m in his second legal throw. Nishchay's third attempt was 64.70m.

CSK part ways with batting coach Michael Hussey ahead of IPL 2027 auction

NEW DELHI

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) have announced that they have parted ways with batting coach Michael Hussey ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2027 auction. The development ends the former Australian batter's long association with the five-time champions.

Hussey had been CSK's batting coach since 2018, after ending his playing career. The franchise confirmed his exit on Monday with a tribute on its social media handles. "From the very first season in 2008, you have been an integral part of the Chennai Super Kings family.

"Your journey in Yellow has been defined not just by the runs you scored and the players you mentored, but by the dedication, humility, and unwavering commitment you brought to this franchise over the years. Your place in our history will forever remain special, Hussmeister. Once a Super King, always a Super King," said CSK in its post. Hussey's departure is part of a wider overhaul of the coaching staff that the franchise has undertaken ahead of the 2027 IPL season, after missing the 2024, 2025 and 2026 playoffs.

Head coach Stephen Fleming has already been replaced by former India pacer Zaheer Khan, while bowling coach Eric Simons has made way for ex-India and CSK pacer Mohit Sharma.

Simons and ex-CSK fielding coach James Foster have joined the England Test team, where the head coach is Stephen Fleming, who left as the franchise's head coach after 18 years. CSK are yet to name Hussey's successor, though former England off-spinner and Surrey head coach Gareth Batty is joining them as an assistant coach. Hussey enjoyed a successful stint with CSK as a player,



scoring 1,768 runs across six seasons. He joined the franchise in 2008, skipped the 2009 edition, and then played four straight seasons from 2010 to 2013.

After a year with Mumbai Indians in 2014, he returned to CSK in 2015 and then took over as batting coach in 2018, as the side won the title that year before winning the championship again in the 2021 and 2023 seasons. It remains to be seen if Hussey will join another IPL team's coaching staff, especially with five-time winners Mumbai Indians and two-time runners-up Punjab Kings having coaching vacancies.

With the deadline for retentions set for November 15, Zaheer, Mohit and Batty, along with skipper Ruturaj Gaikwad and the franchise's top management, will have to finalise CSK's plans before participating in the mini auction, which will be held in Goa on December 16.

CSK removed strength and conditioning coach Greg King

Five-time Indian Premier League (IPL) champions Chennai Super Kings (CSK) continued their coaching overhaul ahead of the 2027 season, announcing the departure of strength and conditioning coach Greg King on Monday.

Earlier on Monday, CSK had confirmed the exits of batting coach Michael Hussey, bowling coach Eric Simons, assistant batting coach Rajiv Kumar and long-serving physiotherapist Tommy Simsek.

In an official announcement late in the evening on Monday, the franchise thanked King for his contribution to the team's physical preparation and performances across seasons.

"Every successful campaign is built on countless hours of preparation, discipline, and hard work. Greg King, your expertise in strength and conditioning has helped our Super Kings overcome physical challenges and perform at the highest level across seasons. We appreciate everything you have brought to the Yellow Army, Greg King," CSK said in a statement on its social media accounts. King's departure adds to the list of changes in CSK's backroom staff as the franchise looks to reshape its coaching setup ahead of the next IPL season. The team has already appointed former India left-arm pacer Zaheer Khan as head coach and brought in former England off-spinner Gareth Batty as an assistant coach. Former India pacer Mohit Sharma is also set to take over as bowling coach, replacing Simons, who had been associated with the franchise since the 2018 IPL season. Simons, a former South African bowler, previously served as India's bowling consultant between 2010 and 2012, a period that included the country's triumph in the 2011 ODI World Cup at home. CSK acknowledged his contribution to the development of its bowling unit during his tenure.

Simons has since joined England's Test team as bowling coach, alongside former CSK fielding coach James Foster. Stephen Fleming, who stepped down after spending 18 years as head coach of the Chennai-based franchise, is also part of England's coaching setup. Kumar, meanwhile, joined CSK in 2018 as fielding coach, replacing Steve Rixon, before taking on responsibilities as assistant batting coach. The former Jharkhand captain brought considerable coaching experience from the United Kingdom and had also led the state side in first-class cricket, with MS Dhoni among the players who played under his leadership. In its announcement of Kumar's departure, CSK acknowledged his role in the team's preparation and player development.

The franchise also confirmed the departure of Simsek, who had served as its physiotherapist since the inaugural IPL season in 2008. His long association with the team saw him work closely with several generations of players, including the side popularly known as the 'Dad's Army' because of its experienced squad.



