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Rbi Raises Repo Rate To 5.50%; Borrowers Face Higher Costs

First increase since February 2023 shifts focus to inflation; deposit returns depend on banks’ revisions

Munsif Bureau MUMBAI, October 7:

The Reserve Bank of India raised the repo rate by 25 basis points to 5.50%, increasing borrowing costs for homebuyers and small businesses. The six-member Monetary Policy Committee unanimously supported the move and shifted its stance from neutral to calibrated tightening. Governor Sanjay

Malhotra said future rate decisions will depend on inflation and growth data. The RBI also raised its 2026–27 inflation forecast to 5.2%, while increasing its growth projection to 7.1%, citing rising oil prices and weak monsoon rainfall.

Higher interest rates can pressure stocks as borrowing costs rise, but stronger growth projections may support



EMIS MAY RISE FOR BORROWERS

Floating-rate loan borrowers could face higher EMIs, longer repayment periods, or both after the repo rate hike. Even if the EMI remains unchanged, banks may extend the loan tenure, increasing the total interest payable. Borrowers should check their revised EMI, remaining tenure and loan reset date.

DEPOSIT RATES MAY TAKE TIME

Savers may not immediately benefit from the higher repo rate. Banks decide deposit rates based on their funding needs and pricing strategies. Existing fixed deposits do not automatically earn higher returns. Customers should compare rates on fresh deposits and renewals, while also watching how banks adjust rates in the coming weeks.

Telangana SIR: 95,555 notices undelivered on claims deadline

Notice and disposal phase continues until November 5; final electoral roll scheduled for November 9

Hyderabad, October 7:

Nearly one lakh electoral verification notices remained undelivered in Telangana on Wednesday, the scheduled final day for filing SIR claims and objections, leaving questions about response opportunities for voters receiving notices late.

Chief Electoral Officer C. Sudharsan Reddy’s status report, covering progress until 4 p.m., recorded 92,88,180 notices generated over logical discrepancies and unmapped records. Of these, 91,92,625 had been delivered, while 95,555 awaited delivery, UNI reported. These are cumulative figures, not notices generated on Wednesday alone.

The same update said 71,23,526 electors had been found eligible for inclusion in the final publication. This represents eligibility clearances in the verification process, not Telangana’s total final electorate. The final roll has yet to be published.

While the claims window was sched-



- 92,88,180 notices generated; 91,92,625 delivered.
- 71,23,526 electors found eligible for inclusion.
- No fresh extension verified

uled to close on October 7, the notice phase and disposal of claims and objections continue until November 5. Final publication remains scheduled for November 9; no fresh extension was verified.

The published statewide update does not provide district-wise figures separating

completed hearings, adverse decisions and unresolved cases. It also does not explain arrangements for notices delivered late. Consequently, the delivery totals alone cannot establish whether every affected elector has received sufficient time to answer discrepancies before an eligibility decision.

First FIR in Telangana SIR: BJP booth agent booked for mass voter deletion bid in Musheerabad

- BJP agent booked over 30 Form-7s in Musheerabad; similar bulk filings; 28,753 statewide.
- 71.23 lakh electors cleared; final rolls Nov 9
- Owaisi seeks probe; BJP denies, backs ECI.

Hyderabad, Oct 7:

Election authorities in Telangana have registered the state’s first FIR over alleged misuse of Form-7 during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The case followed a complaint by Musheerabad ERO T. Praveen Kumar Reddy. BJP booth-level agent S. Balachander was booked on October 6 at Chikkadpally Police Station under BNS Sections 217 and 318(2) and RP Act Section 31 for submitting 30 pre-printed applications

seeking deletion of voters in Musheerabad Assembly constituency — all of them Muslim, according to the complaint and preliminary verification.

Field verification on October 1 found all 30 residing at their recorded addresses, including Congress BLA Shafiuddin and family. Similar bulk submissions were reported from Goshamahall (122 Muslim voters), Bahadurpura and Karwan. Statewide, 28,753 Form-7 applications were received. As of October 7, 71.23 lakh electors were

cleared for final rolls; publication is on November 9. AIMIM’s Asaduddin Owaisi demanded an ECI inquiry and police action. However, Goshamahall ERO G. Umaprakash said no action was being taken there as applicants did not pressure BLOs. Telangana BJP president N. Ramchander Rao rejected the allegations and defended the ECI process. The CEO on October 5 directed EROs to act against false declarations. The claims and objections phase ended October 7; disposal deadline is November 5.

Toddler killed, eight injured in Delhi building collapse

New Delhi, Oct 7:

Three people, including a 21-year-old pregnant woman and two children, were killed and eight others injured when a building collapsed in northeast Delhi’s Seemapuri on Wednesday afternoon, officials said.

The Delhi Fire Services received a call at 3:30 pm and rushed fire tenders to the site near Idgah Machhli Mandi. Eleven people were rescued from the debris by evening, of whom eight injured were shifted to Rajiv Gandhi Super Speciality Hospital in Tahirpur.

The deceased include Gulafsa, 21, who was four months pregnant, a girl aged about 12, and a child aged one and a

half. The injured have been identified as Momin Mirja (56), Abdaan (three), Abdul Rehman (28), Devruddin (28), Salma (50), Chote (34), Sakina (35), and Samad (30).

According to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi, neighbours said the building had developed cracks following tremors from a 4.9-magnitude earthquake in Uttarakhand on Tuesday evening, and the owner was in the process of vacating it. The actual cause is yet to be ascertained.

The building was around 20–25 years old and stood in a DUSIB area spread over roughly 22 square yards.

Revanth Stopped At Delhi Protest

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, who travelled to Delhi in solidarity with Congress leaders, was stopped by police when

AFTER NOMINATION OBSTRUCTION

SC orders fresh polls in 50 Punjab municipal wards under judicial monitoring

Judicial monitoring and videography to safeguard nominations; complaints of obstruction face scrutiny

Munsif Bureau New Delhi, October 7:

The Supreme Court has ordered fresh elections in 50 Punjab municipal wards following a judicial fact-finding exercise into obstruction and violence that prevented candidates from filing nominations. The directions cover 28 Patiala wards, all 15 in Baghapurana and seven in Dharamkot.

The operative order is dated September 28, according to The Tribune’s updated report published Wednesday; it should not

be confused with a ruling pronounced on October 7. Elections must be completed within six weeks under the directions.

The court acted after examining findings submitted by retired Punjab and Haryana High Court judge Justice Nirmaljit Kaur. Punjab’s government accepted the commission’s findings, according to reporting on the proceedings.

A retired High Court judge will monitor the exercise, with senior lawyers serving as observers.

Nomination filing and scrutiny, symbol allocation and polling must be video-graphed, with recordings preserved. The election schedule can be notified only after the monitoring committee is constituted.

Complaints of interference, including by officials, may be submitted to the committee for prompt inquiry and referral to the High Court Chief Justice where substantiated. Punjab must disclose ward-wise election personnel and senior police deployments.

Rahul, Priyanka released; police stop Revanth at station

Second day of anti-CEC protests brings fresh detentions; Telangana Chief Minister demands halt to voter-roll revision

NEW DELHI, October 7:

Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra were released shortly after 8 p.m. on Wednesday following fresh detentions during protests demanding Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar’s resignation, PTI reported.

Police forcibly removed Opposition leaders staging a sit-in near Shangri-La hotel after stopping their movement towards Jantar Mantar. Rahul was taken to Barakhamba Road police station, while Priyanka and others were held at Chhatrasal Stadium. The action followed Tuesday’s separate confrontation at Akashvani Bhawan.



he sought to meet Rahul at Barakhamba Road station, V6 Velugu reported. The available reporting does not establish that Revanth himself was detained.

Condemning the police action, Revanth demanded Kumar’s resignation, suspension of the Special Intensive Revision and restoration of deleted voter names. His allegations of electoral misconduct remain political claims; the Election Commission

and BJP have denied wrongdoing.

Priyanka alleged police beat MPs and scratched her. PTI documented forcible removal, but that account does not independently establish every allegation of assault or specify the statutory basis for Wednesday’s detentions. Congress announced another protest for Thursday, extending the confrontation over electoral administration and policing of dissent.

Russian strikes kill at least 24 across Ukraine

Munsif Bureau KYIV, October 7:

Russian missile and drone attacks killed at least 24 people across Ukraine overnight into Wednesday, Ukrainian officials said, with the heaviest civilian losses in a residential building in the northern city of Pryluky.

Eighteen people, including four children, died when a missile struck the five-storey apartment block in Chernihiv region. Emergency crews searched collapsed sections and reached survivors using ladders. Reuters reported that rescuers brought 15 people out alive and that around 55 were wounded in the town.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said six others were killed in Kyiv, Oleksandria and Kremenchuk. He described the assault as particularly vicious and renewed appeals for stronger air defences against ballistic missiles.

The bombardment struck residential areas and energy infrastructure across multiple regions. Emergency shutdowns left several Kyiv districts without electricity, adding disruption for residents already seeking protection from repeated aerial attacks.

Russia’s Defence Ministry said it targeted military-industrial facilities using precision weapons and drones. That account did not independently establish the military status of every location struck or explain the reported residential casualties.

Houthi missiles target Aden airport; Cairo flight diverted to Jeddah

Transport Ministry says missile landed near runway minutes before Yemenia Flight 603 was to land; airport reopens, no casualties reported

Aden, October 7:

Yemen’s Iran-aligned Houthis attacked Aden International Airport with two ballistic missiles and explosive-laden drones before dawn on Wednesday, forcing the diversion of an incoming passenger flight to Saudi Arabia, the Yemeni Transport Ministry said.

One missile struck near the runway only minutes before Yemenia Airways Flight 603 from Cairo was due to land, according to the ministry. Authorities diverted the aircraft to Jeddah and evacuated

passengers and employees from the terminal as drones were detected over the city. Two civilian aircraft on the ground were moved away from the threatened area as a precaution. No casualties were immediately reported, and the extent of damage could not be independently verified. There was no immediate comment from the Houthis.

Yemenia Airways spokesman Hatem Al-Shaabi said the airline continued operating flights according to its regular schedule from the

morning, though one departure from Jeddah was delayed after passengers disembarked, pending confirmation of a safe air corridor. The carrier urged travellers to check official announcements before heading to the airport.

The airport, one of Yemen’s few functioning international gateways, reopened later on Wednesday. The attack came amid intensified clashes between Houthi and Saudi-backed government forces near the Bab al-Mandab Strait.



