



NDA to allot 34% local poll tickets to BCs: Andhra CM

Statewatch, Page 2



SC: Link accident, vehicle, insurance databases in 4 weeks

Nation, Page 4



Trump Calls Elon Musk a Modern-Day Thomas Edison

Horizon, Page 5



2nd T20I: Samson, Tilak power India to 249/5 vs WI

Sports, Page 7

Sajjanar urges public to avoid midnight birthday celebrations on roads

Police chief warns against cake-cutting on Tank Bund, lakes and parks after fatal accident

Munsif News Bureau Hyderabad, Oct 9

Hyderabad Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar on Friday urged citizens, particularly youngsters and parents, to avoid midnight birthday celebrations and cake-cutting on Tank Bund, major roads, lakes and parks, warning that reckless behaviour could cost lives. In a video message, Sajjanar expressed grief over the death of a six-year-old girl and her relative in a road accident on Tank Bund around 2 a.m. during the child's birthday celebrations. He said the tragedy had deeply shaken everyone. Despite police personnel rushing the injured to hospital and making every effort to

- Six-year-old girl and her relative died in a Tank Bund road accident during birthday celebrations.
- Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar appeals to youngsters and parents to avoid roadside celebrations at midnight.
- GHMC regulations prohibit birthday celebrations on Tank Bund.
- Police reviewing accident-prone stretches and strengthening preventive measures.



cial had inspected the accident-prone stretch with senior officers and reviewed preventive measures in coordination with various government departments. He noted that vehicles often travel at high speeds on roads during midnight hours due to low pedestrian movement, making roadside celebrations particularly dangerous. Stating that Tank Bund celebrations are prohibited under GHMC regulations, the Commissioner urged people to celebrate birthdays at home or in safe, enclosed venues. He said repeated incidents occurred despite police patrols and efforts to disperse groups gathering at Tank Bund. Appealing to the public not to risk precious lives for momentary enjoyment, Sajjanar urged citizens to avoid midnight gatherings at Tank Bund, lakes and other open spaces.

Telangana may lose 95 lakh voters during SIR

Final electoral roll expected to have 2.48 crore voters; publication scheduled for November 9

- Telangana had around 3.38 crore voters before the revision.
- 73.39 lakh names reportedly removed from draft rolls for non-submission of enumeration forms.
- Serilingampally may record the highest deletions at 3.29 lakh.
- Large-scale deletions anticipated in 28 constituencies across Hyderabad, Rangareddy and Medchal-Malkajgiri districts.



Hyderabad: Telangana could see nearly 95 lakh voter names deleted during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, according to preliminary estimates. The state had around 3.38 crore voters before the exercise began. As many as 73.39 lakh voters who did not submit enumeration forms have reportedly been excluded from the draft electoral rolls. Notices were also issued to 92.88 lakh voters seeking verification

of their eligibility. Of these, around 71.23 lakh people are understood to have established their eligibility so far. Following the completion of the exercise, the state's electorate is projected to fall to around 2.43 crore. However, with applications from new voters taken into account, the final roll may contain approximately 2.48 crore names. Serilingampally is projected to record the highest number of deletions, at 3,29,828, followed by Quthbullapur with 2,76,924 and LB Nagar with 2,70,284. Large-scale deletions are anticipated across 28 Assembly constituencies in Hyderabad, Rangareddy and Medchal-Malkajgiri districts.

Goa Police register UD case in Nana Patekar's death

IANs News Panaji, Oct 9

Goa Police have registered an unnatural death case under Section 194 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) following the death of Bollywood actor Nana Patekar. Police Sub-Inspector Nitin Naik is investigating the case. Police will conduct a panchnama, examine the post-mortem report from Goa Medical College and record statements from the actor's family members and others to establish the cause of death. Further action will depend on the findings of the investigation. Patekar was taken from his residence in Dona Paula to Manipal



Hospital, where doctors declared him dead on arrival at 5.20 a.m. on Thursday. Hospital doctor Shekhar Salkar said the actor was a heart patient and was on medication. Doctors reportedly performed CPR for around 45 minutes, but could not revive him. His post-mortem was conducted on Thursday, after which the body was handed over to the family for the last rites.

Delhi Police deny permission for Jantar Mantar protest, seek closure of 57 metro stations

IANs News New Delhi, Oct 9

Delhi Police have denied permission for the Cockroach Janta Party's (CJP) proposed protest at Jantar Mantar on October 10, citing short notice, non-compliance with earlier directions and prevailing law-and-order concerns. Joint Commissioner of Police (New Delhi Range) Nupur Prasad said the police received an application from CJP co-convenor Sourav Das seeking permission to stage a demonstration demanding accountability from the Chief Election Commissioner. However, the application was submitted at short notice, against the prescribed



requirement of 10 days' advance intimation. She said the party had earlier been allowed to protest but failed to comply with lawful directions and its own undertakings. The police also cited public safety and traffic management concerns while rejecting the request. Prasad said prohibitory restrictions under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) were in force in the New Delhi area and warned that legal action

would be taken against violators. Meanwhile, Delhi Police have proposed closing the entry and exit gates of 57 metro stations from 9 p.m. on Friday until Saturday. The proposal has been sent to the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC), and confirmation is awaited. The stations include Janpath, Patel Chowk, Supreme Court, ITO, Delhi Gate, Kashmere Gate, Rohini West, Welcome, Shalimar Bagh, Adarsh Nagar and Hauz Khas. Police officials said the proposal concerns entry and exit points, while interchange facilities may remain available to commuters.

India in talks with Russia to bring back 69 nationals from military

IANs News New Delhi, Oct 9

India is in talks with Russia to secure the return of 69 Indian nationals believed to be still serving in the Russian military, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Friday. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said around 259 Indian citizens were recruited into the Russian Army. Of them, 139 have been discharged through Indian government efforts and returned home, while discussions are underway with Moscow to locate and bring back the remaining 69. Jaiswal clarified that the government has figures only for Indian citizens



and does not have data on those who may have acquired Russian citizenship. He suggested that such information could be sought from the Russian Embassy or the Russian Foreign Ministry. The MEA has repeatedly warned Indians against accepting offers to join the Russian armed forces amid the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, citing serious risks to their lives. Despite repeated

advisories, including one issued on September 30, reports of Indians joining the Russian military continue to cause concern, Jaiswal said. The government has urged Indian nationals seeking employment abroad to exercise caution and avoid offers from unverified individuals, warning them against being lured into dangerous recruitment arrangements.

UP CM announced Jewar Airport to be renamed after PM Modi

IANs News Lucknow, Oct 9

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday announced that the Noida International Airport at Jewar would be renamed Narendra Modi International Airport following a resolution approved by the state Cabinet. The decision was taken to mark Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 25 years in public service. The Cabinet approved 39 proposals at its meeting. Adityanath said Modi's leadership had contributed significantly to the development of the country and Uttar Pradesh. He described the Jewar airport as a major infrastructure project that would strengthen air connectivity and boost economic activity in the state. The Prime Minister inaugurated the airport's first phase in March this year. The facility has an initial annual passenger-handling capacity of around 12 million and is planned to expand through four phases, potentially making it one of Asia's largest airports. The Chief Minister also highlighted improvements in roads, expressways, Metro and regional rapid transit connectivity, along with industrial projects such as the BrahMos missile manufacturing unit and PM MITRA Textile Park in Lucknow.

Mother allegedly throws daughter into Hussain Sagar

Munsif News Bureau Hyderabad, Oct 9

A six-year-old girl, Ruksana, was rescued from Hussain Sagar after her mother, Shabana, allegedly threw her into the lake over financial difficulties in arranging treatment for the child's infection. Shabana, a domestic worker raising two daughters after her husband allegedly abandoned the family, was reportedly struggling to meet medical expenses. An auto driver who witnessed the incident jumped into the lake and rescued the girl. She was shifted to Gandhi Hospital for treatment. Further details are awaited.



Hazrat Hafiz-o-Qari Shah Mohammad Abdul Muqtadir Qureshi Farooqi Chishti Sabri, founder and secretary of Markazi Khidmat-e-Khalq, Kohinoor Colony, Alkapur, during his visit to The Munsif office, where Editor-in-Chief Mohammed Abdul Jaleel felicitated him with a shawl and floral honours. Also seen are Sarwar Chishti Sabri, Syed Mujeeb Chishti Sabri, Syed Javed Chishti Sabri, Muzaffar Chishti Sabri and Hassan Irfan Chishti Sabri.



Nadella honoured with top US technology medal, thanks Trump

IANs News Washington, Oct 9

Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella has thanked US President Donald Trump for conferring on him the National Medal of Technology and Innovation, saying he was humbled to receive the honour. Nadella was among six technology leaders honoured at the New Golden Age Summit in Washington for their



contributions to innovation and scientific advancement. Trump praised his role in transforming Microsoft into a leader in cloud computing and

artificial intelligence. The award citation recognised Nadella's leadership in expanding Microsoft's cloud business and developing computing infrastructure for AI. Dell Technologies founder Michael Dell also received the medal, while Elon Musk, Sergey Brin, Jensen Huang and Lisa Su were awarded the National Medal of Science.



NDA will allot 34 pc tickets to Backward Classes in local body polls, says Andhra Pradesh CM

IANSA
Amaravati, Oct 09:

The NDA in Andhra Pradesh will allocate 34 per cent of tickets in the upcoming local body elections to the Backward Classes (BCs), said Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Friday after the Supreme Court dismissed the state government’s plea challenging the Andhra Pradesh High Court ruling that struck down 34 per cent reservation for BCs in local body elections.

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) President said the ruling alliance will field more than 34 per cent candidates from the BCs.

He was addressing a public meeting after distribution of pattadar pass books among farmers at Narsingolu in Prakasam district.

Chandrababu Naidu was speaking after the Supreme Court dismissed the state government’s petition challenging the High Court order.

On October 1, the



Andhra Pradesh High Court struck down two government orders providing 34 per cent reservation for BCs in local body elections, holding that the quota breached the 50 per cent ceiling on total reservations.

The High Court observed that the aggregate reservation for all categories in local bodies should not exceed 50 per cent in accordance with the Supreme Court’s guidelines.

Chief Minister Naidu had announced the enhanced quota on August 18, stating that BCs would get 34 per cent reservation in rural local bodies and

33.33 per cent in urban local bodies. Stating that BCs constitute more than 50 per cent of society, the Chief Minister claimed on Friday that they have stood as the backbone and a source of support for the TDP for 45 years.

“We implemented numerous changes to uplift them politically, economically, and socially. While NTR introduced 24 per cent reservation for BCs in local bodies, I increased it to 34 per cent; however, the previous government reduced it back to 24 per cent,” he said.

