



**Strict Action
Against Erring
VDCs: Adilabad
DSP**

Statewatch, Page 3



**CJI Explains Why
He Declined INDIA
Bloc Meet**

Nation, Page 4



**North Korea fires
ballistic missiles
towards Sea of
Japan**

Horizons, Page 5



**Ranji: Deshpande's
Hat-Trick Sinks
Chandigarh;
Jadeja Hits Ton**

Sports, Page 7

Rahul Gandhi, 10 INDIA Bloc leaders move SC against SIR



IANs News
New Delhi, Oct 12

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and 10 other INDIA bloc leaders on Monday moved the Supreme Court challenging the Election Commission of India's (ECI) Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, alleging large-scale voter deletions and irregularities.

The writ petition, filed on October 12, names the ECI, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and Election Commissioners Sukhbir

Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi as respondents. The case, registered under diary number 64196/2026, is pending, according to the Supreme Court website.

The petitioners include Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Trinamool Congress leader Saugata Roy, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, RJD leader Tejashwi Prasad Yadav, Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Sanjay Raut, CPI(M) leader M.A. Baby, CPI leader D. Raja, JMM leader Mahua Majhi, NCP (SP) leader Supriya Sule and IUML leader E.T. Mohammed Basheer.

The move comes amid an escalating confrontation between the Opposition and the poll body over the revision exercise. Opposition leaders contend that the process could undermine electoral fairness and exclude eligible voters from electoral rolls.

Earlier on Monday, Rahul Gandhi said Chief Justice of India Surya Kant had advised Opposition leaders to approach the Supreme Court through a formal petition after they sought an appointment to raise concerns over the SIR exercise. Gandhi said he and

Opposition alleges large-scale voter deletions and irregularities; petition names ECI and top poll officials as respondents

- Petition filed in Supreme Court on October 12; case is pending.
- Mallikarjun Kharge, Akhilesh Yadav, Tejashwi Yadav and other INDIA bloc leaders are among the petitioners.
- Opposition alleges the SIR exercise threatens electoral fairness and may exclude eligible voters.
- BJP spokesperson Guru Prakash Paswan rejected the allegations, calling them baseless.

Kharge had written to the CJI expressing concerns about electoral fairness and what they described as an attack on democracy.

INDIA bloc leaders had also begun a protest march towards the Supreme Court, demanding the resignation of CEC Gyanesh Kumar over alleged electoral ir-

regularities.

Meanwhile, BJP national spokesperson Guru Prakash Paswan rejected the Opposition's allegations, describing them as baseless. He maintained that the Supreme Court had already ruled on the constitutional validity of the SIR exercise and accused the Congress of politicising the issue.

Telangana Youth to Get Free Govt Exam Coaching Worth Rs 40,000

NSS News
Hyderabad, Oct 12

The 'Ponguleti Seenanna Yuva Nestham' initiative was launched on Monday to provide eligible Telangana youth one year of free online coaching worth ₹40,000 for government job examinations.

Launched by PSR Charitable Trust in collaboration with RC EXAMS, the programme covers Group I-IV, SI, Police Constable, Panchayat Raj, Forest, Railway, Banking and DSC exams.

Eligible candidates can register at <https://psryuvanestham.in>.

CJP gives Delhi Police 24-hour deadline for Jantar Mantar protest

IANs News
New Delhi, Oct 12

The Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) on Monday gave Delhi Police 24 hours to respond to its request for permission to hold a protest at Jantar Mantar against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

CJP co-convenor Saurav Das said peaceful protest was a constitutional right and asserted that the party would continue its agitation. He said the party had left it to the police to suggest a date and time for the demonstration but would not allow the request to remain pending indefinitely.



Another co-convenor, Ashutosh Ranka, said the party would approach Delhi Police to seek a date for the protest and decide its next course of action if permission was not granted within 24 hours.

The developments came a day after Ranka alleged that thousands of peaceful protesters had been

detained while attempting to demonstrate against the Election Commission and CEC Gyanesh Kumar. He accused the government of turning the agitation into a confrontation with itself, alleging that the country had witnessed "peak authoritarianism" over the previous 72 hours.

CM sanctions Rs 6 lakh to bring back war victim's remains

IANs News
Hyderabad, Oct 12

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy sanctioned ₹6 lakh to repatriate the remains of Vavilala Sudarshan Goud of Jagtial district, who was killed in a drone attack in the Russia-Ukraine war on September 1. He had gone to Ukraine four months ago seeking employment. Meanwhile, Mohammed Afzal Khan (43) of Banswada is feared dead after reportedly joining Russian forces on the promise of a civilian job. His family has sought the Centre's intervention to verify his fate. MBT leader Amjed Ullah Khan urged Indian authorities.

BJP MP-elect rushes accident victim to hospital



IANs News
Guwahati, Oct 12

BJP's Nagaon MP-elect Debasish Sharma came to the rescue of a road accident victim on Monday after finding him unconscious and critically injured along the Nagaon-Morigaon road in Assam.

Sharma stopped his vehicle, carried the injured man in his arms and rushed him to a hospital

in the same car to ensure immediate medical assistance. The victim's identity and medical condition were not immediately known.

Sharma recently won the Nagaon Lok Sabha bypoll, defeating AIUDF chief Badruddin Ajmal by 1,41,916 votes. Sharma secured 7,13,622 votes, while Ajmal polled 5,70,413 votes. Congress candidate Sibamoni Bora finished third with 1,28,743 votes.

SC neither approves nor rejects revised Form 6

IANs News
New Delhi, Oct 12

The Supreme Court on Monday clarified that it had neither approved nor rejected the Election Commission's revised Form 6 for new voter registration, stating that the modified form was not before it during the Bihar SIR case.

A bench headed by CJI Surya Kant said the court had not adjudicated on the revised form, which requires applicants to declare whether they or their parents were included in the previous SIR. The changes have triggered a political row over the ECI's decision-making process.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi alleged that the form was altered unilaterally and illegally to benefit the BJP, while the BJP rejected the charge.

Pakistan detains Khyber Pakhtunkhwa CM, PTI leaders amid tensions

IANs News
Islamabad, Oct 12

Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Sohail Afridi and several PTI leaders were detained after the provincial government was suspended under emergency rule, local media reported on Monday. Afridi, MNA Junaid Akbar and Assembly Speaker Babar Saleem Swati were taken into preventive custody. Minister of State for Interior Talal Chaudhry said the leaders would face legal cases pending against them.

PTI spokesperson Sheikh Waqas Akram alleged that the detentions were aimed at weakening the party and undermining the



province's elected government. The developments came amid PTI's long march to Islamabad demanding the release of jailed former Prime Minister Imran Khan.

Tensions escalated further after the Governor House in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa was reportedly set on fire, while videos circulating on social media showed flames and clashes involving police.

Four burnt alive as electric car catches fire in Vijayawada

IANs News
Vijayawada, Oct 12

Four persons, including a child, were burnt alive and another was critically injured after an electric car hit a road divider and caught fire on the Vijayawada West Bypass on Monday.

The deceased were identified as Kommareddy Ramdev (39), his mother Aruna, T. Vijay and a child. They were returning from a function in Namburu when the accident occurred. Police and fire personnel rushed to the spot and doused the flames. An investigation is underway.

Meanwhile, an electric bus caught fire near PNT Flyover in Hyderabad around 5.30 p.m., causing a traffic jam but no casualties. In another incident, a Volkswagen car caught fire after hitting a divider near ORR Exit No. 1 in Gachibowli. Its occupants escaped unhurt.

Kavitha seeks CEC selection reform, rejects resignation demand

IANs News
Hyderabad, Oct 12

Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha on Monday said the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar would not ensure free and fair elections and called for reforms in the process of appointing the CEC.

Participating in Bathukamma celebrations at the party office, she alleged that replacing the CEC would only lead to another appointment by the ruling estab-

lishment. She also called for scrapping EVMs and returning to ballot papers.

Earlier, addressing students at Osmania University, Kavitha criticised successive state governments for neglecting higher education. She said that despite Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's announcement of ₹1,000 crore for the university six months ago, the funds had not been released. Pointing to poor hostel facilities and vacancies in teaching posts, she apologised for her association with the previous BRS government.



Property Dispute Turns Deadly in Zaheerabad; Four Arrested for Contract Killing

Munsif News Bureau
Zaheerabad, Oct. 12:

A shocking murder linked to a property dispute has come to light in Mannapur village of Mogudampally mandal in Zaheerabad division. Police have arrested four accused, including the victim's son-in-law, for their alleged involvement in the contract killing.

According to a police press note, the accused, Yerra

Basavaraju of Bantwaram in Marpally mandal, allegedly hired three associates for ₹5 lakh to murder his father-in-law, Mannuru Srinivas. Chiragpally police acted swiftly, solved the murder case within hours of launching the investigation and arrested all four accused.

Police said that family disputes and resentment over a share in the property were the alleged motives behind

the crime.

On October 7, the accused allegedly took the victim in an auto-rickshaw to a forested area near Tamkanata and murdered him.

In an attempt to destroy evidence, they allegedly set both the body and the auto-rickshaw on fire.

After the charred body was recovered on October 10, Circle Inspector Rajaboina Ravi and Chiragpally Sub-

Inspector Vinay Kumar launched an investigation. Based on technical evidence and local intelligence, the police identified and arrested the accused.

Police seized ₹2 lakh in cash, four mobile phones, weapons allegedly used in the crime and motorcycles from the accused.

The arrested persons were subsequently remanded to judicial custody.



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MLAs Urge Railways to Make Bathukamma Special Train Permanent, Name It 'Bathukamma Express'

Munsif News Bureau
Kagaznagar, Oct. 12:

Sirpur MLA Dr. Palvai Harish Babu and Mudhol MLA Ram Rao Patel met South Central Railway General Manager S. K. Srivastava on Monday and urged him to make the Bathukamma festival special train operating between Secunderabad Junction and Sirpur Kagaznagar a permanent service and name it 'Bathukamma Express'.

During the meeting, the two MLAs presented the General Manager with a beautiful painting of Bathukamma featuring Cherial artwork, reflecting Telangana's rich

cultural heritage.

They informed him that special train services numbered 07711/07712, introduced between Secunderabad Junction and Sirpur Kagaznagar during the Bathukamma festival, had received an encouraging response from passengers.

Considering public convenience and the growing demand for travel, the MLAs urged the General Manager to take the necessary steps to operate the special train on a permanent basis.

They further appealed to the Railways to name the service 'Bathukamma Express', stating that the move would promote Telangana's cultural identity while providing a

regular travel facility for passengers commuting between Secunderabad and Sirpur Kagaznagar.

South Central Railway General Manager S. K. Srivastava responded positively to the request and assured the MLAs that appropriate steps would be taken in this regard.

Bathukamma is one of the prominent symbols of Telangana's culture and traditions. Making the festival special train a permanent service and naming it 'Bathukamma Express' would not only improve passenger convenience but also help promote the state's distinctive cultural identity.

