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INDIA BLOC LEADERS DETAINED DURING HYDERABAD PROTEST

Opposition parties demand CEC Gyanesh Kumar's resignation over alleged SIR irregularities

NSS News
Hyderabad, Oct 8

- Congress, CPI and CPI(M) leaders detained at Khairatabad
- 'Save Democracy' march began at Indira Gandhi statue on Necklace Road
- Protesters sought resignation of CEC Gyanesh Kumar
- Mahesh Kumar Goud alleged attempts to delete voters through SIR



Several Congress and INDIA Bloc leaders were detained on Thursday while attempting to march towards Lok Bhavan in Hyderabad, demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The 'Save Democracy' rally began at the Indira Gandhi statue on Necklace Road and was attended by TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud,

MLC Kodandaram, CPI MLA Kunnanneni Sambasiva Rao, CPI(M) state secretary John Wesley and several Ministers and leaders of alliance parties.

Police stopped the march at Khairatabad crossroads by erecting barricades. As protesters attempted to remove the barricades and proceed towards Lok Bhavan, police detained several leaders, including Goud, and shifted them in police vehicles.

Goud alleged that the Centre

was undermining constitutional institutions and accused the BJP of attempting to delete voters through the SIR process. He claimed that 93 lakh voters could be removed from Telangana's rolls and alleged BJP-BRS collusion in the process.

The protesters raised slogans against the CEC and Prime Minister Narendra Modi and said the agitation would continue until Gyanesh Kumar resigned.

INDIA bloc steps up anti-EC protest, BJP hits back

NSS News
New Delhi, Oct 8

The Opposition stepped up its protest in Delhi for the third consecutive day on Thursday, demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar and opposing the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Mallikarjun Kharge and other INDIA bloc MPs travelled by buses to Rajghat after gathering at Connaught Place. Amid heavy security, the leaders paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi after waiting nearly an hour for entry.

Rahul Gandhi said the protest would continue until the CEC resigned. CPI-M MP John Brittas and Congress MP Gaurav

Gogoi also backed the demand, while the INDIA bloc sought a meeting with President Droupadi Murmu over the issue.

The Election Commission and the BJP have rejected the Opposition's allegations of irregularities in the electoral process. Union Minister Krishan Pal Gurjar said the SIR matter was already before the Supreme Court and accused the Opposition of trying to create an atmosphere of "anarchy".

BJP leader Pradeep Bhandari alleged that the Congress was attempting to pressure constitutional institutions, while Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya criticised the protests, saying they lacked the decorum associated with Mahatma Gandhi's movements.

TN makes asset disclosure mandatory for govt promotions

NSS News
Chennai, Oct 8

The Tamil Nadu government has made submission of asset details a condition for considering employees for promotion, directing all government staff to upload their financial information on the Integrated Finance and Human Resource Management System website by the 31 of this month.

An order issued by Chief Secretary Saikumar requires employees to disclose their immovable and movable assets, savings and loans.

It also makes clear that properties purchased in another person's name must be included in the declaration.

Only employees who submit the required details within the stipulated

period will be included in the list for promotion, the order states.

Those who fail to furnish the information will be treated as having violated the government employees' conduct rules.

The directive requires a declaration of financial holdings and liabilities. Employees must register all the specified details through the government's online system, bringing information on property, savings and borrowings together in their submissions.

The disclosure requirement extends beyond assets held directly in an employee's own name. If an employee has bought property in the name of another individual, the declaration must identify that person and specify the relationship between the individual and the

employee concerned.

This means that registering a property under someone else's name does not remove the obligation to report it. The order specifically requires employees to provide both the property information and the relationship details in such cases.

The government has linked compliance with the deadline to eligibility for inclusion in promotion lists.

Employees seeking consideration for advancement must therefore ensure that their asset information is submitted within the prescribed period.

The order separately addresses failure to disclose the required information, stating that such non-compliance will constitute a breach of the conduct rules applicable to government employees.

Israeli military says it struck 1 lakh targets across Middle East

IANs News
Jerusalem, Oct 8

The Israeli military said it has struck about 1,00,000 targets across the Middle East since October 2023, while its reserve forces expanded by 36 per cent amid sustained military operations.

The military said combat reserve units served an average of 80-100 days in 2026, against a planned 55 days, citing evolving operational needs. About 22,000 reservists previously released from service were also recalled following an August 2024 call-up order.

The target tally included about 65,000 in Gaza, 28,000 in Lebanon and Syria combined, 4,500 in Iran and 80 in Yemen. The military did not clarify whether repeated strikes on the same sites were counted.

It said about 10,200 projectiles were launched at Israel from Gaza, 20,000 from Lebanon, 1,200 from Iran, 50 from Syria and 90 from Yemen over the period. The figures could not be independently verified.

The military said 970 Israeli soldiers had been killed in operations, while more than 70 per cent of those wounded had returned to service. In the West Bank, about 45,000 people were detained for questioning and more than 3,800 weapons confiscated since the war began.

The conflict began after the Hamas-led October 7, 2023 attack on southern Israel killed about 1,200 people. Israel's subsequent military campaign in Gaza has killed more than 74,200 people, according to Gaza-based health authorities.

GST Council scraps arrest powers, raises prosecution threshold to Rs 5 crore

NSS News
New Delhi, Oct 8

The GST Council on Thursday approved a series of taxpayer-friendly reforms, including removing arrest powers of tax officers and raising the prosecution threshold to Rs 5 crore from the existing Rs 1 crore.

The decisions were taken at the 57th GST Council meeting chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. She said the Council focused on simplifying procedures and reducing compliance burdens, with no changes made to GST rates.

Detailed news continued inside page....

Jharkhand HC orders CBI probe into Rs 727.67 crore coal PF loss

IANs News
Ranchi, Oct 8

The Jharkhand High Court on Thursday ordered a CBI probe into the loss of Rs 727.67 crore from provident fund money of coal company employees following a Rs 1,300 crore investment by the Coal Mines Provident Fund Organisation (CMPFO) in Dewan Housing Finance Corporation Limited (DHFL), which later went bankrupt. A division bench headed by Chief Justice M.S. Sonak passed the order while hearing a PIL filed by the Coal Employee Welfare Association and disposed of the petition after directing the probe.

The petition alleged that CMPFO fund managers, SBI and UTI, had warned on June 24, 2019, about DHFL's

deteriorating financial condition and advised withdrawal of the investment. However, no timely action was taken, resulting in the Rs 727.67 crore loss.

The CMPFO later approved withdrawal of the investment on December 20, 2019, while a 2021 proposal to write off the loss was opposed by employees. Coal India had also proposed a Rs 10-per-tonne cess to recover the amount.

The High Court took serious note of the CMPFO allegedly giving a clean chit to its officials even before departmental proceedings against then Coal Secretary Animesh Bharti were completed. The CBI probe will examine the investment decision, delay in withdrawal and responsibility for the loss.

Delhi HC orders criminal complaint against six CBI officers

NSS News
Chennai, Oct 8

The Delhi High Court has directed initiation of criminal complaint proceedings against six CBI officers for allegedly placing a materially false statement before the court regarding correspondence with the administrative ministry in a case involving IRS officer Ashok Kumar Aggarwal.

Justice Madhu Jain passed the order while allowing Aggarwal's appeal against a Special Judge's refusal to initiate proceedings under Section

340 of the CrPC. The court directed a complaint against Sushil Dewan, Vineet Vinayak, Amit Kumar, Raman Tyagi, Prem Kumar Gautam and Md. Azad under relevant provisions of the IPC.

The case relates to a disproportionate assets prosecution against Aggarwal. After the High Court invalidated the prosecution sanction in 2016 and he was discharged, the CBI considered challenging the decision in the Supreme Court.

The High Court found that a CBI reply filed on August 2, 2016, stated

that correspondence with the administrative ministry over further legal action was underway, although the proposal was actually forwarded to the DoPT only on August 8.

The court also noted that an earlier draft had stated that the DoPT had rejected the CBI's proposal to file an SLP, but this was deleted and replaced with a handwritten statement that correspondence was underway. Holding that the assertion was material and capable of influencing the court's decision, the High Court set aside the Special Judge's order.

Shivakumar alleges Form-7 misuse to delete voters

IANs News
New Delhi/Bengaluru, Oct 8

Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Thursday alleged that BJP leaders misused Form-7 applications to target voters for deletion from electoral rolls and said he had records to substantiate the charge.

Displaying what he described as fake, pre-filled forms, Shivakumar claimed more than one lakh voters were targeted and that the applications were prepared systematically at a BJP office. "I have information and records. I will expose this and hand over all the information to the high command," he said, adding that the government would seek an investigation. Shivakumar alleged that minority, Dalit and backward-class voters were targeted and said the government would protect the voting rights of all citizens, including BJP supporters.



Collector Ila Tripathi Conducts Surprise Inspection of Kasturba Gandhi Girls School

Munsif News Bureau Nizamabad,Oct.8:

Nizamabad District Collector Ila Tripathi conducted a surprise inspection of the Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya (KGBV) at Peda Valgot village in Sirikonda mandal on Thursday.

The Collector inspected the school premises, kitchen, storeroom and classrooms and reviewed the facilities being provided to the students.

Finding bushes and unclean surroundings around the school, Ila Tripathi expressed displeasure with the management and questioned who would be responsible if the students were harmed by poisonous insects. She directed the authorities to immediately clean the premises and take measures to prevent mosquito breeding.

The Collector also reviewed whether the attendance of staff and students was being recorded through the Facial Recognition System (FRS).

Expressing dissatisfaction over discrepancies in the attendance records of some employees, she warned that salaries would be withheld if irregularities in attendance were found.



She sought an explanation from the concerned engineering officials over the delay in taking up works relating to toilets, flooring and other construction activities.

She directed the officials to accord priority to providing basic facilities at KGBVs, commence the construction works immediately and ensure that they were completed with proper quality.

Food Quality Reviewed

The Collector also inspected the quality of food being served at the school and enquired about the details of the lunch menu. She instructed the management to provide nutritious and quality food to the students in accordance with the menu prescribed by the government.

She directed the authorities to immediately inform the mandal officials if poor-quality rice or other food items were supplied.

Finding the RO water plant at the school non-functional, Ila Tripathi ordered its immediate repair.

If repair was not feasible, she directed the officials to submit proposals for installing a new RO plant.

The Collector instructed the authorities to maintain cleanliness in and around the school premises at all times and warned that negligence in performing duties would not be tolerated.

She said she would revisit the school within a week to 10 days and directed the officials to rectify all shortcomings by then.

She also instructed mandal officials to regularly visit welfare hostels and residential schools and review the arrangements and facilities being provided to students.

Foundation Stone Laid for Telangana Public School Boundary Wall in Parkal

Munsif News Bureau Parkal,Oct.8:

Parkal MLA Revari Prakash Reddy laid the foundation stone for the construction of a boundary wall for the Telangana Public School at Pedapuram High School in Atmakur mandal.

Speaking on the occasion, he said the Congress government’s objective was to provide free, quality education on par with corporate schools to students from poor and middle-class families. He said the Telangana Public Schools system had been launched with this objective.

He stated that providing better basic infrastructure along with quality education was a top priority of the government.

Under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, special emphasis was being laid on the development of the education sector.

