HYDERABAD HEADLINES

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Anant Ambani: The Emerging Face of Reliance

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Supreme Court Questions ECI on Voter Exclusion

HOME LAND 07



Elections Held Using Ballot Papers, Yet Congress Failed to Win a Single Seat: PM Modi's Dig

PM Takes a Swipe at Congress Over MLC Poll Results in Four States



New Delhi, oct 28: Prime Minister Narendra Modi took a dig at the Congress party, remarking that it failed to win even a single seat despite elections being conducted using ballot papers. Referring to the results of the Legislative Council (MLC) elections held in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra and Karnataka, Modi pointed out that elections for 28 MLC seats across the four states were conducted using ballot papers. In a post on the social media platform X, the Prime Minister asked people to guess how many seats the Congress had won in these elections. His remarks have triggered political discussion, particularly against the backdrop of Congress's allegations of electoral irregularities and its demand that ballot papers be used instead of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). Modi's comments are being viewed as a political counter to the Congress party's criticism of the electoral process and its repeated calls for a return to ballot-paper voting.

SHORT TAKES

Centre Approves 3% DA Hike for Employees, Pensioners

New Delhi, oct 28: The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved a 3% increase in Dearness Allowance (DA) for central government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) for pensioners ahead of Diwali. The decision is expected to benefit more than 1.17 crore central government employees and pensioners across the country. The revised rates will be effective from July 1, 2026.

According to the details, around 48.54 lakh central government employees and 68.71 lakh pensioners will benefit from the increase. Dearness Allowance and Dearness Relief are revised twice a year to help employees and pensioners cope with inflation and rising living costs. The latest hike is expected to provide additional financial relief to beneficiaries ahead of the festive season.

TG Gears Up for Drought

Dy. CM Bhatti Calls for All-Party Unity



HYDERABAD, OCT 28

The Telangana government is preparing a comprehensive action plan to mitigate the impact of El Niño and the prevailing drought conditions in the state, with a focus on ensuring drinking water, fodder for livestock and efficient management of available water resources. Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Wednesday called for collective action, urging all political parties to set aside differences and work together in the larger public interest. Vikramarka, who chaired an all-party meeting on drought preparedness at the Secretariat, said the government was taking all necessary measures to address the emerging situation. As part of its advance preparedness, the state had already submitted a report to the Centre, and the government was ready to lead an all-party delegation to Delhi to seek assistance if required, he said.

The meeting was attended by ministers N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Danasari 'Seethakka' Anasuya, Tummala Nageswara Rao and Vakiti Srihari, who are members of the Cabinet sub-committee on drought headed by Vikramarka. Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju, nodal officer J. Ramakrishna Rao and heads of various departments also participated in the deliberations. Emphasising the need for a coordinated response, Vikramarka said the government would consider suggestions from all political parties while finalising measures to tackle the challenges posed by El Niño and drought. He said the meeting had been convened by inviting representatives of all political parties in the true spirit of democracy.

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CM Revanth orders mandatory use of treated water in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, Oct.28: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed civic authorities in the Greater Hyderabad limits to ensure the supply of treated water for all non-potable purposes from November 1. At a review meeting on sewage treatment plants (STPs) and the utilisation of treated water on Wednesday, the Chief Minister instructed officials to supply treated water for landscaping at government offices, including

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29,267 Crore for Four Schemes

10,000 Crore for Container Manufacturing; Special Funds for Sports Goods and Rural Development

NEW DELHI, OCT 28

The Union Cabinet has taken key decisions aimed at promoting the country's industrial growth, rural development, and sports goods manufacturing sector. It has allocated a total of ₹29,267 crore for four major proposals. Of the total allocation, ₹10,000 crore has been earmarked for the container manufacturing sector. Funds have also been allocated for sports goods manufacturing, rural development schemes, and Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR) for employees and pensioners. The Cabinet has decided to launch a dedicated scheme with an outlay of ₹10,000 crore to strengthen the container manufacturing sector in India. The scheme aims to enhance domestic manufacturing capacity and provide incentives to industries. For the development of the sports goods manufacturing sector, the Cabinet has allocated ₹1,856 crore to the Khelo India Sports Goods Manufacturing Scheme. Through this initiative, the Centre aims to boost the industry by encouraging domestic production and expanding manufacturing capacity in the country.



Rahul, Nirmala Clash Over Tata Group Dispute

NEW DELHI, OCT 28

A fresh political confrontation has erupted between Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman over developments within the Tata Group, with both leaders exchanging sharp remarks on corporate governance and alleged political interference. The controversy began after Gandhi alleged on social media that Indian business houses were being treated as political playthings. He claimed that major businesses were facing undue pressure and accused the government of interfering in the functioning of private enterprises.

Responding to Gandhi's remarks, Sitharaman criticised the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha for politicising sensitive commercial and legal matters.

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Ponguleti launches free online coaching for unemployed youth



Hyderabad, Oct.28: Revenue, Housing and Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy on Wednesday launched 'PSR Yuva Nestham', an initiative of the PSR Charitable Trust to provide free online coaching to an unlimited number of unemployed youth across Telangana for competitive examinations. The programme, launched in association with the reputed RC Exams organisation, will offer free coaching for one year to candidates preparing for various government recruitment examinations. The duration will be extended if necessary, the Minister said.

Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy formally launched the initiative at his chamber in the Secretariat, coinciding with his birthday. Minister Vakiti Srihari, MP Ram Sahayam Raghuram Reddy and MLAs Vemula Veeresham and Lakshma Reddy attended the event.

Speaking on the occasion, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said the initiative

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Kavitha seeks Assembly resolution on separate OBC column in Census



Hyderabad, Oct.28: Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) president Kalvakuntla Kavitha on Wednesday said reservations were an asset to be passed on to future generations and urged the Telangana Assembly to adopt a resolution asking the Centre to include a separate Other Backward Classes (OBC) column in the Census. Addressing the Hyderabad OBC Declaration meeting jointly organised by the All India OBC Students Association and the Telangana BC Rights Forum at the RTC Kalyana Mandapam in Bagh Lingampally, she called for a united struggle across party lines to secure the demand.

Kavitha urged the State government to convene a special session of the Assembly and pass a resolution on the issue, following the example of Tamil Nadu.

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BJP ACCUSES SONIA GANDHI OF 'HYPOCRISY' OVER PM AMBITIONS

Hyderabad, Oct.28: BJP Telangana spokesperson N.V. Subash on Wednesday accused Congress leader Sonia Gandhi of hypocrisy over reported claims in her memoir, "Belonging: A Journey of Love", that she had opposed her husband Rajiv Gandhi becoming Prime Minister. Subash questioned the claim, citing former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's media adviser Sanjay Baru's account of the power structure in the UPA government in his book "The Accidental Prime Minister". He alleged that the Congress continued to promote dynastic politics while questioning the BJP-led NDA government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Subash also referred to the political debate surrounding Sonia Gandhi's possible elevation as Prime Minister in 2004. Questioning the Congress leadership's political ambitions, he asked why Sonia Gandhi's children, Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, continued to pursue active politics if she was genuinely opposed to members of her family occupying the top post. Subash asserted that leadership should be determined by public mandate, governance and accountability rather than family legacy.

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TG Govet. Transfers Several IAS Officers

Hyderabad, October 28: The Telangana government has transferred several senior IAS officers and assigned additional responsibilities to key officials as part of an administrative reshuffle. Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju issued Government Order (GO) RT No. 1553 on Wednesday, announcing changes in various departments.

Jayesh Ranjan has been appointed Special Chief Secretary to the Energy Department, while Vikas Raj has been posted as Special Chief Secretary to the Transport, Roads and Buildings Department. Naveen Mittal has been appointed Special Chief Secretary to the Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department.

A. Vani Prasad has been given additional charge of the Youth Advancement, Tourism and Sports Department, along with the responsibility of Director of Heritage Telangana. Shailaja Ramaiyer has been appointed Principal Secretary to the Revenue (Endowments) Department, while Rahul Bojja has been given additional charge of the Tribal Welfare Department as Principal Secretary.

Ilambarthi K. has been appointed Secretary to the Transport, Roads and Buildings Department. Sarfaraz Ahmed has been assigned additional responsibilities as Secretary and Special Officer associated with the HMDA.

Shruti Ojha has been appointed Special Secretary to the Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens Welfare Department. Musharraf Ali Faruqui has been appointed Director of the Medical, Health and Family Welfare Department, while Dr. S. Sangeetha Satyanarayana has been posted as Director of the Women, Children, Disabled and Senior Citizens Welfare Department.

Jitesh V. Patil has been given additional charge as Vice Chairman and Managing Director of the Telangana Renewable Energy Development Corporation (TGREDCO). The government said the appointments and allocation of additional responsibilities were aimed at strengthening administration and improving efficiency across various departments.

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"We Breathe Air and Drink Water to Live, Not to Die Both Have Become Poisonous Here"

Etela Rajender's Second Day of Padyatra

HYDERABAD, OCT 28



Etela Rajender received a grand welcome during his padyatra (foot march) in Ghatkesar mandal headquarters. Etela Rajender stated that renowned environmentalist and his mentor, Purushottam Reddy, had come forward to extend his support.

Purushottam Reddy said:

"Twenty-five years ago, we filed a case in the National Green Tribunal against the Jawaharnagar dump yard. Justice Swatanter Kumar issued an order directing that the Jawaharnagar dump yard be removed. We are demanding that the order be implemented. Etela Rajender is undertaking this padyatra for our sake. It is the responsibility of all of us to extend our support to him.

The air we breathe must be clean. It is our right. But here, the air has become poisonous. We breathe air to live, not to die. The drinking water has been contaminated by leachate from the garbage. People are falling ill after drinking the water. Protecting the environment is the responsibility of every citizen. Living is our right. It is the responsibility of governments to protect that right."

Etela Rajender said:

"This problem remains unresolved because the government and the contractor are misleading the court's judgments. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy should not play with people's lives. As Purushottam Reddy pointed out, clean air and water are the rights of the people.

The courts have delivered their judgments, and experts are suggesting solutions. The government must use advanced technology to provide a permanent solution to this problem. Hundreds of people have died because there is no flyover here. Construction of the flyover must begin immediately. The contractor is not carrying out the work because funds have not been released. This shows how poorly the government is functioning."

Public Participation

The padyatra was conducted under the leadership of Ghatkesar Division President Mahipal Reddy, District President Buddhi Srinivas, and local leaders, including Enugu Sudarshan Reddy. Members of the mechanics' association, sanitation workers, students from various colleges, and large numbers of women welcomed Etela Rajender and participated in the padyatra. Residents affected by pollution explained their grievances to Etela Rajender, stating that factories in the area were discharging waste into local streams and that sewage from the dump yard was causing severe problems for people living in the surrounding areas.

CM Revanth orders mandatory use of..

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the State Secretariat and the Chief Minister's camp office, road cleaning along the Outer Ring Road (ORR), public parks and data centres. He directed officials to incorporate mandatory use of treated water for non-drinking purposes into the building permit approval process. Emphasising the need to improve the functioning of STPs, Revanth Reddy called for the use of artificial intelligence (AI) technology in their operations. He also ordered the appointment of a special officer to monitor the quality of treated water and directed officials to integrate all STPs with the command and control centre.

The Chief Minister sought details of water requirements for the Railways and Metro Rail and instructed the authorities concerned to ensure that treated water was used for all non-potable needs. He stressed the need for extensive public awareness campaigns on the use of treated water and directed officials to establish a toll-free number to handle enquiries and requests. He also called for a system to track treated-water tankers and empowered HYDRAA to monitor STPs. In view of the rising demand for power, the Chief Minister asked officials to explore the feasibility of using solar energy to operate STPs and involve private agencies in setting up sewage treatment plants. During the meeting, Water Board officials briefed the Chief Minister on the availability of drinking water. Revanth Reddy directed them to plan for future demand and take proactive measures to prevent any shortage. He stressed the need for continuous monitoring of the supply of fresh water to ensure uninterrupted availability.

New 33/11 kV Substation Launched at Medchal Collectorate Campus

TGSPDCL Director V. Shivaji oversees commissioning to ensure reliable and high-quality power supply for government offices.



Medchal-Malkajgiri, October 28: A newly constructed 33/11 kV power substation was formally inaugurated today at the Integrated District Offices Complex (IDOC) near Anthayipalli, located within the Medchal District Collectorate premises. The substation was officially launched and charged under the direct supervision of TGSPDCL Director (Projects), Mr. V. Shivaji. The testing, charging, and commissioning procedures were meticulously carried out in the presence of engineers from the Projects, Operations, and MP wings. All electrical equipment underwent thorough inspection and testing to ensure everything operated strictly in accordance with technical safety and operational standards.

This new facility will serve as a critical infrastructure backbone, playing a vital role in delivering a highly reliable, continuous, and high-quality electricity supply to the district collectorate and surrounding government offices. Officials highlighted that strengthening the regional power infrastructure in this manner will significantly enhance overall grid stability and supply consistency across the campus. The inauguration event was attended by key leadership and field officials, including Medchal Chief Engineer Mr. Ramesh, Superintending Engineer Mr. Gnaneshwar, alongside Chief Engineers, Superintending Engineers, and Executive Engineers from the MP Wing, as well as Assistant Divisional Engineers (ADEs), Assistant Engineers (AEs), and technical staff from the Medchal Operations Division. Concluding the event, senior leadership extended their heartfelt appreciation to all participating engineering officers and field personnel for their hard work in successfully executing and commissioning the project.

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TG Gears Up for Drought



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The suggestions put forward by leaders of different parties had been recorded, and the government would make every effort to incorporate feasible recommendations into its action plan, he said.

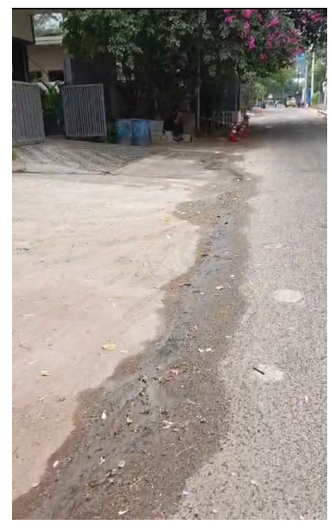
Vikramarka appealed to political parties to rise above political criticism and work together to protect public interests during the crisis. Recalling how governments and political parties had joined hands to overcome challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic, he called for a similar spirit of cooperation to address the current situation. Public welfare, he stressed, should take precedence over political differences. He said the impact of El Niño had been discussed in the Legislative Assembly, following which the government organised meetings and seminars and consulted scientists and experts to formulate drought mitigation strategies. The government was also undertaking public awareness initiatives while assessing the conditions likely to emerge in the coming months and preparing to address the associated challenges.

The Deputy Chief Minister said the government was working on plans to make effective use of available resources, with various departments coordinating their efforts to minimise the impact of drought. Advance arrangements were being made to prevent drinking water shortages in both rural and urban areas, while ensuring adequate water and fodder supplies for livestock. He added that the government was making the necessary budgetary provisions to implement drought mitigation measures and meet emerging requirements. The coordinated approach, he said, was aimed at reducing the hardships faced by people and ensuring that essential resources remained available during the difficult period. Referring to the state's water resources, Vikramarka said rainfall deficits were not confined to Telangana but had also affected upper riparian states. The resulting decline in inflows into reservoirs had made the efficient management and utilisation of available water resources particularly important. He stressed the need for careful planning and coordinated action to ensure that the available water was used effectively to meet drinking water requirements, agricultural needs and the demands of livestock.

Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said the government had listened to the concerns raised by leaders of all political parties and would take their views into consideration while deciding on the next course of action. On river water issues, Uttam Kumar Reddy reiterated the government's commitment to safeguarding the interests of Telangana and its farmers. He said the government would continue to protect the state's interests while addressing water-related challenges arising from the prevailing conditions. The meeting underscored the government's emphasis on advance planning, interdepartmental coordination and political cooperation to mitigate the effects of drought and El Niño. The government is expected to draw on the suggestions received from political parties, along with expert advice, to strengthen its preparedness and minimise the impact on people, farmers and livestock across Telangana.

Citizen Tip-Off Leads to ₹5,000 Fine for Water Misuse

HMWS&SB warns of strict penalties for using tap water to clean premises, offering complete confidentiality for public informants.



Medchal-Malkajgiri, October 28: In a stern action against the misuse of drinking water, the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWS&SB) penalized a resident of Jubilee Hills ₹5,000 for using potable water to clean an outdoor compound. The enforcement action was initiated following a tip-off submitted by local residents to the HMWS&SB's official WhatsApp helpline. Citizens reported that drinking water was being wasted at Plot No. 1152, Road No. 57, within the Jubilee Hills Circle and Ward jurisdiction. Upon receiving the complaint, Jal Board officials immediately conducted a swift field inspection at the site, verified the misuse, and issued the ₹5,000 fine on the spot in accordance with official rules. By completing the entire enforcement cycle—from receiving the complaint and conducting an immediate field investigation to confirming the violation and levying the penalty—the Jal Board has made it clear that drinking water wastage will not be tolerated. Officials emphasized that tap water is strictly supplied for drinking and essential domestic use, warning that using it for non-essential tasks like washing house premises, courtyards, or roads will attract strict regulatory action. Reiteration was made that water conservation is a collective public responsibility, and every citizen must use water prudently and act as a active partner in preventing waste across the city.

To ensure accountability, the HMWS&SB's is calling on the public to monitor and report any incidents of water misuse in their surroundings. Citizens can submit evidence including photos, videos, details of the individuals or organizations involved, exact locations, and full addresses via the HMWS&SB's official WhatsApp number at 99499 30003, or by logging a formal complaint through the Customer Care Center at 155313. Authorities have assured that every reported incident will undergo a thorough field investigation, and strict action will follow wherever violations are confirmed. To encourage community participation, the HMWS&SB's has formally guaranteed that the identities of all informants will be kept completely confidential.

Rahul, Nirmala Clash Over Tata Group Dispute

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She argued that describing corporate disputes as criminal actions without sufficient grounds was unacceptable and could undermine confidence in Indian industry. The Finance Minister also accused the Opposition of repeatedly questioning the achievements of Indian entrepreneurs and creating distrust about the country's economic environment. She defended the existing regulatory and judicial mechanisms, maintaining that corporate disputes should be addressed through established legal and institutional processes.

Gandhi, however, intensified his criticism in a subsequent social media post on Wednesday. He questioned why Tata Trusts and Tata Sons representatives had allegedly been hosted at Union Home Minister Amit Shah's residence if the issue was merely a legal and commercial matter. He also raised questions about the possible involvement of political leaders in the ongoing developments and alleged that the government favoured a select group of business houses. Gandhi maintained that businesses did not need external encouragement to oppose policies they considered unfavourable.

The exchange comes amid reported tensions within the Tata Group over corporate leadership and governance. Tata Trusts Chairman Noel Tata has reportedly questioned the procedural validity of N. Chandrasekaran's reappointment as executive chairman of Tata Sons, citing concerns over regulatory requirements and governance procedures. The dispute has brought renewed attention to the relationship between corporate leadership, regulatory oversight and political institutions. While the government has rejected allegations of undue interference, the Opposition has called for greater scrutiny of the circumstances surrounding the developments. The latest exchange adds another dimension to the political debate over corporate governance and the role of government in India's business environment. However, the allegations exchanged by the two sides remain contested, and the implications of the reported internal dispute will depend on the relevant corporate and legal proceedings.

Reliable Power for KPHB: TGSPDCL Charges New 16 MVA Transformer



Medchal-Malkajgiri, October 28: To meet increasing energy demands and deliver reliable, continuous power supply to local residents, Telangana Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (TGSPDCL) has successfully upgraded and charged a new 16 MVA power transformer at the KPHB 33/11 kV substation. This new installation replaces the existing 12.5 MVA transformer, significantly enhancing the local power grid's capacity.

This key infrastructure upgrade was executed under the vision of Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, with guidance from Special Chief Secretary (Energy) Naveen Mittal, IAS, and direct supervision from TGSPDCL CMD Sri Jitesh V. Patil, IAS.

The primary objective of replacing the older unit is to effectively handle rising electricity demand while eliminating severe high-load operational issues. This upgrade reinforces the overall electrical network and ensures a far more stable and uninterrupted power supply for residents living in KPHB Phase–1, Phase–2, Phase–3, Vasanth Nagar, and Bhagya Nagar.

The charging ceremony was attended by several senior utility engineers and officials, including Chief Engineer (RR Zone) L. Gopayya, Superintending Engineer (Cyber City Circle) T. Chandrashekhar, Divisional Engineer (Kondapur) R. Shyam Kumar, Assistant Divisional Engineers B. Manikkyalu and P. Venkatesh, as well as Assistant Engineers Sri B. Vijay Prakash and Smt. J. Sreeneshwari.

