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SIR Notice Verification Certificates Can Be Submitted Online

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CJP's Dipke Challenges Maharashtra Govt Ahead of Oct 2 Protest

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Trump Hails US Troop Withdrawal from Iraq as 'Victory'

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Centre Tells Private Fuel Retailers to Stop Rationing Petrol, Diesel

Government intervenes as unchanged pump prices and soaring international fuel costs widen losses for retailers

Munsif News Bureau
New Delhi, Oct 1

The Centre will ask private fuel retailers to stop restricting

petrol and diesel sales, Oil Secretary Neeraj Mittal said on Thursday, as rising international fuel costs deepen the financial pressure created

by unchanged domestic pump prices. “Nobody is allowed to cap fuel sales,” Mittal said, adding that the government would tell retailers such restrictions were unacceptable and that its earlier instructions remained in force. Private refiners ‘Reliance Industries and Nayara Energy’ have restricted sales at some outlets in an effort to contain losses from selling petrol and diesel below prevailing market-linked costs. India has not revised retail petrol and diesel prices since May despite sharply higher crude and product prices. Officials at state-run oil companies estimate losses of around ‘₹50 per litre on diesel’, highlighting the growing strain on

fuel marketers. The issue carries a direct consumer impact because prolonged restrictions could affect motorists and transport operators even where adequate national supplies exist. The Centre had itself temporarily limited diesel sales to ‘200 litres per customer or vehicle per day’ in June amid unusual bulk demand, but withdrew that order from ‘July 1’ after reviewing supplies and restoring normal retail arrangements. The larger policy challenge now is whether stable pump prices can be sustained if global fuel costs remain elevated without triggering renewed supply restrictions or a substantial price adjustment.

Telangana Begins Mandal-Level Assessment for Drought Relief

Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct 1

Telangana has begun the process of identifying drought-affected mandals, moving beyond statewide rainfall figures to a field-based assessment that could determine where farmers qualify for relief and other support measures. Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao on Thursday directed officials to work with the Revenue Department and submit the data required for proposals to declare drought-hit mandals. He said the assessment should not depend on rainfall deficit alone. Officials were told to examine ‘dry spells, cropped area, soil moisture, reservoir and



groundwater levels, crop condition, drinking-water and fodder availability, employment and migration*, with field inspections wherever necessary to establish crop losses. The exercise comes after Telangana ended the southwest monsoon with *615.5 mm of rainfall against a normal 740.6 mm, a deficit of 17%. Eighteen of the State’s 33 districts were classi-

fied as deficient; mandal-level data showed “320 mandals deficient and five large-deficient”. A formal drought classification can influence crop-loss relief, drinking-water planning and agricultural assistance. The immediate test will be how quickly field assessments are completed and translated into support for farmers before water stress and financial losses deepen.

Minaret Section Falls During Ujjain Mosque Road-Widening Work

Munsif News Bureau
Ujjain, Oct 1

A section of a minaret at the ‘Shahi Masjid in Chhatra Chowk’ collapsed onto the mosque building on Thursday while the portion affected by a road-widening project was being dismantled, damaging the roof and adjoining parts. No injuries were reported. Members of the Muslim community had been voluntarily carrying out the removal work following an agreement over the portion required for widening the Kanthal-Gopal Mandir road ahead



of ‘Simhashta 2028’. Reports have described the affected width as roughly three to six feet. A local report said a crane belt snapped while the minaret was being handled, causing part of the structure to fall beyond the immediate removal area. The dis-

trict administration confirmed that accidental damage occurred but did not specify the mechanical cause. Collector Roshan Kumar Singh said repair work was underway and urged residents to rely on verified information and avoid rumours.

Hyderabad Gets Common Metro-RTC Travel Pass

Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct 1

Hyderabad commuters will be able to use a common travel pass across Metro Rail and TGSRTC city bus services, marking a significant step towards integrated public transport in the city. While earlier reports had scheduled the initiative for an ‘October 2 launch, the latest update on Thursday evening said TGSRTC and Hyderabad Metro Rail had introduced the common pass’. It will be available at all Hyderabad Metro stations. The pass can be used on Metro services and ‘all categories of city buses operating within the Outer Ring Road’, except Pushpak airport services. The integration is aimed particularly at commuters who use buses to reach Metro stations or continue their journeys after leaving the Metro. TGSRTC has also introduced ‘MeeTicket’, offering digital bus tickets and daily, weekly and monthly passes. The key commuter test will now be affordability, validity conditions and whether transfers between the two systems prove genuinely seamless.

Revanth Hails Telangana-Origin Sandhya Reddy as Strathfield Mayor

IANs News
Hyderabad, Oct 1

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday congratulated Sandhya (Sandy) Reddy, a law graduate from Telangana, on being elected Mayor of Strathfield Council in Sydney. Calling her a “proud daughter of Telangana”, Revanth Reddy wished her success in her new role. Telangana Congress and MP Kiran Kumar Chamala also congratulated her. An Osmania University alumna, Sandhya Reddy was elected the 73rd Mayor of Strathfield Council on



Tuesday for a two-year term. She moved to Australia in 1991 after studying in Hyderabad. Hailing from Mellarreddygudem in Vikarabad district, she is the cousin’s daughter of BJP MP Konda Vishweshwar Reddy, who also congratulated her on the achievement.



Ministry of Defence Organises Voluntary Blood Donation Camp on the occasion of National Voluntary Blood Donation Day at Kartavya Bhavan-2, New Delhi on Thursday.

Telangana Leaders Praise Pilot Smit Machchhar’s Bravery

IANs News
New Delhi, Oct 1

Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla and Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday praised Flydubai pilot Captain Smit Machchhar for his courage and presence of mind in preventing a major air tragedy. Machchhar reportedly thwarted an attempt by his co-pilot to take control of the aircraft during a Dubai-Tel Aviv flight



on Wednesday, despite suffering serious injuries. The Governor lauded his courage and sense of duty, while Revanth Reddy praised his commitment to passenger safety and wished him a speedy recovery. Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Telangana BJP and BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao also praised the pilot and prayed for his recovery.

GST Collection Rises 14.7% to Rs 2.04 Lakh Crore

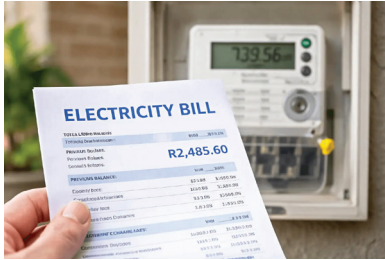
IANs News
New Delhi, Oct 1

India’s gross GST collection rose 14.7 per cent year-on-year to Rs 2,03,521 crore in September, staying above Rs 2 lakh crore for the third straight month. Cumulative GST collection during April-September stood at Rs 12,46,278 crore, up 11.6 per cent.

SC Order on E-Challans Does Not Mention Linking Fines to Power Bills

IANs News
New Delhi, Oct 1

The Supreme Court’s suggestion to link unpaid traffic e-challans with electricity bills was an oral observation during a hearing and does not figure in the written order uploaded on Thursday. The order instead lists measures to recover pending traffic fines, including freezing online vehicle services, withholding registration and fitness certificates, and blocking address updates until dues are cleared. The court also directed that vehicles with outstanding challans be blacklisted on the Parivahan portal, preventing their sale or transfer. Licences should not be renewed in cases involving multiple violations, while existing licences may be suspended. The Bench further directed authorities not to issue PUC certificates until dues are cleared and said vehicles could be impounded if e-challans remain unpaid. The court noted that states and Union Territories have around Rs 49,194 crore in outstanding e-challan dues, of which about Rs 26,175 crore has been recovered.



Hyderabad SHE Teams Catch 3,068 Women in Public Spaces

Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct 1

Hyderabad SHE Teams caught 3,068 people, including 113 minors, for alleged misbehaviour and harassment of women in public places during September, police said on Thursday. The Women and Child Safety Wing intensified plain-clothes surveillance and video monitoring during the festive season at temples, procession routes, bus stops, Metro stations, markets and other crowded areas. Police said the action targeted stalking, obscene comments, unwanted physical contact and other forms of public harassment. A total of 106 petty cases were registered. Five offenders received jail terms of up to seven days along with fines, while 40 were fined and ordered to perform social service; another 61 were fined. 961 people were counselled and warned, while 2,001 cases were pending disposal at the time of the update. SHE Teams use hotspot surveillance and photographic or video evidence to identify alleged offenders and initiate legal or preventive action.





Nizamabad Sessions Court Sentences Man to 7 Years' Rigorous Imprisonment in Attempt-to-Murder Case

Munsif News Bureau
Nizamabad,Oct.1:

District Sessions Judge G.V.N. Bharata Lakshmi on Wednesday sentenced Jambilam Dilip of Burudugalli in Nizamabad city to seven years' rigorous imprisonment in a case involving an attempt to murder a woman.

According to Sessions Court Public Prosecutor Dharpally Rajeshwar Reddy, Dilip was living in Burudugalli with his mother, wife Pooja, daughter and son. He had secured employment as a worker in the Nizamabad Municipal Corporation on compassionate grounds following the death of

his father. However, he allegedly became addicted to alcohol and frequently harassed his mother and wife for money to purchase liquor.

Neighbour Resham Lakshmi had reportedly reprimanded Dilip several times and advised him to stop harassing his family and give up alcohol. On December 9, 2024, at around 4.30 pm, Lakshmi intervened when Dilip was allegedly harassing his mother and wife. Angered by this, Dilip allegedly caught her by the neck, twisted and strangled her. He also kicked her on her right leg, which had previously undergone surgery, causing her to fall.

The prosecution further alleged that Dilip sat on her chest and attempted to kill her.

Following the incident, police registered a case, conducted an investigation and submitted the collected evidence before the court. After the prosecution successfully proved the charges during the trial, the Sessions Court sentenced Dilip to seven years' rigorous imprisonment and imposed a fine of ₹1,000. In default of payment, he will undergo an additional three months' imprisonment.

