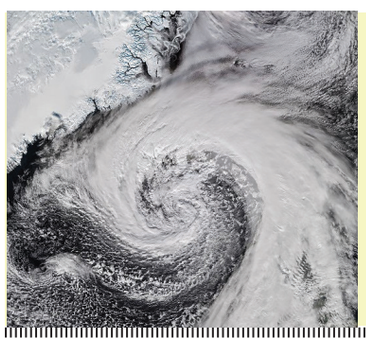
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Cyclones Cannot Be Prevented, but Economic Losses Can Be Limited

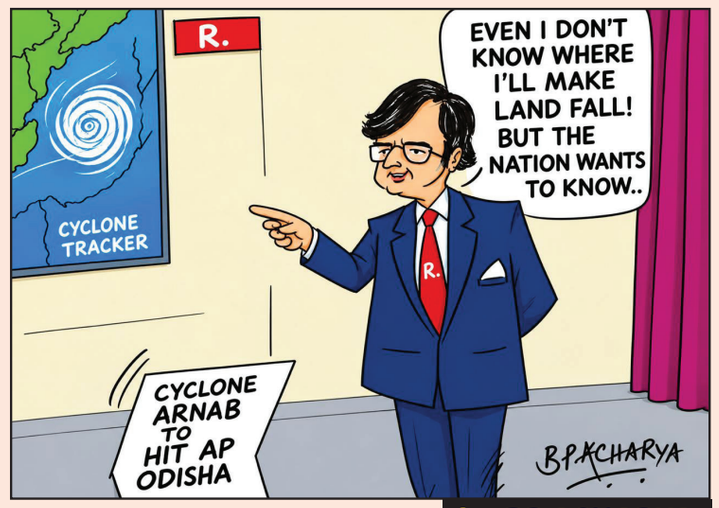
OPINION 06

SC Questions Centre Over Medicine Price Controls

SPECIAL 02



OBTUSE ANGLE



SHORT TAKES

Zero Casualties Is Top Priority: Centre

NEW DELHI, OCT 27

Cabinet Secretary Dr. T. V. Somanathan chaired a high-level meeting of the National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC) to review state and central preparedness for the impending cyclone forming in the Bay of Bengal. During the meeting, Dr. Somanathan directed all responding agencies and local authorities to ensure that essential services—including power, telecommunications, and water supply—are restored in the shortest possible time should any damage occur. Emphasizing a proactive approach to disaster response, the Cabinet Secretary underscored that the primary objective of all administrative bodies must be to achieve zero loss of life while minimizing damage to property and public infrastructure. Emergency response teams and coastal administrations remain on high alert as the situation develops.

BJP to Counter Opposition on Voter Lists Through Nationwide Marches

NEW DELHI, OCT 27

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is preparing to launch a nationwide campaign to counter opposition parties' allegations regarding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Under the slogan "Save Democracy, End Anarchy," party leaders will reach out to the public starting Wednesday. Party sources said the campaign aims to raise public awareness about the revision of voter lists and strengthen confidence in the electoral process. As part of the campaign, BJP national president Nitin Nabin will lead a march in Chandni Chowk, Delhi. Union Home Minister Amit Shah will participate in a march in Hyderabad on November 2. He will also lead a march in Karnal, Haryana, on November 5.

SC Issues Notice to Centre on Data Protection Law

NEW DELHI, OCT 27

The Supreme Court has issued a notice to the Central Government on a petition filed by news organisations challenging the Digital Personal Data Protection Act and its rules. A bench comprising Chief Justice of India Justice Surya Kant, Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice V. Mohan issued the notice. In its petition, the Digital News Publishers Association (DNPA) stated that the absence of exemptions for journalism under the law could hinder investigative journalism and news gathering. It also expressed concern that the confidentiality of journalists' sources could be at risk. The association urged the court to impose an interim stay on the implementation of the contentious provisions. The Supreme Court has adjourned the next hearing on the petition to November 17.

MICROSOFT'S GOLDEN GOODBYE

60,000 DESKS ON THE AUCTION BLOCK AS SILICON VALLEY FEEDS ITS AI MONSTER

FROM HYDERABAD TO HAMPSHIRE, A "VOLUNTARY EXIT KNOCKS ON INDIA'S DOOR. WHO PAYS FOR THE CLOUD EMPIRE, THE CODER OR THE CORPORATION?



Microsoft has opened a Voluntary Exit Offer in India, the US, Canada and the UK for staff at level 70 and below. CNBC reports about 60,000 are eligible, roughly 27 per cent of a 223,000 strong workforce. Decisions are due in December and exits take effect on December 31. The company is pouring money into Al data centres, and Indian engineers stand squarely in the line of fire.

Sixty thousand names. One emall. A deadline that falls on the last day of the year. On Monday, Amy Coleman, Microsoft's Chief People Officer, announced the Voluntary Exit Offer to employees in India, the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom. Eligible staff at level 70 and below will get "financial support and career planning resources" if they choose to walk out of the door. The word to watch is "voluntary". Corporate dictionaries have always been generous with it. The arithmetic tells its own story. CNBC, citing a person famillar with the matter, puts the eligible number at about 60,000 of 223,000 employees. Microsoft itself gave no figure. It also did not say how many of the eligible staff sit in India, where it runs some of its largest engineering and support operations outside America. Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Pune deserve a straight answer, and so far they have received silence.

"The Voluntary Exit Offer is new for us. We'll learn from it." - Amy Coleman, Executive Vice President and Chief People Officer, Microsoft]

The learning will be done by the engineer who must decide before December whether to take the package or gamble on staying. The experiment belongs to Redmond, but the risk belongs entirely to the worker. The Verge reports that Copilot, CoreAI, Windows and Devices, Xbox, finance and human resources are taking part. Marketing, commercial business, quantum and security are not. The pattern is plain enough. The teams closest to the glittering Al frontier are guarded, and the rest are asked to consider the exit. Microsoft says the offer is not based on age, length of service or performance, and we report that clalm as made. The motive is no mystery. The company Is raising spending on data centres at breakneck speed, including cloud capacity for OpenAI, Anthropic and other firms.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

Global summit curtain raiser in Delhi on October 29: CM

CM Revanth holds a review of the arrangement made for the 'Invest Telangana Global Summit today

HYDERABAD OCT 27



Chief Minister Shri A Revanth Reddy ordered the officials to make the " Invest Telangana Global Summit -2026" -Curtain Raiser event organised in New Delhi on October 29 a big success. At a high level review of the arrangements made for the global summit today, the Chief Minister emphasized that the global summit, scheduled to be held from December 7 to 9 at the Bharat Future City, should further elevate Telangana's reputation on the international stage.

The CM suggested that the meetings with the prospective investors and business leaders at the 'Raksha Expo,' and the 'India Joy' events should draw good results.All plans should be

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

Bhatti calls for scientific research to preserve India's Ayurvedic heritage

HYDERABAD, OCT.27



Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka has called for preserving India's rich Ayurvedic heritage while according greater importance to scientific research, observing that health is the greatest wealth in human life. Speaking at the Dhanvantari Maha Yagam held at Sri Dhanvantari Temple in Kanakkoor, Kerala, on Tuesday, he highlighted the importance of health protection, Ayurveda, public health and social responsibility.

Bhatti Vikramarka said good health meant more than merely being free from disease. Physical well-being, mental peace, emotional stability and a fulfilling life were equally important components of overall health. He urged people to give greater priority to their health and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

Ponguleti Flags Delays in Farmer Grievances

HYDERABAD, OCT.27



Revenue, Housing, and I&PR Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy issued a stern warning to revenue department personnel on Tuesday, cautioning that strict disciplinary action would be taken against officials who fail to resolve public grievances, particularly those of farmers, in a timely manner. Speaking at an extensive review meeting of the Revenue, Registration, and Housing departments for the erstwhile Medak district at the Sangareddy Collectorate, the Minister expressed dissatisfaction over the pace of administration, noting that

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

Telangana declares 365 mandals drought-hit, 111 severely affected

HYDERABAD, OCT 27

The Telangana government has declared 365 mandals across 31 districts drought-affected for the 2026 kharif season following deficient rainfall and prolonged dry spells during the southwest monsoon. Of these, 111 mandals have been classified as severely drought-affected and 254 as moderately affected. The government order, issued following a scientific assessment of drought conditions, will remain in force for six months. District Collectors have been directed to initiate relief measures to support affected farmers, ensure drinking water supplies, arrange fodder for livestock and generate employment under the Employment Guarantee scheme. Telangana received 615.5 mm of rainfall between June 1 and September 30, against the normal 740.6 mm, recording a deficit of 17%. The government attributed the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2 ➤

PM-KISAN Funds to Be Credited to Farmers' Accounts on Oct 30

NEW DELHI, OCT 27



The 24th instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme is scheduled to be released on October 30. Eligible farmers will receive ₹2,000 each directly into their bank accounts. Around 9.34 crore beneficiaries across the country are expected to receive the funds. Under the scheme, the Central Government provides financial assistance of ₹6,000 per year to farmers in three instalments. However, delays in crediting the funds may occur due to incomplete e-KYC verification, Aadhaar-linking issues, or errors in land records. Officials have advised farmers to check their payment status through the 'Know Your Status' option on the official website: pmkisan.gov.in

Criticism of E20 Petrol Is a Paid Campaign to Target Me: Nitin Gadkari



New Delhi, OCT 27: Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari has alleged that the criticism of E20 petrol on social media is part of a paid campaign aimed at politically targeting him. He rejected the criticism of the E20 fuel policy, which involves blending 20% ethanol with petrol. He said that automobile industry associations and automotive research organisations had already expressed their views on the fuel. Gadkari explained that the use of ethanol plays a crucial role in reducing India's dependence on crude oil imports and controlling environmental pollution. He said that blending ethanol with petrol could help reduce the substantial expenditure incurred on importing oil from foreign countries. He also noted that producing ethanol from agricultural products such as maize would provide farmers with additional income. Promoting alternative fuels, he said, could strengthen the country's energy security. Gadkari criticised the campaign against E20 petrol, alleging that facts about the fuel were being ignored and that the campaign was intended to target him personally.

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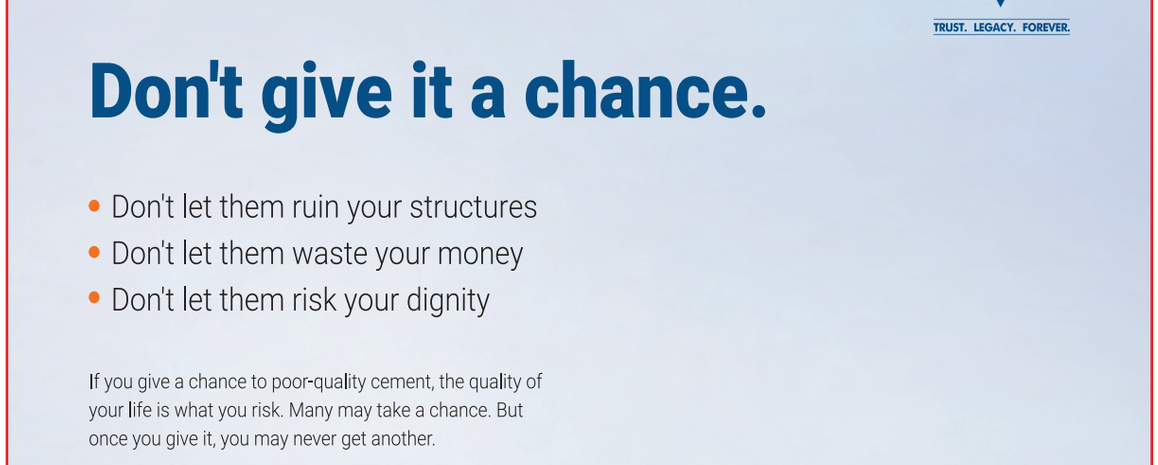
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Praja Bata Boosts Power Infra

Nearly 2,800 officials and field staff execute 359 major maintenance and safety tasks in a single day to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply.



Medchal-Malkajgiri, October 27: In a major push toward delivering uninterrupted and high-quality electricity to consumers, the Telangana Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (TGSPDCL) has successfully executed 359 field maintenance tasks in a single day as part of its ongoing Praja Bata–Basti Bata initiative. This comprehensive safety and maintenance drive saw the active involvement of 2,787 officials and field staff, including 2 Chief Engineers, 17 Superintending Engineers, 45 Divisional Engineers, 110 ADEs, 400 AEs, and 2,213 O&M personnel and artisans. Highlighting the extensive scope of today's operations, field teams completed essential infrastructure repairs by replacing 8 DTR distribution boxes and 15 DTR cables, repairing 23 AB switches and HG fuses, elevating 2 DTR plinths to prevent operational risks, cleaning 122 DTR yards, resolving 7 low-voltage complaints, and holding 3 consumer awareness camps. To eliminate safety hazards and prevent supply disruptions, technical crews also corrected loose overhead lines at 19 locations, trimmed tree branches at 80 points, and cleared tangled creeper vines at another 80 sites.

Senior officials conducted field inspections across key urban and rural circles—including Kapra, Chandanagar, Balanagar, Kukatpally, Madhapur, Shamshabad, Wanaparthy, and Siddipet—where they closely evaluated distribution transformers (DTRs) and power lines while directly interacting with local residents and farmers to address their grievances. TGSPDCL Director (Operations) personally joined the Basti Bata program in the Golconda section under Mehdipatnam Division, alongside the Metro Zone Chief Engineer, Central Circle Superintending Engineer, and Mehdipatnam Divisional Engineer, instructing field teams to prioritize public safety by rectifying field-level defects promptly.

CSR Support Boosts Kukatpally College

Address to Chief Minister Revanth Reddy aims to expand campus capacity and deliver state-of-the-art facilities for over 1,500 students



Medchal-Malkajgiri, October 27: Telangana State Kamma Corporation Chairman, TPCC Vice President, and Kukatpally Constituency Congress Party In-Charge Bandi Ramesh has initiated a high-impact development strategy to address structural deficiencies and infrastructural bottlenecks at the Kukatpally Government Junior College. The dual-track strategy combines immediate private intervention through philanthropic partnerships with a long-term public sector push aimed at securing land and building grants from the state government.

The campaign began when College Principal Venkataiah alerted Bandi Ramesh to the severe challenges students face due to an aging campus, dilapidated structures, and a shortage of basic classroom amenities such as ceiling fans and adequate seating furniture. Responding immediately to these concerns, Bandi Ramesh partnered with Ajay, Chairman of the Basanthi Foundation, to deliver prompt CSR-driven relief. The foundation stepped forward to donate essential ceiling fans, quality classroom furniture, and 1,500 durable glass water bottles to promote student health and hygiene. Expressing deep gratitude to the Basanthi Foundation, Ramesh highlighted how civic collaboration and community-driven initiatives serve as a vital bridge for immediate welfare while larger state policy interventions remain in motion.

Beyond short-term support, the strategic focus centers on overcoming acute space constraints and infrastructure decay at the institution. Principal Venkataiah pointed out that despite thousands of student applications received each academic year, the college's old building restricts admissions to only around 1,500 students. To solve this systemic bottleneck, Bandi Ramesh pledged to take the land allocation issue directly to Telangana Chief Minister Anumula Revanth Reddy, advocating for government action to construct a modern, high-capacity college campus. He affirmed that securing quality, accessible public education is a core mandate of the current administration, citing Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's recent authorization of an Integrated School in the Kukatpally constituency as proof of the state's ongoing commitment to public sector educational reform.

Emphasizing that education serves as the fundamental foundation for every student's future, Bandi Ramesh committed to pursuing a hybrid development model that mobilizes state resources alongside voluntary organizations and philanthropic donors. The launch event featured active participation from college leadership, faculty, staff, and students, alongside prominent constituency Congress leaders including Thumu Venu, Chunnu Pasha, Sappidi Bhaskar, Thumu Santhosh, Shankar, Raghu, Pushpa Reddy, Jyothi, Sonu, Ramana, Nalinikanth, Vasu, Hussain, Balaraju, Akbar, and Prakash.

CONTINUATION FROM PAGE 1

Govt to hold all-party meet on El Niño, drought preparedness today

Hyderabad, Oct.27: The Telangana government will convene an all-party meeting on Wednesday to discuss the impact of El Niño, deficient rainfall and prevailing drought conditions in the State. The meeting, chaired by Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, will be held at 2.30 pm in Room No. 33 on the sixth floor of the Dr B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat in Hyderabad. The meeting will deliberate on measures to mitigate the impact of adverse weather conditions and rainfall deficit on people, particularly farmers. Suggestions from leaders of various political parties will be sought on key issues, including drinking water supply, conservation of water resources, power supply for irrigation and alternative crop planning.

The discussions will also focus on strategies to prevent and mitigate drought conditions, along with precautionary measures to be taken in advance to minimise their impact. The government is expected to seek the cooperation of all political parties in formulating and implementing measures to effectively address the drought situation in the State.

BJP Seeks Permanent Shift of Dump Yard

HYDERABAD, OCT.27

BJP Telangana president N. Ramchandra Rao has extended full support to the 'Chalo Jawaharnagar' Maha Padayatra led by Malkajgiri MP Eatala Rajender, demanding the permanent relocation of the Jawaharnagar dumping yard over pollution and public health concerns. Rao joined the march on Tuesday morning at Lakshminarayana Cheruvu near Edulabad in Ghatkesar mandal. He alleged that pollution and foul odour from the dumping yard had made life unbearable for residents of Cheriyal and Edulabad, while groundwater contamination had affected local livelihoods, including fish sales from Edulabad pond. Referring to directions issued by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in an earlier case, Rao questioned the government over the implementation of scientific capping measures and environmental norms. He cited Delhi's Okhla waste-to-energy plant as an example of scientific waste management that generates electricity while limiting environmental harm.

Rao criticised Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for allegedly failing to respond to Rajender's appeal despite a month having passed. He vowed that the agitation would continue until the Jawaharnagar dumping yard was completely closed and permanently relocated.

Telangana declares 365 mandals drought-hit, 111 severely affected

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shortfall to emerging and strengthening El Niño conditions, weak low-pressure systems over the Bay of Bengal and prolonged dry spells.

The rainfall deficit has significantly affected agricultural activity across the State. The drought assessment found that kharif cultivation in 18 of the State's 33 districts had been impacted. The area under paddy cultivation declined by 18%, from 69.19 lakh acres to 57 lakh acres, while the overall kharif crop area fell from 139.28 lakh acres to 126.06 lakh acres, a reduction of 13.22 lakh acres.

The situation has also raised concerns over water availability for irrigation and drinking purposes. Live storage in major and medium irrigation reservoirs stood at 179.63 thousand million cubic feet (TMC), against their combined capacity of 585 TMC. The reduced storage could affect agriculture, livestock and power supply, besides placing additional pressure on drinking water resources.

Nalgonda and Sangareddy districts have emerged among the worst affected, with 28 mandals each declared drought-hit. Suryapet follows with 23 mandals, while Adilabad and Vikarabad have 20 each. Rangareddy and Nizamabad have 18 mandals each classified as drought-affected. The combined Nalgonda district has the highest number, with 68 mandals declared drought-hit.



The government said the drought declaration was based on a comprehensive assessment involving rainfall data, the duration of dry spells, shortfalls in crop-sown area, vegetation conditions, soil moisture and groundwater indicators. Ground-level sample surveys and field verification were also considered before finalising the list of affected mandals.

As part of the relief measures, the Agriculture and Cooperation department has been directed to provide agricultural input subsidies to eligible farmers through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). The subsidies are to be disbursed within one month of the receipt of Central assistance under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF).

The government has also instructed the authorities to strengthen drinking water supplies, make fodder available and establish cattle camps wherever necessary. Employment opportunities are to be expanded under the Employment Guarantee scheme to provide relief to rural households affected by the drought.

The order directs the State government to seek Central assistance under the NDRF by submitting the prescribed assessment details and village-level data for severely drought-affected mandals within seven days. Beneficiary lists are to be published on the websites of the respective District Collectors and the State government to ensure transparency in the distribution of relief.

District Collectors, along with officials from the Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry and Civil Supplies departments, have been asked to maintain beneficiary registers, monitor relief expenditure and submit progress reports to the Revenue (Disaster Management) department.

The drought declaration follows a review by the Cabinet subcommittee on the impact of El Niño and drought conditions held on October 23. The government order also refers to a resolution adopted by the Telangana Legislative Assembly on September 18, urging the Centre to extend drought relief and provide additional assistance to the State.

With a substantial shortfall in rainfall, declining reservoir storage and a reduction in the area under kharif cultivation, the government has directed district authorities to expedite relief operations and closely monitor the situation in affected mandals.

SC Questions Centre Over Medicine Price Controls

NEW DELHI, OCT 27



The Supreme Court on Tuesday questioned the Centre's reluctance to bring a wider range of medicines under price control, expressing concern over huge differences between procurement prices and maximum retail prices (MRPs). The bench reserved its order after hearing arguments on the regulation of medicine prices.

A bench of Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Sandeep Mehta asked the government why manufacturers were permitted to fix excessively high MRPs when retailers procured medicines at substantially lower prices. "What stops you from taking control of the entire range of medicines and drugs?" Justice Nath asked Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati, who defended the Centre's pharmaceutical pricing policy. Justice Mehta cited an instance involving a chemotherapy injection procured by a medical dealer for ₹11,000 but reportedly charged at ₹1.3 lakh by a hospital. He questioned whether commercial considerations should take precedence over patients' lives, particularly in a country where social security remains limited.