Youth Congress Stages Strong Protest Against SIR in Zaheerabad

Munsif News Bureau Zaheerabad, Oct. 8 :

As part of the Congress party’s ongoing protests against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, the Youth Congress staged a protest in Zaheerabad on Thursday.

The protest was led by Youth Congress Assembly president Patlore Naga Reddy and Mandal Congress president Narsahmulu Reddy. The protesters staged a dharna and road roko on National Highway 165, disrupting traffic movement for some time.



As part of the Congress party’s ongoing protests against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, the Youth Congress staged a protest in Zaheerabad on Thursday.

Cases Filed Against Farmers Who Drew Irrigation Water from Jurala Left Bank Canal

Munsif News Bureau Wanaparthy, Oct. 8 :

Police have registered cases under non-bailable sections against farmers who drew irrigation water from the left bank canal of the Jurala Dam in Wanaparthy district. An FIR has been registered against 14 people in connection with the incident, including farmers and some local leaders.

According to sources, crops were at risk of drying after the government reportedly declined to release water for



irrigation last month. In an effort to save their crops, farmers staged a protest at Jurala Dam on September 19 and demanded that the authorities immediately release irrigation water.

The farmers reportedly pressured the officials to release water. However, after receiving no positive response from the authorities, they opened the gates of the Jurala left bank

canal themselves that evening and released water for irrigation. Following the incident, an FIR was registered at the Amarchintha Police Station against 14 people based on a complaint lodged by the Deputy Executive Engineer (DE) of the Irrigation Department. Police have booked not only farmers but also some leaders in the case. Reports indicate that non-bailable sections have been invoked and that police are taking steps to arrest some of the accused and produce them before the court for remand.

India Bloc Protests in Nizamabad, Demands Resignation of Chief Election

Munsif News Bureau Nizamabad,Oct.8:

The India bloc staged a protest at Dharna Chowk in Nizamabad on Wednesday, demanding the immediate resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

The protest was led by Nizamabad District Congress president Nagesh Reddy, following directions from the AICC and Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC).

After the protest, the demonstrators burnt an effigy of the Chief Election Commissioner.

Addressing the gathering, Nagesh Reddy alleged that the Chief Election Commissioner was working in favour of the Central government and raised concerns over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

He claimed that the names of more than 13 crore voters had been deleted across the country, including over 90 lakh names in Telangana and more than 80,000 names in the urban areas of Nizamabad district.

Nagesh Reddy alleged that the present functioning of the Election Commission was affecting the democratic system. He also criticised the alleged arrest of senior Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi during protests against the Central government and the Election Commission.

He said the Congress would continue to present its views before the public on electoral rolls and democratic rights.

He added that the Congress and the India bloc had serious objections to the SIR programme and were organising protests at various places across the State.

Nagesh Reddy said that, following TPCC directions, dharnas and effigy-burning programmes were also organised by the India bloc at various mandal headquarters in the district.

He said the next phase of protests would be extended to the village level and that further programmes demanding the resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner would be conducted as per the directions of the AICC and TPCC.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission has clarified the claim regarding the deletion of names of 13 crore voters during the Special Intensive Revision.

It stated that the figures referred to categories of voters identified in the draft rolls as absent, shifted, deceased or duplicate, and that it would not be correct to describe these figures as final deletion of voters’

names.

Leaders of Various Parties Attend

Nizamabad City Congress president Bobbili Ramakrishna, CPI(M) district secretary Ramesh Babu, CPI district secretary Sudhakar, CPI(ML) Mass Line Urban district secretary Vinnamala Krishna, RSP district secretary Ramulu, Nizamabad Mayor Uma Rani, Kallu Geetha Workers Corporation chairman Shekhar Goud, NUDA chairman Kesha Venu, Agriculture Commission member Gadugu Gangadhar, former MLCs Arikala Narsa Reddy and Akula Lalitha, Armur Assembly constituency in-charge Vinay Reddy, Congress state general secretary Ram Bhupal, besides women leaders, senior district Congress leaders, corporators and party workers, participated in the protest.



The India bloc staged a protest at Dharna Chowk in Nizamabad on Wednesday, demanding the immediate resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. The protest was led by Nizamabad District Congress president Nagesh Reddy, following directions from the AICC and Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC).

Siddipet Police Recover 151 Lost Phones Worth 16 Lakh

Munsif News Bureau Siddipet,Oct.8:

The Siddipet Police recovered 151 lost mobile phones worth around Rs 16 lakh through a special drive conducted under the directions of Police Commissioner Rashmi Perumal, IPS, using the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) portal.

The recovered mobile phones were handed over to their rightful owners at the Police Commissioner’s office.

Speaking on the occasion, Police Commissioner Rashmi Perumal advised citizens not to panic if they lost their mobile phones and to immediately register their details on the CEIR portal, www.ceir.gov.in.

She said the CEIR portal had proved effective in facilitating the speedy recovery of lost mobile phones. A special team has also been formed by the police to trace and recover lost phones.

The Commissioner urged



citizens to remain vigilant about the safety of their mobile phones, as misuse of lost devices could pose a threat to personal and social security. She appealed to anyone who finds a lost mobile phone to hand it over to the nearest police station or contact the owner and return it.

She said 670 lost mobile phones had been recovered and handed over to their

owners in Siddipet district so far this year. Police were also conducting awareness programmes to educate citizens about the use of the CEIR portal.

Police Commissioner Rashmi Perumal congratulated CEIR team members, including Inspector Mogili, RSI Niranjan and constables Ramesh, Raji Reddy, Hari Krishna, Swamy, Srikanth and other CEIR

personnel for their outstanding performance in recovering the lost mobile phones.

Additional DCP (Administration) Kushalkar, Additional DCP (AR) Subhash Chandra Bose, Siddipet ACP Ravinder, Gajwel ACP Narsimlu, Huzurabad ACP Sadanandam, inspectors and other police personnel were present.

Stay Alert Against Cyber Fraud: CP N. Swetha IPS

Munsif News Bureau Warangal, Oct. 8 :

The Telangana Cyber Security Bureau is observing October as a

month dedicated to creating public awareness against cyber fraud and is conducting various awareness programmes across the state.

As part of the initiative, Warangal Police Commissioner N. Swetha IPS urged the public to remain vigilant against cyber crimes. She advised

people to follow the principle of “Stop... Think... Verify” whenever they receive a phone call, SMS, WhatsApp message, email or suspicious link.

Dubai Royal Family Portraits Woven on Sircilla Handloom

Munsif News Bureau Rajanna Sircilla, Oct. 8 :

Telangana’s handloom industry is set to gain another rare international recognition, with a Sircilla-based handloom weaver creating a special shawl featuring portraits of members of Dubai’s royal family.

Handloom weaver Veldi Hari Prasad from Rajanna Sircilla district has showcased his exceptional craftsmanship by weaving portraits of members of the Dubai royal family on a traditional handloom. The specially crafted shawl is expected to be a major attraction at a

Bathukamma celebration to be held in Dubai.

As a gesture of admiration and affection towards the Dubai royal family, Hari Prasad worked for nearly 15 days to create the unique

piece of art. While Sircilla handlooms are traditionally used to produce sarees, shawls and various designs, weaving detailed portraits of the Dubai royal family on the loom is being described as a

rare and innovative achievement. Portraits of Three Prominent Royal Family Members

The special shawl features portraits of Dubai’s ruler Sheikh Mohammed

bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Dubai Crown Prince Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

The intricate facial features of the three personalities have been carefully woven into the fabric using coloured threads, showcasing the creativity and technical expertise of Sircilla’s handloom artisans.



Use of Artificial Intelligence in Police Department Should Be Further Expanded

**Munsif News Bureau
Nizamabad, Oct.8:**

As per the directions of Nizamabad Police Commissioner P. Sai Chaitanya IPS, a review meeting was held at the Nizamabad Police Commissionerate office to discuss measures to make policing faster, more transparent and efficient through the effective use of modern technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

The meeting was chaired by Additional DCP (Administration) Nizamabad Police Commissionerate N. Shubham Prakash and attended by principals, professors and

faculty members of various educational institutions.

The participants held an extensive discussion on integrating AI into the Police Department and identifying areas where AI-based technologies could be effectively deployed.

The possibilities of using AI for crime analysis, crime prevention, crime data analysis, detection of suspicious activities, traffic management, CCTV footage analysis, cybercrime investigation, social media monitoring and providing faster police services to the public were reviewed.

The meeting also discussed

the need for specialised training for police personnel, enhancement of their technical skills and development of AI-based solutions, software and applications useful to the Police Department with the support of technical experts from educational institutions.

Additional DCP N. Shubham Prakash said that coordination between educational institutions, technical experts and the Police Department would not only help provide better services for public safety but also pave the way for technology-driven policing in the future. He said that in view of the rapid advancement of tech-

nology, the Police Department must also adopt modern technologies and move forward towards achieving more effective results in crime prevention and control, investigation, public safety and delivery of police services. Navya Bharathi Joint Secretary Dr. Shirish, Vijaya Rural Engineering College Vice Principal Dr. N. Swapna, faculty members Sujatha, Navya and Lakshmi, Kakatiya College officials D. Venugopal and P. Nagarjuna, Kshatriya Engineering College Principal Dr. Srinivas, COD M. Laxman, along with other concerned officials and staff, attended the meeting.

Section 163 BNSS to Be Enforced Around TOSS Examination Centres

**Munsif News Bureau
Nizamabad, Oct. 8**

Nizamabad Police Commissioner P. Sai Chaitanya IPS said that elaborate security arrangements have been made for the peaceful conduct of the Telangana Open School Society (TOSS) SSC and Intermediate Public Examinations scheduled to be held from October 11 to 17, 2026 within the Nizamabad Police Commissionerate limits.

The examinations will be conducted at two centres in Nizamabad: Adarsh Hindi Vidyalaya High School (Hindi Medium) for SSC students and Adarsh Hindi Vidyalaya High School (English Medium) for Intermediate students.

The examinations will be held in two sessions, from 9 am to 12 noon and 2.30 pm to 5.30 pm.

Commissioner P. Sai Chaitanya said that Section 163 of the BNSS (formerly Section 144 of the Cr.P.C.) would be enforced in the vicinity of the examination centres from 7.30 am to 6 pm on examination days. As per the orders, gatherings of more than two persons within a 100-metre radius of the examination centres will be prohibited. The Commissioner said instructions had also been issued to the concerned owners to compulsorily close internet centres, photocopy (xerox) shops and stationery shops located near the examination centres from 7.30 am to 6 pm during the examination period. He said special security arrangements would be made at each examination centre, with police officers and personnel deployed to ensure the smooth conduct of the examinations.

Medak MP inaugurates-G RAM-G water recharge system

**NSS
Hyderabad, Oct. 8**

Medak MP Raghunandan Rao on Thursday inaugurated a water recharge system constructed under the VB-G RAM-G scheme for the first time at a government school in Chinna Nizampet village of Akbarpet-Bhoompally mandal in Siddipet district.

Speaking on the occasion, Raghunandan Rao urged farmers to make effective use of the ₹36,000 financial assistance being provided by the Centre under the scheme for borewell recharge and take up the construction of water recharge pits on a large scale.