Chandrababu Naidu said when the coalition government tried to increase the

reservation again, the YSR Congress Party approached the courts and blocked it. “The ‘Axe Party’ holds an aversion towards BCs. Nevertheless, the NDA alliance will allocate 34 per cent of the seats to them,” he said.

Under the ‘Mee Bhumi-Mee Hakku’ programme, the Chief Minister distributed pattadar passbooks among farmers.

He said the government was distributing error-free pattadar passbooks. It has so far distributed 40.58 lakh passbooks. In October alone, we gave passbooks with royal seal to over 4 lakh farmers in 790 villages, he said.

Targeting YSRCP, Naidu alleged that there was no security of lands in the previous regime. “Whether at home or outside, one has to live in fear. It created more problems than ever. A void was created in all systems. We are moving towards development by solving those problems with double engine sarkar,” he said.

Jagtial Medical Students End Protest After Govt Assures Timely Completion of Campus Works

Agencies
Jagtial, Oct 09:

Students of Government Medical College (GMC), Jagtial, called off their protest on October 9 after reaching an agreement with the Telangana government on pending campus infrastructure works. The agreement includes written deadlines for completing and handing over hostels, the permanent college building and other essential facilities.

The memorandum of agreement was signed by the Chief Engineer of the Roads and Buildings Department, representatives of the students and Vensa Infrastructure Limited. Following the assurances, the students announced that they would immediately resume their academic activities and clinical duties.

As per the agreement, the boys’ and girls’ hostels must be handed over to the college administration by November 25, 2026. The permanent college building, excluding the administrative D Block, is scheduled for completion and handover by December 9.

The agreement also sets timelines for other pending works. The campus sports ground is to be completed by the first week of January 2027, while the administrative block, internal roads, drainage



network, landscaping and other remaining facilities must be finished by the second week of February 2027.

The students had been protesting over delays in providing hostel accommodation, adequate academic facilities and essential campus amenities. They had also highlighted construction-related safety concerns and demanded that the college infrastructure

meet National Medical Commission (NMC) standards.

The agreement provides for functional hostel facilities, a permanent college building equipped with lecture theatres, a central library and departmental laboratories, besides proper roads, drainage and sports infrastructure.

The student representatives thanked fellow students for maintaining unity and discipline throughout the agitation. They also acknowledged the support extended by T-JUDA, HRDA and government officials in facilitating negotiations.

With the authorities providing written assurances and a time-bound schedule for the pending works, the students withdrew their protest. The agreed deadlines will now be crucial in ensuring that the promised infrastructure is delivered as scheduled.

Three Police Personnel Suspended in Alleged Bribery Case in Karimnagar

Munsif News Bureau
Karimnagar, Sep 25:



Three police personnel in Telangana’s Karimnagar district have been suspended following an inquiry into allegations of bribery and harassment in connection with the release of seized vehicles.

Those suspended include Thammapur Police Station Inspector Bolarum Ramesh, Lower Manair Dam (LMD) Police Station Sub-Inspector Anwar and a constable attached to the LMD police station. The action was reportedly taken on the orders of Multi-Zone Inspector General of Police S. Chandrashekhara Reddy.

According to the complaint, a JCB machine and three tractors belonging to a man named Babu from Thammapur mandal had been seized for allegedly being used for illegal soil excavation in an irrigation tank. The vehicle owner alleged that police personnel demanded a bribe of ₹1 lakh to release the vehicles.

He further claimed that ₹30,000 was transferred through PhonePe and another ₹20,000 was sent through the same payment platform to a liquor shop owner. According to him, the alleged demands were made even after he had paid the prescribed government fines.

Following the complaint, senior police officials conducted an inquiry into the allegations. The inquiry reportedly substantiated claims of harassment and demand for a bribe, leading to the suspension of the three personnel.

Further details regarding the case are awaited.

9th Poshan Maah Concludes in Nizamabad, Nutrition Champions Honoured

Munsif News Bureau
Nizamabad, Sep 25:

The concluding meeting of the 9th Poshan Maah was organised by the District Women and Child Welfare Department under the chairmanship of District Welfare Officer D. Soundarya.

Secretary of the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), S. Neelima, attended the programme as the chief guest.

The meeting reviewed the awareness programmes conducted over the past month at Anganwadi centres and at sector and project levels. The initiatives focused on the importance of nutrition, services for pregnant women and lactating mothers, and the health and nutritional needs of children



aged 0–6 years. Activities conducted under the theme “Mana Anganwadi – Mana Badhyatha” (Our Anganwadi – Our Responsibility) were also highlighted.

Nutrition Champion certificates and prizes were presented to Child Development Project

Officers (CDPOs), supervisors and Anganwadi teachers in recognition of their active participation and outstanding performance during the month-long campaign. District AYUSH Coordinator Gangadhar, CDPOs, supervisors and Anganwadi teachers attended the programme.

Adilabad Municipal Councillor Arrested in 67.20 Lakh Real Estate Fraud

Munsif News Bureau
Adilabad, Sep 25:

Adilabad police on Friday arrested sitting municipal councillor and builder Tokala Naresh in connection with an alleged ₹67.20 lakh real estate fraud involving a tribal man. Naresh, who had reportedly been absconding since the case was registered, was remanded to judicial custody.

Addressing the media, Adilabad DSP L. Jeevan Reddy said two other accused, Gatika Lakshman Swamy and his son Gatika Kranthi Kumar, had already been arrested in the case.

According to police, the victim, Madavi Gopal, was allegedly lured into purchasing Plot No. 37 in Survey No. 45 at LBS Nagar, with promises of house construction and assistance in securing a



bank loan. The accused allegedly used forged documents to register the property and obtain a home loan of ₹53.50 lakh from the State Bank of India. They reportedly collected an additional ₹13.70 lakh from the victim towards construction, taking the total alleged fraud to ₹67.20 lakh.

The alleged fraud came to light when the house was ready for its housewarming ceremony. The victim reportedly dis-

covered that the plot had already been sold to another buyer before the transaction. The matter came further to light in August 2026, when municipal authorities seized the property following High Court orders.

Police said the accused allegedly abused the victim’s family with caste-based slurs and issued death threats when they questioned them over the dispute.

Following the complaint, Adilabad II-Town Police registered a case against the three accused under relevant sections of law.

DSP Jeevan Reddy said the investigation was continuing, focusing on property registration documents, bank loan approvals and municipal building permissions.

Telangana to Promote Alternative Crops, Expand Oil Palm Cultivation

IANSA
Amaravati, Oct 09:

Telangana Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao said the government would step up awareness among farmers about alternative crops in view of the El Niño phenomenon and encourage horticulture cultivation.

At a review meeting with Horticulture Department and Oilseed officials at the Secretariat on Friday, he stressed vegetable cultivation, quality seeds and better marketing facilities to boost interstate exports. Officials reported growth in spice cultivation by 65%, red chillies by 83%, aromatic crops by 192% and flowers by 198%.

The minister set a target of 10 lakh acres for oil palm cultivation, with two lakh acres annually, and directed officials to ensure sapling supply and operationalise factories by Sankranti.

Land Re-Survey to Protect Farmers’ Interests, Says Nizamabad Collector

Munsif News Bureau
Nizamabad, Sep 25:

Nizamabad, October 9: Nizamabad Collector Ila Tripathi has said that the Telangana government is undertaking a land re-survey to safeguard the interests of farmers and landowners and prevent boundary disputes in the future. She urged farmers to extend their full cooperation to ensure the process is completed smoothly and transparently.

The Collector, along with Additional Collector V. Bhujanga Rao, inspected the ongoing land re-survey at Fatehpur village in Salur mandal on Friday. She reviewed the use of modern rover-based technology and sought details from officials of the Survey and Land Records Department on the progress of the work.

Instructing officials to strictly follow government guidelines, Ila Tripathi stressed the need for accuracy and transparency in recording land boundaries. She directed them to in-



form farmers in advance and conduct surveys in their presence to avoid errors and ensure that pattadars do not face any difficulties.

The Collector said the survey should be carried out at an average pace of 30 acres a day and completed as early as possible. She also instructed officials to immediately bring any field-level difficulties to her notice and take all precautions to ensure error-free records.

She said the re-survey was being taken up in three villages of Salur mandal in the first phase. The survey has already been completed across nearly 3,000 acres in

Pothangal, Renjal and other mandals of the Bodhan Revenue Division, she added.

Expressing confidence that the exercise would help resolve existing land-related issues and prevent future disputes, the Collector advised farmers and landowners to approach Gram Panchayat officials for clarification of any doubts regarding the survey. Bodhan RDO Vijayakumari, Assistant Director of Survey and Land Records Srinivasa Rao, local officials, public representatives and farmers accompanied the Collector during the inspection.

Awareness Programme on RTI Act Held in Nizamabad



Munsif News Bureau
Nizamabad, Sep 25:

An awareness programme on the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, was organised in Nizamabad in collaboration with the SBI Lead Bank Manager and Sneha Foundation.

The programme highlighted the role of the RTI Act in promoting transparency, accountability and good governance, while encouraging citizens to understand and exercise their rights.

The Adult Education Department emphasised that literacy, along with legal, financial and civic awareness, empowers citizens to understand their rights, access government schemes and public services, and make informed decisions.

The programme also highlighted the role of the ULLAS–New India Literacy Programme (NILP) in promoting life-long learning, responsible citizenship and social empowerment.

Telangana Government Urged Not to Extend PRC Commission Deadline

Munsif News Bureau
Karimnagar, Sep 25:

M.A. Hameed, former central union general secretary of TNGOs, has urged the Telangana government to drop any proposal to extend the tenure of the Pay Revision Commission (PRC), stating that employees, teachers, workers and pensioners are already facing a prolonged wait for salary revision benefits.

Hameed said the implementation of the PRC had already been delayed by 39 months and called on the government to obtain the commission’s report immediately and implement its recommendations without further delay.

He said the release of salaries on the first of every month and the sanctioning of only two Dearness

Allowances (DAs), while five instalments remained pending, had failed to satisfy employees and pensioners. He urged the government to release three pending DAs before the election code of conduct comes into force.

Hameed also stressed that the PRC issue should be resolved before the forthcoming municipal elections in Greater Hyderabad, Cyberabad and Malkajigiri, the Khairatabad Assembly by-election and the two graduate constituency elections scheduled for March. He said the votes of employees, teachers, workers, pensioners and their family members could play an important role in these elections.

He sought pension dues, pension reforms and unconditional health cards for employees and pensioners.