Reaffirming its commitment to customer satisfaction, TGSPDCL continues to focus on improving power infrastructure across the region. Consumers seeking service support or updates can contact the utility through its toll-free helpline at 1912, via WhatsApp at 87124 41912, or by visiting their official website at www.tgsouthernpower.org

Ponguleti launches free online coaching for unemployed youth

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aimed to provide quality coaching to unemployed youth and improve their chances of securing government jobs. The Minister said the online facility would allow candidates to prepare from their homes without travelling to Hyderabad. It would particularly benefit youth from remote areas by saving them travel and accommodation expenses, ensuring access to quality coaching irrespective of their location, he said.

The Minister noted that coaching for competitive examinations could cost at least ₹1 lakh per candidate, while books and other study materials alone could cost between ₹14,000 and ₹30,000. The PSR Charitable Trust would bear the entire cost of the programme, providing coaching, books and other necessary study materials free of charge to candidates, he said.

Kavitha seeks Assembly resolution on separate OBC column in Census

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She warned that if the Centre refused to accept the demand, the Telangana government should consider preventing the Census from being conducted in the State. Kavitha said the Census should include a dedicated OBC column, along with a drop-down option, to ensure proper enumeration of the community. Stressing the need for collective action, she questioned the justification for spending ₹12,000 crore on the Census without establishing the actual population of OBCs.

Kavitha announced that her party would participate in a dharna to be organised by OBC organisations at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi in November, demanding the inclusion of a separate OBC column in the Census. Recalling the movement for the Women's Reservation Bill, she said sustained protests in Delhi had helped them achieve success. A similar movement would be launched to secure OBC rights and press the Centre to accept the demand, she asserted. Kavitha alleged that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy lacked sincerity in addressing the concerns of Backward Classes. She reiterated that the State government should exert pressure on the Centre by adopting an Assembly resolution, as Tamil Nadu had done.

Governor Calls for Drug-Free Telangana and India by 2029





* 1,200 NSS Volunteers Take Anti-Drug Pledge at Osmania University

HYDERABAD

In a clarion call to safeguard the nation's youth and secure a healthier future, the Hon'ble Governor of Telangana, Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla, administered the anti-drug abuse pledge in Telugu to more than 1,200 NSS volunteers at the iconic Tagore Auditorium, Osmania University, urging collective action to realise the vision of a drug-free Telangana and India by 2029, in alignment with Viksit Bharat @2047.

Addressing the gathering under the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan and Nasha Mukt Yuva for Viksit Bharat @2047, the Governor reiterated the clarion call given by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, and the Union Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah, to make India Nasha Mukt by 2029. He urged young people to translate this national resolve into meaningful action through responsible choices, character-building and active participation in the fight against substance abuse. Emphasising that the future of the country depends greatly on its youth, he lauded the efforts of the Indian Red Cross Society, Osmania University and its NSS units in advancing this vital social cause. He also appreciated Osmania University's enduring legacy and its continued commitment to addressing the needs of society.

Vice-Chancellor Calls for Sustained Action Beyond the Pledge

Addressing the gathering, Senior Professor Kumar Molugaram, Vice-Chancellor, Osmania University, emphasised that drug abuse threatens not only individual health but also education, careers, family well-being and the aspirations of an entire generation. He observed that a developed nation must be built on healthy citizens, responsible communities and empowered youth.

The Vice-Chancellor called upon NSS Programme Officers to become mentors of healthy choices and urged every NSS unit to make drug-abuse prevention a sustained campus and community initiative. He encouraged volunteers to resist peer pressure, support those affected by substance dependence with compassion, and carry the message of prevention from classrooms and campuses to families, villages and neighbourhoods.

Highlighting the close link between a drug-free youth population and the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047, he stressed that the success of the campaign must be measured not merely by the number of pledges and rallies, but by lasting behavioural change, effective prevention and lives positively transformed. He reaffirmed Osmania University's commitment to nurturing socially responsible youth and advancing the welfare of society.

Shri M. Dana Kishore Emphasises Constitutional Duties and Social Responsibility

Shri M. Dana Kishore, IAS, Special Chief Secretary to the Governor and Chairman of the Indian Red Cross Society, Telangana, highlighted the significance of Vande Mataram as an expression of reverence for the motherland and drew attention to the fundamental duties enshrined in the Constitution of India. He called upon the youth to lead purposeful lives, uphold their responsibilities as citizens and actively contribute to eliminating the menace of drug abuse across Telangana.

He appreciated the efforts of the Indian Red Cross Society, NSS volunteers and Osmania University leadership in advancing this important movement, emphasising that collective responsibility and sustained public participation are essential to building a healthier, drug-free society.

Rally Reinforces the Message of a Drug-Free Society

The programme culminated in a rally, flagged off by the dignitaries, from Tagore Auditorium towards the Arts College, bringing together participants in a visible demonstration of solidarity against drug abuse. The rally reinforced the message that the fight against addiction requires sustained public awareness, youth leadership, institutional commitment and community participation.

The programme was attended by Shri K. Shashikiranachary, Joint Secretary to the Governor; Prof. A. Sriramulu, General Secretary and CEO, Indian Red Cross Society, Telangana; Prof. G. Naresh Reddy, Registrar, Osmania University; Senior Professor S. Jithendra Kumar Naik, Officer on Special Duty to the Vice-Chancellor; and Dr. Chalamalla Venkateshwarlu, NSS Programme Coordinator, along with representatives of the Indian Red Cross Society, faculty members, NSS Programme Officers, volunteers and other distinguished participants.

The programme reaffirmed the collective resolve of the Governor's office, Osmania University, the Indian Red Cross Society and the NSS fraternity to transform the national call for a drug-free India into sustained grassroots action, protecting young lives and strengthening the foundations of Viksit Bharat @2047.

M. Dana Kishore Reappointed as Spl Chief Secretary to the Governor



HYDERABAD: In view of his retirement from service on the 31st of this month, Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju has issued orders reappointing M. Dana Kishore as Special Chief Secretary to the Governor.

Naidu seeks central team to assess Cyclone Arnab damage

AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has written to Union Home Minister Amit Shah, seeking the early deputation of a Central team to assess the damage caused by Cyclone Arnab in the state.

In his letter, Naidu highlighted damage to crops, houses, roads and electricity poles, and urged the Centre to extend support for relief and rehabilitation operations.

According to CM, Konaseema, Kakinada, East Godavari, West Godavari, Anakapalli and Krishna districts were among the worst-affected areas. He said 16 NDRF and 11 SDRF teams had been deployed across 14 districts, while more than 28,000 people had been moved to rehabilitation centres. Naidu said control rooms and the State Emergency Operations Centre were functioning round the clock, with priority given to restoring electricity and drinking water supplies. A comprehensive damage report would be submitted to the Centre following a detailed assessment.

CORRIGENDUM-03 FOR TENDER NOTICE NO.: CON/2026/SEP/03 DATED. 08-10-2026

Corrigendum No. 03 for Tender Notice No. CON/2026/SEP/03, dated: 08-10-2026 against **Tender No. CE-CON-DK-PW-2026-08** has been published. For details please visit in website **www.ireps.gov.in**.

Chief Engineer/Con/ Nagaland Project, Maligaon
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EASTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No.: 222-S/1/W-II. Date: 26.10.2026. Following e-Tenders are invited online by Divisional Railway Manager, Eastern Railway, Sealdah, 2nd floor, DRM Building, Kaizer Street, Sealdah, Kolkata-700014 for the following works: **Sl. No. 1. Tender No. TN-203-26-27. Name of the work** : Strengthening of substructure by RCC jacketing at RUB no. X-13, X-26 and X-27 in Kankurgachhi chord section and S-26 in Sealdah-Diamond Harbour section of Sealdah Division. **Tender Value:** Rs. 4,22,54,204.81. **EMD:** Rs. 8,45,100/-. **Sl. No. 2. Tender No. TN-210-26-27. Name of the work** : At Chitpur : Modification of infrastructure of mechanized laundry with provision of ETP at Chitpur Depot. **Tender Value:** Rs. 1,77,56,161.92. **EMD:** Rs. 3,55,100/-. **Date and time of closing of tender :** 20.11.2026 at 15.00 hrs. for each. **Completion period for the work :** 15 months for Sl. No. 1 and 12 months for Sl. No. 2. **Date and time of opening of tender:** 20.11.2026 at 15.30 hrs. for each. The Tender documents and details are at **www.ireps.gov.in** The bidding is to be submitted through e-tendering on above website. Manual offers will be summarily rejected. As per Indian Railway Standard General Conditions of Contract 2022 cost of e-Tender is NIL.

SDAH-278/2026-27

Tender Notices are also available at Website www.er.indianrailways.gov.in/www.ireps.gov.in

Follow us at: @EasternRailway @easternrailwayheadquarter

SOUTH COAST RAILWAY
VISAKHAPATNAM
Follow us on @SCoRailway
Website: www.scor.indianrailways.gov.in

Tender Notice No: MECH-GTL-TPTY-25-26-2, Dated 27.10.2026 PUBSCoR-413

For and on behalf o the President of India, Sr. Divisional Mechanical Engineer, South Coast Railway, Guntakal invites open tender for the following work

S.No.: 01 **Name of work:** Supply, Installation and Commissioning of High-Pressure Jet Coach Cleaning pipeline for all the pit lines at Coaching Depot TPTY. **Advertised tender value of work (₹):** 1,02,84,054.00 **Earnest Money (₹):** 2,05,700.00

Closing date and time: 30.11.2026 at 15.00 hrs.

Any corrigenda will be issued online only.

Note to Bidders:

1. For Bidding the tender and other details login to http://www.ireps.gov.in.

2. Bidder(s) are advised to note corrigendum related to the above tenders if any, issued by Railway through online only, before submission of the tender and act accordingly.

3. The bidder shall study the entire tender schedule, before quoting the percentage of rates.

Sr.Divisional Mechanical Engineer, Guntakal

E-Tender Notice No.30-2026 Dt: 28.10.2026 PWPSCoR-413

Senior Divisional Engineer / Coordination/Guntakal acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the following works

Closing date & Time: 21/11/2026 at 15:00 hrs

S.No.: 01 **Tender No.:** Engg-GTL-South-2169 **Description of work :** Guntakal Division: Sr.DEN/South Jurisdiction : GDR-RU & RU-GY Section (UP/DN/SL):- Reconditioning of Inserts in ADEN/RU, RJP & HX Sub-Division. **Advertised Value in (₹):** 1,86,40,300.00 **Earnest Money Deposit in (₹):** 3,72,800.00

For Bid documents and other details log into **https://www.ireps.gov.in**. Any Corrigenda will be issued online only

Divisional Railway Manager/ Works/Guntakal
SCoR-A493

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

Etela Rajender Demands Relocation of Jawaharnagar Dumping Yard





HYDERABAD

On the second day of his padayatra (foot march), Malkajgiri MP Etela Rajender, while addressing the gathering at Yamunam Peta, alleged that the waste from the Jawaharnagar dumping yard was being stolen and transported away by the Ramky organization.

He strongly criticized the Congress government, stating that despite residents paying taxes, the roads and drainage systems in the area remained in a deplorable condition and that the government was failing to address their problems.

Etela Rajender demanded that the government relocate the Jawaharnagar dumping yard.

As part of the padayatra, he visited Yamunam Peta, Ghatkesar, Rampally, and several other villages. Former MLA Bodige Shobha, BJP National Council member and former State Mahila Morcha president (2020–2024) Geetha Murthy, former State Mahila Morcha executive committee member Anjali Devi, OBC Morcha IT In-charge Karuna Sri, OBC Office In-charge Sudha, State BJP legal leader Prasanna, and a large number of party workers participated in the programme.



GITAM Organizes Faculty Seminar on Dengue Vaccines



HYDERABAD



The Institution Research Committee of GITAM School of Humanities and Social Sciences (GSHS), Hyderabad, organized the eighth seminar in its Research Dialogue series on 28 October 2026. Titled "Designing Vaccines for a Warming World: Science, Equity and Policy in the Fight against Dengue," the session featured Dr. Farhan Ahmed, Assistant Professor, Department of Life Sciences, GITAM School of Science.

Dr. Ahmed discussed the growing global threat of dengue, highlighting the impact of climate change and environmental factors on its spread. He described how our laboratory approached this problem as vaccine innovators. These findings are early and preclinical, but they show that smarter vaccine design can address the safety and efficacy trade-offs that have held the field back.

Dr. Ahmed argued that tackling neglected tropical diseases requires scientists, policymakers and social researchers to work together. Faculty members actively participated in the discussion, seeking clarifications and appreciating Dr. Ahmed's research expertise and lucid presentation.

POCSO case: Hyd court sentences man to 20 yrs in jail

HYDERABAD

The Special Fast Track Court for Rape and POCSO cases at L.B. Nagar has sentenced 25-year-old Jarpula Ganesh to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment for offences against a minor girl. The court also imposed a fine of Rs.32,000 and directed that Rs.1.5 lakh be paid as compensation to the victim.

According to police, the complainant was residing in a live-in relationship with the accused, along with her minor daughter. During this period, the accused repeated subjected the minor girl to sexual harassment and threatened her with dire consequences if she disclosed the abuse to anyone. He also allegedly threatened to circulate explicit photographs and videos of the complainant and her daughter on social media.

On October 29, 2024, the accused allegedly took the complainant and her daughter to an isolated location in Mamidipally village and attempted to sexually assault the girl again. He fled after the complainant raised an alarm and resisted his actions. Pahadishareef police registered a case on November 27, 2024, and investigated the matter. The court convicted the accused after finding him guilty beyond reasonable doubt.

Values are the foundation of a better society

- **Governor calls for promoting ethics, culture and environmental awareness among students**
- **Dr. Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy stresses water conservation, energy saving and protection of nature at IMCTF Parivarthan programme**





HYDERABAD

Eminent personalities have called for nurturing moral values, Indian culture, family traditions and environmental responsibility among children from an early age. They emphasised that education should not be confined to academic achievement and examination scores, but must also focus on developing disciplined, honest, compassionate and socially responsible citizens who respect nature and contribute to nation-building.

The views were expressed at the Parivarthan book launch programme organised by the Initiative for Moral and Cultural Training Foundation (IMCTF) at Sanskriti Community Hall in the Lok Bhavan premises in Hyderabad.

The programme, held under the inspiring motto "Values Building is Nation Building," witnessed the participation of school correspondents, principals, teachers, NCC students and children from various schools in large numbers.

Value-based education for responsible citizens

Telangana Governor Shri Shiv Pratap Shukla, who attended the programme as the chief guest, highlighted the importance of value-based education. The message of the programme emphasised that nurturing ethics, discipline and responsible behaviour among students is essential for shaping citizens who contribute positively to society.

Shri Naveen Nicholas, IAS, Director of School Education, who participated as the guest of honour, also highlighted the importance of values in the education system.

The speakers stressed that students should not only excel academically but also develop a sense of social responsibility, respect for others and an understanding of family values. Good habits, discipline and ethical conduct cultivated during childhood can guide individuals throughout their lives.

Preserve Indian culture and traditions for future generations

Shri Lingam Sudhakar Reddy, Organising Secretary of the Dakshina Madhya Kshetra of Vidya Bharati, spoke about the importance of Indian culture, traditions and family values.

He emphasised the need to introduce children to human values, strong family bonds, respect for elders, mutual cooperation and social responsibility from an early age.

He also stressed that students should embrace modern education and technological advancements while remaining connected to India's rich cultural heritage. Schools, he noted, have an important role to play in nurturing good behaviour, ethical values and social awareness among children.

Environmental protection must begin in childhood

Eminent educationist and environmentalist Dr. Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy called for making environmental protection an integral part of students' daily lives rather than limiting it to classroom lessons. He emphasised that conserving water, saving electricity and protecting natural resources are the responsibilities of every citizen. Developing environmental awareness among children at an early age, he said, would encourage them to adopt responsible and sustainable habits throughout their lives.

Highlighting the message "SAVE WATER – SAVE POWER – SAVE NATURE," he called upon schools to ensure that every student understands the importance of protecting the environment.

He explained that simple actions such as avoiding water wastage, switching off lights and electrical appliances when not in use, planting and protecting trees, reducing plastic consumption and maintaining clean surroundings can collectively make a significant difference.

He urged parents and teachers to encourage children not merely to learn about environmental protection but also to practise it in their homes, schools and communities.

Environmental pledge for a sustainable future

Dr. Komatireddy Gopal Reddy suggested that students and teachers take an environmental protection pledge in every school.

He observed that if every student consistently practises at least one environmentally friendly action at home, at school or in the neighbourhood, it could contribute to a significant positive change in society.

He called for incorporating water conservation, energy efficiency, greenery development and the protection of natural resources into the daily activities of educational institutions. He stressed the importance of creating environmental awareness among children to safeguard the planet for future generations. Schools, parents and teachers must work together to encourage children to become responsible environmental ambassadors.

Student performances promote values and environmental awareness

A large number of students participated in the programme and presented awareness activities and skits focusing on environmental protection, moral values and social responsibility.

NCC students participated in the programme, while teachers, principals and school representatives encouraged the children and contributed to the activities.

The programme highlighted the importance of communicating values through practical activities, including speeches, skits, group participation and environmental pledges.

The speakers encouraged students to become agents of positive change by carrying the message of environmental protection to their families, friends and communities.

TRSMA representatives participate in the programme

The programme was attended by Shri Sadula Madhusudhan, State President of the Telangana Recognised School Managements Association (TRSMA); Shri Srinivas Reddy, Chief Advisor of TRSMA; and Dr. Lion Komatireddy Gopal Reddy, State Advisor of TRSMA.

The programme was presided over by Shri K. Srikanth Reddy, Telangana State President of IMCTF. Dr. P. Shravan Kumar, Hyderabad President of IMCTF, and other representatives contributed to the organisation of the event.

The speakers emphasised the crucial role of school managements, teachers and parents in promoting value-based education. They called for coordinated efforts to nurture ethics, Indian culture, family bonds, social harmony and environmental responsibility among students.

Values building is nation building

The speakers called for expanding school-level initiatives that promote positive thinking, good habits, social responsibility and environmental awareness among children.

They stressed that educational institutions must work towards a shared vision of value-based education, culturally rooted students, responsible citizens, an environmentally conscious society and a stronger India.

The programme conveyed a collective message

"Let us nurture values, strengthen families, protect nature and secure a sustainable future for generations to come."

Railways denial triggers Congress protest at Rail Nilayam

HYDERABAD

Tension prevailed at South Central Railway headquarters in Rail Nilayam on Wednesday as Congress leaders and cadres staged a demonstration after railway authorities declined to operate special trains for party workers traveling to a New Delhi protest on November 1. Police personnel intercepted the demonstrators as they attempted to enter the complex, subsequently arresting several key figures and shifting them to the Monda Market police station.

The protest was led by Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President B. Mahesh Kumar Goud, alongside Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, MP Anil Kumar Yadav, MLAs Sri Ganesh, Naveen Yadav, and Danam Nagender, among other senior party leaders.

Addressing reporters, Mahesh Kumar Goud stated that MP Anil Kumar Yadav had met the SCR General Manager six days prior to request two dedicated trains for party workers. He alleged that railway officials delayed their response until Tuesday night, creating a false impression of approval before issuing a final refusal.

Mahesh Kumar Goud asserted that the SCR's rejection was an deliberate attempt by the Central government to block Congress cadres from participating in the national capital agitation.

"Congress leaders and workers will reach New Delhi despite the obstacles created by the Central government," The TPCC president said, adding that the party would maintain its nationwide agitation until Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar resigns.

Govt. Degree & P.G. College for Women, Hussainialam Invites Applications for Guest Faculty Positions

- **Eligible candidates with NET, SET, or Ph.D. qualifications are invited to apply and attend walk-in interviews on October 31, 2026.**



HYDERABAD

Government Degree & P.G. College for Women, Hussainialam, Hyderabad—re-accredited by NAAC with a "B" Grade, ISO 9001:2018 certified, and affiliated with Osmania University—has officially released a press note inviting applications for guest faculty positions to teach M.A. English and M.Com classes.

To be eligible for these positions, general applicants must hold a minimum of 55% marks in M.A. (English) or M.Com, while candidates belonging to Schedule Caste (SC) and Schedule Tribes (ST) categories are required to possess a minimum of 50% marks. Additionally, preference will be granted to individuals who have cleared the NET/SET, hold a Ph.D., or possess prior teaching experience.