Public Prosecutor Rajeshwar Reddy said four other criminal cases against Dilip are currently under trial in different courts. One of the cases relates to the

alleged injury of his four-year-old son with a blade.

Nizamabad Police Commissioner P. Sai Chaitanya, IPS, appreciated the police personnel who worked towards securing the conviction, including Briefing Officer Yadagiri, SI, Investigation Officer Md. Yasir Arafat, SI, Court Liaison Officer Govind, SI, CMS Court Constables and CDO police personnel.

The Commissioner advised police personnel to conduct investigations professionally, ensure that evidence is properly presented before courts and continuously monitor the progress of cases to secure punishment for offenders as per law.



Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy attended the inauguration programme of the new Karimnagar Collectorate office. On the occasion, Karimnagar District Congress Minority Chairman Mohammed Tajuddin warmly welcomed the Chief Minister by tying an Imam Zamin around his arm and conveyed his best wishes. Tajuddin expressed his hope that Telangana would continue to progress and that people from all sections of society would receive equal opportunities, welfare, justice and the benefits of development. He hoped that Telangana would achieve further progress in all sectors in the coming days and emerge as a model for development in the country. He also wished that Karimnagar district would receive greater priority in development, with solutions to public issues and further expansion of basic infrastructure and welfare programmes.

Verification certificates for S.I.R notices can be submitted online

Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad,Oct.1:

Collector Ila Tripathi suggested that voters who have received notices as part of Special Intensive Revision process can also send relevant verification certificates through online via e-mail, WhatsApp without meeting BLOs directly in person. State Chief Electoral Officer C. Sudarshan Reddy reviewed progress of Special Comprehensive Revision process of voter list through video conference with all district collectors on Thursday.

He suggested to dispose of Form-6, Form-7, Form-8 applications within stipulated deadline. He said that inquiry should be conducted properly regarding notices issued as part of SIR to



those for whom mapping has not been done and those who have discrepancy in name and other details.

He said that if found to be ineligible, they should be informed through speaking orders. He said that if notices are still not issued to anyone, notices should be given immediately.

He suggested to inform political parties from time to time about progress of S.I.R.

to reasons like majority of them migrating to other areas, not staying at addresses mentioned in voter lists.

Collector said that they are trying to serve notices by sending BLOs repeatedly to their houses at field level. She said that information about progress of S.I.R process is being informed to political parties from time to time, and steps have been taken to display information also on notice boards of ERO, AERO offices.

However, Collector suggested on this occasion that voters who have already received notices, if they do not have opportunity to meet BLOs directly, can contact through online via WhatsApp, e-mail and send verification certificates.

Tholi Mudda Programme Held at Anganwadi Centre in Asifabad

Munsif News Bureau
Kagaznagar,Oct.1:

The Telangana government's flagship 'Tholi Mudda' programme, aimed at providing nutritious food to children from an early age and laying a strong foundation for their healthy growth and bright future, was organised at an Anganwadi Centre in Asifabad on Wednesday.

MLC Dande Vittal, District Collector K. Haritha and District Library Institution Chairman Anil attended the programme

as chief guests. They personally fed the children their first bite of food and conveyed their blessings and good wishes for their healthy growth.

Speaking on the occasion, MLC Dande Vittal said children's smiles symbolise the bright future of Telangana. He stressed that proper nutrition is essential not only for children's physical growth and strength but also for their mental development, learning abilities and overall well-being.

Personality Development is Foundation for Progress in All Fields: Warangal CP N. Shweta

Munsif News Bureau
Warangal,Oct.1:

Warangal Police Commissioner N. Shweta, IPS, said that adopting discipline, a spirit of service, leadership qualities and positive thinking from student life helps in developing a strong personality.

She said personality development forms the foundation for progress in all fields, including education, employment and social service. Addressing a National Service

Scheme (NSS) guidance programme held at Pingili Government Women's College on Thursday as the chief guest, the Police Commissioner said NSS plays an important role in fostering social responsibility, a spirit of service, leadership qualities and a responsible attitude towards society among students. She advised the students to make the best use of their abilities, actively participate in social welfare programmes such as NSS and contribute to the service of society.

Awareness Rally Held in Nizamabad to Mark International Day of Older Persons

NSS
Nizamabad,Oct.1:

An awareness rally highlighting the welfare and rights of senior citizens was organised from Kanteshwar Reliance Chowrasta to SS Convention Function Hall in Nizamabad. The rally was flagged off by DLSA Secretary Smt. Neelima.

Later, the International Day of Older Persons was celebrated on a grand scale at SS Convention Function Hall in K.C.R. Colony under the auspices of the District Welfare Officer, Women, Child, Disabled and Senior Citizens Welfare Department, and the District Rural Development Officer and SERP Department, elderly women belonging to Self-Help Groups from every mandal in the district were also felicitated by the chief guests.

Under the aegis of the District Rural Development Officer and SERP Department, elderly women belonging to Self-Help Groups from every mandal in the district were also felicitated by the chief guests.

City Mayor Smt. Kuragayala Uma Rani, Ramesh, DLSA Secretary Smt. Neelima, District Welfare Officer Smt. D. Soundarya, SERP Project Manager Murali Krishna, District Federation President Smt. Hemalatha, DPM (IB) Smt. Neelima, APM Prasad, Cyber Crime Department official Srinivas, AYUSH Department official Tirupati and members of the District-Level Senior Citizens Committee attended the programme.

dedicated services for the welfare of senior citizens were also honoured.

Awareness was created among participants on measures for protecting the health of senior citizens, the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, and precautions against cybercrime and online fraud.

Under the aegis of the District Rural Development Officer and SERP Department, elderly women belonging to Self-Help Groups from every mandal in the district were also felicitated by the chief guests.

City Mayor Smt. Kuragayala Uma Rani, Ramesh, DLSA Secretary Smt. Neelima, District Welfare Officer Smt. D. Soundarya, SERP Project Manager Murali Krishna, District Federation President Smt. Hemalatha, DPM (IB) Smt. Neelima, APM Prasad, Cyber Crime Department official Srinivas, AYUSH Department official Tirupati and members of the District-Level Senior Citizens Committee attended the programme.



District Collector K. Haritha directed officials to take advance safety measures to prevent road accidents in the district. The Collector held a review meeting on road safety and accident prevention with officials of the concerned departments at the conference hall of the Integrated District Collectorate building on Wednesday. District SP Nethika Panth, Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Yuvraj Murmatt, Kagaznagar Sub-Collector Harsh Chaudhary and Asifabad RDO Lokeshwar Rao attended the meeting.

Munsif News Bureau
Asifabad,Oct.1:

District Collector K. Haritha directed officials to take advance safety measures to prevent road accidents across the district.

The Collector held a review meeting on road safety and accident prevention with officials of various departments at the conference hall of the Integrated District

Collectorate building on Wednesday. District SP Nethika Panth, Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Yuvraj Murmatt, Kagaznagar Sub-Collector Harsh Chaudhary and Asifabad Revenue Divisional Officer Lokeshwar Rao were present.

The Collector directed officials to identify accident-prone locations on national highways and take necessary safety measures at

such places. She also called for creating awareness among cattle owners to prevent livestock from straying onto roads.

She said accidents were occurring on major highways, in municipal areas and at mandal headquarters due to cattle and stray dogs suddenly entering roads. She directed officials to pay special attention to the issue and repair potholes on Roads

and Buildings (R&B) and Panchayat Raj roads on a priority basis.

The Collector instructed officials to conduct awareness programmes in colleges and schools on traffic and road safety rules.

Measures should also be taken to prevent auto drivers and other motorists from driving under the influence of alcohol, while motorists should be encouraged to

strictly use helmets and seat belts.

She ordered regular checks against driving by minors and directed police to register drunk-and-drive cases against motorists found driving under the influence of alcohol.

The Collector also stressed the need to ensure the availability of ambulances for immediate shifting of accident victims to nearby hospitals. She called upon all concerned

departments to work in coordination to prevent road accidents.

Asifabad and Kagaznagar DSPs Ashok and Waheeduddin, District Panchayat Officer Bakshapathi, R&B and Panchayat Raj Engineering Executive Engineer Dharmendra, District Transport officials and representatives of various departments attended the meeting.

Teachings of Khwaja Nizamuddin Auliya Embody Love, Remembrance and Service to Humanity: Mufti Dr Hafiz

Nizamabad Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct.1:

The lives of the great Sufi saints represent a luminous chapter in Islamic history, reflecting faith, piety, sincerity, love for the Holy Prophet ﷺ and selfless service to humanity. Through their character and conduct, they demonstrated that true knowledge and recognition of Allah Almighty cannot be confined to verbal claims, but are attained through worship, noble character, patience, humility, remembrance of Allah and sincere concern for His creation.

The contribution of Sufi saints to the spread of Islam and the moral and spiritual reform of society in the Indian subcontinent remains an important part of this noble tradition.

Speaking on the occasion, Khatib and Imam of the Telangana State Haj House Mosque, Nampally, Hyderabad, Maulana Mufti Dr Hafiz Mohammed Saber Pasha Quadri, said the blessed life of Hazrat Khwaja Nizamuddin Auliya (RA) was a beautiful embodiment of divine love, devotion to the Holy Prophet ﷺ,

worship, remembrance of Allah, patience, contentment and service to humanity.

He said Hazrat Khwaja Nizamuddin Auliya (RA) devoted his entire life to the purification of the soul and reform of society, inspiring countless people through his exemplary character and conduct towards faith and righteousness.

Maulana Pasha Quadri said the company and guidance of the righteous help turn the human heart away from the temporary attractions of worldly life and towards preparation for the Hereafter.



Where is Development in Sircilla Meeting, Ask BRS Leaders

Munsif News Bureau Sircilla, Oct. 1:

BRS leaders alleged that the public meeting held by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy in Sircilla focused more on political criticism of former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) and BRS working president K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) than on development and public issues.

They demanded that the government explain what new development projects were announced for Sircilla apart from criticism of KCR and KTR.