In view of the El Niño phenomenon and the possibility of water scarcity in the future,

the MP stressed the need to conserve every drop of rain-water and strengthen ground-water resources. He called for the construction of water recharge pits across villages in the constituency as a mass movement to help prevent drought-like conditions in the coming years.

Raghunandan Rao directed sarpanches, deputy sarpanches, elected representatives and officials to initiate the works immediately and ensure that the scheme effectively reaches farmers and villages.

The MP particularly appreciated Chinna Nizampet Sarpanch Mahesh for taking the initiative to construct the first water recharge pit in the village. (NSS)



The Telangana Minority Welfare Department distributed cheques, mopeds, sewing machines and training and employment certificates to around 800 eligible beneficiaries under various welfare schemes at the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan Auditorium in Hyderabad on Thursday.

Naidu seeks centre's support for Godavari-Cauvery, link Pushkarams

**NSS
New Delhi, Oct.8:**

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday and discussed a range of issues concerning the State's development, including irrigation, agriculture, infrastructure and financial assistance for the 2027 Godavari Pushkarams.

Naidu congratulated Modi on completing 25 years in public life and conveyed greetings and best wishes on behalf of the people of Andhra Pradesh. He appreciated the Prime Minister's emphasis on cooper-



ative federalism and his efforts to strengthen India's position in international affairs.

During the meeting, Naidu discussed the latest status of the Polavaram project and stressed the importance of the proposed Godavari - Cauvery

river-linking project for the water security of southern States. He said the project could benefit Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka and, along with the development of road networks and power grids, contribute to the creation of a

national water grid.

The Chief Minister said Andhra Pradesh was making extensive arrangements for the Godavari Pushkarams in 2027 and sought financial assistance from the Centre for infrastructure and other development works being taken up for the event. He said large numbers of devotees from the two Telugu States, other parts of the country and abroad were expected to attend.

Naidu also apprised Modi of the impact of El Nino, stating that Andhra Pradesh had recorded a 53 per cent rainfall deficit, severely affecting the agricultural sector.

Forest officer caught red-handed taking Rs 12,000 bribe in Nirmal

**NSS
Nirmal, Oct.8:**

A Forest Section Officer in Nirmal district was caught red-handed by Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) officials on Thursday while allegedly accepting a Rs.12,000 bribe for facilitating the renewal of a timber depot licence.

According to the ACB, Aindla Ravinder, Forest Section Officer, Khanapur Range and Division, demanded and accepted the

bribe from a complainant in return for visiting the timber depot and forwarding an inspection report to higher authorities for renewal of the licence.

The ACB officials of the Adilabad Range recovered the tainted Rs.12,000 from Ravinder's possession during the trap.

The officer was arrested and is being produced before the Special Judge for SPE & ACB Cases, Karimnagar. The case is under investigation.



14 farmers booked for opening Jurala canal gates without authorisation

**NSS
Hyderabad, Oct.8:**

Police have registered cases against 14 farmers in Wanaparthy district for allegedly opening the Jurala canal gates without authorisation on September 19, according to Amarchintha Sub-Inspector Swathi.

The legal action follows an official complaint filed by the Project Irrigation Deputy Executive Engineer (DE).

The incident occurred after local farmers and political leaders staged

demonstrations at the Jurala project, citing severe crop damage due to a lack of irrigation water. Protesters allegedly took matters into their own hands and opened the gates to release water after irrigation officials failed to address their concerns.

Cases have been filed regarding protests on September 19 and 20. Police have also booked key BRS and BJP leaders who joined the agitation, staging a dharna at Jammichon on September 21 to demand irrigation water for local farmers. (NSS)



On Thursday, the Additional Collector inspected the guest teacher selection process being conducted in the district. Speaking on the occasion, he said providing quality education and better learning opportunities to girl students studying in KGBVs was one of the government's key priorities.

Farm Mechanisation Scheme Gets 147.99 Crore Boost

**Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct.8:**

Telangana is set to expand its Agricultural Mechanisation Scheme for the 2026-27 fiscal year with a fresh outlay of ₹147.99 crore, Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao announced Thursday.

Speaking on the scheme's progress, the Minister noted that the Congress-led government revived the initiative during 2025-26, utilising ₹63 crore of the ₹71

crore allocated in its initial year.

The State has aligned both local and Central funds to support the upcoming phase and is awaiting final operational guidelines from the Union government, he said.

Tummala Nageswara Rao directed officials to initiate beneficiary selection immediately upon receiving the Central directives to prevent distribution delays.

To protect farmer choice and ensure market compe-

tion, the Minister emphasised that beneficiaries will not be restricted to specific manufacturers or designated dealers. Instead, farmers can procure equipment from any empanelled supplier of their choice.

Because subsidies will be credited directly to farmers' bank accounts via Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), farmers can evaluate price and quality across vendors to secure competitive rates, he said. (NSS)

APSRTC TO RUN 5,261 SPECIAL BUSES FOR DASARA

**NSS
Vijayawada, Oct.8:**

The Andhra Pradesh State Road Transport Corporation (APSRTC) will operate 5,261 special buses during the Dasara festival to meet the expected surge in passenger demand.

The special services will run during the pre-Dasara period from October 16 to 19 and the post-Dasara return period from October 20 to 25. Services will connect major destinations across Andhra Pradesh as well as Hyderabad,



Bengaluru and Chennai.

Of the total, 3,207 buses will operate during the pre-Dasara period and 2,054 buses during the post-festival period. Hyderabad will get the highest allocation among major destinations with 1,186 buses, followed by Vijayawada with 1,053, Bengaluru

475, Visakhapatnam 440, Rajahmundry 347, Tirupati 247 and Chennai 153. Another 1,360 buses have been earmarked for other destinations.

Among the four APSRTC zones, Zone-II will operate the highest number of special buses at 2,218, followed by Zone-IV with 1,118, Zone-I with 1,107 and Zone-III with 818. District-wise, NTR district tops the list with 804 special buses, followed by Visakhapatnam (416), Eluru (340), YSR Kadapa (318), Srikakulam (279), East Godavari (260), Prakasam (245) and Kakinada (224).

Govt to Expand Farm Mechanisation Scheme with 147.99 Cr

**Musif News Bureau
Asifabad, Oct.8:**

District Collector K. Hariatha directed Revenue officials to undertake the land re-survey process meticulously, accurately and transparently across the district, ensuring that the exercise is completed without errors or discrepancies.

On Thursday, the Collector participated in a training programme on procedures and measures to be followed during the land re-survey at the meeting hall of the Integrated District Collectorate Complex in Asifabad. Additional Collector (Revenue) M. David and Asifabad Revenue Divisional Officer Lokeshwar Rao were also present.

Speaking on the occasion, K. Hariatha said the government had taken up the land re-survey as a prestigious and significant initiative and instructed officials to implement it in a systematic and transparent manner. She stressed the need for utmost care and accuracy at every stage to prevent discrepancies in land records. She emphasised that

Tahsildars, Naib Tahsildars and field-level Revenue staff must have a thorough understanding of the re-survey procedures.

Proper knowledge of conducting land measurements using DGPS rovers, she said, would enable officials to carry out field-level surveys efficiently and overcome technical difficulties.

Ensure Transparency in Selection of Guest Teachers for KGBVs: Additional Collector Yuvraj

**Musif News Bureau
Kagazmagar, Oct.8:**

District Additional Collector (Local Bodies) Yuvraj Marmat directed officials to ensure complete transparency, fairness and strict adherence to rules in the selection of guest teachers for vacant posts in Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs) across the district.

On Thursday, the Additional

Collector inspected the guest teacher selection process being conducted in the district. Speaking on the occasion, he said providing quality education and better learning opportunities to girl students studying in KGBVs was one of the government's key priorities.

He instructed officials to give due importance to candidates' teaching proficiency, subject knowledge and communication

skills during the selection process. Eligible candidates must be selected strictly on merit through a fair and transparent procedure, he said.

Yuvraj Marmat directed officials to meticulously follow the prescribed guidelines and ensure there was no scope for irregularities or malpractice at any stage of the selection process. He personally observed the teaching demonstrations given by

candidates and offered suggestions to improve their teaching methods. He made it clear that only eligible and meritorious candidates would be considered for selection. He also cautioned candidates against approaching or trusting brokers and middlemen, stating that the guest teacher selection process would be conducted directly, transparently and strictly in accordance with the prescribed rules.



At a Glance

Man Dies in Police Custody in Navi Mumbai

IANSS
Navi Mumbai, Oct. 8

A 38-year-old man, Sanjay Kantu Yadav, died in police custody in Navi Mumbai after being arrested in connection with a case, police said. Yadav, a resident of Ulwe Sector 6 and originally from Uttar Pradesh's Varanasi district, was arrested by the Navi Mumbai International Airport Police and remanded in police custody by a court.

According to police, he was lodged at the NRI Sagari Police Station lock-up on October 8 when staff noticed him clenching his fists and flexing his arms and legs.

His condition later deteriorated and he was taken to Meenatai Thackeray Hospital in Nerul, where doctors declared him dead. Police said Yadav had undergone a medical examination at Panvel Rural Hospital before his arrest and had reported no health problems.

He also did not complain of any illness during a medical examination on October 6 or when he was produced before the court.

An inquest is being conducted through videography in the presence of a judicial magistrate, panch witnesses and family members.

The body will be sent to Mumbai's J.J. Hospital for post-mortem. Further legal proceedings are underway. Officials were duly told.

HAVE RECORDS ON FORM-7 MISUSE TO DELETE VOTERS, WILL EXPOSE ROLE OF THOSE INVOLVED: D.K. SHIVAKUMAR

IANSS
Bengaluru, Oct. 8

Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar Thursday alleged that BJP leaders were involved in the "criminal" misuse of Form-7 applications to seek deletion of voters' names from electoral rolls and said he had records that would be handed over to the Congress high command and used to seek a detailed investigation.

Addressing the media in Delhi, Shivakumar said some BJP leaders who recently met the Governor were themselves involved in the alleged irregularities.

He displayed what he described as fake Form-7 applications and claimed that a full sack of such applications had been printed at the BJP headquarters. "I have information and records. I will expose this and hand over all the information to the high command," he alleged.

Shivakumar questioned the Opposition's demand against an investigation, saying such opposition raised questions about their conduct.

He said poor villagers and illiterate people could not be expected to understand the complexities of Form-7 and the voter-deletion process.

The Chief Minister said the government had taken steps to ensure that homeless and vulnerable people were not excluded from electoral rolls.

He claimed the alleged misuse had started in Bengaluru and spread across Karnataka.



Shivakumar criticised BJP leaders for approaching the Governor over cases registered in connection with the issue and questioned the Governor seeking explanations from officials about cases filed against those allegedly involved in submitting fraudulent Form-7 applications.

"Is this not a crime? Is it not the duty of a Chief Minister to protect every vote of everyone?" he asked, adding that the government would protect voters' electoral rights irrespective of political affiliation.

The Chief Minister accused the BJP of attempting to manipulate the election machinery and Election Commission of India instead of fighting elections on public support.

Shivakumar said the government had a responsibility to act when voters were affected by fraudulent applications, particularly when living persons were allegedly shown as dead in Form-7 applications seeking deletion of their names.

He praised Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi for raising the issue, describing it as a matter concerning the country rather

than merely the Congress party.