STATEWATCH | Where Telangana Moves

Governance, development, welfare and districts shaping the State



HYDERABAD, OCTOBER 7: Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla presented ‘The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India Gold Medal’ and degree certificate to Hajera Begum during the 27th Convocation of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University (BRAOU) in Hyderabad on Wednesday. Hajera Begum secured the medal for achieving the highest aggregate marks with a first division in the B.Com. programme in her first attempt. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ghanta Chakrapani is seen on the right.. Pic: Style Photo Service: PD1000287

TUWJ (IJU) will continue fight for journalists' rights: Virat Ali



Munsif News Bureau
Asifabad, Oct 7 :

Telangana Union of Working Journalists (TUWJ-IJU) State President Virat Ali reiterated that the association would continue to fight with the government for resolving the problems faced by journalists. District Collector Haritha attended the associa-

tion's district general meeting as the chief guest along with State General Secretary K. Ram Narayana and State Executive Member Prakash Reddy. The meeting was organised by TUWJ district president Abdul Rahman at A Rose Garden in the district headquarters.

The meeting began with a two-minute silence to pay hom-

age to deceased journalists of the district and condole the death of Sreedhar's mother. Speaking on the occasion, Virat Ali said journalists had been fighting for their rights for the past 75 years. He demanded that the government provide houses and health cards to journalists and free education to their children. He said the association was

continuously striving to achieve these demands.

He said several journalists' associations had emerged after the formation of the state, but their very existence had now come under question. Responding to issues raised by journalists from the district, he assured that the association would stand by them wherever they faced difficulties.

Expressing concern, he said many journalists continued in the profession for the sake of dignity and public service, while some forces were attempting to undermine the prestige of the press in return for money. He advised journalists to remain vigilant against such forces.

Virat Ali said the association worked without discrimination and urged the present government to address all the issues raised in its manifesto. He termed the approvals being granted by some organisations in return for money as evidence of the declin-

District Collector Garima Agrawal conducts surprise inspection of PHC



Munsif News Bureau
Rajanna Sircilla, Oct. 7:

District Collector Garima Agrawal directed doctors and medical staff to remain available at all times and ensure better healthcare services to the public.

he Collector conducted a surprise inspection of the Hanumajipet Primary Health Centre (PHC) in Vemulawada mandal of Rajanna Sircilla district on Wednesday.

She enquired with the medical staff about the number of patients visiting

the Out-Patient (OP) section daily. She inspected the OP register, laboratory, immunisation room, inpatient wards, other rooms, pharmacy and the hospital premises.

Speaking to ANMs, Collector Garima Agrawal instructed them to remain vigilant at the field level. She directed them to give special attention to ANC registrations and the health of pregnant women and take measures to increase the number of deliveries at government hospitals.

She also instructed of-

ficials to focus on Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) screening, stating that early detection of symptoms would help ensure timely treatment.

The Collector directed doctors and medical staff to remain available every day and provide quality medical services.

She also called for creating awareness among people about seasonal diseases and sanitation in surrounding areas. She enquired about the number of deliveries taking place at the hospital and instructed officials to take measures to

ters pending before courts, will not be entertained. Public grievances may be submitted either by post to the Office of the Chief Postmaster General, Telangana Circle, Hyderabad-500001, or by email to pgco.tl@indiapost.

Victims submit complaints to State BC Commission over social boycotts

Munsif News Bureau
Nizamabad,Oct.7:

Several complaints regarding incidents of social and caste boycotts were submitted to the Telangana State Backward Classes Commission on Wednesday.

A Commission team led by Chairman G. Niranjan, along with members Thirumalagiri Suresnder, Rapolu Jayaprakash and Balalakshmi, met victims at the Integrated District Offices Complex (IDOC) in Nizamabad.

District Collector Ila Tripathi, Additional Collector V. Bhujanga Rao and other officials welcomed the Commission representatives at the IDOC by presenting them with potted plants.

A large number of victims who alleged that they had been subjected to social and caste boycotts appeared before the Commission and submitted written representations to the Chairman and members.

The district administration made arrangements to enable the victims to express their views freely and without fear.

The victims narrated incidents of alleged atrocities in various parts of the district in the name of Village Development Committees, as well as in-

Student hospitalised after alleged assault by Telangana Minority Residential School principal

Munsif News Bureau
Karimnagar,Oct.7:

Teaching is considered a noble profession, but an incident involving the principal of a Telangana Minority Residential School and College has raised serious concerns after a Class IX student was allegedly assaulted inside a room. According to reports, Principal Mahesh allegedly

took Class IX student K. Akshith, son of K. Mahender, into a room and severely beat him.

The student was subsequently admitted to a private hospital in Karimnagar in a critical condition. The boy's parents and guardians told the media that Akshith was currently in a coma and undergoing treatment in the ICU under the supervision of

doctors. Following the incident, concern spread among the parents of other students, while fear and anxiety were also reported among students of the school and college.

The incident was brought to the notice of the Regional Level Coordinator (RLC), Karimnagar. Meanwhile, police officials reached the TMREIS Boys-I institution and launched an investigation into the incident.

The victim's parents and representatives of various organisations strongly condemned what they described as the principal's brutal act. They urged the Secretary of Telangana Minority Residential Educational Institutions Society (TMREIS) to take immediate action against Principal Mahesh, including his removal, to prevent such inhuman incidents in future

Quality healthcare services must match rising patient numbers: Collector Koya Sri Harsha



Peddapalli: In view of the recent increase in the number of patients visiting the Peddapalli Government Hospital, necessary measures should be taken in advance to handle the rising patient load and ensure quality medical services, District Collector Koya Sri Harsha directed the officials concerned.

He made it clear that despite an increase in the number of patients, there should be no compromise in the quality of treatment or in the behaviour of doctors and medical staff towards patients.

On Tuesday, Collector Koya Sri Harsha conducted a surprise

inspection of the Peddapalli Government Hospital. He reviewed the patient rush, medical services being provided and the performance of doctors and staff. He visited various departments and enquired about the facilities being provided to patients.

Treat patients with patience and courtesy

The Collector instructed hospital staff to treat every patient with patience and courtesy and provide quality medical care. He said poor people, in particular, approach government hospitals with great hope and confidence, and it was the responsibility of everyone to maintain their trust while providing medical services.

He said the behaviour and

manner of communication of doctors and hospital staff with patients should not change even when the number of patients increases. Officials and staff should understand the needs of every patient patiently and ensure appropriate treatment.

Appreciates services of doctors and medical staff

The Collector directed the hospital authorities to work in coordination and ensure better medical services for every patient in accordance with the increasing number of patients.

Later, the Collector conducted a surprise inspection of Peda Bankur ZPHS Government School in Peddapalli mandal. He

Won't tolerate blackmail politics in the name of unions: Journalists Housing Society president Dasari Devender

Munsif News Bureau
Rajanna Sircilla,Oct.7:

Rajanna Sircilla district Vemulawada Journalists Housing Society president Dasari Devender said attempts to create differences among journalists through blackmail politics in the name of unions should be stopped. Reacting to a social media campaign by some individuals calling for a boycott of the programme of State Government Whip and local MLA Adi Srinivas during his visit to

the Journalists Colony in the Nampalli area under Vemulawada Municipality, Dasari Devender clarified that the Government Whip's visit to the Journalists Colony was not a personal programme of any individual and had no connection with any union.

He said no government funds were being used for the programme. Every journalist who had obtained a plot in the Journalists Colony should participate in the programme, he said,



adding that those choosing to stay away from it for political reasons would have to take responsibility for their own decision.

Dasari Devender demanded that the authorities conduct a thorough inquiry if any irregularities or vio-

lations of rules had taken place in matters relating to land and allotment of plots in the Journalists Colony.

He appealed to journalists to avoid such criticism merely to demonstrate their presence and instead rise above union differences

Nutritious food essential for pregnant women, says Senior Civil Judge Raghavendra Upadhyaya

Munsif News Bureau
Bidar,Oct.7:

Everyone has the right to food under the Constitution, and pregnant women should consume nutritious food, said Raghavendra Upadhyaya, Member Secretary of the Bidar District Legal Services Authority and Senior Civil Judge. He stressed that kitchens should serve as "good hospitals" and urged people to prefer home-cooked food over junk food.



He was speaking after flagging off the district-level Poshan Run, organised at 6.30 a.m. at the District Bala Bhavan Hall in Bidar by the district administration, Zilla Panchayat, District Legal

Services Authority, Women and Child Development Department and Health Department.

Bidar District Magistrate Shilpa Sharma said everyone should consume nutri-

Tips for Sr. Citizens to keep Healthy!!

NSS
Hyderabad,Oct.7:

In connection with the on-going Senior citizens Week, medical professionals are giving the following suggestions to the elderly people to maintain sound health. Reduce intake of salt, Sugar, milk products, processed foods; and arguments and unnecessary debates.

What to eat: vegetables, cereals, fruits. Dry fruits, seeds, cold-pressed oil (olive, coco-

Dak Adalat to hear India Post grievances on Oct 23

NSS
Hyderabad,Oct.7:

A State-Level Dak Adalat will be held virtually on October 23 at 12 noon by the Chief

Postmaster General, Telangana Circle, to address public grievances relating exclusively to India Post customer services. Complaints concerning staff and service matters, as well as mat-



Crackdown on Transport, Sale of Intoxicants Must Be Intensified: Sudarshan Reddy

**Munsif News Bureau
Nizamabad, Oct.7:**

State Government Advisor P. Sudarshan Reddy has directed officials to intensify vigilance against the transportation, sale and consumption of intoxicants and narcotic substances and take stringent action against those involved in the illegal trade.

Sudarshan Reddy held a review meeting with Excise

and other department officials along with District Collector Ila Tripathi at the Integrated District Offices Complex on Wednesday. He reviewed the measures being taken to curb the use of intoxicants and issued several directions to the officials.

He said reports indicated that the sale of Gudumba and illicit liquor had resumed in some villages and called for concerted efforts to prevent the consump-

tion of such substances, which pose a serious threat to public health. He stressed the need for strict vigilance against the sale of ganja, particularly as its use is affecting youth and students. He directed the Enforcement and Excise teams to conduct joint raids and take effective measures to prevent the availability of narcotic substances in the district. Sudarshan Reddy also called for a complete crackdown

on the sale of adulterated toddy. He warned that Excise officials would be held responsible for any untoward incident resulting from adulterated toddy. He directed officials to trace the sources of chemicals such as Alprazolam, Diazepam and Chloral Hydrate allegedly used in the manufacture of adulterated toddy, identify their suppliers and take stringent action against the key persons involved. He made it clear that

GOVERNOR LAUNCHES 77th TB SEAL CAMPAIGN AT LOK BHAVAN

**NSS
Vijayawada, Oct :7**

Andhra Pradesh Governor and President of the TB Association of Andhra Pradesh S. Abdul Nazeer on Wednesday launched the 77th TB Seal Sale campaign at Lok Bhavan.

