



Welfare Schemes Must Reach All Eligible Poor Families

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Kharge Seeks All-Party Meeting on New Bills

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World Faces 800 Million Jobs Gap: Ajay Banga

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Mandhana: Six T20Is Key Ahead of Champions Trophy

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# Revanth Woos Hyundai to Set Up Car Manufacturing Hub in T'gana

- Hyundai delegation led by MD Changyeon Cho meets Chief Minister.
- Zaheerabad project planned across 678 acres.
- Telangana offers industrial clusters, connectivity and investment support.
- Hyundai invited to Invest Telangana Global Summit 2026.

NSS News  
Hyderabad, Oct 16

Telangana Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju on Thursday said the impact of El Niño was “very severe” and could peak by February 2027, warning of mounting concerns over water availability and standing crops. After inspecting the Singur and Manjira reservoirs in Sangareddy district, Jaju said the monsoon had been significantly affected and temperatures had risen by 2–3 degrees Celsius. He directed officials to ensure efficient use of available water and prioritise drinking water supplies to Hyderabad

RS 8,528-crore Zaheerabad R&D project eexpected to generate 4,276 jobs



and the districts of Sangareddy, Kamareddy, Nizamabad and Medak. With groundwater levels declining, Jaju warned that water might not be available to farmers even when electricity was supplied. He stressed that the next 15–20 days were critical for standing crops and asked agriculture officials to guide

farmers on measures to protect them. The Chief Secretary directed the deployment of nodal officers in every district to co-ordinate with electricity and agriculture departments under the supervision of District Collectors. He also called for an assessment of water availability over the next 15 days

and coordinated contingency plans to meet drinking water and irrigation needs. Jaju said the situation would be discussed at the state Cabinet meeting and urged officials to assess ground conditions, engage with farmers and residents, and closely monitor the impact of changing weather patterns.

## Sridhar Babu Proposes Telangana-Karnataka Industrial Partnership

Minister calls for linking Bengaluru's R&D strengths with Hyderabad's manufacturing ecosystem



NSS News  
Hyderabad, Oct 16

Telangana IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu has proposed an industrial partnership between Telangana and Karnataka, seeking to link Bengaluru’s research and development strengths with Hyderabad’s manufacturing ecosystem. Speaking at the Bengaluru roadshow for the Invest Telangana Global Summit 2026, organised in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), he urged businesses to pursue collaboration rather than competition between the two States.

Paying tribute to Karnataka’s industrial and scientific legacy, Sridhar Babu highlighted Bengaluru’s role as a start-up hub and its contributions to aerospace through HAL, ISRO and NAL. He proposed that global companies operating in Bengaluru establish secondary hubs in Hyderabad, leveraging the talent pool of institutions such as IISc, IIT Hyderabad, ISB and IIIT, along with innovation platforms like T-Hub. The Minister said the two States could combine their complementary strengths to build integrated supply chains and expand industrial opportunities.

## BJP Plans Nationwide Campaign to Counter Cong on SIR

IANs News  
Tadepalli, Oct 16

The BJP is preparing to launch a nationwide campaign next week to counter what it describes as misleading claims by the Congress over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and the Election Commission of India (ECI). Party MPs, MLAs and other leaders are likely to lead constituency-level outreach programmes to explain the BJP’s position and respond to opposition allegations. The party is preparing a 24-page document address-

ing questions raised by opposition parties, which will serve as reference material for leaders and workers. The BJP also plans to use social media and other communication platforms to reach a wider audience. It intends to highlight alleged instances of the misuse of the Election Commission and other institutions during previous Congress-led governments. The campaign comes amid an ongoing political debate over the SIR exercise and the functioning of the Election Commission.

## 'SSR Has Made SIR Zero': Akhilesh Yadav Targets EC



IANs News  
Lucknow, Oct 16

Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav on Friday criticised the Election Commission’s Special Summary Revision (SSR) of electoral rolls, claiming the new exercise had rendered the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) “zero”. The EC on Thursday announced SSR in 17 states

## Jagan Accuses Naidu of Turning Andhra into 'Jungle Raj'

- Mithun Reddy's convoy allegedly attacked in Punganur; vehicles damaged and security personnel injured.
- Vehicles torched near YSRCP office in Rayachoti amid party clashes.
- YSRCP seeks impartial probe, protection for candidates and deployment of central forces.

IANs News  
Tadepalli, Oct 16

YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy on Friday accused Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu of turning the State into a “jungle raj” following an alleged attack on party MP Peddireddy Mithun Reddy during local body election nominations. Condemning the attack, Jagan spoke to Mithun Reddy over the phone to enquire about his condition. He alleged that the ruling coalition was using violence and intimidation to suppress opposition amid growing public resentment. He also accused the police of failing to prevent attacks and demanded central paramilitary deployment to ensure free and fair elections.

Violence was reported in Punganur and Rayachoti in Annamayya district on the first day of nomination filing. Mithun Reddy’s convoy was allegedly attacked with stones, sticks and iron rods in Punganur, leaving the MP and security personnel injured. Vehicles parked near the YSRCP office in Rayachoti were also set on fire. The YSRCP blamed TDP workers for the incidents. YSRCP MP Maddila Gurumoorthy has submitted representations to the President, Prime Minister, Union Home Minister, Chief Justice of India, Lok Sabha Speaker, election authorities and other institutions, seeking an impartial investigation, preservation of evidence and protection for the MP, security personnel and election candidates.

## Indian Airlines Suspend Saudi Flights Amid Security Concerns

IANs News  
New Delhi, Oct 16

Air India and Air India Express have suspended flights to Riyadh, Jeddah and Dammam until October 20 amid regional security concerns. Affected passengers can opt for full refunds, while Air India Express is also offering complimentary re-scheduling. IndiGo has cancelled services to four Saudi cities until October 24, while Akasa Air suspended Riyadh flights until October 24 and Jeddah services until October 21. Airlines advised passengers to check flight updates before travelling.



## Govt Raises Petrol Export Duty, Cuts Diesel Levy

IANs News  
New Delhi, Oct 16

The government has raised the export duty on petrol to ₹2.50 per litre from ₹0.50, while cutting the levy on diesel to ₹8.50 from ₹16, effective Friday. According to a Finance Ministry notification, the duties are reviewed every fortnight based on international crude oil and petroleum product prices. Windfall taxes on fuel exports were first introduced in July 2022 to capture exceptional profits earned by refiners amid a surge in global oil prices following the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The levy was reintroduced in March 2026 after crude prices rose amid the US-Israeli war on Iran.

## Retired Army Officer Dies by Suicide in Hussaini Alam

Munsif News Bureau  
Hyderabad, Oct 16

Mohammed Aleem Uddin, a 50-year-old retired Army officer, reportedly died by suicide after shooting himself with his licensed firearm at his residence in Hussaini Alam in the Old City on Friday evening. According to preliminary reports, the incident occurred when Aleem Uddin went alone into the parking room of his residence. Family members and people in the vicinity alerted the police after learning about the incident. Hussaini Alam Police, accompanied by the clues team, reached the spot and began an investigation. The body was shifted to the mortuary at Osmania General Hospital for post-mortem examination.

not required to submit citizenship documents or establish links with previous electoral rolls. Yadav alleged that irregularities exposed during SIR had been dismissed as minor errors and accused the EC and the BJP of conspiring to influence election outcomes. His remarks came amid a wider political debate over electoral-roll revision and the transparency of the process.

## Delhi police issue flag etiquette guidelines amid CJP march

IANs News  
New Delhi, Oct 16

Delhi Police on Friday circulated 12 guidelines on respecting the national flag amid the Cockroach Janta Party’s (CJP) proposed ‘Lehra Do Tiranga’ march in Connaught Place, where several protesters were detained. The police cautioned that disrespecting the



Tricolour could invite imprisonment of up to three years, a fine, or both under the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971. The guidelines pro-

hibit using the flag as clothing, allowing it to touch the ground or displaying it with the saffron band down. Central Park remained out of bounds as authorities had not granted permission for the march and prohibitory orders were in force. CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke was detained, while student leader Neha Bora and other protesters were also taken away by police.

## Airfare Rules to Be Published in Two Weeks: Centre to SC

IANs News  
New Delhi, Oct 16

The Centre on Friday informed the Supreme Court that rules to regulate airfares and additional airline charges have been finalised and will be published within two weeks. A bench of Justices Vikram Nath,

R. Mahadevan and Apareesh Kumar Singh directed the government to submit the published rules at the next hearing on November 16. The PIL challenges sharp fare fluctuations, surge pricing and the reduction in complimentary check-in baggage allowance from 25 kg to 15 kg. The court had earlier called for rationalisation of airfares, cit-



ing steep price differences between airlines on the same day. The plea seeks a regulatory framework to monitor fares, additional charges and passenger grievances under the Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam, 2024.



Police have arrested a woman, Ramulamma, for allegedly pouring petrol on her husband and setting him on fire, leading to his death, in Madhwar village under the limits of Marikal Police Station in Narayanpet district. She has been remanded to judicial custody. Disclosing the details of the case at a press conference held at Marikal Police Station, DSP Nallapu Lingya said that the deceased, Thalapalli Balaswamy, 46, was a farmer and a resident of Madhwar village.

# Wife Arrested for Allegedly Setting Husband Ablaze After Pouring Petrol on Him

Munsif News Bureau Narayanpet, Oct. 16:

Police have arrested a woman, Ramulamma, for allegedly pouring petrol on her husband and setting him on fire, leading to his death, in Madhwar village under the limits of Marikal Police Station in Narayanpet district. She has been remanded to judicial custody.

Disclosing the details of the case at a press conference held at Marikal Police Station, DSP Nallapu Lingya said that the deceased, Thalapalli Balaswamy, 46, was a farmer and a resident of Madhwar village. He had

married Ramulamma around 28 years ago, and the couple had two sons. According to the police, frequent disputes arose between the couple over Balaswamy's alleged extramarital relationship with another woman from the same village. Police suspect that Ramulamma planned to kill her husband against this backdrop. The police said that shortly after midnight on September 24, 2026, while Balaswamy was asleep at home, Ramulamma allegedly poured petrol kept in the house for agricultural purposes on him and set him ablaze. He sustained severe

burn injuries and was initially shifted to the Government Hospital in Mahabubnagar. He was later transferred to Osmania General Hospital in Hyderabad for better treatment, where he died on September 25 while undergoing treatment. Initially, Ramulamma told the police that an unidentified person had knocked on the door, entered the house, threatened her with a knife and set her se from various angles. Based on circumstantial evidence, witness statements and evidence collected from the crime scene, investiga-

tors pursued the case further and allegedly established Ramulamma's role in the incident. DSP Lingya said the woman was taken into custody and questioned on the basis of the evidence. During interrogation, she allegedly confessed to the crime on October 15. Police registered a case against her under Sections 103(1) and 238 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and sent her to judicial remand. The DSP appreciated the personnel of Marikal Police Station for solving the murder case.