Shivakumar alleged that attempts had been made to delete more than a lakh voters and claimed that lakhs of Form-7 applications had been prepared systematically.

He alleged that the applications were printed at a BJP headquarters and local leaders were provided forms containing the names and addresses of minority, Dalit and backward-class voters.

He claimed some local leaders then submitted their identity cards and phone numbers while filing the applications. After complaints were filed, he said, BJP leaders approached Booth Level Officers and took back some submitted forms.

The allegations come amid a wider dispute over bulk Form-7 filings during the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in Karnataka.

The state Chief Electoral Officer has said no voter's name has been deleted from the draft rolls merely because a Form-7 objection was filed. The BJP and JD(S) have defended bulk filings and alleged that FIRs against their workers are politically motivated.

HOAX BOMB SCARE AT KOLKATA AIRPORT; NOTHING FOUND AFTER THOROUGH SEARCH

IANSS
Kolkata, Oct. 8

The authorities of the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport in Kolkata received a hoax bomb threat mail on Thursday, following which, there was panic within the airport premises for a brief period. A thorough search was launched at the airport premises by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel immediately after receiving the mail. As per the latest information available, no suspicious objects have been detected by the CISF personnel so far.

Sources aware of the development said that a threatening email was sent to the airport authorities this afternoon where it was claimed that bombs were stocked at some places inside the airport premises.

As soon as the email was received, the au-

thorities alerted the CISF jawans who are in-charge of the security arrangement at the airport. Accordingly, the CISF personnel began a thorough search operation within the airport premises even though it was initially believed that some false information might have been sent. However, the authorities were unwilling to take any risk in terms of security and launched a search.

Sources said that ef-

forts are also being made to identify the person or persons responsible for the hoax bomb threat email. The help of cyber experts has also been sought to find the source of the threatening email sent to the airport.

Last February, there were two hoax bomb scares at Kolkata airport on the same day. A threatening note written in lipstick was left in the toilet of a flight.

A note in the toilet of

another flight also stated that there was a bomb on the plane. However, in both cases, the threats proved to be hoax ones.

Again, in February this year, a number of post offices and adjoining passport offices in various districts of West Bengal got bomb threat emails during office hours, prompting evacuation of the premises. However, in those cases also nothing was found after extensive search operations were con-



SURAT RAIDS CRACK DOWN ON ALLEGED SALE OF MEDICINES WITHOUT PRESCRIPTION

IANSS
Surat, Oct. 8



The Surat City Special Operations Group (SOG), along with the Food and Drugs Department, raided two medical stores in the Salabatpura-Mandarwaja area for allegedly selling med-

icines used for intoxication without doctors' prescriptions and seized 18,316 tablets and three bottles of codeine syrup valued at Rs 2.75 lakh.

The raids were conducted on Wednesday at Smit Sai and Daruwala Shivshakti medical stores at Halpati Colony on 80-foot Road, from Kinnari towards Bhatena.

According to the SOG, the operation followed instructions from Surat Police Commissioner Wabang Jamir to identify medical stores allegedly

selling intoxicating syrups and tablets without prescriptions and in violation of regulations.

The SOG said it had received information that medicines were being sold without doctors' prescriptions at the two stores.

During inspections, officials found stocks allegedly kept in violation of regulations and potentially liable to misuse.

The seized stock included 1,440 Pyeevon Sas Plus tablets, 144 Spas Tracenp, 6,920

Spasmo Proxyvon, 750 Apcolam, 3,840 Calic, 5,200 Prehabalin and 20 Pregout Kit tablets, besides three bottles of codeine syrup.

The SOG said the total value of the seized medicines and syrup was estimated at Rs 2,75,068.

The Food and Drugs Department has begun further investigation. Police said legal action would be taken against the licence holders and operators if the medicines were found to have been illegally kept

GST Council removes arrest powers of tax officers, eases compliance rules for businesses

IANSS
New Delhi, Oct. 8

The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council on Thursday approved major process-related reforms, including the removal of arrest powers from tax officers and a five-fold increase in the prosecution threshold to Rs 5 crore from the existing Rs 1 crore.

The decisions were taken at the 57th meeting of the GST Council chaired by Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi. Addressing reporters after the meeting, Sitharaman said

the Council had focused on simplifying procedures and reducing compliance burdens for businesses rather than changing GST rates. "No rate changes have been made.

The rate structure is settled," the Finance Minister said, adding that the previous year's efforts had focused on simplifying GST rates, while this year's discussions centred on streamlining procedures.

Among the key decisions, the Council approved automatic acceptance of routine changes in GST registration, aimed at reducing administrative delays and improving

compliance efficiency.

The government will also expedite refunds, with the acknowledgement period for refund applications reduced to 10 days from 15 days. Sitharaman said 90 per cent of eligible refund claims would be issued within three working days, a move aimed at improving liquidity for businesses and exporters.

The Council also expanded the availability of input tax credit (ITC), allowing businesses to claim credits on additional expenditure categories, including telecom towers and employer-provided insurance cover.

The meeting was rescheduled from Wednesday due to unavoidable circumstances and was attended by representatives of Centre and states.

Participants also included Chief Ministers, Deputy Chief Ministers, state and UT Finance Ministers and senior officials, besides the Revenue Secretary, CBIC Chairman and members, and Finance Ministry officials from across the country.

The key arrest-power and prosecution-threshold decisions are independently corroborated by reports published on October 8, 2026.

DELHI HC ISSUES SUMMONS ON KANGANA RANAUT'S PLEA OVER IDENTITY MISUSE

IANSS
New Delhi, Oct. 8

Actress and BJP MP Kangana Ranaut has approached the Delhi High Court seeking protection of her personality and publicity rights against alleged unauthorised use of her identity, including pornographic and obscene content posted on digital platforms.

A single-judge Bench of Justice Vikas Mahajan issued summons in the suit and notice on Ranaut's application seeking an interim injunction. During the hearing,

Ranaut's counsel said she was aggrieved by pornographic and obscene content posted against her on social media.

The High Court asked her counsel to provide the names of defendants against whom a take-down order was being sought, indicating that an appropriate order may be passed after details are furnished.

The court also directed Ranaut's counsel to file a revised memo of parties after certain defendants were removed. The matter will next be heard on

February 3, 2027.

The case comes amid a growing number of personality rights disputes before the Delhi High Court involving allegations of AI-generated impersonation, deep-fakes, fake endorsements and unauthorised commercial use of public figures' identities.

Several public figures, including Gautam Gambhir, Sunil Gavaskar, Arjun Kapoor, Allu Arjun, Nagarjuna, Varun Dhawan, Kajol, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Abhishek Bachchan, Jubin



Nautiyal, Karan Johar, and Shashi Tharoor, have sought or secured court protection against unauthorised use of their identities.

TEJASHWI ATTACKS CEC GYANESH KUMAR AFTER MAHAGATHBANDHAN MARCH IN PATNA

IANSS
Patna, Oct. 8

Bihar Leader of Opposition Tejashwi Yadav on Thursday accused Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar of undermining voters' rights and alleged that the Election Commission was involved in "vote theft".

After meeting the Governor following their march to Lok Bhawan, Tejashwi alleged that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls had adversely affected genuine voters

and demanded accountability from the Election Commission.

He alleged that protesters faced police pressure despite having an appointment with the Governor and said the Opposition would continue its agitation despite the possibility of detention.

Tejashwi said attempts to undermine democratic institutions would not be tolerated.

He linked the protest to the wider Opposition campaign against the Election Commission, saying he had spoken to Congress

leader Rahul Gandhi and had been invited to join a protest in Delhi.

VIP chief Mukesh Sahani said the Opposition had a responsibility to raise people's issues and protect constitutional values.

He said the alliance would continue its agitation. The protest followed the Mahagathbandhan's two-day agitation against the SIR exercise and the functioning of the Election Commission.

The alliance has alleged irregularities in the revi-

sion and demanded action against the CEC, while the Election Commission and BJP have rejected the allegations of political bias.

Patna SDPO (Secretariat) Annu Kumari said the delegation was permitted to meet the Governor and returned after the meeting, while other protesters were stopped behind barricades.

The march led to heightened security in Patna. A confrontation took place between RJD workers and the vehicle of BJP state president Sanjay Saraogi near the Lok Bhawan gate.

JHARKHAND SIR DEADLINE EXTENDED BY 42 DAYS, FINAL ELECTORAL ROLL NOW ON NOV 30

IANSS
Ranchi, Oct. 8

The final electoral rolls in Jharkhand following the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) will now be published on November 30, 42 days after the earlier deadline of October 19, according to the revised schedule issued by the Chief Electoral Officer.

Jharkhand CEO K. Ravi Kumar directed District Election Officers and Deputy Commissioners to complete the revision within the revised time-



frame, ensuring that no eligible Indian citizen is excluded and no ineligible person is included.

The disposal of first and second notices concerning non-mapping and logical discrepancies will be completed by October 22. Verification of voters

who fail to submit documents after a second notice, along with door-to-door verification by Booth Level Officers, will be completed by October 31.

Digitisation of claims and objections received through Forms 6, 6A, 7 and 8 for addition, deletion or correction of names will also be completed by October 31.

From November 1 to 12, door-to-door verification will be conducted for eligible citizens whose names have not yet been

included in the roll, with digitisation of Form 6 applications during the same period.

All claims and objections will be finally disposed of by November 23. Between November 24 and 29, officials will conduct quality checks, obtain the Election Commission's approval and complete printing. Polling station maps and photos are fully updated from November 1 to 23.

The final electoral roll will be published on November 30.



At a Glance

Heavily armed unit hits Sydney streets

IANSSydney , Oct. 8



Heavily armed police from New South Wales’ new Armed Response Command (ARC) will begin patrolling Sydney in the coming weeks following the Bondi Beach terror attack last December.

The 250-member permanent unit will patrol high-risk areas, including places of worship and major events, and respond rapidly to emerging threats. It will have combat assault rifles, 24 specialised vehicles and a dedicated operations centre.

The unit was established after the December 14 attack, in which 15 people were killed during a Jewish celebration. Police have charged Naveed Akram with 59 offences, including 15 counts of murder and committing a terrorist act.

India backs Kenya in Ebola response

IANSNairobi, Oct. 8

India has expressed solidarity with Kenya in its fight against Ebola and pledged support for public health preparedness. India has provided 6,000 PPE kits. Kenya confirmed one imported Ebola case involving a traveller from the DRC who died on October 6. More than 652,000 travellers have been screened at 15 entry points.

YEMEN'S HOUTHIS CLAIM BALLISTIC MISSILE ATTACK ON RIYADH AIRPORT

IANSSanaa, Oct. 8

Yemen’s Houthi group said Thursday it launched a fresh ballistic missile attack on King Khalid International Airport in the Saudi capital of Riyadh and carried out missile strikes against government forces near the strategic Bab al-Mandeb Strait.

Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Sarea said in a statement posted on social media platform X that a ballistic missile “accurately hit its target” at King Khalid International Airport, disrupting air traffic. There was no immediate confirmation from Saudi authorities of the latest attack claim.

Sarea also issued what he called a “final warning” to international airlines against continuing to operate flights through Saudi airspace, claiming that it had become an area of Houthi military operations. He said the warning did not apply to airspace



over the Muslim holy cities of Mecca and Medina, Xinhua News Agency reported.