Interested candidates are required to submit their applications to the respective English or Commerce departments and attend an interview accompanied by their original certificates. The selection process will take place on October 31, 2026, at 10:30 a.m. at the college campus located in Hussainialam, Hyderabad. For further inquiries, the institution can be reached via phone at 040-24522052. The notification was issued under the authority of Principal Prof. K. Praveen Kumar.

Ponguleti tells BRS to recall its record on right to protest

HYDERABAD

Revenue, Housing and Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy on Wednesday launched a sharp attack on the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS), urging its leaders to recall on their own governance record before lecturing the current administration on democratic rights and freedom of protest.

Addressing a press conference at the Secretariat, the Minister described the language, tone, and overall conduct of the principal opposition as "deeply disappointing." He pointed out that it was the previous BRS government that banned protests at Indira Park's Dharna Chowk—effectively stripping citizens of a designated venue for peaceful demonstration. He added that the Congress government promptly restored Dharna Chowk upon taking power to safeguard democratic expression.

"BRS leaders need to introspect before pointing fingers," Minister Ponguleti said, noting that dissent was systematically suppressed during their tenure.

Turning his focus to national politics, the Minister also targeted Union Home Minister Amit Shah's scheduled padayatra (foot march) in Hyderabad on November 2.

He questioned the political consistency of BJP leaders organising marches in Telangana while opposition demonstrations face curbs at the national level.



Rudra Sahitha Kala Bhairava Maha Yagnam to Be Held in Suryapet on December 1

- **The Maha Yagnam is being organised for devotees and the poor who cannot afford to perform homams and yagnams**
- **Sri Sri Lakshminarayana Sadguru Bhavani Swamy, Peethadhipathi of Sri Bala Manasa Maha Vidyapeetham**

SURYAPET

Sri Sri Sri Lakshminarayana Sadguru Bhavani Swamy, Peethadhipathi of Sri Bala Manasa Maha Vidyapeetham, announced that the Sri Rudra Sahitha Kala Bhairava Maha Yagnam will be organised on December 1 at the district headquarters of Suryapet. The event is being conducted for devotees and economically weaker sections who are unable to perform homams, vrathams and other religious rituals due to financial constraints.

Speaking to the media at a press conference held on Wednesday at the residence of Yerramsetti Upender in Suryapet, the Swamy shared details of the upcoming Maha Yagnam. He stated that the Vedas emphasise the importance of every Hindu performing a yagnam or vratham at least once a year.

He observed that the cost of conducting yagnams and other religious rituals has been increasing day by day, making it difficult for many people to perform them. As a result, such religious practices are gradually declining among those who cannot afford the expenses.

With the blessings of his Guru, Sri Sri Sri Paramahamsa Parivrajakacharya Sri Sri Sudarshana Ashram Swamiji, the institution has been organising major yagnams for the welfare of society and to help people overcome the effects of their past karmas.

The Swamy stated that the institution has organised eight major yagnams so far. The first was the Lakshminarayana Yagnam in 2012, performed by 1,008 couples. This was followed by the Sri Chakra Maha Yagnam in 2015, the Sri Manasa Devi Maha Yagnam in 2020, the Sri Maha Mrityunjaya Pashupatastra Maha Yagam, the Maha Lalitha Yagnam in 2024, the Dhanvantari Sahitha Hanuman Maha Yagnam in 2025, the Raja Shyamala Maha Yagnam in 2026, and the Sri Vasavi Kanyaka Parameswari Maha Yagam in 2026.

The ninth Maha Yagnam, the Sri Rudra Sahitha Kala Bhairava Maha Yagnam, will be conducted on December 1, 2026, with the participation of 1,116 couples. The venue will be Amma Garden, opposite the 100-feet Collectorate Road, Road No. 24, Tirumala Nagar, Suryapet.

To ensure that even economically disadvantaged people can participate, the trust has fixed the participation fee at just ₹1,516 per couple. The Swamy explained that wealthy people can generally afford to perform religious rituals, whereas poor families often cannot bear the expenses. The trust is therefore providing an opportunity for everyone to participate in the Maha Yagnam at an affordable cost.

He appealed to devotees to participate in large numbers and make the religious event a grand success.

The programmes will begin on November 30 with the arrival of Lord Ganesha and the Goddess, Ganapathi Puja, Punyahavachanam, Mandapa Sthapana, Kalasha Sthapana, Panchagavya Prashana, Agni Mathanam, Sahasra Modaka Ganapathi Homam, Chandi Homam, Mangala Harathi, and the distribution of Theertha Prasadam.

On Tuesday, December 1, the main rituals will include the invocation of Lord Kala Bhairava, special pujas, Kala Bhairava Homam, special blessings, Maha Purnahuthi, Mangala Harathi, and the distribution of Theertha Prasadam.

The Swamy urged devotees to attend the programmes in large numbers and seek the blessings of the deities.

Councillor Shaik Zaheer, leaders Saliganti Veerender, Yerramsetti Upender and Tulasi, Sankurishetty Paramesh and Sabitha, Prasad, Vasudeva Rao and Sarala, Ananda Rao and Anita, Srinivas Reddy and Uma, Sanjeeva Reddy and Udaya Sri, Srinivas Reddy and Padma, Ram Reddy and Rama, Venkat Reddy and Kalavathi, Srinivasa Rao and Shilpa, Lakshma Reddy and Sandhya, along with trust members Jetti Ravikumar, Rajireddy, Shravan Kumar, Kranthi Kumar, Arun Kumar and others, participated in the press conference.

Technological Revolution in Police Services: DGP C.V. Anand Launches Seven Digital Initiatives in CID

HYDERABAD

The Telangana Police Department is embracing technology to make police services more transparent, faster and more efficient. As part of this initiative, Director General of Police (DGP) C.V. Anand launched seven digital services developed by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) at the DGP's office.

The new initiatives include a dedicated citizen feedback centre, facial recognition and fingerprint applications for criminal investigations, specialised software for Bharosa Centres, and a monitoring system to track the release of prisoners from jails.



Citizen Feedback Centre to Gather Public Opinions

A Citizen Feedback Centre (CFC) has been established to collect direct feedback from people who have recently availed themselves of police services. The centre will gather public responses regarding petition handling, FIR registration, e-challans and passport verification services.

Digital Services for Bharosa Centres

The Bharosa software, developed by the Women Safety Wing, has brought all 35 Bharosa Centres across Telangana onto a single digital platform.

The system records details of counselling, medical, legal and rehabilitation services provided to victims and enables officials to monitor each case from registration to closure. Replacing paper-based registers, the software provides state-level dashboards and 23 types of reports, helping improve monitoring and service delivery.

Dedicated Website for CID

A dedicated website, https://cid.tspolice.gov.in/, has been launched to make information about CID activities and services accessible to the public.

Monitoring of Released Prisoners

The Jail Release Monitoring System (JRMS) has been introduced to ensure that police receive timely information about prisoners released from jails.

The National Informatics Centre's (NIC) e-Prisons system has been integrated with the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS).

The system sends SMS alerts about prisoner releases to the relevant police stations and officers. It also provides state-level dashboards, AI-based analysis and a search facility for prisoner details. These features are expected to help identify criminal networks and strengthen preventive surveillance.

Facial Recognition in Just 15 Seconds

A Mobile Face Search application, developed using a database of more than 980,000 photographs, can match faces in approximately 15 seconds. The application can assist in identifying suspects, deceased persons, unidentified bodies and missing individuals, thereby supporting police investigations.

Faster Evidence Collection Through Fingerprint Technology

The Crime Scene Chance Print application enables investigators to collect fingerprints found at crime scenes using Android smartphones and immediately transmit them to the state server.

Automated matching at the server helps investigators obtain evidence quickly and identify potential suspects. Officials stated that Telangana had introduced this method for the first time in the country.

Guidelines for Investigating Officers

To improve investigative standards, the CID has prepared five volumes of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

The guidelines cover five categories: crimes against persons, property-related offences, crimes against women and children, special and local laws, and other offences. These SOPs are expected to improve the quality of investigations and strengthen the chances of securing convictions in courts.

Officials said the new digital services would enhance transparency and accountability within the police system while improving public service delivery. They added that the objective was to strengthen crime prevention and investigation by combining technological advancements with standardised investigative procedures.

Senior Police Officials Attend the Launch

The programme was attended by DGP C.V. Anand, DGP (Law and Order) Mahesh Bhagwat, DGP (CID) Charu Sinha, Additional Director General of Police Akan Sabharwal, IG (P&L) Gajaravu Bhupal, Deputy Inspectors General Narayana Naik and Parimala Hana Nutan, and Superintendents of Police Vishwajit Kampati, Rupesh, Praveen Kumar, Mallareddy, Balakoti and Srinivas, among other officials.

Tandur Red Gram Gains International Recognition: First Export Shipment to Australia

APEDA Supports Export of GI-Tagged Tandur Red Gram

HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 28





GI-tagged Tandur red gram (pigeon pea) is being exported to Australia for the first time. The export has been made possible with the support of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), under the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The inaugural shipment was flagged off from Hyderabad on Wednesday through a hybrid ceremony. Mr. Surendra Mohan, IAS, Commissioner of Agriculture and Secretary to the Government, Agriculture and Cooperation Department, Telangana, and Mr. R. P. Naidu, Assistant General Manager of APEDA, Hyderabad, virtually flagged off the shipment. Dr. Sampath Kumar, ITS, Additional Director General of Foreign Trade at the Regional Authority in Hyderabad; Mr. Sumanth R., representative of Hyderabad-based M/s Durga Exports and Imports and the exporter; and other APEDA officials participated in the event. The consignment comprises 2.5 metric tonnes of GI-tagged Tandur red gram. Hyderabad-based M/s Durga Exports and Imports is exporting the product under the brand name AMMAAS. The shipment will be transported by sea and imported by M/s Bharatamma Pty Ltd in Australia. Registered with APEDA, the exporting company ships rice, pulses, spices and grocery products from Telangana. Officials described the export as an important step towards promoting Telangana's distinctive agricultural products in international markets.

Tandur Red Gram: A Pride of Telangana

Tandur red gram is the first agricultural product from Telangana to receive a Geographical Indication (GI) tag. The crop is cultivated mainly in the rain-fed areas of Tandur, Basheerabad, Peddemul and Yalal mandals. The distinctive characteristics of Tandur red gram are attributed to the region's fertile deep black cotton soils, attapulgite clay mineral deposits and extensive limestone reserves.

Tandur red gram contains approximately 22–24 per cent protein, nearly three times the protein content found in cereals. Its distinctive taste, suitability for cooking and long shelf life make it a valued agricultural product. The GI tag enhances the product's visibility and market recognition, creating opportunities to command greater value in domestic and international markets. The export to Australia marks a significant step towards exploring new overseas markets for this unique agricultural product. It is expected to create additional opportunities for farmers, producers and exporters.

APEDA Supports the Promotion of GI-Tagged Products

APEDA continues to work towards promoting India's GI-tagged agricultural products in international markets. It supports these products by facilitating export linkages, encouraging exporters to participate in trade fairs and providing guidance on export opportunities and market access. The authority aims to secure global recognition for India's distinctive regional agricultural products and create sustainable market opportunities for farmers, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), Farmer Producer Companies (FPCs) and exporters. Officials expect this initiative to accelerate efforts to explore international markets for Telangana's GI-tagged products and other speciality agricultural commodities. It is also expected to strengthen export opportunities for farmers, exporters and other stakeholders across the agricultural value chain. APEDA officials stated that the authority remains committed to expanding the presence of Indian agricultural products in global markets, creating new export opportunities and showcasing India's rich agricultural heritage internationally through continued engagement with exporters and other stakeholders.

CM Chandrababu Naidu writes letter to Union Minister Amit Shah

seeking deputation of Central team at the earliest to assess the cyclone damage

AMARAVATI:

Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu wrote a letter to Union Home Minister Amit Shah seeking Central assistance in assessing the damage caused by Cyclone Arnab in Andhra Pradesh. In his letter the Chief Minister highlighted damage to crops, houses, roads and electricity poles due to the cyclone's severity and urged the Centre to dispatch assessment teams at the earliest to evaluate cyclone damage. He said 16 NDRF and 11 SDRF teams deployed across 14 districts for cyclone relief and rescue operations.More than 28,000 people shifted to rehabilitation centres in cyclone-affected areas. However no loss of life reported so far with the government's advance preparedness measures.

The Chief Minister stated that

Konaseema, Kakinada, East Godavari, West Godavari, Anakapalli and Krishna districts have been severely affected by the cyclone.Control rooms and the State Emergency Operations Centre functioning round the clock to manage the emergency. He said Government prioritising relief measures and restoration of electricity and drinking water supplies in affected areas. The Chief Minister said that a Comprehensive report on cyclone damage to be submitted to the Centre after a detailed assessment and urged the Centre to continue support from NDRF and other central agencies for relief and rehabilitation operations. Chandrababu Naidu appealed to Amit Shah to send a Central team at the earliest to assess the damage. The Chief Minister thanked the Central Government for its continued support to Andhra Pradesh.

Hardeep Singh Puri to Contest Rajya Sabha By-Election from Madhya Pradesh

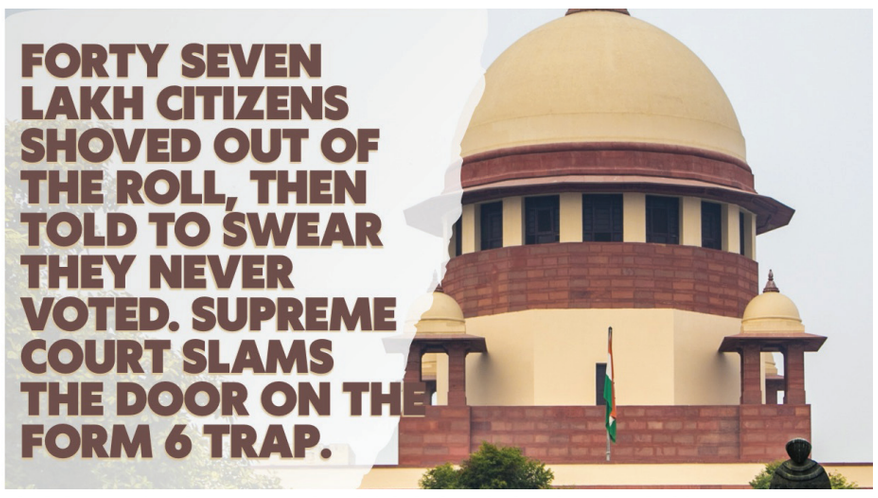
BJP Announces Key Decision; By-Election Scheduled for November 12

New Delhi: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has announced Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri as its candidate for the Rajya Sabha by-election from Madhya Pradesh. The by-election is scheduled to be held on November 12.

The election is being conducted to fill the Rajya Sabha seat vacated following the resignation of former Union Minister L. Murugan. Hardeep Singh Puri, who is currently a Rajya Sabha member from Uttar Pradesh, has not been renominated by the BJP from that state. His current term is due to end on November 25. Against this backdrop, the BJP's decision to nominate Puri for the Rajya Sabha seat from Madhya Pradesh has assumed significance. Political circles suggest that the move is aimed at ensuring the continuation of his membership in the Upper House of Parliament, as he currently serves as a Union Minister.

"A VOTER WHO WAS ALWAYS ON THE LIST CANNOT BE A FIRST TIMER," THUNDERS THE BENCH. FIND THE MISSING ELECTORS, PRINT THEIR NAMES AT EVERY BOOTH, AND DROP THE STOPWATCH, ORDERS APEX COURT.

On October 28, a Supreme Court bench led by Chief Justice Surya Kant, with Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana, examined the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision in Delhi. About 47.56 lakh names fell off the draft roll, and the Commission asked them to return through Form 6, the form for new voters, with a declaration of never having voted. The bench called this a structural incongruity and told the Commission to reach out to the missing electors, publish their names in simple Hindi at booth and block level, and keep the doors open without rigid cut offs. The Commission's counsel said the points would be considered. The matter returns after two weeks.



SCOOPX EDITORIAL DESK: Forty seven lakh names, gone from the capital's rolls in one stroke of the revision pen. On Wednesday the highest court of the land asked the question that every honest citizen has been whispering in the queues. How can a man already enrolled be made to swear he is a brand new voter?

The numbers deserve to be read slowly. Delhi began the exercise with 1.45 crore electors. The August 31 draft carried barely 97.53 lakh. The remaining 47.56 lakh, nearly a third of the city's electorate, were parked under the heading of Absent, Shifted, Dead or Duplicate. Roughly 43 lakh were marked shifted or absent. The labourer in Seemapuri, the hawker outside Chandni Chowk, the daily wager who goes where the work goes: these are the people who stand accused of having vanished. They did not vanish. They were working.

The petition of transparency campaigners Anjali Bhardwaj and Amrita Johri, argued by Prashant Bhushan, put the plea plainly before the bench. These citizens never received an enumeration form. They are not new voters. Compelling them to file Form 6 means asking them to put a statement on record that is untrue, with the law of false declaration hanging over their heads.

"There is a structural incongruity which needs to be addressed."
Justice Joymalya Bagchi, Supreme Court of India

Justice Bagchi did not stop there. A voter who failed to respond, he asked, does he forfeit his franchise forever? The right to vote, he reminded the Commission, is a vital right, and an exercise of this size must be conducted with due diligence. Chief Justice Surya Kant brought it home with a Delhi example any commuter would grasp. A man enrolled at Vasant Kunj shifts to Sarita Vihar. He can state his old booth, his voter number and his new address. Why must he pass through the gate meant for the first time voter? The bench added that the forms are cast in stone and cannot be bent at will, and that a residual category must be found for those never served the form or only temporarily away.

Appearing for the Commission, senior advocate Dama Seshadri Naidu told the court that the points would be considered, including an extension of the October 30 deadline, a residual category for those not served, and publication of lists. The bench left no room for drift. The 47 lakh names must be easily accessible in simple Hindi at booth and block level. Reach out to them. Do not wait for them to come knocking. With no election scheduled in the capital, there is no need for rigid cut offs. Forms 6 and 8 stay open.

The roll belongs to the people, not the people to the roll. A republic that makes its own electors prove they exist has forgotten who made it.

One caution came from the bench itself. It has not decided the legality of the Logical Discrepancy category, which was only an interim allowance for West Bengal, and the Bihar judgment did not settle it. The court has earlier said it has neither approved nor disapproved the revised Form 6. The matter returns after two weeks. Mark the larger meaning. The Commission is a constitutional body and its duty to keep the rolls clean is real and respected. A clean roll, however, is one that carries every genuine elector, not one that is short by a third. The Okhla audit of two booths found over a hundred voters wrongly marked absent, shifted or dead, among them a retired Jamia professor standing in line to reclaim what was always his. That is the human face of the figures. The burden has now been turned around, and rightly so. The Commission must find the voters, not wait for the voters to find the Commission. Democracy is not a paperwork contest. Go to the lanes, go to the construction sites, go to the one room tenements, and bring the 47 lakh home to the register of the republic. The SCOOPX reader will be watching, and so will the Supreme Court.

Chandrababu Naidu focuses on publicity as cyclone-hit people wait for help: YSRCP

TADEPALLI (ANDHRA PRADESH), OCT 28



YSR Congress Party spokesperson Karumuri Venkata Reddy accused Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu of focusing on publicity while people affected by Cyclone Arnab struggle without adequate help. Speaking to the media at the party's central office, he said the government had failed to move people to safety, alert officials in time, and provide essential support. He also criticised ministers for claiming that crop damage was being assessed through CCTV cameras instead of visiting affected areas. Venkata Reddy said crops across lakhs of acres had been damaged and power and transport links disrupted in hundreds of villages. He alleged that the government had announced a limited damage estimate before completing a field survey, risking further injustice to farmers. The YSRCP leader demanded immediate cash assistance, essential supplies, drinking water, safe shelter and quality food for affected families. Venkata Reddy also called for payment of pending compensation and input subsidies for farmers affected by Cyclone Montha, as well as a comprehensive assessment and compensation for all eligible farmers affected by the current cyclone. He urged the government to restore electricity and transport urgently and take steps to prevent loss of life as heavy rain may continue. He said publicity and Nara Lokesh's social media posts would not help farmers, and alleged that the cyclone campaign was being used to divert attention from violence and disorder during local elections. Meanwhile, YSRCP has urged the Tirupati district administration to deploy additional forces and ensure free and fair elections as the Opposition candidates are being subjected to harassment and intimidation. Former TTD Chairman and YSRCP leader Bhumana Karunakar Reddy has urged the administration to ensure CCTV cameras in all polling stations within the Tirupati Municipal Corporation limits, besides deploying additional forces in the trouble-prone areas and initiating legal action against anyone intimidating or threatening candidates or election staff to ensure free and fair elections.

