



Special Voter Registration Camps on Oct 15-16

Statewatch, Page 2



Dipke Calls Tiranga Protest at CP on Oct 16

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Trump promises \$5,000 to every adult if Republicans win

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World Cup before retirement is a blessing, Sikandar Raza

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MINEFIELD OF MISTRUST

Ship Sinks in Hormuz; Iran Reports Mine Strike

Singapore confirms GFS Pride's loss and rescue of all 21 crew; link to Tehran's account remains unclear

KEY POINTS

- ▶ Second Singapore-registered vessel reaches safe anchorage.
- ▶ Singapore condemns attacks as violations of international law.
- ▶ Vital oil and LNG passage faces renewed security concerns.

DUBAI, October 14:

Singapore confirmed Wednesday that a container ship had sunk following a reported projectile strike in the Strait of Hormuz, adding to security concerns along a crucial energy route. Iran separately reported a mine-related sinking, but whether the accounts concerned the same vessel remained unclear. Singapore's Maritime and Port Authority said GFS Pride was reportedly struck on October 13, sustained damage and caught fire before sinking. All 21 crew members were evacuated safely, with no injuries reported. Iran's Revolutionary Guard navy

said an unidentified vessel carrying about 2,500 containers struck a mine Wednesday morning while using what it called an unauthorised, dangerous route. It was Iran's first reported mine-related sinking during the war. The Associated Press could not independently verify the imagery; that vessel's crew status remained unknown. A second Singapore-registered ship, GFS Giselle, was reportedly struck on October 14, Singapore time. Despite hull damage, it reached safe anchorage under its own power. All 22 crew were safe. Singapore condemned the attacks and urged compliance with inter-

Conflicting Sinking Accounts

- Iran claims mine strike on unidentified vessel; link to GFS Pride remains unclear.
- Strait of Hormuz strike leaves conflicting accounts and unanswered questions.

national maritime law.

For India, the exposure extends beyond crude oil to liquefied natural gas. The International Energy Agency identifies India among the principal importers dependent on Hormuz and warns that alternative export routes are limited.

The incidents underline risks to delivery reliability and shipping costs, although the verified statements did not quantify any resulting freight or insurance increase. The immediate confirmed outcome was the safe evacuation of GFS Pride's crew; the cause and identity behind Iran's mine claim remained unresolved.

Cabinet Clears ₹52,878-Crore IDBI Stake Sale to Fairfax

Government and LIC to retain 34%; transfer of control remains subject to RBI approval



NEW DELHI, Oct 14:

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs on Wednesday approved the sale of a controlling stake in IDBI Bank to a Fairfax Financial Holdings subsidiary for approximately ₹52,878.08 crore, advancing a major banking ownership change that still requires regulatory clearance.

The buyer, 10955230 Canada Inc., will acquire 60.72% of the bank; 30.48% from the Union government and 30.24% from Life Insurance Corporation of India. The Finance Ministry announced the decision at 4.50 p.m.

Following completion, the Centre will retain 15% and LIC 19%. Both will relinquish their board representation and become public shareholders, separating their remaining financial investment from management control.

Explaining the valuation, the ministry said two independent agencies assessed the bank using market comparisons and asset valuations, including properties and

liabilities. Their average valuation was ₹75.99 per share; Fairfax's winning offer was ₹81. The agencies' identities were withheld under confidentiality commitments.

The government expects the buyer to bring private capital, technology and improved management, strengthening competition for deposits and lending. It described the proposed transaction as India's largest financial-sector foreign direct investment once completed. These are anticipated benefits, rather than outcomes already delivered.

For customers and employees, the ministry's published FAQ did not specify changes to banking services or detailed employment protections. Cabinet approval itself does not complete the ownership transfer.

The buyer must now present its credentials to the Reserve Bank of India and submit a roadmap for meeting regulatory conditions. That process remains the next essential step before the approved restructuring can take effect.

Telangana Rising: Global Investor Pitch
REVANTH PITCHES TELANGANA AS GLOBAL INVESTMENT DESTINATION
Revanth Reddy unveils CURE, PURE, RARE vision to chase \$3-trillion economy by 2047

Hyderabad, October 14:

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday invited global investors to Telangana, reiterating targets of a \$1-trillion economy by 2034 and \$3 trillion by 2047. Addressing a summit organised by the SAMAKHYA Chamber of Commerce, he outlined the Telangana Rising 2047 vision, centred on three development regions: CURE, PURE and RARE. CURE, within the Outer Ring Road, would prioritise IT, services, advanced tech-

nologies and innovation. PURE, between the Outer Ring Road and Regional Ring Road, would promote manufacturing, industrial parks and logistics. RARE would focus on agriculture, food processing, agro-based industries and rural employment. Reddy said the government wanted Telangana's contribution to national GDP to rise from what he described as five per cent to 10 per cent. He called for cooperation among States to achieve Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Viksit

Bharat goal by 2047, saying politics should remain confined to elections. Promising investor-friendly policies, support and investment protection, he urged local entrepreneurs to join the new industrial policy and build globally competitive businesses beyond corporate services. He praised the organisers for encouraging youth and urged the chamber to document Munnuru Kapu achievers' success stories in cinema, politics and other fields to inspire the next generation.

Four Held for Selling Complimentary Cricket Passes in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, Oct 14:

Hyderabad police arrested four people, including a Hyderabad Cricket Association member and his son, on October 13 for allegedly selling complimentary passes at inflated prices for Wednesday's India-West Indies fourth T20 International at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium.

The arrests were reported on Tuesday evening, ahead of the October 14 match. All four were remanded to judicial custody.

Police said the passes were marked "not for sale". Investigators alleged that HCA member Satish Chandra Srivastava supplied them through his son, Akarshit, to two others who advertised them on WhatsApp and Instagram. Interested buyers allegedly contacted the sellers through these platforms and paid inflated prices.

Officers seized 11 complimentary match passes, eight Navratri event passes, ₹5,000, mobile phones and a two-wheeler. The allegations remain under investigation.

Police advised spectators to purchase tickets only through authorised channels and avoid unauthorised social media sellers. The case raises questions about how restricted passes reached resellers. Alongside enforcement, organisers should examine distribution records, transfer restrictions and entry checks.

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Air India Flight Reaches Delhi After Hijack Alert Diversion

All 306 passengers safe; cause of emergency signal remains under investigation



Frankfurt service diverted to Jaipur for security checks.

Aircraft landed in Delhi at 312 p.m.

Pilot reportedly denied transmitting an emergency signal.

Munsif Bureau

Jaipur, October 14:

Air India's Frankfurt-Delhi flight AI2030 completed its journey on Wednesday after a reported hijack alert prompted a diversion to Jaipur and extensive security checks. All 306 passengers were safe, authorities said.

The Boeing 787-9 landed at Jaipur at approximately 9.35 a.m., airport chief Charan Singh told The Indian Express. It was moved to an isolation bay, and passengers disembarked while security personnel checked the aircraft, baggage and those aboard.

The diversion followed detection of transponder code 7500, the internationally recognised signal for unlawful interference, commonly associated with hijacking. However, the pilot reportedly told air traffic

controllers that no emergency signal had been transmitted.

Singh said preliminary indications suggested accidental activation, but investigators had not established the cause. The alert itself did not confirm an attempted hijacking.

After security clearance, passengers re-boarded and the aircraft continued to Delhi, landing at 3.12 p.m. Air India described the diversion as a response to a "perceived security concern" and apologised for the disruption.

The airline said its teams coordinated with authorities to minimise inconvenience. While the immediate security checks permitted onward travel, the available statements did not establish whether human error, an equipment fault or another issue triggered the alert.

DRI Exposes ₹30-Crore Pakistan-Origin Salt Import Network



NEW DELHI, Oct 14:

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence on Wednesday announced the detection of an alleged network that imported 7,311 tonnes of Pakistan-origin industrial and Himalayan rock salt, worth approximately ₹30 crore, by concealing its origin through falsified trade documents.

Under "Operation Deep Manifest", investigators traced 295 containers allegedly brought through Mundra and Kandla ports by nine importers since March 2026, despite India's prohibition on Pakistani-origin goods.

The consignments travelled through Colombo, while fabricated certificates of origin and invoices linked to UAE-based entities allegedly disguised their provenance.

Crucially, DRI said shipping documents covering the Pakistan-Sri Lanka leg and declara-

tions submitted to Sri Lankan Customs identified Pakistan as the origin and India as the final destination. This documentary trail underpins the agency's allegations.

Searches took place between September 26 and October 11 in Gandhidham, Adipur, Veraval, Panipat, Pune, Patiala, Delhi and Mumbai. Wednesday's development was the public announcement, rather than fresh raids.

Four people were arrested under the Customs Act, including two importing-firm proprietors or partners, a customs broker's G-card holder and a Dubai-based supplier's owner.

The findings raise questions about verification of origin certificates across trading jurisdictions. The allegations remain subject to investigation and judicial scrutiny; arrests do not establish guilt.

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Dowry Harassment: Seven Booked, Including Constable, for Assaulting Newlywed Woman

Munsif News Bureau
Deglor, Oct. 14:

A serious case of alleged dowry harassment has come to light in Degloor, Maharashtra, where a newly married woman has accused her husband and in-laws of subjecting her to mental and physical harassment over a demand for money to purchase a Bullet motorcycle. Police have registered a case against seven people, including a police constable.

According to the complaint, the accused constable, Umakant Narode, who is posted in the Latur Police Department, allegedly demanded ₹2 lakh from his wife's parental family to purchase a Bullet motorcycle. When she expressed her family's financial difficulties and inability to arrange such a large amount,

her husband and in-laws allegedly began harassing her.

The complainant, Diksha Narode, 21, a resident of Ambedkar Nagar in Degloor, married Umakant Narode, a resident of Jukkal in Kamareddy district of Telangana, in a grand ceremony in Degloor around 15 to 20 days ago.

According to the report, the bride's family had provided several household articles and a substantial amount of money to the couple at the time of marriage.

The marriage was arranged as the two families were also related.

The woman allegedly struggled through the first 15 to 20 days at her marital home, where she claims she was subjected to harassment over her family's fi-

nancial circumstances.

According to her complaint, the harassment intensified when her husband allegedly demanded ₹2 lakh from her parental family to purchase a Bullet motorcycle. She further alleged that she was mistreated and subjected to mental and physical abuse when she failed to meet the demand.

The complaint states that, during the Bathukamma festival, she was sent to her parental home in Degloor to bring the demanded money. She then allegedly informed her parents that she had been facing severe harassment and assault at the hands of her husband and in-laws. She also claimed that she had been threatened with death if she returned without the money.

The woman further alleged that repeated dowry demands

had placed her under continued pressure and made her married life difficult. Case Registered Against Seven, Including Police Constable

Acting on Diksha's complaint, Degloor police registered a case against her husband, police constable Umakant Narode, her mother-in-law, Shantabai Narode, and five other members of her in-laws' family, residents of Jukkal in Kamareddy district, Telangana.