The latest Houthi claim followed attacks on two Saudi airports on Tuesday and Wednesday that left three people dead and 36 others injured, according to the Saudi General Authority of Civil Aviation.

The Houthis claimed responsibility for attacks on both airports. Sarea said Wednesday that sev-

eral drones targeted King Khalid International Airport, while ballistic missiles and drones hit Abha International Airport and King Khalid Air Base near Khamis Mushait in the southwestern Asir region.

Later Wednesday, the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen said that it had launched a comprehensive operation, destroying 82 Houthi military targets across several provinces, in response to attacks on

civilians and civilian sites in the kingdom.

The recent clashes marked the sharpest escalation since a UN-brokered truce in 2022 largely halted major hostilities in the war-torn country.

Yemen’s conflict began in late 2014, when the Houthis seized Sanaa and much of northern Yemen. A Saudi-led coalition intervened in 2015 in support of the internationally recognised government, now based in Aden.

NORTH KOREA REBUFFS SEOUL’S MEDICAL AID OFFER AS ‘INSULT’

IANSSoul, Oct. 8

North Korea on Thursday rejected Seoul’s planned humanitarian shipment of medical supplies as “an insult” and “political provocation.”

Kim Yo-jong, the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, made the remarks in a statement carried by the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

South Korea’s unification ministry has said it planned to send 1,431 medical items covering 166 categories to a hospital in Pyongyang, necessary for diagnosis, surgery and treatment, as part of a humanitari-

an medical support program.

The ministry secured a sanctions exemption in May from the UN Security Council’s North Korea sanctions committee, Yonhap News Agency reported.

“This is an insult to our state and mutant political-motivated provocation against it and a grave encroachment upon our national law,” Kim said, dismissing the move as “a noisy and ugly act” and “another farce.”

She had earlier used the same word, “farce,” to dismiss Seoul’s official conclusion that North Korean mines caused the September 21 explosions

that wounded three South Korean soldiers.

“Now when it is impossible to expect a good box-office record from their poor farce, they have created another farce titled ‘a scenario for aiding medical equipment,’ the part 2 of the ‘mine explosion case,’” she said.

She also repeated that Pyongyang has no intention of engaging with Seoul.

“We have nothing to exchange or go with the ROK and no need to face to face with it,” she said, referring to South Korea by its official name, the Republic of Korea.

“There will be no

change in the true colours of the ROK, most hostile to the DPRK, and the hostile nature of the DPRK-ROK relations,” she said. DPRK is the acronym for the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, North Korea’s official name.

With inter-Korean exchanges and dialogue channels virtually non-existent amid souring ties, it had been unclear whether Pyongyang would accept the aid at all.

Earlier in the day, a unification ministry official said the chances of shipping the items as planned were slim and that the government would seek another extension from the United Nations.

TRUMP ANNOUNCES CASH PAYMENTS FOR US SENIORS

IANSWashington, Oct. 8

US President Donald Trump has announced that more than 20 million Americans enrolled in Medicare will receive payments exceeding \$100, unveiling another round of direct financial assistance as his administration highlights its economic record ahead of the November congressional elections.

Speaking at a Republican campaign rally in San Antonio, Texas, Trump said the payments would begin the following day and would include more than 1.4 million senior citizens in Texas.

The President claimed that his administration had discovered billions of dollars originally intended for improvements to Medicare that had not been spent.

“Tonight I have more breaking news. Our administration has also located billions and billions of dollars that were so -- supposed to be spent on improving Medicare, which it didn’t get improved,” Trump told supporters.

He accused the previous administration of concealing the money to present a more favourable financial picture.



Trump said the funds would now be returned to senior citizens.

“And I’m pleased to -- Announce that, starting tomorrow, over 20 million seniors on Medicare will receive checks or deposits for over \$100 each,” he said.

The President said more than 1.4 million beneficiaries in Texas would be covered.

He did not provide a detailed breakdown of the funding, eligibility criteria or the mechanism through which the payments would be made.

Trump presented the Medicare and healthcare payments as part of a wider effort to return money to American households.

He also promised a \$5,000 payment to every adult American citizen if Republicans retained

control of both chambers of Congress in November.

At a separate White House event, a reporter questioned whether the administration’s financial announcements were intended to influence voters before the midterm elections. The question referred to healthcare refunds, payments to seniors and the proposed \$5,000 dividend.

Trump defended the measures, arguing that economic growth and tariff revenues had made them possible.

“Well, what we’re doing is we have tremendous growth,” he said.

The President did not provide additional documentation during the exchanges to substantiate the alleged healthcare overcharging or the source of the Medicare funds.

Iran will never have nuclear weapon, says Marco Rubio

IANSWashington, Oct. 8

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has said Iran will never be allowed to acquire a nuclear weapon under President Donald Trump, as Washington maintains pressure on Tehran over its nuclear programme.

Speaking at a joint press conference with Greek Foreign Minister Giorgos Gerapetritis in Athens, Rubio said preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons remained central objective, amid questions over whether the U.S might accept limited uranium enrichment under a future agreement.

“Iran cannot have a nuclear weapon, simple, period and end of story,” Rubio said.

Rubio accused Tehran of building a large missile and drone arsenal to deter attacks on its nuclear facilities. He said Iran had sought sufficient military strength to threaten retaliation against countries attempting to stop its nuclear programme.

According to Rubio,



the Trump administration had acted to weaken those capabilities. He said the US had destroyed Iran’s drone programme, severely eroded its missile capability and central launchers, and destroyed its navy and air force.

The claims about the extent of the damage to Iran’s military capabilities were not independently substantiated during the press conference.

“They will never have a nuclear weapon, period, not as long as President Trump is in office,” he said.

Rubio also said sanctions were placing heavy pressure on Iran’s economy. “Their economy is in

total and complete freefall,” he said.

He accused Iran’s leadership of directing resources towards armed groups abroad, naming Hezbollah, Hamas, the Houthis and militias operating from Iraq.

Rubio said the Strait of Hormuz remained open and oil shipments had recovered to nearly pre-conflict levels. “There’s almost as much oil flowing out now as there was before this conflict began,” he said.

His remarks came during discussions with Greece on maritime security, energy supplies and instability in the Middle East.

JAISHANKAR CONGRATULATES ETHIOPIA FM GEDION ON REAPPOINTMENT

IANSAbidjan, Oct. 8



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday congratulated Gedion Timothewos Hessebon on his reappointment as Ethiopia’s Minister of Foreign Affairs and said he looked forward to meeting him soon to strengthen the partnership.

“Congratulate Gedion Timothewos Hessebon on your re-appointment as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ethiopia.

Look forward to meeting you soon to further strengthen our Strategic Partnership,” Jaishankar posted on X.

Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed Ali has reappointed Gedion Timothewos to the post as part of his new cabinet. The Ethiopian House of Peoples’ Representatives on Monday established the new federal government after the ruling

Prosperity Party appointed Abiy for a second five-year term.

The Prosperity Party won 438 of 486 contested seats, securing the parliamentary majority needed to form the federal executive, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Jaishankar is set to travel to Ethiopia after concluding his ongoing visit to Cote d’Ivoire. According to the Ministry of External Affairs, he

will meet Ethiopia’s leadership to discuss bilateral ties and regional and global issues. He will also chair the Regional Heads of Mission Conference in Addis Ababa.

The message followed Abiy’s note to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on completing 25 years as head of government. Modi thanked Abiy and congratulated him on assuming office for another term.

SOUTH KOREA SAYS NO CONFIRMED FUEL EXPORTS TO RUSSIA

IANSSeoul, Oct. 8

South Korea is strictly enforcing export controls on Russia and has confirmed no exports of commercial petroleum products to the country through customs clearance procedures, the foreign ministry said on Thursday.

South Korea bans exports of strategic items to Russia and requires case-by-case authorisation for 1,402 additional non-strategic items that could potentially be used for

military purposes, reports Yonhap news agency.

South Korean exports to Russia fell to \$4 billion in 2025 from \$10 billion in 2021 as Seoul joined international efforts to maintain peace through export controls, the ministry said.

The statement followed a report by Britain-based The Guardian that more than 176,000 tonnes of petroleum products, mostly diesel, were loaded at South Korean ports and shipped to Russia’s Far East in July and August.

Vladyslav Vlasuk, an ad-

viser to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on sanctions policy, said the shipments had helped ease fuel shortages in Russia amid the Ukraine war. South Korea’s presidential office rejected the claim.

The ministry said official trade statistics showed no exports of diesel, jet fuel or gasoline from South Korea to Russia through customs clearance procedures from 2025 through August 2026.

It also clarified that commercial petroleum products are not covered by South Korea’s Russia export con-

trols, meaning their loading at South Korean ports does not by itself violate domestic law.

The government will examine the vessels’ routes and declared destinations before determining whether any domestic laws were violated.

“The government will take action in accordance with the law if violations are confirmed,” the ministry said, adding that it would continue to strictly implement export controls on Russia and prevent circumvention.

UN: CIVILIANS IN YEMEN CONTINUE TO FLEE HOMES AMID INSECURITY

IANUnited Nations, Oct. 8

Civilians in Yemen continue to flee their homes amid ongoing conflict and worsening humanitarian conditions, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said.

More than 184,000 people have been displaced across Yemen since August 1, including over 21,000 in the past week, OCHA said, citing the International

Organization for Migration.

The UN and humanitarian partners have reached more than 126,000 people with life-saving assistance, but OCHA warned that needs continue to outpace available resources.

The World Health Organization has warned of funding shortfalls as displacement, disease outbreaks and conflict put further pressure on Yemen’s fragile health system. Cholera cases have tripled in recent

weeks, including in displacement camps, while measles, dengue and malaria continue to spread, OCHA said.

Key roads linking Taiz with Hodeidah, Aden and Sanaa remain blocked, restricting civilian movement, commercial supplies and humanitarian access.

OCHA said shortages of essential commodities and medical supplies were being reported, alongside sharp increases in food and fuel prices. Concerns are also grow-

ing over flour, cooking gas and medicines.

The UN office said it was alarmed by reports of civilian casualties, damage to civilian property and explosive hazards, further limiting humanitarian access and safe movement.

“OCHA continues to assess the humanitarian impact and ‘calls on all parties to protect civilians and facilitate humanitarian efforts to safely and swiftly reach them with the support they need,” it said.

Prices of 110 anti-cancer medicines may fall up to 70 pc as govt caps trade margins



In a major step aimed at making cancer treatment more affordable, the government has reportedly decided to cap trade margins at 30 per cent of the maximum retail price (MRP) for all non-scheduled anti-cancer medicines, official sources said on Thursday.

The measure will cover branded and generic drugs, as well as domestic and imported products, including both patented and non-patented medicines.

The decision, which is expected to come into effect later this month, is aimed at curbing excessive mark-ups in the supply chain and reducing the financial burden on cancer patients.

According to official estimates, the move will impact around 110

anti-cancer medicines, including 35 patented drugs, and could lead to a reduction of up to 70 per cent in the MRP of affected products.

Government sources said the intervention is designed to address wide variations in trade margins and ensure that patients have access to life-saving treatments at more affordable prices without disrupting the availability of medicines in the market.