Kalyana Lakshmi, Shaadi Mubarak Bring Relief to Poor Families: Konda Surekha

Munsif News Bureau
Warangal, Sep 25:

Former Telangana minister Konda Surekha said the Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak schemes were providing crucial financial assistance to economically weaker families for the marriage of their daughters. She said the schemes reflected the government’s commitment to supporting needy families during an important stage of their lives.

At a programme held at A1 Function Hall in the 21st Division of Warangal, Surekha distributed cheques worth a total of ₹2,64,30,624 to 264 beneficiaries under the two welfare schemes. She said the government was committed to ensuring social justice for all sections of society and improving the living conditions of poor and disadvantaged families. Surekha said the government, under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, was giving



ing priority to education, healthcare, welfare and development. She added that women remained central to the government’s welfare agenda, recognising their important role in the well-being and prosperity of families. Highlighting various welfare initiatives, the former minister referred to the provision of free bus travel for women, an increase in the Aarogyasri health insurance coverage limit to ₹10 lakh, cooking gas cylinders at ₹500 and free electricity for eligible households up to 200 units per month. She also said eligible beneficia-

ries were being sanctioned houses under the Indiramma housing scheme. Surekha further stated that the government was distributing fine rice to poor families under its welfare programme. She said new ration cards were also being issued to eligible households and that the process would continue. Assuring families who had not yet received ration cards, she said eligible applicants need not lose hope, as the government remained committed to extending the benefits of its welfare schemes to those who qualified.

Telangana Poultry Federation, NECC Celebrate World Egg Day; Poultry India Expo 2026 Poster Unveiled

NSS
Hyderabad, Sep 25:

The Telangana Poultry Federation and the National Egg Coordination Committee (NECC), Hyderabad Zone, jointly celebrated World Egg Day at Peddamberpet on Friday to promote awareness of the nutritional value and health benefits of eggs. The programme was supported by IPEMA–Poultry India.

Telangana Minister for Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development, Fisheries, Sports and Youth Services Dr. Vakiti Srihari attended as the chief guest, while Ibrahimpatnam MLA Malreddy Ranga Reddy was the guest of honour. Poultry industry representatives and farmers also participated. Uday Singh Bayas, President of IPEMA–Poultry India, highlighted eggs as an affordable source of high-quality protein, vitamins and essential minerals, encouraging people of all age groups to include them in their daily diets. The programme also emphasised the poultry sector’s contribution to nutrition, food security and economic growth.



On the occasion, the minister unveiled the poster for the 18th Poultry India Expo 2026. The exhibition will be held at the HITEX Exhibition Centre, Hyderabad, from November 25 to 27, with Poultry Knowledge Day scheduled for November 24.

The expo will bring together poultry farmers, equipment manufacturers, technology providers, veterinarians, researchers and industry leaders to exchange knowledge, showcase innovations and explore business opportunities. The organisers said the expo would provide a platform for industry stakeholders to share expertise, explore emerging technologies and strengthen partnerships, while promoting egg consumption and supporting the growth of the poultry sector.

Bathukamma Festival Arrangements in Warangal, Women’s Safety Top Priority: GWMC Commissioner

Munsif News Bureau
Warangal, Sep 25:

The Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation (GWMC) is making elaborate arrangements for the Saddula Bathukamma festival, with a special focus on women’s convenience and safety. GWMC Commissioner T. Venkanna said all necessary facilities were being provided to ensure peaceful and hassle-free immersion programmes.

On Friday, the commissioner inspected Hasanparthy Lake, Bhimaram Lake and other immersion points within the Hanamkonda city limits. He directed officials to complete arrangements in coordination with the concerned departments



and ensure proper sanitation, drinking water, street lighting and other basic facilities. He also stressed the need to ensure the safety of women, children and senior citizens, and instructed sanitation staff to clean the areas around the lakes immediately after immersion programmes. Officials were asked to remain alert on the ground to prevent inconvenience to the public. Describing Bathukamma

as a symbol of Telangana’s culture and traditions, Venkanna said coordinated efforts were essential to help women and families celebrate the festival in a joyful atmosphere. CMHO Dr Raja Reddy, Superintending Engineer Raj Kumar, Executive Engineer Ravi Kumar and other engineering and sanitation officials accompanied him during the inspection.

Telangana Govt Sets One-Month Deadline to Clear Pending GO 59 Land Regularisation Applications

Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Sep 25:

The Telangana government has set a one-month deadline for district collectors to clear pending applications for regularisation of government land measuring 500 square yards or less under GO 59. The Congress government, led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, has directed all district collectors to complete scrutiny of the pending applications and take appropriate decisions within the stipulated period. The move is expected to provide relief to people

awaiting regularisation of houses and plots on government land. State Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said applicants would be given an opportunity to submit documents relating to their properties. Officials would examine the records in detail to determine whether applicants were eligible for regularisation under the prescribed rules and verify the extent of land involved. The government has stressed that the process must be transparent and that every application should be scrutinised in accordance with the rules.

Officials have also been instructed to identify irregularities or violations in the regularisation process under GO 59. Cases in which conveyance deeds have already been issued will also be reviewed. However, matters pending before courts will be dealt with in accordance with the relevant judicial orders. Meanwhile, the government is working to resolve other long-pending property registration issues. These include registration of eligible houses, plots and flats constructed in accordance with approved plans, pending applica-



tions relating to Urban Land Ceiling matters, and NALA clearance for patta lands. The initiative aims to reduce delays in resolving property-related issues and provide timely relief

to eligible applicants. Applicants have been advised to keep their documents ready and approach the concerned Revenue Department officials to facilitate scrutiny within the one-month deadline.

Kishan Reddy accuses Rahul Gandhi of undermining constitutional institutions

NSS
Hyderabad, Sep 25:

Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy on Friday accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of undermining the credibility of constitutional institutions for political gains, alleging that he questions their integrity whenever their decisions do not favour his party. Reddy said the Congress had repeatedly targeted the Election Commission of India, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), the judiciary and Parliament, describing such criticism as an attempt to weaken public confidence in democratic institutions. He asserted that the Election Commission’s responsibility was to conduct free and fair elections,

not to ensure the victory of any political party. Referring to the Rafale fighter jet deal, Reddy recalled Gandhi’s criticism of the CAG report, arguing that the auditing body was expected to function impartially rather than support any political narrative. The Union Minister also accused Rahul of making baseless allegations against premier educational institutions, including IITs, the Indian Statistical Institute and Central universities. He further alleged that the opposition leader’s remarks at foreign universities and international forums had damaged India’s reputation and sought to undermine confidence in the country’s democratic system and economy.

Statewide land resurvey to be completed in 18 months: Ponguleti

NSS
Hyderabad, Sep 25:

The Telangana government has formulated an 18-month action plan to complete a comprehensive statewide land resurvey, Revenue and Housing Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy announced on Friday.

decisions as needed. A dedicated state-level dashboard will also be established in Hyderabad for real-time tracking, he said. Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy stated that the first phase of the project is currently underway in 2,768 villages, including 365 unmapped villages and 70 designated villages per district. Survey work has already been completed in 245 villages, with Phase I targeted for completion by the end of November.

Speaking at a review meeting with officials at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar State Secretariat, the Minister emphasised that the initiative aims to build a state free of land disputes. To ensure quality and rapid execution, the government has appointed 14 supervisory officials two each from the Revenue and Survey departments—across seven zones. The officials are tasked with evaluating survey quality, monitoring public feedback, and making localized

Highlighting specific interventions, Srinivasa Reddy noted that a 45-acre discrepancy was detected out of 385 acres in Erravalli village, Siddipet district, prompting fresh survey notices. He affirmed that any assigned lands illegally transferred in the area will be reclaimed and redistributed to eligible poor families.

Governor Calls RTI Lifeblood of Democracy, Stresses Proactive Disclosure

NSS
Hyderabad, Sep 25:

Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla on Friday stressed transparency and accountability, calling the RTI Act the lifeblood of democracy at the RTI Week Celebrations 2026 in Hyderabad. He present-

ed awards to officials and departments for their performance in implementing the Act. He urged officials to disclose information promptly and in local languages. The event was organised by the Telangana Information Commission.

FMG Interns Strike in Narayanpet Over Nine Months of Pending Stipends



Munsif News Bureau
Narayanpet, Sep 25:

Foreign Medical Graduates (FMGs) undergoing compulsory medical internships at government hospitals in Telangana have launched a three-day strike from October 8 to 10, demanding the release of stipends pending for the past nine months and parity with Indian Medical Graduates (IMGs). The interns have suspended outpatient (OP) services while continuing to provide emergency medical care. They warned that if their demands are not met by October 10, they would withdraw emergency services as well from October 11.

Speaking to the media, the interns said repeated representations to the authorities had failed to yield a response, leaving them with no option but to resort to the protest. They appealed to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Health Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha, the Director of Medical Education (DME) and other officials to intervene immediately. The FMGs said they had completed five to six years of medical education abroad, cleared the Foreign Medical Graduate Examination (FMGE) conducted by the National Board of Examinations, and joined internship programmes through Telangana’s counselling process. They claimed to be performing duties on par with

Indian Medical Graduates, including 24-hour shifts, ward rounds, emergency care and patient documentation. However, they alleged that they had not received their stipends for nine months despite carrying out the same responsibilities. The interns demanded a monthly stipend of ₹29,792, on par with Indian Medical Graduate interns, along with immediate clearance of all pending dues. They also alleged that despite approaching senior officials at their respective medical colleges and the DME, they had received no satisfactory response regarding payment. Doctors Sadiq Mohiuddin, Mohammed Abubakar, Rohit, Anwar, Vishwas, Manya, Bhavana and others were present.

RTI Act Must Be Implemented Strictly and Transparently: Additional Collector

Munsif News Bureau
Nizamabad, Sep 25:

Additional Collector V. Bhujanga Rao has stressed the need for strict and effective implementation of the Right to Information (RTI) Act to ensure transparency and accountability in administration.



As part of the RTI Week celebrations, officials from various departments watched a live telecast of a programme held at Ravindra Bharathi in Hyderabad at the Nizamabad Collectorate on Friday. They listened to the address of Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla and other speakers on the importance of implementing the Act. Public Information Officers (PIOs) and Assistant Public Information Officers (APIOs) from various

departments took a pledge to provide requested information within the stipulated time, proactively disclose information to citizens and maintain transparency and accountability in their work. Bhujanga Rao directed officials to maintain records and registers properly and ensure timely responses to RTI applications. He

warned that delays or lapses could invite action by the appellate authority. He also urged officials to implement the Act effectively and bring recognition to Nizamabad district. District Revenue Officer Geetha, Collectorate Administrative Officer Balaraju and officials from various departments attended the programme.