The case has been registered under the relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Further investigation is being conducted under the supervision of Probationary Deputy Superintendent of Police Vaibhav Parod. The allegations are under investigation.



Former Minister and BRS Legislature Party Deputy Floor Leader T. Harish Rao on Wednesday visited Induvasi village in Gattu mandal of Gadwal district to console the families of two Dalit agricultural labourers who died in a road accident in Karnataka's Yadgir district. He also met the injured workers and assured their families of the BRS party's support. Acting on the instructions of BRS president K. Chandrashekar Rao, Harish Rao visited the village and extended immediate financial assistance to the families of the deceased workers, Asepu and Naganna, and those injured in the accident.

Special Voter Registration Camps to Be Held on October 15 and 16

Munsif News Bureau
Nizamabad, Oct. 14:

District Election Officer and Collector Ila Tripathi said special voter registration camps would be organised on October 15 and 16 across all Assembly constituencies in Nizamabad district as part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process, in accordance with the Election Commission's instructions.

She said every Booth Level Officer (BLO) would be available at the designated location during the special campaign.



Draft electoral rolls, along with Forms 6, 7 and 8 required by voters, would also be made available at the camps.

The Collector explained that new voters could apply for en-

rolment through Form 6. Form 7 could be used to seek deletion of names from the electoral rolls or raise objections, while Form 8 could be submitted for changes or corrections to voter details, including a change of address.

She further stated that Booth Level Agents (BLAs) would also be available at every polling station alongside the respective BLOs to assist voters in checking the draft electoral rolls. The Collector urged all eligible voters to take advantage of the special campaign by visiting their nearest polling station to verify whether their names were included in the draft electoral rolls and submit applications for necessary corrections, changes or new voter registration, wherever required.

Two construction workers found dead in agricultural well

Hyderabad, Oct.14 (NSS): The bodies of two construction workers were found in an agricultural well on the outskirts of Chintakunta village in Kathalapur mandal of Jagtial district on Wednesday. According to police, the deceased were identified as Anand (23) and Sanjeev (22), natives of Vinukonda village in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh. Both were working as construction labourers. The two youths reportedly arrived on a motorcycle on the outskirts of Chintakunta village on Tuesday night.

Pending Dues of BLOs Must Be Released Immediately: Tucc Leader

Munsif News Bureau
Narayanakhed, Oct. 14:

TUCC leader Chiranjeevi has urged the government to immediately release the pending payments due to Booth Level Officers (BLOs) for the work performed by them.

Addressing a press conference held in Narayanakhed, he said BLOs were facing financial difficulties as their dues had not been paid despite being

assigned official duties.

He stated that it was the government's responsibility to ensure that women could celebrate the Bathukamma festival happily, without financial distress.

He questioned the authorities over the justification for assigning work to BLOs and subsequently leaving them in difficulty by withholding their remuneration.

Chiranjeevi expressed concern that BLOs were being

made to wait for their payments despite discharging their assigned responsibilities. He urged the concerned officials to respond immediately, release all pending dues and take measures to prevent such issues from recurring in the future. He called upon the government to respond promptly and ensure justice for BLOs. Otherwise, he warned, they would be compelled to fight for the resolution of their grievances.

Lifeline Express to Provide Free Medical Services at Kagaznagar from October 16

Munsif News Bureau
Kagaznagar, Oct. 14:

The 257th medical project of the Lifeline Express, an initiative of the Impact India Foundation, will be conducted at Sirpur Kagaznagar Railway Station from October 16 to November 5, 2026, bringing free healthcare services to people in Komaram Bheem Asifabad district.

The initiative provides free medical examinations, diagnostic services, specialist consultations and necessary surgical procedures, particularly benefiting people in remote areas and economically disadvantaged fami-

lies who have limited access to specialised healthcare.

In this connection, Munsif News Bureau reporter Mohammed Fayaz Uddin held a special interaction with Prof. Dr. Rohini V. Chowgule to discuss the importance of the Lifeline Express, the achievements of its previous project at Kagaznagar and the upcoming medical camp.

225th Project Served 12,515 Beneficiaries

The 225th Lifeline Express project, held at Kagaznagar from October 11 to November 2, 2022, recorded significant achievements. Organised with

the support of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL), the 22-day project provided medical services to 12,515 beneficiaries, while 1,836 surgical procedures were performed.

The project covered several specialities, including ophthalmology, ear, nose and throat (ENT), orthopaedics, dentistry, gynaecology and plastic surgery.

During the project, 755 cataract surgeries were performed. In addition, 2,444 pairs of spectacles, 490 hearing aids and 269 assistive medical devices were distributed among eligible beneficiaries.



These figures highlight the role of the Lifeline Express in extending specialised medical services to underserved communities and improving access to essential healthcare.

Don't create inter-district discord over irrigation projects: Gutha

NSS
Hyderabad, Oct. 14:

Legislative Council Chairman Gutha Sukhender Reddy on Wednesday expressed strong concern over attempts by certain political elements to create regional friction between districts, warning that such discord would severely harm

Telangana's broader interests.

Speaking informally to media representatives at his camp office here, Sukhender Reddy clarified that both the Palamuru-Rangareddy and Dindi lift irrigation schemes were designed with a unified goal to bring fertility and guaranteed irrigation water to Mahabubnagar and Nalgonda districts. Highlighting recent

Cabinet decisions aimed at expediting pending works, he noted that the government had approved the allocation of 1.5 TMC per day from the Edulla reservoir for Palamuru and 0.5 TMC for the Dindi project.

Gutha Sukhender Reddy termed it "inappropriate" that some groups were politicising this allocation to incite regional sentiment among the people

of Mahabubnagar.

Alleging that unnecessary controversies were being cooked up to pressure Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, the Council Chairman explained that diverting water directly from Narlapur would entail massive extra expenditure, cause delays, and risk environmental and statutory clearances.

Police Martyrs' Sacrifices are Unforgettable: Commissioner P. Sai Chaitanya

Munsif News Bureau
Nizamabad, Oct. 14:

Nizamabad Police Commissioner P. Sai Chaitanya, IPS, said police personnel had sacrificed their precious lives in the line of duty and that their sacrifices had helped maintain peace and enabled people to lead peaceful lives. To honour the police martyrs and commemorate their sacrifices, a series of programmes will be organised from October 21 to 31, 2026, across all police station jurisdictions under the Nizamabad, Armoor and Bodhan divisions of the Nizamabad Commissionerate, in accordance with the directions of the Telangana Director General of Police (DGP), he said.

The schedule of programmes



- is as follows:
1. October 20, 2026: Publicity Campaign Banners, hoardings and posters highlighting police martyrs will be displayed at crowded public places, RTC bus stations and railway stations.
 2. October 21, 2026: Police Martyrs' Day
 - A Police Martyrs' Day programme will be held at the Police Headquarters at 8 a.m.
 3. October 22, 2026: Meeting with Martyrs' Families
- Police officials will meet the families of police martyrs in the Nizamabad Division.
4. October 23, 2026: Short Film and Photography Competitions
 - Young people and amateur photographers are invited to participate in short film and photography competitions on themes including the sacrifices of police martyrs, police duties, professional capabilities and public safety.



Commissioner of Police, Nizamabad Sri P. Sai Chaitanya, I. P. S., visited the free Old Age Home in Chintakunta village under Varni Police Station limits and enquired about the well-being of the elderly residing there. On this occasion, he distributed clothes to 25 elderly people residing in the old age home. Afterwards, he personally served food to the elderly and spoke to them affectionately.

Farmers Can Boost Income Through Poultry Farming and Vermicomposting: Collector K. Haritha

Munsif News Bureau
Kagaznagar, Oct. 14:

District Collector K. Haritha has said that farmers can increase their income and strengthen their financial condition by adopting alternative livelihood activities such as backyard poultry farming and vermicompost production. She advised farmers to make full use of available government schemes and take steps towards economic development. On Wednesday, the District Collector interact-

ed with farmers in Koutala mandal under the Climate-Resilient Agriculture-Based Livelihood Promotion Programme, being implemented by the Vijaya Vahini Charitable Foundation.

During the interaction, the Collector spoke with farmers who had received training in backyard poultry farming and those who had achieved success through vermicompost production.

She enquired about the benefits they had gained, their practical experiences and the challenges they



faced. The Collector said farmers should be encouraged to adopt alternative sources of income alongside agriculture so that they could earn additional revenue and

improve their standard of living. She stressed the importance of effectively utilising the facilities and schemes provided by the government.

Art plays key role in strengthening India-Japan ties: Vivek

NSS
Hyderabad, Oct. 14:

Arts and culture play a vital role in strengthening bonds of friendship between the people of different countries, Minister for SHAKTI and Mines Dr. Vivek

Venkatashwamy said.

The Minister on Wednesday visited a special art exhibition jointly organised by renowned Indian artist Venkat Gaddam and noted Japanese artist Hiroko Takayama at the State Art Gallery in Hyderabad.

He viewed the paintings, textile artworks and other exhibits, and congratulated the artists on their creative efforts.

Vivek Venkatashwamy appreciated the artists for showcasing Indo-Japanese friendship through art and promoting cultural ties by

bringing the artistic traditions of the two countries onto a common platform. He said it was encouraging that similar exhibitions had recently been organised in Hiroshima and Miyoshi in Japan to promote Indo-Japanese art and culture.



Students and activists under the banner of the Cockroach Janta Party and various student organisations stage a protest rally from LB Stadium to Gun Park in Hyderabad on Wednesday, demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and raising slogans in support of democracy and against the SIR process.

Photo by Syed Omar

Sridhar Babu invites investors to Telangana Global Rising Summit

NSS
Hyderabad, Oct. 14:

Minister for IT and Industries D. Sridhar Babu has invited industrialists, investors and innovators to participate in the Telangana Global Rising Summit 2026, scheduled to be held from December 7 to 9, and explore investment opportunities in the State.

Speaking at the Samakhya Global Business Meet-2026, organised by the Samakhya Chamber of Commerce on Wednesday, the Minister said Telangana aimed to become a \$3 trillion economy by 2047 under its Telangana Rising Vision. He said the government was focusing on balanced regional development, promoting new industries and creating a business-friendly environment to attract investments and generate employment.

While further strengthening Hyderabad's position as a major IT and technology hub, the government was also encouraging manufacturing and agro-based industries in other parts of the State to ensure wider economic growth, he said.

The Minister identified IT, pharmaceuticals, life sciences, artificial intelligence, aerospace, defence and advanced manufacturing as key sectors with significant potential to drive the State's economic growth.