# Avoid Paddy Cultivation During Yasangi Season in View of El Niño Conditions: Khammam Collector

Munsif News Bureau Khammam, Oct. 16:

In view of the prevailing El Niño conditions in Khammam district, farmers have been advised to avoid paddy cultivation during the Yasangi (Rabi) season and instead opt for millets, pulses and other crops that require less water, District Collector Divakar T.S. said. He clarified that the available water would be reserved for drinking purposes and livestock needs, and no water would be released from irrigation projects, reservoirs or tanks for Yasangi cultivation.

On Friday, the Collector held a media conference at the Collectorate conference hall along with Police

Commissioner Sunil Dutt and Additional Collector P. Srinivasa Reddy. The briefing covered the impact of El Niño, Special Intensive Revision (SIR) 2026 and the registration of graduate voters for the Legislative Council elections. The Collector said that all 17 mandals in the district had recorded 20 per cent less rainfall than normal. Preliminary estimates indicated drought conditions in all 17 mandals, with severe drought in 10 mandals and moderate drought in the remaining seven. Groundwater levels, which stood at 2.5 metres after the previous monsoon, have now declined to 3.56 metres below ground level. In Kamalapuram, Yerrupalem, Sathupalli and

Enkoor mandals, the decline has reached 5 to 10 metres. Although recent cyclone-related rainfall provided some relief, groundwater levels are likely to decline again over the next 15 days, he said. The awareness campaign had helped reduce the area under paddy cultivation in the district by 90,000 acres. With the prospects of adequate rainfall remaining low until the next monsoon, farmers were urged to avoid paddy and cultivate less water-intensive crops, including millets and pulses. The Collector said the government was prepared to sanction work under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) to

provide employment to rural households facing drought conditions. More work has been sanctioned now than during the COVID-19 period, he added. Under the VB-G RAM G scheme, large-scale measures will be taken to improve groundwater levels. These include farm ponds, recharge pits, community water conservation structures and rainwater harvesting pits. The Collector said tanks in the Sathupalli and Wyra regions had been filled with Godavari water through the Sitarama Lift Irrigation Scheme. Excess water that flowed into the Palair Reservoir following the cyclone was also diverted to tanks through the Bhakta Ramadasu Lift Irrigation Scheme.

# Welfare Schemes Must Benefit Every Eligible Poor Family Regardless of Political Affiliation

Munsif News Bureau Hanamkonda, Oct. 16:

Warangal West MLA Naini Rajender Reddy said the government's objective is to ensure that the benefits of welfare schemes reach every eligible poor family, irrespective of political affiliation or party allegiance. He appealed to the public to support leaders who are genuinely committed to serving the people rather than pursuing their own political interests. At a programme held at Ambedkar Bhavan in Hanamkonda on Saturday, MLA



Naini Rajender Reddy distributed Indiramma Housing sanction letters to 210 beneficiaries from the Warangal West Assembly constituency. He also handed over financial assistance cheques under the Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak schemes to another 150

beneficiaries. Cheques worth a total of ₹1.55 crore were distributed under the two marriage assistance schemes. Addressing the gathering, Naini Rajender Reddy said the state government was giving top priority to the welfare of poor and middle-class families.

# Expedite Land Acquisition for National Highway Works: Collector Ila Tripathi

**Nizamabad, Oct 16 :** District Collector Ila Tripathi directed officials to expedite the land acquisition process required for the construction and expansion of national highways. On Friday, she conducted a review meeting in her chamber to discuss pending land acquisition issues related to national highway projects. She enquired about compensation to be paid to land-owners who would lose their land, compensation payments already completed.

# Awareness Programme on Prevention of Child Labour and Child Marriage

Munsif News Bureau Jogulamba Gadwal, Oct. 16:

An awareness programme on the prevention of child labour and child marriage was organised on October 16, 2026, at the Anganwadi Centre in Bangi Doddi village of Aija Mandal, under the aegis of the Secretary of the Jogulamba Gadwal District Legal Services Authority (DLSA). The programme was conducted by G. Nishka Patroodu.

Addressing the gathering as the chief speaker, DLSA Secretary G. Nishka Patroodu said that child labour and child marriage have serious consequences for children's futures. She advised parents to send their children to school instead



of engaging them in work. She explained that child marriage adversely affects girls' health, education and future prospects. She urged parents, villagers, public representatives and concerned officials to work together to prevent child marriages. She stated that promoting child labour is an offence un-

der the law and called upon everyone to act responsibly to prevent, discourage and report child marriages. Protecting children's rights is everyone's responsibility, she said, urging people to inform the concerned authorities whenever they come across cases of child labour or child marriage.

# Lucky Draw Held for Bodhan Liquor Bar Licence

**Nizamabad, Oct 16:** A lucky draw was conducted on Friday at the Integrated District Offices Complex (Collectorate) for issuing the licence through lottery for the newly sanctioned liquor bar for Bodhan town. The process continued amid tight arrangements under the leadership of Collector Ila Tripathi. A total of 19 applications were filed for the bar licence. In the presence of the applicants, the Collector conducted the lucky draw and finalized the licence for the bar allotment. The draw was conducted transparently by showing the tokens used for the lucky draw to everyone.



Peddapalli District Collector Koya Sri Harsha inspects various development works in Ramagundam and directs officials to complete them within stipulated deadlines, including expediting the Ramagundam-Lingapur road construction by promptly relocating obstructing electric poles and water pipelines.



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# Expedite Land Acquisition for National Highway Works: Collector Ila Tripathi

Munsif News Bureau Nizamabad, Oct. 16:

District Collector Ila Tripathi directed officials to expedite the land acquisition process required for the construction and expansion of national highways. On Friday, she conducted a review meeting in her chamber to discuss pending land acquisition issues related to national highway projects. She enquired about compensation to be paid to land-owners who would lose their

land, compensation payments already completed, prevailing market rates and the reasons for delays in handing over land in certain areas. The Collector instructed officials to give special attention to land acquisition for national highway construction and expansion works. She directed them to resolve pending issues at the earliest and hand over the acquired land to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI). She also emphasised the

need for officials from all concerned departments to work in coordination to ensure the timely completion of the process. Additional Collector Raja Goud, Armur Sub-Collector Abhigyan Malviya, Trainee Collector Suresh, Nizamabad and Bodhan Revenue Divisional Officers Rajendra Kumar and Vijaya Kumari, along with officials from the National Highways Authority and the Engineering Department, attended the meeting.

# T-BJP CHIEF ACCUSES RAHUL GANDHI OF JOINING HANDS WITH ANTI-NATIONAL FORCES

NSS Narayanpet, Oct. 16:

BJP Telangana president N. Ramchander Rao on Friday accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of joining hands with anti-national forces allegedly seeking "regime change" in India by triggering unrest and violence, drawing parallels with developments in Bangladesh. Addressing the media here at the BJP state office, Rao questioned Congress's silence over remarks allegedly made by lawyer Prashant Bhusan, All India Students Association

(AISA) president Neha Bora and Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) leader Abhijeet Dipke regarding regime change in India. He warned that the citizens of the country are closely observing the efforts of certain individuals who hold the national flag in one hand while attempting to create riots and anarchy in the country backed by foreign funding. He alleged that Rahul Gandhi and groups like "Urban Naxals" and the "Tukde-Tukde gang" were attempting to undermine democratic institutions, including the judiciary and the Election Commission of India.

# Complete Development Works in Ramagundam Within Stipulated Deadlines: Peddapalli Collector Koya Sri Harsha

Munsif News Bureau Tirumala, Oct. 16:

Peddapalli District Collector Koya Sri Harsha has directed officials concerned to expedite ongoing development works in

Ramagundam and complete them within the stipulated deadlines. On Friday, the Collector undertook an extensive tour of Ramagundam and inspected various development projects, including the Ramagundam-Lingapur

road construction, the new hospital building and nursing college building on the premises of the Ramagundam Government General Hospital, medical facilities at the government hospital, and the verification of applications received

under GO 76 in the 36th Division. He also reviewed the construction of additional classrooms at the Government Junior College in Ramagundam and the Government Junior Girls College in Sharda Nagar, besides inspecting a solar

power plant at Challapalli village in Manthani mandal. Expedite Ramagundam-Lingapur Road Works The Collector directed officials of the concerned departments to co-ordinate and take immediate steps

to relocate electric poles and water pipelines obstructing the construction of the Ramagundam-Lingapur road. He instructed them to begin the relocation work without delay so that road construction could be expedited and completed within the

stipulated timeframe. Complete New Government Hospital Building by January 15 Inspecting the new hospital building under construction on the premises of the Ramagundam Government General Hospital,

the Collector directed officials to accelerate the work and complete it by January 15. He instructed the officials to make the necessary arrangements to inaugurate the new hospital building during the Sankranti festival.



Minister for Animal Husbandry and Sports Vakiti Srihari on Friday presented silk robes to Goddess Jogulamba at the renowned Jogulamba temple in Alampur on behalf of the Telangana government on the occasion of the Dasara Sharannavaratri festival.

## NDA Schemes empower crores of Women: Claims T-BJP Chief

**NSS**  
Hyderabad, Oct. 16:

BJP Telangana president N Ramchander Rao on Friday asserted that the NDA government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi had empowered crores of women through various welfare schemes and called upon BJP Mahila Morcha workers to take the benefits of central programmes to every household.

Addressing the BJP Mahila Morcha state executive meeting in Hyderabad, Rao highlighted schemes such as PM Ujjwala Yojana, Jan Dhan Yojana, PM Mudra Yojana and Lakhpati Didi, stating that they had strengthened women's financial independence and self-respect.

He criticised the Congress, BRS and INDIA bloc par-



ties over their stand on the Women's Reservation Bill, which provides for 33 per cent reservation for women in legislative bodies. Accusing the opposition of obstructing women's empowerment, he cited central initiatives that provide free LPG connections, banking access, financial assistance to women farmers and livelihood opportunities through self-help groups.

Targeting the Congress government in Telangana, Rao

alleged that crimes against women had increased and demanded accountability from the state government. He called on Mahila Morcha workers to fight atrocities against women while spreading awareness about central welfare schemes.