The Centre argued that its policy sought to balance affordable medicines with innovation, competition, industrial growth and employment. Under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 2013, scheduled medicines are subject to ceiling prices, while non-scheduled medicines have greater pricing flexibility, subject to restrictions on subsequent increases. However, the court questioned why most medicines remained outside the stricter regulatory framework. It also raised concerns about the effectiveness of the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority and whether existing interventions adequately protected consumers.

Petitioner Kishan Chand Jain argued that non-scheduled medicines accounted for approximately 83% of the pharmaceutical market by value. The bench also questioned the rationale behind allowing substantial trade margins and whether capping margins on medicines with already inflated MRPs would provide meaningful relief.

Representing hospitals, senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi argued that medicine margins helped institutions meet operating expenses, including staffing and infrastructure costs. The bench questioned why patients should bear inflated medicine prices when hospitals procured drugs at significantly lower rates. The court permitted all parties to submit written arguments within two weeks before passing its order.

Ponguleti Flags Delays in ...

➢FROM PAGE 1

despite repeated directives, revenue functioning has yet to meet expected standards. Highlighting the State government's ambitious comprehensive land resurvey project, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy stated that the initiative aims to permanently resolve long-standing land disputes and bring complete transparency to land records. The government has set a target to complete the resurvey of all agricultural lands and abadi properties within 18 months, he said.

During the meeting, the Minister directly questioned several tahsildars and field surveyors regarding daily operational metrics, survey methodologies, village allocation coverage, and project timelines. Under Phase I, the resurvey is currently underway across 70 selected villages per district.

Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy instructed officials across all cadres from Tahsildars to District Collectors to conduct regular field inspections, monitor survey progress firsthand, and address farmers' concerns on the ground without delay. The meeting was attended by Ministers Damodar Rajanarasimha and Vivek Venkataswamy, MPs Raghunandan Rao and Suresh Shetkar; MLC Anji Reddy; MLAs Chinta Prabhakar, Sunitha Lakshma Reddy, Manik Rao, Kotha Prabhakar Reddy, and Sanjeeva Reddy; the Collectors of Sangareddy, Medak, and Siddipet districts Prateek Jain, Haimavathi, and Pratima Singh, respectively as well as Additional Collectors, Sub-Collectors, Revenue Divisional Officers, Tahsildars, and officials from various departments.

Global summit curtain..

➢FROM PAGE 1

finalized by by November first week to ensure a seamless experience for the CEOs and delegates arriving from various countries and states to attend the summit, CM Revanth Reddy said global experts and prominent figures in the fields of climate change and Artificial Intelligence (AI) would also be invited to the summit. Promotional campaign in Hyderabad to highlight the significant achievements made in sectors like technology, pharmaceuticals, and aerospace and the use of drone-based publicity campaigns at various locations in the city was discussed in the meeting.

Officials briefed the Chief Minister on the specific arrangements being made for the AVGC (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, and Comics) sector. The CM instructed officials to ensure that the designs at the global summit venue reflect the traditions of Telangana mainly Kakatiya Kala Thoranam and the Ramappa Temple. Officials outlined specific designs and arrangements being made to highlight the Bathukamma festival at the cultural events in the summit. Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju, Principal Secretary to the CM Seshadri, TGIIC MD Shashanka, Special Secretary to Industries Department Krishna Aditya, 'Invest Telangana' CEO B. Ajith Reddy, Deputy Secretary to IT Department D. Anudeep, and other officials were present.

Telangana Rolls Out Financial Inclusion Drive Across 33 Districts



Hyderabad, Oct.27: The Department of Financial Services, Union Ministry of Finance, has launched a financial inclusion campaign across Telangana from October 21 to December 31, 2026, to extend banking and social security benefits to eligible citizens. Banking camps will be organised across 12,760 Gram Panchayats and 136 Urban Local Bodies in all 33 districts to facilitate enrolment under PMJJBY, PMSBY and Atal Pension Yojana. The drive will also cover Jan Dhan account openings, reactivation of dormant accounts, re-KYC, Aadhaar seeding, nomination updates and Kisan Credit Card applications. The campaign will promote financial literacy, digital banking safety and awareness of unclaimed financial assets. Satish Kumar, Convenor of the State Level Bankers' Committee, Telangana, said bank officials would assist eligible beneficiaries with enrolment and documentation.

Under PMSBY, eligible individuals aged between 18 and 70 years can obtain accident insurance cover of Rs.2 lakh for an annual premium of Rs.20. PMJJBY offers Rs.2 lakh life insurance cover to eligible individuals aged 18–50 for an annual premium of Rs.436. Atal Pension Yojana provides a monthly pension after the age of 60, subject to eligibility and contribution requirements. Citizens have been urged to visit nearby banking camps, enrol in eligible schemes and remain alert to financial fraud. The State Government and local bodies have been asked to support the campaign.

MICROSOFT'S GOLDEN GOODBYE

➢FROM PAGE 1

Silicon Valley wants to fund Its AI buildout while holding payroll down. This follows about 4,800 layoffs announced in July, mainly in Xbox and commercial sales, and a voluntary retirement programme earlier this year for long serving US staff. The cutting has been steady, and the cheques have been signed in lower case.

On October 8, the US Labour Department suspended PERM labour certification filings of several companies, Microsoft among them. Microsoft has publicly defended Its use of the H1B programme. Ms Coleman's message did not mention visa holders, and it remains unclear how the offer applies to those in America on work visas. An Indian engineer on a visa who is handed an exit package has a clock ticking in his head that no HR memo will ever explain. Microsoft owes these workers clarity, and New Delhi owes them watchfulness. India supplies the brains that keep the world's software humming, yet decisions on their futures are taken thousands of miles away over a video call. Our government must ask Microsoft in plain words how many Indian jobs are on this list.

SCOOPX will keep the questions coming, and we invite Microsoft India to answer them on the record. The Indian worker has built the digital age with his own hands. He deserves transparency, falr treatment under Indian law, and a seat at the table before the shutters come down on December 31

Bhatti calls for scientific research to preserve

➢FROM PAGE 1

well-being to cope with the growing stress associated with today's fast-paced lifestyle. The Deputy Chief Minister said Ayurveda held a special place in India's medical heritage, while Kerala had earned national and international recognition for its traditional knowledge of medicinal plants and specialised treatment practices. He observed that the 11-day Dhanvantari Maha Yagam being conducted at the temple would help highlight the importance of health and showcase the richness of India's traditional medical systems.

Osmania University Makes History by Hosting FASMI International Conference for the First Time in India





- **Vice-Chancellor Prof. Kumar Molugaram Inaugurates Prestigious International Conference on Molecular Imaging and Precision Medicine**
- **350 Delegates from India and Abroad Participate; Global Experts Deliberate on AI, Advanced Diagnostics and Emerging Healthcare Technologies**

HYDERABAD

In a significant milestone for biomedical research and international academic collaboration, Osmania University is hosting the prestigious FASMI Biennial Meeting 2026, jointly organised by the Federation of Asian Societies for Molecular Imaging (FASMI) and the Molecular Imaging Society of India (MISI), for the first time in India. The conference has attracted approximately 350 delegates, including scientists, clinicians, researchers and industry experts from India and abroad. Senior Professor Kumar Molugaram, Vice-Chancellor of Osmania University, inaugurated the conference at the University College of Engineering on Tuesday. Dr. Ann-Marie Chacko, Duke-NUS Medical School, Singapore, participated as the Guest of Honour.

Addressing the gathering, the Vice-Chancellor described the event as a proud achievement for Osmania University, noting that earlier editions were held in Taiwan, Australia and Japan. Emphasising that precision in medical diagnosis and treatment is critical to saving lives, he called for bridging gaps in healthcare facilities and strengthening research, innovation and access to advanced technologies, particularly for cancer and diabetes. He highlighted the transformative potential of artificial intelligence, molecular imaging and precision medicine, reaffirming the University's commitment to interdisciplinary research and international collaboration in line with national and Telangana development priorities.

He specially appreciated Dr. Uday Krishnamurthy, President of FASMI and an alumnus of Osmania University, for bringing the prestigious conference to his alma mater, and congratulated Prof. P. Chandra Sekhar, Principal, University College of Engineering, and Prof. D. Suman, Head, Department of Biomedical Engineering, and the organising team.

Guest of Honour Dr. Ann-Marie Chacko highlighted the expanding role of molecular imaging in monitoring treatment responses and advancing personalised healthcare, while encouraging young researchers to pursue global collaborations. Dr. Jyotsna Rao, President of MISI, also addressed the gathering.

The conference commenced on October 26 with a workshop on molecular imaging and AI, featuring a keynote by Padma Shri Dr. Kumarasamy Thangaraj, Director, CCMB, and hands-on training in portable ultrasound technology facilitated by Esaote India NS Ltd.

Scientific sessions focus on MRI, Theranostics, Ultrasound, Multimodal Imaging and AI in Medical Imaging. Major highlights include the Sam Gambhir Memorial Lecture by Dr. Ramasamy Paulmurugan, Stanford University, USA, and contributions from international experts representing Kyoto University, the University of Kansas, Arizona State University and Japan's National Institutes for Quantum Science and Technology. A dedicated career panel connects emerging biomedical researchers with academic and industry experts.

Established in 2006, FASMI promotes international cooperation in molecular imaging. Supported by the World Molecular Imaging Society, Indo American Society of Nuclear Medicine, IIT Hyderabad, Biophore, the National Higher Education Mission and the Telangana Council of Higher Education, the conference provides a valuable platform for scientific exchange, emerging technologies and global research partnerships, further strengthening Osmania University's international academic and research profile.



Good News for Hyderabad Metro Commuters!

- **PRTS Proposed to Improve Last-Mile Connectivity**

HYDERABAD

Hyderabad Metro Rail Limited (HMRL) is taking steps towards introducing a Personal Rapid Transit System (PRTS) to improve last-mile connectivity and help metro commuters reach their final destinations more conveniently from metro stations.

A techno-economic feasibility study has been conducted to explore the possibility of implementing the system under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. A stakeholders' workshop was also held in Hyderabad, bringing together representatives from various government departments, traffic police, real estate companies and educational institutions to discuss the proposed project. The study identified the corridor between Raidurg and Kukatpally, along with areas surrounding the Secretariat, Hussain Sagar, Begumpet, Assembly and Secunderabad West metro stations, as potential locations for the proposed system.

If implemented, the system could make the final leg of metro journeys more convenient, reduce dependence on private vehicles and help ease traffic congestion across the city. However, further decisions on implementation will be taken based on the feasibility study and suggestions received from the various departments concerned.

EASTERN RAILWAY
CANCELLATION OF TENDER
Tender No. SDSTE-CCTV-HAZAT-RPH-PKR dated 09.10.26 with closing on 02.11.26 which was published earlier by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Howrah, New Divisional Railway Manager Office, near Railway Museum, Howrah-711101 has been **cancelled** on 26.10.26.
HWH-418/2026-27
Tender Notice is also available at websites : www.er.indianrailways.gov.in / www.ireps.gov.in
Follow us at : @EasternRailway
@easternrailwayheadquarter

EASTERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No.: W_LLH_09_2026-27_R2, Dated: 23.10.2026. E-Tender (Open Tender) is invited online by Dy. Chief Mechanical Engineer/Elect, C & W Workshop, Eastern Railway, Liluah, Howrah-711204 from Tenderers having technical capabilities for the following work: **Name of the Work:** Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of Complete Set comprising of Automation of Acid Dilution, Filling & Neutralization Process of LMLA Battery during POH at Battery/Cell Section at C&W Workshop, Eastern Railway, Liluah. **Approx. cost of Works:** Rs. 55,81,400/-. **Earnest Money:** Rs. 1,11,600/-. **Tender Closing Date & Time:** 06.11.2026 at 14.00 hrs. Website where complete Details of Tender is available: **www.ireps.gov.in**
MISC-242/2026-27
Tender Notices are also available at Website www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in
Follow us at : @EasternRailway
@easternrailwayheadquarter

Bhutanese Participants Pay a Courtesy Visit to ESCI



- **Director Col. Harpal Singh Grewal**

HYDERABAD

A seven-member delegation from Bhutan, participating in a five-day Continuing Professional Development Programme (CPDP) on "Safety and Risk Management in Construction of Civil Structures Using Artificial Intelligence (AI)," being conducted at the Engineering Staff College of India (ESCI), Hyderabad, from 26 to 30 October 2026, paid a courtesy visit to the Director of ESCI, Colonel Harpal Singh Grewal in his chambers today on 27th October, 2026

The participants, representing civil engineering and related fields, are Phuntsho Dema, Rinchen Namgay and Sapchu Doya, Section Officers (Civil); Tshering Peljor, Senior Supervisor (Civil); Pema Jurme; and Dhan Bir Rai of Druk Green Power Corporation, Bhutan.

The training programme is being organized by the Civil and Transportation Engineering (CTE) Division of ESCI. Mr. Ch. Tilak, Faculty Member of the CTE Division, coordinated the delegation's visit

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
MEDICAL DEPARTMENT
E-TENDER NOTICE NO.SR22LMB01R5
(TWO PACKET SYSTEM)
Principal Chief Medical Director, Headquarters Office, Southern Railway, Chennai-3 for and on behalf of the President of India, invites ONLINE open tender for **"Establishing CT/MRI Scan center at New OPD Block, Southern Railway Central Hospital, Perambur, Chennai-600023 on Public Private Partnership basis (On equip, Operate and Manage Model) for ten years"** as per Tender Notice mentioned above in the IREPS website. The bidders are requested to log on to **http://www.ireps.gov.in ->login- E-Tender -> Earning/Leasing Tender module.** The bidders need to be enrolled in the IREPS Portal for quoting e-tender. Only online tender will be accepted. It is the responsibility of the bidder to obtain a digital signature certificate for participating in e-tender. The Tender Document can be downloaded from the IREPS website-**Documents- upload/view document - File name-RFP-RT5 Final161026_1.pdf.** The advertised value of the tender is **Rs.2.95 Cr. including GST 18%.** The cost of **EMD is Rs.297500/-** to be paid online along with tender. Pre-bid conference will be held at **Medical Director's Room, Old Railway Hospital, Ayanavaram, Chennai-23** on **04/11/2026 at 15.00 Hrs. The online tender closing date and time is 25/11/2026 up to 15:00 hours.**
Principal Chief Medical Director/SR

GITAM NCC Cadets Selected for National Drone Competition 2026

HYDERABAD

Two NCC cadets from GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, have been selected to represent the Andhra Pradesh and Telangana (AP&T) Directorate at the All India Inter-Directorate Drone Competition 2026, scheduled to be held at K. S. Rangasamy College of Technology (KSRCT), Tiruchengode, Tamil Nadu, from 23 October to 4 November 2026.

This is a significant achievement for GITAM Hyderabad NCC, as only four cadets from Telangana have been selected for the national-level competition, of whom two are from GITAM Hyderabad NCC.



The selected cadets are JUO A. Abhinav Sai Karthik(Senior Division – SD) and JUO Tammuluri Kavya (Senior Wing – SW). Their selection reflects their dedication, technical proficiency, hard work, and commitment to excellence in drone operations. Lieutenant S. Ajay Kumar, Associate NCC Officer, GITAM, said, "We are honoured to have our cadets represent the Directorate at this prestigious national-level competition. Their achievement is a source of pride for GITAM Hyderabad and an inspiration to fellow cadets to embrace technological innovation and strive for excellence in NCC activities."

The leadership of GITAM Hyderabad also congratulated both cadets on their remarkable achievement and encouraged them to sustain their enthusiasm and continue striving for excellence in the future.

Hyderabad police launch zonal investigation branch in Golconda

HYDERABAD

Hyderabad City Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar on Tuesday inaugurated the Zonal Investigation Branch at the Golconda Zone Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) office in Mehdipatnam as part of a pilot project aimed at improving the quality and efficiency of criminal investigations.

The new initiative seeks to separate crime investigation from routine law and order duties, enabling police personnel to focus more effectively on serious and complex cases. Police station staff currently handle both responsibilities, and the demands of bandobust arrangements and daily policing often affect the time available for detailed investigations.

The dedicated unit comprises two Detective Inspectors, one Sub-Inspector, one Head Constable and 10 Constables. It will investigate grave and other serious cases registered within the Golconda Zone and coordinate with departments such as Health, the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) and the prosecution to collect scientific evidence and file charge sheets within prescribed timelines.



Inaugurating the branch, Sajjanar said the ultimate objective of policing was to ensure timely and complete justice for victims. He stressed that routine law and order duties should not hamper investigations and that the new team would focus on cases from registration through the filing of charge sheets in court. The branch would complement the Investigation Monitoring Cell already established in the commissionerate by providing continuous oversight of serious criminal investigations at the zonal level, he added. The Commissioner emphasized the importance of scientific evidence in securing convictions, stating that modern investigative methods were essential to bringing offenders to justice. The new arrangement is also expected to reduce the burden on police stations, allowing personnel there to concentrate on maintaining law and order and preventing crime. Sajjanar said the police would assess the results of the pilot project in Golconda before extending the initiative to other zones under the Hyderabad City Police Commissionerate. Additional Commissioner of Police (Law and Order) Tafseer Iqubal, Golconda Zone DCP J. Raghavendar Reddy, Traffic DCP-1 Avinash Kumar, Traffic DCP-2 Kajal Singh, Women Safety Wing DCP Lavanya Nayak and other police officers and staff attended the inauguration.



SHORT TAKES

Union Home Minister Amit Shah to Visit Telangana on Nov 2 !

HYDERABAD: *The BJP has intensified its preparations ahead of the visit of Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah to Telangana on November 2. As part of the visit, BJP leaders, along with Telangana BJP State President Shri N. Ramchander Rao, submitted a representation to the Director General of Police (DGP) of Telangana, requesting the necessary permissions and security arrangements to ensure the successful conduct of BJP party programmes. The leaders requested the police department to extend the necessary cooperation to ensure that the party programmes scheduled during the visit proceed without any hindrance and are conducted democratically and in a peaceful atmosphere.*

Loud explosion-like sound triggers panic in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD: A loud explosion-like sound heard around 9.15 am on Tuesday triggered panic among the residents of Rajendranagar and surrounding areas, including Erraboda, Upparapally, Langar House, Keshavswamy Nagar and Attapur.

Residents reportedly felt the ground shake for several seconds, prompting many to rush out of their homes amid fears of an explosion or earthquake. Confusion spread as rumours circulated about the cause of the unusual noise.

Telangana Invites Over 550 Leading Domestic and International Companies for Invest Telangana – Global Summit 2026

- **Curtain-Raiser Event to Be Held in New Delhi on October 29**



HYDERABAD

Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju stated that the Telangana Government is inviting more than 550 leading domestic and international companies to participate in the Invest Telangana – Global Summit 2026, scheduled to be held at Hyderabad Future City on December 7, 8 and 9.

The Chief Secretary chaired a high-level meeting with senior officials representing various committees constituted for the conduct of the Global Summit at Secretariat on Tuesday. Senior officials Naveen Mittal, Harichandana, Gaurav Uppal, Sarfaraz Ahmed, Krishna Aditya, Anudeep, Shashank, Krishna Bhaskar, Ajit Reddy and others attended the meeting.

During the review, the Chief Secretary stated that the State Government is organising the Global Summit on a prestigious scale with the objective of positioning Telangana as a leading global investment destination, attracting major investments, accelerating industrial development and generating employment opportunities for the youth.

He informed that the Curtain-Raiser Programme for Invest Telangana – Global Summit 2026 will be held in New Delhi on October 29, with the participation of Hon'ble Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. Ambassadors, heads of leading companies, prominent industrialists and distinguished personalities from different sectors have been invited to the programme.

The Chief Secretary emphasised that the New Delhi event would serve as an important platform to showcase Telangana's investment potential, strengthen engagement with international investors and industry leaders, and build momentum for the upcoming Global Summit.

He further stated that roadshows highlighting Invest Telangana – Global Summit 2026 were been conducted in Chennai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad. More than 1,500 companies and organisations are being invited to participate in the main summit in Hyderabad.

Special Focus on Defence and Aerospace Sectors

He stated that special emphasis is being placed on the defence and aerospace sectors as part of the Global Summit. Around 100 companies and organisations from across the world in the aerospace and defence industries are being invited to participate in the Raksha Expo, which will be organised in connection with the summit.

Special invitations have already been sent to the identified companies and organisations, and the invitation process is continuing. The expo is expected to provide an important platform to showcase Telangana's industrial capabilities, manufacturing ecosystem and investment opportunities in the aerospace and defence sectors.

Comprehensive Arrangements at Future City

Reviewing the infrastructure and event-management arrangements, the Chief Secretary stated that the main summit venue at Future City is being divided into 25 sectors to facilitate the systematic organisation of plenary sessions, seminars, discussions, agreement-signing ceremonies, exhibitions and displays by participating companies and institutions. He also stated that special cultural programmes reflecting Telangana's rich culture, traditions and artistic heritage would be organised as part of the summit.

The Chief Secretary directed the officials to ensure comprehensive arrangements for the smooth participation of domestic and international delegates, including coordination of transport, accommodation, meeting facilities and other essential services. Steps were being taken to designate a senior officer as the nodal officer for each delegate to ensure effective coordination and provide necessary assistance throughout the event.

The Chief Secretary instructed all departments and committees to work in close coordination, adhere to the timelines and complete all arrangements in a systematic manner to ensure the successful conduct of Invest Telangana – Global Summit 2026.