Under the new framework, the trade margin on all non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs will be restricted to 30 per cent of the MRP, regardless of whether the medicines are branded or generic, manufactured locally or imported.

The measure is expected to lower out-of-pocket

expenditure for cancer patients, many of whom face high treatment costs over extended periods.

Officials estimate that the reduction in medicine prices could translate into annual savings of around Rs 2,500 crore for patients. The government believes the benefits will be passed on directly through lower retail prices of the affected medicines.

The latest move builds on a similar intervention introduced in 2019, when trade margins on select anti-cancer drugs were capped to check excessive pricing.

The new decision significantly expands the scope of the policy by bringing all non-scheduled anti-cancer medicines under the trade-margin cap.

Nearly 50 pc of MENAAP region's poor living on less than \$3 a day in Pakistan



Nearly half of the poor people in the Middle East, North Africa, Afghanistan and Pakistan (MENAAP) region earning less than \$3 a day live in Pakistan, according to a report.

A report by The Express Tribune -- citing the World Bank -- said that poverty in Pakistan increased due to prolonged economic adjustment that weakened real household incomes and employment opportunities.

"The World Bank had separated Pakistan from the South Asia region and clubbed it with the Middle East and North Africa region," it said.

Moreover, Pakistan accounts for about 48 per cent of the people in the region living below the \$3 per day (about Rs 840 daily income) poverty line.

The remaining poor were concentrated in Afghanistan, Syria and Yemen -- the three war-affected countries -- which together accounted for another 47 per cent.

Poverty rates at the \$3 per day line approached or exceeded 20 per cent in Djibouti, Pakistan, Syria and Yemen.

The report said

MENAAP accounts for 14 per cent of world's extreme poor, second only to Sub-Saharan Africa. After declining in 2000s and 2010s, poverty reduction stalled around 2019 and reversed after COVID-19.

The regional increase in poverty was driven primarily by a rise in poverty in Pakistan, where the poverty rate rose by 6.4 per cent at the \$3 per day line and 3.2 per cent at the \$4.2 per day line between 2018-19 and 2024-25 following a succession of adverse shocks, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the devastating 2022 floods, a macroeconomic crisis marked by high inflation and currency depreciation and a prolonged period of economic adjustment, the report said.

It has projected 3.8 per cent economic growth and 8.2 per cent inflation for Pakistan in current fiscal 2026-27, while population-growth adjusted real GDP growth would remain at 2.2 per cent this fiscal, almost at last year's level of 2.1 per cent.

The report also pegged current account deficit at 0.8 per cent of GDP and budget deficit at 3.5 per

cent, higher than previous fiscal but within manageable limits.

Oil importing countries -- Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Pakistan and Tunisia -- remain exposed to rising inflation, loss of fiscal space, decline in remittances from Gulf and higher borrowing costs due to the Middle East conflict.

Petrol price increases were 40 per cent or higher in Lebanon, Pakistan, Syria and the UAE, and diesel prices rose over 40 per cent in Pakistan since start of conflict.

On innovation, the report said just 3 per cent of firms in Pakistan reported product innovation and 1 per cent process innovation, against lower-middle-income average of 23 per cent and 14 per cent. AI use in Pakistan was highest in absolute terms in MENAAP but concentrated in arts and media, including graphic design and content creation.

It also noted that eight MENAAP countries, including Pakistan, fall below the benchmark in mobile broadband subscriptions compared to income peers.

India's Blue Economy: Riding a New Wave of Opportunity

By Dr Jitendra Singh For centuries, the seas have served as a vital channel for India's trade, shaped coastal cultures and strengthened the country's strategic influence. Today, with a coastline of 11,098 km, vast marine resources and a strategically important position in the Indian Ocean, the seas are opening new avenues for India's economic growth and national development.

As the country advances towards the goal of Viksit Bharat 2047, the blue economy is emerging as a powerful instrument for prosperity, sustainability and national strength. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has placed this opportunity at the centre of India's development vision. In his 80th Independence Day address, he identified the blue economy as one of the seven key areas, or 'Sapt Dhara', that can drive the country's progress.

The blue economy is not merely an economy linked to the sea; it is an economy of ideas, opportunities and livelihoods. Its objective is to create better employment and income opportunities for fishermen and coastal communities, open new avenues for entrepreneurs and investors, strengthen food and energy security, and use science and technology to build coastal regions capable of responding to the challenges of climate change. Above all, it seeks to ensure that economic growth and environmental responsibility advance together.

The opportunities, however, come with challenges that demand immediate attention. Marine pollution and climate change are placing increasing pressure on ocean resources. Yet these challenges can also become catalysts for innovation, sustainable practices and investment. By accelerating technology development, entrepreneurship and investment, India can transform emerging sectors such as offshore renewable energy, marine biotechnology, advanced aquaculture, ocean data services, sustainable tourism and deep-sea technology into powerful engines of blue economic growth.

A strong blue economy can improve incomes and food security through sustainable fisheries and aquaculture. Modern ports, shipping and improved logistics can enhance India's trade competitiveness. Offshore renewable energy can support the country's transition towards cleaner energy, while marine tourism can create local businesses and employment. Ocean science, forecasting and digital services can help protect lives, assets and livelihoods from marine hazards.



Together, these sectors can strengthen maritime security, technological self-reliance and India's leadership in the Indian Ocean region. This is why India must view the blue economy not as a collection of isolated projects but as an integrated national development strategy.

The fundamental principle should be clear: science must inform policy, policy must enable enterprises and institutions, and institutions must create lasting value for both people and the planet. The Ministry of Earth Sciences is building the scientific, technological and institutional foundations required for this transformation.

Through the Deep Ocean Mission, pilot projects in marine spatial planning, ocean observation networks, digital platforms, forecasting systems and advanced marine services, the Ministry is converting ocean knowledge into public benefit. Indigenous capabilities in deep-sea exploration, marine biotechnology, ocean energy and seawater desalination are opening new pathways for resource conservation, innovation and self-reliance. Fisheries advisory services, early warning systems and coastal management initiatives are supporting coastal livelihoods while strengthening disaster preparedness.

The next phase must focus on scale, speed and measurable outcomes. India needs integrated ocean governance, stronger coordination, reliable project pipelines and wider use of digital technologies for evidence-based decision-making.

Investment in the blue economy is estimated to rise from around Rs 3.9 lakh crore during 2015-2025 to nearly Rs 25.8 lakh crore during 2026-2035, highlighting the scale of the opportunity ahead. Converting this potential into sustainable outcomes will

require innovative financing, responsible private investment, greater participation by start-ups and transparent implementation. Coastal communities must remain active partners and primary beneficiaries throughout this journey.

The most exciting chapter, however, belongs to India's youth. For young entrepreneurs, investors, scientists, technology professionals and skilled workers, the blue economy offers a vast horizon of opportunities. Traditional sectors such as ports, shipping, logistics, fisheries and tourism are being transformed through automation, digital platforms, clean fuels, electric mobility and sustainable practices.

At the same time, emerging fields such as offshore renewable energy, marine biotechnology, deep-sea technology, aquaculture, marine robotics, artificial intelligence for oceans, island tourism, electric boats and environmentally sustainable maritime systems are creating new possibilities for jobs, entrepreneurship and investment.

The time has come to build future-ready skills, launch new enterprises, develop indigenous technologies, promote responsible investment and convert research into solutions that can be deployed at scale. Universities, laboratories, industries and coastal communities must become interconnected centres of experimentation, innovation and enterprise.

India's young innovators can develop smarter fisheries systems, cleaner ships, climate-resilient ports, ocean data platforms and bio-based products, while creating technologies that enable deep-sea exploration without compromising the fragile ecosystems of the oceans.

The blue economy is not a distant promise. It is a national mission waiting for a generation with the courage to lead it. India's youth must harness their imagination, courage and spirit of innovation to ride this new blue wave of transformation.

Our oceans can become laboratories of innovation, engines of livelihoods and pathways to sustainable prosperity. Together, we can build a blue economy that is productive yet responsible, globally competitive yet locally empowering, and fully aligned with the spirit of 'Sapt Dhara'. The journey towards Viksit Bharat 2047 will be shaped not only on land, but also across the vast blue expanse that surrounds and connects us.

(The author is Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences.)

Beyond Cholesterol: How the Environment Shapes Heart Health

Heart disease is commonly associated with familiar risk factors such as high cholesterol, high blood pressure, diabetes, smoking and obesity. However, scientists and health experts are increasingly drawing attention to another factor that often receives less consideration -- the environment in which people live and work.

The air we breathe, the quality of drinking water, exposure to excessive noise and prolonged periods of extreme heat can all influence cardiovascular health over time. This means that even people who maintain controlled cholesterol and blood pressure levels may face additional heart-related risks if they spend years living near congested roads or in areas with high industrial pollution.

Air pollution is particularly concerning. Fine particulate matter can penetrate deep into the lungs, trigger inflammation and affect the functioning of blood vessels. Prolonged exposure has been associated with an increased risk of heart attacks and strokes. A study published in the European Heart Journal in 2019 estimated that air pollution was linked to around 8.8 million prema-



ture deaths globally every year, with cardiovascular diseases accounting for a significant share.

Unlike smoking or blood pressure, which individuals can often control through personal choices and medical treatment, air quality in residential and working areas cannot be changed by one person alone. Reducing vehicle emissions, controlling industrial pollution, improving urban planning and enforcing air-quality standards therefore require collective action.

Other environmental threats are also emerging as important concerns. Exposure to lead from old houses, contaminated soil and ageing water pipes has been linked to cardiovascular problems. A study published in The Lancet Public Health, which followed 14,289 American adults for more than 19 years, found an association between even low-level lead exposure and cardiovascular mortality.

Noise pollution is another overlooked risk. Constant exposure to traffic, aircraft and railway noise can disturb sleep and repeatedly activate the body's stress response. Over time, this may contribute to higher blood

pressure and changes in blood-vessel function.

Extreme heat can also place considerable strain on the heart. During periods of high temperatures, the cardiovascular system has to work harder to regulate body temperature. Older people and those with existing heart conditions may therefore face greater risks during heatwaves. Smoke from wildfires, which contains fine particles, can travel long distances and add to cardiovascular and respiratory risks.

These findings suggest that preventing heart disease requires a broader approach. Doctors routinely consider smoking, diet, exercise, family his-

tory and medication use when assessing cardiovascular risk. Increasingly, they may also need to ask whether a patient lives near a heavily congested road or industrial area, whether an old home or water system could expose them to lead, and whether their workplace involves regular exposure to metals, chemicals or excessive noise. Environmental risks cannot simply be managed with medicines. Cleaner transport systems, replacement of lead-containing water infrastructure, tighter industrial emission controls and measures to reduce traffic and excessive noise can make a meaningful difference to public health.

Cholesterol and blood pressure will remain essential indicators of cardiovascular risk, but they do not provide the complete picture. A single blood test or one blood-pressure reading cannot capture years of exposure to polluted air, lead, noise or extreme heat. The growing body of evidence makes one point increasingly clear: heart health is shaped not only by personal habits and medical conditions, but also by the environment around us. Protecting cardiovascular health must therefore become a shared responsibility involving individuals, healthcare systems, urban planners, industries and governments.