Former ministers Gangula Kamalakar and Jeevan Reddy, former MP Boinpally Vinod Kumar, MLAs Padi

Kaushik Reddy and Dr. Sanjay, and former MLA Rasamai Balakishan addressed a press conference at Telangana Bhavan in Sircilla on Wednesday.

Produce Evidence on 8,000-Acre Land Allegations

Gangula Kamalakar demanded that the government make public the evidence relating to allegations that KTR was involved in the alleged encroachment of 8,000 acres of land.

He alleged that the Chief Minister had said during his Sircilla visit that evidence would be produced, but no such evidence was presented at the meeting.

‘Old Projects, Where Are the New Announcements?’

The BRS leaders said several projects, including the Karimnagar Cable Bridge, Riverfront and Collectorate, had been initiated during the previous BRS government. They demanded that the Congress government disclose details of new development programmes being taken up in Sircilla. They also urged the government to expedite the pending railway bridge works.

Clarify Handloom Workers’ Issues

Former minister Jeevan Reddy demanded that the promises made to handloom workers in Sircilla be implemented. He sought clarity

from the government on the present status of the ‘Worker to Owner’ scheme.

He said the government should focus on issues concerning farmers, irrigation, handloom workers and employment.

Who Deserves Credit for Projects?

Former MP Boinpally Vinod Kumar alleged that the Congress government was taking credit for projects initiated during the BRS regime. He said information regarding the 8,000-acre land allegations had been sought through the RTI Act and demanded that the evidence available with the government be made public.

‘Complete 10% of Sircilla’s Development in Kodangal’

MLA Padi Kaushik Reddy challenged Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to complete at least 10 per cent of the development works undertaken in Sircilla during KTR’s tenure in Kodangal. He demanded recognition of the role played by the previous government in initiating development projects.

Focus on Development

Former MLA Rasamai Balakishan said the government should focus on Sircilla’s development instead of political criticism. He called for priority to be given to the handloom sector, education and basic infrastructure.



BRS leaders alleged that the public meeting held by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy in Sircilla focused more on political criticism of former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) and BRS working president K. T. Rama Rao (KTR) than on development and public issues.

88.306 Quintals of PDS Rice Seized in Karimnagar

Munsif News Bureau Karmnagar, Oct. 1:

Task Force personnel and Two Town Police raided a rice mill in Karimnagar and seized 88.306 quintals of Public Distribution System (PDS) rice allegedly being

illegally recycled and sold at higher prices. According to police, the rice was allegedly procured at low prices from various ration shops and transported to a rice mill located in Hanuman Nagar, Ramnagar industrial area. The PDS rice was reportedly recycled and polished at

the mill, packed into bags under different brands and sold to consumers as fine-quality rice at higher prices. Two Town Circle Inspector Sarojan Reddy said the illegal activity was allegedly being carried out at a rice mill belonging to Thodupunuri Karunakar of Ashok Nagar.

Section 30 Police Act to Remain in Force in Kumram Bheem Asifabad District

Munsif News Bureau Asifabad, Oct. 1:

Kumram Bheem Asifabad District Superintendent of Police Nethika Pant, IPS, has announced that Section 30 of the Police Act will remain in force across the district from September 30 to October 31 to maintain peace and public order. In a statement issued on Friday, the SP said that in view of the prevailing law and order situation and upcoming festivals, restrictions have been imposed across the district.

As Section 30 of the Police Act, 1861, is in force, no dhar-



nas, public meetings, rallies or other programmes involving gatherings may be organised without prior permission from the DSP, ASP or senior police officials.

The SP directed the public to

exercise caution during the upcoming festive season.

Carrying prohibited weapons or any other weapons that could potentially be used to incite or facilitate offences is strictly prohibited.

Public meetings and gatherings causing inconvenience or disturbance to the general public will also not be permitted.

The SP warned that anyone violating the legally issued orders would face action under Section 30 of the Police Act, 1861. She advised organisers to submit applications in advance and obtain the necessary permission before conducting any programme.

Nizamabad Residents Urged to Strictly Follow Police Regulations

Munsif News Bureau Nizamabad, Oct. 1:

Nizamabad Police Commissioner P. Sai Chaitanya, IPS, has appealed to people to strictly follow various regulations issued in the interest of public safety and maintaining law and order. The orders will remain in force from October 1 to October 15, 2026.

Installation of idols: People have been advised not to install idols at locations that could cause inconvenience to the public. Installation of idols in crowded areas, parks, traffic islands and near government build-



ings should be avoided. Prior permission from the committee functioning under the supervision of the District Collector is mandatory for installing idols. Control of noise pollution: The use of DJs at high volume is prohibited. People have been

advised to take care to avoid inconvenience to senior citizens, children and women. DJs and sound systems will be completely prohibited between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. Prior police permission is required for the use of sound systems.

Erravalli land survey report submitted to Siddipet Collector

Hyderabad, Oct.1 (NSS):

The Revenue and Survey, Land Records departments have completed the land survey in Erravalli village and submitted their detailed report to Siddipet District Collector Hymawathi.

The Collector is expected to forward the document to the state government shortly.

The survey was initiated following recent remarks by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy alleging government land encroachments in Erravalli.



On the occasion of National Voluntary Blood Donation Day, the Aasra Foundation, Karimnagar, felicitated 30 blood donors from the erstwhile Karimnagar district at a programme held on Thursday.

Do Not Dwell on the Past; Make the Present Pleasant: Collector

Munsif News Bureau Warangal, Oct. 1:

District Collector Dr. Satya Sharada advised senior citizens not to feel distressed by memories of the past and to lead peaceful lives without succumbing to emotional stress.

She urged them to remain patient within their families and society and pass on their valuable experiences to younger generations.

A district-level programme was organised by the Department of Welfare at the Warangal Collectorate meeting hall on Thursday as part

of the week-long celebrations marking International Day of Older Persons. District Collector Dr. Satya Sharada attended as the chief guest and inaugurated the programme by lighting the lamp.

Addressing the gathering, the Collector said the experiences of senior citizens were extremely valuable in building a healthy and value-based society. She appreciated the participation of a large number of retired and educated persons in the ‘Spoonthi’ programme being conducted in the district, where they share their experiences with students.

She said that when the experiences of elders are shared with children, it helps build their confidence. Students are becoming more willing to speak on stage without fear and are showing interest in various activities.

The Collector advised senior citizens not to become disappointed and instead adopt a peaceful lifestyle and enjoy the present rather than becoming troubled by memories of the past. She also advised parents and senior citizens to retain their property in their own names and prepare a will when necessary.

30 Blood Donors Honoured on National Voluntary Blood Donation Day

Nizamabad Bureau Karimnagar, Oct. 1:

As part of National Voluntary Blood Donation Day, the Aasra Foundation, Karimnagar district centre, felicitated 30 blood donors from the erstwhile Karimnagar district at a programme held on Thursday.

The programme was organised under the leadership of Aasra Foundation founder-president and NSS National Award winner Dr. Rapolu Gopi Krishna. Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar, Karimnagar Mayor Kolagani Srinivas and

Deputy Mayor Y. Sunil Rao attended the event as chief guests. Blood donors who had voluntarily donated blood several times during emergencies were honoured with the ‘Aasra Pran Data-2026’ District-Level Awards, which were presented by Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar.

Bandi Sanjay Kumar congratulated the blood donors and appreciated the services being rendered by the Aasra Foundation to society.

Aasra Foundation general secretary Gole Tirupathi, members M. Ravichandra, S. Nikhil, P. Santosh, S. Advait and others were present.

14.77 Crore Released for three ROB in Nizamabad

Nizamabad Bureau Nizamabad, Oct. 1:

The Telangana government has released more than ₹14.77 crore for the construction of three Railway Over Bridges (ROBs) and their four-lane approach roads in Nizamabad district, aimed at easing traffic congestion at railway crossings.

According to a statement from the camp office of Nizamabad Rural MLA Dr. R. Bhupathi Reddy, the funds were sanctioned following the efforts of State Government Adviser and former minister P. Sudarshan Reddy, TPCC president B. Mahesh Kumar Goud and MLA Bhupathi Reddy.

Funds Sanctioned ₹8,48,65,952 for the ROB at Arsapally. ₹4,04,53,437 for the



ROB on the Manmad–Secunderabad railway line at Nizamabad bypass road. ₹2,24,67,543 for the ROB near Madhav Nagar on the Hyderabad–Nizamabad main

road at Dichpally.

The sanctioned funds will facilitate construction of the ROB along with development of four-lane approach roads.

Public Service and Environmental Protection inspired by PM Narendra Modi are our true goals: NRR

NSS Hyderabad, Oct.1:

BJP Telangana State President N Ramchander Rao on Thursday said that the ‘Sewa Sankalp Aabhiyan,’ launched by the party to mark the historic occasion of Prime Minister Narendra Modi completing 25 successful years as a public representative and head of government, is further fostering a spirit of service and social responsibility among the people. As part of this campaign, he attended a program organized in the Tamaka area as the chief guest and personally planted saplings. Speaking to the me-

dia afterward, he explained that the month-long Sewa Sankalp Abhiyan is being conducted extensively across the state from September 17 (PM Narendra Modi’s birthday) to October 17. He highlighted that party cadres, along with public participation, are successfully carrying out blood donation camps, cleanliness drives, voluntary labor (shramdaan), and various other welfare initiatives across Telangana.

Rao called upon everyone to not only plant trees but also protect them to ensure a clean and healthy environment for future generations.

4.72 Crore Sanctioned for Development of Tribal Ashram Schools in Mudhole

Munsif News Bureau Mudhole, Oct 1:

A total of ₹4.72 crore has been sanctioned for the development of tribal Ashram schools and provision of better facilities for students in the Mudhole Assembly constituency. In addition, ₹1.60 crore has been allocated for the construction of 15 community halls in various tribal thandas. Mudhole MLA Pawara Ramarao Patel disclosed this at a press conference held at the Lokeshwaram mandal headquarters on Thursday.