Delhi Traders Write to Rahul Gandhi Again, Seek 20 Minutes for Meeting

New Delhi: The Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI), a traders' association in Delhi, has once again urged the Congress-led INDIA bloc to postpone its rally scheduled to be held at Ramlila Maidan on November 1. In a letter addressed to Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, CTI Chairman Brijesh Goyal requested 20 minutes to meet representatives of traders from 20 major markets around Ramlila Maidan. The traders said they would withdraw their protest if Rahul Gandhi could demonstrate that the rally would boost business. However, if they could explain how the event would cause financial losses, they urged him to postpone it until after Diwali. The association expressed concern that the rally, which is expected to draw lakhs of people, could lead to traffic congestion and disrupt customers' access to local markets during the crucial festive shopping season.w

Andhra Pradesh SEC Postpones MPTC, ZPTC Polling to November 5

AMARAVATI, OCT 28



Andhra Pradesh State Election Commission has rescheduled the date of polling for MPTC and ZPTC elections from November 3 to November 5. The State Election Commission on Wednesday issued a notification rescheduling the polling in view of the change in the schedule for urban local body elections following the Supreme Court order. As per the revised schedule, polling for Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituencies (MPTCs) and Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituencies (ZPTCs) will be held on November 5. Re-poll, if any, will be conducted on November 6, while counting of votes will be taken up on November 7. State Election Commissioner Anil Chandra Punetha on Wednesday spoke to the Collectors & District Election Authorities of a few cyclone-affected districts. After the assessment of the situation and based on the assurances given by them, the State Election Commission decided that there is no need to reschedule the polling for urban local bodies. Accordingly, polling in urban local bodies will be held as scheduled on November 1. The State Election Commission on October 22 had revised the schedule for urban local bodies. The date of polling was rescheduled from October 28 to November 1 as the publication of the lists of contesting candidates was postponed to October 25, in compliance with the orders of the Supreme Court. As per the revised schedule, the polling for ULBs is to be held on November 1, repoll, if any, on November 2, and the counting of votes and declaration of results on November 3.

The SEC said in a release that the revised date for counting of votes in ULBs, i.e., November 3, coincides with the date of poll for the MPTCs and ZPTCs. As the counting of votes for the ULBs and the polling for MPTCs and ZPTCs are scheduled to take place simultaneously on November 3, the available police and polling personnel are not sufficient to effectively manage both the activities on the same day, the SEC said.

Due to the unforeseen change in ULB schedule, the SEC issued a notification on Wednesday, rescheduling the date of poll for MPTCs and ZPTCs from November 3 to November 5, re-poll, if any, from November 4 to November 6 and counting of votes and declaration of results from November 5 to November 7. The State Election Commission issued notification on October 19 for elections to MPTCs and ZPTCs.

Andhra CM briefs Amit Shah on 'extensive damage' caused by cyclone

AMARAVATI, OCT 28



Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday spoke to Union Home Minister Amit Shah over the phone and briefed him on the 'extensive damage' caused by cyclone 'Aranab' in the state.

The Chief Minister posted on X that he briefed him on the impact of the cyclone across Andhra Pradesh.

"I explained the extensive damage caused by the cyclone, particularly to agricultural and horticultural crops, power infrastructure, roads and other public assets. I also apprised him of the ongoing heavy rainfall in cyclone-affected districts, the prevailing ground situation, and the extensive relief and restoration operations being undertaken by the State Government," he said.

"In view of the widespread damage, I requested the Union Home Minister to depute Central teams at the earliest to assess the losses and extend financial assistance from the Government of India to support relief, rehabilitation and restoration efforts," the Chief Minister said.

According to an official release, the Chief Minister briefed the Union Home Minister on the situation in cyclone-affected districts, including Visakhapatnam, Konaseema, Kakinada, East Godavari, West Godavari, Eluru and Krishna. The Chief Minister informed Amit Shah that, as per preliminary assessments, agricultural crops in over 70,000 hectares have been inundated across the state due to the cyclone.

He explained that horticultural crops spread over 10,500 hectares have also been affected, besides damage to houses, roads and electricity poles.

The Chief Minister briefed Home Minister Shah on the extensive precautionary measures taken by the State Government to minimise loss of life and property.

The Central minister was told that people from flood-prone and low-lying areas have been evacuated and shifted to relief shelters.

CM Chandrababu Naidu stated that preliminary damage assessment reports are being sent to the Central Government and requested the deployment of Central teams to assess cyclone-related losses.

He urged Amit Shah to extend necessary assistance from the Central Government to support relief, rehabilitation and restoration efforts in the cyclone-affected areas.

The Chief Minister earlier wrote a letter to Amit Shah, requesting him to depute a Central team at the earliest to assess the damage caused by the cyclone.



New batch of IPS officers to be attached with MHA before probation

NEW DELHI: (OCT 28)

In a first, a recently passed-out batch of IPS officers will be attached to the Union Home Ministry before proceeding on probation and subsequent posting in their respective cadres, officials said on Wednesday. The 78RR batch, comprising 151 officer trainees, including 16 foreign officers from neighbouring countries, recently completed Phase-I training at the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy (SVPNPA), they said. Sources said a programme has been organised at Vigyan Bhavan on Thursday for the attachment of the 2025 batch (78RR) with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

EDITORIAL

Cyclone Preparedness: From Emergency Response to Long-Term Resilience

Cyclones are among the most destructive natural disasters, threatening lives, livelihoods, infrastructure and economic activity, particularly in coastal regions. While their occurrence cannot be prevented, their impact can be significantly reduced through timely warnings, effective disaster management and long-term investment in resilient infrastructure. As climate variability increases uncertainty around extreme weather events, cyclone preparedness must move beyond emergency response towards a comprehensive strategy focused on prvention, protection and recovery. India has made considerable progress in strengthening its disaster management capabilities. Improvements in weather forecasting, satellite monitoring, early-warning systems and evacuation planning have helped authorities prepare communities for approaching cyclones. The coordination between meteorological agencies, disaster response teams, local administrations and community organisations has also improved. These efforts demonstrate that advance preparation and timely action can save thousands of lives.

However, preparedness cannot end with issuing warnings and evacuating vulnerable populations. Coastal communities continue to face risks from storm surges, heavy rainfall, flooding and damage to essential infrastructure. Poor households, fishing communities, agricultural workers and small businesses are particularly vulnerable because they often lack the financial resources to recover quickly. A comprehensive approach must therefore address not only immediate safety but also the economic consequences of disasters. Strengthening infrastructure should be a central priority. Roads, bridges, electricity networks, communication systems and drinking water facilities in cyclone-prone areas must be designed to withstand extreme weather conditions. Coastal embankments, effective drainage systems and the restoration of mangroves can provide additional protection against flooding and storm surges. Urban planning must also discourage construction in high-risk zones and ensure that development projects incorporate disaster-risk assessments. Early-warning systems are effective only when information reaches people in a timely and understandable manner. Authorities should strengthen communication networks in remote villages and fishing settlements, using mobile alerts, community radio, local volunteers and public announcements. Regular evacuation drills and awareness programmes can help residents understand safety procedures before an emergency occurs. Schools, hospitals and cyclone shelters must have reliable electricity, sanitation, drinking water and emergency supplies.

Long-term resilience also requires protecting livelihoods. Farmers need timely assistance, suitable crop insurance and access to climate-resilient agricultural practices. Fishing communities require safe shelters, reliable weather updates and support for restoring damaged boats and equipment. Small businesses should have access to emergency credit and rehabilitation assistance so that local economic activity can resume without prolonged disruption. Equally important is coordination between central, state and local authorities. Disaster preparedness requires sustained funding, transparent implementation and regular evaluation of existing plans. Investment in prevention may appear expensive initially, but it can substantially reduce reconstruction costs and economic losses over time. Cyclones will remain a challenge for coastal India, but widespread destruction need not be inevitable. By combining scientific forecasting, resilient infrastructure, environmental protection and community participation, India can reduce vulnerabilities and strengthen its capacity to recover. The ultimate measure of preparedness is not merely how efficiently authorities respond after a cyclone, but how effectively society protects lives, livelihoods and essential services before disaster strikes.

THE NOBLE DUTY TO LIVE

Death how gentle, how swift its flight,
A fleeting breath, a kiss of night.
But life a storm, a roaring tide,
Where time and pain walk side by side.

To live is not a simple feat,
It's battles fought in mute defeat.
Through seas of sorrow, skies of gray,
We sail, though hope feels far away.

Tears fall like rain from broken skies,
While dreams retreat and silence cries.
Yet still we rise, with heads held high,
Like dawn that splits a weeping sky.

Though burdens weigh the heart and soul,
We press ahead, we seek the goal.
For death may come in but a breath
But life demands we challenge death.

We find in pain a spark divine,
In struggle, strength, in grief, a sign.
A fire that burns but never dies,
A truth that sorrow purifies.

We do not walk for praise or name,
Nor chase the ghost of worldly fame.
But for a truth the brave ones see
That life itself is duty's plea.

A sacred task, a solemn call,
To rise each time we trip or fall.
To breathe, to bear, to break and mend
To live with grace until the end.

So let the winds of hardship blow,
Let night descend and rivers flow
Still we endure, we stand, we strive,
For we are bound by duty to live.

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

Anant Ambani: The Emerging Face of Reliance



Anant Ambani's appearance at the Jio Platforms listing ceremony last Wednesday offered an opportunity to observe another aspect of his personality: his public speaking. Speaking in Hindi and English, he expressed gratitude to the millions of Indians who had supported Jio. He also acknowledged the contribution of his grandfather, Dhirubhai Ambani, his father, Mukesh Ambani, and other members of his family. His remarks connected the company's commercial achievement with a larger vision of India's digital aspirations.

What struck most of the people was the combination of confidence, warmth and humility in his delivery. He appeared comfortable addressing a large audience and did not seem confined to the language of corporate presentations. His speech drew upon family history, national ambition and the contribution of employees and customers.

His remark that the exchange bell would ring like a temple bell because business, for him, was a form of worship offered a glimpse into his personal philosophy. Whether one agrees with the sentiment or not, it was an effective way of connecting a financial milestone with a cultural reference familiar to many Indians.

Of course, a speech is only one part of leadership. The more enduring test will be whether his words are matched by sound decisions, accountability and sustained performance.

India has several prominent business families whose younger members are assuming leadership responsibilities. Roshni Nadar Malhotra of HCLTech, Parth Jindal of the JSW group, Anant Goenka of the RPG group and Rishad Premji of Wipro represent different examples of the next generation of corporate leadership. Each has a distinct professional role and public profile. It would be unfair to judge their abilities solely by the number of speeches or interviews they give. Some leaders communicate through public appearances, while others concentrate on operational responsibilities and industry forums.

Nevertheless, Anant has begun to attract attention because he is visible across subjects that are not usually discussed together: wildlife welfare, energy, digital services and corporate growth. His ability to communicate across these different areas could become an advantage if it is supported by deeper subject knowledge and practical achievements.

His speaking style, at least in the public appearances I have observed, seems less formal than that of a conventional corporate executive. He often conveys his thoughts with an emotional connection to the subject. This may help him communicate with audiences beyond investors and industry professionals.

Anant's most distinctive personal interest is wildlife conservation. He is the founder of Vantara, a major wildlife rescue, treatment and rehabilitation initiative in Jamnagar, Gujarat. The facility provides care for injured, abused, neglected and endangered animals, supported by veterinary infrastructure and specialised rehabilitation programmes.

Being born into the Ambani family offers enormous opportunities, but it also brings expectations that few business leaders have to confront. Anant has access to resources, institutions and experienced advisers that most young entrepreneurs can only aspire to. At the same time, his achievements will inevitably be compared with those of his father and grandfather.

Recently, Anant was also present when US Secretary of State Marco Rubio visited Jamnagar to see Reliance's industrial facilities and new energy initiatives. Such engagements illustrate the growing international significance of the Jamnagar complex and the importance of energy and technology in India's economic relationships.

His confidence before an audience is noteworthy, and his commitment to Vantara gives his public profile a dimension beyond corporate ambition. But the real measure of his leadership will emerge over time.

Can he help build successful new energy businesses? Can Vantara establish lasting credibility through high standards of care and transparent conservation practices? Can he develop an independent record of sound corporate leadership?

For now, Anant's journey from Vantara to Jio makes for a compelling story. He has begun to make his presence felt in different arenas. The next step is to turn that visibility into achievements that stand on their own merits.

Anant's responsibilities extend well beyond Vantara. He became an executive director of Reliance Industries in May 2025, with a five-year term, and serves on the boards of Jio Platforms and Reliance Retail Ventures, among other Reliance entities. He has also been associated with the group's new energy businesses.

Reliance is transforming itself from a conglomerate built around refining and petrochemicals into a more diversified enterprise spanning telecommunications, retail, technology and renewable energy. Anant's involvement in the new energy business places him in an area that could be crucial to India's economic future.

Anant therefore faces a demanding task: to demonstrate that he can contribute to the growth of an already formidable enterprise while helping it prepare for industries that may look very different from those that made Reliance a household name.



VIVEK SHUKLA

India's Navigation Independence Depends on Reliability

" The scheduled launch of NVS-03 aboard GSLV-F18 on October 30, 2026, brings this larger question into focus. The mission is important not simply because India is adding another satellite to its navigation network, but because the country needs to strengthen a strategic capability whose reliability has come under strain. "



J M R DUNGA
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India's space programme has achieved remarkable success in developing the capability to design and launch sophisticated satellites. But the true measure of this progress lies not merely in reaching space, but in ensuring that the systems placed there deliver reliable services on Earth. The scheduled launch of NVS-03 aboard GSLV-F18 on October 30, 2026, brings this larger question into focus. The mission is important not simply because India is adding another satellite to its navigation network, but because the country needs to strengthen a strategic capability whose reliability has come under strain.

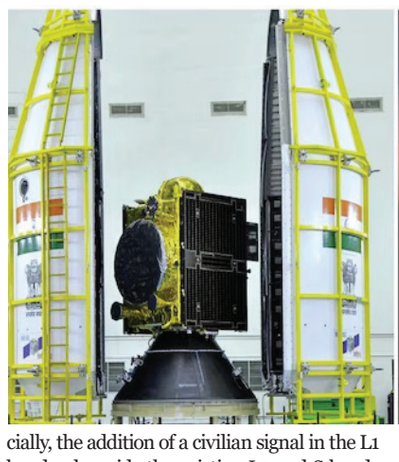
NavIC, India's indigenous satellite navigation system, is an important part of this effort. Its significance extends well beyond providing directions to motorists. Navigation and precise timing support transport, fishing, agriculture, telecommunications, emergency response and several other activities essential to a modern economy. A dependable domestic system also gives India greater control over infrastructure that could become critical during geopolitical tensions or disruptions to foreign services.

The need to strengthen NavIC has become more pressing following the difficulties faced by the NVS-02 satellite. Although it was successfully launched in January 2025, a technical problem involving a pyrovalve prevented it from completing the manoeuvres required to reach its operational orbit. The episode exposed a distinction that deserves greater attention in India's space ambitions: a successful launch does not automatically translate into a successful service.

The setback also highlighted the risks of allowing a strategic system to operate with limited redundancy. A July 2026 parliamentary update indicated that only three NavIC satellites were operational for positioning, constraining the system's ability to provide standalone positioning services, even as timing services remained available. NVS-03 is expected to help strengthen this weakened network. Its importance, however, must be assessed in terms of the dependable service it ultimately provides, rather than the launch itself.

For India, navigation independence is both an economic and a strategic concern. Businesses increasingly depend on accurate location data to manage deliveries, track vehicles, coordinate supply chains and plan operations. Farmers, fishing communities, surveyors and infrastructure developers can also benefit from reliable positioning services. Precise timing is equally important for telecommunications and digital networks. Weakness in such infrastructure can therefore have consequences that extend across sectors, affecting productivity and the cost of doing business.

An indigenous navigation system also creates opportunities for Indian industry. Crucially, the addition of a civilian signal in the L1 band—alongside the existing L5 and S bands in second-generation satellites—is designed to align NavIC with global consumer navigation standards and mainstream chipsets. Wider adoption can encourage domestic production of compatible receivers, navigation equipment and software, while supporting innovation in location-based services. But these gains will not emerge from satellite launches alone. Devices must be affordable, businesses must have reasons to adopt them, and the ground infrastructure supporting the system must remain dependable.





The lesson from NVS-02 is therefore not that India should lower its ambitions, but that technological ambition must be matched by operational discipline. Satellites are expensive public investments. Their performance should be supported by rigorous testing, transparent investigation of failures, timely replacement of ageing spacecraft and sufficient backup capacity. Technical setbacks are inevitable in complex space programmes; failing to learn systematically from them is not.

The government and ISRO must also look beyond individual missions. A navigation system is useful only when its services are consistently available to the people and institutions that depend on it. That requires long-term planning, continuity in satellite deployment and closer engagement with industries that can turn the technology into practical applications. The benefits of public investment should be measured not only by scientific achievements, but also by the reliability and economic value of the services delivered.

The October 30 launch is scheduled, and its outcome should not be assumed in advance. NVS-03 must reach its intended operational orbit, complete commissioning and demonstrate reliable performance. Even then, one satellite cannot resolve every weakness in the wider constellation. The larger task is to build a navigation network capable of sustaining services over time.

India has demonstrated that it can reach space. The next test is whether it can ensure that the systems it develops remain dependable, accessible and useful on the ground. NavIC represents an important investment in national capability, but strategic independence cannot rest on technological ownership alone. It must be backed by reliable performance. For India's navigation ambitions to translate into economic strength, reliability must become as important a measure of success as the launch itself.

BLW Hosts 'Integrity for Prosperity' Seminar During Vigilance Awareness Week 2026

General Manager Shri Ashutosh Pant and Eminent Educationist Prof. Mukul Raj Mehta Emphasise Honesty, Ethics and Transparency as the Foundations of Good Governance and National Progress

VARANASI

As part of Vigilance Awareness Week-2026, an inspiring seminar on the theme ' ' 'Integrity for Prosperity' was organised on Wednesday, 28 October 2026, at the auditorium of the Technical Training Centre (TTC) of Banaras Locomotive Works (BLW), Varanasi. The programme was presided over by Shri Ashutosh Pant, General Manager, BLW, with Prof. Mukul Raj Mehta, retired professor of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) and eminent educationist, attending as the guest speaker. The primary objective of the seminar was to sensitise officers and employees to the importance of integrity, ethical values, transparency, impartiality and accountability, thereby promoting a corruption-free work culture. The programme commenced with the welcome of the dignitaries, who were felicitated with angavastram and planters. This was followed by the welcome address delivered by the Deputy Chief Vigilance Officer. The seminar was formally inaugurated with the ceremonial





lighting of the lamp. During the programme, Shri Ankur Chandra, Chief Vigilance Officer, delivered a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the relevance and objectives of Vigilance Awareness Week and the importance of public participation. Referring to the thoughts and ideals of Mahatma Gandhi, he emphasised the need to incorporate integrity and honesty into personal life and professional conduct. He also shared information about various activities, competitions, the integrity pledge and public awareness initiatives organised under the Vigilance Awareness Campaign.

Ethics Combined with Talent Makes the Nation Stronger: Prof. Mukul Raj Mehta

In his thought-provoking address, guest speaker Prof. Mukul Raj Mehta elaborated on the theme 'Integrity for Prosperity' and stated that integrity is not merely a personal virtue but a fundamental value that shapes the character of individuals, institutions and society. Honesty, impartiality and transparency strengthen mutual trust and foster credibility and accountability within institutional functioning. Referring to the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi, he highlighted the equal importance of purity of means and ends. He stated that the path adopted to achieve a goal must be as ethical as the goal itself. True integrity lies in maintaining ethical conduct in thought, speech and action. Merely being honest in one's thoughts is not enough; honesty must also be reflected in one's words and behaviour.

Prof. Mehta emphasised the importance of ethics in vital sectors such as education, healthcare and the media. He observed that the nation becomes truly strong and progressive when talent is complemented by ethical values. Highlighting the role of the family in shaping character, he stated that the seeds of honesty and moral values must be sown during childhood. Motivating officers and employees, he said that instead of constantly expecting others to bring about change, every individual should begin with self-improvement. Everyone should introspect, evaluate their conduct and continuously strive to improve themselves. By following the path of integrity, individuals can achieve respectable positions through their competence, skills and hard work. He emphasised that *honesty is not a weakness but the greatest strength of a person's character*

Make Integrity an Integral Part of the Work Culture: General Manager Shri Ashutosh Pant

In his presidential address, General Manager Shri Ashutosh Pant highlighted the significance of Vigilance Awareness Week and stated that 'Integrity for Prosperity' is not merely a theme or slogan but a commitment that must be reflected in the daily lives and working practices of every employee. The reputation and success of any organisation depend upon the honesty, dedication to duty and ethical conduct of its employees.