Education is a Weapon to Overcome the Poverty

- **Lion Capt Dr. Burra Madhusudhan Reddy, Author, Speaker, Retired Principal**

KARIMNAGAR

The sharpest weapon to overcome poverty is quality higher education, said renowned poet, writer, orator and retired principal Capt Dr. Burra Madhusudhan Reddy. Speaking as the chief guest at the career counseling program held at the Husnabad PM Shree Government High School premises today, he said that poverty itself increases the desire to study, and he hoped that students should study at least up to a degree level and get the desired job. He said that students should set specific goals at the school level and work hard to achieve them. He said that the future of students with a regular routine will be bright. He said that people like Abdul Kalam, who rose from poverty to become a pole star, are standing as an example for us and guiding us like a lamp. He said that after class 10, the life of students will pave a new path.

He said that our future is in our hands, and the only thing that introduces us to ourselves is the education we receive. In this program, Lead India trainers Dr. Srinivas and Ganesh explained the importance of education and the role of parents well. The meeting, chaired by the school principal Mahender, honored the chief guest Dr. Burra Madhusudhan Reddy. On this occasion, the book Calendar of Events written by Dr. Burra Madhusudhan Reddy was presented to the school library.



Custard apple craze soars as prices climb across Telangana

HYDERABAD

Custard apples are in high demand across Telangana with the onset of winter, despite rising prices and a decline in seasonal yields. The seasonal fruit, prized for its taste and nutritional value, is selling at Rs.100 to Rs.150 per kg in local markets. In Hyderabad, individual fruits cost between Rs.30 and Rs.50, depending on size and quality, putting them beyond the reach of many ordinary consumers.

Vendors are sourcing large quantities from villages to meet the growing demand. However, the impact of El Nino and unfavourable weather conditions is believed to have reduced this season's yield compared to last year, affecting farmers and others dependent on the crop for their livelihood.

Besides, the high temperatures and erratic rainfall patterns linked to El Nino have severely impacted orchards. Farmers in primary growing regions report that trees that typically yield 50 to 60 fruits are producing fewer than 10 this season, causing flowers to wither and premature fruit drop. In addition, the wild monkey raids on orchards in districts like Mahabubnagar and Jagtial have exacerbated the shortage, destroying crops before farmers can harvest them.

According to traders, the shortage has forced the markets like Hyderabad to heavily rely on imports from Maharashtra and Karnataka. Meanwhile, Telangana's indigenous variety, the Balanagar custard apple, is currently seeking a Geographical Indication (GI) tag to preserve and protect its local farming heritage.

Custard apples contain dietary fibre, carbohydrates, vitamins and minerals, including vitamin C, potassium, calcium and magnesium. The fruit may support digestive health and contribute to bone health as part of a balanced diet.

Companies Must Work Towards Expanding Oil Palm Cultivation, says Minister Tummala

- **Godrej Company Representatives Meet Minister Tummala; Seek Additional Incentive Package for Anjanapuram Oil Palm Unit**
- **Representatives Seek 35 More Acres of Land for Sixth-Generation Hybrid Oil Palm Seed Garden**
- **Minister Calls for Doubling Oil Palm Cultivation Targets and Supplying Quality Planting Material to Farmers**



HYDERABAD

Telangana Minister for Agriculture, Marketing, Cooperation, Handlooms and Textiles, Tummala Nageswara Rao, has called upon companies to work towards expanding oil palm cultivation in Telangana and ensuring the supply of quality planting material to farmers.

On Tuesday, representatives of Godrej met the Minister at the Secretariat and submitted several requests concerning the development of the oil palm industry.

The representatives urged the Minister to facilitate the sanction of a special incentive package for the integrated oil palm unit established in Anjanapuram village of Konijerla mandal in Khammam district. The package would be in addition to the benefits available under the existing Telangana Food Processing and Preservation Policy and the Telangana State Industrial Development and Entrepreneur Advancement Policy.

They also requested that steps be taken to widen the road required for the unit's operations.

Additionally, the representatives sought the allocation of 35 more acres of land to establish India's first seed garden for the production of sixth-generation hybrid oil palm seeds. They also requested the allocation of additional districts to the company in view of its plans to establish a modern oil palm mill. Furthermore, they urged the government to take the views of companies into account while determining the prices of fresh oil palm fruit bunches.

Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao responded positively to the requests. He directed that the District Collector of Khammam be consulted on issues relating to road widening, land allocation and other matters concerning the Anjanapuram oil palm unit, so that the problems could be resolved at the earliest.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister asked company representatives to double the cultivation targets in districts where oil palm is already being grown and work towards achieving the prescribed targets.

He stressed that expanding oil palm cultivation and supplying quality planting material to farmers were equally important. He urged companies to make available high-quality, high-yielding and short-variety oil palm plants to farmers.

Emphasising that the production of quality seeds was crucial for the development of oil palm cultivation, the Minister directed the company representatives to expedite the establishment of the country's first seed garden.

Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao expressed the hope that the state government and companies would work in coordination to expand oil palm cultivation in Telangana and deliver greater benefits to farmers.

Those present at the meeting included Oilfed Managing Director Yasmin Basha; Godrej Agrovet Limited Managing Director and CEO Sunil Kataria; Group Head of Corporate Affairs Rakesh Swamy; and other company representatives.

Ponnam sets Dec 9 deadline for sewing machine distribution



HYDERABAD: Minister for Transport and Backward Classes Welfare Ponnam Prabhakar on Tuesday directed officials to formulate an action plan to distribute sewing machines to beneficiaries on December 9. He instructed the department to expedite the tendering process and complete all administrative formalities to ensure the scheme is implemented without delay.

The Minister issued the directions during a comprehensive review meeting on the functioning of the BC Welfare department at the Secretariat. The discussions covered the implementation of welfare schemes, infrastructure in residential schools, the construction of Self-Respect (Atma Gaurava) buildings, skill development training for unemployed youth, and self-employment initiatives for BC communities. Reviewing the flagship Indiramma Sewing Machines for Every Household scheme launched to enhance self-employment opportunities for BC women, Ponnam Prabhakar noted that the initiative has received an overwhelmingly positive response, drawing approximately 4.80 lakh applications. Under the planned initial phase, 1.90 lakh women will benefit from the scheme, covering 1,000 selected beneficiaries from each Assembly constituency across the state.

Governor to Lead Anti-Drug Rally at Osmania University on Wednesday

HYDERABAD

The Governor of Telangana, Shiv Pratap Shukla, will participate in a Nasha Mukt Bharat awareness programme and a massive anti-drug rally at Osmania University Campus on Wednesday, as part of efforts to sensitise students and youth to the harmful effects of substance abuse. The programme, organised by the Indian Red Cross Society (IRCS), Telangana State Branch, will commence at 11 a.m. at Tagore Auditorium on the university campus. More than 1,200 students, National Service Scheme (NSS) volunteers and IRCS members are expected to participate in the rally.

The Governor will unveil Nasha Mukt Bharat posters and stickers and administer an anti-drug pledge to students and youth. He will subsequently address students, NSS volunteers and IRCS members, underscoring the importance of youth participation in building a drug-free society.

He will also inaugurate a blood donation camp and distribute fruits and certificates to blood donors. The programme will culminate in a rally from Tagore Auditorium to the Arts College, with the Governor flagging it off from the auditorium premises. Osmania University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Kumar Molugara and the Governor's Special Chief Secretary and IRCS Telangana State Branch Chairman, M. Dana Kishore, will participate in the programme.

Anti-drug awareness activities across 33 districts

Simultaneously, the IRCS will organise Nasha Mukt Bharat awareness programmes across all 33 districts of Telangana. The activities will include rallies, poster and sticker launches, and anti-drug pledges to mobilise students, youth and the public against substance abuse.

Governor to release 'Pancha Parivartan' book

The Governor will also release the book Pancha Parivartan at a programme organised by the Initiative for Moral and Cultural Training Foundation (IMCTF) at Sanskriti Community Bhavan on Lok Bhavan Road, Hyderabad, at 4 p.m. on Wednesday. The book aims to instil patriotism, moral values and a sense of civic responsibility among students, encouraging them to grow into responsible citizens. It has been developed around five key themes: family values, environmental protection, social harmony, the spirit of Swadeshi and civic values.



Telangana Director of School Education Naveen Nicolas, IAS; IMCTF National Organising Secretary Gunwant Singh Kothari; MLC Malka Komuraiah; IMCTF State President Srikanth Reddy; and State Secretary Ramamurthy, among others, are expected to attend the programme. Correspondents and principals from around 300 schools in Hyderabad are also expected to participate.

TTD EO credits teamwork for successful twin Brahmotsavams

TIRUPATI

TTD Executive Officer M. Ravichandra has credited the successful conduct of the annual and Navaratri Brahmotsavams of Lord Venkateswara at Tirumala to the coordinated efforts of officers and employees across all departments.

Reviewing departmental performance at a meeting in Tirupati on Tuesday, he appreciated the seamless coordination that ensured smooth Vahana Sevas, Moolavirat darshan and improved facilities for devotees.

Ravichandra lauded the Garden and Electrical departments for floral decorations and illuminations, the Annaprasadam department for serving quality food to lakhs of devotees, and the Health and Security departments for maintaining sanitation and safety. He also appreciated the services of the Kalyanakatta, Medical, Transport, Accommodation and Forest departments.

Directing officials to strengthen advance planning, he asked the Engineering department to ensure timely completion of essential works and instructed the Marketing department to plan raw material procurement at least 90 days in advance. The EO also praised Srivari Sevaks, NSS volunteers and NCC students for assisting devotees, and appreciated SVBC for live telecasts of Vahana Sevas, enabling devotees worldwide to witness the celebrations. He called for further improvements in broadcast quality and engaging programmes.



Cultural performances by artistes from different States were another major attraction, showcasing India's rich heritage and traditions.

TTD Additional EO Ch. Venkaiah Chowdary, JEO (Education and Health) Gopinath and CVSO Muralikrishna presented Power Point presentations on the performance of various departments during the Brahmotsavams.

Vijay govt cancels high-rate power tenders amid Opposition criticism over prices

The Tamil Nadu government has cancelled short-term power procurement tenders after bidders quoted rates ranging from Rs 37 to Rs 41 per unit, with Energy Minister Nirmal Kumar calling the prices unreasonable and saying the state has sufficient power for the next three months. The decision comes amid opposition criticism over the proposed high procurement rates, with DMK leader Udhayanidhi Stalin earlier slamming Vijay's government as a "rotten government" and alleging that consumers would bear the burden of higher costs through electricity bills. Announcing the decision, Nirmal Kumar said the government would not purchase electricity at the rates quoted by the bidders, who had submitted their offers when the tender was opened on Tuesday. "We are not going to do any purchase of power for the quoted rates of Rs 37 to 41," the minister said. He said Tamil Nadu had sufficient power to manage its requirements for the next three months and that electricity was being procured in advance for the next summer.

Will be held accountable even after retirement: Jagan Reddy warns police officials

PULIVENDULA (ANDHRA PRADESH), OCT 27



Former Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party president Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy said on Tuesday that an attack on any YSRCP worker would be treated as an attack on himself and warned that police officials responsible for injustice would be held accountable even after retirement. He told police officials that they are not working for Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu but under the Constitution. They must remember the three lions on their caps and their constitutional oath, he said. He was addressing party cadres in his home constituency, Pulivendula in YSR Kadapa district, ahead of local body elections.\ The YSRCP chief slammed the ruling coalition for its unfair conduct of elections on an uneven playing field and affirmed that the government is resorting to such undemocratic tactics as it has failed to fulfil poll promises and is scared of polls. The former Chief Minister said elections should be held on a level playing field where all players should be given equal opportunity, unlike the ongoing local body elections which are rigged by misusing official machinery and preventing the Opposition from filing nomination papers.

He remarked that arrests, cases and harassment are nothing new to YSRCP. The party was born in Opposition and overcame every difficulty with public support, he said.

YS Jagan said every household was discussing the difference between YS Jagan's governance and Chandrababu's rule, and people would give their verdict in the coming elections. "Three years have passed. Only two years remain. After that comes YS Jagan 2.0. If YS Jagan is one, the party worker is two," he said.

He told the party cadres that their problems were his own. He stated that Pulivendula stood by him like family after his father's death and that his support had taken him to the office of Chief Minister. "Pulivendula would become the starting point of a statewide movement to protect Democracy," he said and announced that he would return a day before polling and personally cast his vote on polling day. He called on people to stand courageously and ensure voters were free to express their verdict.

Likening Chandrababu Naidu to the Sakuni character in the Mahabharata, who deceives opponents by rolling the magical dice to eke out a fake victory, YS Jagan Mohan Reddy said that when the nomination process itself is held under unfair practices, how the sanctity of results and democratic principles remain.

YS Jagan said the State had earlier heard of booth rigging, but Chandrababu had now taken it to "nomination rigging" by occupying nomination centres and preventing candidates from filing papers.

"You contest, I contest, and whoever receives the people's vote should win. That is Democracy. Preventing opponents from contesting and then claiming victory is shameful." The YSRCP chief said the coalition was celebrating 17 Urban Local Bodies going into its account, with 15 Chairperson posts for TDP, one for Jana Sena and one for BJP, and boasting that 21 per cent of the 2,108 wards were unanimous. "Victories secured by denying opponents the opportunity to contest cannot be called genuine. There is nothing to celebrate in claims that six municipalities, including those in YSR district, have gone to the coalition," he said and challenged Chandrababu to face a genuine contest. He pointed out that in Pulivendula, nominations could be filed in only 20 of 40 wards. Of seven ZPTC seats, contests were allowed in only four. Nomination papers were snatched and torn, while others were rejected during scrutiny.

"Candidates seeking permission to file nominations were lathi-charged. Police fired 37 rounds, injuring two persons in the legs. Twenty stun shells, 40 smoke shells and seven hand grenades were used. Was filing a nomination their only crime?" he asked.

YS Jagan claimed that attempt-to-murder cases were registered against 924 people in Pulivendula after police fired on YSRCP workers.

He alleged that even after Supreme Court directions, there has been no change in Chandrababu, the SEC, collectors, or SPs. In Kadapa district, contests were prevented in 17 of 39 ZPTC seats. Candidates were not allowed to file nominations in six places, while nominations in another 11 places were rejected after midnight in the name of scrutiny. YS Jagan called upon party workers to rise against the injustice and said the movement to protect Democracy should begin in Pulivendula and spread across the State. Though YSRCP was restricted to contests in only 20 wards and four ZPTC seats, the fight would continue, he added.

Local Elections: Supreme Court Concludes Hearing on YSRCP Petition

NEW DELHI:

The Supreme Court has rejected the Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress Party (YSRCP)'s request to extend the deadline for filing nominations in local body elections in Andhra Pradesh. The court has concluded the hearing on the petition filed in this regard.

During the hearing, the State Election Commission informed the court that it had implemented the directions issued during the previous hearing.

Senior advocate Maninder Singh, appearing for the YSRCP, argued that opposition party candidates were being prevented from filing their nominations. The State Election Commission explained to the Supreme Court the steps it had taken to address the issue.

Chief Justice of India Justice Surya Kant observed that the nomination deadline had already expired and told the candidates to focus on contesting the elections, wishing them "all the best."

The Supreme Court directed the State Election Commission to install CCTV cameras to ensure transparency in the electoral process and preserve the footage.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta represented the State Election Commission, while senior advocate Siddharth Luthra presented arguments on behalf of the state government.

Congress gets permission for rally at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan, but with conditions



The conditions laid down by Delhi Police require the organisers to ensure adequate security arrangements, install high-definition CCTV cameras, provide drinking water and toilets, deploy volunteers and ensure that the gathering remains peaceful. The rally's scheduled duration cannot be extended under any circumstances. The Delhi Police has cleared the Congress rally scheduled at Ramlila Maidan on November 1, 2026, imposing a series of conditions on the organisers, including a strict 5 pm deadline to conclude the event, CCTV surveillance and a ban on marches outside the venue. The no-objection certificate (NOC), issued on October 17, remains valid and has not been revoked, according to a copy of the permission letter.

The development comes amid a row over the Congress and INDIA bloc's proposed programme against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar. The opposition parties had planned a "public impeachment" event on October 30 as a curtain-raiser for the November 1 rally, but Congress general secretary (organisation) K C Venugopal alleged that permission for the initially planned venue, Ashok Hotel, was withdrawn following police intervention. Venugopal had said the Congress booked Ramlila Maidan from October 25 to November 3 and decided to shift the programme there after facing difficulties securing a venue. He also alleged that police had stopped workers from setting up infrastructure at the ground. The November 1 rally is part of the opposition's campaign over alleged electoral irregularities and its 'vote chori' allegations against the BJP. The Congress and its INDIA bloc allies have also raised concerns over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and demanded accountability from the Election Commission.

RALLY MUST END BY 5 PM, NO OVERNIGHT STAY

Under the conditions laid down by the Delhi Police, the rally must conclude by 5 pm on November 1, with no extension of the programme permitted under any circumstances. The process of dispersing participants must begin immediately after the event ends. The organisers have also been barred from allowing participants to stay at Ramlila Maidan overnight, either before or after the rally.

Ashray Akruti Unveils SIGNATHON 3.0 Jersey Ahead of October 31 Awareness Run





HYDERABAD | OCTOBER 27, 2026

To promote Indian Sign Language (ISL), equal communication rights, and total accessibility for persons with hearing impairment, non-governmental organization Ashray Akruti hosted an official press briefing and launch ceremony for SIGNATHON 3.0 today at its E-Learning Center in Srinagar Colony, Hyderabad. At the event, esteemed dignitaries unveiled the official running jersey and goodie bags for SIGNATHON 3.0, setting the stage for the flagship awareness run scheduled for Saturday, October 31, 2026, at People's Plaza, Marine Drive, Hyderabad. The launch event was graced by notable corporate leaders and inclusion advocates, including Mr. Nitin Sharma, Senior Director of Technology and Patent Counsel at Qualcomm; Ms. Neetu Chadda, Assistant Vice President – AML/KYC & CSR Grants Lead at State Street, Hyderabad; and Mr. D.P.K. Babu, Managing Director of Ashray Akruti.

Key Highlights & Quotes from the Press Briefing

1. Driving Strategic Change for Hearing Impairment

Addressing the media, Mr. D.P.K. Babu, Managing Director of Ashray Akruti, emphasized the core vision behind the initiative:

"SIGNATHON is not merely a marathon; it is a movement aimed at breaking the walls of silence and fostering an inclusive society. Through SIGNATHON 3.0, under the slogan 'Sign. Support. Strengthen.', we aim to create widespread public awareness about Indian Sign Language (ISL). Communication is a fundamental human right, and our goal is to empower individuals with hearing impairment to lead dignified, self-reliant lives with equal opportunities."

2. Corporate Commitment to Accessibility & CSR

Mr. Nitin Sharma, Senior Director at Qualcomm, stated:

"Inclusion and accessibility must be integrated into every aspect of our social infrastructure. Supporting initiatives of Ashray Akruti aligns with the commitment to technology-driven equity. We encourage citizens, corporates, and youth across Hyderabad to participate in large numbers on October 31st to champion equal rights for the hearing impaired."

3. Fostering Community Support & Empowerment

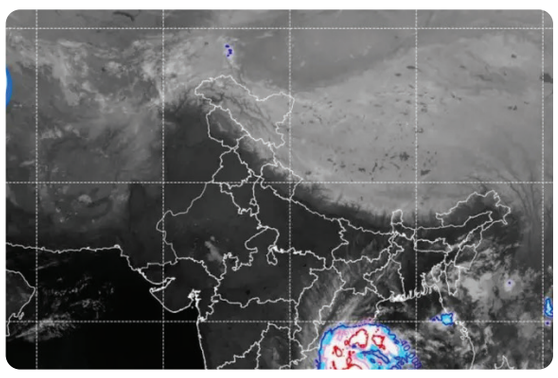
Elaborating on community involvement and social impact, Ms. Neetu Chadda, AVP & CSR Grants Lead at State Street, added:

"Creating an accessible world requires sustained efforts and proactive community participation. Ashray Akruti's dedication to teaching Indian Sign Language and supporting persons with disabilities is commendable. State Street is proud to be a part of Ashray Akruti, and we invite families, professionals, and students to run together for inclusion this Saturday."

Upcoming Event Details: SIGNATHON 3.0 Awareness Run

- Date: Saturday, October 31, 2026
- Venue: People's Plaza, PVNR Marg (Necklace Road), Hyderabad
- Theme: Sign. Support. Strengthen. — Championing Indian Sign Language & Equal Communication Rights
- Target Audience: Open to all citizens, corporate representatives, students, and inclusion advocates.

The organizers expressed their sincere gratitude to the press and media for their continuous support in amplifying the cause and helping ensure widespread community participation for the upcoming run on October 31st.



Andhra coast on high alert as 'very severe' cyclone comes hurtling

VISAKHAPATNAM, OCT 27

Very severe cyclonic storm 'Arnab' in the Bay of Bengal is hurtling towards the Andhra Pradesh coast, as the state machinery is on high alert to tackle the situation, with response teams, shelters, medical teams, power restoration crews, and relief supplies. The cyclone is likely to cross the coast close to Yanam on October 28 (Wednesday). Authorities have appealed to the public to stay indoors once winds rise and move to the nearest cyclone shelter if officials ask them to. The sea will be very rough to phenomenal with a storm surge of 1.0 to 2.0 m expected at landfall, highest near Kakinada and Yanam.