He said special attention was being paid to the development of tribal Ashram schools. He had personally visited several Ashram schools on multiple occasions to review the problems faced by students and school managements and had requested the concerned department minister to sanction funds for resolv-

ing them. Following his request, the government had released the funds, he said.

According to the MLA, ₹1.90 crore has been sanctioned for the Tribal Ashram School in Bhainsa. The funds will be utilised for construction of additional classrooms, a kitchen shed and a dining hall.

Similarly, ₹99 lakh has been sanctioned for the Tribal Ashram School at Dudharan in Kubeer mandal, while ₹1.73 crore has been sanctioned for the Tribal Ashram School in Tanur mandal. The funds will be utilised to provide basic facilities required by the students.

Rama Rao Patel said ₹1.60 crore had been sanctioned for construction of community halls in 15 tribal thandas across the Assembly constituency, with ₹10 lakh allocated for each hall.

Community halls will be

constructed at Rangashivani, Brahmeswar, Faqir Naik, Dudharan No. 5 and Ranjani thandas in Kubeer mandal; Narasimha Nagar and Nagar thanda in Lokeshwaram mandal; Jhri, Happenli and Bamnl thandas in Tanur mandal; Chintakanta, Edbid and Vitoli thandas in Mudhole mandal; and Ambakanti and Haniya thandas in Kuntala mandal.

The MLA thanked Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, concerned department minister Adluri Laxman and district in-charge minister Jupally Krishna Rao for sanctioning the funds.

Former Bhainsa Market Committee chairman Rajesh Babu thanked MLA Pawara Ramarao Patel for securing ₹4.72 crore for the development of tribal Ashram schools and ₹1.60 crore for construction of community halls in tribal thandas.

Blood Donation is a Vital Humanitarian Service: Dr. Kharat

Munsif News Bureau Bidar, Oct.1:

“Blood donation is a vital humanitarian service. The blood we donate helps save the lives of accident victims, patients

undergoing surgeries, pregnant women and those requiring emergency medical treatment. Every healthy individual should voluntarily donate blood and contribute to saving lives in so-

ciety,” said Dr. Kharat.

He was speaking after inaugurating a voluntary blood donation camp organised jointly by the University of Horticultural Sciences, Bagalkot, Horticulture

College, Bidar, Red Cross Unit, NSS Units-I and II, district administration, Zilla Panchayat, District Health and Family Welfare Department, District AIDS Control and Prevention

Unit, BRIMS and President Hospital, at the auditorium of Horticulture College, Bidar.

Dr. Kharat said programmes aimed at creating awareness about blood donation and such

camps play an important role in ensuring the availability of blood during emergencies.

District Health Centre Superintendent Suryakant said, “Blood cannot be manufactured

artificially. Only blood voluntarily donated by healthy individuals can help save the lives of patients in need.”

Later, all the staff members and students present at the pro-

gramme took a pledge on the importance of blood donation.

Addressing the gathering, officer Dr. Vijay Mahanthesh explained the importance of blood donation to students.



At a Glance

967 cannabis plants seized in Gujarat

IANS Himmatnagar, Oct. 1

Sabarkantha police seized 967 cannabis plants weighing 345.6 kg and valued at Rs 1.72 crore, allegedly cultivated under cotton crops at farm in Kotda Gadhi village near the Rajasthan border. Police said the action was carried out under the “Say No to Drugs” and “Drug-Free Sabarkantha” missions. Acting on information received during patrols, the LCB raided fields allegedly used by members of the Gamar family to cultivate cannabis.

The plants were recovered from fields identified as being owned and possessed by Raychandbhai Ramabhai Gamar, Jaga Rama Gamar and Rava Punabhai Gamar.

A case was registered at Kheroj Police Station under Sections 8(c), 20(a)(1), 20(b)(2-C) and 29 of the NDPS Act. Raychandbhai Ramabhai Gamar, 25, has been arrested, while Jaga Rama Gamar and Rava Punabhai Gamar are yet to be arrested.



33 injured as bus overturns on NH-44

IANS Jammu, Oct. 1

At least 33 passengers were injured when a West Bengal-registered sleeper bus travelling from Srinagar to Jammu overturned inside a tunnel near Maroog on NH-44 in J&K’s Ramban district on Thursday, officials said.

The 55 passengers were assisted by police, SDRF, CRPF, Army personnel and Civil Quick Response Team volunteers. The injured were shifted to District Hospital Ramban, while nine were referred to GMC Hospital in Jammu city.

A single carriageway was opened in the affected tunnel to facilitate traffic. Officials supervised rescue and traffic management operations.

INDIA MOVES FROM ‘GOVT AS SOLE PROVIDER’ TO ‘NAGRIK DEVO BHAVA’: PM MODI



IANS New Delhi, Oct. 1

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said India had moved from an era when the government was seen as the sole provider and guardian of citizens to one guided by the principle of “Nagrik Devo Bhava”, under which serving citizens is the highest priority.

Addressing the centenary celebrations of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), Modi said the Commission had fulfilled its responsibilities effectively over the past decades and that the focus should now shift from its history to the country’s future.

He said the next 20-25 years would be crucial for India, its people and institutions. UPSC and State Public Service Commissions, he added, would have an important role in providing the governance required to build a ‘Viksit Bharat’.

“The first one is nation first, and the second one is citizen first. These are the two principles on which all selections will be made,” Modi said, stressing that recruitment to public services should be guided by these criteria.

The Prime Minister

said India in 2047 would be different from today, with greater urbanisation, a narrowing gap between villages and cities and higher aspirations among citizens, particularly the youth.

He said public services would need to match changing expectations in an era of instant delivery and rapid technological advances. With artificial intelligence capable of processing thousands of documents quickly and governments having access to real-time data, citizens would expect faster solutions, he said.

“This changing mindset also demands new changes from our civil services,” Modi said, calling for recruitment and selection parameters to be aligned with future requirements.

He also stressed the need to attract young people towards public service rather than merely public office. Modi said the civil services should include professionals committed to serving citizens and understanding the difficulties faced by the poor.

Recalling his interactions with trainee officers, the Prime Minister said he often advised them to write down why they had joined the civil

services. Such a note, he said, could remind them of their original purpose as responsibilities and challenges increased and serve as a tool for self-appraisal.

Modi said the “Nagrik Devo Bhava” approach should be reflected in selection processes at both national and state levels. He called for professionals capable of delivering pro-people, proactive and good governance.

He also called for reducing the examination cycle and noted that steps had already been taken to shorten the process.

The Prime Minister said the young people recruited today would play an important role in building a ‘Viksit Bharat’ and would also be among its beneficiaries.

He said institutions must prepare for a future, in which technology, urbanisation and citizen expectations reshape governance. The recruitment process, he added, should therefore identify candidates with the ability to adapt to changing circumstances while retaining sensitivity towards people’s needs. This, he said, would strengthen capacity of public institutions to respond effectively to citizens.

‘ARREST US NOW’: CJP’S DIPKE CHALLENGES MAHARASHTRA GOVT AHEAD OF OCT 2 PROTEST

IANS Mumbai, Oct. 1

Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke on Thursday challenged the Maharashtra government to arrest him ahead of the party’s agitation in Mumbai from October 2, while demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar

Addressing a press conference, Dipke warned Chief Minister and Home Minister Devendra Fadnavis against repeating what he described as a mistake made on July 20. “If you want to arrest us, do it right now,” he said, referring to the protests over the functioning of the Election Commission of India (ECI)

Dipke accused the ruling coalition of “state-sponsored disenfranchisement” and alleged that the ECI was being used as a political tool. He called Kumar a

“traitor to the nation” and demanded his resignation over allegations of manipulation of electoral rolls

He claimed that 13 crore voters had been deleted from electoral rolls across the country and said the Election Commission should freeze the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) lists and conduct upcoming elections using the

the British for permission to protest, they would have refused him too. Permission or not, we will march,” he said.

Mumbai Police had denied permission for the proposed October 2 protest at Shivaji Park, citing issues including the absence of BMC clearance and concerns over traffic, noise and movement near



2005 voter lists

On police permission for the demonstrations, Dipke said the CJP would proceed with its protest despite the lack of authorisation. “Had Mahatma Gandhi asked

hospitals.

Dipke has nevertheless announced a “Jail Bharo Andolan” in Mumbai. Reacting to Fadnavis’s reported remarks that protesters could face

SHIVAKUMAR ALLEGES BID TO DELETE 50 LAKH VOTERS FROM KARNATAKA ROLLS

IANS Bengaluru, Oct. 1

Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Thursday alleged that BJP and Janata Dal (S) workers were involved in a “criminal conspiracy” to delete around 50 lakh eligible voters from electoral rolls through the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process.

Addressing a press conference, Shivakumar alleged that workers had submitted pre-filled

Form 7 applications to Booth Level Officers (BLOs) seeking deletion of voters, particularly those belonging to minorities, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward Classes and Economically Weaker Sections.

He claimed that 1.07 crore voter names had already been excluded during the SIR process. He alleged that another attempt was underway to remove around 50 lakh names.

Shivakumar claimed that more than 1,600 applications had been submitted in Babaleshwar, 14,000 in Vijayapura and 3,244 in Bhalki.

“Official BJP workers have submitted hundreds of such Form 7 applications in their own names. In some places, BJP workers have admitted their mistakes,” he alleged.

The Chief Minister questioned where the pre-filled forms were being printed and who

was behind the alleged exercise. He urged the Election Commission to identify those involved and initiate legal action.

Shivakumar alleged that the exercise was aimed at creating communal hatred. He announced that he would lead a delegation of ministers to the State Election Commission office to submit a memorandum.

He reiterated his demand for cancellation of the SIR, calling it a “major fraud”.

CENTRE LAUNCHES NATIONAL PNG DRIVE 3.0 TO BOOST NATURAL GAS USE

IANS New Delhi, Oct. 1

Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Thursday launched National PNG Drive 3.0 to accelerate the adoption of piped natural gas (PNG) and help increase the share of natural gas in India’s primary energy mix from around 6 per cent.