KISHAN REDDY HAILS CENTRE's Rs.53,428-CR SOCIAL SECURITY PACKAGE

NSS
Hyderabad, Oct. 14:

Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy on Wednesday welcomed the Union Cabinet's decision to restructure the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) and continue it as the Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana for five years from 2026-27 to 2030-31, with an outlay of Rs.53,428 crore.

Reddy said the decision reflected the Narendra Modi government's commitment to the welfare of weaker sections, particularly senior citizens, widows and persons with disabilities from below-poverty-line families in rural and urban areas.

The restructuring is expected to increase the number of beneficiaries under the programme from three crore to 3.2 crore. A



major change is the expansion of disability pension eligibility from persons with at least 80% disability to those with 40% or more disability, along with a 25% increase in assistance for persons with disabilities.

The government has also removed the requirement to wait until the age of 18 for disability pension benefits. Financial assistance will now be available from birth for eligible children with disabilities, with parents receiving

the support until the child turns 18, Reddy said.

Consequently, the number of disability pension beneficiaries is expected to rise from 8.33 lakh to 27.48 lakh. The annual expenditure on the scheme will increase from Rs.290 crore to Rs.1,268 crore, he added.

The Union Cabinet has also approved the renaming of various social assistance schemes, including the National Old Age Pension Scheme.

Bathukamma reflects Telangana's Cultural Heritage: DGP Anand

NSS
Hyderabad, Oct. 14:

Director General of Police C.V. Anand has described Bathukamma as a symbol of Telangana's cultural heritage, traditions and spiritual connection with nature.

Participating in Bathukamma celebrations organised at the DGP office on Wednesday, Anand said the festival, along with Bonalu, held a special place in the state's cultural identity.

Recalling his childhood memories of celebrating

Bathukamma at his grandmother's house, the DGP highlighted the festival's unique significance.

While Dandiya is a major attraction in Gujarat during the festive season, worshipping Goddess Gouramma through Bathukamma celebrations represents Telangana's distinctive traditions, he added.

Anand observed that Bathukamma celebrates nature and reflects the spirituality of Telangana women and the state's rich cultural

traditions.

He expressed happiness over the commencement of the celebrations and extended festive greetings to the people.

DG (Law and Order) Mahesh Bhagwat, DG (Organisation) Swathi Lakra, ADG Akun Sabharwal, Multi Zone-I IG Chandrasekhar Reddy, IG (Road Safety) Ramesh Naidu, along with chief information officers, administrative officers, police personnel and other staff, participated in the programme.

Harish consoles families of Dalit workers killed in Karnataka

NSS
Hyderabad, Oct. 14:

Former Minister and BRS Legislature Party Deputy Floor Leader T. Harish Rao on Wednesday visited Induvasi village in Gattu mandal of Gadwal district to console the families of two Dalit agricultural labourers who died in a road accident in Karnataka's Yadgir district.

He also met the injured workers and assured their families of the BRS party's support.

Acting on the instructions of BRS president K. Chandrashekar Rao, Harish Rao visited the village and extended immediate financial assistance to the families of the deceased workers, Asepu and Naganna, and those injured in the accident.

Harish Rao demanded that the government announce compensation of ₹10 lakh each to the families of the deceased. He also sought the best possible medical treatment free of cost and financial assistance for those who sustained serious injuries.

Expressing concern over the plight of the villagers, Harish Rao said around 40 Dalit families from Induvasi had migrated to Karnataka in search of daily-wage employment. Two workers died in the accident, while several others suffered serious injuries, including fractures to their arms, legs and backs.

The BRS leader criticised the government for its alleged failure to respond adequately to the tragedy.

He said neither the district administration nor the two Ministers from the district

had extended the necessary support to the affected families. Harish Rao alleged that the injured workers were struggling to meet their medical expenses and demanded immediate government intervention.

"This is the Chief Minister's own district. When poor Dalit families are forced to migrate in search of work and meet with such a tragic accident, the government must stand by them.

The families should not be left to face this crisis on their own," he said.



District Collector K. Haritha has directed the concerned officials to take effective measures for the speedy resolution of land-related issues by examining relevant records and conducting detailed field-level inquiries. She stressed that there should be no delay in resolving land disputes and that people must be provided with timely services. On Wednesday, the District Collector made a surprise visit to the Tahsildar office in Koutala mandal. During the inspection, she examined the staff attendance register, record room and files related to the Bhu Bharati land administration system, besides reviewing the functioning of the office.

Nine-month-old boy dies after bottle cap lodges in throat

NSS
Hyderabad, Oct. 14:

A nine-month-old boy died after a drinking water bottle cap got lodged in his throat at Ootkur mandal headquarters in Narayanpet district.

According to local residents, Aryavardhan, son of Lakshman and Gayatri of Devi Nagar in Ootkur, was playing at home on October 12 when he put a water bottle into his mouth.

The cap got stuck in his throat, causing him distress.

His family members managed to remove the cap with their fingers, but the attempt reportedly caused a severe injury to the infant's throat. His condition deteriorated the following day, prompting his parents to take him to the Narayanpet District Hospital.

As his condition worsened, he was shifted to the Mahabubnagar District Hospital, where he died on Wednesday while undergoing treatment.

The death of their only son left the parents inconsolable.

ED ATTACHES ASSETS WORTH Rs.129.85 CR IN TTD GHEE ADULTERATION CASE

NSS
Hyderabad, Oct. 14:

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has provisionally attached movable and immovable assets worth Rs.129.85 crore belonging to dairy firms, their promoters and related entities in connection with the alleged Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) ghee adulteration scam. These assets belonging to M/s Bhole Baba Organic dairymilk private limited and M/s Sri Vyshnavi dairy specialties pvt. ltd, their promoters Vipin Jain and Pomil Jain, and their family members, M/s Sukriti foods pvt. ltd., its promoter Kailash Chand Mangla and his family members and other related entities / individuals.

The action follows a money laundering probe into the alleged supply of adulterated ghee worth Rs.234.5 crore to TTD for preparing the sacred Lord Venkateswara Laddu

Prasadam.

According to the ED, Bhole Baba Organic Dairymilk Pvt. Ltd. and Sukriti Foods Pvt. Ltd. allegedly manufactured adulterated ghee by blending refined palm oil, palm kernel oil and palmolein with chemicals.

Front dairies reportedly secured TTD tenders on commission, while fictitious purchase and sales entries were used to conceal the transactions and route illicit funds.

The agency had earlier conducted searches at 16 premises across six states and seized or frozen cash and bank balances worth Rs.2.7 crore.

It has also arrested Vipin Jain, promoter of Bhole Baba, and Kailash Chand Mangla, promoter of Sukriti Foods.

With the latest attachment, the total value of assets attached, seized or frozen in the case has reached Rs.132.55 crore, the ED said. Further investigation is underway.



Rajanna Siricilla District Superintendent of Police Mahesh B. Gite has directed police officials to discharge their duties with full responsibility and discipline to maintain law and order and curb crime in the district. On Wednesday, the SP conducted a crime review meeting with police officials at the District Police Office. During the meeting, he examined the progress of pending cases at individual police stations, investigation procedures, arrests of accused persons and the filing of charge sheets, among other issues.

TPCC plans massive public meeting against SIR after Dasara

NSS
Hyderabad, Oct. 14:

The Congress will organise a march involving two lakh people and a massive public meeting in Hyderabad after Dasara to oppose the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process and demand the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president Mahesh Kumar Goud

announced on Wednesday.

He said the Congress high command had decided to organise public meetings in two southern States where the party was in power.

Speaking informally to reporters at Gandhi Bhavan in Nampally, Mahesh Kumar Goud strongly condemned BJP leaders for making what he termed baseless and cheap allegations against Congress leader Rahul

Gandhi over the alleged insult of women journalists.

Questioning the Centre's approach, he asked how the government could suppress the democratic right to protest.

He said the Congress would support anyone fighting against the BJP, which he described as a communal party, while the Congress and the INDIA bloc continued their respective political battles.

Sparsh Hospice Becomes India's First NABH-Accredited Hospice

NSS
Hyderabad, Oct. 14:

Sparsh Hospice has completed 15 years of providing compassionate palliative care, serving approximately 17,000 patients and their families, with nearly 90% of its patients receiving treatment entirely free of cost.

Speaking at the anniversary celebrations on Wednesday, Telangana Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy described the

institution as the "pride of Telangana" and assured government support in addressing its needs.

A major milestone was the unveiling of the hospice's National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers (NABH) accreditation plaque, making it the first hospice in India to receive the recognition, according to the institution. Established in 2011

with just 12 beds, Sparsh Hospice now operates an 82-bed facility, employs nearly 100 staff members and provides home-based palliative care.

It has also launched a dedicated eight-bed neuro-palliative care unit.

The celebrations were attended by senior government official Jayesh Ranjan, AIG Hospitals chairman Dr. D. Nageshwar Reddy and other dignitaries.



MP GOVT TRANSFERS RS 1,834 CRORE TO 1.25 CRORE WOMEN UNDER LADLI BEHNA YOJANA

Umaria, Oct. 14

The Madhya Pradesh government on Wednesday transferred Rs 1,834 crore to the bank accounts of around 1.25 crore women under the Ladli Behna scheme as part of its monthly financial assistance programme.

The amount represents the 41st instalment of the scheme, under which eligible women receive Rs 1,500 every month.

The Chief Minister transferred the amount during a programme at Guruvahi village in Umaria district on the occasion of Navratri.

Later, addressing the event, Yadav said the BJP-led Madhya Pradesh government has spent more than Rs 62,000 crore for women under the Ladli Behna scheme since its launch in June 2023.

“Our government is fulfilling all its promises to the people with genuine assurances and concrete action,” he said.

Yadav also transferred Rs 115.10 crore in LPG



refill subsidies to more than 23 lakh eligible women under a separate state scheme.

The Chief Minister said his government was committed to women's welfare and claimed that previous Congress governments had allocated only Rs 350 crore to the state's Women and Child Development Department, while his government had made a budgetary provision of Rs 47,000 crore for women's welfare.

He said the state government had provided Rs 1,600 crore in LPG refill subsidies over three years.

“Our government stands with poor people in

every difficult situation,” Yadav said, referring to welfare measures, including free treatment of up to Rs 5 lakh for eligible Ayushman cardholders and an air ambulance service for needy patients.

He also said the next of kin of a person killed in an elephant attack would receive compensation of Rs 25 lakh.

During the programme, Yadav inaugurated 68 development works worth Rs 87 crore and laid foundation stones for another 68 projects costing Rs 57 crore.

The 136 projects, involving a total expenditure of Rs 144 crore, are spread

across Umaria district. The Chief Minister announced the construction of a Sandipani school in Umaria and a new building for the community health centre in Manpur.

Other announcements included developing Amarpur town as a tehsil, promoting tourism in the district and allotting land to organisations working in the social sector at 25 per cent of its value.

Yadav said the government was promoting dairy farming through subsidies for eligible farmers and encouraging tribal families to develop homestays with financial assistance of up to Rs 3 lakh.