Commonwealth Kabaddi C'ship: India Men and Women both beat Nigeria, women storm into semis

AHMEDABAD

The Indian men's and women's kabaddi teams got the better of Nigeria in their respective matches on Monday at the inaugural Commonwealth Kabaddi Championship 2026, being held at the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex in Ahmedabad.

The women's team won 38-10 to book its spot in the semi-finals, while the men's team followed with a 50-23 victory. It was the fourth win of the championship for both sides.

India's women wrapped up a 38-10 win to reach the semifinal in dominant fashion. They were in control from the start, leading 24-6 at the break, and then carried that momentum into the second half to pick up the remaining 14 points.

Anu was the star of the show, collecting 11 raid points from 17 raids. Sakshi chipped in with four raid points, while captain Nidhi Sharma added a couple. At the back, Sabhai Gadhavi made her presence felt with three tackle points, while Priya and Ritu took two each. For Nigeria, Robert Moses earned six raid points, with Bassey Edet adding two. Dennis Udeme took Nigeria's lone tackle point, as the Indian raiders found little resistance for most of the contest.

The men's team made it a double for the day, beating Nigeria for their fourth win of the championship. India raced to a 25-7 lead at the break, and finished ahead on raid points (31-21) and tackle points (7-2).

Sachin led the raiding with 12 points; Aditya Shinde was close behind with 11 raid points. Pankaj Mohite chipped in with eight raid points and two tackle points, while Surjeet Narwal topped the charts with four tackle points in defence.

For Nigeria, Edem Wisdom Ita led the way with eight raid points, Ekpe Victory Emmanuel picked up six points (five raid, one tackle), and Izu Prince Udah added five raid points. Nigeria came out stronger after the break, scoring 16 points in the second half, but India's lead was never in danger. The women's team will now face off against the second-placed team in Group B on Friday, October 30.

'Important to stay grounded,' says Asian Games gold medallist Sahil Rajesh Jadhav

KOLKATA

The Sports Authority of India (SAI), Kolkata, on Monday felicitated Asian Games medallists Sahil Rajesh Jadhav and Kirti Sharma for their gold-medal-winning performances in archery at the Asian Games 2026 in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

Rower Satnam Singh was also felicitated for winning a bronze medal in the men's double sculls event at the continental sporting extravaganza. Apart from these star sportspersons, their coaches Haresh Kumar, Udham Singh and Inderpal Singh were also present on the occasion. Haresh Kumar coaches Sahil at SAI NCOE Kolkata, while Udham Singh coaches Kirti at SAI STC Hazaribagh. Arjuna Awardee Shri Inderpal Singh – a coach at SAI Jagatpur – guides Satnam Singh. Sahil thanked his coach Haresh Kumar and reiterated the role of SAI behind his success. "I want to thank my coaches at SAI for their guidance. It is important to stay grounded and continue to work hard after achieving success," he said. Satnam recounted the hard work and mental battles he had to go through before winning India's first-ever Asian Games medal in the men's double sculls event.

ISL 2026-27: Manvir Singh's late winner hands Mohun Bagan victory over Chennaiyin FC

KOLKATA

Manvir Singh scored the winner late in the second half as Mohun Bagan Super Giant (MBSG) secured a hard-fought 1-0 victory over Chennaiyin FC in the Indian Super League (ISL) 2026/27 at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan (VYBK) in Kolkata on Monday.

In a closely contested encounter, both sides created several opportunities, but goalkeepers Mohammad Nawaz and Vishal Kaith produced key saves to keep the game goalless for much of the evening. Chennaiyin came agonisingly close to taking the lead when Nikola Stojanović struck the crossbar before the Mariners found their breakthrough.

Chennaiyin FC started brightly, with Stojanović firing over from distance before Brison Fernandes and Irfan Yadwad came close to breaking the deadlock. Fernandes sent his effort narrowly wide from inside the box, while Yadwad's header from a Stojanović cross drifted just off target.

Mohun Bagan Super Giant responded through Samir Zeljković, whose effort was saved by Nawaz, while Alberto Rodríguez missed from close range following a corner. At the other end, Kaith denied Yadwad and Madih Talal, while Nawaz kept out attempts from Lee Erwin and Dejan Dražić as both sides went into half-time goalless.