People have also been urged to stay away from the sea, rivers, tanks, and weak structures, and follow only official alerts from the State Disaster Management Authority and the India Meteorological Department (IMD). Authorities have set up 2,131 cyclone shelters in 20 districts. Mobile alerts have reached about 2.07 crore subscribers in 18 districts, with swell-surge alerts to 6.9 lakh coastal subscribers. Twelve teams of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and 10 from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) have been deployed in 14 districts, with one team of each in reserve.

Authorities have asked fishermen not to go to sea until October 29. Officials said all 30,043 fishing boats have returned to shore. Ports have hoisted cautionary signals. According to an official note released at 10 a.m. Tuesday, the very severe cyclonic storm lies 215 km south-east of Visakhapatnam, moving west-northwest at a speed of 22 km per hour. Winds near the centre are up to 157 km per hour. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, Home Minister V. Anitha, Real Time Governance Society (RTGS) and the State Disaster Management Authority are monitoring the cyclone continuously. It is likely to make landfall close to Yanam as a very severe cyclonic storm with winds of 130-160 kmph. The IMD has issued a red warning for Andhra Pradesh. Wind speed along the coast on Tuesday morning was 40-50 kmph. The wind speed will increase to 70-80 kmph in the afternoon and 100-110 kmph from tonight. Strongest winds are likely at the time of landfall.

Heavy to very heavy rain, extremely heavy at isolated places, is likely till October 28 in north and central Andhra Pradesh. Five-day district averages of rainfall are the highest in Srikakulam (257 mm), Krishna (255 mm), Parvathipuram Manyam (227 mm), Visakhapatnam (214 mm), Eluru (203 mm) and Vizianagaram (202 mm). Rivers in the Nagavali and Vamsadhara basins are being watched closely.

A total of 1,354 police personnel, 128 fire teams and 92 fire tenders have been deployed.

According to the official note, 1,087 medical teams, 8,281 emergency beds, 1,274 ambulances and 21,536 anti-snake vials are ready. As many as 1,351 pregnant women due by October 30 are already in the hospitals.

Over 8,400 restoration workers are ready with material, said officials, adding that 2,613 water tankers, 2,430 generators and 4,448 RO plants are also ready.

A total of 14,686 ration shops hold two months of stock, with fuel and LPG for generators, towers and ambulances.

Advisories have reached 35.96 lakh farmers, and 291 shelters for livestock are ready. Welfare hostels are being watched, including 419 tribal hostels with 88,083 students.

A total of 550 JCBs and 596 power saws are placed with Roads and Buildings, and 1,079 minor irrigation tanks are under watch, the officials said.

Meanwhile, Home Minister V. Anitha held a teleconference with the Collectors of the districts likely to be affected by the cyclone. She said that the government is fully prepared to tackle the cyclone.

The Minister reviewed the cyclone situation and issued several key directives to the District Collectors. She said residents of coastal villages must be alerted in advance. She directed officials from all departments to work in coordination.

CM Naidu hits out at INDIA Bloc over SIR, EVMs

AMARAVATI, OCT 27



Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister, N. Chandrababu Naidu, on Tuesday criticised the INDIA Bloc for opposing the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls and use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs).

Stating that EVMs were introduced under the Congress government, he said the same machines were considered reliable earlier but now Opposition parties are finding fault with them after their defeat.

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) National President was addressing a joint press conference with Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena leader Pawan Kalyan and state BJP president P.V.N. Madhav.

"When the Congress initiated the EVMs, the machines were very good. Now that you are losing elections, you are blaming the same machines. How can you justify this? Before criticising, everyone must think," he said and remarked that the Opposition parties need people's trust and not machine's trust. He said INDIA alliance and other political parties opposing the SIR process now, must think before making allegations of irregularities in the revision of the poll rolls. Chandrababu Naidu said all the political parties have workers in villages and Booth Level Agents (BLAs) of all parties were invited to participate in the enumeration process. Booth Level Officers coordinated the process. "Have you raised any objection then? Why are you raising them now?," he said.

He claimed that YSR Congress Party leader had earlier supported the SIR. The TDP chief remarked that the political parties cannot oppose SIR or criticise use of EVMs for their political convenience.

Dismissing the allegations of the Opposition of alleged irregularities in the revision of the poll rolls, deletion of names of genuine voters and 'vote chori', he said unlike in the past when there used to be 'booth rigging', the presence of CCTV cameras works as a safeguard against electoral malpractices. Chandrababu Naidu appealed to people to fully support the alliance in these local body elections.

"Today, we must remember that local bodies need to be strengthened. We have taken responsibility for ensuring that they receive the necessary funds. In a democracy, elections must be held at every level. Public representatives must remain accessible to the people and be responsible for getting their work done," he said. The Chief Minister said this time, they introduced direct elections in urban areas. He believes that direct elections bring stability to leadership and provide people an opportunity to elect good leaders. He claimed that the coalition was implementing all the promises made before the elections and delivering welfare schemes that ensure justice to all sections of society. The TDP chief said they undertook an extensive exercise in seat-sharing and candidate selection for these local body elections, even more detailed than the exercise conducted during the general elections. "Candidates who have received official party B-forms must be supported, and all other aspirants should cooperate to ensure their victory. Disciplinary action will be taken against those who work against the alliance's decisions," he said The Chief Minister said, "The Centre and the State are functioning as a double-engine government and with the NDA's victory in local bodies, we can achieve a triple-engine pace of development." He appealed to people to support the alliance and set a new trend in the local body elections.

The Chief Minister alleged that the YSRCP was misusing the government's patience and restraint and creating obstacles to development.

Pawan Kalyan alleged that previous government harassed employees, while the present government under Chandrababu Naidu's leadership has made payments of ₹30,000 crore to address pending dues. The State has attracted investments worth ₹22 lakh crore, and strict action is being taken against ganja-related activities. The NDA government is working towards the goal of Gram Swaraj by strengthening village-level governance and infrastructure, he said.

On YSRCP leader YS Jagan Mohan Reddy's remark that their party will show 'YSRCP 2.0', Pawan Kalyan said the coalition will respond with 'NDA 10X'. "We have already demonstrated how firmly and courageously we stood our ground when they unleashed 'YSRCP 1.0'. We know how to protect the people from their violence. Only the weak resort to threats; the strong do not need to intimidate others," he said. "They talk about '2.0'—what do they intend to do, 'eliminate' everyone? A political leader should speak with a sense of responsibility," said Naidu. BJP State President Madhav said the NDA government was delivering welfare, development and good governance. The alliance is committed to welfare, development and good governance under the NDA leadership.

EDITORIAL

Inflation and Rising Energy Costs Pose a Fresh Economic Challenge

Inflation and rising energy costs continue to pose significant challenges for economies across the world, including India. Although economic growth remains an important national priority, its benefits must translate into improved living standards and greater financial security for ordinary households. Rising prices of essential goods, transportation, electricity and cooking fuel can place considerable pressure on family budgets, making inflation management a key concern for policymakers. Energy prices influence almost every sector of the economy. Higher crude oil prices can increase transportation and logistics costs, affecting the movement of agricultural produce, industrial goods and consumer products. Businesses facing higher operating expenses may find it difficult to maintain prices, while households can experience an indirect increase in the cost of everyday necessities. The impact is particularly significant for lower-income families, who spend a larger proportion of their earnings on essential goods and services.

India's dependence on imported crude oil makes the domestic economy sensitive to fluctuations in international energy markets. Geopolitical tensions, supply disruptions, changes in global demand and currency movements can all influence import costs. These external factors underline the importance of strengthening domestic energy security and reducing unnecessary exposure to international price volatility.

Managing inflation requires a balanced approach. Monetary policy can help contain excessive price pressures, while fiscal measures and efficient public spending can support economic stability. However, policymakers must also consider the effects of higher borrowing costs on businesses, investment and employment. A coordinated approach involving monetary authorities, governments and industry can help address inflation without unnecessarily weakening economic activity.

Long-term solutions are equally important. Expanding renewable energy capacity, improving public transportation, promoting energy efficiency and strengthening domestic supply chains can reduce the economy's vulnerability to external shocks. Greater investment in solar and wind power, energy storage and modern electricity infrastructure can support a gradual transition towards more secure and sustainable energy sources.

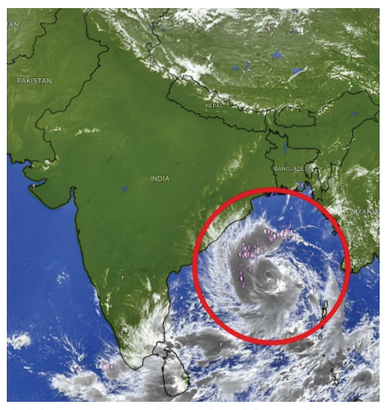
Agriculture also deserves attention in the fight against inflation. Fuel, fertiliser, irrigation and transportation costs influence the prices of food products. Better storage facilities, efficient logistics, improved market connectivity and reduced post-harvest losses can help stabilise food supplies. Timely information about crop conditions and weather patterns can further assist authorities in anticipating shortages and responding effectively. For households, rising prices highlight the importance of financial planning, while businesses can benefit from improving energy efficiency and reducing operational waste. Nevertheless, the primary responsibility for maintaining macroeconomic stability rests with effective public policy and sound economic management. India's economic resilience will depend on its ability to balance growth, price stability and energy security. Temporary fluctuations in global markets cannot always be prevented, but their domestic impact can be reduced through careful planning, diversified energy sources and stronger infrastructure.

Ultimately, controlling inflation is not merely a matter of managing statistics. It is about protecting purchasing power, supporting productive businesses and ensuring that economic progress improves everyday life. A sustained commitment to stable prices, responsible policymaking and long-term energy planning will help India navigate uncertainty and build a more resilient economy.

Cyclones Cannot Be Prevented, but Economic Destruction Can Be Limited

" Risk financing mechanisms, including appropriate insurance arrangements and contingency reserves, can help distribute the financial burden over time instead of leaving governments to meet the entire cost after a disaster. "

When a cyclone makes landfall, the immediate damage is visible in uprooted trees, flooded fields, damaged roads and destroyed homes. The wider economic consequences, however, often unfold over weeks and months. Disrupted industrial activity, lost livelihoods, broken supply chains and rising reconstruction costs can set back regional growth and strain public finances. Cyclones may be unavoidable, but the scale of their economic damage depends significantly on how well economies prepare for them.



India has made considerable progress in forecasting cyclones, issuing early warnings and evacuating vulnerable populations. These efforts have helped improve disaster preparedness, particularly along the coast. The next challenge is to extend this progress from saving lives to protecting livelihoods, productive assets and economic activity. A disaster that lasts a few hours can leave a region struggling to recover for months, sometimes years.

The risks are also evolving. Rising sea-surface temperatures provide more energy for tropical cyclones, while warmer air can hold more moisture, increasing the potential for intense rainfall. Climate change is therefore heightening concerns about extreme rainfall, coastal flooding and the destructive potential of some cyclones. This does not mean that every cyclone is caused by climate change or that cyclone frequency is increasing everywhere. Policy must be guided by scientific assessments of changing risks rather than broad generalisations.

Agriculture illustrates how quickly a natural disaster can become an economic crisis. Cyclone-driven winds and heavy rainfall can destroy standing crops, while seawater intrusion can damage agricultural land and affect future cultivation. For farmers, the loss extends beyond the current harvest: it can also undermine their ability to finance the next cropping season. Fishing communities face similar setbacks when boats, nets, landing facilities and cold-storage infrastructure are damaged. Without timely assistance, households may be forced to borrow heavily, sell productive assets or withdraw children from education to manage financial distress.

Disaster relief must therefore be designed around economic recovery, not merely immediate survival. Crop insurance claims should be settled promptly, fishing communities should receive support to repair or replace damaged equipment, and small businesses should have access to affordable emergency credit. Assistance must reach affected households before temporary income losses turn into long-term indebtedness. For small enterprises, even a short interruption can mean lost customers, unpaid wages and permanent closure. Speed and accessibility are as important as the amount of relief provided.

The impact extends well beyond the affected coastline. Ports are vital links in domestic and international trade. Damage to roads, railways, power networks and telecommunications can interrupt the movement of goods and the functioning of factories far from the landfall zone. When a port closes or a transport corridor becomes unusable, delays can ripple through supply chains, increasing costs for manufacturers, traders and consumers. In an economy seeking to strengthen its manufacturing base and attract investment, such disruptions can undermine competitiveness and weaken confidence in the reliability of infrastructure.

Building resilience into critical infrastructure must consequently be treated as an economic investment rather than an additional construction cost. Roads, bridges, ports, hospitals, electricity networks and communication systems should be designed to withstand locally relevant cyclone and flood risks. Critical facilities also need backup power, alternative transport links and contingency plans to restore essential services quickly. The initial cost of resilient construction may be higher, but it must be weighed against the recurring expenses of repairs, business interruptions and lost output. Preventive investment can reduce the much larger costs of repeated reconstruction.

The economic assessment of a cyclone must also go beyond the value of visibly damaged property. Lost production, interrupted trade, reduced household incomes, disrupted education and delayed investment can impose substantial indirect costs. These losses are often less visible than damaged buildings, yet they can have a lasting effect on local economic activity. Governments should incorporate such risks into infrastructure planning, industrial policy and public investment decisions. Disaster-risk assessments must become part of project appraisal, particularly in vulnerable coastal and low-lying regions.

Public finance is another critical dimension. When disasters strike, governments must mobilise funds for relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction at short notice. Without adequate preparation, these unexpected demands can force the diversion of resources from healthcare, education, employment programmes and other development priorities. States and local bodies need predictable disaster-response funding, transparent procedures for releasing assistance and clear accountability for its use. Risk financing mechanisms, including appropriate insurance arrangements and contingency reserves, can help distribute the financial burden over time instead of leaving governments to meet the entire cost after a disaster.

Long-term resilience also depends on how towns, cities and coastal regions are planned. Unregulated construction in flood-prone areas, the obstruction of natural drainage channels and the destruction of mangrove forests can magnify the damage caused by storm surges and heavy rainfall. Land-use decisions must reflect the risks posed by cyclones, flooding and rising sea levels. Mangroves and other coastal ecosystems provide protective benefits alongside their ecological value and should be incorporated into wider risk-reduction strategies. At the same time, reducing greenhouse gas emissions through cleaner energy and more efficient resource use is essential to limiting the longer-term risks associated with climate change.

The effectiveness of these measures should not be judged simply by how much money is spent. More meaningful indicators include the proportion of vulnerable people receiving warnings on time, the speed at which electricity and transport services are restored, the time taken to settle insurance claims and the economic losses avoided through preventive investment. Such measures would help governments identify gaps in preparedness and direct resources towards interventions that deliver measurable benefits.

This requires coordination among the Union and State governments, local authorities, infrastructure operators, insurers and businesses. Companies operating in vulnerable regions should develop continuity plans, protect essential data and identify alternative suppliers and transport routes. Local administrations must ensure that warnings reach people who may be excluded by digital communication systems. Resilience cannot remain the responsibility of disaster-management agencies alone; it must be built into the decisions that shape investment, production and urban development.

For a growing economy such as India, the cost of a cyclone is measured not only in lives lost and assets destroyed but also in the development opportunities it erases. Protecting economic progress requires a shift from responding to disasters after they occur to reducing exposure before they strike. Forecasting and evacuation remain indispensable, but they must be complemented by resilient infrastructure, effective financial protection, sound land-use planning and faster economic rehabilitation.

India cannot prevent cyclones from forming, but it can prevent many of their economic consequences from becoming long-term setbacks. The true test of preparedness is not merely how effectively the country responds when disaster strikes, but how much of its productive capacity, livelihoods and development gains it manages to protect.



K AMARAVATI
MEMBER
PLUS NGO

The BRICS Parliamentary Forum: A Commitment to Peace and a Just World Order

At a time when the world is grappling with grave challenges such as wars, regional conflicts, economic instability, terrorism, trade tensions and climate change, the true value of international cooperation lies not merely in diplomatic declarations, but in its ability to bring about positive and tangible changes in the lives of ordinary people. Against this backdrop, the 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum, held on October 26–27, 2026, at Samvidhan Sadan in New Delhi, emerged as a significant opportunity to strengthen global democratic dialogue, people-centric development and multilateral cooperation. Convened under India's chairmanship, the forum reinforces the conviction that lasting solutions to the world's problems lie not in confrontation, domination or narrow national interests, but in dialogue, consensus and shared responsibility. The forum's most important message is that the true purpose of development extends beyond economic prosperity; it is to ensure dignity, security, opportunity and well-being for every individual. Growth in gross domestic product, technological advancement, expanding trade and infrastructure development acquire real meaning only when their benefits reach the most disadvantaged sections of society. If poverty, hunger, unemployment, inequality and social deprivation persist amid the glitter of progress, claims of development remain incomplete. People-centric development must, therefore, become an indispensable benchmark for global policymaking.



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla's emphasis on parliamentary dialogue, democratic values and the primacy of public welfare assumes particular significance in this context. Parliament is the soul of democracy. It is not merely a lawmaking institution; it represents the aspirations, grievances, rights and expectations of the people. The responsibility of parliamentarians is not confined to endorsing government decisions. It also requires them to scrutinise policies, raise issues of public concern and hold those in power accountable. When elected representatives from different countries come together on a common platform to exchange experiences and ideas, the strength of parliamentary democracy can transcend national boundaries and become an instrument of global welfare. The relevance of this forum is further heightened by the contradictions confronting the contemporary world. On the one hand, advances in science, communication and artificial intelligence have endowed humanity with unprecedented capabilities; on the other, wars, mistrust, arms races and economic inequalities have cast uncertainty over the future of humankind. In such circumstances, parliamentarians share the responsibility of aligning their respective national policies with the broader objectives of human welfare, peace and justice. Dialogue among legislatures enriches executive diplomacy with the insights and experiences of elected representatives while promoting transparency and democratic accountability in international decision-making.

The four major pillars of the BRICS Parliamentary Forum—institutional resilience, innovation, cooperation and sustainable development—are of exceptional significance for the future of global politics. Institutional resilience is essential to ensure that democratic institutions remain capable, effective and accountable even in times of crisis. The use of artificial intelligence and digital technologies must be guided by ethical principles, transparency and the protection of human interests, ensuring that technology becomes an instrument of empowerment rather than a source of inequality and control. Similarly, sustainable development entails striking a balance between economic progress and environmental protection. No country can confront the climate crisis in isolation; a fair sharing of resources, knowledge and responsibilities is indispensable.

Another significant dimension of the forum is its potential to amplify the voice of the Global South, particularly developing countries, in international decision-making. A substantial proportion of the world's population lives in these countries, yet their aspirations and concerns have not always received adequate representation in the global financial system, international trade rules and multilateral institutions. Challenges such as food security, access to fertilisers, affordable energy, mounting debt burdens and inadequate financial resources for development affect the lives of millions of people. In this context, parliamentarians from BRICS countries must strive to ensure that global policies do not remain confined to the interests of powerful nations, but also reflect the genuine needs and priorities of developing societies.

India's role in this regard is particularly noteworthy. Through its democratic traditions, diverse social fabric, development experience and commitment to international cooperation, India can serve as a bridge between nations and facilitate meaningful dialogue. India's strength lies not merely in its economic capabilities or population, but also in its democratic capacity to embrace diversity and build consensus amid differences. Hosting this forum in New Delhi lends fresh momentum to India's parliamentary diplomacy. India must ensure that BRICS cooperation does not become an instrument of dominance by any single country, but remains a platform for advancing the shared interests of all member and partner countries. In his inaugural address, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla emphasised that the true success of BRICS would be measured by its ability to translate dialogue into concrete outcomes. He also underscored the need to connect the aspirations of young people with meaningful opportunities and to make development and environmental protection mutually reinforcing rather than competing priorities. These ideas offer important direction for the future.

Providing the world's young population with quality education, skills, employment and opportunities for innovation is not merely the responsibility of individual national governments; it is also an essential component of global cooperation. If the energy and aspirations of young people are not channelled constructively, frustration and inequality may fuel social instability. Similarly, a coordinated strategy against terrorism, respect for international law and reforms in global institutions such as the United Nations have become indispensable imperatives of our time. India has highlighted cooperation against terrorism and the need for a more representative global governance system as important subjects for parliamentary dialogue. International institutions will gain credibility only when they treat all countries fairly and play an effective role in resolving global crises. Peace does not simply mean the absence of war; it also implies a life free from fear, equitable opportunities and the protection of human dignity.

Ultimately, the true significance of the 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum lies in reminding parliamentarians across the world of their fundamental responsibility: they are not merely representatives of people within their respective national boundaries, but also partners in shaping a shared human future. The message emerging from Samvidhan Sadan is unequivocal: democracy derives its true meaning from public trust, accountable institutions and policies that produce humane and tangible outcomes. This forum will prove historic only when its deliberations translate into concrete policies, effective legislation and visible improvements in people's lives. Today, the world needs not merely powerful nations, but sensitive leadership, responsible legislatures and policies inspired by a deeply humanistic vision. Under India's chairmanship, the BRICS Parliamentary Forum offers hope that dialogue can reduce conflict, cooperation can narrow inequalities, and democracy can make development more humane and inclusive. That is the message of this forum, the source of its relevance and the foremost requirement for building a peaceful, inclusive and just world order.