Abhijeet Dipke calls for 'Tiranga' protest at Connaught Place on Oct. 16

Meerut, Oct. 14

Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke on Wednesday called for a ‘Tiranga’ protest at Central Park in Connaught Place at 5 p.m. on October 16 against the arrest of party co-conveners Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka.

In a video message on X, Dipke urged patriots

to join the ‘Lehra Do Tiranga’ agitation, asserting that waving the national flag was not a crime. He also appealed to people unable to reach Delhi to organise marches in their localities, saying the Tricolour was a matter of national pride.

Meanwhile, Das and Ranka were sent to five-day judicial custody in the Jantar Mantar trespassing case. CJP leader Ajinkya

Shinde was released on personal bond. The three were arrested over alleged trespassing, bond violation and obstruction of public servants.



Mamata Condemns CJP Leaders' Arrest

Kolkata, Oct. 14

Former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday condemned the arrest of Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka in the Jantar Mantar trespassing case, pledging support for their movement.

In a social media post, she alleged the arrests were an attempt to intimidate young people and urged citizens to defend their constitutional rights. She also claimed democracy was under threat in several parts of the country.

Fourteen CJP supporters, including Das and Ranka, were arrested after allegedly entering Jantar Mantar by climbing a wall. They were remanded to five-day judicial custody and sent to Tihar Jail.

ALLAHABAD HC ORDERS UP PANCHAYAT POLLS WITHIN THREE MONTHS

Prayagraj, Oct. 14

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

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

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

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

consumers.

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

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

ED SEIZES RELIANCE POWER ASSETS WORTH RS 2,032 CRORE

New Delhi, Oct. 14

Enforcement Directorate's (ED) Headquarters Investigation Unit, New Delhi, has seized assets worth Rs 2,032.81 crore in India belonging to Anil Ambani-led Reliance Power Ltd (RPL) under the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

The seized assets include bank balances of RPL and its shareholding in Sasan Power Limited, which are equivalent in value to the foreign exchange held outside India by the company in contravention of Section 4 of FEMA, according to an official statement issued by the investigative agency on Wednesday.

The investigation was initiated on the basis of information received from the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), pertaining to write-offs aggregating Rs 2,101.46 crore made by RPL in its books of account. These write-offs

were related to overseas investments and advances made to companies in the British Virgin Islands (BVI) and the Cayman Islands, the statement said.

Search operations were conducted under FEMA, from March 6 to 8 this year, in which incriminating evidence was seized, and statements of several

Bonds in 2006. Of this, \$275 million was invested in its wholly owned Singapore subsidiary, Reliance Natural Resources (Singapore) Pte Ltd (RNRL-S).

RNRL-S placed these funds on deposit with Deutsche Bank (Suisse) SA, Geneva. The deposits were used as collateral for



persons were recorded.

Investigation has revealed that Reliance Natural Resources Ltd, which has since merged with RPL, raised \$300 million through Foreign Currency Convertible

loans extended to entities incorporated in the British Virgin Islands. The investigation found that these BVI entities were controlled and managed from India by the Reliance Anil Ambani Group through

front persons, who acted in accordance with the Group's directions.

Further investigation has revealed that the loan proceeds were utilised for varied purposes, including temporary round-tripping of funds to India through foreign entities based in Mauritius. The funds were utilised for the benefit of the Reliance Anil Ambani Group and parked outside India.

The BVI entities failed to repay the loans extended by Deutsche Bank. As part of the cover-up, documents were fabricated to show that RNRL-S and Indonesian subsidiaries of RPL had made advances to these BVI entities for apparent genuine business purposes. During the investigation, it was found that this documentation was backdated and prepared in order to project these transactions as genuine business transactions.

Further investigation is in progress, the statement added.

BLUE DRUM MURDER: SAURABH RAJPUT'S FAMILY WELCOMES DEATH PENALTY

Meerut, Oct. 14

The family of former Merchant Navy officer Saurabh Rajput on Wednesday welcomed the death penalty awarded to his wife Muskan and her lover Sahil Shukla by a district court in Meerut, which classified the murder as a “rarest of the rare” case.

Saurabh's mother, Renu Devi, expressed satisfaction with the verdict. “We are completely satisfied with the court's decision,” she told reporters.

“Today, the court has



merely pronounced the death sentence. The day the date for their execution is fixed will be the true day of happiness for us,” she added.

Saurabh's brother Rahul said the family had received justice, as the court had accepted its demand for capital punishment for

both convicts.

Vijay Bahadur, the lawyer representing the family, said the verdict would send a strong message to society and instil fear among criminals.

The case drew national attention after Saurabh's dismembered body was found concealed inside a

blue plastic drum filled with sand and cement.

According to the case details, Saurabh was killed by Muskan and Sahil, who allegedly attempted to conceal the crime by placing his body parts inside the drum.

The court pronounced the death sentences on Wednesday, categorising the crime as one of the “rarest of the rare” cases.

The verdict triggered celebrations outside the district court, where lawyers distributed sweets and said the punishment was commensurate with the gravity of the crime.

DELHI COURT SUMMONS DHRUV RATHEE IN 2018 DEFAMATION CASE

New Delhi, Oct. 1

A Delhi court has issued fresh summons to YouTuber Dhruv Rathee in a 2018 criminal defamation case filed by Vikas Pandey over a video titled “BJP IT Cell Part 2”. Rathee has been served at his Gurugram residence, with the matter scheduled for hearing on October 17.

The case, pending before the Saket Court, concerns allegations that the video was defamatory. It was also retweeted by Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Arvind Kejriwal in 2018.

In its order, the court not-

ed the prolonged attempts to serve summons on Rathee, who ordinarily resides in Austria. It permitted fresh summons through dasti service, allowing the complainant to accompany the process server.

Proceedings against Rathee had remained pending amid unsuccessful attempts to serve him since 2019. The complainant claimed that Rathee's continued absence from India had stalled the case.

The matter involving Kejriwal had reached the Supreme Court. In February 2024, he told the apex court that he had made a mistake

by retweeting the video.

A bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Dipankar Datta had stayed the trial court proceedings while hearing Kejriwal's plea challenging the Delhi High Court's refusal to quash the summons against him.

The Delhi High Court had earlier observed that retweeting allegedly defamatory content could attract prosecution under Section 499 of the Indian Penal Code.

Pandey, founder of the social media page ‘I Support Narendra Modi’, had alleged that the retweet damaged his reputation.

DRUGS WORTH RS 1 CRORE SEIZED IN GREATER NOIDA, THREE ARRESTED

Greater Noida, Oct. 14

Police and the Anti-Narcotics Team in Greater Noida have seized 165.7 kg of ganja worth approximately Rs 1 crore and arrested three alleged smugglers, officials said on Wednesday.

The Badalpur police and the Anti-Narcotics Team intercepted a truck near Kudi Kheda turn on the Dadri-Lalkuan road during a joint checking operation based on local intelligence.

Police seized the contraband, along with the



truck and an accompanying car allegedly used in the smuggling operation. Four mobile phones, Rs 1,980 in cash and bank cards were also recovered.

According to police, the accused transported ganja from Bhubaneswar in Odisha to Delhi in a truck fitted with a secret

cavity to evade checks. A car accompanying the truck was used to scout the route ahead.

DCP Central Praveen Ranjan Singh said two accused were travelling in the truck, while the third was driving the car. All three are originally from Bihar, though one resided in Delhi.

Police identified Dinesh Pal as the alleged gang leader. He had earlier spent around 15 months in jail in connection with the seizure of 250 kg of ganja in 2021, officials said.

The consignment was

allegedly meant for two persons in Delhi, identified as Sameer and Ravi Kumar Sahni. Police said the drugs were subsequently distributed through wholesale and retail channels.

Investigators are questioning the accused and examining the truck's ownership, the transport company involved and possible links to other vehicles.

A case has been registered at Badalpur police station under relevant provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

HEAVY RAIN LIKELY IN KERALA, IMD ISSUES ORANGE ALERT FOR FOUR DISTRICTS

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct. 14

Kerala is bracing for heavy rainfall as the northeast monsoon approaches, with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) issuing an orange alert for four districts on Thursday.

Patnamthitta, Kottayam, Ernakulam and Idukki are under orange alert, indicating the possibility of very heavy rainfall of 115.6 mm to 204.4 mm within 24 hours at isolated places.

Eight districts — Thiruvananthapuram,



rainfall activity in northern Kerala on Friday, with heavy showers likely in several areas. Sudden downpours accompanied by thunderstorms, lightning and gusty winds are also possible.

People have been advised to remain vigilant, follow official weather updates and heed disaster management instructions. Residents in hilly areas should watch for possible landslides, while those in low-lying areas should remain alert to waterlogging.

The IMD has also advised people to avoid

standing under isolated trees during thunderstorms and to stay away from open areas and water bodies during lightning.

The northeast monsoon, also known as the retreating monsoon, generally lasts from October to December and is an important source of rainfall for southern peninsular India, particularly Tamil Nadu and adjoining regions.

Kerala receives rainfall during both the southwest and northeast monsoons, although the latter generally contributes less to its annual rainfall.



Former Shin Bet chief sues Netanyahu over October 7 blame

IANS
Jerusalem, Oct. 14

Former Shin Bet chief Ronen Bar filed a 3 million shekel (about \$975,000) defamation lawsuit against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday over responsibility for the failure to prevent the Hamas-led attack on southern Israel on October 7, 2023.

Bar, who led the domestic security agency from 2021 to 2025, said Netanyahu made false accusations to evade responsibility and blame him alone. Bar acknowledged the Shin Bet's share of responsibility but accused Netanyahu of spreading a "blood libel" by claiming he knew of the attack in advance and failed to alert authorities.

The lawsuit lists warnings of an impending disaster that Bar said he presented to Netanyahu from November 2022. He alleged they were ignored or inadequately addressed, Xinhua news agency reported.

Bar also blamed Netanyahu's policy of containing Hamas and allowing the group to strengthen its military capabilities through funding.

He said the lack of a state commission of inquiry, alongside reports of alleged attempts to falsify protocols and incitement against security chiefs, prompted the lawsuit.

Netanyahu responded that Bar could have contacted him through secure phone line on October 7, saying lives might have been saved had he called.

The two have disputed responsibility for the security failures since early 2025. Netanyahu announced Bar's dismissal in March 2025, citing a loss of confidence. Bar called for a state inquiry into all relevant parties, including government policies and Netanyahu.

TRUMP PROMISES \$5,000 TO EVERY ADULT IF REPUBLICANS WIN CONGRESS

IANS
Washington, Oct. 14

US President Donald Trump promised every adult American citizen \$5,000 if Republicans keep control of both chambers of Congress, telling a midterm rally in Wasilla, Alaska, that tariff revenue would pay for it.