RED CROSS PLANS DIST-WIDE ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGN IN TELANGANA

Hyderabad, Oct.12 (NSS): Telangana Indian Red Cross Society branches have been directed to prepare district-level action plans for implementing the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan, with a focus on preventing drug abuse among youth.

Governor's Special Chief Secretary and State Red Cross chairman M. Dana Kishore issued the directions during a video conference with district branch representatives at Lok Bhavan here on Monday.

Ensure Prompt Resolution of Public Grievances: Peddapalli Collector

Munsif News Bureau
Tandur, Oct. 12:

Peddapalli, October 12, 2026: District Collector Koya Sri Harsha directed the officials concerned to ensure the prompt resolution of public grievances. He instructed them to accord top priority to petitions received under the Prajavani programme and resolve them without keeping them pending.

On Monday, District Collector Koya Sri Harsha, along with Additional Collector B. Sriramulu, received petitions from the public during the Prajavani programme held at the Collectorate meeting hall. He directed the officials concerned to take the necessary action on the grievances submitted.

Land Pattadar Passbook Issue Dharani Mallesh from Ramagundam mandal submitted a petition seeking the inclusion of his name in the pattadar passbook for seven guntas of land under Survey No. 287, located on the outskirts of the mandal. The Collector instructed the Ramagundam Tahsildar to take the necessary action.

Elderly Man Seeks Assistance Muthyam Maisaiah from Nirokula village in Peddapalli mandal complained that his sons were not taking care of him in his old age. The Collector directed the Peddapalli Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) to take appropriate steps in the matter.

Pooyila Krishna from Kannala village in Manthani mandal stated

in his petition that he had completed plumbing training at NYAK but remained unemployed. He appealed for assistance in securing a job. The Collector instructed the concerned Varadhi Society to take the necessary action.

Poor Family Seeks Double-Bedroom House Mohammed Jilani from Peddapalli town submitted a petition stating that he belonged to a financially disadvantaged family and requested the allotment of a double-bedroom house. The Collector directed the Project Director (PD), Housing, to take appropriate action.

Collectorate Administrative Officer B. Prakash, concerned district officials and others attended the Prajavani programme.

T-BJP Chief accepts Ponnam's challenge on voter deletion, seeks 10 complainants

Munsif News Bureau
Nizamabad, Oct. 12:

Telangana BJP president N. Ramchander Rao on Monday accepted Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar's challenge to produce voters who allegedly lost their voting rights during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Responding to the minister's demand for evidence, Rao asked him to fix a date and time and bring at least 10 affected voters to the Chief Electoral Officer's (CEO) office for verification of their records. Taking a dig at the Congress minister, BJP state president said "as far as I know, your Majlis friends - Asaduddin Owaisi and Akbaruddin Owaisi - are your only support. You can bring them along too if you want. Let us check the details of those 10 voters on the computers right then and there to clarify whether their votes are missing or were actually deleted." Rao said the details could be checked on computers at the office and asserted that no eligible voter's name was deleted without prior notice and a field-level inquiry. If any wrongful deletion was established, corrective action should be taken as per the rules, he added. The BJP chief challenged Ponnam to apologise if the allegations could not be substantiated.

Mudhol MLA Seeks Goods Rake Point at Basar Railway Station

Munsif News Bureau
Mudhol, Oct. 12:

Mudhol MLA Pawar Ram Rao Patel met South Central Railway General Manager Sanjay Kumar Srivastava at Rail Nilayam in Secunderabad and urged him to establish a goods rake point at Basar Railway Station in Nirmal district. The MLA said that setting up a goods rake point at Basar Railway Station would significantly benefit farmers, traders and local residents by facilitating the transportation of goods.

The facility would simplify the transportation of agricultural produce and other commodities while boosting local commercial activities.

He appealed to the General Manager to explore the feasibility of establishing a goods siding by utilising the existing infrastructure at Basar Railway Station and making the necessary arrangements for loading and unloading goods.



Sirpur MLA Dr. Palvai Harish Babu and Mudhol MLA Ram Rao Patel met South Central Railway General Manager S. K. Srivastava on Monday and urged him to make the Bathukamma festival special train operating between Secunderabad Junction and Sirpur Kagaznagar a permanent service and name it 'Bathukamma Express'.

Stray Dog Menace in Degloor Sparks Public Fear; When Will Municipal Council Act?

Munsif News Bureau
Degloor, Oct. 12:

The growing population of stray dogs in Degloor town has become a major cause of concern for residents. Packs of stray dogs are being spotted in various parts of the town, including markets, bus stands, schools and residential areas,

posing a potential threat to public safety, particularly that of children, women and senior citizens. According to residents, stray dogs suddenly darting onto roads and chasing vehicles have increased the risk of accidents. They have urged the authorities to take appropriate measures, including sterilisation, to control the stray dog

population.

The key demands of residents include immediate measures to control the growing number of stray dogs, effective arrangements for their sterilisation and vaccination, deployment of special teams in vulnerable areas, and implementation of a permanent and concrete action plan by the Municipal Council.

Bidar Zilla Panchayat CEO Launches Distribution of Rabi Crop Seeds

Munsif News Bureau
Bidar, Oct. 12:

Zilla Panchayat Chief Executive Officer Shri Gatte Madhava Vittal Rao inaugurated the distribution of seeds for Rabi crops, including chickpea, jowar, wheat and other varieties, at the Bidar Uttara Raitha Samparka Kendra.

He educated farmers on selecting suitable crop varieties, the efficient use of water and nutrients under drought conditions, and choosing crops and varieties that require less



water. He also highlighted the effective utilisation of various government schemes for the benefit of farmers.

Joint Director of Agriculture Devika R. spoke about integrated farming and

urged farmers to avail themselves of the benefits offered under Integrated Farming and the Krishi Bhagya Yojana. Emphasis on Seed Treatment Farmers were advised to treat and test their seeds be-

fore sowing to ensure better crop growth and productivity. Free Chickpea Mini-Kits Distributed In the presence of Bidar Taluk Assistant Director of Agriculture Aarti Patil, free chickpea mini-kits were distributed to farmers from various villages across the hoblis.

Farmers and staff members attending the programme were welcomed. Bidar (Urban) Hobli Agriculture Officer Varsha Gaithonde Basavaraja, Mahanand, Krishi Sakhis and others were present on the occasion.

Public Grievances Must Be Resolved Within Stipulated Time: Collector Garima Agrawal

Munsif News Bureau
Rajanna Sircilla, Oct. 12:

Rajanna Sircilla District Collector Garima Agrawal directed officials concerned to resolve petitions received during the public grievance programme within the stipulated timeframe.

During the public grievance programme held on Monday at the Integrated District Collectorate Offices Complex, District Collector Garima Agrawal and Additional Collector Gudam Nagesh received petitions from the public. A total of 129 petitions



were received on the occasion. The Collector forwarded the applications to the concerned departmental officials and instructed them to resolve the issues at the earliest. Garima Agrawal said officials must take the necessary steps

to ensure that all petitions received during the public grievance programme were addressed within the prescribed time.

Similarly, seven petitions were received at the public grievance programme

held at the Sircilla Revenue Divisional Officer's (RDO) office, while one petition was received at the Vemulawada RDO office. The Collector instructed the officials concerned to take appropriate action and resolve the grievances. In accordance with the State Government's directions, public grievance programmes were also conducted at Mandal Parishad Development Officer (MPDO) offices across the district from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday. The respective MPDOs received petitions from the public.

Rs.440-CR APPROVED FOR UPGRADATION OF NINE ITIs IN AP & GUJARAT

NSS
Nizamabad, Oct. 12:

The Centre has approved Rs.440 crore for upgrading nine Government Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) in

Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat under the PM-SETU scheme, with ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel India (AM/NS India) joining the Centre and state governments to drive industry-led skilling reforms.

Shareholders' Agreements (SHAs) have been signed for five ITIs in Surat, Gujarat, and four in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, paving the way for the implementation of approved Strategic Investment Plans

(SIPs).

Under the partnership, dedicated Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) will be established to oversee the upgradation and operations of the ITI clusters. AM/NS India will hold a 51

per cent stake, while the Centre and the respective state governments will each hold 24.5 per cent.

AM/NS India will implement the projects in collaboration with New Age Makers'

Institute of Technology (NAMTECH), which will support curriculum development, faculty training, improved teaching methods and academic innovation. The initiative envisages modernising

workshops and laboratories, introducing industry-relevant trades and emerging technologies, upgrading curricula and expanding practical training opportunities. The interventions aim to improve training

standards, employability and industry readiness among ITI graduates. Speaking on the occasion, Debashree Mukherjee, Secretary, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.



AP CM Virtually Launches ‘Venkatadri’ App for Pilgrims

NSS
Tirumala, Oct. 12:

The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, N. Chandrababu Naidu, on Monday virtually launched Venkatadri, a digital navigation and pilgrim-assistance mobile application developed by TTD.

Designed to help devotees navigate Tirumala and locate essential facilities, the app features an AI-powered voice assistant that provides guidance around the clock. Pilgrims can use voice commands to find facilities such as drinking-water points and darshan entry points. The app also supports offline navigation, enabling its use in areas with weak or no internet connectivity.



Venkatadri maps more than 350 locations across 25 facility categories. These include drinking-water points, hospitals and medical centres, parking areas, public toilets, bus stops, darshan entry points, luggage centres, free footwear-deposit centres, food outlets and canteens, room-allotment counters, pilgrim help desks, TTD offices and sub-enquiry offices, Kalyana Kattas, police stations, vigilance offices, temple surroundings and shopping complexes, Matrusri Tarigonda Vengamamba Annaprasadam Complex etc.

The app provides one-touch access to emergency contacts, the police and the TTD helpline. It also displays bus routes and timings.

The “Mark My Spot” feature enables pilgrims to save their parking location or another important place and navigate back to it.

Available in five languages viz. Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Hindi and English on the Apple App Store and Google Play Store, Venkatadri is intended to make pilgrims’ journeys around Tirumala easier and more convenient.

Shabana Anjum Honoured with Best Teacher Award

Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct. 12:

Shabana Anjum, B.Sc., M.A., B.Ed., S.A. Urdu at Government Girls High School, Second Lancer, Golconda, Hyderabad, has been honoured with the Best Teacher Award by the Jeddah Urdu Academy, Hyderabad Chapter, in recognition of her outstanding services in the field of education.

A felicitation ceremony was held on Sunday, October 11, at the Salar-e-Millat Auditorium, Urdu Maskan, Khilwat, Hyderabad, under the chairmanship of Sheikh Ibrahim.

Shabana Anjum, daughter of Mohammed Khwaja Moinuddin and wife of Mirza Ibadullah Baig, was appointed to Government High School, Swaran, Karimnagar, in December 1997.

Notably, she had completed her schooling up to the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) level at the same institution where she began her teaching career.

She also rendered distinguished services at Government Boys High School, First Lancer, and Government Boys High School, Urdu Golconda.

The ceremony was attended by Jeddah Urdu Academy, Hyderabad Chapter patron Sheikh Ibrahim.