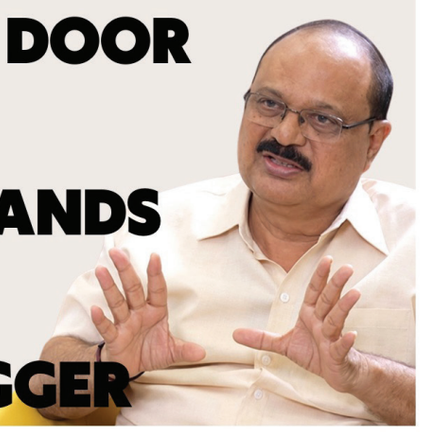


LALIT GARGG
Writer, Journalist,
Columnist

Siddaramaiah briefs Congress high command on 'sting operation', seeks Rahul meeting

Former Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has informed the Congress high command about the alleged sting operation and plans to seek a meeting with party MP Rahul Gandhi during his visit to New Delhi on November 1. Siddaramaiah said he had not secured an appointment with Gandhi but would seek one after reaching Delhi, where he is scheduled to participate in a protest against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. He also called for a fair investigation into the matter. "Everything has been taken to their notice. What is there in the sting operation? It is a false and fabricated story," Siddaramaiah told reporters in Bengaluru, according to news agency PTI. Siddaramaiah has sought a court injunction against the publication or broadcast of a video that he has described as defamatory and which was posted on social media. He has also filed a police complaint, following which several people have been arrested, including two members of the JD(S) social media team. Union Minister and senior JD(S) leader HD Kumaraswamy alleged that the government was shielding Congress leaders who had masterminded the sting operation and falsely implicated innocent JD(S) workers.

NOMINATION DOOR UNDER SIEGE, HYDERABAD STRATEGIST HANDS ELECTION COMMISSION A DIGITAL DAGGER



BALLOT BEFORE THE BALLOT. NO MORE MUSCLE AT THE RETURNING OFFICER'S GATE? ONLINE FILING, VIDEO OATHS AND A REFORMS FUND TO STORM NIRVACHAN SADAN, AND THE NATION WANTS ANSWERS.

A Hyderabad political analyst, Sundara Rama Sharma Chunduru, has written to the Chief Election Commissioner on 27 October 2026. proposing complete online filing of nominations, oaths taken over recorded video, public objections filed on the web, and a dedicated Electoral Reforms Fund. His aim is to end the obstruction candidates and proposers are said to face at the Returning Officer's door. SCOOPX DESK: A candidate's right to contest is being decided at the Returning Officer's doorstep, before a single vote is cast. That is the burden of a letter now lying before the Election Commission of India at Nirvachan Sadan. Sundara Rama Sharma Chunduru, a Hyderabad based political analyst and strategist tells the Commission that intimidation, physical obstruction and violence reported across Assembly, Parliamentary and local body polls "effectively restrict the right to contest before the electoral process begins". He calls this a blow to the level playing field that Article 324 of the Constitution and the Representation of the People Act, 1951 promise every citizen.

A ballot box guards the voter's freedom, but who guards the candidate on the road to the nomination counter? The Commission has the machinery to answer, and the country is watching.

Candidates can already fill their forms and Form 26 affidavits on the Suvidha portal, and they must still take a printout, get it notarised and submit it to the Returning Officer in person. The Commission's own training material says plainly that online nomination is not a complete filing process. The weak link is the physical walk to the counter, and no portal has yet fixed it. The Chunduru proposal goes straight at that link. Under it, nominations on Forms 2A and 2B would be uploaded through an encrypted portal built on the Suvidha and ENCORE foundations. Each submission would be locked with a time stamp and an unalterable audit trail. Parties would upload Form A and B authorisations from their headquarters through authenticated dashboards, and no paper would be left to be snatched on the road.

"the intimidation, physical obstruction, and violence that frequently occur when candidates and proposers attempt to file nomination papers before the Returning Officer." (Sundara Rama Sharma Chunduru, letter to the CEC, 27 October 2026)

The oath is the boldest plank. Candidates would take the oath or affirmation under Articles 84(a) and 173(a) before an authorised person over a secure, recorded video link. Identity would be verified through Aadhaar linked facial recognition or equivalent means, within the data protection norms. The recording and the authorised person's certificate would stand as permanent legal proof. Scrutiny gets the same treatment. Affidavits would stay on the public portal, and electors could file objections online with their documents. The Returning Officer could hold brief video hearings, all recorded. The legal road is long and the letter admits it. Section 33 of the 1951 Act would need amending to accept electronic presentation of nomination papers, with matching changes to Rules 4 and 4A of the Conduct of Elections Rules, 1961. Section 36 needs an enabling provision for virtual scrutiny, and States would have to amend their Panchayat and Municipal laws under Articles 243K and 243ZA. Electronic consent from the ten proposers an independent needs would also have to be recognised, with safeguards against coercion. The humble candidate is not forgotten either. Free digital help desks would be set up at District Collectorates for independents with little digital access. If the system fails, the filing period would extend automatically, and a locked copy on physical media would serve as the last resort. A dedicated Electoral Reforms Fund would pay for cybersecurity, load balancing and independent audits in peak nomination weeks. It would also help State Election Commissions take the system to municipal and panchayat polls. Savings, the writer argues, would come from fewer police and security forces massed outside Returning Officers' offices. The rollout would be cautious: a pilot in a municipal corporation such as Hyderabad, Bengaluru or Mumbai, then a smaller State Assembly poll, then by elections, then the whole nation. Technology built at home, run under Indian law and watched by the Indian public is a sovereign asset, and it belongs to the citizen. The Commission should consult the Ministry of Law and Justice and the State Election Commissions, and it should test the pilot without delay. Democracy's front door must not be guarded by anyone but the law. Yes, now SCOOPX will stay on this story, until the Election Commission puts its answer on record. The nation has asked and the nation will wait for no one.

Jat Sabha Panchkula–Chandigarh to Celebrate Haryana Day on November 2

CHANDIGARH, OCTOBER 27

A meeting of the executive members of Jat Sabha Panchkula–Chandigarh was held under the chairmanship of the Sabha's President, Dr. Mahendra Singh Malik. During the meeting, it was decided that Jat Sabha would celebrate Haryana Day on November 2 this year. Chandigarh Member of Parliament (MP) Mr. Manish Tewari will be the chief guest at the event, while Dr. Mahendra Singh Malik will preside over the The distinguished guests will include Mr. H. S. Lucky, President of the Chandigarh Congress, and Mr. Ram Kumar Malik, Senior Advocate at the Punjab and Haryana High Court. On the occasion, MP Mr. Manish Tewari will also inaugurate a lift constructed using funds from his parliamentary constituency development fund. Professor Dinesh Chahal of Central University of Haryana, Mahendragarh, and Professor Vinod Kumar Chaudhary of Panjab University, Chandigarh, will share their views at the Mr. Satish Bajad, Public Relations Officer of Jat Sabha, will also address the gathering. The Haryana Day celebrations will feature cultural performances highlighting the state's rich traditions. Mr. Radheyshyam Saini will present raginis based on Haryana, while Mrs. Sushma Mann will perform Haryanvi songs to entertain the audience. Several prominent members of the Sabha attended the meeting, including Vice Presidents Mr. Ashok Kumar and Mr. Jaipal Punia; Secretary Mr. B. S. Gill; Finance Secretary Mr. Ramphal Nain; Public Relations Secretaries Mr. J. S. Dhillon and Mr. Satish Bajad; Editor Mr. Manbir Sangwan; and members Mr. Vimal June, Mr. Surender Bangar, Mr. D. R. Kairo, Mr. Hawa Singh Lohan, Mr. Satbir Singh, Mr. Naresh Dahiya, and Office Secretary Mr. Prem Singh. At the beginning of the meeting, the members observed a two-minute silence to pay heartfelt tributes to the late Mr. Mahendra Singh Sangwan and Mr. Karan Singh Grewal, both lifetime members of Jat Sabha, who passed away unexpectedly.

Bhopal Court Awards Pyare Miyan 10 Life Terms

BHOPAL: A special POCSO court on Tuesday sentenced Pyare Miyan, a septuagenarian who ran a newspaper in Bhopal, to 10 separate life imprisonments for the rape and sexual assault of five minor girls, and also imposed a hefty Rs 77.64 lakh fine on him, a prosecution official said. The court also sentenced his accomplice, Rabia Bi, to 20 years in prison, the official said.

Grand Valmiki Jayanti Celebrated in Barkot with Religious Procession

Tableaux featuring Lord Valmiki, Lord Rama's family, Goddess Kali, Lord Hanuman and Radha Rani attract residents; Municipal Chairperson Vinod Dobhal inaugurates procession

SUNIL THAPLIYAL





Barkot (Uttarkashi): Maharishi Valmiki Jayanti was celebrated with great devotion and enthusiasm in Barkot Nagar Palika area over two days. Organised by the Valmiki community, the celebrations featured prasad distribution on the first day, followed by a grand religious procession on Tuesday that drew the attention of residents across the town. The procession was inaugurated jointly by Barkot Municipal Chairperson Vinod Dobhal and municipal councillors. Accompanied by the rhythmic beats of traditional drums, the colourful procession featured attractive tableaux depicting Lord Valmiki, Lord Rama and his family, Goddess Kali, Lord Hanuman and Radha Rani. Artists dressed in traditional religious attire presented impressive performances, creating a festive and devotional atmosphere throughout the town. The procession passed through different parts of Barkot, where residents welcomed the participants with enthusiasm and extended greetings to members of the Valmiki community on the occasion. The religious tableaux were a major attraction, with several residents gathering to witness the colourful presentations. The event offered a glimpse of the region's cultural traditions and reflected the community's faith and enthusiasm in celebrating the birth anniversary of Maharishi Valmiki, revered as the author of the Hindu epic Ramayana. Municipal Chairperson Vinod Dobhal and the councillors appreciated the community's initiative in organising the celebration. The participation of local residents added to the festive spirit, making the two-day event a memorable occasion for the community. Valmiki community president Manoj Kumar expressed gratitude to the chief guests, municipal representatives, participants and residents for their support and cooperation in making the programme successful. Councillors and several community members participated in the procession, including Manoj Kumar, Ranjit Selwan, Sundar Kumar, Dinesh Kumar, Sudesh Kumar, Mukesh Kumar and Sagar Kumar, along with dozens of other participants.

The celebrations concluded with a message of social harmony, cultural pride and collective participation, highlighting the importance of preserving religious traditions and strengthening community bonds in Barkot.

N E Railway GM Uday Borwankar Reviews Facilities at Four Varanasi Railway Stations

GORAKHPUR, OCTOBER 27, 2026





North Eastern Railway General Manager Mr. Uday Borwankar conducted an extensive inspection of Banaras, Rajatalab, Hardattpur and Varanasi City railway stations on October 27, 2026, accompanied by Principal Chief Engineer Mr. Tushar Kant Pandey, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Varanasi, Mr. Ashish Jain, and other senior officials from the Railway Headquarters and division. During the inspection, General Manager Mr. Borwankar paid special attention to station crowd management, cleanliness, passenger amenities and beautification. At the beginning of the inspection, Mr. Borwankar reviewed the passenger amenities available on Platform No. 8 at Banaras railway station. He also emphasized cleanliness and beautification at the second entrance and circulating area. In addition, he reviewed the progress of ongoing development works at Banaras station. Subsequently, during his inspection of Rajatalab railway station, the General Manager reviewed the passenger amenities available on Platforms No. 2 and 3 and issued necessary instructions to the officials concerned. Thereafter, Mr. Borwankar inspected various registers and safety equipment in the panel room at Hardattpur railway station, including the failure register, on Platform No. 1. He also held discussions with the Station Superintendent and pointsmen regarding train operations and safety. He directed them to ensure that safety remains the highest priority under all circumstances. At the conclusion of the inspection, General Manager Mr. Uday Borwankar reviewed the ongoing construction of the Foot Over Bridge (FOB) on Platforms No. 4 and 5 at Varanasi City railway station and offered necessary suggestions. He instructed the officials concerned to complete the ongoing construction work within the stipulated timeframe, ensuring high quality and compliance with prescribed standards.

Emphasizing that safety must remain the top priority, Mr. Borwankar directed officials to ensure proper maintenance of railway assets, continuous improvement in passenger amenities, cleanliness, and appropriate upkeep of station premises. He also laid particular emphasis on cleanliness and beautification on Platform No. 1 and in the circulating area.

Education & WCD ministers launch Bal Vivah Mukti Rath for child marriage-free Gujarat

NEW DELHI:



Gujarat Social Justice and Empowerment and Education Minister Dr Pradyuman Vaja and state Women and Child Development Minister Dr Manisha Vakil flagged off the 'Bal Vivah Mukti Rath', an initiative of Just Rights for Children, in Gandhinagar which will raise awareness about child marriage across the state. Those in attendance pledged to make the state child marriage-free by 2030. This launch supports the central government's 100-day awareness campaign that aims to educate the masses about this socially accepted crime. State Commission for Protection of Child Rights chairperson Dharmishthaben Gajjar was also present on the occasion, along with Just Rights for Children (JRC) national convenor Ravikant and national secretary Manish Sharma. JRC, which is India's largest civil society network working to protect children's rights, has over 300 NGO partners working in 782 districts across India. In Gujarat, the organisation has six NGO partners working across all 34 districts. The rath was flagged off by Gujarat ministers Dr Pradyuman Vaja and Dr Manisha Vakil at the Townhall premises in Gandhinagar where the Gujarat State Commission for Protection of Child Rights organised the 'Bal Suraksha Seva Sankalp' programme, bringing together government officials, activists, NGOs and other stakeholders to discuss key issues concerning child rights and child safety. The Bal Vivah Mukti Rath is a mobile initiative which will cover the length and breadth of the state, sensitising communities about the laws against child marriage. The rath features posters carrying powerful slogans against the practice, besides having loudspeakers that broadcast messages educating the masses. The chairperson of the State Commission for Protection of Child Rights administered a pledge to the 1,500 attendees on the occasion vowing to work against child trafficking, child marriage, exploitation and child labour. They promised to provide a safe environment for every child and ensure they receive education, healthcare, respect and equal opportunities. They also vowed to give the highest priority to the best interests of children and work towards a bright future for them. Addressing the gathering, Just Rights for Children national convenor Ravi Kant said, "From this sacred land of Gujarat, the birthplace of PM Narendra Modi, we have gathered today to make a historic pledge. Our resolve is to end child marriage – to ensure that every child has the right to enjoy their childhood, receive an education, and fulfil their dreams, Gujarat has set several examples for the country and now, it is time for the state to lead the nation's fight against child marriage. Our resolve is that the first major milestone should be the creation of a child marriage-free Gujarat. Gujarat should become the first state in India to be free of child marriage and once again set an inspiring example for the entire country and the world." The history of Gujarat bears witness to the fact that a resolve taken on its soil does not remain mere words; it always translates into action and achievement. This is the land of leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi who demonstrated that nothing is impossible in the face of unwavering determination, he said. In 2024, the Indian government had launched the 'Bal Vivah Mukt Bharat' campaign on November 27, and in September this year the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted a resolution declaring November 27 as the International Day for the Elimination of Child, Early and Forced Marriage. To build momentum around the occasion, which was a result of India's effort on the international stage, the central government initiated the 100-day campaign across the country under which anganwadi and ASHA workers, educational institutions, gram panchayats, police and other stakeholders will raise awareness about the issue. Just Rights for Children is extending support to the government's campaign and will actively take part in it.

Supreme Court to Examine Plea Against Election Commission



The Supreme Court directed the ECI and Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar to respond to the Opposition's plea as it posted the next hearing on November 17. The Supreme Court on Tuesday said it was aware of all developments and would examine all aspects of the allegations against the Election Commission, as it heard a batch of petitions questioning the poll body's functioning and alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. "We know everything, we will examine," Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said when senior advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and other INDIA bloc leaders, urged the court to direct the preservation of file notings and internal communications to establish whether key decisions were taken unanimously or unilaterally. The bench, comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana, adjourned the hearing and granted the petitioners 10 days to file their rejoinder to the counter-affidavit submitted by the Election Commission on Monday. The matter was tentatively listed for further hearing on November 17. The petitions challenge the functioning of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar and question whether the Commission's decisions, including those related to the SIR exercise, were taken in accordance with the constitutional and statutory framework governing the poll body. During the hearing, Singhvi argued that the dispute centred on the decision-making process within the Election Commission, particularly whether the decisions concerning the electoral roll revision exercise had been taken after consultation among the commissioners. "This whole issue depends on the decision-making process, consultation, and whether the decision was unanimous or not unanimous. Let file notings, etc be preserved," Singhvi told the bench. Responding to the submission, CJI Surya Kant said the court was aware of the developments and would examine the issues raised before it. The preservation of internal records is significant to the petitioners' case, as they have alleged that several crucial decisions concerning the SIR exercise were taken in the name of the Commission despite objections from the other two Election Commissioners. The allegations have emerged against the backdrop of a report by The Indian Express, which claimed that at least 14 important decisions related to the SIR exercise were taken despite objections recorded by Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi. Senior advocate Menaka Guruswamy, appearing for Trinamool Congress MP Dola Sen, argued that the Election Commission's counter-affidavit supported the petitioners' submissions.

Bangladesh: Former PM Hasina alleges massive human rights violations under BNP rule

DHAKA



Bangladesh's former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has alleged that the country is witnessing mass arrests, searches, torture, false cases, extrajudicial killings and human rights violations, claiming that the rule of law, fundamental rights and public security have effectively ceased to exist.

In a statement posted on Awami League's social media platform X, Hasina said that Bangladesh, which won its independence through the 1971 Liberation War against Pakistan, had descended into an extreme state of impunity.

She said that reports of unidentified bodies have become frequent nationwide, with decomposing bodies found in rivers, canals and wetlands becoming an everyday occurrence. Hasina questioned how the Bangladeshi authorities could become so devoid of humanity as to drive the country down such a path.

Slamming the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) government, the former PM said, "Fearful of public discontent, the ruling group that came to power through a rigged election is conducting block raids and mass searches in various areas across the country, including Gopalganj, through law enforcement agencies, leading to mass arrests."

"Between 5,000 and 7,000 people are being arrested every day. The prisons are so overcrowded that there is barely room for anyone else. Meanwhile, the torture and abuse of arrested individuals and their family members have exposed the government's authoritarian character. I strongly condemn and protest against such oppression and injustice," she added.

Hasina further alleged that people were being denied even the right to be members of the Awami League, accusing the government of pursuing a deliberate campaign to eliminate the party from the country.

She said the situation was particularly alarming in Gopalganj, where sweeping operations by law enforcement agencies had made it increasingly difficult for residents to live in the area.

"Mass arrests and torture have become routine occurrences. What is deeply concerning is that the situation in Gopalganj has now spread across Bangladesh. I demand that the people of this country be guaranteed their basic rights and legal protection. On the one hand, people are fed up with land grabbing, looting, extortion, murder, rape and torture by activists of the so-called ruling and opposition parties, as well as the denial of political rights to a vast section of the population," Hasina stated.

She also accused the government of aggravating the country's economic crisis through what she described as its "predatory mentality".

"There are shortages of gas, electricity, fuel and fertiliser; investment has come to a standstill; mills and factories are closing every day; unemployment is rising; commodity prices are soaring; freedom of expression is being curtailed; people are being indiscriminately dismissed from their jobs; and countless other problems and crises have left the people disoriented and desperate," the former Prime Minister stated.

Hasina further alleged that the government was creating a climate of fear by undermining people's ability to go about their daily lives peacefully. She claimed that, fearing the rise of popular resistance, the authorities had begun using law enforcement agencies and "party-backed thugs" to intimidate the people.

"Although such a situation would be unimaginable in a civilised country, the reality is that this is precisely the kind of outcome one would expect from the rise to power of a world-class thief, following in the footsteps of a global swindler. Rather than being surprised, I express my deep concern about the future of the country," said Hasina.

EU condemns Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia, Red Sea shipping

BRUSSELS

The European Union (EU) on Tuesday strongly condemned Houthi attacks within Yemen, against Saudi Arabia and on shipping in the Red Sea. European Council President Antonio Costa also called on the fighting group to immediately cease its attacks and return to negotiations under UN auspices. Costa conveyed the message during a phone call with Chairman of Yemen's Presidential Leadership Council Rashad al-Alimi, reaffirming the EU's full solidarity with and support for the Yemeni government's efforts to restore peace and stability.

"The war in Yemen is intensifying, deepening the humanitarian crisis and affecting millions of people. I just spoke with President Rashad al-Alimi to reaffirm the EU's full solidarity with and support for the Government of Yemen and its efforts to restore peace and stability," Costa posted on X. "I conveyed the EU's strong condemnation of Houthi attacks within Yemen, against Saudi Arabia and on shipping in the Red Sea.

Artificial Intelligence & Creative Identity



(On the occasion of "International Animation Day" on 28 October)

Animation is simply called 'light in the dark'. Animation brings wings to imagination. Nothing is occurring in animation - artist manufacture everything. Animation is not the art of drawing that move but the art of movements that are drawn. Animation can explain whatever the mind of man can conceive. Animation isn't just for children- it's a powerful form of storytelling, creativity, innovation, and connection. Animation's ability to communicate complex ideas through visual storytelling had made it a universal language. From entertainment to education, advertisements to activism, animation has woven itself into every aspect of modern life.

International Animation Day

To create wide publicity and awareness about much popular animation, the global community is organising "International Animation Day" annually on 28 October. This day was established in 2002 by the "International Animated Film Association (ASIFA)". The day was chosen to coincide with 28 October, the anniversary of 'Charles-Emile Reynauds' "Treatre Optique" in Paris, where he held the first public performance of projected animated images in 1892. The 'Emile Cohl' is considered as the "Father of the Animated Cartoon".