"If Republicans win the House of Representatives and the Senate, I'm going to give all adult citizens in the United States \$5,000. And only Republicans can do that because the Democrats can't, because we're taking in massive amounts of money," Trump said, adding that the money came from tariffs.

He said "the Trump dividend that you get must be spent in the United States of America". He repeated the pledge at the end of the speech.

Trump did not say how the payments would be made, when, or what they would cost. Any such payout would need Congress to approve it.



"If the Democrats win, you will have a 1929 style economic depression," he said.

The President was campaigning for Republican Senator Dan Sullivan three weeks before the November 3 elections. He called Democrat Mary Peltola "no show Mary". Early voting begins on October 19.

On Iran, Trump said Tehran "will not have a nuclear weapon" and that the war "is going to end very soon and when it does, your prices are going to come tumbling down".

"We opened the Straits," he said. "We've been taking more oil out of the Straits now than we did before the war started, believe it or not. We control the Straits."

"Wait till you see what we do to Iran, because we sort of had it, you know, we've had it," he said, without giving details.

On stage, Trump granted a full pardon to Mark Spurlack and signed pardons for two Anchorage diesel mechanics, Zachary Schubach and Patrick Fleming, who had been convicted of Clean Air Act violations

for modifying vehicle emissions controls.

"They want to put them in jail for ten years because they fixed an engine," Trump said.

Federal Communications Commission Chairman Brendan Carr told the rally the Commission "will vote this month to invest an additional \$162 million to expand high speed internet in Alaska".

Trump attacked Canada, saying "they have ripped us off for years but no longer", and accused Democrats of allowing "25 million people to pour across our borders". He did not back up the figure.

He spoke at the Curtis D. Menard Memorial Sports Center. His two-day trip also takes him to Nevada, Arizona and Montana.

Fuel prices have become a central issue in the campaign, and Gulf tensions keep pressure on oil markets that India watches closely.

FIRST TRIAL ON NORD STREAM SABOTAGE OPENS IN GERMANY

IANS
Berlin, Oct. 14

The first trial over the September 2022 sabotage of the Nord Stream gas pipelines opened at the Hanseatic Higher Regional Court in Hamburg on Wednesday.

The accused, Ukrainian national Serhii Kuznietsov, is suspected of leading a sabotage team that damaged the undersea pipelines in the Baltic Sea. German prosecutors allege that he acted

on behalf of Ukrainian state authorities.

Kuznietsov, a former Ukrainian military officer, was arrested in Italy in August 2025 and transferred to Germany in November that year, Xinhua news agency reported.

Prosecutors suspect him of involvement in a war crime involving attacks on civilian objects, causing explosions, destroying property and disrupting public utilities.

According to prosecutors, Kuznietsov and other military personnel developed a plan after the escalation of the Russia-Ukraine conflict in February 2022 to destroy the Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines.

The group allegedly used a rented yacht to transport explosives to waters near Denmark's island of Bornholm. On September 26, 2022, several explosive devices planted on the seabed

were detonated, causing major gas leaks.

On August 19, Germany's Federal Prosecutor announced the arrest of another Ukrainian suspect, Volodymyr Z, in Croatia. The trained diver was allegedly part of the team involved in placing explosives on the pipelines.

The allegations against the accused remain subject to judicial proceedings.

FMs of Iran and Oman discuss regional developments, ways to achieve regional peace

IANS
Tehran, Oct. 14

Iranian Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi spoke by telephone with his Omani counterpart, Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Al Busaidi, on Wednesday about regional developments, including Yemen, local media reported.

They discussed ways to promote peace and stability, Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported.

On Tuesday, Araghchi spoke with Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan about Yemen and



efforts to ease tensions, the semi-official Tasnim News Agency reported.

Araghchi discussed diplomatic initiatives to reduce tensions with Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty, IRNA reported.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said

Tehran was ready to facilitate dialogue between Yemen and Saudi Arabia.

At a briefing, Baghaei expressed concern over developments in the Arabian Peninsula and said Iran opposed continuation of the conflict, Xinhua News Agency reported.

"We have repeatedly

expressed readiness to use our good offices to facilitate dialogue between the (warring) parties," Baghaei said, urging a resolution through talks.

Iran has offered to facilitate dialogue as Yemen's Houthi group targets Saudi airports and energy facilities, while Riyadh conducts air operations against Houthi-held areas.

On Sunday, Araghchi spoke with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud and offered assistance to initiate dialogue between Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

JAPANESE AGRICULTURE MINISTER RESIGNS OVER SCANDALS: LOCAL MEDIA

IANS
Tokyo, Oct. 14

Embattled Japanese agriculture minister Kazuo Yana resigned from the cabinet on Wednesday, dealing a major blow to Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi's government, Kyodo News reported.

Yana has come under fire for a series of controversies over his past remarks and conduct. Japanese media said his resignation could raise questions about Takaichi's responsibility for the appointment.

A successor to Yana is expected to be announced on Thursday, Xinhua news agency reported. According to media reports in late September, Yana told supporters in his constituency in May that fiscal 2026 road budgets had been sharply cut for two municipalities whose mayors did not support him in the House of Representatives election in February.

The remarks sparked widespread criticism, with some opposition lawmakers saying they amounted to voter intimidation.

A weekly magazine



reported last week that Yana had also provided free shuttle bus rides to his supporters during past lower house election campaigns, possibly in violation of the Public Offices Election Act.

According to Kyodo News, Takaichi had initially made clear that Yana would stay on, but her stance shifted as opposition parties stepped up pressure for his resignation.

At a House of Representatives Budget Committee session on Tuesday, she criticized Yana's remarks as "deeply inappropriate" and said she "will not hesitate" to dismiss him "if illegality is found" in his conduct.

Yana had previously been disciplined by the ruling Liberal Democratic

Party over a high-profile political slush fund scandal. Nevertheless, he was appointed minister of agriculture, forestry and fisheries in the cabinet reshuffle in September, becoming one of the first disciplined lawmakers to enter the cabinet since the scandal came to light in late 2023.

Japan's Mainichi Shimbun pointed out that Yana is the first cabinet minister to step down over scandals since the Takaichi administration took office, and Takaichi may face questions over her responsibility for the appointment.

Kyodo News said the resignation marks a setback for the prime minister, who is set to mark a year in office later this month.

South Korea Condemns Houthi Attacks on Saudi Civilian Facilities

IANS
Seoul, Oct. 14

South Korea's foreign ministry on Wednesday condemned recent deadly attacks by Yemen's Houthi rebels on civilian facilities in Saudi Arabia, calling for an immediate halt to such acts.

The attacks included two consecutive strikes on King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh last week, further escalating tensions in the Middle East.

The first, on Saturday (local time), killed 13 people and injured more than 300, while a second attack the following day killed one person and wounded 11, according to foreign media reports.

"We strongly condemn the recent attacks by the Houthi rebels targeting civilian facilities, including the international airport in Riyadh," the ministry said in a statement, Yonhap News Agency reported.

"We reiterate that attacks on civilians and civilian infrastructure are absolutely unacceptable and once again urge an immediate halt to these hostile acts," it added. The ministry stressed that



peace and stability in the Middle East are important to the international community, including South Korea, in terms of global supply chains and energy security.

It also expressed its sincere condolences to the victims and their bereaved families, and voiced solidarity with the Saudi government and people.

Saudi Arabia's General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) said that the attack targeting King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh on October 11 killed 12 people and injured 309 others, as Yemen's Houthi group and Saudi Arabia continued exchanging strikes on major airports.

"Further to its earlier statement regarding the attack targeting King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh on Saturday, October 10, 2026, corre-

sponding to 29 Rabi' Al-Thani 1448H, the General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) clarifies that the attack resulted in (12) fatalities, including (4) Saudi citizens and residents of the following nationalities: (2) Bangladeshi, (1) American, (1) Egyptian, (1) Jordanian, (1) Syrian, (1) Palestinian and (1) Sudanese," Saudi Arabia's GACA posted on X.

"The attack also left (309) others injured, including individuals in critical condition. All injured individuals are receiving the necessary medical care at several hospitals. May Allah bestow His mercy upon those who lost their lives and grant the injured a speedy recovery. The attack also caused property damage, the extent of which is currently being assessed," it added.

Colombia opens Embassy in Jerusalem

IANS
Jerusalem, Oct. 14

Colombia inaugurated its Embassy in Jerusalem on Wednesday, restoring full diplomatic relations with Israel under President Abelardo de la Escriella and reversing his predecessor's decision to sever ties over Israel's military operations in Gaza.

The ceremony was attended by Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar and Colombian Foreign Minister Omar Bula Escobar.

The countries agreed on July 15 to restore diplo-



matic and economic relations. The agreement took effect after de la Escriella assumed office in August. On Tuesday, they formally reinstated their Free Trade Agreement.

In May 2024, then-President Gustavo Petro announced that Colombia would sever ties with Israel, accusing its gov-

ernment of committing genocide in Gaza, an allegation Israel rejects, Xinhua news agency reported. In October 2025, after Israel intercepted a Gaza-bound flotilla and detained two Colombian nationals, Petro expelled Israel's remaining diplomats and ended the trade agreement.

Colombia's Embassy, previously in Tel Aviv, is the 10th foreign embassy in Jerusalem. Palestinians regard East Jerusalem as the capital of their future state. The United States recognised Jerusalem as Israel's capital in December

2017 and moved its embassy there in May 2018. The city's status remains disputed, and most countries keep their embassies in Tel Aviv or elsewhere.

The British Consulate handles Palestinian affairs in Jerusalem.

Israel considers Jerusalem its "undivided capital" and rejects describing its control of the city as an occupation. "United Jerusalem is the capital of Israel and is under its full sovereignty," Sa'ar said, adding that foreign activity must follow accepted channels and not violate Israeli sovereignty.

ISRAELI MILITARY SAYS KILLED HAMAS COMMANDER IN GAZA CITY

IANS
Jerusalem, Oct. 14

The Israel Defence Forces (IDF) said on Wednesday that it had killed Hamas commander Momen Ahmad Salameh Ay in an airstrike in Gaza City on Tuesday.

The military said Ay had held Israeli hostages in Hamas captivity and served as an aide to commanders of the group's Gaza Brigade. It alleged that he had recently advanced attacks against Israeli soldiers

and civilians and sought to restore Hamas's capabilities.

The IDF said it took measures to minimise civilian casualties before the strike, Xinhua news agency reported.

Separately, the military said infantry soldiers operating in Kfar Shouba in southern Lebanon had found a ready-to-detonate explosive device, a Hezbollah position and additional weapons used by the group.

On Friday, the IDF said it had killed three

militants in Gaza City in airstrikes carried out on Thursday. It identified two as Hassam Walid Hassan Abu Al-Ata, allegedly a commander in the rocket unit of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad's military wing, and Magdi Moein Yousef Al-Ayoubi, also a member of the group's military wing.

The third was identified as Muhammad Aja, a company commander in Hamas's military wing.