Expedite Godavari Pushkaralu Works, Says Endowments Principal Secretary

Munsif News Bureau
Nizamabad, Oct. 12:

State Endowments Department Principal Secretary Shailaja Ramaier stressed the need for continuous monitoring of construction works. She directed officials to complete the land acquisition process required for the projects at the earliest and reviewed the progress of works district-wise.

She offered key suggestions regarding projects being undertaken by the Endowments, Irrigation, Roads and Buildings (R&B), Tourism and other departments. She also instructed officials to immediately complete the process of obtaining any pending permissions required to commence the works.

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CM REVANTH USING HINDU GODs FOR POLITICAL GAINS, ALLEGES T-BJP CHIEF NRR

NSS
Hyderabad, Oct. 12:

Telangana BJP president N. Ramchander Rao on Monday accused Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy of invoking Hindu deities for political gains and criticised his comparison of the BJP to Ravana and the Congress to Lord Rama at a rally in Goa.

Addressing a press conference here, Rao questioned the Congress’s stand on Lord Rama and the Ram Mandir, alleging that the party was using religious references for electoral gains.

He also criticised the state government over drought conditions, water shortages, power cuts and pending student fee reimbursements.

Rao alleged that the Chief Minister and Congress leaders were prioritising political activities in Delhi over governance, despite concerns over drought in Telangana. He demanded that the government fulfil its six guarantees and take effective measures to curb drug trafficking in the state.

Predicting defeats for the Congress in upcoming

Assembly elections, the BJP leader also accused the party of failing to address public concerns. State party general secretaries N. Gautam Rao, Virendra Goud, MLC Malka Komuriah, Chief Spokesperson & Media In-charge N V Subhash, and party spokespersons Abhishek Jigini, Suresh, and Venkat Reddy were also present at the press conference.



Doctors and medical students stage a protest at Osmania General Hospital (OGH) in Hyderabad, raising slogans and holding placards demanding the release of Aarogyasri funds, restoration of essential medical facilities, timely payment of stipends, improved patient care and better working conditions for healthcare professionals. The protesters also demand the immediate restoration of essential medical equipment and adequate healthcare infrastructure.

SHASHIDHAR REDDY CALLS FOR PERMANENT SOLUTIONS TO TACKLE EL NINO IMPACT

NSS
Hyderabad, Oct. 12:

Senior BJP leader and former NDMA Vice-Chairman Marri Shashidhar Reddy has urged the state government to adopt permanent water conservation measures to tackle droughts intensified by climate change and the El Nino effect.

Addressing a press conference at the Basheerbagh Press Club here on Monday, he advocated implementing the ‘Four Waters Concept’ (Chaturvidha Jala Prakriya), developed by late irrigation expert T. Hanumantha Rao, across the country’s rain-fed



agricultural areas. Rainfall deficits and dwindling water reserves were affecting agriculture in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, while successive droughts had depleted groundwater levels and hit rural livelihoods, he added.

Citing the implementation of the concept in Telangana and Rayalaseema in 2001, Shashidhar Reddy said it had yielded positive results.

He cited Gottigiripalli village in Sangareddy district as

an example, stating that it had withstood successive droughts and maintained water supplies for three crops. He also noted that the approach had been implemented in Rajasthan.

The method focuses on rain-water conservation, ground-water recharge, prevention of soil erosion and ensuring water availability during droughts. The estimated implementation cost is around Rs.15,000 per acre, he said.

Expanding the initiative across rain-fed farmlands would strengthen farmers’ water security and reduce government expenditure on drought relief, he added.

POLICE UNIFORM A PRIVILEGE, SERVE PEOPLE WITH INTEGRITY: DGP ANAND

NSS
Hyderabad, Oct 12:

Telangana DGP CV Anand on Monday urged the newly trained Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs) to uphold integrity, impartiality and constitutional values, describing the police uniform as a privilege that carries a great responsibility to serve the public.

Addressing the passing-out parade of 112 DSPs at the Telangana Police Academy, Anand said only around 90,000 people in a population of four crore had the opportunity to wear the police uniform.

He called upon the officers to serve people without discrimination based on caste, religion or political affiliations.



He said the batch was the first to complete full-scale DSP training since 2014.

The officers had undergone 44 weeks of training in law, investigation, outdoor activities and sports. They would now undertake another 46 weeks of field training.

Anand advised the officers to treat the oath taken at the passing-out parade as a guiding principle throughout their 30-to-35-year careers. He stressed that ethical values should never be compromised and called on the DSPs to develop leadership qualities, including courage, vision, teamwork, effective communication, technical knowledge, innovation and humility.

Recalling the police force’s success in tackling Naxalism, the DGP said the department now faced emerging challenges such as cybercrime, organised crime and road safety.

He highlighted the strengthening and reorganisation of specialised units, including Greyhounds, Eagle Force, the Cyber Security Bureau, TG-FAST and TG-SPARK, in response to changing security requirements.



Congress party Sircilla Assembly constituency in-charge K.K. Mahender Reddy questioned why the BJP-led Central Government was reluctant to take action against Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, expressing serious objections to his conduct. On Monday, a large protest rally featuring around 300 motorcyclists was organised in the Sircilla Assembly constituency. The rally called for transparency in the electoral system, upholding democratic values and safeguarding the voting rights of every eligible citizen.

Telangana braces for El Niño, urges farmers to conserve water

NSS
Hyderabad, Oct. 12:

In view of the severe conditions expected due to the impact of El Niño across the country, the State government has appealed to farmers to use water and energy resources extremely judiciously.

As part of the Rythu Nestham programme, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Ministers Tummala Nageswara Rao and Ponnam Prabhakar, along with Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju interacted through a vid-

eo conference with District Collectors, officials from various departments, and farmers who participated from Rythu Vedikas across all districts on Monday.

The discussion focused on measures to be taken in view of El Niño.

Speaking on the occasion, Bhatti Vikramarka said that, according to reports from the World Meteorological Organization, the impact of El Niño is likely to reach its peak by December, and such conditions could continue until 2027.

He stated that several parts of the world are likely to face difficulties due to high temperatures and low rainfall, affecting both the general public and farmers.

Bhatti Vikramarka added that there are no clear indications of rainfall in the State until June or July next year.

Under these circumstances, the Deputy Chief Minister made it clear that the State’s available water resources should be reserved exclusively for drinking-water needs.

Awareness Campaign Launched to Help Farmers Tackle El Niño Conditions:

Musif News Bureau
Nizamabad, Oct. 12:

District Collector Ila Tripathi said awareness was being created among farmers about the prevailing conditions and possible impact of El Niño. She said coordinated efforts were being made by officials of various departments at the field level to guide farmers on Rabi crop planning, crop diversification, selection of

suitable crops, cultivation practices and crop management.

The State Government organised the Rythu Nestham programme through Rythu Vedikas across Telangana on Monday to create awareness among farmers about the prevailing agricultural conditions and the possible effects of El Niño. Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao, Chief

Secretary Sanjay Jaju, Special Chief Secretary Dana Kishore, officials from the Agriculture, Horticulture, Meteorology, Power and Groundwater departments, and agricultural scientists participated in the programme and provided guidance to farmers.

Collector Ila Tripathi participated in the programme from the Rythu Vedika at Edapalli mandal headquarters in Bodhan division of Nizamabad district. State Urdu

Academy Chairman Taher Bin Hamdan and Additional Collector Bhujanga Rao were also present.

Addressing the gathering, the Collector said extensive awareness was being created to encourage farmers in the district to cultivate alternative crops instead of paddy during the Yasangi (Rabi) season.

She said farmers were also being encouraged to take up oil palm cultivation.



AT A GLANCE

Kuno Cheetah Death Reports Withheld



The Madhya Pradesh Forest Department has refused to disclose post-mortem reports of cheetahs that died at Kuno National Park, citing possible harm to India’s relations with foreign countries.

In an October 9 RTI reply, the Kuno Wildlife Forest Division invoked Section 8(1)(a) of the RTI Act, saying Project Cheetah involves international cooperation and agreements with foreign governments.

Wildlife activist Ajay Dubey challenged the decision, arguing that the reports were needed for transparency and accountability. He sought findings on cheetah deaths in Madhya Pradesh from January 1, 2024.

Despite an appellate direction to act, the division withheld the reports, saying it was not competent to disclose the information.



Jantar Mantar No Longer Designated Protest Site

Delhi Police has de-notified Jantar Mantar as a designated protest site, naming Ramlila Ground, Burari Ground and CBD Ground as alternatives in Delhi. The decision follows a Union Home Ministry committee’s recommendations. Guidelines have been issued under Standing Order No. L&O/48/2026.

The move comes amid Opposition protests over alleged SIR irregularities and demands for CEC Gyanesh Kumar’s resignation.

‘SC Doors Open to All’: CJI Surya Kant Explains Why He Declined INDIA Bloc Meet

Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant on Monday said the doors of the Supreme Court are open to everyone, and it hears grievances in accordance with the law, ensuring that those entitled to relief receive it.

This comes following a request by the INDIA bloc leaders to meet him. Speaking to reporters, CJI Surya Kant said, “I received their letter yesterday and replied to it last night. The letter was dated the day before yesterday, but I was away, so I received it yesterday. I have given certain reasons in my reply and expressed my inability to meet them. I would request you to ask them about the contents of the letter. I have maintained its confidentiality.”

“The doors of the Supreme Court are open to everyone. Anyone can file a petition, whether they are an ordinary citizen or a member of an elected body. Every citizen of India has the right to approach us. We will hear their grievances in accordance with the law and ensure that those entitled to relief receive it,” he said.

Earlier in the day, CJI Surya Kant had declined a request by the Congress-led INDIA bloc of Opposition parties for a meeting, advising them



to approach the court through a petition instead, ahead of their planned march to the Supreme Court on Monday.

According to reports, the CJI conveyed that the issues the Opposition leaders intend to raise are already sub judice and are being heard by the Supreme Court.

The CJI is learnt to have said that the court cannot meet a delegation representing a political party at the administrative level in this manner. He reportedly emphasised that the judiciary’s role is to hear petitions and deliver judgments.

He also reiterated that the doors of the Supreme Court, as the country’s highest judicial body, are “open 24 hours a day for all” and that it remains “committed to protecting the fundamental rights of every citizen”.

Despite the refusal, the INDIA bloc’s proposed march is likely to proceed on Monday. The demonstration is part of a series of protests by Opposition parties, which

have demanded the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, among other issues.

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, has maintained that the planned march is “not of a political party, but of all Indians”.

The Congress leader is seeking to broaden the campaign’s reach and build pressure on both the Chief Election Commissioner and the Narendra Modi-led BJP government at the Centre.

Rahul Gandhi has alleged that the government has benefited from the SIR exercise, which has become a major point of contention between the Opposition and the Election Commission.

The INDIA bloc had submitted a charter of demands to President Droupadi Murmu last Friday, outlining four key demands related to electoral reforms and alleged vote manipulation.

Bihar: Three arrested with 403.20 grams of brown sugar

Police have arrested three people and seized 403.20 grams of suspected brown sugar, worth around Rs 1 crore, near Sabour Railway Station in Bihar’s Bhagalpur district, an official said on Monday.