Launched during an event marking the 20th Foundation Day of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB), the drive will run from October 1,

2026, to March 31, 2027, in collaboration with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, PNGRB, city gas distribution entities, public sector oil marketing companies and other stakeholders.

The initiative aims to encourage the shift from LPG to PNG and make better use of existing infrastructure. Puri said the focus would be on activating dormant connections, maximising existing city gas distribution networks, expanding PNG coverage in semi-urban and rural areas and connecting new

consumers.

With 6,87,966 inch-km of pipeline already laid, the minister said there was potential for another 1.30 crore connections. PNG Drive 3.0 targets 50 lakh new domestic PNG connections, activation of 40 lakh existing connections and another 50 lakh domestic PNG registrations.

Under PNG Drive 2.0, 12.10 lakh connections, 13.37 lakh billed connections and 15.31 lakh DPNG registrations were recorded. Daily DPNG additions rose 43 per cent, while billed consumer ad-

ditions increased 166 per cent.

PNGRB has authorised around 34,233 km of natural gas pipeline network. Of this, 25,429 km was operational as of June 2025, while 10,459 km was under construction.

The government has taken measures towards “One Nation, One Gas Grid”, including trunk pipelines, viability gap funding in low-demand areas, a unified tariff, expanded city gas networks and LNG terminals.

The expansion aims to improve energy access.

SCRAP OLD, BUY NEW: GUJARAT ANNOUNCES UP TO 50% TAX CONCESSION

IANS Gandhinagar, Oct. 1

The Gujarat government has announced up to 50 per cent concession in Motor Vehicle Tax for owners who scrap eligible old vehicles and purchase new ones, with the benefit linked to the Certificate of Deposit (COD) issued after authorised scrapping.

The concession will be available during registration of a new vehicle against a COD issued for an eligible old vehicle. According to a notification issued by the Ports and Transport Department, only CODs

issued up to March 31, 2027, will qualify.

The provision covers transport and non-transport vehicles manufactured under Bharat Stage-I (BS-I) and earlier emission standards. It also covers medium and heavy goods motor vehicles and medium and heavy passenger motor vehicles manufactured under BS-II standards.

An owner who scraps an eligible vehicle through an authorised facility will receive a COD, which can be produced while registering a new vehicle to claim the applicable tax concession.

The government has retained the existing method of calculating Motor Vehicle Tax, with the concession provided according to prescribed rules. The measure is intended to offer a financial incentive for scrapping older vehicles and replacing them with new ones.

The benefit is available to owners who complete the scrapping process and obtain the required COD within the specified period. The department has clarified that the same scrapped vehicle cannot be used to claim the concession more than once.

DRI BUSTS LEOPARD SKIN TRAFFICKING SYNDICATE IN MAHARASHTRA’S GONDIA

IANS Mumbai, Oct. 1

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) on Thursday said it had dismantled a syndicate involved in the illegal trade of leopard skin in Maharashtra’s Gondia district.

The DRI’s Nagpur Regional Unit, under the Mumbai Zonal Unit, carried out the operation near Purada village on September 29 and apprehended two persons allegedly involved in the illegal dealing and trading of a leopard skin.



Officials said the leopard skin was recovered from their possession and seized under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. The leopard (Panthera pardus) is listed under

Schedule I of the Act, which prohibits trade in the animal and its derivatives.

After seizure formalities, the two persons and the skin were handed over to the Forest Range Officer, North Deoria Range, Gondia, for further action under the law.

The DRI said the operation was part of its continuing action against wildlife trafficking networks. Recent operations have involved leopard skin in Ujjain, tiger bones in Seoni, pangolin scales in Pileru and Jagdalpur, and elephant ivory in

Mysuru.

In another operation in Karnataka, DRI officers intercepted a person near Gandhinagar in Bengaluru and recovered 180 live Indian Star Tortoises concealed in six cloth covers inside his baggage.

The tortoises were seized under the Act and the accused was arrested, the DRI said.

According to the agency, the star-like shell pattern of Indian Star Tortoises has made them attractive in exotic pet and wildlife-collector markets.

VIJAY CALLS FOR KHADI PUSH ON GANDHI JAYANTI, HIGHLIGHTS 30% DISCOUNT

IANS Chennai, Oct. 1

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Thursday urged people to mark Gandhi Jayanti by wearing khadi and using Gramodyog products, saying their purchases would support weavers and handicraft workers.

In a statement ahead of Mahatma Gandhi’s birthday on October 2, Vijay appealed to school and college students, government employees, youth and the public to support locally produced goods.

He said government-run khadi shops in Tamil Nadu were offering a 30 per cent discount on dress materials to encourage purchases and strengthen support for the khadi sector.

Vijay described Gandhi Jayanti as an occasion to recall India’s freedom struggle and reflect on the values of simplicity, self-confidence and humanity associated with Gandhi.

“If we buy khadi clothes and products, it gives recognition and respect to handloom weavers,” Vijay said.

He stressed the importance of choosing local products, saying such purchases would encourage home-based production and improve the economic prospects of workers dependent on traditional textiles and handicrafts.

Alongside khadi clothing, the Chief Minister encouraged people to use Gramodyog goods made through village industries. He said wider use of such products would support those involved in their production.

Vijay appealed to students and young people

to participate. He urged them to make khadi clothing and village industry products part of their choices.

The 30 per cent concession at government khadi outlets was highlighted as an incentive for consumers to purchase dress materials.

The Chief Minister’s Gandhi Jayanti message linked remembrance of the freedom struggle with support for local production. He said wearing khadi and using Gramodyog products would support weavers and handicraft workers.



At a Glance

**Brazil, US
move closer
to trade deal**

**IAN S
Milwaukee, Oct. 1**

Brazil and the United States are moving closer to a trade agreement and will work in the coming weeks to define the scope of negotiations, including tariffs, non-tariff barriers, quotas and safeguards, Brazil’s Development, Industry, Trade and Services Minister Márcio Elias Rosa said.

Rosa said he held a “good meeting” with US Trade Representative Jamieson Greer on the sidelines of the G20 Trade Ministers’ Meeting and that both sides renewed their commitment to an agreement.

He said the immediate task was to determine which sectors and issues would be covered. “What will be up for negotiation? Otherwise, it will be endless,” Rosa said.

Rosa said Brazil remained willing to negotiate but opposed tariffs as instruments of coercion or discrimination. He said Brasilia believed in multilateralism and universal WTO rules for international commerce.

The talks follow direct engagement between the two countries’ presidents after tariffs affected Brazil’s economy. The countries subsequently held further discussions, including a second in-person meeting in Milwaukee.

Brazil and the US have broad commercial ties spanning agriculture, energy, manufacturing and services.

**10 killed in
Pakistan
strikes on
Afghanistan**

**IAN S
Kabul, Oct. 1**

At least 10 civilians, most of them children, were killed and 9 injured in Pakistani airstrikes in Afghanistan’s Kunar and Helmand provinces, the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said.

UNAMA called for de-escalation, dialogue and respect for international law. Taliban spokesperson Zabihullah Mujahid said Pakistani aircraft struck civilian homes in Kunar and Helmand, calling the attacks an “act of aggression”. Ex-President Hamid Karzai condemned the strikes as a breach of sovereignty.

**VICTORY FOR US': TRUMP SAYS LAST
AMERICAN FORCES LEAVING IRAQ**

**IAN S
Washington, Oct. 1**

President Donald Trump has announced that the last American forces are leaving Iraq, declaring an end to the US military involvement that began more than two decades ago and saying Washington was taking all its equipment with it.

“Today I’m pleased to announce that the last American forces are leaving Iraq,” Trump said at a White House event on Wednesday (local time) marking National Hispanic Heritage Month. “It’s been a long time with very bad decision-making that got us involved in this quagmire in the first place.”

Trump described the withdrawal as a major moment for both countries.

“It was a quagmire. Many, many years it lasted, but soon that part of history will be over. This is a great day for America,” he said.

The President said the United States was leaving Iraq with a new government in place and praised Prime Minister Ali al-Zaidi, whom he said he had supported during the country’s election.

Trump traced the US



involvement back to the 2003 invasion under President George W. Bush and referred to Operation Inherent Resolve, the US-led campaign launched against the Islamic State group in 2014.

“Operation Inherent Resolve, which is what they called it, ends in 2026 under the leadership of President Donald J. Trump,” he said.

“We’re getting the hell out of there.”

Trump called the departure a victory for the United States and Iraq and linked it to the defeat of the Islamic State group’s territorial caliphate.

“So, this day is a victory for the United States. It’s a victory for Iraq and a decisive victory over ISIS, which has been completely decimated, which is the reason we

went in there in the first place,” he said.

Trump said the withdrawal from Erbil Air Base included US personnel and equipment. He repeatedly contrasted the departure with the US withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021.

“This orderly departure of coalition forces and equipment from Erbil Air Base marks the end of a very expensive excursion into hell,” Trump said.

“And again, we took all of our equipment,” Trump said he had instructed commanders to ensure nothing was left behind.

“I said I want every screw taken. If there’s a screw lying on the ground, take it. If we have a canvas tent, take it. We took everything,” he said.

“I set a clear mission, gave our commanders

the tools to finish it, and refused to let a temporary presence become a permanent one.”

Trump said there had been pressure for the United States to maintain a permanent presence in Iraq, but he had decided against it.

“A lot of people wanted us to be permanently there. I had a choice to stay or to leave, and felt without question that it was time for America to go home,” he said.

“We came to fight a caliphate, and there is no longer a caliphate, so we are going home indeed.”

Trump said the United States had been involved in the conflict for 23 years and cited the human cost of the military presence.

“We have been in that war for 23 years, lost more than 4,500 great American soldiers and had over 31,000 injured, some very badly, plus hundreds of civilian contractors were killed,” he said.