At a Glance

PM Modi Hails BJP Bye-Poll Wins

IANSS
New Delhi, Oct. 9

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday thanked voters, BJP workers and NDA allies for the party’s performance in the Lok Sabha and Assembly bye-elections.

He said the results in Assam’s Nagaon, West Bengal’s Nandigram and Rejinagar reflected public support for the BJP-NDA’s good governance agenda.

He also congratulated AINRC for its victory in Puducherry’s Thattanchavady. BJP candidates won Nagaon, Nandigram and Rejinagar.

Modi said the mandate would strengthen efforts to fulfil people’s aspirations. Earlier, he met India’s WorldSkills Competition Shanghai 2026 contingent, praising its achievements. India secured six silver medals and 20 medallions for excellence, finishing 10th overall at the September 22-27 competition, its best-ever performance.

Two Bodies Found on Patna Railway Track

IANSS
Patna, Oct. 9

The bodies of a young woman, identified as Shaili Rani, and an unidentified man were found on a railway track in Patna’s Kumhrar area on Friday, prompting a police investigation. Shaili, a resident near TPS College, had been missing since October 5, when her family lodged a missing person complaint at Kankarbagh police station.

Her body was later identified by police, while efforts are underway to establish the man’s identity. The Rajendranagar Terminal Government Railway Police (GRP) is investigating the circumstances surrounding the deaths.

Investigators are examining their movements, mobile phone locations and call records to determine whether the two knew each other. Speculation about a possible relationship remains unconfirmed, and the cause of the deaths is yet to be established.

SEVEN KILLED, OVER 20 INJURED AS TRUCK HITS WORKERS’ VEHICLE IN KUTCH

IANSS
Kutch, Oct. 9

At least seven workers were killed and more than 20 injured after a truck collided head-on with a pickup carrying workers at the Renewable Energy Park near Khavda in Gujarat’s Kutch district early on Friday, police said.

The accident occurred around 4 a.m. when the two vehicles, travelling in opposite directions, collided. The impact badly mangled the pickup, trapping seven workers inside the wreckage.

“The impact left the

Skill training institutes no less than IITs, IIMs: PM Modi urges youth to champion skill development

IANSS
New Delhi, Oct. 9

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday met members of India’s contingent that delivered an impressive performance at the WorldSkills Competition Shanghai 2026, congratulating the young participants for showcasing their talent and skills on the global stage.

The interaction took place at the Prime Minister’s residence at 7, Lok Kalyan Marg, where PM Modi lauded the competitors for their achievements and encouraged them to continue excelling in their respective fields.

Sharing details of the meeting on social media, the Prime Minister praised the participants for their outstanding performance at the international skills competition and said it was a pleasure to interact with and motivate the young achievers.

The Prime Minister underlined the objective behind establishing a separate Ministry for Skill Development and said that the im-



portance of skill training institutions is no less than that of IITs and IIMs. He encouraged the participants to share their experiences and suggestions with the government to help improve India’s skill training system.

India recorded its best-ever performance at the 48th WorldSkills Competition, held from September 22 to 27 at the National Exhibition and Convention Center (NECC) in Shanghai. The country secured six silver medals and 20 Medallions for Excellence, finishing 10th in the overall rankings.

The latest result marks a significant improvement from the previous edition of the competition held in France’s Lyon in 2024, where India finished 13th with four bronze medals and 12 Medallions for Excellence.

The improved ranking reflects the growing capabilities of India’s skilled workforce and its rising presence in global skills competitions.

According to the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, the six-day event brought together more than 1,400 young compet-

itors from nearly 70 countries and regions.

India fielded its largest-ever contingent, comprising 70 competitors, who participated in 63 skill categories spanning emerging technologies, advanced manufacturing, engineering, creative industries and specialised services.

After four days of intense competition, winners were honoured during the closing ceremony held in Shanghai on September 27. The event celebrated excellence in technical expertise, innovation, precision and craftsmanship, drawing participants, industry leaders, experts and international delegations from across the world.

India’s participation in WorldSkills Shanghai 2026 was coordinated by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, with support from Sector Skill Councils, industry partners, training institutions and technical experts.

SC sets four-week deadline to link accident, vehicle and insurance databases

IANSS
New Delhi, Oct. 9

The Supreme Court has directed the Centre and states to interlink key accident, vehicle and insurance databases within four weeks to streamline motor accident claims and ensure seamless sharing of information.

A bench of Justices Ahsanuddin Amanullah and Prasanna B. Varale directed all states to upload accident-related data promptly on the Electronic Detailed Accident Report (eDAR) portal, operated by the National Informatics Centre (NIC), observing that only a few states had begun uploading information despite the portal being operational.

The court ordered the linking of eDAR with the Insurance Information Bureau (IIB), which functions under the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI). It also directed the integration of the VAHAN, SARATHI, eDAR and IIB databases to enable cross-referencing of accident reports, vehicle and insurer records, and previous claim histories.

The integration will



also cover hit-and-run cases and the PM-RAHAT scheme, enabling early accident alerts to be sent directly to insurers.

The bench directed the Centre and states to complete the exercise “within four weeks from today positively” and submit compliance reports and details sought in earlier orders through affidavits.

The directions came during proceedings on compliance by insurance companies with earlier orders requiring senior officials to appear personally and explain their failure to enter appearance. The bench took a stern view of non-compliance and issued contempt notices to the chief executives of certain insurers.

Rejecting an apology submitted by Navi

General Insurance Ltd. Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Vaibhav Goyal, the court described it as “only cosmetic and not heartfelt”. It observed that no action had been taken against the person responsible for failing to process the court’s notice.

The court issued a contempt notice to Goyal and directed him to file a personal affidavit explaining why action should not be taken against him.

The bench also granted a final opportunity to states that had not constituted Special Investigation Teams (SITs) under earlier orders to do so within four weeks.

The matter has been listed for further hearing on November 27 at 2 p.m.

INDIA'S SECURITY COMES FIRST, SAYS RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR

IANSS
New Delhi, Oct. 9

BJP Kerala president Rajeev Chandrasekhar on Friday said the government would prioritise India’s national security, sovereignty and people while considering approvals for Elon Musk’s Starlink satellite communication services.

Speaking to IANSS, Chandrasekhar said a social media post could not change government policy or force it to alter its priorities.

“One entrepreneur cannot pressure the government to change its goals, its objectives, its imperatives or its priorities,” he said, describing Musk as one of the world’s most successful futuristic entrepreneurs and Starlink as a major innovation in connectivity.

He said the rollout of satellite communication services in India was awaiting security clear-

ances from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), with all companies seeking permission at a similar stage in the regulatory process.

Chandrasekhar said the principles guiding Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s government in the technology sector were based on a framework established in 2021. Technology, he said, should be open and accessible to everyone.

He said Musk appeared to suggest that delays in approvals for Starlink and three other applicants were driven by competitive interests, but rejected that interpretation.

“Satellite technology represents a very different type of challenge for national security,” Chandrasekhar said, adding that the ongoing clearance process would examine the safety and trust concerns associated with every provider and



applicant. “I think patience is what is required, not impatience,” he said.

Turning to the United States’ H-1B visa and green card processes, Chandrasekhar said he had worked in the US for six years and benefited from these systems.

He acknowledged the contribution of Indian professionals to America’s technological leadership, while noting that the US

administration had raised concerns about alleged misuse of the H-1B visa process by some Indian and American companies.

Chandrasekhar said the US government could prevent those found to be misusing the system from entering the country. However, he added that the American economy needed Indian talent, while Indian professionals continued to seek opportunities in the US.

ED raids 10 places in Odisha, Bengal over Odisha Police SI exam paper leak

IANSS
Bhubaneswar, Oct. 9



The Enforcement Directorate (ED), Bhubaneswar Zone, on Friday launched a search operation at ten places located in Odisha and West Bengal in connection with the leak of the question paper for the Sub-Inspector Recruitment Exam-2024 in Odisha.

Sources revealed that searches were being carried out at premises linked to the alleged prime accused Shankar Prusty and his associates involved in the multi-crore SI recruitment scam.

“The case emanates from an FIR filed by Orissa Police in October 2025 when Orissa Police, on 30.09.2025, intercepted three buses carrying 114 candidates near the bordering area of Ichhapuram (Border town of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha) for leaking the question paper of SI Recruitment Exam scheduled to be conducted on 5th and 6th October 2025, in lieu of cash ranging between Rs.15 to Rs.30 Lakh per candidate,” in-

formed ED sources.

On the recommendation of Odisha Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, the case, which was being investigated by the Odisha Police Crime Branch, was subsequently transferred to the CBI.

ED sources also added that the question paper was allegedly leaked by the persons associated with the entities to whom the work of conducting the exam was assigned.

Candidates were approached by the associates, and they were lured for providing the question paper in lieu of money and their original certificates were taken as a guarantee.

“During the searches, the role of agencies and associ-

ate persons are being examined. M/s Silicon Techlab Private Limited and M/s Panchsoft Technology Private Limited and their directors, along with other persons are being covered during the searches,” noted ED sources.

It is worth noting that the alleged mastermind behind the multi-crore Odisha Police SI recruitment examination scam, Shankar Prusty, was arrested by the Crime Branch team from Uttarakhand in November 2025.

Shankar Prusty, a director of Panchsoft Technologies, was nabbed by the sleuths from near the Nepal border in Uttarakhand on Saturday while he was trying to flee the country.



pickup truck mangled. All the victims were occupants of the Bolero Camper,” an official said.

The trapped workers were extricated with the help of a crane, but all seven died. More than 20 injured workers were taken to a hospital by ambulance for treatment.

Preliminary reports

indicated that the pickup was carrying more than 20 workers at the time of the collision. However, the exact number of occupants and the identities of those killed were not immediately available.

Officials said the bodies were being transported from Khavda to Bhuj for post-mortem examinations.

Police have launched an investigation to establish the circumstances leading to the collision and determine whether negligence contributed to the accident. The precise cause of the crash and any possible

safety violations remain under investigation.

The accident occurred in the Khavda renewable energy development area, where large-scale clean-energy projects are being developed across Kutch. The construction activity has brought a substantial workforce to the region.

Police have not disclosed whether a case has been registered against the driver or whether any arrests have been made. Further details about the deceased and the condition of the injured were awaited.

At a Glance

Laos Tackles Labour Shortages

IAN S
Vientiane, Oct. 9



Laos is expanding employment initiatives, Labour Minister Phoxay Sayasone told the National Assembly. Some jobs in cultural promotion, traditional knowledge and small businesses will be reserved for local workers. In the first nine months of 2026, 119,382 people found jobs, including 103,610 overseas, Xinhua reported. Since 2024, pilot programmes have provided vocational training to disadvantaged and unemployed people seeking self-employment.