The Sabour police station received information on Sunday that some people planned to transport narcotics after leaving the station. Acting on the tip-off, a special team was formed on the instructions of Senior Superintendent of Police Pramod Kumar Yadav.

The operation was conducted under the supervision of City SP Atulesh

Jha and led by the Sub-Divisional Police Officer (Law and Order) and the Sabour station house officer.

Police said suspects tried to flee when they noticed the team during surveillance near the station. With assistance from armed personnel, officers chased and apprehended two people. A search led to the recovery of the suspected narcotics and three mobile phones.

The two were identified as Jaynandan Kumar, son of Gopi Yadav, of Manikpur under Babarganj police station limits, and Sangam Priya, son of Naresh Mandal, of Mirjanhat Mrityunjya Chowk under Mujahidpur police station limits.

Information obtained during their interrogation led to the arrest of a third accused, Krishna Kumar alias Bhim, a resident of Chaudhary Dih under Lodipur police station limits, police said.

An FIR has been registered against the three accused. Police are examining the seized phones to trace contacts and identify others allegedly linked to the supply network. Investigators are also trying to establish the consignment’s source and intended destination.

Police said the operation was part of the “Healthy Youth, Healthy Bhagalpur” campaign to curb illegal narcotics trade. The probe continues.

MP WAQF BOARD TO USE 95% PROPERTY INCOME FOR WELFARE

The Madhya Pradesh Waqf Board has allowed committees to use 95 per cent of Waqf property income to raise imams’ and muezziins’ salaries and support poor children, chairman Sanwar Patel said on Monday.

The remaining five per cent will go to the state Waqf Board (four per cent) and the Central Waqf Council (one per cent).

The board is studying Haryana’s centralised model for uniform salaries. Under a 1949 merger agreement, the state



maintains 272 Bhopal mosques and pays their imams.

Patel said around 95 per cent of Waqf properties in Madhya Pradesh were under illegal occupation. Of 125 graveyards in Bhopal, 101 had reportedly disappeared or been encroached

upon, leaving 24.

The board has taken possession of part of a property earlier occupied by Jeevan Rekha Hospital. It generates Rs 21.6 lakh annually in rent.

Rent guidelines set rates at one per cent for residential and 2.5 per

cent for commercial properties. The board’s income has risen from Rs 2 crore to Rs 3 crore, Patel said.

The board pays school fees for 289 orphaned children and has spent over Rs 2.02 crore on education for 2,836 children. It has announced incentives for meritorious students.

Patel said the 2025 law had brought transparency, with all property records now online. The board is pursuing alleged encroachers under Section 54 and through Waqf tribunals, with recovery certificates and FIRs in major cases, he said.

PRESIDENT MURMU TO INAUGURATE SARAS MELA IN VIJAYAWADA ON OCT. 15

President Droupadi Murmu will inaugurate the national-level SARAS Mela in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, on October 15.

SARAS Mela (Sale of Articles of Rural Artisans Society) will be organised jointly by the Union Ministry of Rural Development and the Government of Andhra Pradesh.

The mela will feature more than 600 stalls showcasing products made by women belonging to self-help groups from across the country.

The President will be visiting Andhra Pradesh on October 14 and 15. According to the draft itinerary, she will arrive from Delhi at Gannavaram Airport at 6:25 p.m. on October 14. From there, she will travel by road to Indrakeeladri in



Vijayawada to offer prayers to Goddess Kanaka Durga between 7:20 p.m. and 7:40 p.m. After an overnight stay in Vijayawada, the next day she will reach Punnami Ghat at 11:30 a.m. and inaugurate SARAS Mela.

After the programme, she will attend a luncheon with members of Self-Help Groups and ‘Lakhpati Didis’. The President will reach

Gannavaram Airport at 2:45 p.m. and depart for Delhi.

Chief Secretary G. Sai Prasad on Monday reviewed the arrangements for the President’s visit to Vijayawada. He stated that elaborate arrangements are being made for the visit.

He held a virtual meeting with officials from various departments to provide guidance on the necessary preparations.

The Chief Secretary directed officials to ensure strict adherence to protocol norms, leaving no room for errors. He emphasised the need to meticulously follow the guidelines issued by the President’s Secretariat.

According to an official release, he specifically instructed officials to ensure that the minute-by-minute schedule of the visit is executed punctually and without delays. The Chief Secretary ordered officials from the respective departments to put robust arrangements in place for their specific areas of responsibility.

J. Shyamala Rao, Principal Secretary of the State General Administration Department, participated in the virtual meeting and outlined the department-wise arrangements required for the President’s visit.

DELHI SIR: 20 LAKH OF 33 LAKH NOTICE CASES RESOLVED, SAYS CEO

Around 20 lakh of the 33 lakh electors issued notices over discrepancies in Delhi’s ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls have had their cases resolved, the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) said on Monday.

“About 33 lakh entries in the Delhi voter list were under Logical Discrepancy/Un-mapped. We had started a proactive campaign to resolve these issues. By now, around 20 lakh cases out of 33 lakh have been resolved,” the

CEO said in a statement.

The CEO’s office said voters with grievances could approach the officials concerned and assured them that no eligible voter would be excluded from the electoral roll.

Electors can contact any of the 14,947 booth-level officers (BLOs), 902 assistant electoral registration officers (AEROs), 70 electoral registration officers (EROs), 13 district election officers (DEOs) or the CEO, the statement said.

Around 33 lakh electors were issued notices after discrepancies were

found in details submitted in their enumeration forms during the revision exercise.

Notice recipients include former Deputy Prime Minister L.K. Advani, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, former Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar and Election Commissioner S.S. Sandhu.

After the draft electoral rolls, covering more than 97 lakh voters, were published, notices were issued to 33.13 lakh electors whose details contained discrepancies. Most notices were linked to mismatches between

information supplied by voters and records from the previous Special Intensive Revision, conducted in 2002.

Receiving a notice does not automatically mean that a voter’s name has been removed from the electoral roll. The process gives electors an opportunity to clarify their details and submit supporting documents to electoral registration officers.

The deadline to respond to the notices and furnish documents was September 30. Delhi’s final electoral roll is scheduled to be published on November 4.

ED ARRESTS KEY ACCUSED IN RS 147 CRORE CHHATTISGARH RICE MILLING SCAM

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested Ram Gopal Agarwal in connection with an alleged Rs 147-crore racket involving collections from rice millers in Chhattisgarh in exchange for clearing their bills.

The ED’s Raipur Zonal Office arrested Agarwal on October 9 under Section 19 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. The Special Court (PMLA), Raipur, granted the agency five days of custody, the ED said.

The investigation began after the Income Tax Department filed a prosecution complaint under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code. The Anti-Corruption Bureau/Economic Offences Wing (ACB/EOW), Raipur, later registered an FIR under IPC provisions and the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

According to the ED, the special incentive for custom rice milling was raised from Rs 40 to Rs 120 per quintal for the 2021-22 Kharif season. A syndicate allegedly involving office-bearers of the Chhattisgarh State Rice

Millers Association and MARKFED officials then collected Rs 20 per quintal from millers in return for releasing incentive payments.

The ED alleged that bills of millers who refused to pay were deliberately withheld. Around Rs 147 crore was allegedly collected between December 2022 and July 2023, which the agency said constituted proceeds of crime under the PMLA.

Agarwal played key role in organising and supervising collections and conveyed instructions through association office-bearers, investigators said. Cash

collected across districts was reportedly handed to Roshan Chandrakar, the association’s treasurer, who provided Agarwal with district-wise collection details for verification. The cash was then allegedly delivered to people nominated by Agarwal, the ED said.

Agarwal was evasive and uncooperative during the investigation and failed to provide relevant information on the alleged proceeds of crime.

Agarwal was produced before the Special Court, which granted five days of ED custody.

TRINAMOOL PLANS KOLKATA RALLY SEEKING CEC’S RESIGNATION

The Trinamool Congress faction led by former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has announced a rally in Kolkata on Tuesday, demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

Banerjee’s participation has not been officially confirmed. Leaders said she might lead the march if she returns from New Delhi by Tuesday morning.



“Till now we are saying that her presence at the Kolkata rally is tentative since she is still in New Delhi to be part of the protest movements there. But if she returns tonight or even tomorrow

morning, she will surely lead the rally in Kolkata,” a faction leader said on Monday.

The party described the event as a “massive protest march” in a pamphlet circulated on Monday. Besides seeking the CEC’s resignation, the protest is intended to oppose the Central government over alleged “suppression of democracy”, Banerjee’s detention in New Delhi and what the faction called the “oppression” of opposition members, including

young protesters.

The pamphlet appealed to students, youth, women and workers to join the march. It said the rally would begin in Rajabazar in north Kolkata and end at Park Circus.

The state BJP leadership accused the organisers of trying to disturb the festive atmosphere ahead of Durga Puja, which begins later this week.

Kolkata Police permission remains uncertain amid possible traffic disruption.



Canada's Foreign Minister to visit India for key talks with EAM Jaishankar

IAN S
Ottawa, Oct. 12



Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand will visit India and the UAE from October 13 to 16 to strengthen ties, Global Affairs Canada said.

In India, Anand will meet External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar to discuss trade, energy, people-to-people links, security and defence cooperation. It will be their 11th meeting since September 2025.

Anand will attend the Bloomberg New Economy Forum in New Delhi, where she will discuss the role of middle powers and international cooperation amid geopolitical uncertainty.

Canada-India two-way trade reached \$30.4 billion in 2025, including \$11 billion in goods. The countries have 80 years of diplomatic relations.

In the UAE, Anand will meet Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, officials and business leaders. Talks will cover trade, investment, defence, security, artificial intelligence, innovation and people-to-people ties. The visit builds on commitments made during Prime Minister Mark Carney's UAE visit in November 2025.

NORTH KOREA FIRES BALLISTIC MISSILES TOWARDS SEA OF JAPAN

IAN S
Tokyo, Oct. 12

North Korea on Monday fired multiple ballistic missiles towards the Sea of Japan, local media reported. South Korea's military said that few of the missiles flew above 900 kilometres, while Japan said two missiles likely fell outside its exclusive zone.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said that the missiles were launched near Pyongyang on Monday at around 9:20 am (local time), Japan's Kyodo News reported.

Japan's parliamentary vice defence minister Takashi Koyari said Japan lodged a protest with North Korea through a diplomatic channel and condemned the missile launches, which violated relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Koyari said, "We are analysing details, including whether it flew on an irregular trajectory," adding that the second missile is estimated to have



reached an altitude of 70 kilometres and flew over 910 kilometres.

Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi directed government offices to make efforts to gather and assess information, share it with the people quickly and accurately and ensure safe navigation at sea and in airspace, Kyodo News reported.

North Korea's latest missile launch comes after it fired a ballistic missile on October 3.

South Korea's military

said that North Korea fired a ballistic missile towards the East Sea on October 3.