He urged officers and employees to discharge their responsibilities with complete impartiality, transparency and accountability. He emphasised that adherence to ethical values at the workplace should not be confined to compliance with rules and regulations but should become an integral part of the organisation's work culture.

The General Manager encouraged employees to continuously enhance their efficiency and professional skills and make honesty a permanent part of their conduct. He expressed confidence that collective efforts, ethical commitment and responsible working practices would further strengthen a transparent, accountable and corruption-free environment at BLW.

Nagaland Guv calls for better road connectivity to Myanmar, highlights Meluri district's trade potential

KOHIMA, OCT 28

Nagaland Governor Nand Kishore Yadav on Wednesday stressed the need to improve road connectivity with Myanmar, stating that better infrastructure would enhance access to markets and essential services while creating new opportunities for trade, tourism and other economic activities.

During his visit to Meluri district of Nagaland and a meeting with officials, the Governor said improved connectivity would play a crucial role in promoting cross-border trade, strengthening economic cooperation and accelerating regional development. He also highlighted the need to explore the district's geographical advantages and potential in inland waterways and power trade, particularly in view of its proximity to the international boundary with Myanmar. Advisor to the Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority and Inland Waterways, Z. Nyusietho Nyuthe, apprised the Governor of the strategic importance and developmental potential of Meluri district. The Advisor emphasised that strengthening infrastructure and improving connectivity would open up new avenues for economic growth and contribute to the socio-economic development of Meluri district as well as the state as a whole. Noting the district's vast development potential, strategic importance and opportunities for sustainable growth, Governor Yadav described Meluri as a region endowed with rich natural resources, scenic beauty and a strategically significant location along the international boundary with Myanmar.

He said the district's journey from the establishment of a Bench Court in 1958 to becoming a full-fledged district marked a significant milestone in its administrative evolution and developmental progress.

The Governor also highlighted the potential of the International Trade Centre at Avakhung to promote cross-border trade and strengthen connectivity with Southeast Asia under the Government of India's Act East Policy. He further stressed the need to harness Meluri's mineral resources, tourism potential, and agriculture and horticulture sectors to drive sustainable economic growth, while ensuring environmental protection and safeguarding the interests of local communities. Emphasising the importance of essential services, the Governor called for strengthening education, healthcare, drinking water supply, electricity and digital connectivity to improve the quality of life of the people. He reiterated that the district's natural resources and economic opportunities should be utilised responsibly to ensure inclusive and sustainable development, with due consideration for environmental conservation and the welfare of local communities.



UNDER ONE ROOF: ARMY AND PHOUGAKCHAO IKHAI BUILD BONDS THAT LAST

PHOUGAKCHAO IKHAI, BISHNUPUR | 28 OCTOBER 2026

Indian Army dedicated a Community Shelter of approx 250 sq ft to the people of Phougakchao Ikhai village, Bishnupur district, under Operation Sadbhavana. The shelter gives the village a covered space for community functions, meetings and gatherings. It meets a long-standing basic need of the villagers. Meira Paibis, village elders and local residents took part in the ceremony with great enthusiasm. Their presence showed the strong support of the community for the project.

The shelter will bring people together for village events, cultural programmes and other shared activities. It will help build closer ties and a sense of unity among the residents.

Under Operation Sadbhavana, the Indian Army works for the welfare of local people in areas such as education, health and basic infrastructure. This initiative reaffirms the Army's commitment to inclusive development, mutual trust and strong civil-military relations. The Indian Army will continue to work hand in hand with the people of Manipur for peace and progress.

SC Questions ECI on Voter Exclusion

NEW DELHI:

The Supreme Court on Wednesday questioned the Election Commission of India (ECI) over its decision to ask voters deleted from the draft electoral rolls during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in Delhi to submit Form 6, meant for first-time voters, despite their names appearing on the 2026 electoral rolls.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana expressed concern that voters who could not submit enumeration forms because they had temporarily or permanently shifted residence, or were away from Delhi for work, were being asked to register as new voters.

The court asked why such voters could not be allowed to submit enumeration forms or Form 8, which is used to report a change of address.

The Bench was hearing a petition filed by Anjali Bharadwaj and Amrita Johri challenging aspects of the Delhi SIR process. Senior advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the petitioners, submitted that of the 47 lakh voters excluded from the draft rolls, around 43 lakh had been



categorised as permanently shifted or absent. Bhushan argued that many voters had not received enumeration forms and were subsequently asked to submit Form 6, requiring them to declare that they had never been registered as voters. He said this was inappropriate for people whose names had appeared on the previous electoral rolls.

"All that they can do is fill Form 8. It's for shifted voters. But the EC is saying that in this SIR, you cannot fill Form 8; you have to fill Form 6," he submitted, stressing that these individuals were not first-time voters.\ Justice Bagchi questioned the ECI's approach, pointing out that the Commission had identified the 2026 electoral rolls as the basis for the revision. If a person's name appeared on those rolls but the enumeration form could not be delivered because the person was temporarily away or had changed residence, the voter should not automatically be treated as a new applicant, he observed.

The judge said the existing framework did not adequately address cases in which enumeration forms were not served. He suggested creating a residual category for voters who could not respond for reasons other than death, duplication, permanent migration or absence. The Bench also asked whether failure to submit an enumeration form should result in the permanent loss of a person's place on the electoral rolls. "Right to vote is a vital right," Justice Bagchi observed, questioning whether voters who missed the deadline for reasons beyond their control should be denied an opportunity to restore their names. Chief Justice Surya Kant asked the ECI to consider reaching out to the affected voters rather than placing the entire responsibility on them. He suggested publishing the list of deleted voters and asking them to contact their nearest Booth Level Officer (BLO) to complete the necessary formalities. Responding to the court's concerns, senior advocate Dama Seshadri Naidu, representing the ECI, said the Commission would examine the suggestions and consider remedial measures, including extending the deadline for submitting enumeration forms. Naidu also indicated that the Commission was willing to provide an appropriate form for affected voters, even if it was not designated Form 6. The Bench suggested that voters whose names appeared on the 2026 rolls should be given an opportunity to submit enumeration forms, while those who had changed addresses could be allowed to use Form 8. Form 6 could be retained for genuine first-time applicants. The Chief Justice said the revision exercise should not be rushed, particularly as Delhi was not scheduled to hold elections in the immediate future. The court asked the ECI to explore ways to reduce the gap between the existing rolls and the draft list, and to facilitate the inclusion of eligible voters who had been left out. The matter will be taken up again after two weeks.

Don't blame the process, introspect': Rajasthan CM advises Congress on MLC poll defeat

JAIPUR, OCT 28

Rajasthan Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma has criticised the Congress for questioning the electoral process following repeated election defeats, saying the party should introspect on its leadership, policies and declining public support instead of blaming the system. Sharma said that whether elections are conducted through ballot papers or Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs), questioning the process cannot change the people's mandate when voters have distanced themselves from a political party. He cited elections to 28 Legislative Council (MLC) seats in Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar and Karnataka, conducted using ballot papers, to question the Congress's electoral performance. He said the results should prompt the party to examine the reasons behind its setbacks rather than raise questions about the electoral process. The Chief Minister alleged that despite repeated electoral defeats, the Congress was unwilling to acknowledge its weaknesses or establish accountability within its leadership. Instead of undertaking a serious review of its performance, the party was questioning the electoral system, he said. Sharma maintained that the Congress needed to look beyond EVMs and assess its leadership, policies and diminishing support among voters to understand the reasons for its electoral losses. Emphasising the importance of democratic values, Sharma said the people's verdict was paramount in a democracy and every political party had a responsibility to respect it. He argued that accepting the mandate and taking responsibility for electoral setbacks were essential to maintaining democratic conventions. The Chief Minister also called on the Congress to undertake introspection and identify the factors contributing to its declining electoral fortunes. According to him, questioning the electoral process without addressing internal weaknesses would not help the party regain public confidence. Sharma's remarks come amid the continuing political debate over electoral accountability and allegations concerning the voting process. His criticism centred on the need for political parties to accept election results and focus on strengthening their connection with voters.

NFR INAUGURATES TRADITIONAL SPORTS CENTRE

AT OLD AMINGAON HERITAGE STATION... Preserving Railway Heritage While Reviving Indigenous Games in TheRegion

MALIGAON, 28 OCTOBER, 2026

Shri Chetan Kumar Shrivastava, General Manager of Northeast Frontier Railway (NFR), inaugurated a Traditional Sports Centre at the Old Amingaon Railway Station heritage site on 27th October, 2026. Developed through the NF Railway Sports Association (NFRSA), the first-of-its-kind facility transforms a historic railway platform into a dedicated centre for indigenous games, reflecting Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of Vikas (Development) alongside Virasat (Heritage).

The Centre will promote traditional sports of Assam and the Northeast, including Dhopkhel, Tang-Guti, Peng Khel, Kori-Khel, Roshi-Tana, Mukna and Yubi Lakpi of Manipur, and Insuknawm of Mizoram. These games, rooted in the region's diverse communities, celebrate physical agility, community bonding and survival skills but facees declining participation amid modernization, digitalization and the growing dominance of mainstream commercial sports. NFRSA plans to organise traditional sporting activities at the Centre and facilitate coordination with organisations working to preserve indigenous games. The facility aims to provide a dedicated space for their revival and enable state and national level competitions and events.





Sharing his views on the occasion, the General Manager appreciated NFRSA's initiative to preserve the station through active use by children and sportspersons. He expressed confidence that the Centre would safeguard the site for future generations, revive traditional games and help nurture national level players. Established in 1908, Old Amingaon Railway Station was a principal gateway to Guwahati and the Northeast in pre Independence India. Its single platform, approximately half a kilometre long and 25 metres wide, served a major economic and trans-shipment hub on the erstwhile Assam-Bengal Railway. The historic Assam Mail brought tea planters, missionaries, traders, freedom fighters and travellers, who crossed the Brahmaputra by ferry.

The station is closely associated with the freedom movement. Mahatma Gandhi, fondly remembered as Bapu, travelled through it during his visits to Assam in 1921, 1926, 1934 and 1946. During the 1921 Non-Cooperation Movement visit, he was accompanied by Deshbhakta Tarun Ram Phukan, whose translations of Gandhiji'sspeeches inspired thousands. British and American military personnel also passed through the station during the Second World War. The Eastern Bengal Railway's Amingaon-Pandu train ferry connected the north and south banks, carrying entire trains and goods on specialised barges and handling up to 250 wagons daily in each direction. It linked railway networks extending through the Kaunia-Dharla route towards Lalmonirhat in erstwhile East Bengal. The station received its last train on 7th June, 1963, with rail traffic commencing over the Saraighat Bridge on 8th June, 1963, bringing the ferry-linked railway era to a close. By bringing traditional sports to this historic setting, NFR seeks to preserve both the Northeast's railway legacy and its indigenous sporting traditions.

Amit Shah Targets Rahul Gandhi Over Congress' MLC Poll Performance

NEW DELHI, OCT 28



Union Home Minister Amit Shah took a swipe at the Congress party for failing to win a single seat in the biennial Legislative Council (MLC) elections across four states with a social media post on Wednesday.

Taking to 'X', the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader wrote in Hindi, which, roughly translated, means "How many out of 28 did the Congress win... '0'", adding a barb, "resign, Ballot Box" in an apparent reference to the point that these polls were not held using Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) that the Congress has repeatedly been alleging as being manipulated.

The accompanying illustration features what appears to be the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, sitting and staring at the results.

Though MLC results do not determine future Parliamentary or Assembly poll outcomes, they do reflect political influence among specific sections of the society.

The MLC elections were limited franchise contests involving graduates and teachers rather than the broader electorate.

The BJP-led National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in Karnataka, with Janata Dal (Secular) a constituent, secured a clear 4-0 sweep in the state, leaving the ruling Congress in a quandary.

In Uttar Pradesh, the principal contest was between the BJP and the Samajwadi Party (SP), where the former secured victories in multiple constituencies, while the latter won key teachers' seats and remained the primary Opposition force.

Bihar results reflected a fragmented Opposition landscape, with the BJP and its ally Janata Dal (United) winning several seats, the RJD registering a victory, JSP opening its account, and independents securing wins.

The trend continued to be reflected in Maharashtra as well, with the Congress drawing a blank everywhere.

The results come amidst the Congress party's renewed thrust at launching Rahul Gandhi in a new, aggressive leadership role and as the face of a united Opposition.

Spain: Indian Embassy opens emergency helpline as death toll from high-speed train collision rises to 68

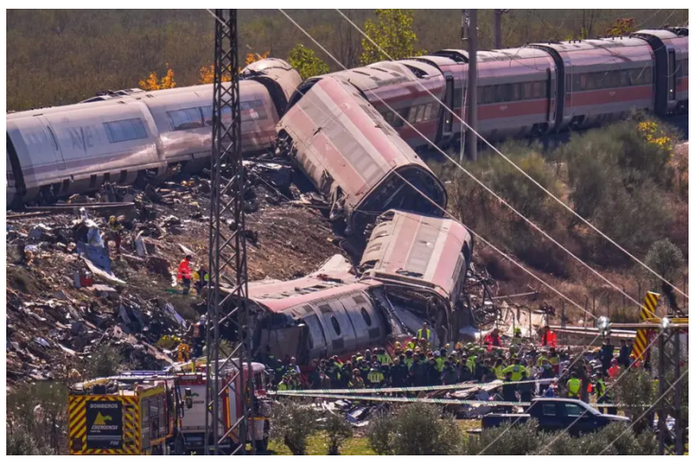
MADRID:

The death toll from a collision between two high-speed trains in Spain has risen to 68, up from the earlier reported 50. The accident occurred at around 8:54 a.m. local time (0754 GMT) near Urda station in the province of Toledo, about 120 km south of Madrid.

Meanwhile, India has advised all its nationals travelling on the affected trains involved in the railway accident, or their relatives, to contact the Embassy of India in Madrid for assistance. In a notice posted on its X handle, the Embassy also asked Indian nationals to share the information regarding its emergency helpline with anyone who may needs assistance.

Spanish Transport Minister Oscar Puente on Wednesday said that the train control system failed due to computer communication issue. Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez has declared a three-day national mourning for the victims of train collision.

Puente pointed to an "inexplicable" decision by a railway control centre to authorise a train to resume its journey despite a red signal as a possible cause of a deadly high-speed train collision in the province of Toledo, central Spain. Speaking at a press conference in Madrid, Puente said that a computer communication failure had disabled the LZB railway safety control system, automatically bringing trains along a 63-km section of the line to a halt. However, the control center subsequently authorised a Renfe train to resume its journey despite a red signal prohibiting it from proceeding, Xinhua news agency reported. Puente described the decision to authorise the train's movement while another train remained stationary on the track as "inexplicable."



Emergency services continue to search for bodies of the victims with the help of trained dogs, and "even more" victims could still be found among the passengers of the two trains involved in the accident, said Emiliano Garcia-Page, president of the autonomous community of Castilla-La Mancha which includes the province of Toledo.

The collision occurred on Wednesday morning on the high-speed railway line connecting Madrid and Seville. A Renfe high-speed train struck a stationary Iryo train from behind near Urda station in Toledo province, causing several carriages to derail, with some falling down an embankment. According to the regional government of Castilla-La Mancha, the death toll has risen to 68, while 58 people have been hospitalised, including 15 in critical condition. Around 50 others with minor injuries are receiving medical attention at temporary treatment centers. The exact cause of the accident remains under investigation.

Spanish PM declares 3 days of national mourning after deadly train collision

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez announced three days of official national mourning on Wednesday following a catastrophic high-speed train collision in central Spain that claimed at least 68 lives and left dozens of passengers injured, pledging a comprehensive judicial and technical investigation into the disaster.

Speaking to reporters from an emergency command operations post established near the crash site in Toledo province, Prime Minister Sánchez assured the public that state authorities would rigorously investigate the precise circumstances surrounding the collision and hold any responsible parties accountable if safety oversights or systemic failures are identified.

"We will get to the bottom of this," Sánchez declared, emphasising that any human error, operational negligence, or technical failures in automatic safety systems would be addressed decisively.

Underscoring the national impact of the tragedy, Sánchez noted that "all of Spain is in mourning."

He stressed that the immediate focus of emergency management teams remains centred on rescuing trapped survivors, assisting affected families, and delivering immediate medical intervention and long-term psychological support to victims.

The high-impact incident unfolded on Wednesday morning in Toledo province, approximately 120 kilometres south of Madrid along the high-speed Madrid–Seville railway line.

According to preliminary reports, a state-operated Renfe high-speed train struck the rear of a stationary commercial Iryo train operating on the same track corridor.

Emiliano García-Page, President of the autonomous community of Castilla-La Mancha, confirmed that the death toll has escalated to 68, with emergency crews continuing search-and-rescue operations amid heavily damaged rail carriages.



Talks ongoing with Ukrainian govt to secure release of Indian national in custody: MEA

NEW DELHI

India has been engaged in talks with the Ukrainian government to bring back an Indian national currently held in custody there, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Wednesday. Addressing a bi-weekly media briefing in New Delhi on Wednesday, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that India has been making efforts to bring back Indian nationals serving in the Russian armed forces.

"Regarding Ukraine, talks are ongoing with the Ukrainian government concerning an Indian national who is in custody there. We are making efforts to bring him back to India. Consular visits have also been conducted to check on his well-being. As for Russia, I have previously shared the figures, based on the information available to us, regarding the number of Indian nationals still serving in the Russian armed forces. We are continuing our efforts to secure their early release," said Jaiswal when asked about the Indian national held in custody in Ukraine and Indians in Russia amid the ongoing conflict. On the action taken by India in this regard, Jaiswal said, "We have issued several advisories on this in the past two years and action have been taken by law enforcement agencies against travel agents and other individuals, agents involved in the wrongdoing."

On October 9, Jaiswal said that around 259 Indian citizens were recruited in the Russian army, of whom 139 have been discharged through Indian government efforts and returned home, while discussions with Moscow are underway regarding the return of 69 others believed to still be with the Russian military.

“According to the information we have so far, we believe around 259 Indian citizens were recruited into the Russian Army. Out of these, we have been able to secure the discharge of 139 individuals who have returned home. Currently, we are in discussions with the Russian government regarding 69 people who we believe are still with the Russian military, seeking details about where they are and how they can be brought back..." said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal while addressing a bi-weekly press briefing in New Delhi.

Asked whether India had figures for Indian nationals who had acquired Russian citizenship, Jaiswal said that the government did not have such data, as its records covered only Indian citizens.

“As for what you asked about whether we have figures on how many people have taken Russian citizenship, we don't have that data. We only have figures for those who are Indian citizens. If you want to know who has taken Russian citizenship, you will have to ask the Russian Embassy or their Ministry of Foreign Affairs based in Moscow,” he added On September 30, the MEA urged Indian nationals to stay away from offers to join the Russian Army, warning that such recruitment posed a serious threat to their lives.

"We are continuing to see reports about Indian nationals recruited into the Russian armed forces. Government has on several occasions over the past two years, underlined the risks and dangers inherent in this course of action and advised Indian citizens from time to time to be cautious while pursuing job opportunities abroad and not get lured by any job offers from unverified individuals," the MEA mentioned in a statement.

Bangladesh repays twice its foreign loan amount in Q1 FY27

NEW DELHI

Bangladesh repaid over twice the amount it received in foreign loans during Q1 FY27, a new report has said, arguing that rising debt-servicing obligations exerts pressure on the country's external finances.

The report from Bangladesh-based The Business Standard cited provisional data from the Economic Relations Division (ERD) saying the country paid $1.35 billion in principal and interest on foreign loans during July-September, more than double the foreign loan disbursements of $662.31 million.

Bangladesh paid back about $2.04 in debt servicing during the quarter for every dollar received from external lenders.

"Debt servicing rose 5.6 per cent year-on-year from $1.28 billion in the same period of FY26. Principal repayments increased to $858.92 million from $816.99 million, while interest payments climbed to $492.31 million from $462.96 million," the report said.

Meanwhile, foreign loan disbursements dropped 42.3 per cent year-on-year to $662.31 million from nearly $1.15 billion, reducing the government's access to external financing for development needs.