Aims of International Animation Day

The animation was associated primarily with children's cartoons highlighting its artistic, technological, and storytelling value for all ages. The significance of International Animation Day can be understood across several dimensions like artistic recognition, cultural expression, educational impact, technological innovation, inspiring future generations, and solidarity among global community. This day can be celebrated by means of screening films and festivals, workshops and master classes, exhibitions and art displays, online and social media campaigns, educational initiatives, and community related events. For the first time in the history, animation is being shaped not just by human creativity, but by AI capable of generating storyboards, characters, motion sequences, and more entire animated films in minutes. The theme of International Animation Day emphasises the importance of AI & Creative Identity

to explore how AI is transferring industries beyond animation. The ASIFA is organising conferences with the backdrop of "A Rising Tide : Crisis and Opportunity in Animation" focusing on creativity amidst challenges.

Animation is more than just cartoons or movies, it is a powerful art form that brings imagination to life. This special day celebrates the creativity, dedication, and technological innovation behind animation while inspiring fans and artists worldwide to embrace the magic of storytelling. Animation continues to evolve as a powerful medium for storytelling and self-expression, inspiring new generations to push creative boundaries and keep the light shining.

- Dr Madhusudhan Reddy Burra
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Putin discusses Ukraine conflict with Finnish, Norwegian leaders: Kremlin



MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin discussed the settlement of the Ukraine conflict in a telephone conversation with Finnish President Alexander Stubb and Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store, the Kremlin said on Tuesday.

"It was emphasised that the achievement of a just long-term peace is possible only with full and unconditional consideration of the legitimate interests of the Russian Federation," the Kremlin said in an official statement.

Putin drew attention to the confrontational policy of the European Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation countries, which led to the prolongation of the conflict, it said. Issues of ensuring security and stability in the Baltic Sea and Northern Europe were also touched upon, the Kremlin said. Stubb and Store stressed the importance of complying with international maritime law and the principle of freedom of navigation, it noted.

Describing the discussion as "frank and substantive," Stubb said that Finland and Norway, both neighbouring countries to Russia, would be directly affected by the outcome of the conflict, as would broader European security. "Ending the war requires direct discussions," he said, cited by a press release from the Finnish President's Office, Xinhua News Agency reported.

The call, initiated by Stubb and Store, was held in consultation with Ukraine and aimed to convey messages directly to Putin regarding future negotiations to end the conflict, and was related to upcoming meetings in the United Arab Emirates, the press release said.

Meanwhile, a humanitarian ceasefire between Ukraine and Russia in the area around Oleshky took effect on Tuesday, Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights Dmytro Lubinets said on social media.

The ceasefire began at 3 a.m. Kyiv time (0100 GMT) as part of a previously agreed humanitarian mission, Lubinets said on Facebook, adding that the Ukrainian side is honouring its commitments under the agreement reached with Russia.

Russia's Defence Ministry confirmed that Russian forces had ceased fire in the Kherson direction and a "silence regime" had been introduced from 4 a.m. Moscow time (0100 GMT) to prepare for the humanitarian operation near Oleshky.

Netanyahu's Likud seeks extension of voting hours in Israel polls; election body to deliberate

JERUSALEM



Israel's Central Elections Committee (CEC) was set to take up pleas from Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud and its coalition partners to keep polling stations open longer in Tuesday's Knesset elections, local media reported.

According to The Times of Israel, which cited Ynet and Channel 12, the decision rests with the committee's presidency, led by Deputy Supreme Court President Noam Sohlberg and made up of two members each from the coalition and the opposition, which can allow additional voting time only when exceptional circumstances warrant it.

Under the law, polling may be stretched by a maximum of 24 hours past the scheduled close, but such extensions are generally granted to individual polling stations, with a nationwide extension reserved for serious security or similar emergencies.

Likud, which moved the committee over four hours ahead of the scheduled close of polling, gave no grounds for its plea, and neither the heavy turnout nor the day's rain was likely to qualify as a valid reason, the report said. The committee has already decided that voters still queuing when polls close at 10 p.m. will be able to cast their ballots.

Turnout, meanwhile, reached 66.7 per cent by 6 p.m., the CEC said, a record for that point in the day and well above the 57.7 per cent recorded at the same hour in the 2022 polls.

Over 4.8 million people had voted by that time, said Dean Livne, the committee's acting director general, who flagged poor participation in some areas. In the Druze town of Majdal Shams in the Golan Heights, only 26.3 per cent of eligible voters had turned out, while the figure in the neighbouring Alawite town of Ghajar was 28.6 per cent.

Earlier in the day, Israel went to the polls as voters began casting ballots to elect members of the 26th Knesset, the country's parliament, with around 7.3 million people eligible to vote.

The final opinion polls released ahead of the election indicated a close contest between incumbent Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's bloc and opposition factions led by former Israel Defence Force (IDF) chief Gadi Eisenkot's Yashar party.

However, both sides are projected to fall short of a parliamentary majority if they stick to their campaign pledges to avoid forming a government with certain other factions, The Times of Israel reported.

The elections mark the first electoral contest since the October 7, 2023, Hamas attack, amid significant shifts in the political landscape and the issues shaping voter priorities since the 2022 elections.

Liechtenstein backs India's UNSC bid; both nations condemn Pahalgam attack

NEW DELHI

India and Liechtenstein have unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms, including cross-border terrorism, and the April 2025 Pahalgam terror attack, while the European nation expressed readiness to support India's candidature for a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council for 2028-29.

The two sides made the commitments in a Joint Statement issued on Tuesday during the State Visit of Liechtenstein's Hereditary Prince Alois, the European nation's Acting Head of State, to India. "The two sides unequivocally condemned terrorism and violent extremism in all their forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism. They condemned the terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Jammu and Kashmir, on 22 April 2025, expressed solidarity with the victims and their families, and stressed the importance of bringing those responsible to justice," the Joint Statement read.

The two sides also underlined the importance of international cooperation in combating terrorist financing.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi thanked H.S.H. Hereditary Prince Alois for Liechtenstein's readiness to support India's candidature for a non-permanent membership of the UN Security Council for the term 2028-29," it stated.

Reaffirming their support for reform of the UN Security Council to make it more representative, inclusive, transparent, efficient, effective, democratic and accountable, the two leaders agreed to work together to reform and strengthen multilateral institutions, including through initiatives such as UN80.



'You have strong veto': Trump on working with Democrats if Republicans lose midterms

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump has said he would use his veto power and strike deals if Democrats win control of the House or the Senate in next week's midterm elections, while touting a jump in consumer confidence and a "gift" of oil from Venezuela.

Speaking to reporters at Joint Base Andrews before departing on Tuesday, Trump was asked how he would work with Democrats if Republicans did not prevail on November 3.

"We'll figure a way. Look, I hope that that won't be the case, but if it is, that's happened before with many Presidents, you have strong veto and you end up working on deals," he said.

The midterms, a week away, will decide control of both chambers of Congress for the last two years of Trump's term.

Trump also hailed the latest consumer confidence data, released earlier in the day.

"We just had a consumer confidence report just came out it's up at a record number a record increase 7.5 per cent just came out so that's a great that's a great number you don't see that happened very often not to that extent," he said.

The Conference Board said its Consumer Confidence Index rose by 7.5 points to 91.7 in October, from 84.2 in September. The figure was a rise in index points, not per cent, and the board did not describe it as a record. It said confidence had "revived to June levels".

Fergus McCormick, senior economist at the Conference Board, said the recovery "was in line with retail gasoline prices easing from September to October". "Yet, despite the increase in October, consumer confidence remained on the long-term downward trend that's persisted over the past few years," he said.

Consumers' average 12-month inflation expectations eased but remained elevated at 5.8 per cent, the board said. On energy, Trump said Venezuela had sent a large oil shipment to the United States.

"We took over Venezuela very successfully. And they've sent me as a gift, a boatload of a million barrels of oil. And I'm giving that to the United States of America," he said.

"We're going to accept a million barrels of oil. And I'm going to give it to you people to use it the way you want. And we're going to have oil prices are going to be dropping very sharply," he added. Fuel prices have been a central issue in the campaign, with gasoline costs high due to the conflict in the Middle East.

Qatar says its delegation visited Iran to help de-escalate US-Iran tensions

TEHRAN



Qatar said Tuesday that a Qatari delegation's visit to Tehran on Sunday was part of ongoing mediation efforts to ease Iran-US tensions, while calling for a new regional security framework for sovereignty and non-aggression.

Ibrahim bin Sultan Al Hashmi, director of the Media and Communications Department at Qatar's Foreign Ministry, told a weekly press briefing that proposals continued to be exchanged between the United States and Iran through mediators, urging the crisis to be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy.

He also called for a new regional security framework founded on respect for national sovereignty and mutual non-aggression, a position Qatar had previously outlined at the United Nations, Xinhua News Agency reported. Netanyahu's Likud seeks extension of voting hours in Israel polls; election body to deliberate

Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei on Tuesday called for safeguarding Iran's rights and those of the regional "resistance front" by meeting Iran's conditions to end the war, according to a statement published on his website.

Describing the current state as "neither war nor peace," Khamenei underscored "securing the conditions stipulated by the country's officials with the aim of ending the war.

Iran on September 22 conveyed a new plan to the United States through mediators on the sidelines of the 81st session of the UN General Assembly in New York. Under the plan, Tehran proposed ending the war and reopening the Strait of Hormuz within seven days, provided that the United States accepted its conditions.

Meanwhile, Iran's President Masoud Pezeshkian and Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani met Tuesday on the sidelines of the 8th Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum in Moscow and discussed ways to expand bilateral relations and energy cooperation, the Iranian official news agency IRNA reported.

Pezeshkian arrived in Moscow on Monday night. He is scheduled to hold meetings with a number of the participating countries' leaders on ties and cooperation, according to the website of his office.

Indian Railways opens applications for 1,265 Station Master posts

NEW DELHI, OCT 27

Indian Railways has launched a dedicated recruitment process for station Masters offering 1,265 vacancies across various Railway Recruitment Boards and zones with the commencement of online applications from Tuesday, an official statement said.

The online application window will close on November 25, 2026, the statement from the Ministry of Railways said.

The opportunities extend across multiple Railway zones, enabling eligible graduates to compete for positions in different parts of the country. RRB Mumbai notified the highest number of vacancies at 177, followed by Jammu-Srinagar at 122 and Chennai at 119. "Indian Railways has opened a new avenue of employment for graduate candidates with the commencement of online applications for Station Master recruitment under Centralised Employment Notice (CEN) No. 08/2026," the statement said. The ministry advised candidates to review the detailed eligibility conditions, vacancy distribution and application instructions before submitting their forms.

Candidates can access the detailed recruitment notification, eligibility requirements, examination syllabus, application instructions and RRB-wise vacancy distribution through the official website. The dedicated recruitment process provides candidates with a specific notification covering eligibility requirements, examination procedures and vacancy distribution for the post, it added. Indian Railways is currently running a ticket-checking drive across the Central Railway network till October 31, targeting concession tickets, fixed reservation quotas, railway passes and group bookings, a separate statement had said.

Ticket-checking staff verify passengers' eligibility and insist on original identity proof for concessions and quota travel. The checking is being conducted in railway stations as well as local trains. Acceptable IDs include Aadhaar, passport, PAN, driving licence, voter ID, government photo ID, student ID, bank passbook with photo, and bank credit card with laminated photo. Passengers should carry the original document and not rely only on a photocopy or an image of the document stored on their phone.

Sensex, Nifty end flat as high crude and Fed caution offset sectoral gains

Stock markets ended nearly flat on Tuesday after a volatile session, as elevated crude oil prices and caution ahead of the US Federal Reserve's policy decision later this week offset gains in auto, pharma and realty stocks. Buying in the broader market offered some support, even as selling in IT and private banking stocks weighed on the benchmarks.



The BSE Sensex slipped 8.08 points, or 0.01%, to close at 73,598.67. The NSE Nifty 50 edged down 3.45 points, or 0.02%, to settle at 22,749.75. The Sensex moved between 73,179.41 and 73,762.98 during the session, while the Nifty traded in a range of 22,636.85 to 22,829.75. Sectoral performance was mixed, with buying in auto, pharma, realty and media stocks helping limit losses. The Nifty Auto index rose 1.48%, while the Nifty Pharma index gained 1.91%. The Nifty Realty index advanced 1.94%, and the Nifty Media index jumped 3.66%.

The Nifty Metal index added 0.64%, while the PSU Bank index rose 0.41%. However, the Nifty IT index fell 0.26%, and the Nifty Private Bank index declined 0.73%. The FMCG index also slipped 0.42%. Among Sensex constituents, Bharti Airtel was the top gainer, rising 3.18%. Trent gained 2.40%, while Maruti Suzuki advanced 2.28%. Power Grid rose 1.99%, and Eternal gained 1.66%.

On the losing side, Axis Bank fell 1.53%, TCS declined 1.42%, and ICICI Bank shed 0.96%. Infosys dropped 0.26%, while Bajaj Finance fell 0.76%.

BROADER MARKETS OUTPERFORM BENCHMARKS

Broader-market indices ended higher, indicating that buying extended beyond large-cap stocks. The Nifty 100 rose 0.22%, the Nifty 200 gained 0.37%, and the Nifty 500 advanced 0.58%.

Midcap and smallcap stocks performed particularly well. The Nifty Midcap 50 rose 0.90%, the Nifty Midcap 100 gained 1%, and the Nifty Smallcap 100 climbed 2.69%.

The Nifty MidSmall Healthcare index advanced 2.84%, while the Nifty MidSmall IT and Telecom index rose 0.43%. The Nifty Chemicals index gained 1.80%.

India VIX, a measure of expected market volatility, fell 3.65% to 16.53, indicating some easing in near-term market anxiety.

CRUDE OIL, RUPEE AND FED DECISION IN FOCUS

Crude oil prices remained elevated despite a modest rise during the session. Brent crude futures gained 0.46% to $116.34 per barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate crude rose 0.66% to $102.43.

The rupee ended little changed against the US dollar at 95.1150, as higher oil prices and persistent foreign equity outflows weighed on sentiment. Elevated crude prices remain a concern for India because they can increase the import bill, add to inflationary pressures and squeeze corporate margins. Investors are also awaiting the US Federal Reserve's policy decision later this week for clues on the global interest-rate outlook.

Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Investments Limited, said Indian equities ended flat as high crude prices and caution ahead of the Fed decision overshadowed supportive global cues. "Healthy Q2 earnings and robust domestic flows continue to provide a cushion against persistent foreign selling. However, Brent above $115 and a weaker INR pose risks to inflation, corporate margins and financing conditions," Nair said.

He added that the market's direction would depend on earnings resilience, crude oil trends, developments in the West Asia crisis and the Fed's policy signal.

Singareni CMD Seeks Angul Collector's Support for Naini Coal Transportation Routes

Requests Land for an R&R Centre for 40 Project-Affected Families
Proposes Land Allocation for Singareni Office and Employees' Residential Colony in Odisha
District Collector Assures Full Cooperation to Singareni

SINGARENI BHAVAN, OCTOBER 27, 2026

Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyoti held a special meeting on Tuesday with Angul District Collector Mr. Mohammed Abdal Akhtar to discuss land allocation for the proposed Singareni Thermal Power Plant near the company's Naini coal mine in Odisha, the rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R) colony for project-affected families, and the construction of roads required for coal transportation. The CMD discussed these issues in detail and sought the district administration's cooperation in facilitating the necessary arrangements. The District Collector responded positively and assured the company of his support. Singareni Directors Mr. Gautam Potru and Mr. L. V. Suryanarayana, Executive Director (Coal Movement) Mr. B. Venkanna, General Manager (Coordination) Mr. T. Srinivas, and other officials attended the meeting. Detailed discussions were held on land acquisition, statutory clearances and other requirements for various construction projects.





Land Requested for R&R Colony for 40 Displaced Families

The Singareni CMD requested the District Collector to allot suitable land for constructing a rehabilitation and resettlement (R&R) colony for 40 families displaced by the Naini coal mine project. He also requested that a meeting of the Rehabilitation and Peripheral Development Advisory Committee (RPDAC) be convened at the earliest to take decisions on the implementation of the R&R package, land acquisition for the colony, rehabilitation benefits and other related issues.

Land Sought for Proposed Singareni Thermal Power Plant

The CMD informed the Collector that Singareni was planning to establish a thermal power plant adjacent to the Naini coal mine. Land in the villages of Tukuda and Jarapada had been identified as suitable for the proposed project, and he sought the district administration's assistance in acquiring the required land.

Support Sought for Coal Transportation Roads

The CMD stated that Singareni had already deposited ₹35 crore towards the construction of a bypass road between Chandipada and Jarapada villages to transport coal produced from the Naini block to the nearby Jarapada railway junction. He explained that the proposed road would serve as a coal transportation corridor and could also benefit other coal-producing industries in the region. He urged the concerned departments to extend their cooperation to ensure the timely completion of the road.

Land for Singareni Office and Employees' Colony

In view of Singareni's expanding operations in Odisha, the CMD also requested the identification and allotment of suitable land for constructing a company office and a residential colony for its employees. He further sought assistance for constructing the Majhika bypass road to facilitate coal transportation without causing inconvenience to residents of nearby villages. Singareni has expressed its willingness to provide the necessary funds for land acquisition required for this road. Responding to the requests, Angul District Collector Mr. Mohammed Abdal Akhtar assured Singareni of all possible assistance. He stated that the district administration would extend its support to the company, which is contributing to meeting the country's electricity requirements.

Singareni Delegation Visits World's First Coal Gasification Plant

Separately, Singareni CMD Dr. Buddhaprakash Jyoti, Directors Mr. Gautam Potru and Mr. L. V. Suryanarayana, Executive Director (Coal Movement) Mr. B. Venkanna, and General Manager (Coordination) Mr. T. Srinivas visited the coal gasification plant established by the Jindal Group in Angul district, described in the release as the world's first coal gasification plant.

The delegation learned about the process of producing gas from domestic coal at the facility and its subsequent use in Jindal Steel's operations. The team also held discussions with experts on the potential and feasibility of coal gasification using coal from Singareni's closed underground mines, along with the incentives and concessions offered by the Central Government for such projects. Notably, some coal from Singareni's Naini mine is also transported to the Jindal facility. Naini Coal Mine General Manager Mr. Baidya and other officials were also present during the visit.

CAIT, NASSCOM sign pact to train traders across India in AI, cyber security, digital marketing

NEW DELHI:

Traders body CAIT and IT industry body Nasscom have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on Tuesday to train traders across India in AI, cybersecurity and digital marketing. The pact, signed under the programme "Tech Connect for Traders and MSMEs – Accelerating Digital Transformation", was signed in the presence of Minister of State for Electronics and IT, Jitin Prasada. The minister emphasised that adopting digital technologies is no longer an option but a necessity in today's business environment. He expressed confidence that this initiative would enable small traders to leverage technology effectively, expand their businesses, access new market opportunities, and strengthen their competitiveness in the global marketplace.

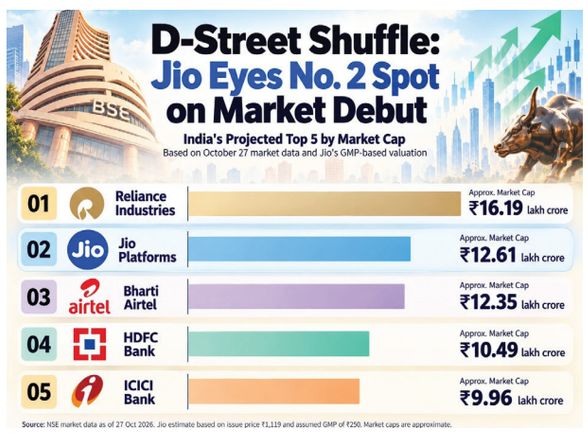
Jio Could Debut as India's Second-Most Valuable Listed Company

Jio could take the No. 2 spot after Reliance Industries, pushing Bharti Airtel to third place
Grey market indications point to a potential valuation of around Rs12.61 lakh crore
TCS could slip out of the top five, leaving no Tata or Adani Group company among India's five most valuable listed firms

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 27, 2026

Jio Platforms could become India's second-most valuable listed company when its shares make their stock market debut on Wednesday. Based on current grey market indications, Jio's market capitalisation could reach approximately ₹12.61 lakh crore, nearly ₹25,700 crore higher than Bharti Airtel's. This could place Jio just behind Reliance Industries in market value. To overtake Airtel, Jio would need to list at around ₹1,342 per share or above.

Jio's IPO was priced at ₹1,119 per share. Grey market estimates indicate a premium ranging from ₹245 to ₹255. Taking the midpoint of ₹250, the indicative listing price works out to ₹1,369. Bharti Airtel's last traded price on the NSE on Tuesday was ₹1,978.80, putting its market capitalisation at approximately ₹12.35 lakh crore.



If grey market indications hold, Jio's debut could significantly reshape the ranking of India's most valuable listed companies. Reliance Industries would retain the top spot with a market capitalisation of around ₹16.19 lakh crore, followed by Jio Platforms at ₹12.61 lakh crore. Bharti Airtel would rank third at ₹12.35 lakh crore, followed by HDFC Bank at ₹10.49 lakh crore and ICICI Bank at ₹9.96 lakh crore. This would put two Reliance Group companies among India's top five. The list would comprise two companies in telecom and digital services, two private sector banks and one diversified conglomerate, offering an interesting picture of the sectors represented among the country's most valuable businesses.