Separately, Laos has launched research into Lao-language literacy among primary pupils. Supported by Australia's BEQUAL programme, the study will examine teaching methods and resources to inform curriculum improvements and teacher training for future use.

Jaishankar Arrives in Ethiopia

IAN S
New Delhi, Oct. 9

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar arrived in Ethiopia to advance India's strategic partnership with the African nation.

On X, he thanked State Minister Berhanu Tsegaye for the warm reception and said he looked forward to productive engagements. Jaishankar will meet Ethiopia's leadership to discuss bilateral ties and regional and global issues, and chair a Regional Heads of Mission Conference in Addis Ababa, the Ministry of External Affairs said.

The ministry said he would hold talks with his Ethiopian counterpart. The visit reflects India's commitment to deepening ties with Africa.

Jaishankar arrived after visiting Cote d'Ivoire. He congratulated Gedion Timothewos Hessebon on his reappointment as Ethiopia's foreign minister.

TRUMP CALLS ELON MUSK A MODERN-DAY THOMAS EDISON

IAN S
Washington, Oct. 9

US President Donald Trump has described billionaire entrepreneur Elon Musk as a "modern-day Thomas Edison", calling him a national treasure whose technological achievements have advanced American interests, transformed space exploration and helped save lives during natural disasters.

Trump made the remarks while presenting Musk with the National Medal of Science at the Science: A New Golden Age Summit on Thursday. He praised the SpaceX and Tesla founder and recalled how Starlink, Musk's satellite communications network, helped people stranded during a hurricane in North Carolina.

"Few Americans in history have done more to advance America's national interest than Elon. In one field after another, his genius and determination have made science fiction into reality," Trump said.

He credited SpaceX, founded by Musk in 2002, with changing space exploration through private-



ly developed rockets and reducing US dependence on foreign countries to transport astronauts. Trump also congratulated the company on what he described as the safe return of Crew-12 from the International Space Station just hours before the ceremony.

"SpaceX saved NASA from relying on foreign nations to send our astronauts into space," he said.

Trump praised Starship, SpaceX's large rocket designed for rapid reuse, and Starlink. He said the satellite network helped restore communications in North Carolina after a hurricane and flooding isolated communities. Trump recalled an appeal for help because residents trapped by floodwaters could no longer contact emergency responders. He said he

contacted Musk and that Starlink equipment arrived within hours.

He claimed the intervention had saved hundreds of lives, although the figure was not independently substantiated in the summit transcript.

Trump also praised Musk's work through Tesla and Neuralink, which is developing brain-computer interface technology intended to restore sight, speech and movement for people with severe disabilities.

The President recalled that his uncle, Dr John Trump, a longtime Massachusetts Institute of Technology professor, had been asked by the US government to assess scientist Nikola Tesla's work. According to Trump, his uncle concluded that Tesla was a

genuine scientific genius.

Trump also cited Musk's involvement in artificial intelligence, linking his work to the administration's effort to strengthen US leadership in emerging technologies.

"Elon is our modern-day Thomas Edison. And Elon, I wanna congratulate you, you're my friend and all of that, but you are a very, very special guy," Trump said.

The National Medal of Science is among the United States' highest honours for scientific achievement. Musk was recognised for engineering contributions across space exploration, communications, intelligence systems and manufacturing. His companies operate in space launches, electric vehicles and satellite communications.

SINGAPORE ISSUES HAZE ADVISORY AS AIR QUALITY TURNS 'UNHEALTHY'



IAN S
New Delhi, Oct. 9

Singapore's High Commissioner to India, Simon Wong, has advised travellers to check official updates after the city-state recorded "unhealthy" Pollutant Standards Index (PSI) readings for several days due to transboundary haze.

"Attention travellers to Singapore," Wong posted on X, urging visitors to consult National Environment Agency (NEA) advisories when planning activities.

The NEA advises healthy people to reduce prolonged or strenuous outdoor activity when air quality is unhealthy. Older people, chil-

dren, pregnant women and those with chronic lung or heart conditions should minimise or avoid such activities, Wong said.

Neighbouring Malaysia has also been affected by severe haze, prompting school closures on Friday, Xinhua news agency reported. Closures cover several states, Kuala Lumpur and administrative capital Putrajaya.

Malaysia's Education Ministry said schools in areas where the Air Pollutant Index (API) exceeds 180 would close from Friday. Schools in areas recording readings above 150 for three consecutive days will close from October 12, ac-

cording to a statement issued late Thursday.

Malaysia classifies API readings of 0-50 as "good", 51-100 as "moderate", 101-200 as "unhealthy", 201-300 as "very unhealthy" and above 300 as "hazardous".

Data from the country's Air Pollutant Index Management System showed most areas across Peninsular Malaysia recording unhealthy readings at 1pm. Selangor, Johor and Negeri Sembilan, along the west coast, were among the worst-affected states.

Travellers should monitor NEA advisories and adjust outdoor plans to current air-quality guidance today.

MICROSOFT DEFENDS H-1B HIRING AMID US ACTION

IAN S
Washington, Oct. 9

Microsoft has defended its use of H-1B visas, saying about 80 per cent of its roughly 6,000 applications last fiscal year concerned existing employees, as the Trump administration suspended the company's access to a key employment-based green-card programme.

The technology company said most applications were intended to extend or change the immigration status of staff already working for it, rather than recruit new employees.

The move by the administration concerns the Permanent Labour Certification programme, known as PERM, which employers generally use as an initial step in securing employment-based permanent residency for foreign workers.

"We believe in the strength and talent of the American workforce. That is why the vast majority of Microsoft employees in the United States are Americans,"



the company said in a statement on its corporate website.

It said around 80 per cent of the 6,000 H-1B applications submitted in the last fiscal year were to extend or change the status of current employees. "These were not to hire new people," the company said.

The remaining applications involved people already legally present in the United States who had decided to join Microsoft. They represented about 1 per cent of the company's US workforce, it said, adding: "They are not new arrivals to our

which allows US employers to recruit foreign professionals for specialised occupations.

The administration has argued that stronger enforcement is needed to prevent abuse of employment-based immigration programmes and protect American workers.

Microsoft's statement did not explain the specific legal grounds for its suspension from PERM, or say how long the restrictions might last. It also did not disclose how many employees' pending or future permanent residency applications could be affected.

The suspension limits the employer's ability to use the labour certification process. It does not, by itself, revoke existing H-1B visas or require employees to leave the United States.

PERM is administered by the U.S. Department of Labour and is generally required for employers seeking certain employment-based immigrant visas for foreign workers.

NEPAL FLOODS CAUSE \$1.66 BILLION IN DAMAGE, SAYS WORLD BANK

IAN S
Kathmandu, Oct. 9

Nepal's August 26 floods caused an estimated \$1.66 billion in direct physical damage, with infrastructure accounting for 83 per cent, according to a World Bank report.

The government's preliminary Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment put physical damage at \$1.81 billion and additional losses at \$883.32 million, taking total disaster effects to about \$2.7 billion.

The World Bank estimated infrastructure damage at \$1.38 billion, residential buildings at \$185 million and non-residential buildings at \$101 million.

Flooding in the Bhotekoshi and Trishuli rivers damaged energy and transport infrastructure. Twelve hydropower projects and one solar project were affected, involving 281.1 MW of operational capacity and 395.02 MW under construction. Transmission damage disrupted 149.6

MW of electricity transmission to the national grid.

More than 55 km of the 82-km Rasuwa trade corridor was damaged, including 40 km destroyed. The floods also damaged 37 motorable and 68 suspension bridges. The corridor connects Kathmandu with the Rasuwagadhi border point with China.

Nepal's disaster management authority reported 1,455 confirmed deaths and 5,285 people missing.

Damage was concentrated in three districts: Rasuwa, at \$1.07 billion (64 per cent); Nuwakot, at \$551 million; and Dhading, at \$39 million.

The World Bank called for better risk assessment, safer infrastructure design and locations, stronger early-warning systems, and more resilient networks. It said reconstruction should reduce future disaster impacts, not simply rebuild damaged assets for future resilience.

Afghan Police Seize 614 Kg of Opium from Ambulance

IAN S
Kabul, Oct. 9

Police seized 614 kg of opium from a private ambulance in northern Afghanistan's Takhar province, provincial police spokesman Naqibullah Masroor said Friday.

Counter-narcotics officers stopped the ambulance early Thursday in Taluqan, the provincial capital. It had come from neighbouring Badakhshan province and was disguised as carrying a patient, Masroor said, according to Xinhua News

Agency.

Police recently seized and burned 321 kg of illegal drugs, including 250 kg of opium, in Panjshir province.

On September 30, authorities in Takhar burned more than three tonnes of narcotics, including three tonnes of opium, 198 kg of hashish and 175 stimulant tablets known locally as "Tablet K". The drugs had been seized in operations over the preceding months, Masroor said. He warned that drug production and trafficking would not be tolerated in the province.

Afghanistan's Interior



Ministry said on September 20 that police had arrested 60 people suspected of involvement in the illicit drug trade and seized 29 kg of narcotics in operations across 12 provinces: Nimroz, Balkh, Nangarhar, Kapisa, Laghman, Kunduz, Samangan, Parwan, Badakhshan, Khost, Panjshir

and Farah.

The ministry gave no further details about the drugs or suspects. Afghan authorities have intensified a nationwide campaign targeting suspected traffickers, cultivators and production networks to curb the illicit narcotics trade.

When Youth Lit the Fire, Opposition Must Keep It Burning:

Unite Against Vote Chori, Scrap SIR, and Remove Gyanesh Kumar

By: **Mohammed Abdul Jaleel**
Editor-in-Chief

India’s democracy is under siege, not by foreign forces, but by the quiet, systematic dismantling of the electoral process itself. Over 13 crore names struck off draft voter rolls under the Special Intensive Revision (SIR). Decisions taken unilaterally by Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, despite formal objections recorded at least 14 times by his two fellow commissioners. And a growing chorus of “vote chori” that can no longer be dismissed as opposition rhetoric. This is the moment for every opposition party to unite without reservation, demand Kumar’s immediate removal, reverse the entire SIR process, and reclaim the integrity of the ballot.

What makes this movement historic is not simply the scale of the alleged disenfranchisement. It is the fact that Congress, long the principal opposition voice, needed a decisive external push to move from symbolic protests to sustained street action. That push came from the Cockroach Janata Party. The same youth-led force that earlier forced Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan’s resignation over the exam paper-leak scandal demonstrated, once again, that organ-

ised public pressure can still extract accountability from this government. Until the Cockroaches took the lead, the response remained largely confined to parliamentary statements and limited marches. Their call for massive protests, amplified by social media influencers, YouTube channels, and Instagram accounts, spread awareness among Gen Z first. Only later did political parties and established politicians join the campaign in meaningful numbers.