Economist Mustafa K Mujeri, executive director of the Institute for Inclusive Finance and Development (InM), said these factors are creating enormous financial pressure on the government, complicating revenue collection and budget implementation.

The government may be forced to rely more on domestic borrowing, he warned as increased borrowing from the central bank could fuel inflation, and greater borrowing from commercial banks could limit credit for private businesses, hurting investment and employment.

India rejects laws affecting national sovereignty; votes at UN against US embargo on Cuba

UNITED NATIONS

India on Wednesday reiterated its rejection of laws that "adversely affect the sovereignty" of other countries as it voted for a General Assembly resolution demanding an end to the US embargo on Cuba.

Soumya Nair, a counsellor in India's UN Mission, said New Delhi backs the Assembly's call to all countries to reject "laws and regulations with extraterritorial effects that adversely affect the sovereignty of other states and the progress and prosperity of their peoples".



Speaking before the Assembly voted on the resolution asking the US to end the economic, commercial and financial embargo against Cuba, she said, "India reiterates the Assembly's call to all states to refrain from promulgating and applying, and to repeal and invalidate such laws and measures in conformity with their obligations under the Charter of the United Nations and International Law".

The resolution was carried with 130 votes to 17, with 25 abstentions, after a drama on the floor of the Assembly chamber on Tuesday when Cuba's Foreign Minister Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla charged up to the dais to confront US Permanent Representative Mike Waltz as he was speaking. Assembly President Khalilur Rahman briefly suspended the proceeding to restore order.

The drama continued on Wednesday when the US expelled the Cuban mission's First Secretary Richard Tur de la Concepcion for allegedly physically tangling with a US diplomat during the confrontation, according to Waltz.

He said, "If you lay a hand on an American diplomat in this body, there will be consequences".

"That so-called diplomat today will be put on a plane back to Havana", he said without identifying the diplomat, who was identified by Cuba.

The confrontation took place as Waltz was speaking of the alleged corruption by Cuba's leaders.

Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' spokesperson, Stephane Dujarric, was critical of the Cuban conduct.

He said at his Wednesday briefing, "We expect every delegation to respect the decorum of the General Assembly's hall and to respect the rules and procedures of the General Assembly".

UN Safety and Security deployed more personnel than usual, and "They did a great job in ensuring that the situation did not get out of hand", he added.

Internet : Inter-connected Network

(On the occasion of "International Internet Day" on 29 October)



It’s hard to digest to imagine the situation of the world without Internet. The Internet provides instant access to information. Besides gaining knowledge, internet users have an endless supply of entertainment. The internet makes it possible to do banking, shopping, online interaction, video calling, raising donations, work from home, love connection, and sharing information or news comfortably from our homes. Now, it is very difficult to live few moments without the use of internet. Internet is the order of the day in this digital world. The full meaning of ‘Internet’ is “Inter-connected Network”, referring to a vast, global networks that connects millions of computers and other devises worldwide, enabling communication and sharing information instantly.

History of Internet

In 1983, the ARPANET began using the Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol open networking protocol suite and in 1985, the National Science Foundation Network designed the network to connect university computer science departments around the globe. The internet greatly improved in 1989 when the Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) was created.

The In 1993, the Mosaic web browser was created. The internet continues to grow and evolve. Internet Protocol Version 6 was designated to anticipate enormous future expansion in in number of IP addresses. The IoT, UID and to transfer data automatically over the internet. The main components of the internet are client or endpoint devices, servers, internet protocols, IP addresses, routers, web browsers, ISPs, social media platforms, and firewalls and security measures.

Internet/Smartphone Users of the World

The greatness of internet can’t be measured in terms of figures. In 2019, there were 5.56 billion internet users globally, 5.28 billion use internet via smart phones, 68 percent of the global population is using Internet. The highest internet users are from China 1.11 billion (smart phone users in China is 975 million), followed by 806 million users from India (659 million mobile users), and 322 million users from America (276 million mobile users in America). The other more internet/ smartphone user countries are Indonesia, Brazil, and Russia. There are more than one million internet users added to the list globally. The average internet spending time is over 6 hours and 42 minutes, average internet users spending in social media is 2 hours and 16 minutes, and more than 350 billion emails are sent daily. Among the internet websites, Google tops in its use, followed by YouTube and Facebook.

International Internet Day :

International Internet Day is observed annually on 29 October to consider the most important invention in human history. The internet is everywhere these days, being accessed on phones and tablets, tied into our cameras and our TV’s. Wi-Fi is accessible from everywhere these days. The first letters ever transmitted across the prodigal internet, which consists of two computers, were ‘L’ and ‘O’ by Charley Kline, a student at Stanford university on 29 October 1969.

Benefits of Internet

The main uses of internet are social media, content sharing, educational tool, searching for jobs/information, entertainment, and remote working. The most important benefits of internet are access to endless information, ability to communicate/connect/share, business avenues, banking, entertainment sector, messaging, access to IoT, healthcare, educational services, save data, to maintain personal accounts, and so on.

The key features of the internet are worldwide availability, compatibility with other media types, easy accessibility, and affordability.

- Dr Madhusudhan Reddy Burra
9949700037.

Israel elections: Parties explore possible scenarios as half a million votes yet to be counted

JERUSALEM

Parties opposed to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu secured 67 seats in the 120-member parliament after 85.6 per cent of votes were counted in Tuesday's election, according to updated official results.

The Central Elections Committee said the results were based on the counting of most votes cast at regular polling stations, Xinhua news agency reported. About half a million votes cast in double envelopes at polling stations in military bases, hospitals and other institutions have yet to be counted, with the count expected to be completed by Friday.

According to the recent count, Netanyahu's right-wing bloc won 53 seats, while the opposition secured 67, including 48 for former military chief Gadi Eisenkot's bloc and 19 for Arab parties.



Netanyahu's Likud party remained the largest single party with 26 seats, followed by Eisenkot's Yashar party with 21. The Joint List, an alliance of Arab-majority parties, and the center-right Together won 12 seats each, while the Arab-majority Ra'am party secured seven. The Arab parties have called for a coalition with Eisenkot's bloc based on an unprecedented Jewish-Arab partnership, but ahead of the elections, Eisenkot has repeatedly ruled out governing with Arab parties or relying on their support, while Netanyahu has also rejected their participation in government.

Also on Wednesday, Israeli President Isaac Herzog said that every effort must be made to avoid another round of elections, after preliminary results showed neither of the main blocs had secured a majority in the parliament.

Israel now faces political uncertainty, with analysts pointing to several possible scenarios, including prolonged coalition negotiations, a unity government or another round of elections, while Arab parties could hold the key to breaking the deadlock. Israel's proportional electoral system adds to the uncertainty.

China’s weak domestic demand cripples economy

LONDON

Weak domestic demand has emerged as the main factor behind the slowdown in the Chinese economy and with people losing jobs amid the collapse of the country’s real estate sector, this problem has only become worse. Chinese people aren’t spending enough money. China today has the lowest consumption rate of any major economy in the world. Consumption makes up just about 56 per cent of China’s GDP. In most economies, it’s 70 per cent or more. To put this in perspective, China’s consumption as a share of GDP is about 10 percentage points lower than Japan’s was in the 1990s, at the worst point in its economic stagnation, according to an article in The Diplomat.



The article observes that the low consumption is a flashing warning sign that China’s economic model is fundamentally broken. That’s why GDP growth is coming to a screeching halt, dropping from highs of 10 per cent or more in the early 2000s to under 5 per cent today, and China’s debt is growing to alarming levels.

The large trade surplus that China is enjoying is also an indication of the weakening of the Chinese economy. The Chinese people are not spending enough on imported goods because of financial constraints, leading to a fall in imports to China and a rise in trade surplus.

The slowing down of the rate of GDP growth to 5 per cent has also reduced the need for imported inputs of production, the article further states.

The article further states that low consumption in China is forcing the country's industries to step up exports at low prices to flood the markets of other countries. However, this dumping of cheap goods in countries from Europe to Asia is killing manufacturing industries around the world.

While China has accumulated a massive trade surplus of $1 trillion, which is often seen as a reflection of the Asian giant as a manufacturing powerhouse, the truth is that it is also an indicator of weak domestic demand, a weakening Chinese currency and a slowing economy.

NPPA revises prices of 543 anti-cancer medicine brands, new MRPs effective Nov 9

NEW DELHI, OCT 28

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) on Wednesday released a revised list of maximum retail prices (MRPs) for 543 brands of anti-cancer medicines, following its recent trade margin rationalisation initiative aimed at making cancer treatment more affordable and accessible across the country.

According to the authority, the revised MRPs will come into effect from November 9, 2026. "The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), under the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, has released a list of 543 brands of anti cancer medicines with their revised Maximum Retail Price (MRP). The revised MRPs will be effective from November 9, 2026," the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers said.

The updated price list incorporates information submitted by pharmaceutical companies up to October 27, 2026, and will continue to be revised as manufacturers submit updated prices for non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs. "The revised price list reflects the information submitted by companies up to October 27, 2026 and it will be updated as and when manufacturers submit their revised prices of non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs," the ministry added. The move follows NPPA's announcement on October 17, 2026, regarding the trade margin rationalisation of 137 non-scheduled anti-cancer medicines in the public interest. The initiative was introduced to curb excessive trade margins in the supply chain, reduce treatment costs for patients, and improve access to critical oncology drugs.

Assam: Agarwood enters Dubai market; CM Sarma highlights export push

GUWAHATI, OCT 28

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Wednesday highlighted the state's growing global trade footprint following the export of 123 kg of agarwood chips to Dubai, describing the development as a boost for the sector supporting more than 50,000 farmers and workers. "Taking Assam's fragrant heritage to the world!" Sarma said in a social media post, noting that the latest export marked a significant step towards expanding the international market for the state's traditional agarwood industry. The chief minister said the export would strengthen Assam's presence in global trade while creating opportunities for those engaged in agarwood cultivation, processing and related activities. Assam is home to a major share of India's agarwood resources, with the state accounting for around 81 per cent of the country's agarwood, according to information shared by the Chief Minister's Office.

Agarwood, a fragrant and valuable wood formed in certain trees of the genus Aquilaria, is widely used in the production of perfumes, incense, essential oils and traditional fragrance products. Its high commercial value has made it an important livelihood opportunity in parts of Northeast India. The state government has been promoting the sector through policy measures aimed at facilitating trade and improving market access for agarwood growers and businesses.

Jio's Blockbuster Debut Makes Reliance India's Most Valuable Business Group

Tata Group moves to second place, Adani Group ranks third
Reliance Group's combined market cap reaches ₹28.9 lakh crore, exceeding Tata Group by ₹3.23 lakh crore
Reliance Industries and Jio Platforms alone command a combined market value of ₹28.7 lakh crore

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 28, 2026





Jio Platforms' blockbuster stock market debut has reshaped the rankings of India's most valuable business groups. As Jio listed at ₹1,358 per share on Wednesday, Reliance Group overtook Tata Group to become India's most valuable business group by market capitalisation. Following Jio's listing, the combined market cap of Reliance Group's listed companies reached ₹28.9 lakh crore. Tata Group ranked second at ₹25.6 lakh crore, followed by Adani Group in third place at ₹16.6 lakh crore. Jio's market debut gave a major boost to Reliance Group's overall valuation. The stock listed at ₹1,358, a premium of 21.4% over its IPO issue price of ₹1,119 per share. At this price, Jio's market capitalisation stood at ₹12.5 lakh crore. Together, Reliance Industries and Jio Platforms commanded a market value of ₹28.7 lakh crore. **Jio Platforms also has India's largest shareholder base, with 7.98 million shareholders.

The traditional bell-ringing ceremony marking Jio's listing was held at the National Stock Exchange (NSE) in Mumbai. Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani, Nita Ambani, Akash Ambani, Isha Ambani and Anant Ambani attended the event. Akash, Isha and Anant Ambani addressed the gathering ahead of the listing. Akash Ambani, Managing Director of Jio Platforms, said, "Today's listing is not a finish line, but a starting line. We will communicate openly, honour our commitments, and earn your trust through action."

Another significant highlight of Jio's listing was that Reliance Industries and Jio Platforms became India's first and second most valuable listed companies, respectively. The combined market capitalisation of these two companies alone exceeded that of all Tata Group listed companies by ₹3.1 lakh crore. Jio's debut thus reshaped not only the rankings of India's most valuable listed companies but also those of its largest business groups. The comparison is based on the combined market capitalisation of listed companies belonging to each business group. Jio Financial Services has been excluded from the Reliance Group calculation.

Jio Shares Surge on Debut

Investors' Wealth Increases by ₹2.76 Lakh Crore in a Single Day.. Jio shares rise ₹300 above the IPO price, delivering a 26.81% gain on the first day.
Market capitalisation crosses ₹13 lakh crore. Jio becomes India's second-most valuable listed company.
TCS drops out of the top five most valuable listed companies.

MUMBAI, OCTOBER 28, 2026

Jio Platforms recorded massive gains on its first day of trading on the stock market. During Wednesday's session, the share price climbed to ₹1,419, marking an increase of ₹300, or 26.81%, over its IPO issue price of ₹1,119. As a result, approximately ₹2.76 lakh crore was added to the company's total market value. Jio Platforms' market capitalisation reached around ₹13.07 lakh crore.

Strong Premium at Listing

Jio shares were listed on the stock market at ₹1,358 apiece, a premium of 21.4% over the IPO issue price.

Buying momentum continued after the listing, pushing the share price up by another ₹61 to ₹1,419. This represented an additional gain of 4.49% over the listing price.

The strong debut brought an early festive boost to investors ahead of Diwali.

Market Capitalisation Rises from ₹10.31 Lakh Crore to ₹13.07 Lakh Crore Following the IPO, Jio Platforms had approximately 9,209 million outstanding shares.

At the IPO issue price of ₹1,119, the company's market capitalisation stood at approximately ₹10.31 lakh crore. With the share price rising to ₹1,419, its market value climbed to ₹13.07 lakh crore.

Thus, compared with the market value calculated at the IPO issue price, the total equity market value of the company increased by approximately ₹2.76 lakh crore.

Jio Ranks Second Among India's Most Valuable Listed Companies

Following its first day of trading, Jio Platforms emerged as the second-most valuable listed company in India.

The top five companies ranked by market capitalisation are as follows:

- Reliance Industries: ₹15.67 lakh crore
- Jio Platforms: ₹13.07 lakh crore
- Bharti Airtel: ₹12.16 lakh crore
- HDFC Bank: ₹10.57 lakh crore
- ICICI Bank: ₹9.89 lakh crore

With Jio Platforms' market value surging sharply, Tata Group's prominent information technology company, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), dropped out of the list of India's five most valuable listed companies.

Racing Returns to Buddh as Indian Racing Festival Brings Two Championships to the Iconic Circuit

NEW DELHI, OCTOBER 28, 2026



The Indian Racing Festival (IRF) brings FIA-level racing back to the Buddh International Circuit (BIC) after 13 years, as the F4 Indian Championship and Indian Racing League (IRL) head to Greater Noida for Round 4 and Round 2 of their respective 2026 campaigns on October 31 and November 1. The weekend promises exciting action at the iconic venue, which previously hosted the Formula 1 Indian Grand Prix and the MotoGP Bharat, as the F4 title battle gathers pace and IRL drivers prepare for their next test of the season.

Spanning 5.125 kilometres, BIC holds a significant place in Indian motorsport history and will provide the stage for two crucial rounds of the 2026 season. For fans across Delhi-NCR, the event offers an opportunity to experience the speed, competition and excitement of the Indian Racing Festival at an international-standard permanent circuit closer to home.

Sambudla Leads the Championship Charge as F4 Title Battle Heats Up

The F4 Indian Championship heads into the weekend following a nail-biting third round at the Madras International Circuit, where Goa Aces JA Racing's Luviwe Sambudla produced a standout performance. Starting from sixth on the grid, Sambudla won each of the first two races before finishing third in the final race of the weekend. His results took him to 138 points and the championship lead, 21 points ahead of Kichcha's Kings Bengaluru's Aris Kyriakou.

Speed Demons Delhi's Ntiyiso Mabunda was another consistent performer in Chennai, finishing second in all three races. His opening-race drive from 10th on the grid to second highlighted his ability to fight through the field. Kolkata Royal Tigers' Aaron Mehta also made headlines by winning the third race from pole position, holding off Mabunda by just 0.546 seconds. At 15 years, six months and six days, Mehta became the youngest winner in Indian F4 history. With Sambudla aiming to extend his lead and the chasing drivers looking to close the gap, the fourth round will be a crucial test in the championship.

Indian Racing League Set for Action-Packed Round 2 at Buddh International Circuit

The Indian Racing League heads to the Buddh International Circuit for Round 2, with teams and drivers gearing up for an action-packed weekend at the iconic venue. As the championship progresses, the drivers will look to make the most of the challenge and strengthen their position in the season standings.

The return to BIC brings both the F4 Indian Championship and the IRL to one of India's premier racing venues. With the F4 title battle intensifying and the IRL entering its second round, the weekend promises competitive racing, close contests and plenty of action as drivers take to the track.

KPN Fresh Offers Quality and Everyday Low Prices for Families

BANGALORE, 28TH OCTOBER, 2026

Bringing more cheer to festive celebrations, KPN Fresh, India's fastest-growing omnichannel grocery chain focused on fresh fruits and vegetables, is offering festive deals on fresh produce, traditional sweets, dairy, dry fruits and everyday grocery essentials. True to its commitment to Lowest Prices, Everyday KPN Fresh focuses on making quality groceries affordable every day, with additional savings on a wide range of festive favourites running till 15 November 2026. As families prepare for festive celebrations across South India, traditional produce and pooja essentials form an important part of many shopping lists. KPN Fresh makes products such as banana plantain/ plantain stems, coconuts, bananas, marigold flowers, betel leaves and ash gourd available alongside its wider fresh-produce assortment, bringing a range of festive essentials together under one roof. Adding sweetness to festive celebrations, KPN Fresh's in-house sweets range, Sweet Sanskriti, offers traditional favourites at up to 50% off MRP, making them ideal for both gifting loved ones and enjoying at home. Kaju Katli (200 g) is available at ₹180 against an MRP of ₹360, while Gulab Jamun and Rasgulla (1 kg each) are priced at ₹160 each against an MRP of ₹320. Soan Papdi (200 g) is available at ₹45 against an MRP of ₹90, making festive treats more affordable for every occasion. Beyond sweets, KPN Fresh is extending its festive pricing to everyday grocery essentials. Little Cow Ghee (500 ml) is priced at ₹325, compared with an average cooperative-ghee price of around ₹350. Cashews and almonds are available at approximately ₹1,050 per kg, against market prices of around ₹1,100 per kg. Toor Dal is priced at ₹135 per kg, compared with wholesale market prices of around ₹140, while Chana Dal is available at ₹99 per kg, against wholesale prices of around ₹105. KPN Fresh has also stated that it has passed on the benefit of recent duty reductions on edible oils to consumers. Through its festive assortment and pricing, KPN Fresh aims to make it easier for households to shop for traditional festive requirements alongside everyday essentials, with a focus on freshness, quality and value. The offers are available at 300+ KPN fresh stores across Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Puducherry till 15th November, subject to product availability.

About KPN Fresh:

KPN Fresh is one of India's fastest-growing fruits-and-vegetables-first grocery supermarket chains, backed by WestBridge Capital. From its humble beginnings as a fruits and vegetables cart in Tamil Nadu, the brand has evolved into a modern grocery retail chain, committed to making everyday grocery shopping affordable, convenient and high-quality for consumers.

Built on the promise of Everyday Lowest Prices, KPN Fresh focuses on delivering value across grocery categories while maintaining a strong emphasis on freshness, purity and quality. Through careful sourcing, high standards of processing, clean packaging and a contemporary in-store experience, the brand seeks to make quality groceries accessible to urban and semi-urban households. Rooted in its legacy yet designed for modern consumers, KPN Fresh combines affordability, convenience, and trust to bring everyday goodness to customers.

Stroke Is a Medical Emergency: Every Minute Counts in Saving the Brain

Recognise Stroke Symptoms Early and Seek Immediate Medical Attention for Better Recovery Outcomes

HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 28, 2026

A stroke can be life-threatening when the blood supply to the brain is interrupted or bleeding occurs within the brain. Seeking immediate medical attention at the onset of symptoms is crucial, as delays in treatment can cause severe brain damage and lead to permanent disability, said Dr. Vikas Agrawal, Senior Consultant Neuro Physician at Medicover Hospitals, Secunderabad. Every year, lakhs of people in India are affected by stroke. Symptoms such as sudden facial drooping, weakness in an arm or leg, slurred speech, and changes in vision should never be ignored or mistaken for ordinary weakness. Even if these symptoms appear at night, patients should not wait until morning to seek medical attention. Immediate hospitalisation can significantly improve the chances of timely treatment and recovery.