Another notable change could be the exit of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) from the top five. The Tata Group's flagship IT company, currently among India's five most valuable listed companies, could slip to sixth place. Based on Tuesday's share price, TCS had an estimated market capitalisation of around ₹9.03 lakh crore. This would leave India's top five listed companies without a single firm from either the Tata or Adani Group. No Adani Group company currently features in the top five.

However, Jio's actual listing price could differ from grey market expectations. The grey market premium is an unofficial indicator and does not guarantee the price at which a stock will list. Jio's position in India's market capitalisation rankings will become clear once its shares begin trading on the BSE and NSE on Wednesday, October 28.

Maruti Suzuki India's Q2 profit falls 26.4 pc to Rs 2,466.1 crore

NEW DELHI, OCT 27



Maruti Suzuki India on Tuesday reported a 26.4 per cent year-on-year (YoY) dip in consolidated net profit for the second quarter of FY27 to Rs 2,466.1 crore due to higher commodity costs linked to the West Asia conflict. The profit dip came despite a 26 per cent increase in revenue from operations to Rs 53,355.5 crore as the benefit was also outweighed by mark-to-market losses on invested surplus.

Operating profit (EBIT) fell 17.1 per cent year-on-year to Rs 2,803.7 crore in Q2 FY27 from Rs 3,382 crore a year earlier. However, operating profit increased 10.8 per cent sequentially from the April-June quarter.

The company's domestic market share increased by 2.2 per cent to 40.8 per cent. Even with enhanced production capacity, demand continued to outpace supply resulting in a low network inventory of about 17 days and pending bookings of about 2 lakh units at the end of the quarter, the earnings report said.

The automaker saw 1,08,119 units of exports in Q2 FY27, as compared to 1,10,487 units in Q2 FY26. On a standalone basis, the company's net profit fell to Rs 2,414.9 crore from Rs 3,302.8 crore a year earlier.

In H1 (April-September), FY27, the company achieved its highest-ever half-yearly sales volume of 1,379,378 units, registering a growth of 27.9 per cent year-on-year. This comprised record half-yearly domestic sales of 1,146,523 units and exports of 232,855 units.

The automaker had posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 3,447 crore in Q1 FY27, down from Rs 3,792 crore in the year-ago period, while revenue from operations jumped 36 per cent year-on-year to Rs 52,469 crore, supported by higher domestic sales and exports.

Shares of Maruti Suzuki closed 2 per cent higher at Rs 11,450 ahead of the earnings announcement.

LT Foods Reports 22% Revenue Growth to ₹6,414 Crore in H1 FY27

NEW DELHI , 27 OCTOBER 2026:

LT Foods, a leading global FMCG company in the consumer food space, today announced its unaudited consolidated financial results for the quarter and half year ended September 30, 2026. Mr. Ashwani Arora, Managing Director & CEO, LT Foods, said, "We delivered a strong performance in the first half of FY'27, reflecting the strength of our brands, the resilience of our diversified global business and disciplined execution across markets. For H1 FY'27, our consolidated revenue grew 22% year-on-year to ₹6,414 crores (Normalized Growth 18% including Golden Star®), EBITDA increased 17% to ₹721 crores, and PAT grew 9% to ₹364 crores. This performance reflects our continued focus on building strong consumer-focussed brands, driving premiumisation and innovation, and strengthening operational efficiencies across the business. The Standalone Revenue of LT Foods stood at ₹2,417 crore, growing by 14.1% YOY for H1 FY'27. EBITDA stood at ₹223 crore, up by 33.5% and PAT is ₹134 crore, up by 23.9%.

Our Basmati & Other Specialty Rice continues to be at the heart of our growth story. For H1 FY'27, it reported a growth of 27% year-on-year (Normalized Growth 22% including Golden Star®). The Organic Food & Ingredients, which is currently undergoing a strategic remodelling, reported a revenue in tune ₹520 crores. The Ready-to-Eat (RTE), Ready-to-Cook (RTC) and Ready-to-Heat (RTH) segment delivered 8% growth with revenue at ₹102 crores.

In Q2 FY'27, consolidated revenue stood at ₹3,253 crores, growing 17% year-on-year and 3% sequentially. EBITDA stood at ₹358 crores, up 13% year-on-year, while PAT increased by 10% year-on-year to ₹180 crores. India continues to be our strongest growth engine, which grew by 24% YOY for H1 FY'27. We are executing a multi-pronged strategy focused on premiumisation, portfolio expansion, distribution expansion and capability building.

During the quarter, we further strengthened our portfolio across multiple consumer segments with the launch of DAAWAT® Delight, DAAWAT® Rozana Platinum and strengthened our Biryani portfolio with new format offerings like DAAWAT® Biryani Masala Paste. The initial response to all new offerings continues to be encouraging. We are also seeing encouraging traction in our value-added and health-focused offerings like DAAWAT® Quick Cooking Brown Rice, DAAWAT® Quick Cooking Red Rice and DAAWAT® Quick Cooking Black Rice, with all 3 growing in double digits over last year. Our DAAWAT® Quick Cooking Brown Rice continues to lead the category with 70%+ market share in General Trade and Modern Retail outlets. Our organic portfolio comprising of DAAWAT® I'm Organic range continues to gain momentum, and today we command nearly 18% share of the organic rice segment on key e-commerce platforms. Our Biryani Kits offerings continue to gain traction and grew in double digits in value terms in first half and today we command above 70% share in key E-Commerce platforms. Our investments behind brands are translating into stronger consumer demand and market share gains. While the category grew by approximately 1.3%, our branded portfolio grew by nearly 8%, enabling us to increase market share by 140 basis points on a YTD basis. DAAWAT®'s market share in India stands at 22.3% share (MAT September 2026, AC Nielsen Retail Survey Audit). Besides, in YTD terms, there has been a gain of +1.4% vs. a year ago in our market share. (YTD Sep'26; AC Nielsen Retail Survey Audit). Our household penetration increased to 67.5 lakh households (Kantar Household Panel MAT June'25), a 20% expansion over the last 12 months.

We have also significantly expanded our distribution footprint strengthening product availability and consumer access across markets. We continue to invest behind increasing feet-on-street and direct distribution capabilities, resulting in better assortment placement and wider product availability. Alongside these commercial initiatives, we continue to invest aggressively in digitising our supply chain and sales ecosystem. These investments are helping us improve forecasting, strengthen frontline execution and ensure superior on-shelf availability across channels while driving efficiency. Overall, we continue to believe that branded basmati remains significantly under-penetrated in India, creating a long runway for sustainable growth. North America remains a key strategic market and an important pillar of our global business witnessing 20.8% (Normalised growth 13.3%, including Golden Star®) growth. Our flagship brand Royal® continued to command over 60% market share and Golden Star® maintaining its position as the No. 1 Jasmine Rice brand in the U.S. Golden Star® also expanded its portfolio with the launch of Microwaveable Rice Cups, marking its first major foray into the fast-growing RTH rice segment.



Telangana's agricultural sector is facing mounting uncertainty as an intensifying El Niño coincides with deficient rainfall, dwindling water resources and concerns over the upcoming rabi, or Yasangi, cropping season. Farmers who depend on rainfall to cultivate their fields are confronting a difficult situation, while those with standing crops are increasingly worried about securing sufficient water to carry them through the remaining stages of growth.

The problem has become particularly visible in October 2026. According to reports based on India Meteorological Department data, Telangana received just 3.5 mm of rainfall against the normal 75.6 mm between October 1 and 21, representing a deficit of approximately 95 per cent. Twelve districts reportedly received no rainfall during this period. The state had already experienced deficient rainfall during the preceding southwest monsoon season, leaving several agricultural regions vulnerable to prolonged dry conditions.

This situation has raised questions about the possible consequences for crop yields, groundwater availability, irrigation planning and farm incomes. The challenge is particularly significant because agriculture in Telangana includes both irrigated cultivation and rain-fed farming, making agricultural production sensitive to variations in rainfall and water availability.

El Niño is an important part of this developing situation, but it is not the only factor responsible for the agricultural difficulties. The distribution of rainfall, the timing of dry spells, local water storage, soil conditions and irrigation access also determine how severely individual farmers are affected.

Telangana Farmers Brace for El Niño Impact

Understanding the El Niño Phenomenon

El Niño is a climate phenomenon associated with unusually warm sea surface temperatures across the central and eastern equatorial Pacific Ocean. These changes influence atmospheric circulation and can alter rainfall patterns across different parts of the world. In India, El Niño has historically been associated with an increased risk of below-normal southwest monsoon rainfall. However, it does not automatically produce drought in every region or during every year. The actual impact depends on the strength of the event, atmospheric conditions, other climate influences and the timing of rainfall. The current episode is particularly noteworthy because it has strengthened considerably during 2026. The United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Climate Prediction Center reported on October 8 that El Niño conditions were intensifying, with a strong-to-very-strong event likely to continue through January–March 2027. The International Research Institute for Climate and Society also reported further strengthening in its October 19 assessment. For Telangana, the immediate concern is not simply the temperature of the Pacific Ocean. It is how the broader climate pattern translates into rainfall shortages, higher agricultural water requirements and uncertainty about the coming months. When rainfall is insufficient, the consequences extend beyond the immediate growing season. Soil moisture declines, reservoirs receive less replenishment, groundwater extraction increases and farmers become more dependent on irrigation. If dry conditions persist, the financial burden can extend into the next agricultural cycle.

Telangana's Rainfall Deficit and Uneven Monsoon

The southwest monsoon is a crucial source of water for Telangana's agriculture. Its rainfall supports the cultivation of paddy, cotton, maize, pulses and other crops while replenishing tanks, reservoirs and groundwater resources. The 2026 monsoon, however, has not provided adequate and evenly distributed rainfall across the state.

According to Telangana Development Planning Society figures reported on October 20, the state received approximately 615.8 mm of rainfall between June 1 and October 15, against a normal of 795.7 mm for the period. This represented a deficit of around 23 per cent. Hyderabad also recorded a substantial shortfall, while several agricultural districts experienced more severe deficiencies. The district-level situation is important because a statewide average can conceal considerable differences in local conditions. Some areas may receive sufficient rainfall during particular weeks, while neighbouring mandals experience extended dry spells.

For farmers, the timing of rainfall can be as important as the total quantity received. Rain arriving after a critical crop-growth stage may not compensate for moisture stress experienced earlier. Similarly, heavy rain concentrated within a short period cannot necessarily replace the benefits of regular rainfall throughout the growing season. Telangana's agricultural vulnerability is therefore shaped by a combination of inadequate seasonal rainfall and its uneven distribution. The exceptionally dry October has added to these concerns. Farmers need moisture in the soil to sustain late-stage crops and prepare fields for subsequent cultivation. Without timely rainfall, the pressure on available irrigation supplies is likely to increase.

Paddy Farmers Face Rising Water Concerns

Paddy is one of Telangana's major agricultural crops, and its cultivation requires careful water management. Although farmers use different cultivation methods, irrigated paddy generally requires a dependable water supply throughout important stages of crop development. The present dry spell is creating difficulties for farmers attempting to protect standing paddy crops. Reports from Telangana indicate that some farmers have resorted to hiring water tankers to prevent their fields from drying out, increasing cultivation expenses at a time when farm incomes are already uncertain. The financial implications can be considerable for small and marginal farmers. Those who depend on rainfall or have limited access to canals and borewells may find it difficult to arrange supplementary irrigation. Farmers who purchase water must absorb additional expenses, while those using borewells may face rising electricity and pumping costs. Water stress during critical growth stages can reduce tillering, grain formation and final yields, depending on the crop's stage and the severity of the shortage. However, the actual damage varies between fields, and not every paddy-growing area will experience the same outcome. The immediate priority is to ensure that available water reaches crops where irrigation can prevent substantial losses. At the same time, farmers must consider whether sufficient water will remain available for the entire crop cycle rather than relying on short-term supplies. If reservoir levels remain low and rainfall fails to improve, the state may need to balance agricultural irrigation requirements with drinking-water needs and other essential demands.

Reservoirs and Groundwater Under Pressure

Agriculture in Telangana depends on a combination of major irrigation projects, medium reservoirs, tanks, canals and groundwater resources. When monsoon rainfall falls short, pressure on these systems increases. A report published on October 23, citing irrigation department data, said the combined storage in major and medium reservoirs across the Krishna and Godavari basins stood at approximately 503.43 thousand million cubic feet (TMC) on September 30, compared with 834.92 TMC on the corresponding date in 2025. This represented a decline of nearly 40 per cent. Lower reservoir storage can constrain irrigation planning, especially when several agricultural regions depend on the same water sources. The consequences may become more pronounced if dry conditions continue into the rabi season. Groundwater provides an alternative for many farmers, but its availability is uneven. Borewells may be productive in some areas and unreliable in others. Increased pumping during a prolonged dry spell can also place additional pressure on local groundwater resources. Farmers who depend on electricity-operated pumps may face difficulties when water levels fall or when irrigation requirements increase. Even where electricity is available, a borewell cannot provide a dependable solution if its yield declines significantly. The situation highlights the importance of managing surface water and groundwater together. Reservoir releases, canal schedules, village tanks, borewell use and drinking-water requirements need to be coordinated rather than addressed separately.

Rabi Cultivation Faces an Uncertain Future

The next major challenge concerns the rabi, or Yasangi, season. Farmers must decide which crops to cultivate, how much land to sow and whether sufficient water will be available to bring their crops to maturity. Normally, the transition between the monsoon and winter cropping seasons allows farmers to use residual soil moisture, irrigation supplies and, where available, post-monsoon rainfall. This year, the prolonged dry spell is complicating those decisions. A farmer who invests in seeds, fertilisers, labour and land preparation without a reliable water source may face substantial financial losses if the crop fails. Paddy cultivation is particularly sensitive to water availability, although requirements vary according to the cultivation method and local conditions. Where irrigation supplies are uncertain, farmers may need to consider less water-intensive alternatives, including suitable pulses and other crops recommended for their local agroclimatic conditions. However, switching crops is not always straightforward. Farmers must consider seed availability, market demand, procurement arrangements, expected prices, soil suitability and the technical support available to them. The government has a role in making such decisions easier by providing timely information about water availability and recommending suitable alternatives through agricultural extension services. Farmers also need clarity about irrigation schedules before making major investments in a new crop. If water is released only after sowing decisions have been made, the benefits of advance planning may be limited. The coming weeks are therefore crucial for determining how Telangana's farmers approach the next agricultural season.

Will the Northeast Monsoon Bring Relief?

The northeast monsoon, which generally brings rainfall to southeastern parts of India between October and December, offers some possibility of relief. However, Telangana does not receive the same benefits from this monsoon system as Tamil Nadu and certain neighbouring regions.

Meteorologists cited in an October 20 report by *The New Indian Express* said Telangana was unlikely to receive significant northeast monsoon rainfall unless favourable weather systems developed. The report also highlighted the state's substantial rainfall deficit and the uneven distribution of precipitation across districts. This means farmers cannot safely assume that the northeast monsoon will compensate for the earlier rainfall shortage. Rainfall from favourable weather systems could improve soil moisture, support late-stage crops and help replenish some water sources. Its benefits, however, would depend on where the rain falls, how much is received and whether it arrives at the right time. A few isolated showers may provide temporary relief without significantly improving reservoir storage or groundwater availability. Widespread and sustained rainfall would be more beneficial, although even heavy rain in a short period would not necessarily resolve the accumulated water deficit. The state must therefore prepare for different possibilities rather than depend entirely on a favourable weather forecast.

Cotton and Other Rain-Fed Crops Under Stress

Cotton is another important crop in Telangana, providing income to farming households across several districts. Unlike fully irrigated cultivation, rain-fed cotton depends substantially on soil moisture and the distribution of rainfall throughout its growth cycle. Prolonged dry spells can affect cotton plants during flowering, boll formation and boll development. Severe moisture stress may cause flowers and young bolls to drop, reducing the number of bolls that mature. The extent of damage depends on the duration of the dry spell, soil characteristics, plant condition and access to supplementary irrigation. Maize, pulses and other rain-fed crops can also suffer when soil moisture becomes inadequate during sensitive stages of growth. Pulses may experience reduced flowering and pod formation, while maize can be affected during flowering and grain development. Farmers growing these crops may face difficult decisions about whether to invest additional money in irrigation, pest management and other inputs when the eventual returns remain uncertain. The risk is not limited to lower production. If crop yields decline while cultivation expenses increase, farmers may receive significantly lower returns even when market prices remain relatively stable.

Cotton farmers may also encounter additional difficulties if prolonged dry conditions are followed by irregular rainfall. Changes in weather can affect pest pressure, crop maturity and harvesting schedules, requiring farmers to adjust their management practices. Nevertheless, the effects will vary by location. Fields with deeper soils, better moisture retention or reliable irrigation may perform better than those dependent entirely on rainfall.



What Telangana Must Do to Protect Agriculture

The immediate priority should be to identify the districts and mandals facing the greatest water shortages and assess the condition of standing crops. Such assessments should distinguish between crops that can still be protected through irrigation and those that have already suffered substantial damage. Water allocation must be based on available supplies, crop requirements and essential drinking-water needs. Where irrigation is possible, priority should be given to scientifically identified critical growth stages rather than distributing water without considering the likely agricultural benefit. Agricultural officers should provide farmers with timely advice on moisture conservation, efficient irrigation, mulching where suitable and crop-specific measures to reduce water loss. Drip and sprinkler irrigation can improve water-use efficiency for suitable crops, although their effectiveness depends on the crop, field conditions, investment costs and maintenance. Farmers preparing for the rabi season should receive location-specific recommendations about crop selection and sowing schedules. Water-intensive crops should not be encouraged indiscriminately in areas where irrigation supplies are uncertain. The government should also strengthen the monitoring of village tanks, minor irrigation structures and groundwater levels. Repairing water-distribution infrastructure and reducing avoidable losses can improve the use of available supplies. Equally important is the timely communication of weather forecasts. Farmers need information they can act on, including the likely timing of rainfall, irrigation advisories and guidance on whether to proceed with sowing. In the longer term, Telangana must continue investing in watershed development, rainwater harvesting, tank restoration, soil-moisture conservation and sustainable groundwater management. These measures cannot eliminate the effects of a severe El Niño, but they can reduce the vulnerability of agricultural communities to rainfall fluctuations.

The Economic Burden on Farming Households

Agricultural losses rarely end with a reduction in crop production. They can affect household expenditure, repayment capacity, local employment and demand for goods and services in rural areas. When crops suffer from moisture stress, farmers may lose part of the money already invested in cultivation. If they spend more on pumping water, hiring tankers or maintaining borewells, their financial exposure increases further. Small and marginal farmers are particularly vulnerable because they often have limited savings and fewer options for spreading risk across different crops or income sources. Agricultural labourers may also be affected if crop losses reduce the demand for weeding, irrigation, harvesting and other field operations. A difficult agricultural season can therefore influence the wider rural economy. The impact on food prices will depend on the extent of crop losses, market arrivals, stocks, procurement and supplies from other regions. A rainfall deficit does not automatically lead to higher prices, but substantial reductions in production can create upward pressure on particular commodities. The government must therefore assess not only the physical damage to crops but also the financial stress experienced by farming households.Timely crop-loss assessments, access to eligible compensation, crop-insurance support and affordable agricultural credit can help prevent a temporary weather shock from becoming a longer-term financial crisis.

Climate Preparedness Must Become a Farming Priority

The current situation demonstrates why agricultural planning must increasingly account for climate variability. A farming system that performs well during a favourable monsoon may struggle when rainfall becomes irregular and water supplies decline. El Niño is a natural climate phenomenon, but its agricultural consequences can be intensified by local water shortages, limited irrigation access and inadequate preparation for dry spells.

SHORT NEWS

CRICKET

ICC congratulates Kettleborough on completing a century of Tests



DUBAI: The International Cricket Council (ICC) has congratulated Richard Kettleborough, a member of the ICC Elite Panel of Umpires, on reaching a major career milestone, standing as an on-field umpire in his 100th Test during the third Test between South Africa and Australia in Cape Town on Tuesday. The 53-year-old becomes only the fifth umpire to reach three figures, joining Aleem Dar (145 Tests), Steve Bucknor (128), Rudi Koertzen (108) and Rod Tucker (102) in the 100-Test club. Jay Shah, ICC Chairman, said: "Reaching 100 Test matches as an on-field umpire is an outstanding achievement and a moment to celebrate Richard Kettleborough's exceptional career. To be only the fifth umpire to reach this landmark speaks volumes about his consistency, professionalism and enduring contribution to the game.

CRICKET

Youth Should Shun Intoxicants and Embrace Sports for a Healthy Life

— Rajya Sabha MP M. Anil Kumar Yadav

HYDERABAD , October 27: Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament Sri M. Anil Kumar Yadav has called upon youth and students to actively participate in the 'Khelo Telangana' programme being implemented by the Telangana Sports Department in accordance with the vision of Hon'ble Chief Minister Sri A. Revanth Reddy.

He emphasised the importance of keeping youth away from intoxicating substances and encouraging them to adopt sports, physical exercise and fitness activities as an integral part of their daily lives. Sri M. Anil Kumar Yadav appreciated the Telangana Sports Department for its initiatives to promote sports and fitness awareness with the objective of fostering a healthy society. He appealed to people from all sections of society to actively participate in the programme, irrespective of political affiliations, and contribute towards building a healthier and fitter Telangana.

Abhishek's mayhem powers India to series-sealing win over New Zealand

WELLINGTON

Abhishek Sharma's record-breaking show powered India to a series-sealing win over New Zealand in the third T20I at Hnry Stadium in Wellington on Tuesday.