BJP Mahila Morcha national president and MP Roop Kumari Choudhary said the Modi government had improved women's living standards through housing,

sanitation, drinking water and financial inclusion initiatives. She highlighted the contributions of women in business, science, defence and space research, besides the Lakhpati Didi and Drone Didi initiatives. Choudhary accused opposition leaders of double standards on women's issues and asserted that the BJP remained committed to providing women their rightful place in politics and public life. Expressing confidence in the party's growth in Telangana, she said Mahila Morcha workers would play a key role in strengthening the BJP in the state. BJP Mahila Morcha Telangana in-charge Nalini, state president Dr Mekala Shilpa Reddy, office-bearers, executive committee members and other party leaders attended the meeting.

# SUSTAINABLE PACKAGING A NECESSITY, NOT AN OPTION: CII

**NSS**  
Hyderabad, Oct. 16:

Sustainable packaging, circular economy practices and technological innovation took centre stage at TG-PackCON 2026, organised by CII Telangana in Hyderabad on Friday, with industry leaders and policymakers calling for stronger collaboration to enhance India's global competitiveness in the packaging sector.

The conference deliberated on sustainable materials, pharmaceutical and food safety, automation, regulatory compliance and export opportunities, emphasising the need to build a resilient and globally competitive packaging ecosystem.

M. Goutham Reddy, Chairman, CII Telangana,

said sustainability had become a necessity rather than an option for the packaging industry. He stressed that adopting eco-friendly solutions was crucial to reducing environmental impact while meeting evolving consumer and business needs.

A.V.P.S. Chakravarthy, Chairman of TG-PackCON 2026 and Chairman and Managing Director of Ecobliss India Private Limited, said the conference aimed to translate industry discussions into tangible outcomes. He highlighted the role of packaging in economic growth, manufacturing excellence and global trade, underscoring the need for sustainable materials, circular solutions and smart technologies.

R.P. Naidu, Regional

Head of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA), emphasised the importance of packaging innovation in strengthening India's agricultural and processed food exports.

He encouraged businesses to utilise APEDA's support schemes for export infrastructure, quality development and market access.

Dr. Narendran, Deputy Drugs Controller (India), Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO), highlighted the critical role of packaging and labelling in ensuring pharmaceutical quality and patient safety.

He stressed strict compliance with regulatory requirements to safeguard the

identity, strength and purity of medicines.

Gaurav Maheshwari, Vice Chairman, CII Telangana, called on the packaging industry to develop solutions that use fewer materials, consume less energy and offer greater recyclability while meeting changing consumer expectations.

The conference featured deliberations on four key themes: policy and global trade; pharmaceutical and life sciences packaging; circular economy and sustainable materials; and smart technologies and automation. Discussions covered export competitiveness, extended producer responsibility (EPR), design for recycling, regulatory compliance, artificial intelligence and digital supply-chain solutions.

## MOHINI AVATARAM MESMERIZES DEVOTEES

**NSS**  
Tirumala, Oct. 16:

On the bright sunny day on Friday witnessed Sri Malayappa donning Mohini.

The Universal celestial beauty Alankara as a part of ongoing Srivari Navaratri Brahmotsavams at Tirumala on fifth day.

The deity is specially adorned as Mohini—the enchanting beauty was taken in a grand procession.

On an ivory palanquin accompanied by Krishna Swamy on another palan-

quin.

The observance recalls the episode after the churning of the cosmic ocean, when the Devas and Asuras competed for amritam (nectar of immortality), Sri Maha Vishnu assumed the captivating Mohini form, diverted the Asuras, and ensured that the nectar was distributed to the Devas thereby protecting dharma.

In Tirumala's tradition, the Mohini Avataram symbolises that the Asuras' arrogance and desire were defeated, while

the Devas, who sought refuge in the almighty, received divine grace.

The Mohini Avataram represents the divine intervention to uphold righteousness and protect the virtuous.

Devotees are reminded that worldly attractions are part of divine Maya and the carrier teaches them not to be enslaved by desire and to seek liberation through devotion.

Both the Pontiffs, TTD higher officials, board members and a large gathering of devotees were also present.

## AP NDA allies finalise seat-sharing deal for urban local body polls

**NSS**  
Amaravati, Oct. 16:

Partners in the ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) in Andhra Pradesh have reached a seat sharing agreement for Urban Local Body elections.

After several rounds of talks among leaders of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP), Jana Sena Party (JSP) and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) during the last four days, the allies finalised the seat sharing on Thursday night. Initially there was a deadlock in the talks between TDP and JSP but both the parties adopted a give and take approach to reach an understanding.

The NDA partners finalised the seat sharing in line with the aspirations of their leaders

and cadres at the field level.

As per the agreement for the posts of mayor for 17 municipal corporations, the TDP will contest 11 posts, Jana Sena four and BJP two.

The coalition also reached an understanding for the posts of chairpersons of municipalities/nagar panchayats. The TDP will field candidates for 78 posts while Jana Sena will contest in 21 places. Seven posts have been left for the BJP. As per the agreement for all Urban Local Bodies, TDP has been allotted 72.35 per cent of the posts. Jana Sena got a share of 20.33 per cent and BJP 7.32 per cent.

If one ally gets the post of mayor/chairman, the other allies will be given the post of deputy mayor/vice-chairperson. The TDP will contest

for the posts of mayors of Vizianagaram, Visakhapatnam, Machilipatnam, Mangalagiri-Tadepalli, Guntur, Ongole, Nellore, Kurnool, Kadapa, Tirupati and Chittoor.

Jana Sena has been allotted Srikakulam, Kakinada, Eluru and Vijayawada while BJP will field its candidates for mayors in Rajamahendravaram and Anantapuram.

The seat adjustment was finalised after several round of talks among top leaders of the NDA partners during the last few days. Chief Minister and TDP National President N. Chandrababu Naidu, TDP state President Palla Srinivasa Rao, Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena chief Pawan Kalyan, state BJP President P.V.N. Madhav and other leaders participated in the talks.



District Collector K. Haritha has urged the people of Komaram Bheem Asifabad district, particularly those residing in remote and rural areas, to avail themselves of the free medical services being provided through the Lifeline Express train under the aegis of the Impact India Foundation.

## Pawan Kalyan appeals to Telagnana Graduates to back Jana Sena Candidate

**NSS**  
Amaravati, Oct. 16:

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and Jana Sena Party president Pawan Kalyan has appealed to Telangana graduates to elect his party candidate Dr. Gadala Srinivasa Rao from the Khammam-Nalgonda-Warangal Graduate MLC constituency.

Launching the Jana Sena Graduate Express campaign vehicle on Friday, Pawan Kalyan said the sacrifices and struggles of Telangana's youth had played a crucial role in the formation of the state, but several aspirations remained unfulfilled. He urged the graduates to give Jana Sena an opportunity to represent their concerns in the Legislative Council, describing the election as a chance to address the



political aspirations and future of the younger generation.

Pawan Kalyan said the campaign vehicle would travel across the region for 120 days, providing graduates an opportunity to share their problems, ideas and expectations with the candidate.

He called on graduates to support Gadala Srinivasa Rao and said he was seeking an op-

portunity to serve Telangana through the Graduate MLC constituency.

Recalling his early efforts in public service, Pawan Kalyan cited the evolution of his aspirations into large-scale initiatives in Andhra Pradesh, including the Jal Jeevan Dhara scheme, as an example of how determination could translate into public welfare.

## KISHAN REDDY ACCUSES RAHUL GANDHI OF CONSPIRING AGAINST MODI GOVT

**NSS**  
Hyderabad, Oct. 16:

Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy on Friday accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of conspiring with opposition parties and separatist forces to undermine Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government. He dismissed allegations of vote theft and defended the Election Commission's role in conducting elections impartially.

Addressing the media at the BJP state office in Hyderabad, Kishan Reddy alleged that Rahul Gandhi was attempting to weaken constitutional institutions and malign the Election Commission. He asserted that even if global powers united against Modi,



they could not destabilise the NDA government which had a popular mandate.

The Union Minister criticised Rahul Gandhi for allegedly targeting national security officials such as Ajit Doval, arguing that bringing individuals who had dedicated their lives to the country's security into political controversies was inappropriate.

Defending India's elec-

toral process, Kishan Reddy described the Election Commission as an independent institution that enables the mandate of 140 crore people to be reflected in election results.

He contrasted India's electoral process with those of other countries and accused Rahul Gandhi of attempting to undermine public confidence in democratic institutions.

## VIJAYAWADA DASARA FESTIVITIES GAINING NATIONAL PROMINENCE: CM NAIDU

**NSS**  
Vijayawada, Oct. 16:

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, accompanied by his wife N. Bhuvaneshwari, offered silk robes (pattu vastrams) to Goddess Kanaka Durga at the Sri Durga Malleswara Swamy Varla Devasthanam atop Indrakeeladri here on Friday on behalf of the State government.

The temple authorities accorded a traditional welcome to the Chief Minister, while Sthanacharya Siva Prasad Sharma adorned him with the customary Pariveshtam. The couple later entered the sanctum sanctorum carrying silk robes and a saree for the Goddess and performed special

pujas amid Vedic chants.

Priests blessed the Chief Minister and his wife at the Ashirvachana Mandapam. Darshan for ordinary devotees continued uninterrupted during the visit, bringing relief and happiness to pilgrims.

Speaking to the media, Chandrababu Naidu said he prayed for the happiness, prosperity and well-being of the people, abundant rainfall and the overall progress of Andhra Pradesh. He also sought the Goddess's blessings for eradicating poverty and improving living standards.

The Chief Minister said around eight lakh devotees had darshan of Goddess Kanaka Durga over the previous six days.



At a Glance

Bihar SI Held in Rs. 50,000 Bribery Case

BIANS Patna, Oct. 16

A Sub-Inspector, Neeraj Kumar, posted at Brahmampur police station in Bihar’s Buxar district, was arrested by the Vigilance Investigation Bureau for allegedly accepting a bribe of ₹50,000.

A nine-member team led by DSP Vinod Kumar caught him during a trap operation following a complaint that he had repeatedly demanded the money for favourable assistance in a police case.

Vigilance team member Ashish Chaubey said the operation was based on the complaint. Dumraon SDPO Bhaskar Ranjan confirmed the arrest and said the matter was under investigation.

The accused was questioned at a private hotel near the National Highway in Brahmampur and is expected to be produced before the Special Vigilance Court in Patna.

In a separate case, Bihar’s Economic Offence Unit arrested former investigating officer Rajendra Ram on October 10 over alleged irregularities in the identification and auction of a seized Scorpio linked to a liquor consignment in Gopalganj. He has been remanded to judicial custody.

10 Arrested in Rajkot Robbery-Murder Case

BIANS Rajkot, Oct. 16

Gujarat Police have arrested 10 people in connection with the robbery and murder of refinery manager Lalajibhai Sardhara in Rajkot on October 14.