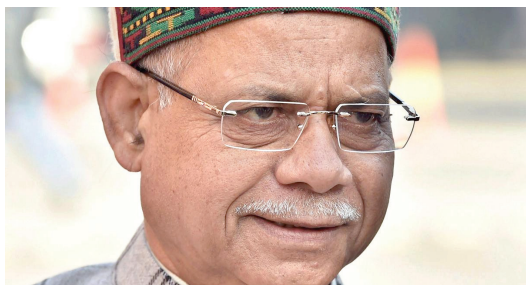
Addressing the gathering, the Governor said tuberculosis remains a major health challenge despite advances in its prevention and treatment.

The fight against TB must extend beyond medical care to include awareness, early diagnosis, prevention, nutrition, social support and community

participation.

“144 years ago the causative organism of Tuberculosis was discovered by Sir Robert Koch and in spite of significant advancements made for its control, it continues to be a killer disease”, the Governor noted.

He highlighted the Centre's TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan, which seeks a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach to eliminate TB from India ahead of the UN's 2030 Sustainable Development Goal. Appealing to citizens, educational institutions, industries, corporate houses,



voluntary organisations and philanthropists, the Governor urged them to contribute generously to the TB Seal campaign and strengthen efforts to eradicate the disease.

Dr. Arun Kumar Kanti Mohanty, Dr. P.S. Sarma, Patrons, Dr. Kodali Ramakrishna, Dr. B

Masilamani, Vice Chairmen, Dr. P. Jayakar Babu, General Secretary, Dr. T. Ramesh, Joint Director & Hon. Secretary of TB Association of Andhra Pradesh, P.S. Surya Prakash, Joint Secretary to Governor, and other dignitaries have attended the programme. (NSS)

Tirumala Serves Over 9 Crore Annaprasadam Meals in Nine Months

**Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct.7:**

Tirumala's Sri Venkateswara Annaprasadam wing has served more than nine crore meals between January and September 2026, reinforcing its commitment to ensuring that no devo-

tee visiting the hill shrine goes hungry.

The free-meal programme, which began in 1985 with about 2,000 servings a day, has grown into one of the world's largest continuous food-service operations run by a religious institution. Today, nearly 1.8

lakh servings are provided daily, rising to over 3 lakh on peak days.

Three major kitchens - Matrusri Tarigonda Vengamamba Annaprasadam centre, Sri Akshaya kitchen and Vakulamatha kitchen - operate in shifts to prepare and distrib-

ute meals across Tirumala.

The Annaprasadam system uses around 15.8 tonnes of rice, 3.1 tonnes of sunflower oil, 2.86 tonnes of toor dal, 2.83 tonnes of suji rava and 2.82 tonnes of wheat rava, besides thousands of coconuts and other ingredients.

TGHRC SEEKS REPORT ON ALLEGED WRONG-EYE SURGERY IN SIRCILLA

**NSS
Hyderabad, Oct.6:**

The Telangana Human Rights Commission (TGHRC) has taken suo motu cognisance of a media report alleging that doctors performed surgery on the right eye of a woman from Sircilla instead of the left eye.

The Commission said the allegation, if established, raises concerns over medi-

cal negligence, patient safety and informed consent.

TGHRC has directed the District Medical and Health Officer (DM&HO), Rajanna Sircilla district, to submit a detailed report covering the patient's medical records, the surgery advised and performed, consent obtained, her present condition and the findings of any inquiry.

The matter has been posted for hearing on November 6, 2026, at 11 am. (NSS)

Olympic medallists, Asian Games stars arrive in Hyd for Archery Premier League

**Munsif News Bureau
Polavaram, Oct.6:**

Hyderabad, October 7: Building on her learning experiences from the inaugural season, Telangana archer Chikitha Taniparthi – fresh from her gold medal-winning exploits at the Asian Games – is relishing the prospect of shooting in her home soil as the second season of Archery Premier League – world's only franchise-based league for archery – gets underway from Thursday in Hyderabad.

The return of APL, after a successful first season in New Delhi, coincides with India's sensational performance in Aichi-Nagoya that saw the country's archery contingent emerge as the best in the field, ahead of powerhouses South Korea. Now, the country's star archers will take center stage from October 8 to 18 at People's Plaza on Hyderabad's Necklace Road.

This time, the medal-winning archers will be involved in a completely different setting – shooting

against their own national teammates in some cases, and with a quicker shooting deadline, with each arrow allotted an average of just 15 seconds in a thrilling format. The APL will also witness recurve and compound archers going up against each other, another novelty that makes this franchise league stand out from regular World Archery events on the international circuit. The league also unveiled an anthem and mascot as part of the proceedings on Wednesday.

Taniparthi, who hails from Peddapalli, said she learned from watching the top archers in APL's first season and that helped her refine her game. “During the first season of APL, playing for the Chola Chiefs, I learnt a lot about managing pressure under the faster shot clock of 15 seconds per arrow as well as learning techniques from my teammates while watching them train. It helped a lot in me getting better as an archer, and played a part in winning gold medal at the Asian Games,” she



The Telangana Human Rights Commission (TGHRC) has taken suo motu cognisance of a media report alleging that doctors performed surgery on the right eye of a woman from Sircilla instead of the left eye.



Warangal West MLA Naini Rajender Reddy said the Congress government is committed to ensuring that the benefits of government welfare schemes reach every eligible person. Free sewing machines were distributed to 200 eligible Muslim women from the Warangal West constituency at Ambedkar Bhavan in Hanamkonda on Tuesday. The programme was organised by the District Minority Welfare Department, with MLA Naini Rajender Reddy attending as the chief guest and distributing the sewing machines to the beneficiaries.

AM Green IGPL, Hyderabad Golf Association eye bigger events in Hyderabad

**NSS
Hyderabad, Oct.7:**

The Krishna Invitational 2026 Am Green IGPL presented by Punjab Raptors is hosting the AM Green IGPL's Season 2 leg at the Hyderabad Golf Club this week, and it wants this to be the start of something bigger. The Hyderabad Golf Association (HGA) has thanked the league for bringing the event to the city

and has set out a wider partnership vision, with the aim of bringing more professional golf events to Hyderabad.

The Hyderabad leg runs from 7 to 10 October and is hosted by Krishna Punjab Raptors GC. It is the first of two IGPL legs in the city this season and the ninth of 15 events on the 2026 calendar.

President, Hyderabad Golf Association Mr. Bhaskar Reddy,



State Electoral Roll Observer and BC Welfare Commissioner Balamaya Devi directed officials to ensure that no eligible voter is deprived of the right to vote and that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process is completed effectively. On Tuesday, she reviewed the progress of the SIR process at the Collectorate along with Additional Collector Gadham Nagesh.

BANDI SANJAY: CONG HAS 'PATENT RIGHTS' FOR VOTE THEFT

**Munsif News Bureau
Karimnagar, Oct.7:**

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Wednesday accused the Congress of having 'patent rights' over vote and seat theft, alleging that the party had a history of manipulating political outcomes.

Speaking at a BJP programme in Karimnagar to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 25 years of public service, Sanjay said Congress had denied Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel the Prime Minister's post in 1946 despite PCCs backing him, and instead made Jawaharlal Nehru the Prime



Minister. Sanjay defended the Election Commission, saying it was a constitutional body and “not a pocket organisation of the BJP”. He warned that attempts to discredit constitutional institutions posed a threat to democracy. On Congress

leader Rahul Gandhi's allegations concerning the Election Commission, Sanjay said the matter involving Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar should be settled in court. He questioned why Gandhi had not sought an appointment with the

Election Commission if he had concerns.

Sanjay also praised Modi's public service, saying the Prime Minister had no family interests, benami assets or dynastic ambitions and was committed solely to serving the country. He appealed to youth to assess Modi's record and India's development since 2014.

The BJP organised a “Seva Jyothi” rally in Karimnagar from Geetha Bhavan Crossroads to Housing Board Colony ‘Padava’ Crossroads, followed by a “Viksit Bharat Sankalp Sabha” wherein PM Modi and BJP president Nitin Nabin addressed party workers virtually. (NSS)

TGSRTC to run 7,000 special buses for Dasara rush in Telangana

**Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct.7:**

The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) will operate 7,000 special buses to accommodate peak festival traffic during Dasara.

According to official plans, operations will be split across three main zones: the Karimnagar Zone will run 3,533 buses (including 1,175 in Karimnagar, 719 in Nizamabad, 678 in Khammam, 530 in Warangal, and 431 in Adilabad); the Hyderabad

Zone will run 2,155 buses (including 815 in Nalgonda, 645 in Mahabubnagar, 440 in Rangareddy, and 255 in Medak); and the Greater Hyderabad Zone will operate 1,312 services.

Heavy passenger surges are anticipated on October 9, 10, 16, and 17, with return traffic expected to peak on October 25 and 26. Additional buses will remain on standby to meet demand on these dates. In Hyderabad, major embarkation hubs include MGBS, JBS, Uppal (Nalla Cheruvu), Aramghar, LB Nagar

Crossroads, KPHB, Bowenpally, and Gachibowli.

To manage crowds, temporary amenities—including pandals, seating, public address systems, drinking water, and mobile toilets—will be installed at key boarding points.

As per state government directives, TGSRTC will apply a revised fare of up to 1.5 times the normal rate strictly for special bus services on the peak travel dates (October 9, 10, 16, 17, 25, and 26). Regular fares will remain unchanged on routine bus services.

KODANDARAM OPPOSES DELETION OF VOTERS' NAMES

**NSS
Hyderabad, Oct.7:**

Telangana Jana Samithi (TJS) president and MLC Professor M Kodandaram on Wednesday called for a united movement against attempts to delete eligible voters from electoral rolls, terming disenfranchisement a serious threat to democratic rights. Addressing a press conference at the TJS state office in Nampally here, Kodandaram said the right to vote gives citizens identity and self-respect and should be guaranteed to every adult.

He criticised the Election



Commission over the irregularities in its functioning and alleged that decisions concerning electoral rolls were being taken without proper collective functioning of the three-member commission.

Kodandaram also questioned proposed changes relating

to Form-6, claiming that the Supreme Court had not approved such modifications. He alleged that millions of names had been deleted from electoral rolls across the country and claimed that around 93 lakh voters in Telangana had lost their voting rights. He further alleged that attempts were being made to remove around 40,000 voters from the rolls through objections and complaints. Kodandaram said complaints had been filed over the issue and urged democratic forces to collectively oppose the attempt to determine the electorate rather than merely facilitate elections. (NSS)

Telangana CEO to verify certificates for graduate voter enrolment

**NSS
Hyderabad, Oct.7:**

Are you enrolling as an elector for forthcoming Graduates' Constituency elections scheduled for March 2027? Then ensure that educational qualification certificates are genuine. The Telangana Chief Electoral Office (TG CEO), which has commenced enrolment of graduates, has decided to use

special software to verify the genuineness of educational certificates, leaving no scope for submitting fake documents. This is being done to ensure that genuine voters register and exercise their franchise in elections. “During application scrutiny, we will deploy a special AI-based software to verify the certificates' genuineness before enrolling an individual,” sources said.