The US-led invasion of Iraq began in March 2003 and toppled Saddam Hussein’s government. Most US troops were withdrawn in 2011, but American forces returned in 2014 as part of an international coalition fighting Islamic State after the

**IRAN REJECTS BRITAIN'S
CLAIM OF INVOLVEMENT IN
MILITARY BASE INCIDENT**

**IAN S
Tehran, Oct. 1**

Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi rejected on Thursday the British government’s claim that Iran has “played a part” in a recent incident near the Royal Air Force (RAF) Fairford, a base hosting the US Air Force in southwest England.

British police on Sunday detained five men, all in their 20s, on suspicion of “explosives and terrorism offences” in the Gloucestershire countryside near the air base after they were informed that three vans had been seen heading to the base, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Araghchi issued the denial in a post on social media platform X Thursday, a day after British Prime Minister Andy Burnham said in an interview with BBC News, “There are strong indications that Iran played a part in what happened over the weekend at RAF Fairford, but of course it remains an ongoing, complex, and serious police investigation.”



On Monday, the five individuals were all released on police bail after an examination of what was found in the vans and an investigation into the addresses linked to them across London.

“PM Burnham says the UK Government ‘can confirm our belief that we believe Iran to have played a part’ in the RAF Fairford incident,” said Araghchi, adding, “I can confirm Iran’s belief that releasing supposed terrorists working for foreign states really says it all. You’re barking up the wrong tree.”

Britain’s decision to grant the suspects bail was criticised by US officials, including President

Donald Trump. US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said he had been “disturbed” by the move.

Trump also said that the United States would win its war with Iran “very quickly”, claiming Tehran’s military capabilities had been severely degraded and Washington had established “virtually total control” of the strategically vital Strait of Hormuz.

Trump made the remarks on Wednesday (local time) during a White House event marking National Hispanic Heritage Month, where he ranged across foreign policy issues including Iraq, Iran and Venezuela before turning to the theme of the celebration

**Elon Musk to co-lead Pentagon
study on future of warfare**

**IAN S
Washington, Oct. 1**

Elon Musk, Palmer Luckey and former US House Speaker Newt Gingrich will co-direct a Pentagon study on the future of warfare, with a public report due within 120 days, the US Department of War said.

Secretary Pete Hegseth commissioned Project Meridian to identify capabilities the US will need to maintain long-term military superiority. The study will examine future battlefield requirements across domains ranging from underground operations to the Earth-Moon region.

The department’s chief technology officer, Emil Michael, is facilitating the project. Its three co-directors will be supported by experts from academia, policy, and industry.

“Project Meridian will examine the full spectrum of future warfighting domains, from subterranean depths to the cislunar frontier,” the department said.

Hegseth directed the



project to be completed within 120 days. Its final report will be unclassified and released publicly, with a separate classified annex.

The report will have findings and recommendations on advanced systems needed for future conflicts.

Project Meridian was among six initiatives Hegseth unveiled during a speech at Marine Corps Base Quantico in Virginia.

Other initiatives include autonomous warfare, officer training, domestic supply chains, military installations and religious support.

Hegseth also announced plans for an Autonomous Warfare Command, a four-star functional combatant command, by October 1, 2027. Another programme, FORTRESS America, seeks to strengthen military installations, through domestic supply chains for rare earths and semiconductors and protection against cyberattacks, sabotage and drones.

Musk founded SpaceX in 2002. Luckey founded defence technology company Anduril Industries. Gingrich, a Republican from Georgia, served as House speaker from 1995 to 1999.

**South Korean President Lee vows
to seek measures to reduce
military tensions with North Korea**

**IAN S
Seoul, Oct. 1**

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung on Thursday pledged to pursue practical measures to reduce military tensions with North Korea and sought to restore trust and dialogue. Speaking at the 78th Armed Forces Day ceremony in Gyeryongdae, Lee said the two Koreas must find ways to “win together and build trust”.

His remarks came after two mine explosions in the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) wounded three South Korean soldiers. Seoul’s military has said mines planted by North Korea caused the blasts and called the incident a violation of the armistice, while Pyongyang has denied responsibility.

“My administration will consistently pursue practical measures to reduce military tensions between

the two Koreas,” Lee said, inviting North Korea to join the “path of restoring trust and resuming dialogue”.

Lee also reaffirmed plans to strengthen South Korea’s self-reliant defence, including acquiring indigenous nuclear-powered submarines by the mid-2030s and finalising the transfer of wartime operational control (OPCON) of South Korean troops from the

United States.

He also pledged wider use of artificial intelligence and manned-unmanned systems.

South Korean Defence Minister Kang Shin-chul has said Seoul would take corresponding measures if North Korea is confirmed to be responsible for the mine blast.

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un’s sister Kim Yo-jong has now firmly rejected the finding.

A Flight, A Fight for Survival



Flydubai FZ1073 lands in Israel after a mid-air cockpit crisis and emergency landing in Saudi Arabia. File Photo from: X

**South Korea to invest up to \$200 billion
in US energy projects, says Trump**

**IAN S
Washington, Oct. 1**

South Korea will invest up to \$200 billion in US energy projects, including eight nuclear power plants, a six-gigawatt power generation facility in Texas and a long-planned liquefied natural gas pipeline in Alaska, President Donald Trump said.

“It includes \$54 billion for Alaska LNG and another six-gigawatt power generation facility in Texas,” Trump said at a White House event on Wednesday.

Trump said the South Korean government would finance the projects through agreements negotiated by his administration. He described the package as one of the largest energy infrastructure investments in US history.

The Alaska project would carry natural gas through an 807-mile (1,300-km) pipeline from the state’s North Slope to an export terminal in southern Alaska. The terminal is designed to produce up to 20 million metric tonnes of LNG annually, according to the White House.

A White House official linked the projects to the broader \$350 billion trade deal and strategic investment memorandum between the US and South Korea, saying they would advance American energy projects and strengthen trade, investment and energy security.

The announcement concerns investment commitments, with “up to \$200 billion” setting a ceiling rather than confirming that the entire amount has been transferred or spent.

The November 2025 US-

South Korea framework included \$150 billion in shipbuilding investment and \$200 billion in additional strategic investment. A joint White House fact sheet said South Korea would not be required to provide more than \$20 billion in US dollars in any calendar year.

Alaska LNG received US federal regulatory authorisation in May 2020. Its developer has two phases: a pipeline for Alaska’s domestic market, followed by a liquefaction facility and related infrastructure at Nikiski for exports.

California bans marriage for under-18s

**IAN S
Washington, Oct. 1**

California Governor Gavin Newsom has signed legislation banning marriage for anyone younger than 18, removing provisions that allowed minors to marry with parental consent.

The measure, AB 1267, also sets 18 as the minimum age for entering a domestic partnership, according to the governor’s office. Introduced by Democratic Assemblymember Gail Pellerin, the bill was signed on Wednesday



alongside Courtney Stodden, whose parents allowed her to marry actor Doug Hutchison when she was 16.

“This is a long overdue measure to protect young Californians and minors. Today, California kids are safer than ever before,”

Newsom said.

Stodden, described by the governor’s office as a survivor of child marriage, welcomed the law and said she would continue campaigning for similar protections across the US. “California is a victory, but I’m not stop-

ping here,” she said.

Pellerin said survivors’ accounts helped shape the legislation, highlighting coercion and difficulties minors may face when seeking help or leaving marriages involving adults.

The law replaces provisions permitting minors to enter marriages or domestic partnerships with an age requirement of 18.

Marriage rules in the US are largely governed by state law, with minimum ages and exceptions varying across jurisdictions in US states nationwide.

Ujjain's Shahi Masjid: Must Demolition Be the Only Answer?



The controversy surrounding Ujjain's Shahi Masjid has moved far beyond the question of widening a road or removing a portion of a structure. It has become a test of how a democratic administration balances infrastructure development and public convenience with religious freedom, heritage conservation, due process and public trust.

Ujjain is undergoing extensive infrastructure work ahead of Simhastha 2028. Roads are being widened and other connectivity projects are being undertaken to accommodate the large number of visitors expected during the religious gathering. The road-widening plan affecting the Shahi Masjid is part of this broader development exercise. The Madhya Pradesh High Court's Indore Bench, in its September 9 order, dealt with petitions challenging the proposed removal of the portion of the mosque falling within the planned 15-metre road alignment. The civic authorities maintained that the widening was required in the larger public interest and that numerous structures along the route had been removed or marked for removal.

There is an important point here. If religious structures of different

communities are affected by a common road-widening plan, the principle of equality before the law must apply equally. But equality should not automatically mean that demolition becomes the preferred solution wherever a religious or historic structure stands in the proposed alignment. The more important question is whether every reasonable alternative has been examined before an irreversible step is taken.

The Muslim side has argued that a fresh survey and transparent measurement of the road alignment could potentially reduce the portion of the mosque affected. Questions have also been raised about whether land or space on the opposite side could be considered as part of an alternative alignment. Whether such alternatives are technically feasible is ultimately a matter for engineers, planners and the competent authorities to establish. But they deserve to be examined openly rather than dismissed without a transparent technical assessment.

This is where independent surveying and clear demarcation become important. The exact existing width of the road, the approved alignment, the relevant master-plan pro-

visions and the measurements on both sides should be placed beyond dispute. If additional land is genuinely required, the applicable legal process should be followed. If an alternative alignment is technically impossible, the reasons should likewise be placed before the public in a clear and verifiable manner.

The High Court proceedings themselves underline the need to distinguish between competing claims and established facts. The mosque management described the structure as an old religious property and challenged the proposed removal on constitutional and legal grounds. The municipal authorities, on the other hand, maintained that the road widening was necessary for traffic movement during major religious events and that the project formed part of a larger public-interest exercise.

The issue became more sensitive on September 28 when protests over the removal of the mosque portion led to clashes and stone-pelting, following which police used tear gas to disperse the crowd. Reports said several people were detained or arrested as authorities moved to control the situation. Violence cannot be justified as a means of protect-

ing a place of worship or expressing disagreement. At the same time, the use of state power must remain within the requirements of law, necessity and proportionality.