The accused allegedly shot Sardhara when he resisted an attempt to snatch a bag containing refined gold and silver worth Rs 1.53 crore outside Tanvi Export India Limited.

Police teams traced the suspects using CCTV footage and technical surveillance, coordinating with Rajasthan Police to intercept the vehicles allegedly used in the crime.

The stolen precious metals were recovered within hours. Police also seized two cars and eight mobile phones, taking the total value of seized property to Rs 1.57 crore. Further investigation is under way.

DAYS AFTER BLUE DRUM CASE VERDICT, ANOTHER MEERUT MURDER CONVICTION

BIANS Meerut, Oct. 16

A Meerut court on Friday sentenced Ravita and her lover Amardeep to death for murdering her husband, Amit Kashyap, and allegedly staging the death as a snakebite.

The verdict came days after another Meerut court sentenced Muskan Rastogi and Sahil Shukla to death for killing Muskan’s husband, Saurabh Rajput, and concealing his dismembered body in a drum.

Ravita and Amardeep were convicted on October 7 and appeared through

INDIA AGREES TO MALDIVES REQUEST FOR ROLLOVER OF RS 30 BILLION SWAP FACILITY

BIANS New Delhi, Oct. 16

India has approved the request of the Maldives government for the rollover of a Rs 30 billion currency swap facility as part of New Delhi’s ‘Neighbours First’ policy and the commitment to deepening bilateral relations with the island nation, according to an official statement issued on Friday.

The facility is being extended under the Framework on Currency Swap Arrangement for SAARC countries, signed between the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the Maldives Monetary Authority during Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu’s state visit to India in October 2024.

The first drawdown of Rs 30 billion was extended to the Maldivian government on April 23 this year.

The currency swap arrangement provides the Maldives with access to Indian rupees, helping support liquidity and financial stability when needed. For India, continued financial assistance also forms part of



its broader engagement with a strategically important Indian Ocean neighbour.

Under the 2024–27 framework, the bilateral currency swap arrangement provides concessions, including favourable interest rates and other conditions. Since the framework was introduced in 2012, the RBI has provided aggregate swap support of more than \$1.1 billion to the Maldives.

India has also supported the Maldives through investments in government securities. It subscribed to two long-term treasury

bonds worth \$250 million and \$100 million. In addition, three treasury bills worth \$150 million subscribed by India have been settled by the Maldives, with the Indian government paying \$42.8 million in interest incurred on the securities.

The currency swap facility and its subscriptions to Maldivian treasury bonds and bills have played an important role in supporting the country’s financial stability.

The latest decision comes against the backdrop of India’s broader efforts to deepen economic and strategic ties

with the Maldives.

Maldives holds a special place under India’s Neighbourhood First Policy and its MAHASAGAR vision — Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions. India is also committed to deepening the bilateral relationship with the Maldives, including by implementing the Joint Vision for a Comprehensive Economic and Maritime Security Partnership, adopted during Muizzu’s visit in October 2024, the statement added.

KHARGE WRITES TO PM MODI, SEEKS ALL-PARTY MEETING TO DISCUSS NEW BILLS

BIANS New Delhi, Oct. 16

Congress President and Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge, on Friday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking an all-party meeting to discuss bills and other proposals.

Highlighting that the Constitutional Amendment Bill on Delimitation failed to muster the necessary two-thirds majority in the Lok Sabha on April 17, 2026, by a decisive margin, Kharge wrote, “Please convene an all-party meeting to have a detailed discussion on your new proposals before they are finalised for consideration in Parliament.”

The LoP said, “All political parties must get sufficient time to deliberate among themselves, with each other and with all other stakeholders. Please do not once again try and bulldoze a far-reaching Constitutional Amendment Bill through Parliament as you attempted earlier and that met its well-deserved fate.”



Kharge said, “You may kindly recall that I had first written to you on April 11, 2026 to convene an all-party meeting before bringing any Constitutional Amendment Bill on Delimitation. You did not do so. Thereafter, you made the Bills public on the late evening of April 14, 2026 and convened a special session on April 16, 2026.”

“Thereafter, on July 16, 2026 and August 27, 2026, I again repeated my request for an all-party meeting. I am now doing so for a fourth time,” wrote Kharge.

The Congress President also expressed concern over the fact that both Houses of Parliament

are yet to be prorogued since the adjournment in August.

“It has already been 64 days since the Monsoon Session of Parliament was adjourned on August 13, 2026, and both Houses of Parliament are yet to be prorogued. This scenario is unprecedented,” said Kharge.

The Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026 — along with the companion Delimitation Bill, 2026 and Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026 — was introduced in the Lok Sabha on April 16 by Minister of State for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal, but failed to pass after being rejected in the Lok Sabha on April 17.

FSSAI ISSUES NOTICES TO RADISSON BLU OPERATOR, FLIPKART AND BIGBASKET

BIANS New Delhi, Oct. 16

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has issued notices to AB Hotels Ltd, operator of Radisson Blu Hotel, and e-commerce companies Flipkart and BigBasket over food safety lapses and edible-oil claims.

At Radisson Blu, the regulator reported rusted machinery, freezer leakage and shortcomings in refrigeration, temperature monitoring, ventilation, flooring and lighting. It also flagged cleaning, stagnant water, drainage and food-waste problems, pest activity, and inadequate supply checks. Fungal-affected and deteriorated fruits and vegetables were reportedly received, while vendor records and traceability were deficient.

The FSSAI said cooking-oil suitability checks were not conducted and oil with total polar compound



(TPC) values of 31 and 24.4 was being used in the NYC Kitchen. It also noted improper separation of raw and cooked foods and vegetarian and non-vegetarian items, and food handlers without gloves or hairnets, wearing jewellery or keeping long nails.

AB Hotels was directed to take immediate corrective action and submit an Action Taken Report. Non-compliance could lead to further action, including suspension of its FSSAI licence.

The regulator also ques-

tioned Gemini Edibles & Fats India Ltd, Innovative Retail Concepts Pvt Ltd (BigBasket) and Flipkart India Pvt Ltd over claims promoting “Freedom Cooking Rice Bran Oil”. Online and social media promotions said the oil reduced bad cholesterol, maintained or increased good cholesterol and contained “10,000+ PPM Natural Oryzanol”.

The FSSAI said the claims were not permitted under the Advertising and Claims Regulations, 2018. It said Gemini

Edibles offered products through its own e-commerce website without a valid Central Licence for e-commerce activity. The firms have been asked to show cause why action should not be initiated.

The regulator suspended DNV Food Products Ltd’s licence after finding manufacturing, packing and storage under unhygienic conditions. Inspectors reported flies, stagnant water and cobwebs, including a fly in direct contact with papad.

GOVT RAISES PETROL EXPORT DUTY TO RS 2.5 PER LITRE, SLASHES FOR DIESEL

BIANS Shillong, Oct. 16

The government has raised the windfall tax on exports of petrol to Rs 2.5 per litre and cut the duty on diesel, effective from Friday.

As per the Finance Ministry notification, the export duty on petrol was raised to Rs 2.5 per litre from Rs 0.5 per litre.

While the duty on diesel exports was cut to Rs 8.5 per litre from Rs 16 per litre, effective October 16, according to the ministry’s order.

In addition, the export duties are reviewed every fortnight and adjusted in line with movements in international crude oil and



petroleum product prices.

The latest revision follows several changes to petroleum export duties in recent months amid volatility in international oil prices and geopolitical tensions.

In September, the government had reduced the windfall tax and export levies on petrol, diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) as part of its fort-

nightly review. The duty on petrol exports was cut to Rs 0.5 per litre, comprising Special Additional Excise Duty (SAED) of Rs 0.5 per litre.

In the previous revision effective September 1, the government had reduced the export levy on diesel to Rs 1 per litre from Rs 3 per litre and cut the windfall tax on diesel exports to Rs 19 per litre from Rs

24 per litre.

In August, the government had raised the export duty on petrol to Rs 3.5 per litre from Rs 2.5 per litre. The total duty on diesel was increased to Rs 25.5 per litre from Rs 15.5 per litre, while the ATF export levy was raised to Rs 22 per litre from Rs 14.5 per litre.

The government first imposed windfall taxes on fuel exports in July 2022 to capture super-normal profits earned by refiners when global crude prices surged following the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

Earlier, the government reintroduced the tax in March 2026 after crude prices jumped during the US-Israeli war on Iran.



within 24 hours of the incident. Investigators alleged the pair planned the murder and bought a snake from a snake charmer for Rs 1,000, claiming it was for a religious ritual, before placing it beside Amit to mislead his family and police.

Amit’s brother, Monu Kashyap, lodged a complaint at Bahsuma police station on April 16, 2025. Police filed the charge sheet within 60 days. The court held 87 hearings over 551 days, with more than 12 prosecution witnesses testifying.



**At a Glance**



**India reiterates call to end Gulf conflict**

**IAN S**  
United Nations, Oct. 16

India has urged an end to the Gulf conflict through dialogue and diplomacy, envoy P. Harish told the Security Council. Annual trade with Gulf Cooperation Council states is \$180 billion, with remittances exceeding \$52 billion. Protecting 10 million Indians and seafarers' safety are priorities at sea. Harish condemned attacks on shipping, citing India-flagged MV DP World Cauvery and vessels. India proposed a Seafarers Emergency Support Network to coordinate distress alerts and medical aid. He called for protecting Palestinian civilians and backed humanitarian relief and a negotiated two-state solution. India has contributed \$52 million to the UN agency for Palestinian refugees.

**Microsoft's Brad Smith hits back at Vance over H-1B curbs**

**IAN S**  
Washington, Oct. 16

Microsoft President Brad Smith called Vice President JD Vance's claim that it abuses H-1B visas "completely off base". Smith told Politico most green-card applications were for long-time employees delayed by backlogs. He denied paying foreign workers less than Americans, saying comparable roles receive equal pay. The US suspended permanent labour certification filings by eight companies, including Microsoft and Indian IT firms Infosys, TCS, Wipro and HCLTech. Vance accused Microsoft of using visas to avoid hiring Americans at higher salaries. No company had been charged. Smith warned that restricting skilled immigrants' path to green cards could damage US technology in America for a generation and beyond.