At a Glance

Vijay hears Perambur grievances

IAN S
Chennai, Oct. 7



Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay on Wednesday visited his MLA office in Perambur, met residents and received petitions on local issues. He directed officials to address the grievances promptly and reviewed the progress of development works and the functioning of the constituency’s grievance-handling application. Vijay also reviewed monsoon preparations in north Chennai and sought details on pre-cautionary measures to prevent waterlogging and deal with rainwater accumulation. Earlier, he inspected the Madhavaram dairy farm and discussed milk procurement and distribution with officials. He inaugurated the Aavin Central Laboratory annexe building, constructed at a cost of Rs 2.23 crore, and reviewed construction work on a new farm within the dairy complex.

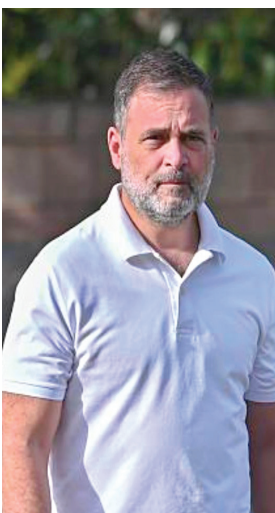
Gujarat cops nab honey-trap accused

IAN S
Ahmedabad, Oct. 7

Ahmedabad Police arrested 39-year-old Alpesh Solanki in an alleged Facebook honey-trap and extortion case, officials said. Solanki was arrested by the Local Crime Branch with Rs 1 lakh in cash allegedly collected from the complainant during a fresh extortion attempt. Police said Solanki and his associates allegedly contacted an older man through Facebook, honey-trapped him and threatened to implicate him in false cases. They allegedly extorted Rs 24 lakh from him in instalments and demanded another Rs 7 lakh. Acting on a control-room alert, police traced Solanki hiding under the Kamavati Bridge with the cash. Two alleged associates, Kishan alias Kanu Parmar and Lalo, remain absconding. Police seized Rs 1 lakh, a black bag and a mobile phone. An investigation is underway.

‘My goal is to have 100 FIRs against me’: Rahul Gandhi after Akashvani protest case

IAN S
New Delhi, Oct. 7



Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Wednesday took a jibe after an FIR was lodged against him for staging an over nine-hour sit-in at the Akashvani Bhavan, saying that he already has 45 cases against him and that his “goal is to have 100 FIRs”. The LoP made the remarks before heading to the Jantar Mantar, along with INDIA bloc leaders, to continue their agitation against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities

in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. Speaking to reporters, Gandhi remarked: “I have 45 FIRs against me. My goal is to have 100. I want 100 FIRs to be filed against me. Every FIR is a medal for me.” Delhi Police has received a complaint against LoP Gandhi, Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, and other INDIA bloc MPs accompanying them, for forcibly entering the Akashvani Bhawan during their protest on Tuesday, officials said on Wednesday. Gandhi further said: “As I said yesterday, around 300 MPs from the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha wanted to meet the CEC yesterday. He did not meet us. The Delhi Police stopped us, and yesterday they said that we cannot protest there.” “So, our plan today is to go to the designated protest site, Jantar Mantar, and sit there again and tell the country that, for us, Gyanesh Kumar is not the legitimate Election Commissioner of the country,” he added. LoP Gandhi reiterated his remarks from Tuesday, saying: “PM Modi, along with Home Minister Amit Shah, RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat and Gyanesh Kumar have together finished the country’s democracy...as I said yesterday, this is treason and action will be taken against those involved in this. Gyanesh Kumar will have to resign.” Meanwhile, a bus carrying Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, and other INDIA bloc MPs was currently heading towards Jantar Mantar. Congress MPs Amarinder Singh Raja Warring, Deepender Singh Hooda, Imran Pratapgarhi, and Imran Masood were seen climbing atop the bus. Earlier in the day, the Congress President hosted a lunch meeting for the INDIA bloc leaders at a restaurant in Janpath. Addressing reporters after the meeting, Kharge said: “Today, we will hold a sit-in protest at Jantar Mantar. Until our demands are met, we will continue to hold such protests.”

Assam Rifles seize 340 kg ganja worth Rs 1.74 crore in Tripura

IAN S
Agartala, Oct. 7

The Assam Rifles, in coordination with Customs officials, seized 340 kg of dry ganja worth around Rs 1.74 crore in Tripura’s Khowai district, officials said on Wednesday. Acting on intelligence inputs and following surveillance, the joint team conducted an operation in the district on Tuesday evening as part of a crackdown on narcotics trafficking. The team intercepted a car and recovered the contraband during a search. However, the driver managed to flee from the spot. No arrest has been reported so far in connection with the seizure. An official statement said the recovery highlighted the continued efforts of the Assam Rifles and other agencies to disrupt narcotics trafficking networks operating through the Northeast. The seized ganja and vehicle were handed over to the Customs authorities for further investigation



and legal proceedings. A police official said the state police, Assam Rifles, Tripura State Rifles and other security agencies regularly conduct joint operations to destroy illicit ganja cultivation in different parts of the state, particularly in Sepahijala district, which shares a border with Bangladesh. According to the official, ganja cultivated in Tripura is generally smuggled to other states, including Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, where it fetches higher prices. Consignments are frequently intercepted from trucks, small vehicles and passenger trains during transportation.

The official said residents, including women, have claimed that ganja cultivation in hilly and inaccessible areas provides them with a livelihood. However, authorities have also found instances of forest and government land being encroached upon and used illegally for cannabis cultivation. Under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985, cultivation, possession, sale, purchase and consumption of prohibited narcotic and psychotropic substances are illegal and can attract heavy fines and imprisonment of up to 20 years.

‘INDIA, CANADA ECONOMIC TIES POISED TO GET STRONGER’

IAN S
Gandhinagar, Oct. 7

India and Canada have strong potential to deepen their economic relationship, with renewed political and institutional momentum now creating opportunities for greater cooperation across energy, critical minerals, technology and trade, according to an article by former Indian High Commissioner to Canada Sanjay Kumar Verma. Writing in India Narrative, Verma said the ingredients for a strong economic partnership had always existed, but political and institutional momentum had been lacking at different points. He said the Joint Leaders’ Statement issued in March 2026 had given the renewed relationship a substantial economic dimension. The statement identified energy, critical minerals, clean technologies, science and technology, space, resilient supply chains and talent mobility as key areas for deeper cooperation. It also placed the proposed



Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) at the centre of bilateral economic engagement. With both governments seeking to conclude the CEPA by the end of 2026, the focus will be on shaping an agreement that can expand trade and investment while addressing domestic sensitivities on both sides, Verma said. Energy is one of the key areas of potential cooperation. Canada can become a more important supplier of LNG, LPG, crude oil, uranium and other energy products, while India remains a major and growing energy market. The two countries have

established a Strategic Energy Partnership covering conventional energy, civil nuclear cooperation, clean energy and critical minerals. A CAD 2.6 billion (US\$1.88 billion) long-term uranium supply agreement between Cameco and India’s Department of Atomic Energy provides a foundation for nuclear co-operation. The two sides are also working towards a long-term LPG supply arrangement. Critical minerals offer another area of convergence, with Canada possessing significant resources and expertise and India offering opportunities in processing, technol-

ogy, manufacturing and supply-chain partnerships. Clean energy, including solar, wind, bioenergy, small hydro and storage, is another potential area of cooperation. Technology could also expand bilateral engagement, with Canada having strengths in artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, advanced research and aerospace, while India has a large digital ecosystem and technology workforce. The article noted that nearly three decades of cooperation between ISRO and the Canadian Space Agency could support further collaboration in space. Under CEPA negotiations, India is expected to seek improved market access for pharmaceuticals, engineering products, machinery, IT and professional services. Canada is likely to focus on agriculture and agri-food, energy, minerals, wood products and other resource-intensive sectors. Verma said negotiations would need to accommodate sensitivities in both countries.

No eligible voter will be left behind, says J&K CEO; special drive on Oct 10-11

IAN S
Jammu, Oct. 7

J&K Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) Sanjeev Verma on Wednesday said that no voter would be left behind as he announced a two-day special weekend voter enrolment drive on October 10 and 11. With the objective of ensuring that no eligible voter is left behind, Chief Electoral Officer, J&K, Sanjeev Verma announced a two-day Special Intensive Voter Enrolment Drive across J&K on October 10 (Saturday) and October 11 (Sunday), 2026, marking the beginning of a regular weekend voter facilitation initiative. The special drive will be conducted at all polling stations across J&K from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on both days, providing eligible citizens with an accessible opportunity to enrol themselves as voters and update or correct their electoral particulars. The announcement was made during a review meeting chaired by the CEO with District Election Officers (DEOs), Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) and Assistant Electoral Registration

Officers (AEROs) to review and finalise arrangements for the special drive. Sanjeev Verma directed the election machinery to ensure extensive outreach and effective facilitation so that no eligible citizen remains outside the electoral rolls. As part of the initiative, weekend voter enrolment and facilitation drives will be organised regularly, providing citizens with a convenient opportunity to approach their nearest polling station for enrolment and updation of electoral details. The CEO directed DEOs and EROs/AEROs to undertake extensive institutional and public outreach to create awareness about the initiative. He also called for regular ground-level updates through official social media platforms, with posts carrying relevant polling station, Assembly constituency and district details to enable citizens to easily access information regarding the facilities available in their respective areas. During the two-day drive, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will remain stationed at all polling stations from 9 a.m.



to 5 p.m. to assist citizens with the submission of Forms 6, 7 and 8 and facilitate enrolment, deletion and correction/updation of electoral details. Citizens will be provided assistance for both physical submission of forms and digital submission through the Voter Helpline App. The CEO further directed BLOs to undertake door-to-door outreach to identify and assist eligible citizens who may have been left out of the electoral rolls, with particular focus on youth, first-time voters, women, Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and other eligible citizens requiring assistance. Urging citizens to make

full use of the initiative, Sanjeev Verma called upon all eligible persons to visit their nearest polling station on October 10 or 11 and avail themselves of the enrolment and facilitation services available there. He emphasised the importance of active citizen participation in ensuring that the electoral rolls remain complete, accurate and inclusive. The Election Department has reiterated its commitment to making voter enrolment more accessible at the grassroots level and ensuring that every eligible citizen has a convenient opportunity to become part of the electoral process.