According to the IDF, the three had recently

advanced attacks against Israeli soldiers and worked to restore their groups' capabilities.

The IDF and Shin Bet domestic security agency said they had dismantled four Hamas and Islamic Jihad weapons storage facilities across Gaza.

The facilities reportedly contained dozens of weapons and military equipment, including rockets, explosive devices, mortars and Kalashnikov rifles. More details were not provided.

Welfare Pensions Must Reflect the Real Cost of Living

WIDER ELIGIBILITY MUST BE MATCHED BY ADEQUATE BENEFITS, RELIABLE

The Union Cabinet’s October 14 approval of ₹53,428 crore for the National Social Assistance Programme provides continuity for an essential safety net. The programme, to be renamed Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana, will continue from 2026–27 to 2030–31, with the government projecting coverage of 3.20 crore beneficiaries. Its real value, however, must be judged by the security it brings to vulnerable households.

The disability pension changes deserve recognition. The qualifying disability threshold will fall from 80 per cent to 40 per cent, and eligibility will begin at birth. Monthly central assistance will rise to ₹375 for beneficiaries aged up to 79 and ₹625 for those aged 80 and above. Guidelines are to be issued and implemented within three months. Approval should therefore be fol-

lowed by clear information about when revised payments begin.

Yet wider coverage cannot resolve inadequate support. Old-age and widow pensions, along with family benefits, will continue in their existing form. State governments supplement central pensions, so beneficiaries’ total payments vary. In July, the Centre acknowledged that central pension assistance rates had last been revised in 2012. The new disability increase leaves the broader question of adequacy unresolved.

A pension need not meet every household expense to be useful. But its contribution loses value when food, medicines, transport and care become costlier. For people with little independent income, even a delayed modest payment can mean borrowing or postponing essential purchases.

The next stage should prioritise:

- Periodic benefit revisions linked to living costs, with a transparent minimum-support benchmark.
- Predictable monthly payment dates, public reporting of arrears and prompt correction of failed transfers.
- Assisted enrolment, accessible disability certification and appeal routes for rejected applicants.
- Safeguards against exclusion caused by documentation gaps, banking problems or digital verification failures.

Financial discipline requires realistic budgeting and effective monitoring. It also requires recognising the costs that inadequate assistance pushes onto poor families. Renaming schemes cannot substitute for improving them. Social security succeeds when eligible people receive meaningful support reliably and with dignity.

Aviation Safety Demands Answers, Not Assurances

The Air India hijack alert requires a transparent investigation and preventive action without weakening emergency responses.

-Munsif Desk

The safe landing of Air India’s Frankfurt–Delhi flight AI2030 at Jaipur on October 14 brought relief to 306 passengers. The aircraft was diverted after a reported transponder signal indicating possible hijacking or unlawful interference. Initial suggestions that the alert was accidental remain preliminary; the cause must be established through investigation.

Later reporting said air traffic control received code 7500 while the pilots reported normal conditions aboard the aircraft. That discrepancy is the central question. It should not be resolved through speculation about pilot error or an assumed technical fault. Aviation and security agencies must establish what was transmitted, what controllers received and how the cockpit responded.

The precautionary response should not be judged unnecessary simply because passengers were safe. Emergency systems exist to trigger action before a threat is fully understood. Equally,

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LET IDEAS BE HEARD

Energy Security Cannot Be Left to the Mercy of War

India needs reliable supplies, usable reserves and consumer protection against prolonged disruption in Gulf shipping.

The latest shipping incidents in the Strait of Hormuz demand preparation, not panic. Iran said on October 14 that a cargo vessel had sunk after striking a naval mine. That account requires caution: Singapore’s Maritime and Port Authority separately confirmed that GFS Pride sank after a reported projectile strike, with all 21 crew evacuated safely. Another vessel, GFS Giselle, suffered hull damage but reached safety. These accounts do not establish that a mine caused the confirmed sinking.

The distinction matters, but the warning is unmistakable. Commercial shipping faces serious danger in a passage central to international energy supplies. A container ship’s sinking does not itself demonstrate lost oil production. Yet repeated attacks can discourage sailings, delay deliveries and increase freight and war-risk insurance costs. Consumers can face high-



er bills even when oil remains available.

India’s exposure extends beyond petrol and diesel. Costlier crude raises the import bill, while expensive gas affects fertilisers, industry and household energy. Higher transport and production costs can spread into food prices. A weaker rupee compounds the burden because imported fuel is largely priced in dollars.

There is evidence of adaptation. Reporting on October 14 showed that Oman became India’s largest LNG supplier in

September, demonstrating the value of supplies outside the vulnerable passage. The RBI has also opened a dollar window for major state oil companies to ease currency-market pressure. However, financial measures cannot replace physical supplies, and changing suppliers cannot eliminate globally transmitted price increases.

India’s established strategic crude storage capacity is 5.33 million tonnes. That figure alone cannot explain how long the country could withstand

disruption: actual stocks, withdrawal capability and demand determine protection. Expansion deserves urgency, alongside arrangements for gas and cooking fuel.

Diplomacy must remain equally practical. New Delhi should engage Iran, Gulf governments and other maritime stakeholders to press for de-escalation, civilian shipping protection and reliable communication. Seafarers’ safety must remain central; securing cargoes cannot mean treating crews as expendable.

Preparedness must therefore be measured in operational terms:

- Publish credible assessments of usable crude and fuel stocks, distinguishing emergency reserves from commercial inventories and storage capacity.
- Secure alternative cargoes, shipping arrangements and insurance before disruption deepens, while checking refinery compatibility and delivery times.
- Establish clear reserve-release triggers and protect essential transport, agriculture and household cooking needs.
- Use targeted consumer assistance and transparent fuel-tax adjustments, with stated costs and review dates.

BANK PRIVATISATION NEEDS TRANSPARENCY, NOT JUST A GOOD PRICE

IDBI’s ownership transfer must deliver accountable governance, secure banking and fair treatment for employees.

-Munsif Desk

The Cabinet’s October 14 approval of the ₹52,878.08-crore sale of a 60.72 per cent stake in IDBI Bank is a major ownership decision. Fairfax subsidiary 10955230 Canada Inc. will acquire the controlling stake, comprising 30.48 per cent from the Union government and 30.24 per cent from LIC. Approval, however, does not mean the transfer is complete; further regulatory steps remain. The transaction’s success must therefore be measured beyond its headline value. Public investment, depositors’ confidence and employees’ livelihoods deserve as much attention as the buyer’s commercial prospects. Private ownership can bring capital, technology and stronger management, but those benefits must become measurable outcomes rather than promises.

The government has provided useful valuation information. Two independent agencies used market-multiple and asset-valuation methods, producing a benchmark of ₹75.99 per share. Fairfax offered ₹81. These disclosures establish a basis for scrutiny; they do not settle every question about value. The government should explain significant assumptions, treatment of liabilities and the assessment of future earnings, while protecting legitimately confidential information. Without such explanation, the sale price may look adequate yet the wider public interest remain unclear. A transparent

process would help citizens understand whether the state has secured fair value and whether the buyer has the capacity to strengthen the bank.

LIC’s position also requires attention. It will retain 19 per cent and the Centre 15 per cent, while both withdraw their board nominees and become public shareholders. Continued financial exposure without board representation makes strong minority-shareholder protections and transparent reporting especially important. LIC should explain how the sale and its remaining investment serve policyholders’ interests. The insurer’s policyholders are not ordinary investors; they are the ultimate beneficiaries of decisions taken with their funds. Their interests must be visible in the sale’s design and in the governance arrangements that follow.

The safeguards should be concrete. Customer arrangements covering deposits, existing contracts, charges, complaints and uninterrupted access to banking should be published. Employee protections, including retirement benefits, consultation procedures and retraining during restructuring, should be disclosed. Measurable commitments for rural services, small borrowers and customers who cannot rely entirely on digital banking should be set. Independent governance, prudent lending and close scrutiny of transactions involving connected businesses should be required. These are not peripheral

Parliamentary Panel to Examine Satellite Internet Approvals

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology has selected satellite internet as one of the key subjects for a threadbare examination in the coming days, amid the ongoing row over Elon Musk’s remarks on the delay in the government’s approval of his company Starlink to launch the service in India. BJP MP Nishikant Dubey, who chairs the panel, said the issue would be discussed at an upcoming meeting. “We will discuss the satellite net issue at our meeting in the coming days,” Dubey told PTI after a meeting of the panel. Musk’s Starlink, along with Eutelsat OneWeb and Jio Satellite, have applied for permission to start satellite internet service in the country. Jio Satcom is Reliance Jio’s satellite venture, while Eutelsat OneWeb is backed by Bharti, which runs the pan-India mobile and internet network, Airtel.

Musk has accused powerful business interests of blocking Starlink’s entry into India to preserve a “monopolistic chokehold” on Indian consumers. In a series of posts on X, he targeted Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani, sarcastically addressing him as “Prime Minister Ambani” and questioning whether he wielded greater influence over India’s decisions than Prime Minister Narendra Modi. However, the Ministry of Communications has rejected the charge, describing suggestions that the regulatory framework or its application was unfair or discriminatory as “baseless” and “misconceived”. The government has maintained that satellite operators must meet the same regulatory requirements, including security condi-

tions and spectrum allocation rules, before they can begin commercial services in the country.

All three operators hold Unified Licences with GMPCS authorisation. Starlink received its GMPCS licence in June 2025, while OneWeb and Jio Satellite obtained theirs in 2022. However, securing a licence does not automatically allow a company to begin commercial services. Spectrum assignment and the fulfilment of security conditions remain the key steps. Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia said the three ventures had secured satellite communications licences and that spectrum would be assigned once the government finalises a revenue-based charging framework and individual operators fulfil the security requirements.

Security concerns are central to the delay. India’s satellite communications rules require gateways and key network-control functions to be located in the country to enable lawful interception and routing of Indian traffic through domestic gateways. Starlink’s network uses inter-satellite laser links that can route traffic through gateways outside India, complicating monitoring and enforcement. The security debate predates Starlink, stretching back to satellite-phone concerns after the 26/11 Mumbai attacks. On spectrum pricing, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India has rejected the Department of Telecommunications’ proposal for a 5 per cent annual spectrum fee, reiterating its recommendation for a 4 per cent charge on adjusted gross revenues, along with a ₹500 annual charge per urban customer to incentivise rural expansion.



Iyer attains career-best fourth spot in T20I rankings after maiden T20I ton

New Delhi, Oct. 14: In a captain Shreyas Iyer has reached a career-high fourth position in the latest ICC T20I rankings for batters after moving up three places following his impressive start to the five-match home series against the West Indies.

Iyer smashed his maiden T20I century in the series opener in Lucknow, earning a significant rise in the latest rankings. His ascent to fourth place means India now have three players inside the top four, with Ishan Kishan leading the list and Abhishek Sharma occupying second position.