**SOUTH KOREAN PRESIDENT LEE'S APPROVAL RATING RISES AFTER DIPPING**

**IAN S**  
Tehran, Oct. 16

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung's approval rating rose two percentage points to 39 per cent after hitting a record low in the previous two weekly polls, a Gallup Korea survey showed on Friday. The poll of 1,003 adults found that 52 per cent disapproved of Lee's performance, up one point from the previous week. His approval had fallen to 37 per cent in the two ear-

**TRUMP CLAIMS CARTELS RUN MEXICO, WARNS OF ACTION ON LAND**

**IAN S**  
Washington, Oct. 16

US President Donald Trump claimed that drug cartels effectively controlled Mexico and warned that his administration was preparing to intensify operations against trafficking networks on land, while acknowledging that the Mexican government was unhappy with his assessment. Speaking at a White House Rose Garden lunch honouring first responders, Trump said the United States had sharply reduced maritime drug trafficking and was expanding efforts against criminal networks operating across the southern border. "We're working with Mexico. But unfortunately, the cartels run Mexico. I tell that to the president of Mexico. She's not happy. She's a great woman, wonderful woman, but the cartels run Mexico," Trump said. Trump claimed that the volume of drugs entering through maritime routes had fallen by 97 per cent, but did not specify the period or data behind the figure.



Trump referred to missile strikes against suspected drug-trafficking vessels, claiming the operations had discouraged traffickers from attempting maritime crossings. "Those missiles come and they hit those boats dead center, and you feel terribly for the people," he said. Trump said his administration was preparing to step up action against land-based trafficking routes, particularly those linked to Mexican cartels. "We know all the paths, we know where all the bad guys are, the cartels. We know where they live and we're hitting them hard, but it's going to be harder as we go along," he said. He suggested cartel members had been given a period in which to surrender, but offered no details about the warning or how it would be enforced. "They know they have a certain period of time to essentially give up. Mexico should be doing it, but honestly, they're not capable of doing it," Trump said. The President separately claimed that fentanyl flows across the southern border had declined by 67 per cent. He credited Immigration

and Customs Enforcement and Border Patrol personnel with strengthening security and confronting trafficking organisations. Trump described the border as the most secure in American history and said illegal crossings had fallen sharply. He also praised National Border Patrol Council President Paul Perez, who addressed the gathering and credited the administration with improving national security. Perez said the administration had provided unprecedented support to first responders and border enforcement personnel. The comments highlighted the administration's focus on border enforcement and narcotics interdiction. Trump gave no details of any new operation, its timing or the legal basis for possible action on Mexican territory. Mexico's response was not included in the material provided to the press. Trump's percentages and assertions about cartel control were claims made during his remarks; the account provided no independent evidence to substantiate them.

**RUSSIAN EXTRADITED TO US OVER TECH SMUGGLING**

**IAN S**  
Washington, Oct. 16

A 52-year-old Russian national has been extradited from Sweden to the United States to face charges of running an international procurement network that allegedly smuggled American-made electronic components with military applications to Russia through front companies in Hong Kong, the Justice Department said. Alexander Suvorov was extradited to the Northern District of New York on Thursday and is expected to make his first appearance before a federal court in Albany on Friday, October 16. He faces three conspiracy charges involving international money laundering, smuggling and violations of US export control laws. Two of the charges each carry a maximum prison sentence of 20 years. Suvorov orchestrated a network which illegally obtained sensitive electronic components from American companies and

shipped them to Russia. AS such, he concealed their intended destination through commercial entities registered in Hong Kong, federal prosecutors alleged. The alleged operation ran between March 2022 and April 2023. According to the criminal complaint, the network targeted dual-use electronic components capable of serving both civilian and military purposes. Some of the components allegedly exported to Russia could be used in military communications, radar equipment and precision location systems, raising concerns about their potential application in Russian defence capabilities. "Alexander Suvorov was the alleged mastermind behind an international procurement network that illegally supplied buyers in Russia with American-made electronic components that have military applications," said Roman Rozhavsky, assistant director of the FBI's

Counterintelligence and Espionage Division. The FBI official said the extradition demonstrated Washington's determination to prevent sensitive American technology from reaching the Russian military. Suvorov allegedly maintained several Hong Kong-based front companies, including GS Group Limited, which were used to purchase electronic components from US suppliers. Investigators believe these companies helped conceal the Russian end users of the products, allowing shipments to move from the United States through Hong Kong before reaching their ultimate destinations in Russia. The complaint also alleges that Suvorov and his companies transferred money electronically to various American businesses to pay for the components. The Justice Department described the operation as an effort to evade restrictions designed to prevent Russia from obtaining sensitive US technology. "Those, like the defendant, as alleged, who seek to enrich themselves by evading economic sanctions on Russia, must understand that their actions carry serious consequences and will not be tolerated," said John A. Sarcone III, first assistant US attorney for the Northern District of New York. Sarcone said American authorities would continue pursuing individuals suspected of undermining national security through illicit procurement operations. The first charge against Suvorov involves conspiracy to commit international promotional money laundering, punishable by up to 20 years in prison and a \$500,000 fine. The second concerns conspiracy to commit outbound smuggling, carrying a maximum sentence of five years and a \$250,000 fine. The third alleges conspiracy to violate the Export Control Reform Act, which carries a maximum penalty of 20 years and a \$1 million fine.

**WORLD FACES 800 MILLION JOBS GAP, WARNS AJAY BANGA**

**IAN S**  
Washington, Oct. 16

The world faces a shortfall of nearly 800 million jobs over the next 10 to 15 years, World Bank President Ajay Banga has warned, calling for changes in development financing. Addressing the World Bank Group's 2026 Annual Meeting in Bangkok, Banga said 1.2 billion young people would enter the global workforce over the next 15 years, while only 400 million jobs were projected to become available. "The jobs gap is a projection. It does not have to be our future," he said, urging public finance, private investment, philanthropy and technology to accelerate development. Conflicts, rising debt, limited fiscal space and high energy and fertiliser costs were making the challenge harder for developing economies. Since taking office in June 2023, Banga said, the World Bank had reformed operations to expand lending, reduce bureaucracy and mobilise private capital. Project preparation fell from 19 months to nine,



while performance indicators dropped from 153 to 22. The reforms created more than \$100 billion in additional lending capacity for the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development over a decade. Private capital mobilised rose from \$35 billion in fiscal 2022 to \$112 billion last year. With the group's financing, total funding exceeded \$230 billion. Investors from 110 countries contributed, led by the United States, the United Kingdom and India, Banga said. However, private capital mobilisation in low-income economies remained around \$3 billion. The bank committed \$40 billion last year to infrastructure, health-care, education and skills. Banga said smaller AI applications could help farmers improve productivity, teachers personalise instruction and entrepreneurs reach new markets. Under Mission 300, 59 million Africans had gained electricity access, with the initiative aiming to connect 300 million people by 2030. The bank plans to increase its critical minerals business fivefold within five years. Banga said six multilateral development banks were standardising investment transfers so institutional investors could finance existing projects, freeing development-bank capital for new ones.

**VANCE ATTACKS MUSLIM DEMOCRAT IN SENATE RACE**

**IAN S**  
Washington, Oct. 16

US Vice President JD Vance and Republicans attacked Muslim Democratic Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed at a rally in Monroe, Michigan, accusing him of sympathising with extremist organisations. Vance was campaigning for Republican candidate Mike Rogers. Rogers, a former FBI agent and chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, accused El-Sayed of concealing alleged links to the Muslim Brotherhood and Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. "He is the most extreme, dangerous candidate to ever run for the United States Senate in the history of our country and we have to stop him right here in Michigan," Rogers said. Rogers questioned El-Sayed's family associations, and cited a letter the Democrat allegedly signed in 2012 concerning political develop-



ments in Egypt. Vance accused El-Sayed of prioritising foreign issues over Michigan residents' concerns. "He is obsessed with the state of Israel and with Gaza he's ten times more interested in what's happening in Palestine than in Port Huron," he said. Vance also questioned El-Sayed's account of his background, alleging the Michigan-born candidate had described himself as an immigrant from North Africa and claimed Egyptian citizenship. He referred to an attack on a Jewish institution in Michigan, alleging El-Sayed showed greater sympathy for the perpetrator than the victims. Vance cited remarks attributed to the Democrat without giving context. Congresswoman Lisa McClain, chairwoman of the House Republican Conference, accused El-Sayed of embracing communist ideology and criticised his positions on immigration, public spending and healthcare. Republican speakers portrayed El-Sayed as extreme and linked his candidacy to disputes over immigration, policing and government spending. The attacks highlighted Michigan's importance in the Republicans' efforts to retain congressional control.

**IMF WARNS AI BOOM COULD TRIGGER MARKET TURMOIL**

**IAN S**  
Washington, Oct. 16



The International Monetary Fund has warned that the artificial intelligence boom could destabilise markets if investment and borrowing outpace productivity gains. IMF Managing Director

Kristalina Georgieva said AI spending was supporting growth in the US and Asia, but risks are mounting. Technology companies are increasingly using debt to fund expansion. Their share of investment-grade bond issuance linked to AI infrastructure rose more than tenfold in two years, from below one per cent to about 10 per cent, she said. Close ties between technology firms and AI developers could amplify losses if expected returns

fail to materialise. Falling revenues or cybersecurity failures could undermine confidence and spread financial stress internationally. The IMF says AI could lift productivity and add about half a percentage point to annual global economic growth over the next decade. However, gains will take time as businesses adapt. About 40 per cent of jobs worldwide are exposed to AI, rising to 60 per cent in advanced economies, IMF esti-

mates. Exposure does not automatically mean job losses: some workers may become more productive, while other roles face disruption. The fund said there was not yet clear evidence of a broad employment impact. Georgieva urged regulators to strengthen financial supervision and cyber defences. Central banks should assess AI's effects on inflation and growth, while governments prepare for changes in tax revenues, labour income and inequality.

## India-UK CETA to deliver substantial long-term gains for both economies



Three months after the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) entered into force, the pact is already reshaping commercial ties and could deliver substantial long-term gains for their economies, a new report has said.

A high-level British trade mission of over 100–200 companies, three cabinet ministers, and seven northern English mayors arrived in India within three months of agreement entering force, proving that the deal is already reshaping commercial realities, the report from India Narrative said.

Official UK modelling projects a long-run annual boost to bilateral trade of 25.5 billion pounds and GDP gains of 4.8 billion pounds for the UK and 5.1 billion pounds for India, while real wages in the UK are expected to rise by nearly \$2.9 billion due to the effect of the pact, the publication said.

CETA offers the United Kingdom a growth anchor outside the European Union and preferential access to one of the world’s fastest-expanding large economies. Further, the UK gains a platform for services, finance, and high-value manufacturing.

India gains immediate export competitiveness in labour-intensive goods, deeper services integration, professional mobility relief, and a template for ambitious FTAs with other advanced economies.