South Korea's JCS said that it detected the missile launch from the Wonsan area at about 6:30 a.m. (local time) without mentioning details regarding the type of missile launched, South Korea-based Yonhap News Agency reported.

The JCS said the missile flew above 700 kilometres before landing at sea, adding that it was assessing the

exact details of the launch with the US side. It stated that South Korean and US intelligence authorities had monitored the missile launch since its early stage and shared relevant information.

It further stated, "Our military is closely monitoring various movements by the North under a robust South Korea-US combined defence posture and maintaining the capability and readiness to respond decisively to any provocations."

RIYADH AIRPORT ATTACK: EMBASSY OFFICIALS VISIT HOSPITAL, PROVIDE SUPPORT TO INJURED INDIANS

IAN S
Riyadh, Oct. 12

The Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia is assisting the family of Hyderabad resident Mohammed Yousuf Ali, who died after being injured in the attack on Riyadh airport. His family has decided to hold the funeral in Riyadh, and the Mission is helping complete the required formalities.

Embassy officials have visited hospitals treating Indians injured in the attack and are in contact with their families, offering support. In its update on X, the Embassy said three people remained in

intensive care, two others had been admitted to the ICU, two were in normal wards and the rest had been discharged. An earlier account said five people were in the ICU.

"The Mission remains in constant touch with their family members and is providing all possible support," the Embassy said, adding that officials had visited the hospitals where injured nationals were receiving treatment.

The Embassy confirmed Ali's death on Sunday and conveyed condolences to his family. It said it would provide support to ensure the early repatriation of his

mortal remains, though the family later decided to conduct the funeral in Riyadh. Ali's two sons and an aunt were also injured in the attack.

On October 11, India condemned repeated attacks on King Khalid International Airport, including the October 10 incident, describing attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure as "completely unacceptable" and calling for an immediate end to hostilities. The Ministry of External Affairs said the attacks had caused deaths, injuries and property damage. It expressed condolences to

the bereaved families and wished the injured a speedy recovery.

"We stand in solidarity with the people and the government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in defence of their sovereignty," the MEA said, adding that it hoped peace and normalcy would return to the region soon.

Saudi Arabia's General Authority of Civil Aviation said the October 10 attack killed 12 people and injured 309. The Embassy also reiterated its commitment to assist affected Indian nationals and their relatives as they seek assistance.

NAVARATRI: DELEGATES FROM 30 COUNTRIES JOIN GARBA AT VADODARA PALACE

IAN S
Vadodara, Oct. 12

Around 160 delegates from 30 countries, including ambassadors, took part in a Garba festival at the historic Laxmi Vilas Palace on the first day of Navaratri, experiencing Vadodara's cultural heritage and traditional celebrations.

Maharani Radhika Raje Gaekwad said the visitors were delighted to witness people



dancing together with warmth and enthusiasm. She said they would return home with rich memories and a glimpse

of local culture.

A foreign delegate described the festival as a fantastic opportunity to see people come together

to dance and celebrate, while another delegate, Nick, said the atmosphere was among the happiest he had experienced. Another visitor said he had seen Garba before but never on such a grand scale.

Maharani Radhika Raje Gaekwad, MP Dr Hemang Joshi and Municipal Commissioner Arun Mahesh Babu attended the event.

The delegation also

visited Shri Jummadada Vyayam Mandir to learn about India's traditional sporting heritage. The programme featured wrestling and kho-kho.

One delegate praised the young athletes and said Indian traditional sports deserved representation at the Olympics, given the country's population and the skill displayed. He said he hoped to see the games again in future.

Security won't return to Strait of Hormuz as long as US continues war: Iran

IAN S
Tehran, Oct. 12

Iran said security in the Strait of Hormuz would not return while the United States continued its war, rejecting President Donald Trump's claim that Tehran had lost leverage.

Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said US statements did not reflect realities on the ground. "The Americans can keep saying that Iran has lost its leverage, but we will continue doing our work," he

was quoted as saying by Tasnim news agency.

Baghaei blamed the situation on what he called US and Israeli "actions and aggression", saying Iran had acted in accordance with international law.

He said messages were still being exchanged with Washington through mediators. The seven points under discussion included lifting the blockade, ending the war on all fronts and releasing Iran's frozen assets. The Islamabad memorandum of understanding remained in

place, he said, adding that new US sanctions imposed since then must also be lifted.

Proposals were insufficient. Tehran was reviewing US demands and would respond to mediators after completing its assessment, Tasnim reported.

Separately, Acting Defence Minister Brigadier General Majid Ibn al-Reza warned against turning historical and cultural differences into political or military confrontation. IRNA reported that he said those promoting a clash

of civilisations must bear responsibility for its consequences.

Speaking to heads of industrial organisations affiliated with the Defence Ministry and Armed Forces Logistics, Ibn al-Reza described such rhetoric as "playing with fire". He warned that those who ignite confrontation cannot control its spread or shield themselves from its effects. Iran would not allow threats or humiliation to undermine its national identity or independence, he said.

Trump to Attend Manila ASEAN Summit Before China Visit

IAN S
Washington, Oct. 12

US President Donald Trump will attend the ASEAN summit in Manila on November 16 before travelling to Shenzhen, China, for the APEC summit from November 17 to 19, the White House told the New York Post.

The trip aims to reaffirm US ties with Southeast Asian allies and advance Washington's economic and national security goals, the newspaper reported, citing a White House official. Trump is expected to meet Chinese President Xi Jinping, following meetings in Beijing in May and at the White House last month.

The Philippines, this year's ASEAN chair, has declared November 16-18 non-working days in Metro Manila for the 49th ASEAN Summit and related meetings, including the East Asia Summit, attended by India and the US.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio had indicated in July that Trump was interested in attending. Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. also renewed his invitation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the



ASEAN-India and East Asia summits during their meeting at the BRICS summit in New Delhi in September.

A possible Modi-Trump meeting comes amid strained US-India ties over tariffs and India's purchases of Russian oil. Modi attended last year's ASEAN-India summit virtually and sent External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar to the East Asia Summit, avoiding an in-person meeting with Trump. The leaders last spoke by phone on September 30, which Modi described as "productive".

A key issue is an October 18 deadline under a 2026 US law that could allow Trump to impose duties of up to 100 per cent on goods from major buyers of Russian

oil and gas. The President may waive the duties if he certifies to Congress that doing so serves US national interests. India has been a major buyer of Russian crude since 2022 and has argued Washington applies a double standard, citing US imports of Russian nuclear-industry and other materials.

ASEAN has 11 members, including the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia and Timor-Leste. APEC comprises 21 Pacific Rim economies; India is not a member. The planned visit would mark Trump's return to Manila since 2017 and put trade, regional security and Washington's ties with Beijing and New Delhi in focus during a packed diplomatic schedule in Asia.

TWO PEOPLE INJURED AFTER SHOOTING AT SCHOOL IN AUBAGNE

IAN S
Paris, Oct. 12

A principal and a teacher were injured in a shooting incident at the Lakanal middle school in France's Aubagne on Monday, French Minister of National Education, Edouard Geffray, said.

Geffray said that a student of the school was suspected of being behind the attack. Terming the shooting incident an "unacceptable act", he affirmed that the National Education system will remain united and strong in the face of this attack.

"Two staff members from the National Education system, a principal and a teacher, were victims this morning of gunshot wounds at Lakanal middle school in Aubagne. A student is said to be the perpetrator. I am heading to the scene immediately with Nunez Laurent and Sabrina Roubache," Geffray posted on X.

"In the face of this new attack, the National Education system will, as always, remain united and strong, around an educational community sorely



tried. But this unacceptable act bears witness once again to the spread of unbridled violence in our society, against which we must all mobilise. In words as in deeds," he added.

In a statement, Marseille prosecutor Nicolas Bessone said, "Shortly after 9 am, the school student fired once or twice in the common areas of the 1st floor, wounding the principal and a teacher, who were present in the corridor," BFMTV reported.

He further mentioned that the student then went to the second floor and first fired in front of a teacher towards the ground and, a second time, inside an occupied classroom, with the shot

hitting the blackboard.

The Marseille prosecutor's office said that an investigation has been launched for "attempted murder." The main suspect, a 14-year-old student of Joseph-Lakanal middle school, has been arrested and taken into custody.

Aubagne Mayor mentioned that the Chief Education Officer intercepted and disarmed the suspect. According to the mayor, the CPE removed him from the spot and handed him over to the police, BFM TV reported.

In a statement, the Marseille prosecutor's office stated, "The perpetrator was subdued as he went back down the stairs by a member of the establishment's staff."

NEPAL'S ONLY BILLIONAIRE ELECTED VP OF NEPALI CONGRESS

IAN S
Kathmandu, Oct. 12

Nepal's only billionaire, Binod Chaudhary, has been elected vice-president of the Nepali Congress at its 15th general convention, securing 1,745 votes under the inclusive quota. His rival, Jeevan Pariyar, received 1,658 votes, the party's Central Election Committee said.

Chaudhary, 70, is the only Nepali on Forbes' billionaire list, with a net worth of \$2.1 billion



in 2026. His interests include an instant noodle brand, a Nepali bank and luxury hotels linked to India's Taj chain.

He thanked delegates and said he wanted to establish the Nepali

Congress as a party capable of leading Nepal's economic transformation.

Chaudhary entered politics in 2008 as a Constituent Assembly member representing the CPN-UML through proportional representation. He joined the Nepali Congress in 2017 and won a central committee seat under the Madhesi quota at its 2021 convention, with 2,206 votes.

He entered the House of Representatives in 2022, winning Nawalparasi West Constituency No. 1

for the Nepali Congress. But in the March 5 election, held after last year's Gen-Z movement, he lost the seat to Bikram Khanal of the Rastriya Swatantra Party, which now holds nearly a two-thirds majority in the lower house.

Despite the defeat, Chaudhary has strengthened his position in the opposition party. He has headed the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the Confederation of Nepalese Industries in Nepal.



SFJ's Canada referendum puts Punjab's Khalistani terror threat under scanner



An event organised by the banned outfit Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) has come under the scrutiny of intelligence agencies.

The SFJ is scheduled to hold a referendum in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, on October 18, asking participants to vote on whether a separate Khalistan nation should be carved out of Punjab.

The exercise is unofficial, and the SFJ has organised similar events in the past. Although previous referendums organised by the outfit have reportedly favoured the creation of a separate Khalistan, they have had no official bearing on India's territorial integrity or sovereignty.

India rejects the demand as illegal and unconstitutional, and the exercises have not translated into any formal political process for the creation of a separate state. Even other countries know that the demand is meaningless and illegal.

An official said that although similar referendums have been held in the past, the agencies are keeping a close eye on the October 18 event in Canada.

It is being held at a time when the province of Alberta will hold a province-wide 2026 Alberta Referendum.

Voters would ask if Alberta should remain a province of Canada or begin the legal process towards a future that would be separate from Canada.

Further, the SFJ event also comes at a time when outfits such as the Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) have put out a long roadmap for attacks in Punjab ahead of and during the elections, the official said. The SFJ is trying to gain maximum traction out of this event. Further, it hopes that the event and the referendum could be used as a recruitment tool by the BKI in Punjab.