Pakistan captain Sahibzada Farhan sits third after achieving a career-best rating following an impressive performance against Sri Lanka.

Other batters making progress in the T20I rankings include Sri Lanka's Kusal Mendis, who climbed three places to 23rd, West Indies' Sherfane Rutherford, who rose 13 spots to share 24th position, and India's Sanju Samson, who moved up four places to equal 27th.

Pakistan youngster Maaz Sadaqat also made a significant jump, rising from outside the top 100 to 45th following his performances in the three-match series against Sri Lanka.

In the bowling chart, the West Indies player Roston Chase climbed 24 places to 23rd following his performances against India. He also gained two spots to reach third in the T20I all-rounders' rankings.

Pakistan's Salman Mirza rose

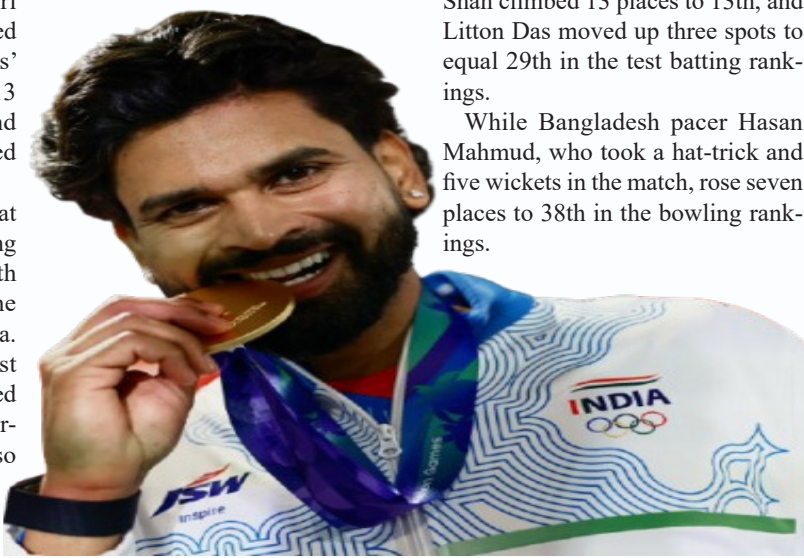
nine places to 14th in the T20I bowling rankings, while teammate Saim Ayub climbed eight spots to 54th.

There was also significant movement in the Test rankings following Australia's 214-run victory over South Africa in the opening match of their three-Test series at Kingsmead in Durban.

Australia batter Matthew Renshaw was rewarded for his player of the match performance, which included 190 in the first innings and 82 in the second. The left-hander climbed from outside the top 100 to equal 49th in the Test batting rankings.

Former world No. 1 Marnus Labuschagne also moved up four places to 34th, while South Africa opener Aiden Markram climbed four spots to equal 10th.

Australia fast bowler Josh



Hazlewood rose two places to seventh in the Test bowling rankings after taking career-best figures of six for 49 on the final day. Teammate Mitchell Starc continued to lead the list, although his advantage over New Zealand pacer Matt Henry narrowed to four rating points.

South Africa fast bowler Anrich Nortje returned to the Test bowling rankings at 34th after playing his first red-ball match in more than three years.

India's Ravindra Jadeja continued to lead the Test all-rounders' rankings, while South Africa's Wiaan Mulder climbed one place to fourth and Simon Harmer rose five spots to equal 23rd.

Following the drawn one-off test between Afghanistan and Bangladesh in Abu Dhabi, Rahmat Shah climbed 13 places to 13th, and Litton Das moved up three spots to equal 29th in the test batting rankings.

While Bangladesh pacer Hasan Mahmud, who took a hat-trick and five wickets in the match, rose seven places to 38th in the bowling rankings.

Litchfield sustains hip strain, ruled out of 3rd ODI against Bangladesh



New Delhi, Oct. 14:

Australia opener Phoebe Litchfield has been ruled out of the third and final ODI against Bangladesh after sustaining a low-grade hip muscle strain, raising doubts over her availability for the upcoming T20I series against New Zealand.

The 23-year-old suffered the injury while scoring 71 in the second ODI on Sunday.

Allrounder Nicola Carey replaced her in the playing XI, while Beth Mooney was promoted to open the innings. Australia stand-in captain

Tahlia McGrath confirmed Litchfield's absence at the toss.

The team is already dealing with injuries to Sophie Molineux and Lucy Hamilton, with Grace Harris joining the squad as cover. Australia have secured an unassailable 2-0 lead in the ODI series and will aim for a clean sweep.

The third match also marks Mooney's 100th ODI appearance. Litchfield's recovery will now be closely monitored ahead of the three-match T20I series against New Zealand, beginning Sunday.

Shikhar Dhawan Takes Legal Action Over Unauthorised Use of His Name in Tournament

New Delhi, Oct. 14:

Former India cricketer Shikhar Dhawan has alleged that organisers of the World T20 Continent Cup used his name without his knowledge or permission. He said his team would initiate legal action to resolve the matter.

In a post on X, Dhawan urged the media and fans not to respond to unauthorised announcements made in his name.

Dhawan represented India across all three formats. He played 167 ODIs,



scoring 6,793 runs at an average of 44.1, including 17 centuries and 39 half-centuries. In Tests, he scored 2,315 runs in 34 matches, while in 68 T20Is, he accumulated 1,759 runs and recorded 11 half-centuries.

'An experience that will stay with me': Rahane on playing cricket with Prince William

New Delhi, Oct. 14:

Former India Test captain Ajinkya Rahane described playing tennis-ball cricket with Britain's Prince William outside Buckingham Palace in London as an unforgettable experience.

Rahane joined cricketing legends Sourav Ganguly and Brian Lara, along with England players Joe Root and Harry Brook, for a friendly match on The Mall as part of the countdown to the Earthshot Prize awards ceremony, scheduled to be held in Mumbai on November 17, 2026.

In a LinkedIn post, Rahane said the event celebrated the shared passion for cricket between India and the UK while high-



lighting the importance of environmental protection. Launched by Prince William in 2020, the Earthshot Prize recognises and supports in-

novative solutions to global environmental challenges. The upcoming ceremony will mark the initiative's debut in India.

Naman Dhir's Rise Could Make Washington Sundar's T20I Return Difficult, Says Srikanth

New Delhi, Oct. 14:

Former India captain Krishnamachari Srikanth believes Naman Dhir's impressive performances against the West Indies have strengthened his position in the Indian team and increased competition for Washington Sundar in limited-overs cricket.

Speaking on his YouTube channel, Srikanth said Dhir had quickly made an impact with his all-round abilities, contributing with both bat and ball. He pointed out that Dhir's aggressive batting and growing effectiveness as a bowler could make it difficult for the team management to leave him out of the ODI



and T20I sides.

Srikanth also expressed concern over Sundar's recurring injury problems, suggesting that Dhir's emergence could limit Sundar's opportunities in white-ball cricket. He said Sundar might now have to focus mainly on Test cricket, given the increasing competition for places in India's limited-overs

squads.

Former India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin also praised Dhir following the third T20I against the West Indies. Ashwin acknowledged that Dhir was not a regular frontline off-spinner but said his bowling had improved considerably and that he was showing confidence and a fearless approach.

Ashwin particularly appreciated Dhir's ability to take crucial wickets, highlighting his dismissal of Shimron Hetmyer. He added that Dhir was developing into a valuable option as an off-spinning all-rounder for India, with his performances offering the team greater flexibility in selection.

Srikanth Advances, Sindhu and Lakshya Sen Exit Denmark Open

New Delhi, Oct. 14:

Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth began his Denmark Open Super 750 campaign on a positive note, defeating France's Arnaud Merkle in straight games to enter the pre-quarterfinals. Srikanth, who won the men's singles title at the tournament in 2017, secured a 22-20, 21-19 victory in a closely contested opening-round match.

However, India suffered setbacks in both the men's and women's singles events, with PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen exiting in the first round. Sindhu fought hard against Germany's Yvonne Li but eventually went down 21-13, 23-25, 19-21 after a three-game battle. Lakshya Sen also failed to progress, losing 18-21, 21-13, 15-21 to Chinese Taipei's Chou Tien-chen.

Tanvi Sharma provided a boost to India's campaign in the women's singles, overcoming Japan's Natsuki Nidaira 21-17, 16-21, 21-19 in another closely fought encounter. Her victory secured her place in the next round, keeping India's hopes alive in the tournament.

'A home World Cup before retirement is a blessing,' says Sikandar Raza

New Delhi, Oct. 14:

Zimbabwe captain Sikandar Raza has described the chance to play an ODI World Cup on home soil before retiring from international cricket as a 'blessing', adding that the 2027 tournament will also let the world experience the beauty and hospitality of his country.

Zimbabwe will co-host the 2027 ODI World Cup alongside South Africa and Namibia, with Raza's team scheduled to play its league matches in Harare, Bulawayo and Victoria Falls.

The 40-year-old, approaching the final phase of his career, said playing in a home World Cup would be special for him personally.

"Every cricketer dreams of having retired or of retiring after a World Cup. The fact that I am coming to the end of my career as well, so to have an opportunity to play a home World Cup is certainly a blessing for me from a personal point of view," Raza said at an event as quoted by Cricinfo.

He also expressed hope that the tournament would help showcase Zimbabwe and the wider African continent to international visitors.



"From a collective point of view, I do think the world really needs to see what Africa has to offer - the beauty, the crowd, and the vibe and everything that we have to offer in Zimbabwe, especially. The world deserves to see it. For people who will find time to travel to Zimbabwe to watch the World Cup, it will be an unforgettable experience," he said.

Raza also welcomed the proposed World Cup format, which will feature a first round involving three teams, with the winner progressing to join the top 11 sides in two groups of six. The competition will then move to the Super Seven stage before the knockout rounds.

"I quite like the Super Seven idea. I think the teams that play well deserve to have more games at the World Cup," he said.

The Zimbabwe captain acknowledged that securing a home advantage at an International Cricket Council (ICC) event could be difficult because of the governing body's control over playing conditions. However, he said the team would look to make the most of whatever opportunities were available.

"We will try our best to gain some home advantage, but for ICC events it's very difficult because the curators - ICC is basically in control of everything," Raza said.

"But yes, we will try and take some advantage where we can - fair advantage, that is. We are really excited that our new stadium will be launched in the next few months, and I do think we have fixtures there early next year as well, so we're really looking forward," he added.

Hyderabad Begin Ranji Trophy Campaign with Innings Win Under Siraj

Hyderabad, Oct. 14:

Hyderabad made a winning start to their Ranji Trophy campaign, defeating Tripura by an innings and 40 runs in the Elite Group B match at Gymkhana Grounds.

Resuming their second innings at 106/7 on the third day, Tripura were bowled out for 120, adding just 14 runs. Tanay Thyagarajan claimed six wickets for 52 runs, while captain Mohammed Siraj took two for 19.