Do Not Miss the Golden Hour

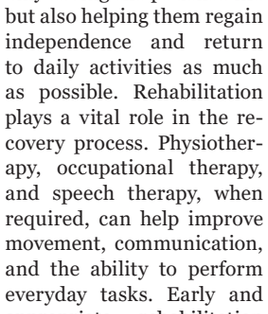
An ischaemic stroke occurs when a blood clot blocks a blood vessel supplying the brain. In eligible patients, thrombolytic treatment administered within the recommended time window can help dissolve the clot and restore blood flow. Some patients may also require a specialised procedure to remove the clot directly from the affected blood vessel.

The choice of treatment depends on brain imaging results, the time of symptom onset, and the patient's overall medical condition. Therefore, early evaluation and prompt treatment are essential to minimise brain damage and improve outcomes. People with High Blood Pressure and Diabetes Must Be Extra Cautious

High blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol, smoking, excessive alcohol consumption, and certain heart conditions can increase the risk of stroke. Regular monitoring of blood pressure, blood sugar, and cholesterol levels is essential to reduce this risk. Following a healthy lifestyle, undergoing regular health check-ups, and taking prescribed medications as advised by a doctor can help lower the chances of a stroke.

Rehabilitation Is Equally Important After a Stroke

Stroke care involves not only saving the patient's life but also helping them regain independence and return to daily activities as much as possible. Rehabilitation plays a vital role in the recovery process. Physiotherapy, occupational therapy, and speech therapy, when required, can help improve movement, communication, and the ability to perform everyday tasks. Early and appropriate rehabilitation can support functional recovery and enhance the patient's quality of life. Medicover Hospitals, Secunderabad, provides medical treatment, follow-up care, and rehabilitation services tailored to the individual needs of stroke patients. Emphasising the importance of timely intervention, Dr. Vikas Agrawal stated that every minute matters in a stroke. Recognising the warning signs and reaching a hospital without delay can help minimise brain damage, reduce the severity of disability, and improve the chances of recovery.



- Dr. Vikas Agrawal
Senior Consultant
Neuro Physician
Medicover Hospitals, Secunderabad



Force Motors Posts Strong Q2 and H1 FY27 Performance

Pune, 28th October 2026: Force Motors Limited, India's largest van manufacturer and a leading player in shared and specialised mobility solutions, today announced its financial results for the quarter and half year ended September 30th 2026. The Company delivered a strong performance in Q2 and H1 FY2026–27, with sales momentum strengthening significantly over the course of the quarter. The transition to the new Traveller N Range and Urbania Deluxe, undertaken as part of the Company's strategy to continuously refresh and strengthen its product portfolio, required a period of operational realignment in the initial months of the year. Leveraging its strong manufacturing capabilities, integrated operations and execution strengths, Force Motors successfully navigated this transition, with volumes gaining significant momentum in the subsequent months.

Operational Highlights

Strong H1 sales momentum: Total sales volumes in H1 FY2026–27 grew 23% compared with H1 FY2025–26, reflecting strong momentum across the Company's key product segments.

The new Force Traveller N Range and Urbania Deluxe have received an encouraging response from the market, with strong customer interest and a healthy order pipeline, reinforcing Force Motors' position across the shared mobility segment

Strong performance across portfolio: Demand remained healthy across the Company's core product portfolio, including the Traveller N Range, Urbania Deluxe, Trax, Monobus and specialised vehicles.

Zero-debt balance sheet: The Company continues to maintain a zero-debt position, providing a strong financial foundation for continued investments in products, manufacturing capacity and market expansion.

Commenting on the performance, Mr. Prasan Firodia, Managing Director, Force Motors Limited, said, "The first half of FY2026–27 has been a period of transition and renewed momentum for Force Motors. The complete transition to the new Traveller N Range and the launch of the Urbania Deluxe marked important steps in strengthening our product portfolio.

Brain's Hidden Visual Switch



The brain may rapidly alternate between representations of conscious and suppressed visual information 15 times a second, offering new clues to how awareness works, a preliminary study suggests

New research involving macaque monkeys and human volunteers offers fresh insights into how the brain processes competing visual information and determines what enters conscious awareness The human brain performs an extraordinary range of tasks every second, allowing people to recognise faces, interpret their surroundings, understand conversations and respond to changes in the environment. Much of this activity happens automatically, without requiring deliberate thought. Yet, despite decades of research, scientists still do not fully understand how the brain determines which information becomes part of conscious experience and which remains outside awareness. A new study has offered an intriguing clue to this longstanding mystery. Researchers suggest that the brain may rapidly alternate between neural representations of visual information that a person consciously perceives and information that remains suppressed from awareness. This alternation was observed at a rate of approximately 15 times per second, even when the image a person was consciously seeing appeared to remain unchanged. The findings raise important questions about the relationship between brain activity and conscious perception. They suggest that information which is not consciously experienced may nevertheless continue to be represented in the brain, rather than disappearing entirely when another image captures attention. The research, titled Rapid Alternation of Conscious and Suppressed Stimulus Representations in the Primate Brain, was led by neuroscientists Janis Hesse and Doris Tsao of the University of California, Berkeley. The study examined visual processing in macaque monkeys and included experiments involving human volunteers. However, the findings must be interpreted carefully. The research is available as a preprint and has not yet undergone peer review. It does not establish that people experience two separate realities or that consciousness switches on and off 15 times every second. Instead, it provides preliminary evidence that the brain's internal representation of competing visual information may be more dynamic than conscious experience suggests.

Understanding the Difference Between Seeing and Being Aware

At first glance, seeing something and being aware of seeing it may appear to be the same process. When a person looks at a face, a tree or a moving vehicle, the visual system receives information from the eyes and processes it so that the object can be recognised and understood.

In reality, visual processing involves several stages. Light enters the eyes and is converted into electrical signals by specialised cells in the retina. These signals travel through neural pathways to the brain, where different regions analyse characteristics such as colour, shape, movement, edges and spatial relationships.

The brain combines and interprets this information to construct a meaningful representation of the surrounding environment. Yet not everything that the visual system processes necessarily becomes part of conscious awareness. People are exposed to far more information than they can consciously attend to at any given moment. Background movement, objects at the edge of the visual field and subtle changes in the environment may be processed to varying degrees without becoming the focus of attention. Other information may be missed altogether because competing signals dominate perception. This distinction between neural processing and conscious awareness has become a central question in neuroscience. Researchers want to understand why some information becomes accessible to conscious experience while other information remains outside it, even when the brain continues to process signals associated with that information. The new study explores this question by examining what happens when the two eyes receive conflicting visual information. The researchers investigated whether neural activity consistently favours the image that dominates conscious perception or whether the brain continues to represent the competing image in a changing pattern of activity.

Visual Illusion That Helped Researchers Investigate Consciousness

investigate this question, the research team used a technique known as binocular flash suppression. The method allows scientists to study the difference between the image presented to the eyes and the image that a person reports consciously seeing.

In this type of experiment, each eye is presented with a different visual stimulus. When one image is initially visible and another image is suddenly introduced to the other eye, the newly presented image can dominate conscious perception. The original image may continue to reach the eye, but the viewer no longer reports seeing it.

The important feature of this phenomenon is that the physical presence of an image does not guarantee that it will be consciously perceived. Both images can be presented to the visual system, yet only one may dominate the person's reported experience.

For example, imagine that one eye is shown a photograph of a person's face while the other eye is presented with a different face. Under the appropriate experimental conditions, the newly introduced face may become the image that the viewer consciously sees. The competing face remains part of the visual input but is suppressed from awareness.

This creates an opportunity to investigate whether the brain continues to represent information about the suppressed image. If neural activity reflects only the consciously perceived face, researchers might expect the competing image to leave little detectable representation in the brain regions being studied. If information about both faces remains represented, the neural recordings may reveal a more complicated picture. The researchers first conducted experiments with 14 human volunteers to establish that the visual effect worked as expected. The volunteers confirmed that the newly introduced image tended to dominate their conscious perception under the experimental conditions. This initial stage was important because it established the perceptual phenomenon on which the subsequent investigation depended. The researchers then examined neural activity in macaque monkeys to investigate the brain processes associated with competing visual stimuli.

Recording Neural Activity in the Primate Brain

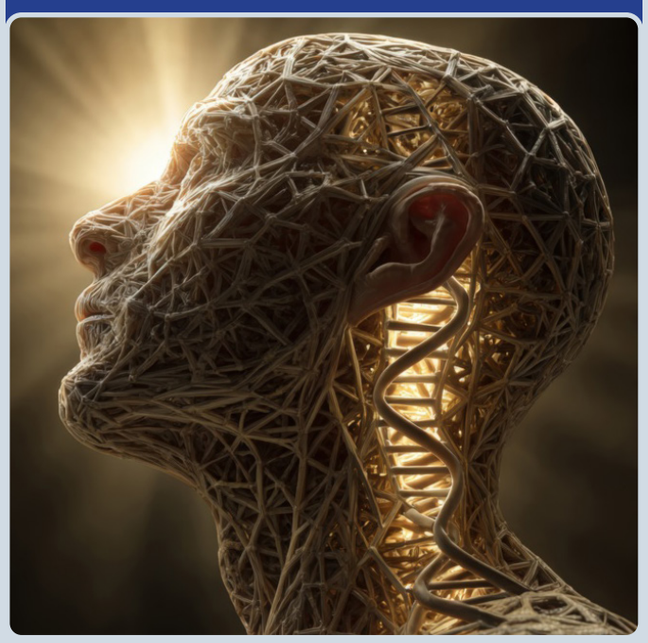
The study's neural recordings were obtained from two macaque monkeys as they viewed competing images of faces. Electrodes were used to measure activity across groups of neurons in brain regions associated with visual processing and face recognition. Macaque monkeys are widely used in neuroscience research because important aspects of their visual systems share similarities with those of humans. Their brains contain specialised regions involved in recognising faces and interpreting complex visual information, making them useful subjects for investigating the neural mechanisms underlying perception. The research focused on areas that included parts of the visual cortex and prefrontal cortex. The visual cortex plays a major role in analysing information arriving from the eyes, while the prefrontal cortex is involved in a range of higher-level functions, including attention, decision-making and the integration of information relevant to behaviour. Studying activity across these regions allowed the researchers to examine how visual representations appeared in neural signals when two images competed for perception. The experiment centred on faces because face recognition involves specialised neural processing. The brain can distinguish subtle differences in facial features, allowing people to recognise individuals even when lighting, expression or viewing angles change. These characteristics also make faces useful stimuli for testing whether neural activity contains information about one image or another. By examining patterns of activity across populations of neurons, the researchers could investigate whether the recorded signals corresponded to the face that dominated conscious perception, the face that was suppressed, or both. The study's central question was not simply whether the brain responded to visual images. It was whether those responses changed rapidly between representations of the competing faces, even when the image dominating conscious perception remained stable.

Important Limitations of the Research

Although the results are intriguing, several limitations prevent them from being treated as definitive evidence about consciousness. First, the neural recordings were obtained from only two macaque monkeys. Although the researchers tested the visual illusion in 14 human volunteers, those participants did not undergo the same neural recordings described in the study. The findings therefore cannot establish that the identical neural pattern occurs in humans at precisely the same frequency. Second, the recordings focused on particular brain regions rather than the entire brain. Conscious perception is widely understood to involve complex interactions among multiple neural systems. Activity in the visual cortex and prefrontal cortex may provide important information, but it cannot by itself reveal every process involved in conscious experience. Third, the experiment used a specific visual illusion involving competing images. The way the brain handles two faces presented separately to the eyes may differ from how it processes ordinary scenes, moving objects, sounds or information encountered during everyday activities. Fourth, the study is a preprint that has not yet undergone peer review. Independent researchers will need to evaluate its methods, analyses and interpretations before its conclusions can be considered firmly established. Further experiments involving more subjects, different types of visual stimuli and additional brain regions will be necessary to determine how broadly the findings apply. These limitations do not make the research unimportant. Instead, they establish the appropriate boundaries for interpreting its conclusions. The study offers a potential new direction for investigating visual awareness, but additional evidence is needed to determine the significance and generality of the observed pattern.

Does the Brain Really Switch Between Two Realities?

The study's headline may suggest that people experience two different realities, switching between them 15 times every second. That interpretation would go beyond what the evidence establishes. The researchers did not demonstrate that consciousness repeatedly switches off and on at this frequency. Nor did they show that people consciously see two competing images simultaneously. Instead, the study identified rapid alternations in neural activity associated with visual information that was consciously perceived and information that remained suppressed. A useful comparison is the difference between information stored in a computer's memory and information currently displayed on its screen. The presence of information in memory does not mean that the user is actively viewing it. Similarly, the presence of information in neural activity does not automatically mean that the information has entered conscious awareness. The brain may continue to process or represent information even when attention and conscious perception favour something else. The new research suggests that these competing representations can fluctuate rapidly, while the subjective experience remains relatively stable. This interpretation also highlights the difficulty of studying consciousness. Researchers can record electrical activity, analyse patterns across neurons and compare those patterns with reports of perception. However, subjective experience itself cannot be measured in exactly the same way as electrical signals. Scientists must therefore combine neural recordings with carefully designed behavioural experiments to investigate the relationship between brain activity and awareness. The findings offer a possible clue to that relationship, but they do not provide a complete explanation of how conscious experience emerges from neural activity.



The Continuing Mystery of Human Consciousness

Consciousness remains one of the most challenging subjects in modern science. Researchers can identify neural activity associated with seeing, hearing, remembering and making decisions, but explaining why certain neural processes produce a subjective experience remains difficult. A person does not merely process information about a face. The person experiences seeing that face. Understanding how neural activity gives rise to this first-person experience is a much broader challenge than identifying which neurons respond to a particular visual stimulus. The new study contributes to this discussion by suggesting that the brain may continue to represent information that does not dominate conscious perception. It points towards a possible distinction between the rapidly changing neural activity associated with competing images and the comparatively stable experience reported by the observer. This distinction may prove useful in developing better models of how sensory information becomes consciously accessible. It may also help researchers investigate why some signals capture attention while others remain outside awareness. Nevertheless, the research does not settle the question of what consciousness is or how it arises. It provides evidence about neural representations during a particular visual illusion, rather than a comprehensive account of human awareness. The most important implication is that the brain's processing of visual information may be more complex than what people experience directly. What appears to be a single, stable image in conscious awareness may coexist with changing patterns of neural activity carrying information about competing images.

A Surprising Pattern: Rapid Alternation Between Two Representations

The researchers found that neural activity did not continuously represent only the face expected to dominate conscious perception. Instead, the recorded activity alternated rapidly between patterns associated with the consciously perceived face and the face suppressed from awareness. According to the study, this alternation occurred approximately 15 times per second. The pattern was observed even when the monkeys continued to experience the same image as the dominant visual stimulus. At this frequency, each cycle would last roughly 67 milliseconds. Such a timescale is extremely brief compared with the duration of ordinary conscious experiences, which people generally perceive as continuous rather than as a sequence of rapidly changing internal representations. The result suggests that the neural processes associated with visual perception may contain rapid fluctuations that are not directly reflected in what an individual reports seeing. When someone looks at a face, the experience may feel stable. The person's facial features remain recognisable, and there is no obvious sense that the visual experience is repeatedly switching between two images. Nevertheless, the underlying neural signals may fluctuate between patterns carrying information about both stimuli. This does not mean that the brain is presenting two complete visual worlds to consciousness. Rather, the results suggest that information associated with a suppressed image may remain detectable in the activity of the neural populations examined by the researchers. The distinction is important because conscious perception is not necessarily a direct or complete reflection of every process taking place in the brain. Neural activity can contain information that does not become part of the person's immediate subjective experience. The findings therefore challenge a simple assumption that the brain entirely stops representing an image as soon as that image disappears from conscious awareness.

Reconstructing the Faces From Brain Activity

Another notable aspect of the study was the researchers' ability to reconstruct information about the two faces from different patterns of neural activity. Neuroscientists can sometimes determine what visual information is represented in the brain by analysing the activity of groups of neurons. Individual neurons respond to particular features or combinations of features, while populations of neurons collectively carry richer information about a visual stimulus. By studying these patterns, researchers can identify signals associated with characteristics of an image and estimate which stimulus is being represented. In this study, the neural activity contained information that allowed the researchers to reconstruct both competing faces. This indicated that representations of the images could be detected in the recorded signals even though one face was suppressed from conscious perception. The researchers also found that the representation of the consciously perceived face was more sharply tuned to its features during the corresponding periods of neural activity. In practical terms, this suggests that the neural representation of the dominant face was more clearly focused on its identifying characteristics at particular moments. The suppressed face was not necessarily absent from the brain's activity, but the way it was represented differed from the representation associated with the consciously seen image. Such findings may help scientists understand how competing visual signals are handled within the brain. They also raise the possibility that conscious perception depends not only on whether information is represented in neural activity but also on the strength, organisation or timing of that representation. However, reconstructing a stimulus from neural activity does not establish that the brain is consciously experiencing that stimulus. A neural signal can carry information about an image without that information becoming available to subjective awareness. This distinction remains central to interpreting the study and understanding what its results can reveal about consciousness.

Why the Findings Matter for Neuroscience

Understanding how the brain selects information for conscious awareness is important for several areas of neuroscience, including research into attention, visual perception, memory and decision-making. Every moment, the brain receives a large volume of sensory information. Some signals are relevant to immediate goals, while others are distracting, redundant or less important. The ability to prioritise information allows people to navigate complex environments without consciously processing every detail. However, the mechanisms that determine which information becomes consciously accessible remain incompletely understood. If neural representations of suppressed visual information continue to fluctuate in the brain, researchers may need to investigate more closely how these representations interact with attention and other neural processes. The study suggests that the relationship between visual input and conscious perception may be more dynamic than a simple model in which one image replaces another completely. It may also encourage further investigation into whether similar patterns occur with other kinds of stimuli, including objects, words, sounds or more complex scenes. The current findings concern competing visual information, particularly faces, and should not automatically be extended to every type of perception. Future research could examine whether the observed alternations occur across a broader range of brain regions, whether they vary with attention and task demands, and how closely they correspond to changes in conscious experience. Researchers may also investigate whether the frequency of these neural fluctuations remains consistent across individuals and circumstances.

WORLD BOXING U-19 C'SHIPS

Megha Sheokand assured of medal in women's 80+kg



NEW DELHI: Megha Sheokand became the second Indian to be assured of a medal in the ongoing 2026 World Boxing U-19 Championships in Budva, Montenegro, on Friday, defeating Turkey's Melisa Eroglu 5:0 to reach the women's 80kg semifinals. Prachi Tokas had assured India of its first medal in the women's 80+kg category. Asian U-19 champion Prachi also kept her hopes of a medal alive as she registered a dominant win over Alie Chartier of Canada. Prachi dominated both rounds against Chartier, who got one count in the first and two in the second before the Indian was awarded the bout by RSC. Earlier, Himanshi went down 1:4 against Ellen Joyce of Ireland in the women's 48kg pre-quarterfinals.

FOOTBALL

Barcelona defender Kounde fails to train just two days a



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

Commonwealth Kabaddi C'ship

Kenyan men, women begin with contrasting style victories



AHMEDABAD: The Kenyan men's and women's teams commenced their respective campaigns at the Commonwealth Kabaddi Championship 2026 with contrasting victories at the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex here on Friday. While the men's team enjoyed a comprehensive 48-28 victory over Singapore, with James Kamweti leading the scoring charts with 19 points, the women's team held their nerves to defeat Bangladesh 34-25 in a tightly contested match. James was ably supported by Samuel Wafula and Stephen Adongo, who contributed eight and seven points respectively. Kenya led 28-11 at half-time. Strong defensive displays by Wafula and Allan Omondi were the cornerstone of Kenya's performance.

SHORT NEWS

WPL 2027 auction: Molineux fetches Rs 1.10 crore from UPW, Kamalini goes to GG for Rs 40 lakh

KOCHI

Australia captain Sophie Molineux was the biggest buy in the opening phase of the Women's Premier League (WPL) 2027 auction, when UP Warriorz acquired her for Rs 1.10 crore here on Wednesday. Gujarat Giants picked up young India wicketkeeper-batter G Kamalini for her base price of Rs 40 lakh. Sophie, who was part of Royal Challengers Bengaluru's title-winning squad in 2024 and missed WPL 2026, had listed herself at a base price of Rs 50 lakh. UPW opened the bidding, but RCB stayed in the contest, and the price climbed to Rs 95 lakh in under a minute.