The pattern is unmistakable. Just as the Cockroach Janata Party turned anger over paper leaks into a nationwide agitation that toppled a Union minister, they have now turned the Indian Express revelations of unilateral decision-making inside the Election Commission into a broader democratic revolt. Momentum has already spread beyond opposition-ruled states into BJP-governed Rajasthan and Maharashtra, and further into Telangana and Karnataka. The sustainability of this agitation, however, cannot rest solely on the energy of the youth or the capacity of smaller organisations. Long marches to the national capital require travel, lost wages, food, and lodging. Petty organisations will eventually



exhaust their resources. Only consistent, coordinated leadership by all major opposition parties can provide the longevity and the monetary support this fight demands.

The resignation of Gyanesh Kumar would not be a mere personnel change. It would open the path to reversing the entire SIR exercise. That reversal would brand the Modi government with the lasting stigma of having pursued one of the most unscientific and undemocratic administrative decisions in recent memory. The legitimacy of recent election outcomes, including in West Bengal, would come under sharper public scrutiny. The BJP would find itself in a classic catch-22: remove Kumar and invite a cascade of uncomfortable questions, or keep him

and watch the agitation intensify. Every attempt by the police to crush peaceful protest will only deepen Gen Z anger and swell the ranks on the streets.

Rahul Gandhi first exposed the structural problems inside the Election Commission. Yet for too long Congress protests remained symbolic. It took the Cockroach Janata Party’s seriousness, and the newspaper investigation that confirmed internal dissent against Kumar’s unilateralism, to give the movement real force. This is now one of the biggest challenges the BJP government has faced. It can neither easily remove Kumar without admitting institutional failure nor indefinitely endure an agitation that chips away at its carefully managed

image of invincibility. The choice before the opposition is clear. Stand together, fund and sustain the movement, demand Kumar’s removal and the scrapping of SIR, and refuse to let this moment dissipate into another cycle of short-lived outrage. Democracy does not defend itself. When the youth have already shown that the powerful can be forced to answer, the established parties must now prove they are willing to fight the long fight.

The right to vote is not a gift from the state. It is the foundation of the Republic. Any government that treats it as a tool for partisan advantage forfeits the moral authority to govern. The cockroaches have started the fire. It is time for every opposition force to keep it burning until justice is done.

US GREEN CARD CURBS UNSETTLE INDIAN PROFESSIONALS

Migration Policy Must Recognise Workers’ Lives

US enforcement must combine protection for domestic workers with fair procedures and certainty for lawful migrants.

– Munsif Desk

India’s response on 9 October to new American restrictions on permanent labour certification deserves to be understood through the lives of workers, alongside trade and technology ties. The Ministry of External Affairs said the measures did not advance the two countries’ shared ambitions. The immediate question is whether lawful employees will receive clear answers about their futures while governments and companies contest the policy.

On 8 October, Washington announced the suspension of Microsoft, Adobe, Cognizant, Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services, Wipro, HCL Technologies and Capgemini from the Permanent Labor Certification programme, commonly called PERM. Labour Secretary Keith Sonderling said officials would neither accept new applications nor process pending ones involving these companies. That interrupts an important stage of employer sponsorship for permanent residence.

PERM already incorporates protection for American workers. The US Department of Labor must certify that sufficient qualified and available domestic workers cannot be found for the job, and that employing a foreign worker will not harm comparable American wages and working conditions. Enforcing these safeguards is legitimate. Alleged evasion should be investigated through evidence, fair hearings and proportionate remedies.

Essential is precision about the consequences. India clarified that suspending PERM applications does not, by itself, invalidate existing H-1B visas or alter the status of their holders and dependants. PERM and H-1B serve different purposes. Workers should therefore receive accurate explanations of their individual circumstances, without either alarming

claims of automatic expulsion or sweeping assurances that nothing has changed.

Industry assessments suggest limited immediate disruption to major Indian IT firms. TCS said its PERM applications had been in single digits over the previous two years and expected no effect on workforce strategy or customer engagements. Nasscom pointed to increased local hiring and reduced reliance on H-1B visas. These explanations help establish the commercial context; they cannot measure every employee’s exposure.

A company can redistribute assignments across offices or absorb additional recruitment costs. For an employee, uncertainty about settlement can complicate a home purchase, a child’s schooling or a spouse’s career. The consequences will depend on each family’s circumstances and immigration position. The policy’s human impact therefore requires attention even where corporate revenues remain steady and client contracts continue without interruption.

The administration says its action addresses fraud and protects American jobs. Those allegations require scrutiny, rather than automatic acceptance or dismissal. Microsoft said roughly 80 per cent of its H-1B applications in the last fiscal year concerned extensions or changes of status for existing employees, and that H-1B staff received equal pay for comparable work. Such distinctions matter when visa statistics are invoked to explain layoffs.

The language surrounding enforcement also matters. India described Vice-President JD Vance’s remarks about foreign professionals as unwarranted and deeply offensive, stressing their contribution to American innovation and economic activity. Describing workers as “foreign indentured servants” diminishes people whose skills employers sought. If



Migration Policy Must Value Workers

New US certification restrictions create uncertainty over Indian professionals’ residency and career plans.

Industry assessments suggest limited immediate disruption to major Indian IT firms.

Migration policies must recognise workers’ contributions, protect their rights and safeguard family stability.

dependence on sponsorship creates opportunities for exploitation, policy should strengthen workers’ protections and freedom to challenge abuse.

Protecting American employees and treating foreign professionals fairly are compatible goals. Recruitment rules should prevent wage suppression and discrimination, whichever workers suffer them. Suspending an employer’s applications should be accompanied by procedures that establish responsibility and explain the protections available to its lawful staff.

Washington should publish clear reasons, the scope of each suspension and the standards for reviewing it. Employees need to know how their cases will be treated, what information remains outstanding and which deadlines require attention. A process with understandable milestones would allow legitimate enforcement while reducing avoidable disruption for people who have not themselves been accused of wrongdoing.

Employers have corresponding duties. They should give affected staff written updates, access to qualified immigration advice and honest assessments of available options. Corporate reassurance must be accompanied by practical assistance. India’s diplomatic engagement should similarly seek operational clarity and fair treatment, while avoiding promises about outcomes that only American authorities can determine.

The United States has the authority to regulate immigration and protect its labour market. Exercising that authority responsibly requires respect for lawful migrants and credible procedures for investigating employers. India should defend its professionals without overlooking legitimate compliance concerns. Both governments should recognise that durable cooperation depends on predictable rules. A worker’s future deserves consideration beyond the next earnings statement.

Telangana’s Drought: Relief Cannot Wait

The ministerial review must set clear deadlines for water security, livelihood support and accountable spending.

– Munsif Desk

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy’s ministerial review on 12 October must produce more than another assessment. Reported on 9 October, the meeting will examine agriculture, irrigation, drinking water and increased electricity demand, alongside the impact of El Niño. Bringing these responsibilities together is necessary. The test is whether decisions quickly reach families facing crop losses, insecure livelihoods and uncertain water supplies.

Telangana ended the southwest monsoon with rainfall about 17 per cent below normal. The scale of distress needs clearer explanation: PTI’s 9 October report, citing an official release, put roughly 235 mandals under drought-like conditions, whereas a preliminary assessment reported on 6 October identified severe drought conditions in 320 across 18 districts. These are provisional assessments, not interchangeable figures. The government should reconcile them and publish a verified list.

Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju has sought a comprehensive report by October’s end. That deadline must not become a waiting period for emergency assistance. The India Meteorological Department’s 9 October bulletin forecasts dry weather across Telangana through 15 October. District administrations should assess drink-

ing-water supplies and arrange alternatives wherever shortages are emerging.

Assessment must also look beyond the state-wide rainfall average. Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao has already instructed officials to examine dry spells, soil moisture, crop conditions, groundwater, reservoirs, fodder, employment and migration. This broader approach deserves implementation. Rainfall totals alone cannot explain whether water arrived when crops needed it or whether a particular village can sustain its drinking-water supply.

The immediate priority should be a transparent relief programme with published eligibility rules, accessible applications and firm payment deadlines. Crop-loss verification must be swift, with a practical route for correcting omissions. Tenant cultivators, small farmers, agricultural labourers and livestock-dependent households need explicit consideration. Assistance should respond to actual livelihood damage, while employment support and fodder arrangements should help prevent distress borrowing, forced migration and hurried livestock sales.

Water and electricity planning must proceed together. The government should publish realistic reservoir allocations, protect drinking-water requirements and communicate irrigation schedules clear-

ly. Reliable power for essential pumping needs maintenance, demand planning and coordination across departments. Farmers should receive locally suitable advice for the coming cultivation season, backed by seeds and market support where crop changes are recommended. Conservation cannot succeed through instructions that leave households carrying every cost.

Telangana has sought a ₹20,000-crore special package from the Centre. A request, however, is not a sanction or a disbursement. The state should present a documented assessment and disclose what immediate assistance it can finance, while the Centre should examine the claim promptly. Citizens deserve clarity about funds requested, approved, released and spent.

The 12 October meeting should therefore end with named responsibilities, district targets and dates for delivery. District collectors should report progress every week. Consultations with parties, farmers and experts can strengthen the response, provided they lead to decisions. Longer-term investment in groundwater recharge, tank maintenance and resilient agriculture remains essential. For now, the measure of government performance is simpler: safe water reaching homes, support reaching affected households and preventable hardship being reduced.

NEET Reform Must Restore Students’ Trust

Parliamentary scrutiny must deliver fairer examinations, effective remedies and clear responsibility for failures.

- Panel flags 41% vacancies at NTA, seeks permanent specialist staff.
- Computer-based NEET must provide accessible centres, mock tests and safeguards for disadvantaged students.
- Independent oversight, grievance deadlines and possible compensation for administrative cancellations recommended.

Restoring confidence in NEET requires more than assurances after each crisis. The parliamentary education committee’s 382nd report, presented to the Rajya Sabha Chairman on 9 October, calls for a framework making the National Testing Agency accountable to Parliament. Students deserve an examination system whose integrity is demonstrable and whose failures have consequences.

The committee acknowledged earlier security improvements but said the cancellation of NEET-UG 2026 exposed the need for deeper reform. It recorded that only 23 of 39 sanctioned posts were filled, leaving approximately 41 per cent vacant. Its demand for permanent specialists addresses a basic weakness: responsibility must be matched by institutional capacity.