There is also an important distinction between the legal dispute and the emotions surrounding it. For many local residents, a mosque is not merely a physical structure occupying a particular number of square metres. It can represent religious memory, community identity and continuity. For the administration, meanwhile, a road is part of a larger urban network that must accommodate traffic and visitors. A responsible policy must recognise both realities without allowing either one to override the rule of law.

The administration has maintained that the wider project affects a large number of structures and that members of different communities have cooperated in removing portions that obstruct the planned road. The mosque issue therefore needs to be viewed within the complete road-widening plan rather than in isolation. At the same time, the fact that other structures have also been affected does not remove the need for transparency in the case of each individual property.

The larger question is therefore not whether Ujjain needs better roads. It clearly does as the city prepares for a major influx of visitors. Nor is the question whether development should be allowed to proceed. It should proceed through lawful planning. The question is whether development can be achieved while causing the least possible damage to religious and historic structures.

If a minor alteration in the alignment, a fresh measurement, the use

of space on the opposite side or another technically sound solution can preserve a significant portion of the Shahi Masjid without compromising the road project, such an option deserves serious consideration. Choosing an alternative would not necessarily represent a retreat from development; it could demonstrate that modern urban planning is capable of accommodating both public infrastructure and cultural heritage.

If, after a transparent and independent technical assessment, no viable alternative exists, that conclusion should also be accepted within the framework of law. But the reasons should be documented, the measurements should be open to scrutiny and affected stakeholders should be given a meaningful opportunity to present their objections.

The events in Ujjain also carry a wider lesson. Public confidence is not created merely by issuing orders or completing infrastructure projects. It is created when citizens believe that rules are applied consistently, objections are heard, technical decisions are transparent and irreversible actions are taken only after reasonable alternatives have been exhausted.

The Shahi Masjid dispute should therefore not become another contest between development and faith. It should instead become an opportunity to demonstrate that development, law, heritage and religious freedom need not always be treated as mutually exclusive. Ujjain's real test is not simply how quickly it can widen a road before Simhastha 2028, but whether it can undertake that transformation in a manner that strengthens public confidence in the fairness and transparency of the state.

Retail sugar prices down 15 pc, Ex-Mill rates fall around 28 pc: Govt



Average retail sugar prices have declined 15 per cent from their August peak, while ex-mill sugar prices have fallen by around 28 per cent and remained stable over the past three weeks, the government said on Thursday, announcing tighter stock-holding norms for sugar dealers to ensure adequate availability during the festive season.

The government said average retail sugar prices have declined by 15 per cent from their August peak and are expected to fall further as the benefit of lower ex-mill prices passes through the supply chain. Ex-mill sugar prices have declined by approximately 28 per cent and have remained stable over the last three weeks.

According to the government, the decline in prices reflects the impact of various measures taken to ensure adequate availability of sugar and facilitate its orderly movement

through the market.

To prevent hoarding and ensure smooth supplies, the government has reduced the stock-holding period for sugar dealers to 15 days and fixed the stock-holding limit at 1,000 quintals. The revised norms will be effective from October 15 to November 30, 2026. Under the new provisions, sugar dealers will not be permitted to hold sugar stocks for more than 15 days from the date of receipt. They will also not be allowed to hold sugar stocks exceeding 1,000 quintals at any time and at any place across the country. However, considering specific regional market requirements, the stock-holding limit has been fixed at 2,000 quintals for Kolkata and its extended metropolitan areas as well as the state of Assam.

The government said Kolkata sources sugar from Uttar Pradesh,

Maharashtra and Karnataka and supplies it to eastern India, including the North-Eastern region. The higher limit for Assam has been provided in view of geographical constraints, transportation logistics and consumer interests in the North-East.

The revised norms are aimed at ensuring that sugar is not unnecessarily accumulated within the distribution chain and that supplies move smoothly from sugar mills through dealers to consumers.

The measure is intended to further curb hoarding, discourage speculative trading and prevent accumulation of sugar stocks by dealers.

The government said limiting both the quantity and duration of stock holding will facilitate orderly movement of sugar through the supply chain and help maintain continuous availability of the commodity at reasonable prices.

What Should People with High Blood Pressure Eat to Protect Their Heart? Experts Explain

Hyderabad: High blood pressure is a common health condition, but if left uncontrolled, it can increase the risk of serious complications, including heart disease, stroke, kidney damage and vision problems. Experts say that maintaining healthy blood pressure requires a combination of lifestyle changes, regular monitoring and, when prescribed, appropriate medication.



Diet, sleep, stress, physical activity, body weight, age and family history can all influence blood pressure levels. Reducing salt and sodium intake is one of the most important dietary steps for people with high blood pressure. Experts recommend limiting packaged foods, highly processed products, salty snacks such as chips, processed meats, ready-made sauces and other convenience foods that can contain high amounts of sodium. Instead, greater emphasis should be placed on fresh and minimally processed foods.

Foods rich in potassium and fibre can also form an important part of a heart-healthy diet. Potatoes and sweet potatoes, fruits and vegetables, pulses, beans, legumes and whole grains provide important nutrients and can support better blood pressure control. Choosing a varied diet based largely on fresh, nutrient-rich foods

can also help with maintaining a healthy body weight, which is an important factor in managing blood pressure. Magnesium is another essential mineral involved in the normal functioning of muscles, nerves, the heart and blood vessels.

Experts recommend obtaining magnesium through foods such as almonds and other nuts, seeds, pulses, leafy green vegetables and whole grains. While supplements may sometimes be recommended, people should consult a doctor before taking magnesium supplements, particularly if they have other health conditions or are already taking medication.

Physical activity is equally important in managing blood pressure. Experts generally recommend around 150 minutes of moderate-intensity physical activity a week. This could include brisk walking for about 30 minutes on five days a week. Regular exercise can help improve cardiovascular

fitness, support healthy body weight and contribute to better blood pressure control. Adequate sleep and stress management should also not be overlooked. Adults generally need around seven to nine hours of quality sleep each night.

Deep breathing exercises, meditation, light physical activity and maintaining a regular sleep schedule may help manage stress and support overall cardiovascular health. Regularly checking blood pressure is important because high blood pressure may not always cause noticeable symptoms. People diagnosed with hypertension should follow their healthcare provider's advice regarding medication, diet, exercise and monitoring.

By identifying factors that affect blood pressure and making sustainable changes in daily habits, people can reduce their cardiovascular risks and take important steps towards protecting their heart.

Frequent Exposure to Loud Noise Can Affect Hearing, Heart Health and Sleep: Experts

People may gradually become accustomed to the sounds around them, but experts warn that getting used to excessive noise does not mean that the body is unaffected. Regular exposure to traffic, construction work, loud music, crowded places and sporting events can have consequences beyond hearing, potentially affecting blood pressure, heart health, sleep and overall well-being.

The ears are among the first parts of the body to be affected by excessive noise. Very loud sounds can damage sensitive sensory cells in the inner ear, and prolonged or repeated exposure may result in permanent hearing loss. Tinnitus, commonly experienced as ringing or buzzing in the ears, is also frequently associated with excessive noise exposure.

However, the health

effects of noise pollution are not limited to the ears. Excessive noise can trigger the body's stress response, affecting physiological processes such as heart rate and blood pressure. Noise that interrupts sleep can further increase physical stress and affect overall health. Studies have also linked long-term exposure to traffic noise with an increased risk of conditions including high blood pressure, cardiovascular problems, stroke and type-2 diabetes.

The potential harm caused by noise depends not only on how loud it is, but also on how long and how closely a person is exposed to it. Extremely loud sounds, such as fireworks or gunshots, can cause hearing damage within a very short period. In contrast, repeated exposure to power tools, loud music or heavy traffic can gradually accumu-

late damage over time.

For occupational noise exposure, an average level of around 85 decibels over an eight-hour period is widely used as a reference point. As noise levels rise, the safe exposure time decreases significantly. Repeated exposure to different sources of noise throughout the day can also add to the overall burden on the body. Experts recommend reducing the duration of exposure wherever possible rather than trying to avoid every source of noise. People should choose quieter environments and equipment when available and take regular breaks when spending time in noisy surroundings. Keeping headphone volume at a moderate level, staying away from extremely loud speakers and using appropriate hearing protection while operating power tools can help reduce the risk of hearing

damage. People who regularly experience ringing in the ears, difficulty hearing conversations or other changes in hearing should consider getting their hearing evaluated.

Experts also stress that tackling noise pollution requires measures beyond individual precautions. Quieter equipment, better building design, effective noise insulation, improved urban planning and measures to control traffic noise can all contribute to healthier living environments. With cities becoming increasingly crowded and traffic, construction and commercial activity generating constant noise, controlling excessive sound is emerging as an important public-health concern. The fact that people can become accustomed to a noisy environment should not be mistaken for evidence that the noise is harmless.

WhatsApp introduces optional parental controls for teens amid safety concerns

WhatsApp on Wednesday introduced optional parental controls for teenagers, allowing parents to manage certain privacy settings, group activity, Channels and the Meta AI experience.

Parents can choose who can view their teen's profile photo and who can add them to groups. Teens will need parental approval through a PIN to loosen these settings. Parents can also receive notifications when their teen joins or leaves a group and manage certain Channel and Status settings.

The new controls also allow parents to choose between the default 13+ Meta AI setting and a stricter "Limited Content" option. WhatsApp said the controls are being rolled out gradually and remain optional.



Asian Games final: India, Pakistan set for gold-medal clash amid handshake spotlight

New Delhi, Oct. 01:

India and Pakistan will face each other in the men's T20 cricket gold-medal match at the Asian Games on Saturday, after both teams secured convincing victories in their respective semifinals on Thursday.

India stormed into the final with a 124-run win over Sri Lanka, while Pakistan defeated Bangladesh to book their place in the title clash.

However, the much-anticipated encounter has also brought renewed attention to whether players from the two sides will exchange handshakes. Indian and Pakistani cricketers have not exchanged handshakes before or after matches in recent encounters.

The practice has continued since Operation Sindoor last year, including during Asia Cup and ICC matches involving the two teams. The Asian Games are organised by the Olympic Council of Asia.