The deal’s early commercial impact was visible on the first day of implementation, when Indian exporters shipped over 50 consignments worth about \$140 million under zero-duty terms. In August, bilateral goods trade rose nearly 15 per cent year-on-year to nearly \$2 billion, with Indian exports up about 10 per cent and UK imports into India rising faster by 24 per cent.

“Tariff-free Scottish salmon arrived within a fortnight; Scotch whisky began clearing at the new reduced rate; and the first cars under the automotive tariff-rate quota entered India,” the report noted.

The report cited Bank of Baroda estimates that Indian goods exports to the UK could rise from nearly \$13.5–14 billion toward \$24 billion by FY31 at a 12.5 per cent CAGR, against a \$900 billion UK import market.

Implemented on July 15, 2026, the deal is the most comprehensive trade agreement India has ever concluded and the United Kingdom’s largest bilateral pact since Brexit.

The agreement eliminates duties on 96.8 per cent of tariff lines from day one and phases out further tariffs over time, immediately benefiting sectors such as textiles, leather, footwear, gems and jewellery, and processed foods.

India has also opened up services and procurement markets, including a central-government procurement market estimated at nearly 38 billion pounds a year.

## Inflation Amid Drought in Telangana: A Growing Burden on Farmers and Consumers

*An editorial on the impact of drought conditions on prices, rural livelihoods and the state's economy*

Telangana’s economy faces a serious challenge when drought conditions coincide with rising prices of essential commodities. Agriculture remains a major source of livelihood for a significant section of the state’s population, and any disruption to rainfall, irrigation and crop production can have consequences far beyond the farm. The impact is felt in rural employment, food supplies, household purchasing power and the cost of living. In such circumstances, inflation is not merely an economic indicator; it becomes a question of livelihood security and social justice.

Drought and inflation reinforce each other. When rainfall is deficient or irregular, farmers face declining yields, higher irrigation costs and increased expenditure on seeds, fertilisers, pesticides and diesel. Crops such as paddy, cotton, maize, pulses and vegetables may suffer, depending on the severity and location of the rainfall deficit. Reduced production can tighten market supplies and push up prices, particularly for perishable vegetables and other essential food items. If farmers are forced to purchase water, deepen borewells or rely on costly pumping systems, their production costs rise even when the eventual harvest is poor.

The consequences are particularly severe for small and marginal farmers. Unlike larger agricultural enterprises, they often have limited savings and weaker access to affordable credit. A failed crop can leave them struggling to repay loans, meet household expenses and finance the next agricultural season. Thus, drought-induced inflation can create a double burden: farmers receive lower returns from reduced output while paying more for agricultural inputs and everyday necessities.

### The impact on ordinary households

The effects of drought-related inflation extend well beyond farming communities. When food prices rise, low-income households are disproportionately affected because they spend a larger share of their earnings on food, cooking fuel, transport and other necessities. Even a modest increase in the prices of vegetables, pulses, edible oils and cereals can force families to cut expenditure on nutrition, healthcare and education.

Urban consumers in Hyderabad, Warangal, Karimnagar, Nizamabad and other towns are not insulated from rural distress. Agricultural markets connect villages and cities, and supply disruptions can be reflected in retail prices. At the same time, higher transport, storage and energy costs can magnify price increases between the farm gate and the consumer.

There is also a less visible consequence. When agricultural incomes decline, demand for goods and services in rural markets weakens. Small traders, transport operators, agricultural labourers and local businesses may all suffer. A drought that begins as a weather-related problem can therefore develop into a wider economic slowdown.

### Why the inflation challenge requires careful assessment

It is important, however, not to attribute every increase in prices to drought. Inflation in Telangana is also influenced by national food prices, fuel costs, transport expenses, supply-chain inefficiencies, market speculation and fluctuations in demand. The extent of drought-related inflation depends on the actual rainfall deficit, reservoir and groundwater conditions, crop losses, market arrivals and the availability of supplies from other states. Moreover, drought does not affect every commodity

in the same way. A shortage of local vegetables may cause an immediate increase in prices, whereas the effect on cereals or other crops may emerge later, depending on harvest cycles and national stocks. Government intervention, imports from other regions and effective distribution systems can also moderate price pressures.

A sound assessment of Telangana’s current inflation situation must therefore consider the latest state-level Consumer Price Index data, food inflation figures, rainfall statistics, reservoir storage and agricultural production estimates. Without these current figures, it would be premature to claim a particular inflation rate or quantify the precise contribution of drought to rising prices.

### What the Telangana government must do

The government’s response should combine immediate relief with long-term resilience.

First, protect the food security of vulnerable households. Public distribution systems must function efficiently, with adequate supplies reaching eligible families. Where essential commodities experience sudden price spikes, the government should consider targeted market interventions, fair-price outlets and temporary support for the most vulnerable households.

Second, provide timely assistance to farmers. Crop-loss assessments, eligible compensation, crop insurance settlements and institutional credit relief should be processed without unnecessary delays. Farmers affected by crop failure must not be pushed into distress borrowing merely to meet basic expenses or prepare for the next season.

Third, strengthen water management. Telangana needs a coordinated approach to reservoir management, groundwater conservation, watershed development, farm ponds and the restoration of local water bodies. Micro-irrigation, drought-resistant crop varieties and agricultural advisories tailored to local rainfall conditions can reduce vulnerability. In water-stressed areas, crop planning must reflect the actual availability of water rather than encourage cultivation patterns that expose farmers to repeated losses.

Fourth, improve agricultural markets. Better storage facilities, cold chains, rural transport and market information can reduce wastage and moderate sudden price fluctuations. Direct links between farmers and consumers, where practical, can also reduce unnecessary intermediaries. Authorities should monitor abnormal price movements without treating every increase as evidence of hoarding.

Fifth, generate rural employment. Timely implementation of employment programmes, including the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, can provide an income cushion when farm work declines. Such programmes should, wherever possible, support drought-proofing activities such as water conservation, desilting and land restoration.

### The need for a long-term strategy

Telangana cannot afford to treat every drought as



an isolated emergency. Climate variability, uncertain monsoons and growing pressure on groundwater make preparedness essential. District-level contingency plans should identify vulnerable crops, drinking-water needs, livestock requirements and alternative livelihood opportunities before a crisis becomes severe.

The state should also strengthen coordination among agricultural, irrigation, civil supplies, rural development and finance departments. Timely information is crucial: rainfall deficits must be identified early, crop damage assessed transparently and price movements monitored from wholesale markets to retail outlets. Such coordination would help the government distinguish temporary supply disruptions from deeper inflationary pressures and respond accordingly.

The Union government also has an important role in maintaining adequate food stocks, ensuring affordable access to essential commodities and coordinating inter-state supplies when regional production falls. Since monetary policy is determined by the Reserve Bank of India, broader inflation management must complement state-level measures aimed at agricultural supply, distribution and household relief.

### Conclusion: Relief today, resilience tomorrow

Inflation amid drought is more than a matter of rising market prices. It reflects the vulnerability of farmers to weather shocks and the vulnerability of poor households to sudden increases in the cost of living. For Telangana, the challenge is to prevent a shortfall in rainfall from turning into a crisis of farm indebtedness, food insecurity and declining rural demand.

The government must act on two fronts: immediate protection for farmers and consumers, and sustained investment in water security, climate-resilient agriculture and efficient food distribution. Relief measures should be timely, transparent and directed towards those who need them most.

Ultimately, the success of Telangana’s response should not be measured merely by whether inflation falls in the coming months. It should also be judged by whether farmers can survive a failed monsoon without falling into debt, whether workers can afford nutritious food, and whether rural communities can withstand future climatic shocks.

A drought may be caused by the failure of the rains, but a prolonged economic crisis need not follow. With prudent planning, responsive governance and a commitment to protecting vulnerable households, Telangana can reduce the human cost of drought and build a more resilient agricultural economy.

## India on track to leapfrog Japan in global GDP rankings

India is poised to become the world’s fourth-largest economy in 2027, overtaking Japan in nominal GDP terms, a report has said.

According to an analysis by The Star, the IMF report underscored the diverging economic trajectories of Asia’s two largest democracies.

The report’s forecasts indicate that Japan is expected to retain the fourth position this year but India is projected to move ahead by 2027 with an economy valued at about \$4.5 trillion.

The shift would push Japan down to sixth place, behind both India and the United Kingdom, it said.

The projected change comes as India continues to post robust economic growth despite an uncertain global backdrop.

Moreover, the highlighted growth forecast for India in 2026 to 7 per cent, highlighting the country’s resilience amid geopolitical tensions and external



economic shocks.

Earlier in October, speaking during the release of the IMF’s Asia-Pacific regional economic outlook, a senior IMF official said India entered the recent surge in global energy prices from a position of strength, supported by solid growth, fiscal discipline and substantial foreign exchange reserves.

According to the IMF, these strong macroeconomic fundamentals have enabled India to navigate the impact of higher ener-

gy costs more effectively than many other economies.

Meanwhile, Japan continues to grapple with a range of structural challenges, including an ageing population, weak domestic demand and sluggish long-term growth. The IMF has expected that Japan’s economy to expand by only 0.7 per cent in 2026.

Higher energy costs and broader inflationary pressures have also weighed on the Japanese economy.

The country has witnessed sustained increases in consumer prices since 2022 with recent geopolitical developments adding to inflationary pressures through elevated fuel and energy costs.

“The fall of the yen, which hit its lowest level in 40 years against the dollar over the summer, is further driving up the cost of imports,” says The Star.

It further noted that Japan’s ageing population is also weighing on economic activity.

## 1st Kanda Express with 440 metric tonnes onions to reach Agartala: Govt

In an effort to strengthen onion availability in the northeast region, the first-ever Kanda Express carrying approximately 440 metric tonnes (MT) of onions is expected to reach Agartala by October 18, an official statement said on Friday.

To ensure affordable prices ahead of the festive season, the Department of Consumer Affairs is expanding the distribution of buffer onions under the Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF).

The move is expected to enhance market coverage across seven of Tripura’s eight districts: Dhalai, South Tripura, Khowai, Unakoti, West Tripura, Gomati, and Sepahijala.

So far, two Kanda Express rail rakes, carrying 840 MT and 452 MT of onions, respectively, and 44 truck consignments carrying a total of 1,513.46 MT have supplied buffer onions across northeast.

The distribution has covered key locations in Assam,



Tripura and Nagaland, including Kamrup, Guwahati, Gomati, Dimapur, Sepahijala, Kohima, Nuland and Chumoukedima, said Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

In Assam, retail onion prices have also moderated in recent weeks, with around 12 centres in the state recording a decline ranging from Rs 1 to Rs 8 per kg.