Abhishek was on an absolute carnage as he slammed his fourth T20I century, ending at 113 from 38 balls to help India gun down the 199-run target in just 13.2 overs with six wickets in hand. The victory helped India take an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five-match series.

Apart from his fourth T20I century, this was Abhishek's 11th T20 ton, which is now the most by an Indian player in the shortest format. He went past Indian veteran Virat Kohli, who slammed 10 centuries in T20s.

This has put Abhishek in third place among the players with most T20 tons, only behind Chris Gayle (22) and Babar Azam (13).

While Abhishek slammed another jaw-dropping knock, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, promoted to the opening role for this game, also impressed with 45 from 19 deliveries



as record books tumbled and New Zealand bowlers faced the brunt of the Indian batters.

India smashed the highest-ever team total in a men's T20I powerplay, hitting 118/0 in the first six overs. This has now become the highest-ever score for a team in a powerplay, going past the previous highest of Romania, who had made 116/0 against Serbia in a T20I in 2021.

The two batters made a mockery of the depleted New Zealand bowling attack as they went hammer and tongs behind the target. India also breached the 100-run mark in just five overs, which is the second-fastest by any team in the world, behind Eswatini, who had completed their team hundred in 4.5 overs against Mozambique earlier this year.

The Men in Blue also brought up their fifty off just 2.2 overs, which is now the joint-fastest by any team in the world. Papua New Guinea made a team fifty in 2.2 overs against Vanuatu; while Romania had also completed their 50 in 2.2 overs against Serbia.

It was a very tough outing for the New Zealand bowlers, who were already missing Matt Henry and Lockie Ferguson due to fitness issues. Returning Kyle Jamieson and Matthew Fisher, and captain Mitchell Santner managed to take wickets, with Jamieson scalping two and other taking one each. Jamieson got the prized wicket of Abhishek for 113 in the 10th over, while Fisher accounted for Sooryavanshi (45) in the eighth over. Jamieson struck once more later when he got Sanju Samson for 18, and Santner dismissed Shreyas Iyer for five in the 13th over when the Indian skipper holed one out on deep mid-wicket. But the damage was already done, as Tilak Varma (1) and Naman Dhir (4) took India home in the 14th over to win by six wickets.

Earlier, Daryl Mitchell's career-best T20 score of 89* from 52 balls took the hosts to 198/3 in the first innings. The Kiwis were cruising well till the halfway stage of the first innings, as they were 100/2 after 10 overs, but the hosts seemingly ran out of steam as India also displayed good defensive bowling at the back end of the innings to not let them go past 200.

Mitchell's innings was the highlight as he carried the New Zealand innings through and batted for the majority of the innings. He remained unbeaten on 89 from 52 balls as his scoring dropped a bit in the final few overs, while Bevon Jacobs made 39 from 23, but the final punch lacked from the Kiwis.

The Kiwis were at 123/3 after 12 overs as they looked for a final flourish, but the Indian bowlers adapted well to the conditions and bowled fuller and yorkers, as the straight boundaries here are long and the square ones are shorter.

Only 63 runs came from the final seven overs as India bowled good defensive lines. Four different bowlers were used for the death overs, and the visitors did well to keep a lid on the hosts.

India have now taken an unassailable lead of 3-0 in the five-match series, clinching yet another T20I series against the Kiwis.

Brief Scores: New Zealand 198/3 (Daryl Mitchell 89*, Finn Allen 40; Arshdeep Singh 1-33, Axar Patel 1-36) lost to India (Abhishek Sharma 113, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi 45; Kyle Jamieson 2-45, Mitchell Santner 1-17) by six wickets.

'I manifested this innings': Abhishek

WELLINGTON

Abhishek Sharma credited "preparation" behind his masterful knock of 113 from 38 balls during the third T20I against New Zealand, which the Southpaw stated he "manifested" to play.

Abhishek slammed his 11th T20 hundred to help India hunt down 199 in just 13.2 overs as the Men in Blue took an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five-match series.

The Punjab batter and Vaibhav Sooryavanshi (45 from 19 balls) scored a record 118 runs in the powerplay, which is now the most by any team in the world, to set up a brilliant platform for a six-wicket win. Speaking after being adjudged Player of the Match, Abhishek opened up on his knock, his time with Sooryavanshi in the middle, preparation behind such knocks and also on a special message from his mentor, Yuvraj Singh. "I think the key was pretty simple. It was just me and Vaibhav, just going to enjoy there for a bit, especially in the powerplay. And especially when we were fielding, we were observing the pitch a bit because of this extra bounce. But I feel the dimensions of the ground, we could use the powerplay, and we could use their pace as well. So that was the easy plan," he told broadcasters after the game.

Squash: Anahat Singh storms into Canadian Open quarterfinals



ONTARIO

India's Anahat Singh continued her impressive run on the Professional Squash Association (PSA) Tour, defeating England's Saran Nghiem in four games to reach the quarterfinals of the Canadian Women's Open in Toronto, Canada.

The 18-year-old, currently ranked world No. 15, defeated the world No. 52 by an 11-6, 4-11, 11-5, 11-7 margin in the second round of the USD 103,750 PSA Silver-level tournament. The sixth seed had received a bye in the opening round.

Anahat made a confident start, claiming the opening game 11-6, but Nghiem responded emphatically to take the second 11-4 and level the contest. The Indian regained control in the third game, winning 11-5 before closing out the match with an 11-7 victory in the fourth.

The result extends Anahat's encouraging run following her maiden semifinal appearance at a PSA Gold-level event, the Silicon Valley Open, last week. She reached the last-four stage in the United States before losing to Malaysia's Sivasangari Subramaniam in four games. The reigning world junior champion now faces a tougher test in the Canadian Open quarterfinals, where she will meet Egypt's Fayrouz Aboelkheir. The world No. 7 is the tournament's top seed, setting up a challenging encounter for the Indian as she looks to secure another significant result on the professional circuit.

Anahat's recent performances have strengthened her position among the emerging players on the women's tour, with consecutive deep runs at tournaments in the United States and Canada offering valuable experience against established international opposition. Meanwhile, India's Veer Chotrani exited the men's competition at the PSA Silver-level Canada Cup, also held in Toronto. The world No. 36 lost 7-11, 7-11, 6-11 to England's Mohamed ElShorbagy in the second round.

Chotrani had entered the contest after defeating Japan's Ryunosuke Tsukue in straight games but could not overcome the experienced ElShorbagy. With Anahat through to the last eight, the Indian will now look to carry her recent momentum into a quarterfinal clash against one of the tournament's highest-ranked competitors.

Nilakanta Sharma announces retirement from international hockey after Asian Champions Trophy

JALANDHAR

Star midfielder Nilakanta Sharma on Tuesday announced that he will bring his illustrious international career to a close after India's campaign at the Asian Champions Trophy 2026, with Hockey India congratulating the Manipuri veteran for his contribution to Indian hockey.

Nilakanta, who hails from Manipur, made his 163rd international appearance in India's opening match against Bangladesh in front of a passionate crowd at the Olympian Surjit Singh Hockey Stadium in Jalandhar on Tuesday. India won the match 13-0 with Nilakanta scoring one goal, his 20th in the international arena.

The 31-year-old Manipuri midfielder will retire as one of the most decorated modern-day players, having been part of India's historic bronze-medal-winning campaign at the Tokyo Olympics and gold-medal triumphs at two consecutive Asian Games.

Nilakanta first made his mark in junior hockey, winning the 2015 Junior Asia Cup before playing a key role in India's triumph at the 2016 FIH Men's Junior World Cup in Lucknow.

He made his senior international debut against Belgium in 2017, quickly establishing himself as a dependable presence in the midfield, representing the country at major international tournaments and contributing to several memorable achievements.



His senior career saw him become part of some of Indian hockey's most significant achievements in the modern era. He was a member of the Indian team that won the Asian Champions Trophy in 2018, with India sharing the title with Pakistan, and the side that secured the FIH Men's Series Finals in Bhubaneswar in 2019. One of the defining moments of his career came at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, where he was part of the Indian team that won bronze, ending the country's 41-year wait for an Olympic hockey medal. He also represented India at the 2018, 2023 and 2026 Men's Hockey World Cups and won silver at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

Nilakanta won his first Asian Games gold medal with the Indian team at Hangzhou 2022 and followed it up with a second gold at the Aichi-Nagoya Asian Games 2026 in Japan earlier this month. He also featured in India's Asian Champions Trophy title-winning campaigns in 2023 and 2024. Reflecting on his decision to retire, Nilakanta said, "I discussed that with our coach during the Asian Games. I told him that I want to bid adieu in the next tournament because I feel it's the right time for me."

He added: "Of course, the Olympic bronze medal was one of the biggest moments of my career, but I feel extremely fortunate to play the last two matches at the Asian Games 2026 in Japan and win another Asian Games gold medal, when Raj Kumar Pal suffered a hand injury, and I was included in the squad."

Nilakanta said he hopes to remain connected with hockey and contribute to its development in his home state. "Going ahead, I want to give back to the game that has given me so much and hope to contribute to the growth of the sport in Manipur."

Reflecting on Nilakanta's illustrious career, Hockey India President Dr. Dilip Tirkey said, "Nilakanta has served Indian hockey with great dedication and pride. His contributions in midfield and commitment to the team have been valuable throughout his international career. On behalf of Hockey India, I thank him for his service and wish him success and happiness in all his future endeavours."

Kane says Ballon d'Or triumph will 'live long in the memory' after career-best season

NEW DELHI



England captain Harry Kane has described winning the 2026 Ballon d'Or as an incredible honour, thanking his teammates, coaching staff, family and supporters after becoming the first Englishman in 25 years to claim football's most prestigious individual award.

Kane took to social media to reflect on the achievement, saying the ceremony and the recognition would remain special memories after a remarkable season with Bayern Munich and England.

"Where do I begin? That was an evening I'll never forget," Kane wrote on X.

"It's an incredible honour to receive the Ballon d'Or award after a year full of goals, trophies and special milestones. Thank you to all the staff and my teammates at @england and @fcbayern, as well as family, friends and everyone who's supported me – this wouldn't be possible without you all," he added. The 33-year-old also thanked fans for their messages and posts following his achievement. "Thank you to everyone who has sent a kind message or social media post - I appreciate every single one of them. This will live long in the memory," he wrote.

Kane became only the fifth Englishman to win the Ballon d'Or, following Stanley Matthews in 1956, Bobby Charlton in 1966, Kevin Keegan in 1978 and 1979, and Michael Owen in 2001. The Bayern Munich striker enjoyed the most prolific season of his career, scoring 73 goals in 65 appearances for club and country.

G. Kamalini fully available as four new names added to WPL 2027

NEW DELHI

Four more players have been added to the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2027 auction list at the request of the five franchises, while India wicketkeeper-batter G. Kamalini will be available for the entire season, a source told IANS.

The new entrants in the 2027 WPL auction pool, which now stands at 150 players, are Delhi all-rounders Medhavi Bidhuri and Samaira Raghav, New Zealand pacer Bree Illing and Uttar Pradesh bowler Avanya Jain. The auction will start at 5:30 pm in Kochi on Wednesday.

"Yes, during the auction briefing held today, the late addition of four players was made, and all five teams were informed about it. All five teams were also told that G Kamalini is fully available for the 2027 WPL season as she will not be playing in the 2027 U-19 World Cup, which was the case before," further said the source to IANS on Tuesday.

Kamalini's availability for 2027 WPL had been in question before she was understood to be in contention for next year's Under-19 World Cup, which directly clashes with the tournament's fifth season running from January 14 to February 7.



Two-time winners, Mumbai Indians had released Kamalini, who had a contract of Rs 1.1 crore, during last month's retention deadline. But with Kamalini, who has set her base price at Rs 40 lakhs, fully available for the WPL, it means that she can get a good payday at the auction, where 27 slots are to be filled, and wicketkeeper-batters will be in great demand.

While Medhavi, who bowls leg-spin, has gone viral for her '6-7' celebration in the Delhi Premier League (WPL) women's competition, Samaira is coming off a good showing in the U19 Women's T20 Trophy and is also believed to be selected for the U19 Women's T20 Challengers tournament, which prompted her late addition to the WPL auction pool.

The 2027 WPL auction will open with a full round of capped players, and is followed by a full round of uncapped players. After the 50th player, the accelerated rounds may begin. With each team's overall purse at Rs 15 crore, UP Warriorz, who finished last in 2026 and have never reached the final in four seasons, have the most to spend at Rs 3.75 crore.

The Meg Lanning-led side has eight slots to fill -- five Indian and three overseas spots. Gujarat Giants have a purse of Rs 1.25 crore available to fill three slots -- one of which is overseas.

Defending champions and two-time winners Royal Challengers Bengaluru have Rs 1.15 crore available to fill five slots -- two of which are overseas. Four-time runners-up Delhi Capitals have Rs 1.10 crore in hand to fill five slots -- one of which is overseas. Mumbai Indians have Rs 90 lakh purse available to fill six Indian player slots. Australia's T20 World Cup-winning captain Sophie Molineux, who has listed herself at a base price of Rs 50 lakh, and Jess Jonassen, who missed the 2026 season with a shoulder injury, are the biggest overseas names in the auction pool.

Scotland wicketkeeper-batter Sarah Bryce is another name that will keep five teams interested, as well as India's off-spin bowling all-rounder Sneh Rana. Uncapped batters Vrinda Dinesh, Gongadi Trisha, Saanika Chalke, and Mumbai's 15-year-old batting sensation Ira Jadhav could draw strong bidding interest from the five franchises.

Jess, though, is down with a neck injury, which has ruled her out of the upcoming WBBL. Though her return to play is set for the new year, it may be too close to comfort for teams to pick her for 2027 WPL. Ira's availability for WPL 2027 will also be doubtful if she is selected for India's U-19 Women's T20 World Cup squad.

Malaysia women keep semis hopes alive as Bangladesh, Canada and Malaysia men win

AHMEDABAD

Lavenda Odhiambo led Kenya with 16 points, Shamithra scored 17 for Malaysia women while Anmol Thakur's 19 points powered Canada past Scotland on Day Five of the Commonwealth Kabaddi Championship 2026 at the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex in Ahmedabad on Tuesday.

The day continued with action, with Malaysia recording wins in both the men's and women's competitions, alongside victories for Bangladesh and Canada in the men's category. Malaysia women kept their semifinal qualification hopes alive with a dominant win over Singapore, while Kenya women continued their strong run after having already secured their place in the last four.

Kenya Women registered a dominant 61-16 win over Scotland Women. Lavenda Odhiambo led Kenya with 16 points, while Esther Omolo added nine and Joy Vanessa Onyango contributed six.

Krishna Falls For A Teacher



Alias Rukmini introduces a fun romantic situation through its first single, Ruku Ruku Rukmini, which has now been released by the makers. The song captures how a young man's fascination with his crush follows him everywhere, even into a courtroom, adding a playful touch to the film's romantic narrative. It's a sweet symphony of love and longing. Starring Nithiin and Aafiya Sayed, the film brings together romance, humour and an intriguing storyline. Directed by Murali Kanth Devasoth, known for Dhandora, and produced by Deepthi Ganta under Natural Star Nani's Unanimous Productions, the project follows the successful production house's much-talked-about hit COURT – State Vs A Nobody. The newly released song introduces Krishna's adorable obsession with Rukmini, a schoolteacher whose presence makes his everyday life more meaningful. Krishna works at a court and gets an opportunity to admire her during his daily routine. As his feelings grow stronger, he begins imagining how wonderful life could be if she accepted his love. However, beneath his confidence lies the familiar fear of facing rejection. The song's appeal is strengthened by Vijai Bulganin's composition, which blends a gentle romantic tune with peppy orchestration. Purnachary's lyrics express the beauty of admiration and unspoken feelings, whereas Anurag Kulkarni's soulful rendition further enhances the song's emotional warmth. Nithiin fits the role of a relatable middle-class youngster, while Aafiya Sayed adds grace to the screen as Rukmini. The song has all the qualities of a chartbuster and is poised to dominate playlists. Beyond its playful romance, Alias Rukmini promises a deeper story in which an unexpected secret turns Krishna's life upside down. The film explores relationships and social perceptions while maintaining an entertaining narrative. It is set to hit theatres on December 4.



Samantha's Elegant Maternity Style

The teaser of Samantha's new Tamil show Celebrity Masterchef has been released, and it has got her fans talking online. It gives the first glimpse of her in the series, and everyone is now curious to know when the show will start streaming. Her followers in Tamil Nadu are especially happy to see her back in a Tamil project. Meanwhile, the mother to be has also been sharing her traditional looks. In one picture, she wears a sage green kurta set with a rose embroidered dupatta and big drop earrings. In another, she pairs a floral embroidered jacket with a white saree and ties her hair in a neat bun. A third look has a striped jacket over a checkered dress, styled with layered necklaces and gold bangles.



Nazriya Raises The Style Bar For Scene



Nazriya is one of the most loved actresses in South cinema, known for her natural acting and easy comic timing. She became a household name with Raja Rani and Bangalore Days. She later impressed audiences with Koode, Ante Sundaraniki and Sookshmadarshini. Known for her calm and traditional looks, Nazriya surprised fans with a glam look at the Dubai promotion for her Tamil film Scene. After some online criticism, she shared a new photoshoot without any caption. The yellow gown has fine pleats, a fitted bust and a sheer lace drape from the high neck. She kept her hair in loose waves and chose a gold cuff and soft nude makeup. Nazriya will be seen opposite Suriya in Scene, directed by Jithu Madhavan. The film releases on November 6 for Diwali.

Will AK 47 Change Srinidhi Shetty's Fate?

Kannada beauty Srinidhi Shetty made a strong impression with the KGF franchise, but she is yet to enjoy the same level of success with her subsequent films. Despite being part of a massive blockbuster, she has struggled to give proper hits in her career. After KGF: Chapter 2, Srinidhi appeared in Vikram's Tamil film Cobra, which failed to make a strong impact at the box office. She later made her Telugu debut with HIT: The Third Case, which performed well commercially. However, her next film, Telusu Kada, failed to meet box-office expectations. Now, all eyes are on Aadarsha Kutumbam, starring Venkatesh and directed by Trivikram Srinivas. Srinidhi plays Venkatesh's wife in this family entertainer, which is scheduled to release on October 30. The film could be an important turning point for the actress, particularly in Telugu cinema. Working alongside an established star like Venkatesh and a popular filmmaker like Trivikram gives her an opportunity to connect with a wider family audience. If Aadarsha Kutumbam becomes a box-office success, it could open new doors for Srinidhi and help her secure more promising projects. After the phenomenal success of KGF, she needs a consistent run of successful films to establish herself beyond the franchise. Will AK 47 finally give Srinidhi the career breakthrough she has been waiting for? Let's see what happens in the days to come.

Bhogi's Music Brings Village Vibes

The magic of a song often lies in its ability to transport listeners into a world filled with familiar emotions, cultural memories and lived experiences. Charming Star Sharwa's Bhogi appears to have struck that chord with its first two songs, which have been generating considerable excitement. Music director Bheems Ceciroleo's work reflects a strong connection with rural identity, particularly in the first single, Egilivaranga. The song captures the rhythm of village life, recreating the atmosphere of the Telangana rural side through its music and visuals. Chandrabose's lyrics play a crucial role in this experience. His words make the song more than a musical number, turning it into a celebration of Telangana's cultural heritage. Moving from the collective spirit of village life to the intimacy of family relationships, Bhogi's second song, Annayya Paanam, offers a different emotional experience. The track centres on the affection shared between a brother and his sisters, highlighting the sacrifices, care and responsibility that define this relationship. Chandrabose brings warmth to the lyrics by portraying a brother whose world revolves around the well-being of his sisters. Underwent a complete makeover to play a rural guy, Sharwa brings authenticity to the character with his impeccable portrayal. Director Sampath Nandi wins brownie points for his special care in the music. His visual treatment gives both songs a distinct identity while maintaining their connection to the film's rural setting. The natural surroundings and depiction of village life lend the compositions an immersive quality, allowing audiences to connect with the emotions on screen. What makes the response particularly encouraging is the appeal these songs have found across different audiences. Their popularity in rural areas highlights their cultural authenticity, while the positive reception in cities demonstrates that stories rooted in regional traditions can transcend geographical boundaries. For Bhogi, the success of these two tracks is a significant boost. The songs have established a strong musical identity for the film, expanded its reach and intensified the anticipation surrounding Sharwa and Sampath Nandi's collaboration.



Big Twist In Balayya-Koratala Film?

Balakrishna and Koratala Siva's film is one of the most awaited projects. After the success of Devara, Koratala Siva is looking to continue his winning streak with Balakrishna. The duo is teaming up for the first time, naturally raising curiosity about who will compose the music for this exciting combination. Although the names of music directors, SS Thaman and Anirudh were heard before, the latest buzz in the tinsel town is that GV Prakash Kumar's name is being considered for this film. While Anirudh was strongly considered, it is rumoured that remuneration disagreement was the reason for opting out of Anirudh. Now, GV Prakash is a surprise for the Balayya-Koratala combo. GV Prakash has always been away from star heroes' mass films in recent times. However, one cannot underestimate his solid track record who now has back-to-back hits. It is known that GV Prakash recently delivered two solid hits such as Irumudi and Vishwanath And Sons. He also earlier delivered hits such as Lucky Bhaskar. But composing for Balakrishna's film is a next level opportunity as so far musicians like Thaman were the top priority. Overall, some interesting and surprising developments are taking place. It is worth to watch who will be the final music director who comes onboard for the film.





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