UPW pushed it to Rs 1 crore, and RCB responded with Rs 1.05 crore. Finally, UPW sealed the deal with a bid of Rs 1.10 crore. The left-arm spin bowling all-rounder recently returned to international cricket in the T20I series against New Zealand after recovering from a hip injury.

Kamalini, released by Mumbai Indians ahead of the auction and widely tipped to have a big payday after not being in the mix for the 2027 U19 Women's T20 World Cup, went to GG with minimal fuss as no other franchise bid for her. Although her WPL record for Mumbai Indians has been modest, Kamalini, a member of the 2025 U19 World Cup-winning team, has been in the India A and Tamil Nadu teams, apart from being in the senior team.

GG also added Ireland's seam-bowling all-rounder Orla Prendergast for Rs 30 lakh.



Delhi Capitals made their first signing of the auction by securing India batter Kiran Navgire for Rs 75 lakh. Mumbai Indians opened the bidding at Rs 40 lakh and pushed the former UPW player's price to Rs 70 lakh, before DC went to Rs 75 lakh. With only Rs 90 lakh in their purse, MI pulled out.

UPW also brought in India's off-spin bowling all-rounder Sneh Rana and Australia's hard-hitting all-rounder Grace Harris for their base price of Rs 30 lakh each. Sneh, a former Gujarat Giants captain who was part of RCB as a replacement player, drew no other bids, including from her former team DC.

Grace returns to UPW after a productive season with RCB, who won the WPL title in 2026. RCB released her with Ellyse Perry set to return, and she is likely to compete for an opening slot in UPW alongside Meg Lanning or Pratika Rawal. Several others also went unsold in the early rounds. Raghvi Bist, who has played two T20Is for India and was the first player to go under the hammer, attracted no bids at her base price of Rs 30 lakh. Maharashtra's big-hitting middle-order batter Tejal Hasabnis, currently part of India's ODI squad for the series against Zimbabwe, also went unsold. So did Ayushi Soni, who has played one T20I and one WPL match for GG. Sri Lanka captain Chamari Athapaththu, one of her country's most influential players, went unsold. England batter Sophia Dunkley, one of only two English players in the auction, failed to find a buyer at her base price of Rs 50 lakh.

DC have strengthened an already strong squad, says coach Batty on auction strategy

NEW DELHI

Delhi Capitals strengthened their squad for the upcoming Women's Premier League (WPL) 2027 season, securing four players, including Indian player Kiran Navgire, in the player auction in Kochi on Wednesday, with head coach Jonathan Batty claiming they have strengthened an already strong side.

With a strong core of 13 retained players, the franchise added explosive Indian batter Navgire, promising 15-year-old all-rounder Uma Kashvi, Indian all-rounder Nazma Khan and Scotland spinner Kirstie Gordon to complete their 17-member squad.

Delhi Capitals spent ₹1.05 crore at the auction, taking their total squad expenditure to ₹14.95 crore, including ₹13.9 crore spent on retentions. Navgire was the franchise's marquee acquisition at ₹75 lakh, while Kashvi, Khan and Gordon were secured for ₹10 lakh each.

Speaking after the auction, the team's Head Coach Jonathan Batty expressed satisfaction with the franchise's acquisitions, highlighting the additional firepower in the batting department, the depth of the squad and the potential of its newest young recruit. "Kiran was a high-value target for us. She's probably the most dynamic and powerful batter in the auction. With Shafali at the top of the order and power further down the lineup with players like Chinelle Henry, Kiran gives us another dimension to consider in our batting order. It has the potential to make our batting lineup absolutely staggering," Batty said.

One of Delhi Capitals' most exciting acquisitions was Uma Kashvi, the 15-year-old Karnataka all-rounder who became the youngest player to be sold in WPL auction history. A right-arm spin-bowling all-rounder, Kashvi has represented India Under-19 in a series against Sri Lanka Under-19, gaining valuable exposure to the international junior circuit at an early stage of her career.

Batty credited the franchise's scouting network for tracking Kashvi's progress and emphasised that her signing was a long-term investment in her development. "She's been on our radar for a little while. Our scouts have watched her play extensively and shared some incredible feedback, and I've seen her play as well. We believe she could become an absolute superstar in the future.

Sports, Education Ministries sign MoU with UNESCO to promote clean sport values in classrooms



NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Ministry of Education and UNESCO have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to introduce clean sport values in classrooms across India through the 'Sports Values in Every Classroom Toolkit', in a bid to promote integrity, fairness and respect among school children.

The agreement was exchanged on Wednesday at the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) India's Clean Sport Conclave in New Delhi, in the presence of Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Education Minister Pralhad Joshi and UNESCO's Regional Office for South Asia Director Tim Curtis.

The toolkit will use educational resources and video modules available in 13 Indian languages to reach students nationwide. The initiative aligns with the integration of sports and education emphasised in the Khelo Bharat Niti 2025 and aims to build awareness of clean sport from an early age.

"Sporting excellence and sporting integrity must go hand in hand. Talent, discipline and hard work are essential for sporting success, but integrity, fairness and credibility are equally important," Mandaviya said, highlighting the need to strengthen clean sport awareness alongside India's growing sporting ambitions.

The Sports Minister pointed to India's fourth-place finishes at the Asian Games and Asian Para Games as indicators of the country's growing sporting strength, while cautioning that doping remained a serious concern requiring sustained efforts in education, prevention, testing and enforcement.

"During 2025–26, the National Anti-Doping Agency of India conducted over 7,000 tests and more than 350 education and awareness sessions, reaching 27,000 participants, "Supplement testing facilities at National Forensic Sciences University, Gandhinagar and National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Hyderabad further help prevent cases of inadvertent doping, while investigations within NADA would be strengthened in line with global practices. The National Anti-Doping Act came into force this year and the government is also preparing to bring provisions for the criminalisation of doping-related activities before Parliament," Mandaviya added. Mandaviya further noted that the National Anti-Doping Act had come into force this year, adding that the government was preparing to bring provisions for the criminalisation of doping-related activities before Parliament.

Education Minister Joshi described the agreemt as a step towards bridging the long-standing gap between academics and sports. He observed that students who performed well academically did not always participate in sporting activities, underlining the need to expand grassroots opportunities and establish stronger pathways for young athletes.

"This MoU is an important step towards strengthening the connection between education and sports, which has been missing for a long time. Through this initiative, we are working to ensure that sports values become an integral part of every child's educational experience. I'm very happy that children are now being educated about clean sport and the values associated with it. The values being introduced through this toolkit must spread beyond classrooms and reach every section of society. By integrating sports values into education, we can help nurture responsible citizens and build a culture of fairness and integrity from an early agem" he said.

WPL 2027 auction: Kamalini's batting, Prendergast's all-round skills give us more options, says Klinger

KOCHI



Gujarat Giants head coach Michael Klinger said the signings of G Kamalini and Orla Prendergast at the 2027 Women's Premier League (WPL) auction had given the franchise greater flexibility, especially in how it uses its overseas players in the upcoming season. GG bought wicketkeeper-batter Kamalini for her base price of Rs 40 lakh and seam-bowling all-rounder Orla for Rs 30 lakh. "We picked Kamalini mainly as a batter. We felt she was the best batter on the auction list, and we wanted to add more strength to our batting and give ourselves more options, including with our overseas players.

"We probably got her for less than we expected, as we thought there would be more bidding. So, we are really happy with the signing," said Klinger on JioStar's 'Match Centre Live Auction Special' show.

Orla has also become the first Irish cricketer to be picked in the WPL. Klinger, who has worked with her in The Hundred at the Welsh Fire, said the all-rounder would bring a different dimension to the side. "She will give us a different approach. The combination of Kamalini's batting and Orla's all-round skills gives us more options with our overseas players. We also have some bowling options in the squad, so we will see if we stick to a similar combination as last year.

"Orla had a really good World Cup in India last year, so she knows these conditions. I was fortunate enough to work with her in The Hundred last year, so we know each other well. She will be a great addition to the squad and give us more versatility."

With Rs 50 lakh left in their purse at that time, Klinger said the Giants had not been sure they would have enough for a final pick and planned to wait for the accelerated round.

"We were not sure if we would be able to make a final pick, as we thought we might spend more on the first two signings. We now have some time to think about it. The majority of our squad is settled, and we have a few ideas. We will probably wait for the accelerated round."

GG eventually filled their last slot in the accelerated round by signing 16-year-old Delhi-based all-rounder Samaira Raghav for Rs 10 lakh. The WPL 2027 season will run from January 14 to February 7, with the venues yet to be known.

1st ODI: 'Pratika and Shafali's chase was a masterclass,' says Smriti after India's win

VADODARA

India captain Smriti Mandhana praised Pratika Rawal and Shafali Verma for their commanding batting performances, describing their match-winning partnership as a "masterclass" after the World Champions registered a nine-wicket victory over Zimbabwe in the first ODI of the three-match series at the BCA Stadium in Kotambi, Vadodara, on Friday.

Rawal struck an unbeaten 100 off 96 balls, while Shafali remained not out on 64 off just 34 deliveries as India chased down Zimbabwe's target of 198 in 27.1 overs to take a 1-0 lead in the series. Praising the duo's approach during the chase, Mandhana said their performance was a standout feature of India's dominant outing. "Yes, we can tidy up our fielding; a few catches went down our way, but otherwise, again Shafali and Pratika went about that chase, and it was a masterclass," Mandhana said after the match.

Rawal anchored the chase with an assured unbeaten century, striking 15 boundaries, while Shafali provided the aggression with five fours and four sixes. The pair ensured India maintained control after Mandhana's dismissal for 32 off 34 balls, reaching the target with nine wickets in hand. Earlier, India's bowlers restricted Zimbabwe to 197 in 49.5 overs, with spinner Shree Charani leading the attack with figures of four for 23.

Kranti Gaud picked up three wickets, while vice-captain Deepti Sharma claimed two and Shafali took one. Mandhana lauded the bowling unit for adapting well to a different venue, singling out Charani and also praising the discipline shown by the pace bowlers. "Coming into a different ground, I think the bowlers adapted really well, especially Shree Charani, I think the standout bowler for us.

Bayern Munich manager Vincent Kompany collapses after training session, taken to hospital

MUNICH



Bayern Munich manager Vincent Kompany collapsed after a training session in Munich on Friday and was immediately taken to hospital by ambulance, with the club confirming that he would remain under medical care for further examinations.

"Vincent Kompany had to seek medical treatment on Friday after collapsing during training for FC Bayern's amateurs. The first-team coach had been watching the second team's session. Kompany will undergo a thorough examination in the hospital and remain in medical care. For the time being, his coaching staff will manage training and match operations," Bayern said in a statement.

The incident comes days after Kompany complained of pain in his leg and hip ahead of Bayern's UEFA Champions League match against Arsenal on Wednesday. The discomfort was believed to be linked to a virus he had been suffering from.

Bayern Munich assistant coach Aaron Danks had addressed the media at the pre-match press conference in Kompany's place, explaining that the manager needed time to recover.

"It's just a virus. The doctors, the experts, know way more than I do," Danks had said.

"The most important thing we've just encouraged is that he rests, he takes the time he needs, whatever that may be, however long that may be. Whether that's tomorrow or whether that's two, three days, I don't know at this moment. Getting Vince to rest is a challenge," he said.

CHL 2026: Yuvraj Walmiki's hat-trick sinks Sanskardhani Strikers

RAIPUR (CHHATTISGARH)



It was yet another great day for hockey at the Chhattisgarh Hockey League (CHL) with Chakradhar Champions blazing past Sanskardhani Strikers 6-4 in a lopsided evening match in Raipur. The proceedings were witnessed by the Deputy Chief Minister of the state, Shri Arun Sao, which only motivated the players to deliver their best at the state-of-the-art Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Hockey Stadium, Raipur.

The match started with seasoned Indian player SV Sunil's brilliance. When chances weren't coming for Chakradhar, all he needed was a pass from the midfield. From there, he sent down a precise pass to Yuvraj Walmiki in the circle, who attempted a shot and scored on the rebound. Just a minute later, CC created another opportunity that resulted in a goal. Arjun Yadav managed to steal the ball from the Strikers defender just outside the circle and passed it in front of the goalpost. Kartik Yadav was ready with a big dive to swell the lead to 2-0. It did not take long in the 2nd quarter for the Champions to come up with their third goal.

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

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

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

Come the fourth, CC came all guns blazing, and Manish scored through a fine deflection in the circle. That goal, in a way, ended all hopes for the Strikers. Another PC meant another scoring opportunity for Sunil's team; the goal did come, albeit on the rebound by Walmiki, who went on to score his third of the night.

Sai Pallavi Hailed As Sita Maa



Rise of a Legend is an upcoming mythological drama set for a grand Diwali release. The film, however, was screened at the Academy Museum of Motion Pictures' David Geffen Theatre in Los Angeles. The cast and crew attended the screening as part of the film's promotion. Everyone was surprised by the roaring response to Sai Pallavi's presence. Sai Pallavi has already debuted in Bollywood and doesn't need a special introduction to the Hindi audience. However, when she was cast as Sita Devi in the film, she faced unnecessary criticism. Even when the glimpses were released, Sai Pallavi's look drew criticism. Later, when the teaser and trailer came out, a lot of people criticized Sai Pallavi as a miscast. On social media, some of the netizens even pointed out that the background artists looked better than Sai Pallavi. But today, after the film's screening, things seem to have changed. When Sai Pallavi walked onto the stage right after the screening in Los Angeles, the crowd began chanting 'Sita Maa Ki Jai ', and it itself is a testimony that Sai Pallavi's talent speaks volumes more than anything else. In fact, Sai Pallavi got a bigger cheer than what Ranbir received at the event. Sai Pallavi is considered the Lady Powerstar in the Telugu film industry, and her success is not matched by anyone in the South. The positive reception at the special screening could be the start of what Sai Pallavi can create in Bollywood. In the coming days, Bollywood audiences will get a chance to witness the real talent of the actress behind her stardom, and we wish that she receives all the love, support, and respect. Directed by Nitesh Tiwari, Ramayana's first part gears up for a release on November 5th.

Mirai Beauty Shines In POWERPETA



Director Krishna Chaitanya is bringing together an intriguing combination of characters, emotions and political drama in Powerpeta, his ambitious film starring Sundeep Kishan. The project, backed by 70mm Entertainments, has made considerable progress, with the makers completing 60% of the shoot. Meanwhile, the team has announced that Mirai girl Ritika Nayak has been cast as the lead actress. They have also unveiled the first-look poster of the actress on the occasion of her birthday. The actress, who scored hat-trick blockbusters with her first three films, plays Padamata-veedhi Janaki, the female lead opposite Sundeep Kishan, and the poster offers an appealing introduction to her character. Unlike the intense impression created by Sundeep Kishan's glimpse, Ritika's first look focuses on charm and traditional beauty. She appears in a half saree with a sleeveless blouse and dupatta. Sitting on a wooden bench in a manduva house, she exudes a composed and graceful presence. A blend of traditional charm and modern glamour defines Ritika Nayak's appearance in a special glimpse that captures her in multiple avatars, revealing different facets of her personality. While her traditional looks underline her elegance, her trendy appearances showcase a more glamorous side, particularly in the oversized-shirt look. Sundeep Kishan was previously introduced as Senapathi Ravi in a glimpse that received a strong response. Krishna Chaitanya is aiming to present Powerpeta on a grand scale. The film also has an accomplished technical crew. Madhie is handling cinematography, Mani Sharma is composing the music, and Sreekar Prasad is in charge of editing. Ramakrishna and Monika are overseeing production design.

Malavika Classy Style

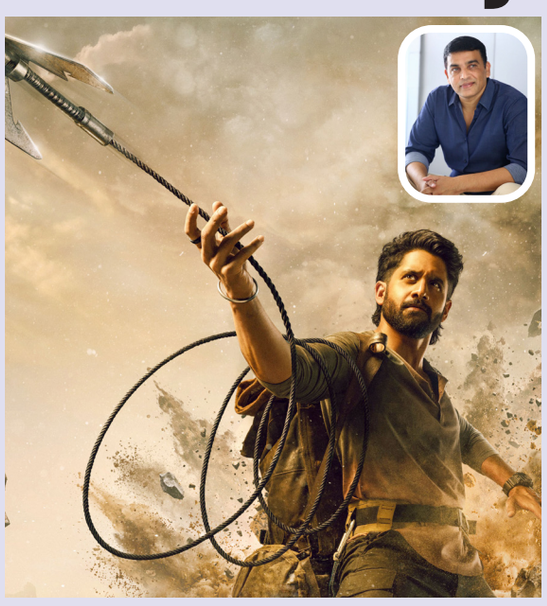
Malavika Mohanan has worked across four industries: Malayalam, Tamil, Hindi and Telugu. She has a good fan base everywhere, but she is still waiting for that one big break that will take her to the top. Meanwhile she clicked in a red lehenga, she looked graceful and bold at the same time. The fitted blouse has a deep neckline and gold embroidery, and the sheer dupatta with a golden border adds drama. She completed the look with jhumkas, stacked bangles, a mirror work potli and a sleek bun with a small bindi. Malavika has Pocket Novel lined up next. Her recently released film Sardar 2 flopped.

Dhanush's OM May Stir A Political Storm



Dhanush is one of the leading actors in Tamil cinema, and his next film, OM: Chapter 1, is creating curiosity with its promotional content. Directed by Rajkumar Periasamy of Amaran fame, the film features Sai Pallavi in a key role. The latest glimpse introducing her character has grabbed attention. The promotional videos released so far suggest that the story revolves around red sandalwood smuggling in the Seshachalam forests. Dhanush appears to play a young man connected to the labourers involved in cutting red sandalwood trees. Naturally, the subject reminds many viewers of Allu Arjun's Pushpa franchise. However, the makers may be exploring a different angle instead of repeating Pushpa's familiar storyline. The film appears to focus on the lives of workers involved in the red sandalwood trade and the larger network behind the illegal activity. The subject also brings back memories of the controversial 2015 incident in the Seshachalam forests, where 20 people suspected of involvement in red sandalwood smuggling were killed in police firing. The incident triggered widespread debate, with questions raised about the circumstances of the deaths. Many of the deceased were reportedly labourers from Tamil Nadu. The Andhra Pradesh police maintained that the firing took place after the group attacked the personnel. However, the incident drew criticism from several quarters, and the National Human Rights Commission sought an explanation from the state authorities. With Sai Pallavi reportedly playing Nithya Reddy, a police officer investigating the smuggling network, the film seems to explore the issue from multiple perspectives. This has raised speculation about how the story will portray the workers, the smugglers and the officials involved in the case. If the film draws heavily from the 2015 incident, it could invite debate in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu after its release. Whether Rajkumar Periasamy presents a balanced perspective or takes a particular narrative approach remains to be seen. The film's actual content will determine how audiences respond.

Vrushakarma Gets Dil Raju's Backing



The pre-release business surrounding Naga Chaitanya's Vrushakarma is gathering momentum even before the film enters the final stretch of its promotional campaign. The latest development is the acquisition of its theatrical rights for Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Karnataka by prominent producer and distributor Dil Raju, a move that underlines the growing trade interest in this highly anticipated project. Presented as a mystical adventure thriller, Vrushakarma brings together an unusual premise, extensive production work, and a team with promising credentials. Chaitanya takes on a challenging role, while Karthik Dandu returns after the success of Virupaksha. The director's experience in building an engaging supernatural narrative has become one of the factors contributing to the curiosity surrounding the film. The promotional material has gradually established the film's distinctive atmosphere, while the latest developments have kept it in industry discussions. With Dil Raju's distribution network backing its theatrical release, Vrushakarma is now heading towards an important phase in its journey to cinemas. Scheduled for release on December 4, the film has several factors working in its favour.

Imanvi Sets The Glam Game On Fire



Imanvi, the heroine of Prabhas's upcoming film Fauzi, has upped her glam game. She is mostly known for looking killer in traditional outfits, and this look is just as deadly. The main highlight is the grey textured off shoulder top, which leaves one shoulder bare and sits softly on her frame. Her loose wavy hair, small gold earrings and a delicate ring keep the styling light, while the warm lighting makes her shoulder glow. On the film front, Fauzi has landed in controversy. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's grandnephew Chandra Kumar Bose objected to the teaser scene showing Netaji meeting Hitler, and demanded a public apology from director Hanu Raghavapudi for distorting history. The makers have not responded so far. The film is currently scheduled to release on March 19, 2027.

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