The proposed investment in extensive

question banks, scrutiny of experts’ conflicts of interest and stronger examination security deserves prompt action. Accountability should cover the entire chain, from paper preparation to results and complaints. Public oversight must establish who was responsible when safeguards failed and whether corrective measures worked.

A transition to computer-based NEET also requires care. The panel supports it alongside public testing infrastructure, practice opportunities and safeguards for disadvantaged candidates. Rural students must not exchange the risk of compromised papers for inaccessible centres, unfamiliar interfaces or unreliable connectivity. Digital reform succeeds only when security and equal opportunity advance together.

The recommendations for an independent

examination oversight mechanism, grievance deadlines and possible compensation for administrative cancellations are particularly significant. Families should not bear every financial consequence of institutional failure. These proposals must become clear, enforceable arrangements, with accessible complaints channels and decisions communicated within published timelines.

The government should now publish its response, implementation schedule and funding commitments. Parliament must examine progress regularly, while students receive timely explanations of changes affecting preparation and admissions. Trust will return through reliable examinations, fair treatment and visible accountability. Every candidate’s year of preparation deserves protection from preventable administrative failure.



2nd T20I: Samson, Tilak power India to 249/5 against West Indies in Ranchi

FIANS
Ranchi,Oct.9:

An explosive 82 off 41 balls by Sanju Samson and Tilak Varma's unbeaten 44 off 18 deliveries, complemented by Shreyas Iyer's quickfire 40 off 18 balls, powered India to a formidable 249/5 in 20 overs against the West Indies in the second T20I at the JSCA International Stadium Complex in Ranchi on Friday.

Samson and Tilak set the stage for India's imposing total with contrasting yet equally destructive knocks, while Iyer's late assault, which included 44 runs off 18 deliveries in the partnership with Tilak, ensured

the hosts finished on a high after the visitors briefly fought back through Roston Chase's three-wicket burst.

Samson blazed his way to a quickfire fifty as India comfortably reached 79/1 in the Power-play against the West Indies in the first T20I, racking up huge pressure on the visitors' bowling unit.

Samson scored his ninth T20I fifty off just 21 balls, equaling the fastest half-century by an Indian in T20Is against the West Indies, a feat previously achieved by Virat Kohli.

Kohli's fastest T20I half-century in India against West Indies also came off 21 balls at the Wankhede Stadium,

Mumbai, in 2019.

Impression by the right-hander continued from the very first over, unleashing the attack on Windies bowlers and maximizing fielding restrictions. There was a lot of strain on Akeal Hosein and Romario Shepherd as India cruised ahead in the run rate.

Abhishek Sharma (20 off 12) too got off to a flier but was dismissed by Roston Chase off the off-spinner's first ball. Ishan Kishan opened his account in front of his home crowd before Samson.

As Samson found the fence at will and Kishan took guard patiently, India emerged to stride at six for the loss of no

wicket after the first six overs, a position that will certainly give West Indies plenty to ponder. India kept pushing on the runs, reaching 127/1 at the halfway stage as Sanju Samson and Ishan Kishan began to target the West Indies bowlers. Sanju was 72 off just 33 balls when he got out, and local hero Kishan hit 33 from 17 balls, maintaining a brisk scoring rate that kept the visitors on the back foot.

Samson punished the West Indies for the chances they had missed, Kamil Pooran and Motie failing to hold on to the catches after which the right-hander continued his onslaught.



An explosive 82 off 41 balls by Sanju Samson and Tilak Varma's unbeaten 44 off 18 deliveries, complemented by Shreyas Iyer's quickfire 40 off 18 balls, powered India to a formidable 249/5 in 20 overs against the West Indies in the second T20I at the JSCA International Stadium Complex in Ranchi on Friday.

Pro Wrestling League returns with blockbuster Season 6 in Delhi

FIANS
New Delhi,Oct.9:

A total of 86 elite grapplers, including World leaders and Asian Games medallists, will feature in Season 6 of the Pro Wrestling League (PWL) to be held at the KD Jadhav Arena from January 9 to 26, 2027.

The launch of the much-anticipated next season will herald the return of the league to New Delhi with high-octane bouts to be held at the iconic KD Jadhav Wrestling Arena at the Indira Gandhi Stadium.

The launch event was headlined by the grand felicitation of India's wrestling contingent following their medal-winning campaign at the Asian Games 2026.

Gujarat Khel Mahakumbh Participation Soars to 76 Lakh

FIANS
Vododara,Oct.9:

Participation in Gujarat's Khel Mahakumbh has crossed 76 lakh in its 2026 edition, up from around 16.5 lakh in the inaugural event in 2010, Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel said on Friday while inaugurating the statewide sporting initiatives along with Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi in Vadodara.

Patel said the event, launched under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of promoting sports with the mantra 'Khele Te Khile', had provided a platform for athletes to showcase their talent and helped foster a sporting culture across the state.

"Gujarat has always had

talented sportspersons. By providing them with the right platform and opportunities, Khel Mahakumbh has fostered a new sports culture in the state," the Chief Minister said.

He said the Centre's Khelo India initiative and the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) had created opportunities for athletes to develop their abilities from the grassroots level and progress to national and international competitions. "The state government is committed to identifying talented sportspersons, providing specialised training and preparing them for international-level events," he added.

Patel said around 410 athletes from Gujarat were being trained under Khelo India, while around 11 athletes from

the state were part of TOPS and represented India at the international level.

He also highlighted the Shaktidoot Scheme, launched in 2006 to support talented athletes.

Referring to the Prime Minister's goal of strengthening India's participation across more sporting disciplines by 2036, Patel said: "Gujarat had taken the challenge as an opportunity and is working towards preparing athletes for international competitions."

The Chief Minister also urged young people to reduce screen time and participate in outdoor sports.

Referring to the Prime Minister's appeal to move away from PlayStations and towards playgrounds, he said

Shubhankar Sharma Retains Lead at Kapil Dev Invitational

FIANS
Greater Noida,Oct.9:

Shubhankar Sharma returned an even-par 72 to retain a two-shot lead after the third round of the INR 2 crore Kapil Dev Invitational Tour Championship at the Jaypee Greens Golf & Spa Resort in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, on Friday.

The 30-year-old Chandigarh golfer (68-65-72), who began the day with a four-stroke ad-

vantage, mixed five birdies with three bogeys and a double bogey to remain at 11-under 205 heading into the final round. Bengaluru's Manoj S (70-71-66) and Italy's Michele Ortolani (72-70-65) emerged as Shubhankar's closest challengers at nine-under 207.

Manoj climbed from sixth to tied second after making six birdies in a bogey-free 66. Ortolani rose from seventh overnight with a blemish-free seven-under 65, the joint-lowest score of the day.

Zimbabwe Retain Squad for India Tour After Landmark ODI Win

FIANS
Harare,Oct.9:

Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC) on Friday retained the 15-player squad that secured the country's landmark first-ever ICC Women's Championship victory over the West Indies for their upcoming six-match white-ball tour of India, scheduled to begin on October 16.

Captain Josephine Nkomo will lead the unchanged side after the national selectors opted to back the group that created history by defeating West Indies Women by four wickets at the Harare Sports Club a fortnight ago.

The historic win over the Caribbean side, despite losing T20I and ODI series to them, gives Zimbabwe significant momentum ahead of a challenging tour featuring three T20Is followed by three ODIs, which form part of the ICC Women's Championship.

The tour kicks off with the three-match T20I series to be played at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium in Raipur, the capital city of Chhattisgarh, on October 16, 18, and 20, respectively.

The two teams will then travel to Gujarat for the three-match ODI leg, to be played at the Baroda Cricket Association (BCA) Stadium in Vadodara on October 23, 25, and 28, respectively. India will be captained by left-handed opener Smriti Mandhana, who will begin her full-time captaincy stint after replacing the long-serving Harmanpreet Kaur earlier this week.

Medium-pacer Nyasha Gwanzura, who registered career-best figures of 4-33 to trigger the win over the West Indies, anchors the bowling setup alongside Michelle Mavunga and Francisca Chipare.

The batting effort relies heavily on Modest Mupachikwa, Sharne Mayers, Chipo Mugeru-Tiripano, Kelis Ndhlovu, and Beloved Biza, with skipper Nkomo and Nomvelo Sibanda providing vital top-tier international experience.

"Although they lost all three matches, they showed encouraging signs and will now test their progress against one of the leading sides in the women's game," said Zimbabwe Cricket in its statement on Friday.

Ireland to Play Five ODIs in Namibia, A Team to Tour Zimbabwe

FIANS
Dublin , Oct.9:

The Ireland men's cricket team will play five ODIs against Namibia in Windhoek from October 22 to November 1, said Cricket Ireland while announcing its extensive winter schedule on Friday.

Following the senior team's assignment in Namibia, the Ireland 'A' side, called as Ireland Wolves, will head to Zimbabwe for a tour featuring two four-day matches and five one-day fixtures against Zimbabwe A from November 6 to 28.

Paul Stirling will lead a

16-member ODI squad in Namibia, with Lorcan Tucker serving as vice-captain. Left-arm spinner Matthew Humphreys will captain the Ireland Wolves across both formats in Zimbabwe.

Nine players selected for the senior series will also feature on the Wolves tour, while six squad members will later head to the UAE for the International League T20 (ILT20).

Senior pacer Mark Adair has been included in the Wolves' red-ball squad to provide leadership to the young seam attack. Cricket Ireland's Director of High Performance, Graeme West,

said the long-term importance of these winter tours is huge given that Namibia, Zimbabwe, and South Africa will co-host the 2027 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup and the qualifying tournament.

West noted that playing on turf wickets in warmer conditions offers crucial exposure "The squads selected for the senior men's and Wolves' tours feature the best of Irish men's current and emerging talent, and the chance for such a large cohort of players getting away during the winter months to play outdoors on grass in warmer conditions is a welcome one.



Chola Chiefs' Alejandra Usquiano in action on Friday.

APL Season 2: Chola Chiefs' tactical tweak pays in win over Kakatiya Knights

FIANS
Hyderabad,Oct.9:

Using their compound archers to apply pressure at the start of each set, Chola Chiefs defeat Kakatiya Knights 6-2 to register their first win of Season 2 of the Archery Premier League (APL) in Hyderabad on Friday.

It was Colombia's Alejandra Usquiano, on her APL debut, who was on sensational form for Chiefs as she shot all eight arrows for 10s, with the Chiefs' tactical tweak paying off against Nico Wiener's Knights.

This result meant that both teams are now on one win and one defeat each after two matches.

Archery Premier League (APL), the world's first franchise-based archery league, is initiated by the Archery Association of India and comprises six teams and a total of 48 archers, with 36 Indians and 12 elite international stars.