An Intelligence Bureau official said that there has been a worrying turn of events in Punjab.

The Inter Services Intelligence-backed elements that include Khalistani terror groups and narcotic cartels run by them from Pakistan have clearly upped the ante against the Indian security agencies.

"Drone drops with ammunition and narcotics have gone up manifold. Further, the BKI has been targeting women recruits to gather information and also to pick up the arms and narcotics that are being dropped by the drones," the official said.

Latest intelligence inputs analysed clearly point towards several worrying developments in Punjab. The SFJ and BKI are working overtime to speed up recruitments. "They are also looking to set up an all-women's wing for Punjab. These women would be tasked with undertaking surveillance, laying honey-traps, and moving consignments comprising arms, ammunition, and narcotics across the state. The proceeds of the same are meant to revive and fund the Khalistan movement," the official said.

Another official said that the timing of the referendum is also critical. The SFJ wants to club this event along with the referendum scheduled for October 19 by the Parti Québécois, which will form the next government in Quebec.

SFJ chief and proscribed terrorist Gurbatwant Singh Pannun has invited leaders of the party to attend the so-called referendum on October 18.

"The SFJ wants to club the two issues and try and send out a picture that both are making legally valid demands," the official said.

While sending out the invitation, Pannun reportedly said, "Whether it is the people of Alberta determining Alberta's political future or Sikhs determining Punjab's political future, the fundamental democratic principle is the same: the political future of a people should be determined by the people."

"On October 18, Sikhs vote on Punjab. On October 19, Albertans vote on Alberta's political future. Different peoples and different constitutional circumstances, but political questions should be settled democratically," he added. For the Indian security agencies, the focus is completely on Punjab, and all measures are being taken to beat down every modus operandi of both the BKI and SFJ before the elections. IANS..

PM Gatishakti master plan monitors big infra projects worth Rs 18.66 lakh crore

As many as 396 big-ticket infrastructure projects in the country involving a total investment of Rs 18.66 lakh crore have been taken up under the PM Gatishakti National Master Plan, as on August 11, 2026, according to a government fact-sheet released on Monday.

Of these, 256 projects have been sanctioned, of which 198 are under implementation. The institutional framework is supported by a digital platform that provides planners with geospatial data, satellite imagery, and analytical tools.

The PM Gatishakti NMP maps economic, social and logistics nodes alongside multimodal connectivity infrastructure. This brings infrastructure linkages and the surrounding development context into the planning process. The platform helps identify infrastructure linkages required to support economic zones and development projects, as well as missing connectivity gaps that can affect the seamless movement of people, goods, and services.



Economic zones such as textile and pharmaceutical clusters, defence corridors, electronic parks, industrial corridors, fishing clusters, and agri zones are mapped to support integrated infrastructure planning.

For example, in the case of the Khagaria-Purnea corridor in Bihar, the upgraded corridor is planned to connect five PM Gatishakti Economic Nodes, including a textile cluster, mega food parks, and fishing/seafood

parks, along with 11 logistics nodes. The planned connectivity is intended to facilitate faster movement of goods and passengers across the region.

India is building infrastructure at a scale that requires coordination across sectors and modes of transport. Roads, railways, ports, airports, waterways, and utilities often intersect across the same regions. Planning these networks together can help in cost and time

savings, coordinate projects and use existing infrastructure more efficiently. This created a need for an approach that integrates different infrastructure networks into a common planning framework.

To address this need, the PM Gatishakti National Master Plan was launched on October 13, 2021. It brought data from different ministries, states, and Union Territories onto a common Geographic Information System (GIS)-based platform. PM Gatishakti enables planners to view infrastructure, geographic features, economic zones and other relevant data together, supporting data-driven planning and decision-making for infrastructure projects. Five years on, this approach has grown into a nationwide planning framework.

PM Gatishakti is guided by six principles that seek to make infrastructure planning more integrated, efficient, and coordinated. These include integrated development, multimodal infrastructure, last-mile connectivity,

expedited land acquisition, minimised clearances and reduced ecological impact.

The seven infrastructure engines, comprising roads, railways, ports, waterways, airports, mass transport, and logistics infrastructure, form the core sectors of the plan.

The National Master Plan covers 58 Central Ministries and Departments and all 36 states and Union Territories, enabling infrastructure proposals to be planned and assessed across sectors. It brings together infrastructure and geospatial information on a common GIS-based platform, supporting spatial planning and decision-making.

The PM Gatishakti Public platform provides access to 230 approved datasets, enabling site suitability analysis, connectivity mapping, alignment planning and compliance checks. Over 23,493 data layers, as on October 12, bring infrastructure and other relevant information onto the common GIS-based platform. IANS..

Emergency rule in KP gives Asim Munir greater control over region's mineral wealth

The federal government of Pakistan enforced emergency rule across Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) and authorised military deployment in the province following intense pressure from Army Chief Field Marshal Asim Munir.

While Islamabad pointed to worsening law and order and a lack of co-operation in counter-terrorism efforts, Pakistan observers viewed the move as a deliberate attempt by the military establishment to gain greater control over the administration and economy of the mineral-rich province.

The experts say the federal government was initially not in favour of this decision.

There had been considerable back and forth over the decision, but Field Marshal Asim Munir, the Pakistan Army chief, ultimately prevailed, leaving the federal government with little choice but to fall in line, experts said.

An official attributed Munir's uncompromising stand to two key factors.

"First, he wants to bring a region governed by Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), the party founded by his nemesis Imran Khan, under his control. Second, Munir seeks complete control over the region and is prepared to deploy the full might of the army to exploit its rich mineral resources," the official said.

KP's Chief Minister and PTI leader



Sohail Afridi opposed the army's direct control over the mines and minerals in the region.

The widespread grievance among the people was that revenues generated from the mines and mineral resources, once brought under the army's control, never reached the people of KP.

"Instead, the proceeds are diverted to Islamabad, Karachi and Rawalpindi, allowing the powerful to benefit from the region's wealth while its people continue to remain underprivileged," the official said.

Another official said that the PTI government had strongly opposed the army's direct control over mines and minerals.

"This had become an obstacle for the army, and it was unable to go about its business. Imposing an emergency and Governor's rule while also authorising the deployment of the army ensures that the establishment has a field day with no opposition when it comes to the mines and minerals," the official said.

The prevailing situation in KP also

empowers the Governor to make decisions on the region's mines and mineral resources, as well as determine the extent of force to be deployed there.

The region's Governor, Faisal Karim Kundi, is widely seen as a close ally of Asim Munir. The PTI has strongly opposed his appointment, describing him as illegitimate, unconstitutional, and politically motivated.

With Faisal Karim Kundi at the helm in KP, the army is expected to have greater influence over the region's affairs. Acting on Munir's instructions, Kundi would be responsible for decisions on troop deployment and the management of the region's mines and mineral resources, the assessment suggests.

The federal government has, however, said that the decision to impose emergency and Governor's rule was taken owing to the deteriorating law and order situation in the region. It accused the provincial government of failing to cooperate when it came to counterterrorism operations. While this is an audacious move by the army and federal government, there is a chance of the same backfiring.

The army would look to take complete control over the mines and minerals. However, this would empower the insurgent groups in the region, who would step up their attacks on the establishment, an official said. IANS..

India's draft steel policy targets 604 million tonnes capacity by 2047



The government has unveiled a draft steel policy targeting a close to 3-fold jump in India's crude steel capacity to 604 million tonnes by 2047 from the current level of around 220 million tonnes.

The new policy draws up a roadmap to cut carbon emissions in the steel sector and increase the availability of iron ore and coking coal to meet the anticipated demand. These raw materials account for over 65-70 per cent of the cost of making steel. While India is largely self-sufficient in iron ore, it imports nearly all of its coking coal requirement.

The policy aims to cut the average carbon-emission intensity in the steel sector to around 1.54 tons of carbon dioxide per ton of crude steel by 2047 from the current 2.54 tons, in line with India's net zero emission goal for 2070.

According to the draft National Steel Policy 2047, the demand for finished steel will rise to 505 MT by 2047 while per capita consumption is expected to go up to 302 kg. The increase in capacity is also expected to result in steel exports rising by 45 MT.

Iron ore demand is projected to rise to 772 MT by 2047 from 299 MT in 2025. The policy proposes securing high-grade iron ore reserves through overseas assets and joint ventures, alongside measures to improve domestic supply and transport infrastructure.

It also proposes to expand slurry pipelines, which transport iron ore

in a water-based mixture, to reduce reliance on road and rail transport and improve logistics efficiency.

Coking coal demand is expected to triple to 236 MT. Because India imports 92 per cent of its coking coal, the draft outlines plans to reduce import dependence through domestic mining, expand domestic coal washeries, go for long-term supply arrangements, and leverage AI to optimise coal blends.

Other raw materials important for the steel sector, like manganese, limestone, etc., will also remain in policy focus to ensure long-term resource sustainability.

The proposed roadmap includes improving energy efficiency, increasing renewable electricity use, promoting scrap-based steelmaking and adopting hydrogen-based technologies and carbon capture. These measures will need to accompany capacity expansion to help the industry meet its emissions target.

The policy also focuses on value-added steel such as stainless steel and speciality steel to reduce dependence on imported raw materials and technology.

Steel quality will be strengthened through revised Indian Standards and conformity assessment mechanisms. Digital transformation is identified as an emerging priority.

This includes a focus on digital infrastructure, common data standards and Industry 4.0 adoption, driven by trusted AI and autonomous production systems. IANS..

Festive e-commerce sales hit Rs 24,000 crore in first two days

India's leading e-commerce marketplaces witnessed a strong start to the festive shopping season, generating an estimated Rs 24,000 crore in sales during the first two days as consumers stepped up purchases across smartphones, electronics, appliances and fashion categories, a report has said.

According to Redseer Strategy Consultants, online platforms including Amazon, Flipkart, Meesho and Ajio recorded gross merchandise value (GMV) of more than \$2.5 billion, or about Rs 24,200 crore, during the opening two days of festive sales.

The consultancy estimated that 8-9 crore orders were placed by shoppers across the country, while around 6-6.5 crore consumers participated in the shopping event.

The sales value was nearly six times higher than the average daily business-as-usual run rate, highlighting the scale of festive-season spending.

Smartphones remained the largest contributor to overall sales, accounting for 38-40 per cent of total GMV, translating into an estimated Rs 9,100-9,600 crore.

Consumer electronics emerged as the second-largest category,

contributing around 25-27 per cent of total sales, or roughly Rs 6,000-6,500 crore.

Fashion products accounted for 15-18 per cent of overall sales, generating an estimated Rs 3,630-4,350 crore during the period, the report noted.

Demand for large appliances and electronics remained particularly strong. Televisions, refrigerators and air conditioners together accounted for more than two-thirds of large-appliance sales.

Among televisions, 55-inch models from brands such as TCL, LG, Samsung and Xiaomi dominated demand, representing more than three-



fourths of the top-selling stock-keeping units.