Bagan introduced Sahal Abdul Samad for Lallianzuala Chhangte at the break, followed by Anirudh Thapa for Zeljković early in the second half. Chennaiyin continued to pose a threat, with Kaith saving from Yadwad and Ramon, while Namgyal Bhutia and Fernandes narrowly missed the target.

The visitors made their first change



by bringing on Bryce Miranda for Fernandes, while Bagan responded by introducing Subhasish Bose for Rahul Bheke. Chennaiyin then brought on Lalhriatpuia Chawngthu and S Prakadeswaran for Ayush Chhetri and Yadwad, respectively.

The game remained finely balanced as Nawaz kept out attempts from Erwin and Manvir, while Chennaiyin continued to threaten on the counter. Stojanović came closest to breaking the deadlock when his left-footed effort, set up by Prakadeswaran, struck the crossbar. Kaith then made another important save to deny the Chennaiyin midfielder as the visitors pressed for a goal. Bagan introduced Liston Colaço and Abhishek Suryavanshi for Deepak Tangri and Dražić in the closing stages, and the changes paid off almost immediately.

Colaco delivered a cross into the box, and Manvir finished from close range with his chest to put The Mariners ahead in the 85th minute. The late goal proved decisive in a match where both teams had their chances, with Kaith's saves and Chennaiyin's near miss off the crossbar among the key moments. The Mariners held on to secure all three points at home.

India to compete in Tier C after defeat to Senegal in FIFA U15 World Cup & Festival

BAKU (AZERBAIJAN)

Ronandev Aheibam scored the lone goal as Indian boys suffered a 1-6 defeat to Senegal in their fifth and final Group K match at the FIFA U15 World Cup & Festival 2026 at Pitch 8A of the Hovsan Competition Complex in Baku, Azerbaijan, on Monday. Abdoulaye Diallo (9', 11', 18', 31') scored four goals for Senegal, including a first-half hat-trick, while Georges Kanfom (14') and Pierre Mbengue (23') added one each.

Ronandev Aheibam (33') pulled a goal back for the Blue Colts in the second half, but the result, coupled with Cameroon's 2-0 win over Bahrain, meant India finished third in Group K with 10 points from five matches. Matches in the tournament stage will be played in a knockout format, with all 189 teams



competing for position until the final day on October 30. Group winners Cameroon and runners-up Senegal both finished on 12 points and will feature in Tiers A and B, respectively, in the tournament stage.

India will be in Tier C to compete for positions 65th to 96th. Bahrain and Laos, with four points each, ended up in Tiers D and E, respectively, while Grenada finished last with one point and will be in Tier F. In Monday's encounter, the opening five minutes were evenly contested before Senegal gradually increased the pressure on India and took greater control of the match.

Senegal broke the deadlock in the ninth minute when Diallo received a pass from the right, advanced into the box and finished past India goalkeeper Jenit Ningthoujam from a narrow angle. It was the first time India had trailed in their five matches at the tournament, and they could never recover from it.

Diallo doubled Senegal's lead two minutes later, dribbling into the box from the left before unleashing a powerful left-footed strike into the far top corner.

Senegal extended their advantage in the 14th minute through Kanfom. Pierre Mbengue played a defence-splitting through ball, allowing Kanfom to take a touch, round the advancing Jenit and finish into an empty net. Diallo completed his hat-trick in the 18th minute, sweeping home a cutback from Kanfom, who had reached the left by-line. Mbengue added Senegal's fifth goal in the 23rd minute.

Ranji Trophy: Badoni slams second successive ton, Saransh's seven-for puts MP on top

NEW DELHI

Batting all-rounder Ayush Badoni continued his rich vein of form by hitting a second consecutive hundred, while India off-spinner Saransh Jain's seven-wicket haul gave Madhya Pradesh firm control on day one of the third-round Ranji Trophy matches on Monday.

Fresh from a career-best 217 against Gujarat, Badoni struck an unbeaten 106 off 122 balls, laced with 11 fours and two sixes, to take Delhi to 309/5 against Jharkhand at the JSCA International Stadium in Ranchi. Badoni, 26, previously hit 205 against the same opponents in the 2024/25 season.

A chanceless knock, Badoni's sixth first-class hundred, anchored Delhi's recovery. He found a reliable ally in all-rounder Sumit Mathur, who was unbeaten on 50, as the pair put together an unbroken 128-run stand for the sixth wicket. Mathur had a lucky escape on 36 when he was caught at long-on, only to be recalled because Anukul Roy had overstepped.