The league, taking place at People's Plaza in Hyderabad, will culminate on October 18 with the grand finale featuring

the top four teams in the semifinals, followed by the title clash.

It was evident in the first set itself that the Chiefs were employing an interesting tactic at the start, going in with their two compound archers.

Rishabh Yadav and Usquiano shot both their arrows in the first half, and it helped start the match with a perfect half of 40.

It meant the scoreboard pressure was on the Knights, who stuck to their usual routine of two compounds and two re-curves alternating.



Shubhankar Sharma returned an even-par 72 to retain a two-shot lead after the third round of the INR 2 crore Kapil Dev Invitational Tour Championship at the Jaypee Greens Golf & Spa Resort in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, on Friday.

Fast bowlers share honours on Day One as South Africa restrict Australia to 187/6

FIANS
Durban,Oct.9:

A fast bowling attack minus spearhead Kagiso Rabada helped South Africa restrict Australia to 187/6 before bad light and rain brought an early end to the first day of the first Test at Kingsmead in Durban on Friday.

Despite missing Rabada, the likes of Anrich Nortje, Wiaan Mulder and Marco Jansen uti-

lised early movement and bounce effectively after Australia elected to bat on a pitch carrying a tinge of grass.

Mulder drew first blood by removing Travis Head (9), before Jansen ended Nic Maddinson's scoreless 33-ball stay on his Test return to leave the visitors reeling at 24/2.

Marnus Labuschagne (37) and Steve Smith (25) mounted a recovery with a 60-run third-wick-

et alliance coming off 94 balls. Smith, who went past Steve Waugh to become Australia's third-highest run-scorer in men's Tests, hit spinner Keshav Maharaj for two sixes before falling to Jansen after lunch.

On the other hand, Labuschagne's 11th consecutive innings without a fifty ended when Mulder trapped him LBW with a sharp nip-backer.

Nortje, making his comeback

to red-ball cricket after three years, then dealt a double blow in a single over -- removing Alex Carey (14) and Beau Webster (4) to reduce Australia to 124/6.

But Matt Renshaw (46 not out) and skipper Pat Cummins (33 not out) displayed immense patience under heavy overcast skies and floodlights by stitching together an unbeaten 63-run stand off 140 balls for the seventh wicket to steady the innings.

Premier League Returns with Liverpool-Man City Showdown in Focus

FIANS
Hyderabad,Oct.9:

The Premier League returns from the international break this weekend, with Sunday's clash between Liverpool and Manchester City at Anfield taking centre stage amid continuing uncertainty over City's financial rules case.

City won their opening five league matches to lead the

standings before the break but faces an unresolved appeal against an independent commission's findings concerning breaches of the Premier League's financial regulations. The club has denied wrongdoing, with potential sanctions adding to uncertainty over its future.

City could also face a hostile reception at Anfield.

MMC chief orders action on long-pending civic issues

Drainage, traffic access and road development works reviewed during field inspection

Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct 9

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 according priority to the development



of these sectors and was also developing an airfield strip in Adilabad district, he said.

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

As part of the promotional campaign, 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 collaborations and seminars.

In view of the ongoing modernisation 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 locations, short films, brochures and social media platforms to maximise participation and visibility for the Expo.

- Immediate corrective measures ordered for sewerage overflow at Modern Bakery.
- Free-left access at Beerappagadda's LFJC Junction to be addressed.
- Stormwater outlet issue at Mallikarjun Nagar to be examined.
- Officials told to coordinate with HYDRAA on proposed road development near Uppal.

Telangana revises fire safety norms for provisional NOCs

Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct 9

The Telangana Fire, Disaster Response, Emergency and Civil Defence Department has revised fire and life safety requirements for issuing Provisional Fire No Objection Certificates (NOCs), raising the height threshold for residential apartment buildings from 18 metres to 24 metres.

Under the revised guidelines, fire towers and Fire Command Centres (FCCs) will be mandatory in buildings measuring 24 metres and above, irrespective of occupancy type. However, existing Fire NOC requirements for occupancy types other than residential apartments remain unchanged.

The department has also modified ventilation



sociations, including CREDAI, NAREDCO and the Telangana Builders Federation. The changes were finalised at a meeting held on September 23 in the context of G.O.Ms.No.95 issued by the Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department on March 21, 2026.

The revised provisions came into effect on October 7 and apply only to fresh applications for Provisional Fire NOCs received on or after that date. The department has directed all concerned officers to implement the guidelines, which aim to streamline the approval process, improve compliance and ensure effective implementation of fire and life safety measures across Telangana.

requirements for diesel generator (DG) rooms located in basements. Louvers will be permitted above a fire-rated wall at least one metre high, provided the wall has a fire resistance rating of two hours.

Director General Vikram Singh Mann, IPS, issued the revised instructions following consultations with representatives of builders' as-

City Police warn against sharing custody details online

Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct 9

Hyderabad City Police have cautioned the public against sharing sensitive information relating to detainees, custody movements and prisoner transportation on unauthorised digital platforms, warning that such disclosures could compromise privacy and security.

As part of the Jagrut Hyderabad – Surakshit Hyderabad campaign, featuring the Cyber Simba initiative, police highlighted the risks of circulating personal details, live locations and transport routes through social media, messaging groups and unauthorised applications.

The police warned that such information could expose individuals to unwanted tracking and criminal activities, including impersonation, threats and extortion. Unauthorised sharing could also create security risks by enabling interference with official procedures.

Citizens have been advised to verify requests for custody-related information through authorised police or prison channels, avoid uploading or forwarding sensitive details and report suspicious requests or misuse to the concerned authorities.



nology would accelerate the work and minimise inconvenience to commuters.

The revised plan replaces earlier proposals for separate underpasses and grade separators. Officials estimate savings

of ₹800 crore in land acquisition and ₹400 crore in construction costs, taking the projected total savings to ₹1,200 crore. The alignment has also been designed to minimise the impact on KBR Park's greenery.

CMC, UNICEF join hands to develop child-friendly Cyberabad



Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct 9

The Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC), in association with UNICEF India, has joined hands to develop safer and more inclusive urban spaces for children under the proposed "Junior Citizens: A Child-Friendly and Safe Cyberabad" initiative.

A session held at the CMC Head Office discussed ways to incorporate children's needs and perspectives into urban planning and development, with a focus on safer streets, school environments, parks, public spaces, mobility and access to essential services.

The programme will cover the Serilingampally, Kukatpally and Quthbullapur zones, encouraging regular consultations with children and incorporating their suggestions into ward-level plans and development priorities. The session also stressed stronger coordination among government departments to address child safety and welfare.

UNICEF India Deputy Representative Jesper Moller, Chief of Field Services Soledad Herrero, Dr. Zelalem B. Taffesse and Sonykutty George attended the meeting along with CMC Commissioner Dr. G. Srijana, IAS, Additional Commissioner V.V.L. Subhadra Devi,

IFS, zonal commissioners and officials from various departments, including Education and Police.

As part of the initiative, the Child Rights Secretariat Cell was inaugurated at the CMC Head Office to strengthen coordination on child rights and promote child-friendly urban governance. The initiative aims to ensure that children's voices are considered in building a safer and more inclusive Cyberabad.

Junior Citizens programme to promote safer streets, schools, parks and inclusive public spaces

Malkajgiri SHE Teams apprehend 198 for harassing women



Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct 9

Malkajgiri SHE Teams apprehended 198 persons, including 167 adults and 31 minors, for allegedly harassing women and girls in September 2026. The police registered 16 criminal cases and booked 66 petty cases during the month.

Under the supervision of Commissioner of Police B. Sumathi, IPS, the teams have intensified decoy operations and action against harassment in public places and online. Counselling was provided to 133 persons in the

presence of their family members, with the assistance of professional counsellors, to prevent repeat offences.

The police are also conducting awareness programmes to encourage women and girls to report harassment without fear. Commissioner Sumathi reiterated the department's commitment to women's safety and appealed to the public to cooperate with the police.

Women facing harassment can contact Malkajgiri SHE Teams through WhatsApp at 8712662111 for assistance.

KTR demands CEC Gyanesh Kumar's resignation



NSS News
Hyderabad, Oct 9

BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao on Friday demanded Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's resignation over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and urged the Supreme Court to order an independent probe headed by a sitting judge.

BRS leader T. Harish Rao also sought the CEC's resignation, alleging that voter deletions threatened electoral fairness. The BRS will stage a protest outside the Telangana CEO's office in Hyderabad on Saturday, demanding an independent inquiry into alleged large-scale deletions in constituencies represented by its MLAs.

Bhatti seeks answers on vote integrity, Indian professionals abroad

IANs News
Hyderabad, Oct 9

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Friday questioned the Centre over alleged electoral irregularities and the reported suspension of major Indian IT companies from a key US Green Card certification programme.

In a post on X, he asked who would safeguard the integrity of citizens' votes



and stand up for Indian professionals abroad. He referred to Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi raising concerns over alleged vote theft and the Trump administration's

reported suspension of TCS, Infosys, Wipro and other IT firms from the programme.

Bhatti, along with Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, had joined Rahul Gandhi and other INDIA bloc leaders at Raj Ghat in Delhi on Thursday to demand Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's resignation over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls.

CEO refutes claims of 95 lakh voter deletions in Telangana

NSS News
Hyderabad, Oct 9

Telangana Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) C. Sudharsan Reddy on Friday refuted reports claiming that 95 lakh votes have been purged from the state's electoral rolls, dismissing the claims as false.

Addressing the ongoing voter list verification process, Sudharsan Reddy clarified that 73,39,235 electors were categorised under the Absentee, Shifted, and Dead (ASD/VSD) list. As part of the review, authorities issued 92,23,486 notices to voters, while 64,701 notices remain pending distribution.

According to official data, election officials have completed field verification for 82,11,205 electors so far. Of those verified, 74,62,851 individuals were deemed eligible.

Telangana constable dies by suicide, probe underway

IANs News
Hyderabad, Oct 9

A police constable allegedly died by suicide in Telangana's Jogulamba Gadwal district on Friday, officials said.

Venkateshwarlu (27), a constable of Telangana Special Police (TGSP), hanged himself at his resi-

dence in Erravalli.

According to police, Venkateshwarlu was serving in the 10th battalion of TGSP in Gadwal.

Preliminary investigation by the police revealed that the constable took the extreme step due to family problems. The state has witnessed a series of suicides by police personnel.

Last month, a 35-year-old police constable died by suicide at his residence in Hyderabad.

M. Chandrasekhar, who was working as a writer at the Amberpet Police Headquarters, reportedly made a video call to a woman around midnight and told her that he was going to hang himself.