Redseer noted that electronics had already posted growth of over 20 per cent in the first half of 2026 as consumers accelerated purchases amid expectations of higher prices later in the year.

During the first two days of festive sales, electronics orders surged to nearly 14 times their normal daily levels, supported by robust demand for laptops and internet-connected devices. IANS..



INJURED PANT RULED OUT OF INDIA A'S FIRST TWO GAMES AGAINST NZ; KUSHAGRA NAMED REPLACEMENT

New Delhi, Oct. 12:

Wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant has been ruled out of the first two matches of India A's upcoming tour of New Zealand due to a left-side strain, with young keeper-batter Kumar Kushagra named as his replacement in the updated squad, the BCCI announced on Monday.

Pant, whose availability for the tour was subject to fitness after catching viral fever while leading the Rest of India to clinch the Irani Cup over Ranji Trophy winners Jammu & Kashmir at the Sher-i-Kashmir Stadium in Srinagar from October 1-4.

BCCI Secretary Devajit Saikia said Pant, 29, remains under the medical team's supervision, with a final call on his participation in the third match starting on October 7 in Lincoln to be taken later. "He remains under the



care of the BCCI Medical Team and is recovering well.

"A decision on his availability for the third match will be taken at a later stage. The Men's Selection Committee has named Kumar Kushagra as Pant's replacement for the first two matches," added Saikia.

Kushagra, the 21-year-

old Jharkhand keeper-batter, will join the Dhruv Jurel-led squad for India A's red-ball shadow tour alongside international stars like Yashasvi Jaiswal, B Sai Sudharsan, KL Rahul, Auqib Nabi, Mukesh Kumar, Akash Deep, Manav Suthar, and Washington Sundar.

Kushagra is coming on the back of a good run in

India A red-ball games against Australia A in Puducherry. He amassed scores of 113 and 46 to give India A a victory in the first game, while making 10 and 1 in the second clash.

The shadow 'A' series holds immense significance for both sides as a critical warm-up series ahead of the two-game Test series to be played in Wellington and Christchurch, which carries major implications in terms of entering the World Test Championship (WTC) final.

India A updated squad: Dhruv Jurel (captain & wk), Yashasvi Jaiswal, KL Rahul, Devdutt Padikkal, Ravichandran Smaran, Washington Sundar, Auqib Nabi, Akash Deep, Anshul Kamboj, Manav Suthar, Mukesh Choudhary, B Sai Sudharsan, Yash Rathod, Mukesh Kumar, and Kumar Kushagra (wk) (1st and 2nd matches).



Rahane hails Abhishek's scoring ability

New Delhi, Oct. 12:

Ajinkya Rahane praised Abhishek Sharma's ability to score even when challenged.

Abhishek hit 69 off 30 balls against West Indies as India posted 223. Rahane lauded his intent and consistency. Abhishek's T20I strike rate is 195.95, and he became the fastest to reach 2,000 T20I runs in 1,024 balls.

He has 2,036 runs, three centuries, and 14 fifties. He is No. 2 in ICC T20I rankings at present.

We had planned how to keep things tight to Hope: Arshdeep



Indore, Oct. 12:

India pacer Arshdeep Singh said planning and coaching staff guidance helped him dismiss West Indies captain Shai Hope in the third T20I at the Holkar Stadium.

Arshdeep bowled Hope in the second over before removing Sherfane Rutherford and Keemo Paul as India won by 14 runs to take a 2-1 lead in the five-match series.

"We had planned how to keep things tight to him. When you execute that plan and get the result, it feels good," Arshdeep

said in a video posted by the BCCI.

He praised the bowlers for defending India's 223, saying Mayank kept pressure from the other end and all six bowlers contributed.

Arshdeep apologised to Axar Patel after a mid-pitch mix-up led to the all-rounder's run-out. He said lower-order runs were important and he continued to work on his batting.

He credited the team's relaxed dressing-room atmosphere and willingness to learn for his progress, saying he was always looking to improve his skills.

Ranji Trophy: Deshpande hat-trick routs Chandigarh; Jadeja hits century

Mumbai, Oct. 12:

Mumbai pacer Tushar Deshpande took a hat-trick and finished with 5-17 as Chandigarh were bowled out for 78 on Day Two of their Ranji Trophy Elite Group D match at Wankhede Stadium on Monday.

Mohit Avasthi took 3-9 after Mumbai scored 429, with half-centuries from Tanush Kotian and Avasthi. Mumbai enforced the follow-on, and Deshpande struck again to leave Chandigarh at 0/1.

At Rajkot, Ravindra Jadeja scored 102 off 209 balls as Saurashtra were dismissed for 392 against Chhattisgarh. Resuming at 308/4, Saurashtra were bowled out in 110.4 overs. Prerak Mankad made 129 off 150 balls, with 15 fours and a six. Dev Aditya Singh took 5-67, while Dharmendrasinh Jadeja dismissed his former state-mate Ravindra and finished with 2-106.

Chhattisgarh reached 122/3 at stumps, with Anuj Tiwary unbeaten on 72 and Mayank Verma on 32.

Vidarbha captain Akshay Wadkar fell two runs short of a double century as his side made 428 against Puducherry. Yash Rathod scored 134, and the visitors were 102/1 at stumps. Baroda declared at 472/8 against Goa, with Atit Sheth out for 99; Goa finished at 5/1. Uttar Pradesh made 540 against Bihar, following Madhav Kaushik's 150 and Rinku Singh's 112.

Bengal were 304/3 against Delhi at Kalyani, with Sudip Kumar



Gharami unbeaten on 122 and Abhishek Porel on 114. Their 199-run stand gave Bengal a 64-run lead. Jharkhand made 587 against Kerala, with Aditya Singh scoring 147 and captain Virat Singh 108. Assam were bowled out for 373 against Punjab, with Denish Das (103) and Sibsankey Roy (143) scoring centuries. Umesh Yadav took 5-70.

Gujarat reached 205/2 in reply to Baroda's 324, with Vedant Trivedi unbeaten on 94 and Aarya Desai also scoring 94. Andhra were 331/6 against Karnataka, leading by 57 after debutant SV Rahul hit a century and shared a 202-run stand with Revanth Reddy (97).

Akash Vasishth's unbeaten 113 lifted Himachal Pradesh to 253 against Haryana after they slipped to 119/7. Haryana were 178/4, trailing by 75, with Yashvardhan Dalal on 69 not out. Tamil Nadu reached 167/4 against Rajasthan, with Narayan Jagadeesan (55) and

Pradosh Ranjan Paul (58) adding 104. Rajasthan made 363, losing five wickets for 16 after Mahipal Lomror scored 66. B Sai Sudharsan returned after a fielding injury but made three.

Uttarakhand needed 18 runs to match Railways' 78, with Avneesh Sudha unbeaten on 75. Tripura's Sandip Sarkar took eight wickets in 41.2 overs, but Hyderabad led by 160 runs and needed three wickets for an innings win.

Avesh Khan took three wickets as Madhya Pradesh bowled out defending champions Jammu and Kashmir for 120, earning a 76-run lead. MP ended at 59/4, leading by 135, as Auqib Nabi struck late. In the Plate group, Kishan Lyngdoh (78) and Swastik Chettri (72 not out) left Meghalaya seven short of Sikkim's total. Kangabam Priyotit Singh's 87 lifted Manipur from 39/5 to a 68-run lead over Mizoram; Khiangte Vanrotlinga took five wickets.

INDIA TARGET SIXTH ASIAN CHAMPIONS TROPHY TITLE IN PUNJAB

New Delhi, Oct. 12:

Five-time champions India will aim for a sixth men's Asian Champions Trophy crown when the ninth edition is held in Jalandhar and Mohali from October 27 to November 5, 2026.

India have won five of the tournament's eight editions and will enter as defending champions after retaining their title in 2024. Their first triumph came in Ordos, China, in 2011, when they beat Pakistan 4-2 in a shootout after the final ended goalless. The inaugural tournament featured six teams. India claimed their second title in Kuantan, Malaysia, in 2016, defeating Pakistan 3-2. Rupinder Pal Singh, Afan Yousuf and Nikkin Thimmaiah scored in the final.

The 2018 final in Muscat, Oman, between India and Pakistan was abandoned because of persistent rain, and both



teams were declared joint winners. That too India's title tally to three.

India won their fourth crown in Chennai in 2023, coming from 1-3 down at half-time to beat Malaysia 4-3. Harmanpreet Singh, Gurjant Singh and Akashdeep Singh scored in the final 16 minutes to complete the comeback.

In the 2024 final in Hulunbuir, China, India beat the hosts 1-0, with Jugraj Singh scoring the decisive goal at the Moqi Hockey Training Base.

The win secured their fifth title and extended their record as the tournament's most successful

team.

India will look to carry their winning momentum into the 2026 competition after defending their Asian Games gold medal earlier this year. Playing in Punjab will give the team an opportunity to pursue another continental title in front of home supporters.

Their past wins have come through a shootout, a narrow final victory, a shared title and a comeback, underlining the varied path behind their record haul. India now aim to extend their lead over all continental rivals.

BIPASHA BASU SET TO RETURN TO SCREENS AFTER 6 YEARS, STARTS FILMING FOR UNTITLED SERIES

Mumbai, Oct. 12:

Bollywood actress Bipasha Basu is set to mark her return after 6 years, as she has started filming an upcoming untitled series along with Sunny Kaushal, and Vishal Jethwa.

The streaming series is directed by acclaimed filmmaker Hansal Mehta. It is written by Kashyap Kapoor and Raghav Raj Kakker, and produced by Prabhleen Sandhu under the banner of Almighty Motion Pictures Productions.

The series is set in a small, nondescript town on the verge of becoming the heroin capital of the continent, the series follows an incorruptible cop, played by Sunny Kaushal, who finds himself battling powerful forces both within and outside the system while struggling to protect his integrity and humanity. Further

details about the series are awaited. The series will premiere on Prime Video

Bipasha's last full-fledged theatrical film release was 'Alone', a horror film directed by Bhushan Patel, in which she played twin sisters Sanjana and Anjana opposite Karan Singh Grover. The film was released on January 16, 2015.

The actress married Karan in April 2016, and later returned to acting alongside him in the crime thriller web series 'Dangerous'. Since then, motherhood and family life have taken centre stage. She welcomed her daughter, Devi, in November 2022, and has largely stayed away from films.

Meanwhile, Hansal Mehta has also been busy with his upcoming streaming series 'Gandhi'. The histori-



cal series depicts the life of Mahatma Gandhi, based on the books 'Gandhi Before India' and 'Gandhi: The Years That Changed the World' by Ramachandra Guha. The series is planned to span three seasons. The shooting for the first season set between 1888 to 1915 was completed in August 2024.

Season one of the show follows Gandhi's early life, starting in colonial India as a curious teenager, then as a shy law student in London, and finally as a young lawyer who spends 23 life-changing years in South Africa. Pratik and Hansal are frequent collaborators. The series marks the third collaboration be-

tween them. Hansal has produced some of the prominent shows, including 'Modern Love Mumbai' and 'Khana Khazana', and has helmed path-breaking films like 'Aligarh' and 'Shahid', delivered a knockout series with 'Scam 1992: The Harshad Mehta Story' which starred Pratik in the lead.