Alcaraz Ready for Shanghai Challenge After Tokyo Win

Lucknow, Oct. 08:

World No. 3 Carlos Alcaraz said he is mentally fresh and ready for the Shanghai Masters after winning the Japan Open in Tokyo.

Alcaraz, who returned from a four-month injury layoff, reached the US Open quarterfinals before winning his third title of the season in Tokyo. He said his focus is now on maintaining his fitness and mental freshness for the remaining tournaments.

The Spaniard has received a first-round bye in Shanghai and will face either Juan Manuel Cerundolo or Colombian qualifier Nicolas Mejia in the second round. Alcaraz has never gone beyond the quarterfinals at the tournament.

2nd T20I: India's winning formula faces stern test as Windies look to bounce back

Lucknow, Oct. 08:

India will look to extend their lead to 2-0 when they face West Indies in the second T20I at the JSCA International Stadium Complex in Ranchi on Friday.

India made a strong start to the five-match series, chasing down West Indies' 171 in just 14.4 overs in Lucknow. Shreyas Iyer starred with an unbeaten 102 off 43 balls, while Naman Dhir claimed three wickets.

Despite the convincing win, India could consider changes to their playing combination. Sanju Samson has struggled for runs, scoring 9, 7, 2 and 11 in his last four innings. With young opener Vaibhav Sooryavanshi in the squad, the team management has an option to make a change at the top of the order.

Mayank Yadav could also come under scrutiny



after conceding 16 runs in his first over in the opening match. However, he did dismiss West Indies' top scorer Sherfane Rutherford, who made 56.

West Indies, meanwhile, will need a stronger batting effort after losing three wickets inside the powerplay in the first T20I. Shai Hope

and Rutherford scored half-centuries but could not prevent India from completing a comfortable chase.

The Ranchi venue has generally favoured chasing teams, with four of the seven T20 matches at the ground won by the side batting second. The pitch is expected to offer a firm surface with some

assistance for new-ball bowlers.

Match Details

Date: October 9, 2026
Time: 7:00 PM IST
Venue: JSCA International Stadium Complex, Ranchi
Live: Star Sports Network; JioHotstar

India Squad: Shreyas Iyer (c), Abhishek Sharma, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Ishan Kishan, Sanju Samson (wk), Tilak Varma, Shivam Dube, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Ravi Bishnoi, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Arshdeep Singh, Prince Yadav, Mayank Yadav.

West Indies Squad: Shai Hope (c & wk), Roston Chase, Matthew Forde, Shimron Hetmyer, Akeal Hosein, Amir Jangoo, Shamar Joseph, Gudakesh Motie, Keemo Paul, Kamill Pooran, Rovman Powell, Sherfane Rutherford, Quentin Sampson, Romario Shepherd, Shamar Springer.

Bhuvneshwar Kumar Makes India Comeback After Four Years



New Delhi, Oct. 08:

Veteran India pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar has earned a recall to the national team after a four-year absence, marking a remarkable comeback for the swing specialist who was once considered to be nearing the end of his international career.

Known for his ability to move the ball both ways, Bhuvneshwar has built his reputation around classical swing bowling, accurate outswingers and deceptive cutters. After being sidelined from the national side, the Meerut-

born pacer refused to give up and instead focused on rebuilding his fitness and improving his pace.

Bhuvneshwar reportedly worked for several hours a day in the gym and on the field, reducing his body-fat percentage and strengthening his overall fitness. He gradually regained his bowling rhythm and pace, with his speed touching close to 140 kmph during the IPL. His commitment to returning to top-level cricket remained evident even when he played through illness during the Uttar Pradesh T20 League.

His performances in the last two IPL seasons for Royal Challengers Bengaluru proved decisive in bringing him back into the selectors' reckoning. Bhuvneshwar claimed 45 wickets across the two seasons, including 25 in the powerplay, underlining his effectiveness with the new ball and against top-order batters.

His return has also sparked speculation over the future of another veteran pacer, Mohammed Shami. The 36-year-old has continued to impress in domestic cricket, particularly in the 2025-26 Ranji Trophy, where he took 37 wickets in seven matches for Bengal. He also claimed 15 wickets in the Vijay Hazare Trophy and 16 in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.

With Jasprit Bumrah unavailable at times, India could benefit from the experience of its senior pacers. Bhuvneshwar's comeback not only adds experience and swing to the bowling attack but also serves as a reminder that disciplined fitness and consistent performances can revive even a veteran's international career.

Kusal Mendis appointed Test captain after Dhananjaya de Silva's exit

New Delhi, Oct. 08:

Kusal Mendis has been appointed as Sri Lanka's Test captain, taking over as the all-format captain after Dhananjaya de Silva left his Test leadership role.

Mendis is already leading the Lankan Lions in the white-ball format and will mark the start of his Test captaincy tenure from the two-match away series against Pakistan in November.

The decision to name Mendis the captain was taken by the SLC Selection Committee at a meeting that took place at the SLC headquarters on Thursday. Mendis has played 75 Tests and has 4836 runs to his name with 10 centuries and 23 fifties.

He was named the white-ball captain in May this year, replacing Charith Asalanka in the ODI role and Dasun Shanaka in the T20I role.

Earlier in the day, de Silva left the Test captaincy after being at the helm of the Test



side since January 2024. "It's my genuine opinion that the mantle should go down to the next generation," de Silva said in a letter addressed to Sri Lanka's selection committee.

"It's my genuine opinion that the mantle should go down to the next generation," de Silva said in a letter he sent to Sri Lanka's selection committee.

Meanwhile, the all-rounder confirmed that he remains available to represent the island nation as a player. Sri Lanka Cricket CEO, Ashley de Silva, wished his namesake well for the remainder of his career. "Sri Lanka

Cricket wishes him the very best for the remainder of his career and thanks him for the leadership he provided to our Test team," the SLC CEO said.

De Silva was appointed as the Test captain in January 2024, replacing Dimuth Karunaratne. He led the island nation in 18 Tests, helping them win seven of those matches.

As captain, de Silva made 1130 runs at an average of 36.45 and scored three centuries and seven half-centuries in those 18 matches. He also picked up nine wickets with a best innings haul of 2-13.

Djokovic looks to 'build momentum' for Shanghai Masters from 'phenomenal' Beijing week



Shanghai, Oct. 08:

Novak Djokovic is hoping to carry the confidence of his "phenomenal" week in Beijing into the Shanghai Masters, where he begins his campaign against former champion Hubert Hurkacz.

Djokovic won his first tour-level title of the 2026 season at the China Open, claiming his 102nd career title. He beat Alexander Zverev in the quarterfinals before Daniil Medvedev retired in the semifinal. In the final, Alex de Minaur retired with a thigh injury after Djokovic had won the opening set 7-6(3).

The 39-year-old said

Beijing was his best week of the season and that he wants to build momentum in Shanghai. Djokovic, a record four-time Shanghai Masters champion, also praised the support he has received from Chinese fans.

He also paid tribute to Japan's Kei Nishikori, who retired from professional tennis last week, praising his talent and describing him as a top-five player when fully fit. Djokovic will face Hurkacz in a challenging first-round encounter. The Polish player won the Shanghai Masters in 2023, making the opening match an early test for the Serbian star.

Rabada out, Nortje returns after three years as SA name Playing XI for Australia Test

Durban, Oct. 08:

South Africa have announced their playing XI for the first of the three-Test series against Australia, with fast bowler Kagiso Rabada ruled out due to a hamstring injury and Anrich Nortje returning to the Test side after more than three years.

Rabada trained and bowled in the nets but was not considered fully fit. South Africa captain Temba Bavuma said the team took a cautious approach and hoped the pacer would be available for the second Test in Gqeberha.

Nortje last played a Test in March 2023 and has been recalled ahead of Dane Paterson and Gerald Coetzee. Bavuma said



Nortje's ability to bowl at speeds above 150 kmph was a major factor behind his selection.

South Africa have also included Marco Jansen, while Keshav Maharaj and Simon Harmer will lead the spin attack. Wiaan Mulder is the additional pace-bowl-

ing option. South Africa XI: Aiden Markram, Ryan Rickelton, David Bedingham, Temba Bavuma (c), Tristan Stubbs, Wiaan Mulder, Kyle Verreynne (wk), Marco Jansen, Keshav Maharaj, Simon Harmer, Anrich Nortje.

After impressive IPL 2026 with SRH, Shivang Kumar calls India cap 'ultimate goal'

New Delhi, Oct. 08:

Sunrisers Hyderabad and Madhya Pradesh bowling all-rounder Shivang Kumar has set his sights on playing for India after an impressive IPL 2026 campaign.

The left-arm wrist-spinner claimed nine wickets in 13 IPL matches and was recently part of India's Test setup as a net bowler for the one-off Test against Afghanistan and the subsequent series in Sri Lanka. However, Shivang said representing India remains his "ultimate goal".

"IPL is not the ultimate goal; India is the ultimate goal. There is still a long way to go and a lot of cricket to play. This was just the first season, and it was only



the beginning," he said.

Shivang revealed that SRH's coaching staff backed him from the pre-season camp and gave him confidence to perform at the highest level. He also credited head coach Daniel Vettori and bowling coach Varun Aaron for their constant encouragement, particularly

during difficult matches.

Though primarily known for his bowling, Shivang is also a capable batter. He said he wants to prove his batting ability, having started his cricket career as a batter. In the ongoing Madhya Pradesh Premier League, he has recorded an impressive strike rate of 180.22.

Nabi's got something to contribute in formats he's available for: Pybus

Sharjah, Oct. 08:

Afghanistan head coach Richard Pybus believes veteran all-rounder Mohammad Nabi still has plenty to contribute in the shorter formats, despite being left out of the T20I squad for the upcoming tri-nation series against Bangladesh and Zimbabwe.

Nabi's omission had sparked speculation over his future, but Pybus praised his fitness, discipline and professionalism, saying the experienced cricketer remains highly respected.

"I think Nabi's got something to contribute in the formats which he's available for. He is an incredible cricketer and



keeps himself in absolutely fantastic shape," Pybus said.

Afghanistan will first face Bangladesh in a one-off Test from October 9-13 in Abu Dhabi. Pybus said the match will help Afghanistan assess their progress in Test cricket, with several players gaining valuable red-ball experience in domestic first-class cricket.

Sharjah, Oct. 08:

Legendary West Indies opener Chris Gayle has praised the fearless, high-risk approach of modern-day young batters, saying the relentless mindset of the new generation has positively revolutionised modern cricket as scoring rates continue to rise and power-hitting becomes an increasingly important part of the game.

Speaking on the sidelines of the World Championship of Legends (WCL) at the Sharjah Cricket Stadium, Gayle, 47, welcomed the changing trends in world cricket, where batters are taking on bowlers from the very first ball without any hesitation or fear.

"I am happy that batters are now breaking records and not the bowlers. The reason for this is that our

youngsters are playing fearless cricket these days. They attack from one ball. The players play with no fear or favour," Gayle said during an interaction with Cricketaaa.

Gayle, popularly known as the 'Universe Boss', said a major change in the mindset of players has transformed the way white-ball cricket is played around the world. He believes modern batters are hungry for runs and are willing to attack from the very first delivery, making fearless cricket a positive development for the sport.