DELIMITATION WAS DONE TO HELP BJP, ALLEGES OMAR ABDULLAH

Munsif
Srinagar, Oct. 7



Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday alleged that the delimitation exercise in the Union Territory was carried out to benefit the BJP and expressed concern that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls could also be used to favour the party. Talking to reporters in Srinagar, Abdullah said J&K had already suffered because of the delimitation exercise. He alleged that SIR was being used

elsewhere in the country to help the BJP and could be similarly used in J&K. He, however, said the Supreme Court’s intervention could make it difficult to misuse Form 7 for deleting names from electoral rolls. Abdullah also said the government would have

filed a defamation case had a report published by a leading national daily been incorrect. He claimed that the absence of such action showed that the report was correct. On Cabinet expansion, Abdullah said he would take a decision after attending the upcoming GST meeting in Delhi and consulting National Conference president Dr Farooq Abdullah. J&K can have up to 10 ministers, including the Chief Minister. The Cabinet currently has six members, leaving four va-

cancies. Abdullah can also reshuffle or drop existing ministers. The Chief Minister had offered a Cabinet berth to the Congress, which has six MLAs. However, JKPC president Tariq Hameed Karra has said the party will not join the government until statehood is restored. The NC has 41 MLAs, BJP 29, Congress six, PDP four, and AAP, CPI(M), Peoples Conference and Awami Ittehad Party one each. There are six Independents, four of whom support the NC government.

High Courts should not suggest custodial interrogation, says Supreme Court

IAN S
New Delhi, Oct. 7

The Supreme Court has held that High Courts should not suggest or direct that an accused be subjected to custodial interrogation, saying the manner of interrogation should be left to the investigating agency. A bench of Justices Ujjal Bhuyan and Atul S. Chandurkar made the observation while granting anticipatory bail to a husband-wife duo accused of tampering with a school principal’s service record to alter his date of birth and extend his retirement.

The court was hearing an appeal by Miteshgiri alias Mulrajgiri Sevagiri Goswami and Ilaben Miteshgiri Goswami against the Gujarat High Court’s refusal to grant them anticipatory bail. In its June 16 order, the High Court had observed that custodial interrogation of the applicants and other suspects was “imperative to unearth the truth”. The Supreme Court disapproved of the observation, holding that it was not for a High Court to suggest a particular form of interrogation. “We are of the firm view

that it is not for the High Court to suggest any form of interrogation of an accused. This should be best left to the discretion of the investigating agency,” the bench said. The apex court also cautioned that sweeping observations could affect the rights of persons who had not been made accused in the case. It said High Courts should avoid making such unnecessary observations. The Supreme Court noted that the allegations were primarily based on documentary evidence and held

that custodial interrogation of the appellants was not necessary. The prosecution alleged that the service record was altered to change the principal’s date of birth from June 19, 1964 to June 19, 1965, resulting in an extended retirement period and unlawful gain at the cost of the public exchequer. The appellants had been protected from arrest by an interim order and were directed to cooperate with the investigation. The Supreme Court made the protection absolute, set aside the Gujarat High Court order and allowed the appeal.



At a Glance

US lawmaker seeks probe into H-1B visa fraud

IANS
Washington, Oct. 7

Republican Congressman Rich McCormick has asked the Trump administration to investigate suspected H-1B visa fraud in the Atlanta area, alleging that some employers manipulate the programme to obtain cheaper labour and exploit foreign workers.

McCormick, who represents Georgia's 7th Congressional District, sent a letter to officials seeking resources for the area.

He described it as a "suspected hotspot" for H-1B fraud, citing constituent reports and federal enforcement activity.

McCormick alleged that some employers obtain workers below market wages, potentially exposing them to exploitation. He urged US federal agencies to investigate and strengthen enforcement.



India-Africa ties for generations: Jaishankar

IANS
Accra, Oct. 7

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said India's partnership with Africa is aimed at building ties for today and generations to come.

Addressing the Foreign Service Institute of Ghana, Jaishankar said diplomacy must manage competition without allowing it to become a confrontation and promote cooperation despite differences.

He highlighted India's economic and technological transformation, saying stronger capabilities make India a more effective partner.

Jaishankar stressed supply chain resilience, technology sharing and opportunities for Global South to industrialise. He also highlighted cooperation in trade, infrastructure and energy.

TRUMP SAYS COVID EXPOSED US RELIANCE ON CHINA

IANS
Washington, Oct. 7

US President Donald Trump said that the Covid pandemic exposed America's dependence on China and other countries for critical products, arguing that the United States must rebuild domestic manufacturing capacity to protect its economic and national security.

Trump says Covid exposed US reliance on China

Speaking at Sparrows Point in Maryland, Trump linked his administration's push to expand American shipbuilding with a wider effort to bring strategic manufacturing back to the United States.

"We learned that from COVID," Trump said, referring to America's dependence on foreign suppliers.

"We didn't make our farmers -- we didn't make our drugs, it was made in China and lots of other places, Ireland, all over Europe," he said, according to a transcript of his remarks.

Trump's comments came as he announced a major expansion of



American shipbuilding capacity at the former industrial site outside Baltimore.

The president has made reshoring manufacturing and reducing US dependence on foreign supply chains a central element of his economic and national-security agenda.

He has particularly targeted America's economic relationship with China, using tariffs and other trade restrictions while pushing companies to manufacture more products in the United States.

But Trump also said

Tuesday that Washington continues to have an important economic relationship with Beijing.

"We have a very good -- we've had -- always had a good relationship, but we're making a lot of money with China," Trump said.

Trump tied that approach to defence production, saying his administration had secured more than \$76 billion in shipbuilding funding to produce more than 80 new vessels for the US Navy.

The administration has argued that industrial capacity itself should be

viewed as a national-security asset, particularly as the United States competes with China across military technology, advanced manufacturing and maritime power.

At Sparrows Point, Trump and Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth announced a new shipyard intended to manufacture submarine components and autonomous underwater vessels.

The project brings together federal funding and private investment as Washington attempts to expand an industrial base that officials say has become too concentrated and unable to produce ships and submarines at the speed required by the military.

Hegseth said the administration was seeking "speed, scale and urgency" from the Pentagon and defence companies.

The strategy reflects a broader shift in US economic policy in which supply chains for semiconductors, pharmaceuticals, critical minerals, energy and defence equipment are increasingly viewed through the lens of national security.

UKRAINE NATO MEMBERSHIP NOT ON TABLE, SAYS RUBIO

IANS
Washington, Oct. 7

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has said Ukraine's membership in NATO is "not on the table" for now, as Washington focuses on efforts to bring the war with Russia to an end.

Speaking at a joint media availability with Icelandic Foreign Minister Thorgerdur Katrin Gunnarsdottir in Reykjavik, Rubio said NATO membership would require a consensus and unanimity among the alliance's members.

"Ukraine, right now, NATO membership, as you know, is not on the table as we speak," Rubio said, adding that there was no simple yes-or-no answer to the question of Ukraine joining the alliance.

He said the immediate US priority was to end the conflict, if possible, and stressed that Washington wanted to play a constructive role in efforts to stop the fighting.

"It's unfortunate the amount of loss of life," Rubio said. "If there's a role we can play in bringing that war to an end, we want to play a constructive role."



At the same time, Rubio voiced concern over the current course of the conflict, saying the United States was monitoring the "trend lines".

"We're obviously watching the trend lines there and seeing that's not the direction that it's headed right now," he said.

Rubio's remarks came during wider discussions on security in the Arctic and High North. He said the international security environment had changed significantly over the past two decades and had renewed Washington's focus on the region.

"The reality of it is the world has changed over the last 20 years. Our focus has changed. There's a lot of focus on

the Arctic," he said.

Rubio described Iceland's geographical position as strategically important to both European security and the defence of the United States. He said Washington was open to discussing additional cooperation with Reykjavik.

He also said security challenges in the High North extended beyond conventional military threats, citing covert activity, threats to undersea cables and shipping lanes, and economic and commercial challenges with national security implications.

He said these concerns were shaping Washington's wider security priorities there too.

US WATCHING RUSSIA PLAGUE CASE 'HOUR BY HOUR'

IANS
Washington, Oct. 7

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the United States and international agencies are monitoring a suspected plague case in Russia "hour by hour", while urging Moscow to provide more information to the world.

Rubio declined to speculate on whether the case could be linked to an accidental release of an intentionally modified strain, saying available information remained limited.

"Any time you hear that there's some disease that infected someone in a lab anywhere in the world, you're going to be concerned about it," Rubio said during a joint media availability with Icelandic Foreign Minister Thorgerdur Katrin Gunnarsdottir in Reykjavik.

Asked about reports of a fatal suspected plague case in Siberia and whether it could involve an altered strain, Rubio said it would be premature to draw conclusions.

"It would be irresponsible

ble for me here to sit and speculate because we just don't have all the information yet," he said.

Rubio called on Russia to provide greater transparency about the case.

"I think it's incumbent upon Russia to obviously share more information with the world. That's what they should do. That's what we hope they will do," he said.

The Secretary of State stressed that Washington had not reached any conclusion about the nature or seriousness of the incident.

"Maybe, you know, there's nothing there. Maybe it's bigger than we thought. We don't know," Rubio said.

He said the United States was nevertheless closely following developments because more information could determine what response might be necessary.

"We're watching it very closely, and I think the whole world is watching it very closely because depending on what we learn about it, we would know how to respond," he said.

Rubio said measures were already available if authorities determine the situation is more serious than currently acknowledged.

"We already, you know, have measures in place to be able to address it if it's -- if it's something more serious than what so far has been acknowledged," he said.

He added that several US and international agencies were involved in monitoring the situation.

"We're watching it very closely, hour by hour. We have multiple agencies, not just in the United States but internationally, that are watching it," Rubio said.

"We encourage Russia to be transparent and share more information with the world, so that all of us could react accordingly and appropriately."

Rubio said decisions would depend on information received in the coming period. "So far, that's still quite limited, but hopefully that will change in the next few hours and days," he said

ZELENSKY CONDEMNS RUSSIAN STRIKE ON RESIDENTIAL BUILDING IN CHERNIHIV

IANS
Kyiv, Oct. 7

President Volodymyr Zelensky on Wednesday accused Russia of destroying a residential building in Pryluky in the Chernihiv region, describing the attack as a "birthday gift" to Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Zelensky said five people were killed and 26 others, including five children, were injured after a five-storey apartment building was destroyed. He said first responders were



continuing rescue operations amid fears people remained trapped.

"Today, as a birthday 'gift' to Putin, the Russian army destroyed a residential building in Pryluky, in the Chernihiv region," Zelensky said in a post on X.

He said Russian missile strikes damaged five apart-

ment buildings in Dnipro and four buildings in Kremenchuk, killing two people and injuring eight. A drone damaged a high-rise building in Zaporizhzhia, while two people were killed in Kyiv and two others in Oleksandriya, he said.

Zelensky said infrastructure in Kyiv and 12 regions came under attack overnight and alleged that Ukraine's energy infrastructure was among Russia's targets.

He said the strikes involved 70 missiles, including ballistic missiles,

as well as Shahed drones, and that some were intercepted.

"Russian ballistic missiles remain the greatest challenge," Zelensky said, calling air defence systems a "vital necessity" for Ukraine.

He said Kyiv was seeking additional missiles for Patriot air defence systems.

Zelensky offered condolences to the families of those killed and thanked countries supporting Ukraine's air defence efforts.