At Holkar Stadium in Indore, Saransh's 7-40 helped Madhya Pradesh bowl Bihar out for just 99. The hosts, still looking for their first win of the season after two draws, then reached 261/3 with a lead of 162, after bowling out Bihar for 99. Wicketkeeper-batter Saksham Purohit was unbeaten on 113, and his opening partner Yash Dubey made 84.

At the BKC Ground, Mumbai also made a strong start against Haryana at home after being put in to bat first. Angkrish Raghuvanshi made 114 off 180 balls with 13 fours and a six, while Musheer Khan scored 109 off 185 balls with



12 fours and a six. The pair added 208 runs for the second wicket to steer Mumbai to 290/3 at stumps.

Defending champions Jammu and Kashmir, also in search of their first win, were frustrated by Priyanshu Moliya at the Reliance Ground in Vadodara. Moliya's patient unbeaten 113 lifted Baroda to 259/6 after they had slipped to 197/6 at one stage.

Vidarbha, who have two wins so far, had Goa in trouble at 84/6 after Nachiket Bhute ripped through the top order with four wickets. But Darshan Misal and Yash Kasvankar then struck half-centuries and shared a stand of 104 runs for the seventh wicket to help the visitors reach 204/8. On a rain-hit day, Pondicherry reduced Uttar Pradesh to 67/4.

In Mysuru, Karnataka recovered from a sluggish start to bowl Tripura out for 194 at the SDNR Wadiyar Stadium. The hosts, who sprang a surprise by leaving out pacers Vidwath Kaverappa and Abhilash Shetty to accommodate spinners Shikhar Shetty and Ritesh Bhatkal, failed to make use of the new ball as Tripura moved comfortably to 88/2 in the first session.

Left-arm spinner Shikhar then claimed his third first-class five-wicket haul, while pacer Manvanth Kumar took three. Karnataka lost Mayank Agarwal early and were 10 for one at stumps. At the DVR Ground in Mulapadu, Chhattisgarh's spinners made full use of a helpful pitch to bowl Andhra out for 231.

Veteran off-spinner Jayant Yadav led the way with 4-75, while Ajay Mandal and Dharmendrasinh Jadeja took three and two wickets respectively. In reply, Chhattisgarh lost Ayush Pandey early when he was run out going for an unnecessary quick single. Captain Anuj Tiwary and Mayank Verma then negotiated the final half-hour to take the visitors to 35/1.

Star Power, Superstar Vibes





Superstar Rajinikanth and Nayanthara are set to recreate their on-screen magic in the upcoming mega-budget entertainer, Dharman. Building massive hype, the makers recently unveiled a captivating silhouette poster showing the Lady Superstar facing Thalaivar, marking her grand entry into the project. Kamal Haasan's Raaj Kamal Films International is mounting the film on an extraordinarily lavish scale. Helmed by young filmmaker Ashwath Marimuthu, the cinematic spectacle also features powerhouse talents Simran and Raashii Khanna in crucial, prominent roles. Currently, movie shooting is going on at a brisk speed, with the entire crew working tirelessly for a massive worldwide release next year. As Thalaivar and the Lady Superstar join forces for this epic actioner, audiences can expect a monumental blockbuster on the big screen. Anirudh Ravichander is composing the music, bringing his signature energy to the project. The promotional material also heavily features the hashtag #KettaPaiyanSir. This serves as a brilliant nostalgic nod to Rajinikanth's legendary role as Kaali in Mullum Malarum, further raising anticipation for this grand celebration of Aura!

Friendship Goals: Pragya, Rakul & Lakshmi

Pragya Jaiswal, Rakul Preet Singh and Manchu Lakshmi are some of the most loved friends in Tollywood. Whenever the three come together, the fun is obvious, and fans enjoy their easy chemistry and plenty of masti. The trio also keep their followers in the loop, regularly sharing photos and videos of their meet-ups on social media, which get plenty of love in the comments. In their latest picture, clicked at an event, black was the common thread. Pragya wore a sparkly black mini dress with a crystal cheetah design, paired with strappy black heels. Rakul chose a black sequin gown with a deep V neckline and a high slit. Lakshmi picked a printed crop top with wide-leg black trousers and chunky sneakers. Big warm smiles completed the look.