Hyderabad had scored 294 in their first innings, earning eight points, including a bonus point. Meanwhile, Mumbai be-



gan their campaign with an innings and 155-run victory over Chandigarh at Wankhede Stadium. After posting 429 in their first innings, Mumbai bowled out Chandigarh for 78 and 196 in the two

innings.

Uttar Pradesh also registered a dominant win, defeating Bihar by an innings and 267 runs. UP scored 540 before dismissing Bihar for 141 and 132 in their two innings.

'His influence will strengthen batting', says Ganguly on Yuvraj Singh's appointment at Delhi Capitals



New Delhi, Oct. 14:

Delhi Capitals Director of Cricket Sourav Ganguly believes Yuvraj Singh's appointment as assistant and batting coach will strengthen the team's batting unit ahead of IPL 2027.

The franchise announced Yuvraj's appointment on Tuesday. Ganguly said

he initiated discussions to bring the former India all-rounder into the coaching setup, expressing confidence that his experience and ability to guide young players would benefit the team.

Ganguly highlighted Yuvraj's achievements in India's 2007 T20 World Cup and 2011 ODI World Cup victories, recalling his memorable six sixes off Stuart Broad in the 2007 T20 World Cup.

He also pointed out that Delhi have several left-handed batters, including Rishabh Pant, David Miller, Axar Patel and Nitish Rana, who could ben-

efit from Yuvraj's guidance. Yuvraj has previously mentored young players such as Abhishek Sharma in Punjab. His appointment marks his first formal coaching role.

During his international career, he represented India in 304 ODIs, 40 Tests and 58 T20Is. He also played 132 IPL matches, scoring 2,750 runs and taking 36 wickets.

Ganguly said Yuvraj's experience and mentoring skills would help Delhi's young batters improve their T20 game. The former all-rounder's appointment marks his first formal coaching role, as Delhi Capitals aim to strengthen their batting ahead of IPL 2027.

Indiramma houses to be completed by next Dasara: Sridhar Babu

NSS
Hyderabad, Oct 14:

Ranga Reddy district in-charge Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu has assured that all Indiramma houses sanctioned in the first phase will be completed within a year and handed over to beneficiaries by the next Dasara.

Stating that the delays in house construction witnessed during the previous government would not be repeated, the Minister said the present government was committed to ensuring that poor families received their own homes within the stipulated timeframe.

Sridhar Babu was speaking on Wednesday at the foundation-laying ceremony for Indiramma houses sanctioned to 480



beneficiaries at Pocharam in Ghatkesar mandal. Revenue and Housing Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, local MP Eatala Rajender, Medchal MLA Mallareddy and MLC Patnam Mahender Reddy, among others, attended the programme.

The Minister assured that essential infrastructure, including roads, drinking

water facilities and lifts, would be provided to the Indiramma Towers within the stipulated deadline.

Recalling the welfare initiatives launched soon after the government assumed office, Sridhar Babu said the Congress government had fulfilled its promises by implementing free electricity for households consuming up to 200 units

a month and distributing six kilograms of fine-quality rice per person to white ration cardholders.

The Minister said the government was constructing Indiramma houses within the respective constituencies of eligible beneficiaries, enabling homeless poor families to secure permanent housing in their own areas.

He emphasised that the houses were being built on highly valuable land, offering beneficiaries a substantial asset.

Sridhar Babu stressed that the allocation of houses was being carried out in a completely transparent manner through a lottery system, eliminating human intervention and ensuring fairness in the selection of beneficiaries

Bathukamma celebrated with grandeur at Telangana Secretariat

NSS
Hyderabad, Oct 14:

Bathukamma festivities were celebrated on a grand scale at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat on Wednesday.

Minister for Panchayat Raj and Women and Child Welfare Seethakka attended the celebrations organised by the Secretariat Women Employees' Association as the chief guest. Addressing the gathering, she said Telangana had a unique tradition of worshipping flowers, which was not found elsewhere in the country, and congratulated the women employees for organising the festival in a grand manner. Minister Seethakka attended Bathukamma celebrations at Telangana Secretariat and praised the state's unique tradition of flower worship.

1.64 lakh crore transferred to people in 3 years: Bhatti

NSS
Hyderabad, Oct 14:

Asserting that every family in Telangana has directly benefited from the people's government, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka revealed that the State has transferred ₹1,64,431 crore directly into people's bank accounts over the past three years.

Challenging political opponents to dispute the statistics, the Deputy Chief Minister stated that the administration maintains total transparency and stands ready for a detailed debate on public expenditure. Every available rupee is being channeled into planned welfare and regional growth, he added.

Bhatti Vikramarka made these remarks on Wednesday while addressing a public meeting after laying the foundation stone for a 220/33 kV substa-



tion at Mannanur in the Achampet Assembly constituency. During the visit, he also launched development works worth ₹74.82 crore for the constituency.

Highlighting broader infrastructure initiatives, the Deputy Chief Minister announced that the government has allocated ₹90,000 crore for statewide road construction. Moving forward, district-specific blueprints will be crafted leveraging local natural resources, rivers, mineral

wealth, and human capital.

He further emphasised the government's vision to develop Achampet into a premier transport and tourism hub to generate employment opportunities for local youth.

Providing statistics on the reach of state welfare, Bhatti Vikramarka noted that out of 1.15 crore families across Telangana, approximately 1.06 crore are actively benefiting from various government welfare programmes.

Toli Masjid Waqf Land: Osman Al Hajri Seeks Urgent Action Over Road Works Despite Tribunal Decree

Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct 14:

Deccan Waqf Properties Protection Society president and Waqf protection activist Osman Bin Mohammed Al Hajri has urged the Telangana State Waqf Board to intervene immediately over alleged road-laying works on 15,888.8 square yards of Gazette-notified Waqf land attached to Toli Masjid in Hyderabad.

In a representation to the authorities, Al Hajri stated that the ongoing works required urgent scrutiny in view of a judgment and decree passed by the Waqf Tribunal, Hyderabad, on January 25, 2016, in O.S.

No. 80/2013. He said the tribunal had granted a perpetual injunction against illegal interference with the disputed Waqf property.

According to the representation, the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) had sought to take over the land for road purposes in May 2013, allegedly without following the prescribed legal procedure. Al Hajri subsequently approached the Waqf Tribunal seeking protection of the property.

He further stated that GHMC authorities had undertaken not to carry out road construction or widening over the land without following due process and



obtaining the necessary court permission, wherever required.

Al Hajri has requested the Waqf Board to depute officials to inspect the site, examine the relevant Waqf and GHMC records, and coordinate with the civic

authorities to prevent further work until the legal position is examined. He has also sought appropriate legal action in accordance with the tribunal's decree and a detailed inspection report to the Waqf Board chairman and chief execu-

tive officer.

Emphasising the need to safeguard the disputed property, Al Hajri urged the authorities to treat the matter as urgent and take steps to prevent any further unauthorised activity on the Waqf land.

Bathukamma celebrations held at Gandhi Bhavan

NSS
Hyderabad, Oct 14:

The Bathukamma festival celebrations, which are a symbol of Telangana culture and traditions, were held grandly at Gandhi Bhavan in the city on Wednesday. TPCC President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud participated in these celebrations along with his wife. He participated in the Bathukamma Puja program and performed special pujas and wished the Telangana women a happy Bathukamma festival.

Speaking on the occasion, Mahesh Kumar Goud said that the Bathukamma festival stands as a symbol of the self-respect of the women of Telangana and the culture and traditions of the state. He also said that the greatness of the Bathukamma festival lies in the blessing called 'Bathuku Amma' offered by the elders. He said that this festival, which is celebrated with great devotion by the wom-



en worshipping nature and flowers, shows the uniqueness of Telangana.

Mahesh Kumar Goud said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the state government was giving priority to the women's empowerment and was conducting public administration. He said that the government was giving priority to women's advancement, economic self-reliance and social empowerment. He noted that the government's policies continue to be centered on the women's

welfare and development. He said that he prayed to the Goddess that Telangana State should achieve further development in all fields, that all people should live happily and added that the women should rise to a higher level in all fields. He hoped that the Bathukamma festival should fill every home with happiness and prosperity for all the people of Telangana. He also said that such festivals play a key role in passing on the culture and traditions of Telangana to future generations.

Vivek calls for affordable, clean energy for all



NSS
Hyderabad, Oct 14:

Minister for SHAKTI and Mines Dr. Vivek Venkataswamy has stressed the need to ensure access to affordable and clean energy for all and promote renewable energy sources to achieve sustainable development. He emphasised that clean energy solutions, including solar power, should adhere to quality and safety standards. Speaking as the chief guest at the World Standards Day-2026 programme organised by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) at a hotel in Hyderabad on Wednesday,

the Minister said this year's focus, in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 7, was on ensuring access to affordable and clean energy for all.

Calling for coordinated efforts by industries, governments and educational institutions, Vivek Venkataswamy urged all stakeholders to work together to improve energy efficiency and promote eco-friendly technologies for a sustainable future.

He also urged industries to install rooftop solar panels and people to use solar lights in their homes and gardens.

72-Year-Old Hyderabad Woman Loses 2.20 Crore in 'Digital Arrest' Scam

NSS
Hyderabad, Oct 14:

A 72-year-old woman from Nampally in Hyderabad allegedly lost Rs.2.20 crore to cybercriminals posing as CBI officers in a 'digital arrest' scam.

The fraudsters contacted the senior citizen through a video call and claimed that a parcel containing illegal drugs had been booked in her name and that a bank account linked to her was involved in money laundering. They displayed a fake arrest warrant and threatened to arrest her unless she complied with their instructions.

Under the pretext of security deposits and verification of funds, the victim was coerced into transferring money in multiple

transactions to different mule bank accounts, resulting in a total loss of Rs/2.20 crore.

Hyderabad Cyber Crime Police have urged citizens to remain vigilant against digital arrest frauds. The police said cybercriminals impersonate officials of the police, CBI, Enforcement Directorate, Customs and other government agencies to intimidate victims with fabricated criminal allegations and extort money.

Fraudsters often use fake identity cards, forged documents and fabricated police-station backgrounds during video calls. They may force victims to remain on continuous calls, isolate themselves from family members and transfer money under the pretext of verification, bail or se-

curity deposits.

Police clarified that there is no such concept as a 'digital arrest' and that genuine law-enforcement agencies do not demand money over phone or video calls to avoid arrest or secure clearance.

Citizens have been advised to disconnect suspicious calls, independently verify claims through official channels, inform trusted family members and never disclose OTPs, PINs, passwords or banking credentials.

Victims of cyber financial fraud should immediately call the national cybercrime helpline 1930 or report the incident at www.cybercrime.gov.in. Prompt reporting may help authorities freeze fraudulent transactions and improve the chances of recovering the money.