TWO INJURED IN BLAST IN AFGHANISTAN'S BADAKHSHAN

IANS
Kabul, Oct. 7



Two civilians were injured in a blast in Afghanistan's Badakhshan province Wednesday, police spokesman Ehsanullah Kamgar said.

"Two civilians who

were riding in a car were slightly injured when an explosive device inside a vase exploded in the Hangar area of Faizabad city this morning," Kamgar said, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Police arrested four people in connection with the incident and an investigation was underway, the official said.

The incident came after a grenade explosion near the Sham-e Hedayat private school in the Dasht-e Barchi area of western Kabul

in August injured more than 52 people, including children, according to local reports.

Taliban police spokesperson Khalid Zadran said the blast was caused by a hand grenade but gave no details about who was carrying it or how it detonated.

Witnesses said the grenade exploded while in the possession of a school student, who was also injured. The circumstances remained unclear, Afghanistan's Khaama Press reported.

Dasht-e Barchi, home to a Hazara and Shia community, has witnessed deadly attacks, including violence targeting schools.

UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in Afghanistan Richard Bennett condemned the attack and called for an independent investigation.

"I condemn the heinous attack harming numerous children near a school in Dasht-e Barchi," Bennett posted on X, urging accountability again too.

Onion prices dip as fresh crop flows into markets



The outlook for onion availability has strengthened considerably with robust market arrivals and the commencement of fresh Kharif supplies, with the improving supply position already translating into a broad-based moderation in prices of the staple vegetable across mandis and major consumer markets, the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution said on Wednesday.

The weighted average mandi price in Maharashtra has declined by nearly 13 per cent, from around Rs 4,030 per quintal on September 16 to about Rs 3,475 per quintal on October 3. The sustained moderation in mandi prices indicates that the increase in market arrivals is translating into improved supply conditions, a ministry statement said.

The easing trend is also visible across retail markets. As many as 126 cities have reported a decline of Rs 1-21 per kg in retail onion prices over the past two weeks, with moderation observed in major consuming states, it said.

Fresh Kharif onion arrivals have commenced from major producing states, including Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Rajasthan, while availability from stored stocks continues to meet market demands. Arrivals from these producing regions are expected to increase further in the coming weeks, improving overall availability in the consuming markets during the upcoming festive season, the statement said.

The production outlook for the Kharif crop is encouraging. All-India Kharif onion acreage is estimated to be around 5 per cent higher than last year's already strong level, with crop conditions remaining favourable across major producing regions. The rainfall outlook by IMD during the harvesting period also provides support to the crop, with no forecast of excessive rains in key Kharif onion regions in the coming weeks to facilitate harvesting, drying, and movement of onions and reduce the risk of moisture-related crop damage.

The government is also augmenting supplies to consuming centres through buffer stock release. As on date, the government has disposed off more than 2.0 lakh Quintals through 8 Kanda Express and 467 trucks across 123 cities and is planning to deploy additional rail rakes, enabling larger quantities of onions to reach high-consumption markets. These efforts are being further strengthened ahead of the festive season, with additional rail movements being planned to improve the speed and efficiency of supply distribution, the statement said.

The combination of fresh Kharif arrivals, availability from stored stocks and continued movement of buffer onions to consumption centres provides multiple channels of supply to the market. The government is maintaining close oversight of arrivals, stocks and price movements and is taking appropriate measures to facilitate orderly distribution and adequate availability wherever required, the statement added.

AI discussion should focus on 'pro-worker' systems to avoid widening inequality

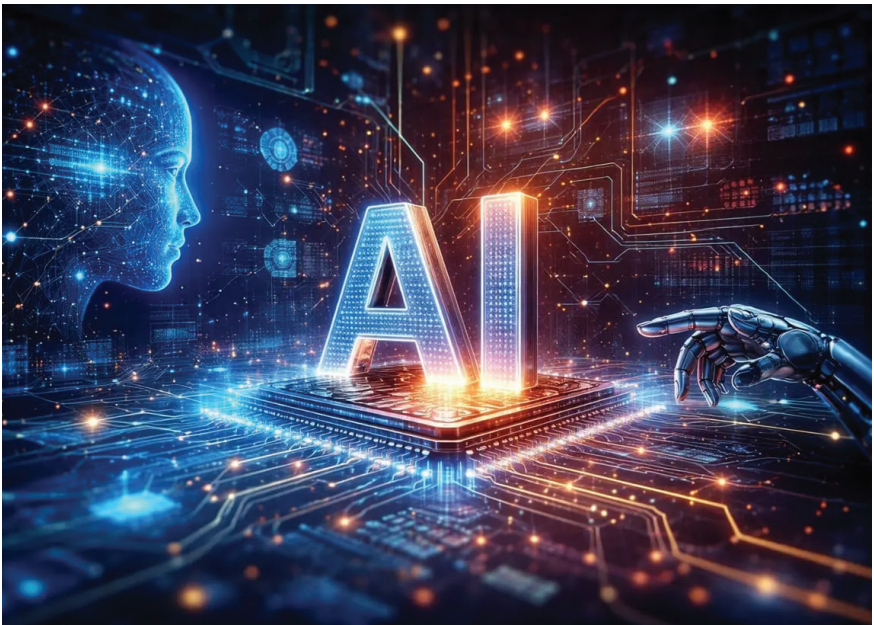
The current direction of artificial intelligence (AI) development risks amplifying inequalities and job losses unless industry shifts focus toward tools that complement workers, a paper from an expert has said.

Daron Acemoglu, an economist and Institute Professor at MIT, said in the paper The Humanist Review of AI that the discussion around AI should move away from Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) or speculative fears about artificial general intelligence toward practical policies that promote pro-worker AI systems.

Artificial General Intelligence (AGI) is a hypothetical AI system that can match or surpass human cognitive abilities across any intellectual task or domain.

"The most important tool for steering AI onto a better path is not a silver bullet policy," he wrote, arguing that a change of perspective is needed to choose to complement human skills and contribute to the flourishing of humans rather than to their material, social and spiritual impoverishment.

The paper urged policy tools that can help as well



to redirect AI away from automation.

"Create corporate demand for pro-worker tools; generate demonstration effects that prove the approach works; build a market environment where new ideas and business models can flourish; and invest in the infrastructure for pro-worker AI," it said.

Moreover, Acemoglu blamed current business models of large tech developers focused on selling software to corporations and raising revenues from digital advertisements, which have not engaged with creating pro-worker tools.

Further, the competition landscape does not encourage new players to try new business models either as the tech industry has become very concentrated.

The paper also mentioned a nuts and bolts problem in which businesses assume that they will only be offered new automation tools by tech companies and create plans accordingly.

"Tech companies think that businesses will continue to predominantly demand automation tools and there wouldn't be a large market for pro-worker AI, and they invest and develop their

models accordingly," the paper noted.

Acemoglu said nearly 52 per cent of US citizens are worried about how AI will impact their jobs. While others fear that AI will pollute our informational ecosystem and end democracy, while many speculate AI as a civilisation-ending threat.

However, Acemoglu noted that AI won't be as beneficial at the scale as the industry insiders expect, saying, "Several studies and reports have failed to find much in the way of productivity gains from adoption of AI by most companies."

Mivi One 5G goes on sale with Flipkart Big Billion Days; price starting at Rs 11,999



Homegrown consumer technology brand MIVI on Wednesday announced that its maiden smartphone, the Mivi One 5G, will go on sale exclusively on Flipkart during the upcoming Big Billion Days sale, with an effective starting price of Rs 11,999.

The launch marks MIVI's entry into the highly competitive smartphone market, where the company aims to position the device as a value-driven offering focused on performance, connectivity and everyday usability. Branded as "Pretty Powerful", the Mivi One 5G combines 5G capabilities with a feature set targeted at mainstream consumers.

According to the company, the smartphone is powered by Qualcomm's

Snapdragon 4 Gen 2 5G mobile platform and is the only Snapdragon-powered 5G smartphone currently available in its segment.

The device is designed to deliver reliable performance for daily tasks, entertainment, social media usage and gaming while supporting next-generation connectivity.

The Mivi One 5G features a 6.75-inch HD+ display with a 120Hz refresh rate, a 50-megapixel dual rear camera setup, an 8-megapixel front camera and a 6,000mAh battery with support for 18W fast charging.

The smartphone runs on Stock Android 16 and comes with 128GB of internal storage across all variants. Buyers can choose between 4GB, 6GB and 8GB RAM options.

The device also includes IP64-rated protection, a side-mounted fingerprint sensor and the company's ClearTalk noise-reduction technology aimed at enhancing voice call quality. It will be available in five colour options: Blue, Pink, Green, Burgundy and Navy Blue.

As part of Flipkart's festive Big Billion Days sale, the 4GB RAM and 128GB storage variant will be available at an effective price of Rs 11,999, down from its original price of Rs 14,999.

The 6GB+128GB model will be offered at Rs 13,499 against its listed price of Rs 15,999, while the top-end 8GB+128GB variant will be available at Rs 14,999 compared with its original price of Rs 16,999. The effective prices include applicable

Not Every Heart Problem Begins With Chest Pain: Know the Warning Signs



Every year, World Heart Day provides an important opportunity to raise awareness about cardiovascular health and encourage people to take heart disease and stroke prevention seriously. The 2026 campaign carries the message "Don't Miss a Beat," reminding people that recognising early warning signs can sometimes make a crucial difference. When people think about heart disease, chest pain is usually considered the first and most obvious warning sign. However, heart-related problems do not always begin with severe chest pain. Unexplained breathlessness, unusual fatigue, excessive sweating, dizziness and a sudden decline in the ability to perform routine activities can also be possible signs of a heart problem.

Symptoms of heart disease can vary considerably from one person to another. They depend on the type of heart condition, the individual's overall health and the part of the heart or blood vessels affected. A new difficulty in breathing or unusual tiredness after activities that were previously easy should not simply be dismissed as ageing, stress or a lack of physical fitness. When the heart is unable to pump blood efficiently, pressure can build up in the lungs and cause breathlessness. Similarly, if climbing stairs, walking a normal distance or carrying out routine household activities suddenly becomes much more tiring than before, the change deserves attention.

Heart-related discomfort may also occur outside the chest. Some people can experience pressure or discomfort in the arm, shoulder, back, neck or jaw, while

others may develop nausea, light-headedness, cold sweating or unusual weakness. Because these symptoms can resemble indigestion, acidity, exhaustion or other common health problems, they are sometimes ignored. If symptoms repeatedly appear during physical activity and improve after rest, they should still be brought to a doctor's attention.

People with diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol or obesity, as well as those with a family history of heart disease, should be particularly alert to new or unexplained symptoms. Older adults and people with diabetes may also experience less typical warning signs, making it even more important not to depend only on chest pain as an indication of a heart problem.