Sai Pallavi's Fierce Cop Avatar



A new character introduction teaser of Dhanush's upcoming film OM has been released, and Sai Pallavi has grabbed attention with her intense cop look. For the first time in her career, she will be seen playing a police officer, adding a new dimension. Interestingly, Sai Pallavi plays an AP police officer Nitya reddy (Naidupeta Ammayi) and her character appears the same in the Telugu, Tamil, and Hindi versions, making the role even more interesting for the audience. Another notable detail is the presence of several Telugu dialogues across all three teaser glimpses, suggesting that the character's regional identity remains important in the story. OM is directed by Rajkumar Periasamy, who previously worked with Sai Pallavi in Amaran. That film emerged as a major success, and their reunion has raised expectations about what they can deliver together this time. The director chooses an intense role for Sai Pallavi, moving away from the characters audiences usually associate with her. Whether she can impress viewers in this new avatar is something to watch out for. Sai Pallavi is also preparing for another major challenge with her portrayal of Sita in Ramayana. With expectations surrounding that role already high, her performance as a police officer in OM will offer audiences a different side of her acting abilities.

OTT Pick: First Night In A Time Loop



What if a man gets killed on his first night after marriage, only to come back to life and face the same deadly situation again and again? That is the interesting concept behind Malayalam film Dhumakethu, now streaming on Netflix in Telugu and other languages. The film follows Kuttan, whose life turns into a strange time loop where the same day and dangerous events keep repeating. He must figure out why this is happening and uncover the mystery behind it. Starring Sajin Gopu and Nikhila Vimal, the film mixes comedy, suspense and fantasy. If you enjoy unusual stories with a time-loop twist, Dhumakethu is worth adding to your OTT watchlist.

Nikhil Hails Swayambhu VFX

The visual effects work on Nikhil's Swayambhu appears to be progressing impressively, with the actor himself expressing excitement after watching a few shots from the film. In his latest post on X, Nikhil showered praise on Phantom India and expressed his eagerness to showcase the film to audiences in theatres this year. "Just saw some Vfx shots of #Swayambhu @phantomfx_india have done a Fantastic Job for the movie .. cant wait for the entire film on this BIG SCREEN this Year.. You are all in for an Amazing Experience . looking fwd to delivering this Magnus Opus on screens... @bejoy_ Arputharaj bhai.... @krishbharat20 @TagoreMadhu, " Nikhil's post reads. The poster accompanying the update reinforces the epic scale of the project. Nikhil appears as a warrior riding a white horse across a sandy beach. The horse is captured mid-stride, with its flowing mane and tail illuminated by the golden light of the setting sun. Directed by Bharat Krishnamachari, the film is produced by Bhuvan and Sreekar under the Pixel Studios banner, with Tagore Madhu presenting it. Planned as a multilingual release, Swayambhu is among the major projects in Nikhil's current lineup. With the actor openly expressing satisfaction with the VFX output, anticipation is building around the film. Further promotional updates are expected as the team moves closer to bringing the ambitious project to audiences this year.



Prabhas' Fauzi Faces Netaji Family Backlash

On the occassion of Prabhas' birthday, the team of Fauzi released a special glimpse which has now landed in a controversy. The teaser begins with a conversation between Hitler and Subhash Chandra Bose where Bose elevates Prabhas' character. Already, the netizens and film activists raised doubts over the authenticity of the situation, triggering a debate. Now, Chandra Kumar Bose, Netaji's grandnephew, has criticised Hanu Raghavapudi for allegedly distorting historic facts. Chandra Kumar Bose called out the flaw from the side of the makers, claiming that they ignored the historical accuracy just for the sake of elevating the hero. Chandra Kumar Bose argued that the filmmakers have the freedom to portray India's freedom struggle but they should not ignore the historical accuracy. Also, Chandra Kumar Bose particularly spoke about the misrepresentation of Netaji regarding the alleged meeting with Hitler. According to him, the scene diminishes Netaji's stature. Not stopping there, Chandra Kumar further demanded an apology from Hanu Raghavapudi to Indians for misrepresenting the facts. In the particular scene, Netaji speaks about one Indian soldier who gives tough time to the British, but there are various sources saying that Netaji has never met Hitler. At the same time, the makers of Fauzi have also not given clarity on whether the film is fictional or based on real-life incidents. At least now, if the makers come forward with their explanation, the film will not further run into more controversies. Fauzi, bankrolled by Mythri Movie Makers, is scheduled for a grand release on 19th March.





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Editor: Pisati Janga Reddy, Ph : 040 24123467, Email : hyderabadheadlines@gmail.com