"The game has changed. Players have changed. The batters are now hungry to score and they play fearless cricket from the very first ball. They are endlessly fearless, and that is good for the game," he said. Former West Indies all-rounder Dwayne

Bravo offered a bowler's perspective on the changing balance between bat and ball. He said explosive batting has done wonders for the sport, but bowlers now need to improve their skills and innovate constantly to keep pace with the new era.

"I see the way batting is happening across the world, and I'm glad my playing days are over. The skills of the batters have improved tremendously. Now, the bowlers have to enhance and innovate to keep up with the advancements in the game," Bravo said.

Bravo stressed that bowlers would have to significantly improve their skills to match the rapid changes in world cricket. He also predicted that huge ODI totals of 400 and even 500 runs could become increasingly common in the future.

Raksha Expo to boost defence, aerospace growth in Telangana

Hyderabad to host three-day defence and aerospace showcase as part of Telangana Global Summit-2026

NSS News
Hyderabad, Oct 8

- Expo from December 7–9; Air Show scheduled for December 9
- Nearly 30% of India’s defence and aerospace industries based in Hyderabad
- Roadshows planned in Hyderabad and New Delhi to attract global participation
- Buyer-seller meets, MoUs, startup collaborations and industry seminars to be held

Hyderabad is set to host a major Raksha Expo from December 7 to 9 as part of the Telangana Global Summit–2026, with an Air Show scheduled for December 9, Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju said on Thursday.

Reviewing arrangements at the Secretariat, Jaju said the Expo would provide a major platform to showcase Telangana’s defence and aerospace capabilities, attract investments and promote business opportunities in the sectors.



He said nearly 30 per cent of India’s defence and aerospace industries are based in Hyderabad, making the city a key national hub. The State government was accord- ing priority to the development of these sectors and was also devel- oping an airfield strip in Adilabad district, he said.

Jaju directed officials to invite leading national and internation- al defence, aerospace and arms manufacturing companies, besides industry bodies such as FICCI, ASSOCHAM, SIDM and MSMEs. Public and private sector organisa- tions would also be encouraged to participate.

As part of the promotional cam-

paign, roadshows will be held in Hyderabad on October 24 and New Delhi on October 29. The Expo will facilitate business interactions, buyer-seller meetings, marketing opportunities, MoUs, startup col- laborations and seminars.

In view of the ongoing moderni- sation of police and paramilitary forces across the country, Jaju also directed officials to invite DGPs of all States to the event.

He instructed officials to launch an extensive publicity campaign through standees at prominent lo- cations, short films, brochures and social media platforms to maxi- mise participation and visibility for the Expo.

Women leaders take centre stage at BioAgri 2026

BioAgri summit honours agri-business leaders, scientists and innovators for contributions to biological agriculture

NSS News
Hyderabad, Oct 8

Women leaders, sci- entists and innovators took centre stage at BioAgri 2026, with the summit at Ramoji Film City recog- nising outstanding con- tributions to biological agriculture.

The BIPA Bio-Ag Women Leadership Excellence Awards 2026 honoured Dr Sandeepa Kanitkar, Sudha Reddy and Lakshmi Narayanan for their leadership and contributions to the agri-business sector.

Scientific excellence was also recognised, with Dr Rajeshwari R re- ceiving the Distinguished Scientist Award, while Dr Sharanya R and Dr Ajesh B.R. were honoured for outstanding doctor- al research. Fertis India Pvt. Ltd. received the Best Biological Product/

Technology Innovation Award, while Biofactor Inputs Pvt. Ltd. was rec- ognised for Excellence in Market Outreach.

The Excellence and Lifetime Commitment Award in Insect Pheromones was present- ed to Dr P. Laxminarayana, Managing Director of AgBio Systems Pvt. Ltd. The awards highlighted the growing contribution of women, researchers, startups and industry in- novators in advancing an inclusive, technol- ogy-driven biological ag- riculture sector.



Mirchowk Police recover 25 lost mobile phones through CEIR

Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct 5

Mirchowk Police have recovered 25 lost and stolen mobile phones from dif- ferent locations using the Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR) portal and technical investigation.

The recovered phones were handed over to their respective owners by the ACP Mirchowk Division at Mirchowk Police Station on Thursday.

Police said the phones belonged to complainants who had reported them lost or stolen. The Detective Team used the CEIR portal, technical inputs and continuous follow-up to trace and recover the devices from dif- ferent locations.

Police advised citizens to immediately report lost or stolen mobile phones at the nearest police station or through the CEIR portal to facilitate quick tracing and recovery.

The recovery was carried out by DSI Md. Mujtaba Ali Quasim and the Crime Team under the guidance of Inspector M. Kondal Rao and Detective Inspector N. Saidaiah, under the supervision of ACP G. Shyam Sunder, Mirchowk Division, Charminar Zone.



Azharuddin urges minority youth to pursue education, skills



Pic: Style Photos

NSS News
Hyderabad, Oct 8

Minorities Welfare Minister Mohammed Azharuddin on Thursday urged minority youth to pursue higher education, acquire job-oriented skills and maintain dis- cipline to tap emerging employment opportuni- ties globally.

Speaking at a Minorities Welfare Department pro- gramme at Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, he said the Telangana gov- ernment was giving priority to minority welfare and empowerment, with Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy extending support

through various welfare programmes.

Azharuddin distributed CM Overseas Scholarship cheques, mopeds, sewing machines and other benefits to eligible ben- eficiaries. He said such schemes should be uti- lised effectively to build a better future and assured that his office was open to people with genuine con- cerns.

Government Advisor Mohammed Ali Shabbir highlighted initiatives for minorities, including Haj assistance and ex-gratia support to families af- fected by the Madina ac- cident. He said minority achievers such as crick-

eter Mohammed Siraj and boxer Nikhat Zareen had been appointed to Group-I services, while hundreds of students had benefited from the over- seas scholarship scheme.

TGMREIS Vice- President Faheem Qureshi urged greater awareness of welfare schemes and advised par- ents to encourage children to join Advanced Training Centres. Skilled youth, he said, could access well-paying jobs in coun- tries such as Germany, Japan and South Korea.

MLCs Balmuri Venkat and Mirza Riyazul Hassan Effendi and other officials were present.

Chalo Lok Bhawan protest: Faheem Quraishi, Osman Al Hajri arrested

Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct 8

Thousands of people participated in the “Chalo Lok Bhawan” protest or- ganised by the Congress and INDIA bloc parties in Hyderabad on Thursday, demanding the resigna- tion of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

The protest, part of the wider INDIA bloc agi- tation against Kumar, was attended by TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud, AICC secretary Sachin Sawant, Ministers, MLAs, MLCs, chairper- sons and senior Congress leaders.

Police detained sev- eral protesters and lead- ers during the rally and shifted them to different police stations across the city. Vice-Chairman and President Faheem Quraishi and Karwan constituency in-charge Osman Bin Mohammed Al Hajri were among those arrested.

The protesters reiter- ated their demand for accountability from the Election Commission and sought Kumar’s res- ignation. The Hyderabad demonstration was part of similar protests held by INDIA bloc parties in several parts of the coun- try on Thursday.



Activists expose male chick culling in Hyd

NSS News
Hyderabad, Oct 8

A giant blender became the centre of attention at Hyderabad’s Necklace Road on Thursday as Mercy For Animals India Foundation activists staged a protest highlighting the killing of male chicks in the egg industry.

The demonstration, held ahead of the World Egg Day, featured a giant blend- er containing a chick and placards carrying the mes- sage, “You wouldn’t press the button, but the egg in- dustry does.”



Activists said male chicks born in egg-laying breeds are often killed soon af- ter hatching because they cannot lay eggs and are not considered commercially valuable. Investigations in India have documented methods including grinding,

crushing, burning, drown- ing and suffocation.

Mercy For Animals India Foundation CEO Nikunj Sharma called for an end to routine chick culling and urged the industry and policymakers to adopt al- ternatives such as in-ovo

sexing technology, which can identify the sex of em- bryos before hatching. The organisation said several countries are already de- ploying the technology and urged India’s egg industry to move towards cruelty-free alternatives.

Digitise employee records by Oct 15, CS tells officials

Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct 8

Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju has directed officials to complete the digitisa- tion of government em- ployee records through the e-Human Resource Management System (e-HRMS) by October 15 to ensure greater trans- parency and efficiency in administration.

At a review meet- ing with senior officials of all departments on Thursday, Jaju directed them to bring recruitment

details, service records, salaries and allowances, promotions, ACRs and other employee-related services onto a single digital platform.

Officials informed him that data of around 3.48 lakh government em- ployees was being en- tered into e-HRMS and that nearly 93 per cent of the data from 38,710 offices had already been completed. Jaju directed officials to finish the re- maining work within the deadline.

He also instructed the

Finance Department to make e-Sanction orders fully digital and integrate systems so that financial services, sanctions and payments are processed online.

Jaju further directed officials to ensure trans- parent processing of Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) sanctions through Aadhaar-based authen- tication. Every department was asked to appoint a Nodal Officer to oversee the implementation of e-HRMS and other digi- tal processes.

GITAM NCC cadets promoted in rank ceremony

NSS News
Hyderabad, Oct 8

GITAM NCC Hyderabad 33 (T) BN NCC, Sangareddy, con- ducted a rank ceremony at GITAM to honour ca- dets promoted for their leadership, discipline and commitment. Cadets were promoted to ranks including Lance Corporal, Corporal, Sergeant, Company Sergeant Major, Company Quartermaster Sergeant, Junior Under Officer and Senior Under Officer. The newly pro- moted cadets were urged to uphold NCC values, lead by example and discharge their responsibilities with integrity and discipline.

BJP names panel over Sai Prasad-Padmini dispute

Telangana BJP has ap- pointed a three-member fact-finding committee to inquire into the dispute between Yuva Morcha leader P.M. Sai Prasad and SC Morcha leader Padmini reported on October 6. The panel comprises State Vice-President Mooga Jayasree, former Mahila Morcha State president K. Geetha Murthy and State Executive Member Bandaru Shailaja. The committee, constituted on the directions of State pres- ident N. Ramchander Rao, was asked to submit a de- tailed report at the earliest.

TGS thanks Kodandaram for Gangaputra appointments

Telangana Gangaputra Sangham state secre- tary T. Rajesh Khanna thanked Telangana Jana Samithi president Prof. Kodandaram for appoint- ing Gangaputra com- munity leaders Ambati Srinivas Rao and Dr Doli Satyanarayana as State Vice-President and General Secretary respectively. Khanna expressed con- fidence that the two leaders would work to strengthen the TJS and contribute to Telangana society.

TRS to hold state executive meet today

Telangana Rakshana Sena will hold an extend- ed state-level executive committee meeting at its Banjara Hills office on Friday to chalk out pro- grammes and discuss strategies to strengthen the organisation. Party chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha will address the meeting, at- tended by State and district leaders, constituency in- charges and office-bearers of affiliated wings. She is expected to issue directions on taking up public issues and strengthening the party at various levels.

Southwest Monsoon withdraws further from Telangana

The Southwest Monsoon further with- drew from Telangana on Thursday, with the withdrawal line pass- ing through Tandur, Vikarabad, Hyderabad, Jangaon and Bhupalapally, the IMD said.