SALMAN KHAN CONFIRMS HE WILL APPEAR IN THE FINAL SEASON OF 'KOFEE WITH KARAN'

Mumbai, Oct. 12:

Bollywood superstar Salman Khan has confirmed that he will grace the couch for the final season of the chat show 'Koffee with Karan'.

On Monday, show host Karan Johar took to his Instagram, and shared a new promo in which the superstar said that he will be featuring on the show. Karan Johar, who is the show host, then interjected and revealed that this will be the last season of the chat show.

KJo wrote in the caption, "One last time...a koffee with the one & only bhaii. Koffee with Karan Season 9, streaming 14th October onwards on The Peacock Hub On JioHotstar".

'Koffee with Karan' premiered in 2004, and is known for its candid conversations with Bollywood stars, rapid-fire rounds, personal revelations, gossip and playful exchanges about relationships, rivalries and careers. Its celebrity couch and controversial questions have frequently generated headlines, viral clips and pop-culture moments. Over the years, the show has featured actors, filmmakers, sports personalities and other prominent guests.



Salman Khan's appearances have been particularly memorable for their unfiltered humour and unexpected candour. During his debut appearance in Season 4, Salman surprised viewers by admitting that he was a virgin, joking that he had saved himself for his future wife. His deadpan delivery and willingness to address his famously private personal life became one of the show's most widely discussed moments. His appearances have also featured candid reflections on relationships, marriage and his public image, often

delivered with his characteristic mix of sarcasm, confidence and comic timing.

Salman Khan paid an emotional tribute to 'Bhau' Nana Patekar. Salman uploaded a black-and-white photograph of the late veteran actor on his Insta Stories and wrote, "Nanaaaaaaaaaa Rest in peace bhau (sic)".

Salman Khan and Nana Patekar appeared together in the 1996 musical 'Khamoshi: The Musical', which also featured Manisha Koirala and Seema Biswas in crucial roles.

Fight to protect voting rights is a new freedom struggle: Revanth

NSS News
Hyderabad, Oct 12

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday likened the current political campaign to protect citizens’ voting rights to a “freedom movement,” asserting that the struggle is being led nationally by Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, and leaders of the INDIA bloc.

Addressing a meeting at Telangana Bhavan in New Delhi under the ‘Vote Bachao, Desh Bachao’ (Save Vote, Save Country) campaign, the Chief Minister claimed that while earlier generations fought British rule for self-governance, contemporary circumstances require a renewed battle to safeguard constitutional



voting rights.

Drawing a historical parallel to the pre-independence era, Revanth Reddy said just as the country once rallied behind the “Simon Go Back” movement, the current political climate demands slogans like “Gyanesh Go Back” and “SIR Go Back” to protect democratic integrity.

He alleged a conspiracy to disenfranchise citizens through the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, accusing Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar of acting as

an instrument for the Narendra Modi-led Union government.

Revanth Reddy alleged that the exercise is designed to strip Dalits, Adivasis, backward classes, youth, and critics of the ruling party on social media of their democratic franchise.

Directing his criticism at Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah, the Chief Minister challenged them to clarify why they are shielding the Chief Election Commissioner if no conspiracy exists behind his appointment.

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Ministers, TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud, AICC observer Sachin Sawant, MPs, MLAs, MLCs and other senior Congress leaders attended the meeting.

Man Allegedly Kills Wife by Slitting Her Throat in Balapur

Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct 12

A woman identified as Ajmera, aged around 30, was allegedly murdered by her husband, Mustafa, who slit her throat with a knife at New Baba Nagar in Balapur police station limits.

According to preliminary information, the couple, natives of West Bengal, had been living in Hyderabad for the past two years and had been married for around 15 years. They have three sons.

Police suspect a family dispute may have led to the murder, though the exact motive is yet to be established. Balapur police reached the spot after receiving information and launched an investigation. Further details are awaited.

Harish Rao Slams Cong Over Power, Irrigation Crisis

NSS News
Hyderabad, Oct 12

Senior BRS leader T. Harish Rao on Monday accused the Congress government of failing to address Telangana’s agricultural crisis, power shortages and drought-like conditions, despite warnings about possible El Niño effects.

Addressing a press conference at Telangana Bhavan, Harish Rao criticised the government for failing to take timely measures to protect farmers and agricultural workers. He also questioned the repeated postponement of a high-level meeting with farmers at Rythu Vedikas, which was initially scheduled for 11 a.m. with the Chief Minister.

He alleged that farmers were later informed that Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka would attend instead, while the Chief Minister was visiting Goa and Cabinet ministers were in Delhi.

Questioning the government’s priorities and preparedness, Harish Rao asked whether the administration was taking farmers’ concerns seriously amid the worsening agricultural situation.



OGH Doctors, Medical Students Stage Protest Over Pending Aarogyasri Funds

Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct 12

Doctors and medical students staged a protest at Osmania General Hospital in Hyderabad, demanding the fulfilment of their long-pending demands. During the protest, they raised slogans and held placards, urging the government to immediately release the funds pending under the Aarogyasri scheme.

The protesting doctors and students called for the restoration of essential medical facilities at the hospital, timely payment of stipends to medical students, and improved treatment services for patients.



Pic: Syed Omar

tients. They also stressed the need to provide better working conditions for doctors and other healthcare staff.

The protesters said essential medical equipment and basic facilities at the hospital must be restored without delay

to ensure that patients do not face difficulties in accessing treatment. They added that improved infrastructure and working conditions would enable doctors and healthcare personnel to discharge their duties more effectively.

2,200 Police Personnel for India-West Indies T20 Match

NSS News
Hyderabad, Oct 12

Malkajgiri Police Commissioner B. Sumathi on Monday said 2,200 po-

lice personnel would be deployed for the India–West Indies fourth T20 match scheduled at Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, Uppal, on October 14.

Addressing the media, she said four watch teams, 408 CCTV cameras and two drones would be used for surveillance. Police are also monitoring fake ticket links circulating on social media and cautioning spectators against on-

Ex-security guard arrested for murder of five-year-old

NSS News
Hyderabad, Oct 12

Malkajgiri police have arrested former security guard Vikram Kumar for allegedly kidnapping and murdering five-year-old Aurelia, also known as Monu, in Kowkoor and demanding Rs.20 lakh ransom from her parents. He was apprehended within 24 hours of the complaint, police said.

The girl went missing on October 10 while playing near the clubhouse of Villa Orchids gated community. Her father, Milton Fernandes Moses, later received a ransom call demanding Rs.20 lakh. Bollaram police formed 10 special teams and launched a search using technical evidence and



some but killing the child and concealing her body.

The accused was arrested on October 11 and is being produced before the court. Police said they would seek an expedited trial and urged residential communities to verify security personnel and domestic workers through the Mee Suraksha initiative and strengthen CCTV surveillance under Nenu Saitham 2.0.

CCTV footage.

The girl’s body was later found in a water sump in the clubhouse cellar. Police said Vikram, who worked at the residential complex from September 22 to October 6, allegedly confessed to planning the kidnapping for ransom but killing the child and concealing her body.

Thieves in Nighties Use Ambulance to Loot SBI ATM in Telangana



IANs News
Hyderabad, Oct 12

A gang of unidentified thieves wearing nighties, masks and gloves allegedly looted a State Bank of India (SBI) ATM at Gandhari village in Telangana’s Kamareddy district after arriving in an ambulance.

The robbery took place between 1 a.m. and 1.30 a.m. on Sunday. According to police, the suspects used gas cutters to break open the ATM and escaped with the cash. The theft came to light on Monday morning when locals noticed the damaged machine and alerted police.

CCTV footage captured the suspects arriving in the ambulance, cutting open

the machine and fleeing. Police have registered a case and collected evidence with the help of a clues team. The amount stolen is yet to be confirmed, and investigators are examining whether the ambulance was genuine or used to disguise the suspects’ movements.

The incident comes weeks after a similar ATM robbery in Karimnagar district on September 19, when burglars used gas cutters to break into two SBI ATMs at Durshed and Thimmapur. At Durshed, the gang allegedly escaped with Rs. 8 lakh after spraying a liquid on CCTV cameras. Police identified a woman’s suspected involvement from the footage. Further investigation is underway.

Joint Problems Rising Across Age Groups: KIMS Doctors

Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct 12

Joint problems are increasingly affecting people across age groups due to changing lifestyles, obesity and lack of physical activity, doctors at KIMS Hospitals, Kompally, said on Monday, stressing the importance of early diagnosis and timely treatment.

Marking World Arthritis Day, the hospital organised a free orthopaedic consultation programme for the first 100 eligible patients aged 40 and above, as well as those who had previously undergone surgery.

Consultant orthopaedic and sports surgeons Dr. Sai Phani Chandra, Dr. D. Hariprakash, Dr. Chaitanya Kishore



and Dr. Roshan Kumar Jaiswal said prolonged sitting, inadequate exercise, excess weight, injuries and age-related wear and tear could cause joint pain, stiffness and restricted movement.

They advised people to maintain a healthy weight, exercise regularly and strengthen the muscles supporting the joints. Persistent pain, swelling, morning stiffness and dif-

ficulty walking or climbing stairs should not be ignored.

The doctors said treatment depends on the underlying condition and may include medication, physiotherapy, exercise and weight management, with surgery required only in selected cases. They urged people to avoid self-medication and seek medical advice for persistent joint problems.

Cosmos Diamonds Opens First Hyderabad Flagship Store

Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct 12

Bengaluru-based lab-grown diamond jewellery brand Cosmos Diamonds has opened its first flagship store in Hyderabad at Jubilee Hills, Road No. 36, marking its expansion into the city.

The launch, coinciding with the first day of Navaratri, was attended by Industries and Commerce Minister T.G. Bharath, Dr. Suhas B. Shetty of Iceberg Organic Ice Cream, Sundari Patibandla of iSprout and Dr. Preeti Reddy, among others.

Founder Sanjana Tripuramallu said Hyderabad marked an important milestone in the brand’s journey, which focuses on transparent diamond buying, contemporary designs and heritage-inspired craftsmanship. The brand offers jewellery for everyday wear and special occasions, along with a 100 per cent buy-back and exchange policy, subject to terms



and conditions.

Cosmos Diamonds currently operates stores in Bengaluru and Vijayawada. The company plans to expand into more locations in Hyderabad, Chennai, Pune, Mumbai, Visakhapatnam, Warangal, Khammam, Karimnagar and Coimbatore.

Majeed Hussain Consoles Family of Mehdiapatnam Man After Reported Death in Riyadh



Pic: Syed Omar

AJIMIM Nampally MLA MA Majeed Hussain visited the residence of Mohammed Yusuf (46) in Mehdiapatnam to offer condolences to his bereaved family following reports of his death in an incident at King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Yusuf had travelled to Saudi Arabia with his family to perform Umrah.