At the same time,

the presence of these symptoms does not necessarily mean that a person has heart disease. Breathlessness, fatigue, nausea and similar complaints can also be caused by respiratory disorders, digestive problems, muscle conditions and several other health issues. However, new, unexplained or persistent symptoms should not be ignored, particularly when there is a noticeable change in a person's normal physical capacity.

Waiting for severe chest pain before seeking medical attention is not always a safe approach. Understanding what is normal for your own body and recognising significant changes can help in seeking timely medical advice. Regular health check-ups and proper management of risk factors such as blood pressure, diabetes, cholesterol and obesity can also help identify cardiovascular risks at an earlier stage.

Heart disease can sometimes develop without dramatic or easily recognisable warning signs. That is why awareness and timely action are important. Paying attention to unusual changes, seeking medical advice when necessary and taking preventive measures can help protect heart health. The message of World Heart Day is therefore particularly relevant: do not wait for a major warning sign. Recognise the changes, act in time and don't miss a beat.



1st T20I: Shreyas Iyer's historic ton, Naman Dhir's three-for power India to an eight-wicket win

Lucknow, Oct. 07:

Captain Shreyas Iyer smashed a brilliant unbeaten 102 off 43 balls and debutant Naman Dhir claimed three wickets as India defeated West Indies by eight wickets in the first T20I at the BRSABV Ekana Cricket Stadium here on Tuesday, taking a 1-0 lead in the five-match series.

Chasing 172, India reached 172/2 in just 14.4 overs. Iyer brought up his maiden T20I century in 42 balls, the fastest by an Indian against West Indies and the second-fastest overall against them. He also became only the third Indian men's T20I captain after Rohit Sharma and Suryakumar Yadav



to score a century in the format.

Iyer, who had a previous best of 80 not out against England earlier this year, received strong support

from Ishan Kishan, who scored 37 off 27 balls. The pair added 137 runs from 68 deliveries to put India firmly in control. Kishan also completed 3,000 in-

ternational runs during his innings.

Earlier, West Indies were bowled out for 171 in 19.1 overs after India reduced them to 44/3 in

the powerplay. Shai Hope scored 52 off 36 balls, while Sherfane Rutherford made a quick 56 off 31 balls. Their efforts briefly revived the innings, but India's spinners kept striking at regular intervals.

Dhir made an impressive T20I debut, finishing with 3/31 from four overs, the third-best figures by an Indian spinner on debut in the format. Axar Patel took 2/26, while Kuldeep Yadav claimed 2/33. Arshdeep Singh and Mayank Yadav took one wicket each.

India's chase was barely troubled as Iyer attacked from the outset and reached his century in style. With a commanding batting performance led by the captain and an impressive debut by Dhir, India began the five-match series on a convincing winning note.

'Very satisfying to be honest, God listens if you work hard,' says Naman

Lucknow, Oct. 07:

India all-rounder Naman Dhir described his T20I debut against West Indies as a "very satisfying" moment, saying honest hard work and faith in God helped him reach the international stage.

Dhir, who had featured in all three ODIs against West Indies, was added to India's T20I squad at the last moment after Washington Sundar was released for Ranji Trophy duty. In India's eight-wicket win in Lucknow on Tuesday, Dhir impressed with the ball, claiming 3/31 on debut while operating as the fifth bowling option.

Reflecting on his journey, Dhir said he would not have believed a few weeks ago that he would make his international debut in both formats. He added that if a player works hard with honesty, "God will listen" one day.

Dhir showed good control with his off-spin, adjusting his pace and length under pressure. Interestingly, all three of his wickets came on the



very next delivery after he was hit for a six.

He said watching Axar Patel bowl during the powerplay helped him understand the pitch conditions. Dhir noted that the slightly damp surface offered some grip to slower deliveries, which he used to his advantage.

The all-rounder also credited disciplined preparation in domestic cricket and the IPL for keeping him calm on the big stage.

While admitting to some nerves, he said they were much less than during his ODI debut and that he thoroughly enjoyed his first T20I.

Fast bowler Arshdeep Singh, who presented Dhir with his T20I cap, praised his fearless approach and steady improvement over the years. Arshdeep said Dhir had always shown a willingness to express himself and give his best for the team.

Arctic Open: Sindhu makes winning return as Indian women's singles campaign takes a hit

Vantaa, Oct. 07:

Two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu made a winning return at the Arctic Open 2026, defeating Canada's Wen Yu Zhang in straight games on Tuesday, but India suffered several setbacks in the women's singles opening round of the BWF Super 500 tournament in Finland.

Sixth-seeded Sindhu needed just 28 minutes to beat Zhang 21-8, 21-11 and advance to the second round, where she will face Japan's Riko Gunji. Sindhu, who reached the quarterfinals at the Asian Games 2026, controlled the contest from the start and never allowed her opponent to settle.

Unnati Hooda came close to a comeback against China's Han Qianxi but lost a tense decider 24-22 after 68 minutes. Hooda had recovered from losing the first game 21-16 to level the match with a 21-15 win in the second.

Ashmita Chaliha also pushed seventh seed Line Christophersen to the limit. After losing the opening



game 21-7, Chaliha forced a decider by winning the second 21-14, but the Dane edged the third 26-24.

Malvika Bansod lost 21-18, 21-13 to Scotland's Kirsty Gilmour, while Isharani Baruah went down 21-10, 21-15 to top seed and former world champion Ratchanok Intanon of Thailand. Tanvi Sharma provided another Indian win, beating Chinese Taipei's Chiu Pin-Chian 21-15, 21-17.

India also suffered an early exit in mixed doubles, with Ishan Bhatnagar and Shruti Mishra losing 21-3, 21-6 to Thailand's Pakkapon Teeraratsakul and Sapsiree Taerattanachai.

In men's singles qualifying, Tharun Manne-

pal and Rounak Chouhan secured main-draw berths after winning their respective matches. Mannepal beat Belgium's Julien Carraggi 21-12, 19-21, 21-13, while Chouhan defeated Israel's Daniel Dubovenko 18-21, 21-17, 21-19.

Both will join established Indians Kidambi Srikanth and HS Prannoy in the main draw. However, Achutaditya Rao Doddavarapu and Arjun Reddy Pochana missed out in men's doubles qualifying.

With Sindhu and Tanvi Sharma remaining in the women's singles draw, India will look to build momentum as the BWF World Tour resumes following the Asian Games break.

Zeeshan Ansari set to return to UP Ranji squad after six-year gap



Lucknow, Oct. 07:

Leg-spinner Zeeshan Ansari is set to return to the Uttar Pradesh Ranji Trophy squad after a six-year gap following an impressive domestic campaign.

The 26-year-old last played a Ranji match for Uttar Pradesh in 2020. He forced his way back into the team with a standout performance in the Vijay Hazare Trophy, taking 21 wickets in eight matches at an average of 16.52.

Ansari made his first-class debut against Railways in 2017 and was part of India's 2016 Under-19 World Cup squad alongside Rishabh Pant and Ishan Kishan. However, limited opportunities saw him spend years playing local and league

cricket, while also working as a net bowler for the Uttar Pradesh team.

His recent resurgence brought him into the national selectors' radar, earning him a place in the India A squad for the upcoming unofficial Tests against Sri Lanka A.

Despite having played only five first-class matches and taken 17 wickets, Ansari's ability to turn the ball both ways and bowl an effective googly has made him an attractive option.

His Ranji return marks a significant turnaround for a player whose career once appeared to be losing momentum. He will now look to convert his white-ball success into a sustained red-ball career with Uttar Pradesh.

'Winning gold for India is Diwali for me': Wrestler Sujeet shares festive

New Delhi, Oct. 07:

Asian Games gold medallist wrestler Sujeet Kalkal says winning a gold medal for India is the real Diwali for him, as he prepares for the Wrestling World Championships in Kazakhstan later this month.

The 23-year-old Haryana wrestler made headlines at the Asian Games by defeating Olympic champion Kotaro Kiyooka of Japan in the 65kg freestyle final and then staging a remarkable comeback from 2-9 down to beat Tajikistan's Abdulmazhid Kudiev 10-9 for gold.

Speaking at a Sports Authority of India press conference, Sujeet said he has often missed Holi and Diwali because of competitions. He added that his father believes bringing home a gold medal is itself a celebration of both festivals.

Sujeet will now tar-



get another major title at the UWW World Championships in Astana from October 24 to November 1. He described the World Championships as an extremely tough competition and said his preparation would focus on correcting mistakes from previous events.

Recalling his Asian Games final, Sujeet said he struggled initially because he could not warm up properly, but gained a better grip in the second

period and successfully executed his attacks to complete the comeback.

The wrestler, who trains at SAI Sonapat, also credited the Target Olympic Podium Scheme, SAI and the Wrestling Federation of India for providing overseas training opportunities. He said training alongside world and Olympic medalists in Russia and Armenia helped him gain valuable experience ahead of the Asian Games and World Championships.

Messi bids farewell to Argentina with resounding win over Benin, emotion and celebrations



Buenos Aires, Oct.

Lionel Messi marked his final appearance for Argentina with a memorable 3-0 victory over Benin, scoring the third goal as a packed Monumental Stadium gave the legendary captain an emotional farewell.

The match remained goalless in the first half, but Argentina took control after the break. Nicolas Otamendi opened the scoring before Nicolas Paz doubled the lead. With the result firmly in Argentina's favour, Messi found the net in the closing stages to complete a fitting farewell in front of the home crowd.

After the final whistle, an emotional Messi addressed the supporters and reflected

on his long journey with the national team. He thanked the fans for their support across the country and said representing Argentina had been the best thing that ever happened to him.

Messi also recalled the celebrations at the Monumental following Argentina's 2022 World Cup triumph, describing that moment as one of the most wonderful experiences of his career. "I'm saying goodbye to the national team. I'm going to miss you all, I'm going to miss it, but now it's my turn to be on that side," Messi said, visibly moved by the occasion.

The farewell began before kick-off with live musical performances, while the Argentine national anthem was performed by Falklands

War veteran Fabio Santana. After the match, the celebrations continued with a spectacular display of drones, lights, banners and pyrotechnics inside the stadium.

Several popular Argentine artists also performed during the evening, turning Messi's final match for Argentina into a grand celebration. The night ended with another message from Messi, bringing an emotional close to his farewell in front of the Argentine supporters.

The farewell night also featured music, lights, drones and fireworks, with several Argentine artists performing for the packed crowd. The celebrations turned Messi's final appearance in the national jersey into an emotional tribute to one of Argentina's greatest footballers.