The disparity between Assam’s average retail on-

ion prices and the All-India average has narrowed significantly over the past two years. Two years ago, the average retail price in Assam stood at Rs 61.96 per kg, compared with the All-India average of Rs 54.13 per kg, representing a difference of Rs 7.83 per kg. Currently, Assam’s average retail price is Rs 54.30 per kg, while the All-India average stands at Rs 53.07 per kg, reducing the difference to Rs 1.23 per kg.

The expansion of rail-

based and road-based distribution is aimed at improving the reach of buffer stocks and supplementing market supplies in key consumption centres across the region, said the statement. With fresh Kharif arrivals gathering pace, onion mandi prices have moderated across major markets.

The All-India average mandi price declined from a peak of approximately Rs 3,600 per quintal in September to around Rs 3,300 per quintal in October.



# 5th T20I: Bengaluru weather threatens to wash out series decider

Bengaluru, Oct. 16:

India and West Indies fans hoping to watch another run feast in this high-scoring T20I series may have to curb their expectations, as rain threatens the fifth and final T20I between the two sides at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru on Saturday.

Rain splashed Bengaluru on Friday as waterlogging concerns have also come to the fray. The downpours are expected to continue over the next few days, and the same is the case for Saturday, the match day for the fifth contest.

As per Accuweather, there are 90% chances of precipitation in Bengaluru on Saturday. Going by hourly predictions, the weather forecast points to significant chances of precipitation from the afternoon onwards.

At 12 noon, there are only 11% chances of rain, while they increase to 34% over the next two hours. The downpour prediction



stands at 40% at 3 PM, before rocketing up to 68% and 71% over the next two hours, which highlights that the build-up to the game can be wet.

At 6 PM, an hour before the first ball, the rain chances stand at 49% before going up to 64% at 7 PM and then remaining at 49% for the next two hours. It fluctuates to 56% at 10 PM and 49% at 11 PM. India and West Indies are locked at 2-2 in the ongoing series, which has seen 220-plus totals look dwarfed. India chased a

middling 172 in the first T20I in Lucknow before the Windies hunted down a huge 250 in the second game in Ranchi.

India defended 223 in the third match in Indore by 14 runs but failed to chase 248 in the fourth game in Hyderabad, losing by 24 runs.

Bengaluru is also known to be unforgiving to the bowlers, as we have seen several high-scoring matches in the city in the IPL. Another run-feast can be on the cards if the weather allows.

## Bhuvneshwar Kumar Added to India Squad for Fifth T20I After Arshdeep Singh Injury

Mumbai, Oct. 16:

Experienced pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar has been added to the Indian squad for the fifth T20 International against the West Indies after left-arm fast bowler Arshdeep Singh sustained a shoulder injury during the fourth match.

Arshdeep suffered an injury to his bowling shoulder, and his availability for the series decider will depend on his recovery. The five-match T20I series is currently level at 2-2, with the final match scheduled to be played at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru.

The inclusion marks another opportunity for the 36-year-old Bhuvneshwar, who has also been selected for India's T20I series against New Zealand beginning on October 22 in Christchurch.



The Indian squad for the fifth T20I comprises Shreyas Iyer (captain), Vaibhav Suryavanshi, Ishan Kishan, Sanju Samson, Tilak Varma, Shivam Dube, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Ravi Bishnoi, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Arshdeep Singh, Prince Yadav, Mayank Yadav, Naman Dhir and Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

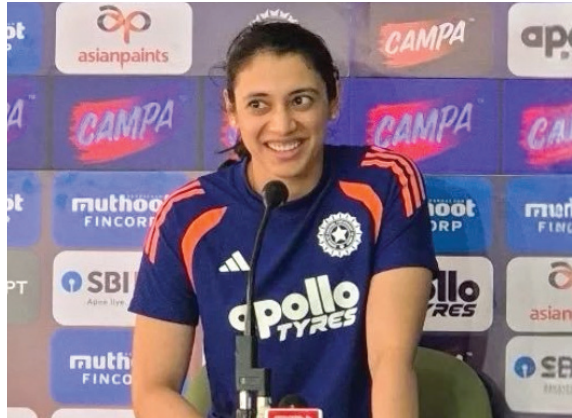
## Mandhana calls six T20Is crucial ahead of inaugural Champions Trophy

Raipur, Oct. 16:

Newly appointed India women's cricket captain Smriti Mandhana has described the six T20 International matches scheduled before the inaugural Women's Champions Trophy 2027 as crucial for the team to finalise its playing approach and identify the right combination.

Mandhana, who has taken over captaincy across formats from Harmanpreet Kaur, will begin her full-time tenure with a three-match T20I series starting on Friday.

India will play three more T20 Internationals against South Africa before the Women's Premier League 2027. Mandhana said the limited opportunities would help the team decide the style of cricket it wants to play and assess players' roles ahead of



the major tournament.

She described captaincy as a huge honour and responsibility, adding that a leader must put the team's interests ahead of personal priorities. The new captain also praised outgoing skipper Harmanpreet Kaur for her long-standing contribution to Indian cricket.

She said Harmanpreet's experience and approach to preparation would be particularly valuable for the younger players join-

ing the squad, who could learn by observing her. India are also set to face Zimbabwe for the first time in international cricket, with a three-match T20I series followed by three ODIs.

Mandhana said playing against new teams was exciting and offered opportunities to learn from different approaches to the game. She also welcomed the participation of more nations, saying it would help cricket grow globally.

## Asian Para Games: Indian para-archers get Japan exposure, SAI centres host training camps

New Delhi, Oct. 16:

India's 168-member contingent for the Asian Para Games 2026 has received extensive government support through domestic training camps, international competition exposure, equipment and overseas training, with para-archers attending a preparatory camp in Japan ahead of the multi-sport event in Aichi-Nagoya.

The Indian contingent comprises 112 men and 56 women competing across 11 disciplines. Of the total athletes, 47 are part of the Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS), 33 are Khelo India athletes, and 61 will make their debut at the Games.

The support has been extended primarily through the Annual Calendar for Training and Competition (ACTC) and TOPS, with ₹80.22 crore allocated under ACTC and ₹18.34 crore under TOPS.

As part of their preparations, the para-archery contingent attended an international training camp at the Kurobe Archery Centre in Japan between September and October. The archers also trained



at the Sports Authority of India's (SAI) Regional Centre in Sonapat as part of their domestic preparations.

National Coaching Camps were organised at various centres for athletes across disciplines. Para-swimmers and para-powerlifters trained at the SAI Regional Centre in Gandhinagar, while other para-athletes attended camps at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi, SAI Sonapat and the SAI Regional Centre in Bengaluru.

Para-shooters were trained at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range, while the men's blind football team attended a camp in Kochi. Blind judo athletes prepared at the Indian Para Judo

Academy in Lucknow, while para-cyclists trained at the cycling velodrome at SAI's Indira Gandhi Stadium in New Delhi.

Indian para-badminton and para-table tennis players, along with the men's blind football team, began their campaigns on Friday.

India will compete in para-athletics, para-archery, para-badminton, para-table tennis, boccia, blind football, para-cycling, blind judo, para-powerlifting, para-shooting and para-swimming.

The opening ceremony is scheduled for October 18, with shuttler Pramod Bhagat and para-table tennis player Bhavina Patel serving as India's flag-bearers. Medal events will take place from October 19 to 24.

## India May Rest Jasprit Bumrah from ODIs to Manage Workload Ahead of New Zealand Tests

New Delhi, Oct. 16:

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) is reportedly considering resting star fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah from the upcoming ODI series against New Zealand as part of its workload management strategy.

India are scheduled to tour New Zealand for a series across all three formats, beginning with five T20 Internationals between October 22 and November 1. The ODI series will follow after a three-day break and is expected to conclude on November 15, with the Test series scheduled to begin on November 19.

The short gap between the ODIs and Tests could make it difficult for Bumrah to recover and prepare adequately for the longer format. To

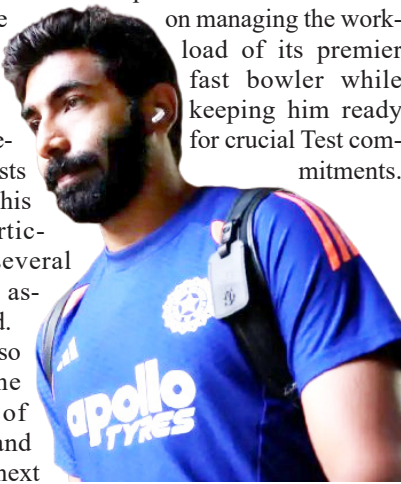
avoid placing excessive demands on the pace spearhead, the team management is reportedly considering resting him from the ODIs and giving him an opportunity to play a match for India A as preparation for the Test series.

A BCCI official said Bumrah is currently fully fit, but deciding which formats he should play during the New Zealand tour will be crucial. Playing ODIs immediately before the Tests could increase his workload, particularly with several important Test assignments ahead.

The official also highlighted the significance of the New Zealand Test series and next

year's Border-Gavaskar Trophy. Considering the importance of these contests, the team management wants to ensure that Bumrah is available and prepared for key matches rather than risking unnecessary workload.

The final decision on Bumrah's participation in the ODI series is yet to be confirmed. The reported plan reflects India's focus on managing the workload of its premier fast bowler while keeping him ready for crucial Test commitments.



## Rinku Singh's Pet Dog Goes Missing, Sister Neha Appeals for Help



New Delhi, Oct. 16:

Indian cricketer Rinku Singh's family has appealed for public help to find their five-year-old pet dog, Broodo, who went missing on October 12.

Rinku's sister, Neha Singh, shared a video on Instagram saying the dog went out for his usual morning walk around 10 am but did not return. The family searched nearby parks and their residential society but could not find him. Neha said Broodo was wearing a red collar and urged anyone who spots him to share a photograph and contact the family through

her Instagram account. The family may also approach the police if necessary. Neha Singh, who is a social media content creator and YouTuber, sought wider public support after the family's initial search efforts failed. Her appeal has drawn attention on social media as the family continues to search for Broodo. The family has urged people to share the appeal widely to help reunite Broodo with them at the earliest.

The family remains hopeful that public support will help locate the missing pet and bring him home safely.

## England Cricketers Receive Traditional Pashtun Caps on Arrival in Pakistan

New Delhi, Oct. 16:

England's cricket team received a traditional welcome upon arriving in Pakistan for the upcoming ODI tri-series featuring Pakistan, England and Sri Lanka. The players were presented with bouquets by senior Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) officials and welcomed with traditional Pashtun caps, with photographs of the occasion attracting attention on social media.