Neither OCA nor International Olympic Committee rules require athletes to shake hands with their opponents, although the gesture is widely regarded as a sym-



bol of sportsmanship. There have also been instances in other sports where athletes have declined to shake hands for political or other reasons.

At the 2016 Rio Olympics, Egyptian judoka Islam El Shehaby refused to shake hands with Israeli opponent Or Sasson. He was not fined by the IOC but was reprimanded for violating the spirit of the Games and was sent home from the tournament.

More recently, Ukrainian athletes have also avoided handshakes with com-

petitors from Russia and Belarus. Against this backdrop, attention is now on how the Indian cricket team management will approach the issue.

BCCI Secretary Devajit Saikia is expected to be present in Nagoya to watch the final, while ICC Chairman Jay Shah is also scheduled to travel to Japan for the match.

A decision on the handshake protocol, if required, could emerge before the high-profile final. At the ongoing Asian Games, Indian tennis and

squash players have exchanged handshakes with their Pakistani counterparts.

Regardless of the result of Saturday's cricket final, players from both teams will also have to share the podium if India and Pakistan finish with medals.

Last week, the Indian women's team shared the podium with Pakistan players after winning the gold medal in their event, while Sri Lanka finished as runners-up in women's T20 cricket.

Asian Games: 'Belief in our structure helped us get over the line,' says Mandeep after thriller vs Pakistan



Kakamigahara, Oct.

India forward Mandeep Singh said the team's belief in its structure helped it overcome Pakistan's fight-back and clinch a dramatic 4-3 win in the men's hockey semifinal at the Asian

Games here on Thursday. India appeared to be in complete control after taking a 3-0 lead, but Pakistan fought back to level the score at 3-3 in the final quarter. Abhishek then scored the decisive goal with around 40 seconds remaining to send India into the final.

Mandeep admitted that India's structure slipped in the third and fourth quarters but said the team always believed it would find a way to win the contest.

"Looking at it, we played very good hockey in the first two quarters. In the third and fourth quarters, our structure was not that good. The goals came because of our mistakes. But still, the belief was there that we had to win this match, somehow, without taking it to a shootout. And that is what happened. We scored that goal in the last 40 seconds," Mandeep told IANS after the match.

India had taken the lead through Harmanpreet Singh before the captain doubled

the advantage from another penalty corner. Sukhjeet Singh then made it 3-0 before Pakistan began their comeback. Mandeep said the tense semifinal provided an important lesson for the team ahead of the gold-medal clash.

"Hockey is such a game that even if you play a lower-ranked team, they can also perform well. Our main focus was that whatever happens, we have to believe in our structure.

We played very good hockey in the first two quarters, and our structure was also good. I think the structure was not good in the third and fourth quarters, so our learning point is that whatever happens in the final, we have to execute our structure well across all four quarters," he said.

Mandeep also underlined the confidence within the group as India look to defend their Asian Games title. "Our belief and trust in each other is very good. Everyone knows that playing a final is a different feeling. Everyone also knows that we won the last time, and winning back-to-back is a very big thing. There is a belief that we will complete that," he said.

Sukhjeet Singh, who

scored India's third goal, also described the semifinal as a closely fought contest and praised the team's effort in producing the late winner.

"It was a very good match. It was a semifinal, and, as you know, it was against Pakistan. It was a very good, close match. After taking a 3-0 lead, the score became 3-3, and then we scored in the last 40 seconds. It was very good teamwork, especially the way we scored that goal in the final moments," Sukhjeet said.

He said the team remained focused on its game plan despite the intensity surrounding an India-Pakistan clash.

"We focus more on our structure during the game. An India-Pakistan match is a different kind of match, but we make sure we work on our basics and our structure. Whenever we get the ball inside the D, we try to create a penalty corner or convert it into a goal," he said.

Sukhjeet acknowledged that such matches can involve distractions but said India did not allow them to affect its focus.

"When India and Pakistan play, there is always a bit of a fight. But our focus as a team did not break. We performed well and won the match," he said.

Pink ball trial in day Tests, time-wasting penalties among major ICC Playing Conditions tweaks

Guwahati, Oct. 01:

The International Cricket Council (ICC) on Thursday announced key changes to its Playing Conditions to improve the pace of play and modernise match regulations. The revised rules will apply to international series beginning on or after October 1.

Under the new time-wasting rule, a batter failing to be ready within the stipulated time will receive warnings for the first two offences, while a third or subsequent offence will result in five penalty runs for the fielding side. In a notable Test trial, teams can mutually agree before the match to use a pink ball in daytime Tests to reduce delays caused by poor light. The decision cannot be changed once the match begins. The ICC also clarified run-out and stumping rules, tightened the definition of an overthrow and gave umpires greater discretion over when a ball is finally settled. In white-ball cricket, T20Is will have a fixed 15-minute innings interval, reducible to 10 minutes when playing time is lost. The leg-side wide interpretation trial has also been made permanent in ODIs and T20Is. ICC Men's Cricket Committee Chair Sourav Ganguly said the changes were aimed at keeping the Playing Conditions in line with the demands of modern cricket while maintaining clarity and consistency.

Nigar Sultana to lead Bangladesh women in historic

Dhaka, Oct. 01:

Bangladesh have announced a 16-member squad for their three-match women's ODI series against Australia, with regular captain Nigar Sultana Joty leading the side and Nahida Akter named vice-captain.

The squad features a mix of experience and emerging talent, with Farzana Haque returning to the ODI setup, while Murshida Khatun and young all-rounder Disha Biswas have also been included. Seventeen-year-old pacer Habiba Islam Pinky is another notable selection. The series will be played at Allan Border Field in Brisbane on October 9, 11 and 14 and will form part of the ICC Women's Championship, with Bangladesh currently eighth in the standings.

Prasidh to miss third ODI against WI due to hamstringing injury, Kamboj likely replacement

Guwahati, Oct. 01:

India pacer Prasidh Krishna will miss the third and final ODI against the West Indies after suffering a hamstringing injury during the second match in Guwahati on Wednesday. Prasidh bowled only five overs before walking off the field during India's eight-wicket victory.

He will now travel directly to Bengaluru to report to the BCCI Centre of Excellence for scans and further assessment. "Prasidh is definitely not playing the third ODI due to the hamstringing injury he has picked.

He will now report to the BCCI Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru for further scans," a source familiar with the development told IANS on Thursday. India A pacer Anshul Kamboj, who has been



withdrawn from the ongoing red-ball game against Australia A in Puducherry, is likely to replace Prasidh in the squad.

Kamboj took 3/34 in the first innings before leaving the game. Prasidh's injury could also open the door for Mohammed Siraj, who

was not included in the first two ODIs. The team management may also consider seam-bowling all-rounder Nitish Kumar Reddy for the final match. The injury is also a concern ahead of India's multi-format tour of New Zealand, which includes five ODIs and two Tests.

Asian Games: Nitesh Siwach settles for silver in Greco-Roman wrestling

Nisshin, Oct. 01:

Indian wrestler Nitesh Siwach won the silver medal in the men's 97kg Greco-Roman wrestling event at the Asian Games in Japan on Thursday after losing the gold-medal bout to Japan's Yuri Nakazato 0-4.

Nitesh tried hard to gain a grip and launch attacks, but Nakazato, competing in front of the home crowd, defended effectively and prevented the Indian wrestler from scoring. The Japanese wrestler took a 2-0 lead in the opening bout and extended it to 4-0 in the second after successfully bringing Nitesh down.



Nitesh attempted a late attack in the final minute, but Nakazato held firm with his defensive technique to secure the gold medal. India have previously won two gold medals in Greco-

Roman wrestling at the Asian Games. At the 1962 Jakarta Games, Malwa Singh won gold in the 52kg category, while Ganpat Andalkar topped the 97kg category.

Asian Games: 'Playing for India, especially for a medal, hits different,' says Ishan Kishan

Nisshin, Oct. 01:

India wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan said representing the country at the Asian Games brings added pressure, especially when a medal is at stake. Kishan scored 80 as India posted 169 before bowl-

ing Sri Lanka out

To be very honest, it does make a difference when you're playing for India, especially when it's about the medal. There are so many flags and people cheering for you. I feel there's a bit more pressure here," Kishan

said.

He said India had a clear plan on the difficult pitch, with one set batter expected to stay till the end. "It was very tricky, but we had a plan. Any one batsman who is set is supposed to be there and play till all the 20 overs,"

he said.

Ahead of Saturday's gold-medal clash against Pakistan, Kishan said the team would stay calm and focus on the game. He also thanked Japanese volunteers and Indian supporters for their support.

Integral High School records double success in handball

Hyderabad, Oct. 01:

Integral High School has achieved a notable double success in handball at the School Games Federation (SGF) district-level competitions, with its Under-17 team emerging as Nizamabad district champions and four students earning selection to the Nizamabad district Under-14 handball team.

The Integral High School Under-17 handball team displayed strong teamwork, determination and sporting spirit throughout the district-level tournament to clinch the championship.

The winning team comprises Mohammed Ayaaz Hussain and Abdul Ayaan of Class 10, and Abdul Hannan and Mohammed Hamza Uddin of Class 9.

Adding to the school's



achievement, four students have been selected to represent Nizamabad district in the Under-14 handball team. Aliza Shueb and Sidra, both students of Class 7, have been selected in the girls' team, while Mohammed Zaid and Mohammed Shueb, both from Class 8, have earned places in the boys' team. The students have been training under the guidance of handball coach

Shaihaan Hashmi. His dedicated coaching and consistent efforts have helped the young players improve their technical skills, teamwork and confidence on the field.

The achievement has brought considerable pride to Integral High School, with the school management congratulating all the players, the coach and the Physical Education Department for their hard work and com-

mitment.

The management appreciated the students for balancing academics with sports and highlighted the role of sports in developing discipline, teamwork, confidence and leadership. With the Under-17 district title and four Under-14 selections, the school expressed hope that its young athletes would achieve further success at higher levels.