Laxman's presence in senior men's selection meetings set to be a norm: Saikia

New Delhi, Oct. 07:

BCCI Secretary Devajit Saikia said the Centre of Excellence (CoE) head VVS Laxman's presence in the senior men's national selection committee meetings is set to be a norm going forward, adding that this decision was taken during the comprehensive review meeting held last month at its headquarters in Mumbai. In a picture shared by the BCCI on their social media accounts on Tuesday evening, Laxman was seen in the senior men's selection meeting held at the ACA Stadium in Guwahati. The meeting also featured Saikia and senior men's selection panel members Pragyan

Ojha, SS Das, Ajay Ratra and RP Singh for picking India's squads for the five-game T20I series in New Zealand and the three-match red-ball A series against New Zealand A. "VVS Laxman was present in the meeting on Tuesday to ensure that there is no miscommunication between the selectors and the CoE while picking the squads. He is the head of cricket at the BCCI CoE in Bengaluru and henceforth will attend all senior men's selection meetings.

"He has all the information about the players injuries, and to avoid any miscommunication, Laxman should attend the men's selection meetings going

forward. This was decided after the review meeting held in Mumbai last month (where Laxman was in attendance)," Saikia told IANS in a statement on Wednesday.

Recent selections in the men's teams have occasionally been marred by ambiguity regarding player availability, with players named in squads only to be pulled out later due to them failing to achieve full fitness in time for the tour.

"It is not about transparency. In fact, it is about ensuring that the selectors get complete and accurate information about the players and their fitness status so that they can make the right decisions," added Saikia.

Govt has no plans to privatise power utilities: Bhatti

IANSHyderabad, Oct 07:

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Wednesday rejected reports that the State government was planning to privatise DISCOMs, TRANSCO and GENCO or convert the power utilities into listed companies.

Bhatti Vikramarka said the Congress government had complete faith in public sector undertakings and was committed to strengthening them. He said the government followed the Nehruvian economic approach of a mixed economy with a strong public sector.

“There is absolutely no thought or discussion of selling the power sector. We strongly believe in strengthening public sector undertakings. It is not appropriate for people to



imagine things on their own and criticise the government based on those assumptions,” he said.

Speaking to the media at Praja Bhavan, the Deputy Chief Minister said Telangana had recorded its highest-ever power demand, with consumption touching 19,892 MW.

He said the State was meeting even a demand of around 20,000 MW without imposing power cuts and accused some political leaders of spreading

misinformation and creating confusion among the people. “Even with power demand touching 20,000 MW, we are supplying electricity without any interruptions. We are ensuring power supply according to the requirements without causing any inconvenience to consumers,” Bhatti said.

Bhatti also criticised BRS leader T. Harish Rao, saying it was inappropriate for a person who had served as a minister for 10

years to make such allegations.

Bhatti Vikramarka said political leaders should refrain from making statements that could undermine the morale of electricity employees.

“Speaking without understanding the facts will ultimately harm the State,” he said. The Deputy Chief Minister attributed the sharp rise in power demand partly to the impact of El Niño conditions and questioned the planning behind the Yadadri Thermal Power Plant.

“Before setting up a power plant, the availability of the required coal should be ensured. It was stated that Grade-9 coal would be supplied to the Yadadri plant from Singareni. An agreement was made for coal supply, but the coal was not supplied. The Yadadri power plant was constructed from the beginning without a proper coal allocation,” Bhatti said.

Harish hits back at Bhatti over power situation

IANSHyderabad, Oct 07:

Former Minister and BRS Legislature Party Deputy Floor Leader T. Harish Rao on Wednesday launched a sharp attack on Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, alleging that the state government failed to address core concerns regarding Telangana’s current power situation and the burden on consumers.

Reacting to the Deputy Chief Minister’s press conference, Harish Rao claimed the government offered “unrelated documents and excuses” instead of answering specific queries raised by the BRS. He singled out the ₹5,420 crore true-up charges levied on electricity consumers, urging the state to immediately withdraw the additional financial burden during



the festival season.

Highlighting ongoing protests across the state, the BRS leader questioned the government’s stance on power availability. “If power supply is uninterrupted, why are farmers protesting on the roads and demonstrating outside substations?” Harish Rao asked, stating that ground-level disruptions contradict official claims.

On power generation capacity, Harish Rao alleged mismanagement at major thermal stations, pointing to reported out-

ages including 3,000 MW at Yadadri, 540 MW at Bhadradri, and 800 MW at Kothagudem. He noted that despite a total state generation capacity of around 140 million units, actual production stands at only 89 million units.

He further questioned the government on coal allocation, referencing a February 15, 2018 communication from the Union Ministry of Coal allocating 14 MTPA of G-9 grade coal from SCCL mines for the Yadadri plant.

Bandi Sanjay: Congress Has ‘Patent Rights’ Over Vote Theft

IANSHyderabad, Oct 07:

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Wednesday accused the Congress government, alleging that the power crisis, deteriorating law and order and political arrests reflected a failure of governance.

Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, Srinivas said protests were being held at power stations and national highways were being blocked over the power crisis, while farmers were watching their standing crops wither. He alleged that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy remained indifferent to their problems.

Srinivas also accused the government of targeting BRS leaders through cases and arrests and questioned the action taken over flex banners near Medicovert Hospital. He alleged that similar action was not taken against banners targeting former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao.



discredit constitutional institutions posed a threat to democracy.

On Congress leader Rahul Gandhi’s allegations concerning the Election Commission, Sanjay said the matter involving Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar should be settled in court. He questioned why Gandhi had not sought an appointment with the Election Commission if he had concerns.

Sanjay also praised Modi’s public service, saying the Prime Minister had

no family interests, benami assets or dynastic ambitions and was committed solely to serving the country. He appealed to youth to assess Modi’s record and India’s development since 2014.

The BJP organised a “Seva Jyothi” rally in Karimnagar from Geetha Bhavan Crossroads to Housing Board Colony ‘Padava’ Crossroads, followed by a “Viksit Bharat Sankalp Sabha” wherein PM Modi and BJP president Nitin Nabin addressed party workers virtually.

Rahul Gandhi’s Stand Puts Electoral Integrity in Focus: Uttam

IANSHyderabad, Oct 07:

Irrigation, Food and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Wednesday praised Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for leading the Opposition’s campaign for greater transparency in the electoral process.

Uttam said Gandhi’s protest against the Election Commission and his demand for answers on voter-list revisions had brought renewed public attention to electoral integrity. He said concerns over electoral rolls deserved “clear answers, open scrutiny and a transparent process”.

Describing the right to vote as central to democracy, Uttam said Gandhi had consistently raised questions on issues including demonetisation, the COVID-19 economic impact and the Ladakh border situation. He said the police action against Gandhi would not silence the demand for transparency but could instead intensify public scrutiny of the electoral process.

‘Gandhi Giri’ initiative seeks revival of community hall after decade



Munsif News BureauHyderabad, Oct 07:

Congress Party Karwan Constituency In-charge Osman Bin Mohammed Al Hajri, along with local residents and party workers, launched a peaceful “Gandhi Giri” initiative to clean and restore a Government Community Hall that had remained closed for nearly 10 years.

The community hall was constructed for the benefit of poor and underprivileged families but had remained inaccessible for several years, alleged-

ly due to pressure and intimidation by certain anti-social elements.

Al Hajri said he had taken up the issue with Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, TPCC President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud, and In-charge Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar, seeking the reopening and restoration of the facility. Following the representation, directions were issued to take necessary steps to make the hall available to local residents.

Acting on the directions, Al Hajri led the Congress

team and residents in cleaning the premises without confrontation, following the principles of peace and non-violence associated with Mahatma Gandhi. He said public facilities built with public funds should not remain locked or inaccessible to the people for years.

GHMC Assistant Engineer Venkatesh inspected the premises and assessed the restoration requirements, including doors and windows, painting, electrical works, borewell facilities and other repairs. A detailed estimate is being prepared, after which the necessary works are expected to be taken up through special funds.

Local residents welcomed the initiative and expressed their gratitude to Al Hajri, saying the reopening of the community hall would provide much-needed space for poor and needy families. The facility is expected to be formally inaugurated and reopened for public use after completion of the restoration works.

Komatireddy extends 2 lakh aid for medical treatment of impaired child

IANSHyderabad, Oct 07:

Demonstrating a gesture of profound empathy, Minister for Roads & Buildings and Cinematography Komatireddy Venkat Reddy extended immediate financial aid of ₹2 lakh to a hearing- and speech-impaired couple from Panigiri village for their child’s medical treatment.

The parents, Jampala Mahesh Kumar and Rajitha, who are both speech- and hearing-impaired, faced severe emotional and financial hardship after learning that their child shared the same disabilities.

Though medical experts



confirmed the child could potentially develop the ability to speak with proper care, the multi-lakh expense proved insurmountable for the family.

Upon hearing their story, Komatireddy Venkat Reddy personally met the family, offered words of comfort,

and handed over ₹2 lakh for immediate medical needs.

He further assured the couple that he would personally engage with medical professionals to facilitate comprehensive care, reaffirming his commitment to supporting vulnerable families in times of distress.

480 Chinese Manja Bobbins Worth Rs.7.5 Lakh Seized in Hyd



IANSHyderabad, Oct 07:

The Commissioner’s Task Force, Charminar Zone, along with Kalapattar police, arrested a 26-year-old businessman and seized 480 bobbins of banned Chinese synthetic nylon glass-coated manja worth about Rs.7.5 lakh.

The accused was identified as Abhishek Singh, a resident of Puranapol. Police said he was alleged-

ly operating a kite shop in the Mangalhat area and procuring the banned manja from a supplier in Jaipur through private transport.

According to police, Singh had ordered 10 cartons containing 480 bobbins for sale to retailers and customers in Hyderabad ahead of the Sankranti festival. The manja was allegedly being stocked and sold at higher prices despite restrictions aimed at protecting people, birds

and animals.

Police apprehended Singh on October 6 when he arrived at Batko Transport in Kalapattar to collect the consignment. Two mobile phones were also seized.

The operation was conducted under the supervision of S. Saidababu, Inspector, Charminar zone task force, along with Task Force sub-inspectors and Kalapattar police personnel.

Kodandaram Opposes Deletion of Voters’ Names

IANSHyderabad, Oct 07:



Telangana Jana Samithi (TJS) president and MLC Professor M Kodandaram on Wednesday called for a united movement against attempts to delete eligible voters from electoral rolls, terming disenfranchisement a serious threat to democratic rights.

Addressing a press conference at the TJS state office in Nampally here, Kodandaram said the right to vote gives citizens identity and self-respect and should be guaranteed to every adult.

He criticised the Election Commission over the irregularities in its functioning and alleged that decisions concerning electoral rolls were being taken without proper collective functioning of the three-member commission.

Kodandaram also questioned proposed changes relating to Form-6, claiming that the Supreme Court had not approved such modifications. He alleged that millions of names had been deleted from electoral rolls across the country and claimed that around 93 lakh voters in Telangana had lost their voting rights.

He further alleged that attempts were being made to remove around 40,000 voters from the rolls through objections and complaints. Kodandaram said complaints had been filed over the issue and urged democratic forces to collectively oppose the attempt to determine the electorate rather than merely facilitate elections.