The caps, also known as Jinnah caps, are a traditional headwear associated with Pashtun culture in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Typically made from sheep's wool, they feature a rounded, flat top and a folded brim, making them a distinctive part of the region's cultural attire.

The seven-match tri-series will begin on October 18, with Pakistan taking on Sri Lanka in Rawalpindi. England will play Pakistan on October

20, followed by a match against Sri Lanka on October 22. The tournament will then move to Lahore, where the remaining league matches will be played before the final on October 31.

England will be led

by Harry Brook, while Shaheen Shah Afridi will captain Pakistan. Sri Lanka will be led by Kusal Mendis. The tournament is expected to provide all three teams with valuable preparation and competitive match practice.

### Tri-Series Schedule

**October 18: Pakistan vs Sri Lanka — Rawalpindi**  
**October 20: Pakistan vs England — Rawalpindi**  
**October 22: Sri Lanka vs England — Rawalpindi**  
**October 25: Pakistan vs England — Lahore**  
**October 27: Pakistan vs Sri Lanka — Lahore**  
**October 29: Sri Lanka vs England — Lahore**  
**October 31: Final — Lahore**



*Nizamabad's four Taekwondo players Shaikh Anas, Aman Singh, Harsh Pandre and Neha Vaishnavi have been selected to represent Telangana in the National SGFI Taekwondo Championship to be held in Srinagar from October 22 to 26, following their outstanding performance in the state-level selection trials.*

# Free Data Engineering Course for Unemployed Graduates

Sri Sathya Sai Dakshata Program offers 90-day offline training with placement assistance

NSS News  
Hyderabad, Oct 16

The Sri Sathya Sai Dakshata Program has announced a free 90-day Data Engineering course for unemployed graduates in Telangana, aiming to equip them with industry-relevant skills and improve their employment prospects.

The course is open to graduates who passed out between 2022 and 2026 with degrees in MSc, B.Tech, M.Tech or MCA. Classes will be conducted offline near Khairatabad Metro Station in Hyderabad, under the guidance of faculty with three decades of teaching experience.

The intensive training will cover basic and advanced Python, SQL, AI tools, soft skills and career counselling, along with hands-



on learning in data engineering. Successful candidates will also receive placement assistance after completing the course.

According to the programme, its previous batch included more than

350 underprivileged graduates, of whom over 100 secured placements in reputed corporate companies.

Interested candidates can register at [www.dakshata.ai](http://www.dakshata.ai) or call 9052372023 for further details.

## Kavitha Slams Revanth for Failing to Prepare for Drought



NSS News  
Hyderabad, Oct 16

Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) chief K. Kavitha on Friday accused Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy of failing to take precautionary measures despite early warnings of a possible drought due to El Niño.

Addressing the media at her Banjara Hills office, Kavitha said warnings about a severe drought had been issued as early as January, but the government had failed to initiate basic preventive measures. She termed the Chief Minister's recent appeal to farmers to make sacrifices belated and criticised him for expressing helplessness instead of addressing the crisis.

## Bhatti Sets Three-Month Deadline for Rohith Vemula Bill Draft

NSS News  
Hyderabad, Oct 16

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka has directed officials to prepare a preliminary draft of the proposed Rohith Vemula Telangana Bill within three months to protect students' rights and eliminate caste-based and social discrimination in universities and higher educational institutions.

Chairing the second meeting of the Committee of Senior Civil Servants (CSC) on the proposed legislation at the Secretariat on Friday, Bhatti stressed the need to adhere to the stipulated timeline at every stage, including committee formation and consultations with stakeholders.

The meeting discussed the framework for drafting the legislation, the



committee's composition, legal aspects and the process of consultations with various stakeholders. Bhatti directed officials to prepare a clear action plan to ensure comprehensive legal protection for students and submit the preliminary draft to the CSC within the deadline.

Ministers Ponnamp Prabhakar and Adhuri Lakshman Kumar, Special Chief Secretary Savyasachi Ghosh, senior IPS officer Devendra Singh Chauhan, IAS officers Yogita Rana and Vijayendra Boyi, advocate Disha Wadekar and others attended the meeting.

## Ponnamp Calls for Intensive Graduate Voter Registration

NSS News  
Hyderabad, Oct 16

Telangana Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar has called on Congress leaders and workers to intensify efforts to identify eligible graduates and enrol them as voters ahead of the Graduate MLC elections.

Chairing a preparatory meeting at Gandhi Bhavan, attended by AICC in-charge Secretary Sachin Sawant, DCC presidents and other party leaders, Ponnamp stressed the need for extensive booth-level registration campaigns across the twin cities of Hyderabad.

He urged party workers and social organisations to reach out to graduates in courts, government offices, schools and other institutions and assist them



in registering as voters. The party has planned an extensive drive in every Assembly constituency, he said, appealing to eligible graduates to verify their details and complete registration within the prescribed deadline.

Highlighting issues concerning government employees, lawyers, teachers and job aspirants, Ponnamp said the Congress was committed to addressing the concerns of graduates. He called on party cadres to work collectively for the victory of Congress candidate Sama Ramamohan Reddy in the Graduate MLC election.

Minister urges Congress cadres to launch booth-level campaigns ahead of Graduate MLC elections

## Jupally invites Governor to Saddula Bathukamma celebrations

NSS News  
Hyderabad, Oct 16

Minister for Tourism, Culture and Excise Jupally Krishna Rao on Friday met Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla at Lok Bhavan and invited him to attend the Saddula Bathukamma celebrations to be organised by the Telangana government on a grand scale at Tank Bund in Hyderabad on October 18.

The Minister presented the formal invitation to the Governor, requesting him to grace the celebrations as the chief guest. Special Chief Secretary to the Tourism Department Vani Prasad and other officials accompanied the Minister during the meeting.

## Attapur Police Step Up Night Patrols, Check Rowdy-Sheeters



Munsif News Bureau  
Hyderabad, Oct 16

Attapur Police have intensified midnight patrolling and surveillance to curb criminal activities and maintain law and order in the area.

On Thursday night, October 15, Attapur Inspector Seethaiah, along with police personnel, conducted extensive bike patrolling across

the police station limits. During the drive, police counselled youths found loitering in streets and lanes late at night and instructed them to disperse.

The police team also conducted surprise checks at the residences of rowdy-sheetsers Qadeer, Yousuf alias Naga, and Yaseen in the Arsh Mahal locality to verify their activities and movements.

Inspector Seethaiah warned that strict legal action would be taken against anyone involved in criminal activities or attempting to disturb public peace.

He said midnight patrolling, surprise inspections and continuous monitoring of known offenders would continue to strengthen public safety and maintain law and order in Attapur.

## Red Run Marathon Promotes HIV Awareness Among Telangana Youth

NSS News  
Hyderabad, Oct 16

Around 136 participants from various districts of Telangana took part in the State-Level Red Fest – Red Run Marathon 2026 in Hyderabad on Friday, aimed at raising awareness among youth about HIV prevention, early testing, treatment and the need to eliminate stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV.

Organised as part of the Intensified IEC Campaign 2026 under the supervision of Telangana State AIDS Control Society (TGSACS) Project Director K. Vidya Sagar, the marathon was flagged off from Boats Club. Participants ran towards Spoothi Memorial and returned to the starting point.



The organisers also encouraged participants to use the Break Free App for self-risk assessment and better awareness of HIV prevention. BSD Joint Director Dr. Jaya Lakshmi and officials from the IEC Division participated in the programme, urging young

people to spread awareness about HIV prevention and healthy living.

In the men's category, Anuj Yadav of Vikarabad secured first place, followed by K. Sushanth Reddy of Rangareddy and P. Uday Kumar of Jangaon. In the women's category, K. Swapna

of Hyderabad won first prize, followed by D. Kalyani of Suryapet and Amna Anjum.

The winners received certificates, mementos and cash prizes. The event was coordinated by B. Rajendar and A. Devaiah of the TGSACS IEC Division.

availability of free medicines and medical services with staff. The equipment includes nebulisers for children and adults, 10 digital blood pressure monitors, 10 glucometers, 10 needle hub cutters.

## Emirates flight to Hyderabad makes emergency landing in Mumbai

NSS News  
Hyderabad, Oct 16

A Dubai-Hyderabad Emirates flight made an emergency landing at Mumbai airport after a passenger reportedly suffered a heart attack.

Airport staff immediately shifted the passenger to a nearby hospital for treatment. Officials suspect that the passenger is a Hyderabad resident.

## Operation Kavach: 725 Vehicles Detained in City

Munsif News Bureau  
Hyderabad, Oct 16

Hyderabad City Police detained 725 vehicles and apprehended 48 suspects during a midnight crackdown under Operation Kavach, deploying nearly 3,000 personnel in over 100 teams between 1 am and 3 am on Thursday.

## Hyderabad Home Sales Value Rises 4%

September registrations dip 15% as premium housing drives growth

NSS News  
Hyderabad, Oct 16

Hyderabad registered 55,715 residential properties worth Rs.39,910 crore during January-September 2026, with transaction value rising 4% year-on-year, according to Knight Frank India.

September registrations fell 15% year-on-year to 5,620 units, while transaction value declined 7% to Rs.4,487 crore.

Homes priced above Rs.1 crore accounted for 56% of September's transaction value. During the first nine months, registrations in this segment rose 2%, while transaction value grew 6%. Homes below Rs.50 lakh recorded the steepest September decline at 20%.

Knight Frank India Chairman and Managing Director Shishir Bajjal said the market remained stable over the nine-month period despite monthly fluctuations following the guidance-value revision.



The drive resulted in five cases of minor driving, one illegal weapon possession case and two cases under the NDPS Act, besides other violations. Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar inspected checks at Chandrayangutta, Mailardevpally, Satamrai, Attapur,

## CM invited to Bathukamma film awards

NSS News  
Hyderabad, Oct 16

A delegation led by Telangana Film Development Corporation (TGFD) Chairman Dil Raju met Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and invited him to the award presentation ceremony of the Bathukamma Young Filmmakers Challenge 2026, scheduled to be held at Shilpakala Vedika in Hyderabad on October 17.

Film director Harish Shankar, Telangana Media Academy Chairman Srinivas Reddy, Charan Arjun, Nalgonda Gaddar and others were part of the delegation.

Bandlaguda and Rajendranagar. Golkonda Zone recorded the highest vehicle detentions at 213, followed by Shamshabad (182), Charminar (127), Rajendranagar (100), Secunderabad (45), Khairatabad (40) and Jubilee Hills (18).

Sajjanar warned that tampering with or obscuring vehicle number plates to evade surveillance could invite criminal action. He urged motorists to use regulation-compliant plates, avoid earphones while driving and carry valid vehicle documents.