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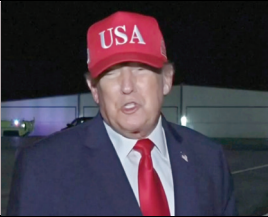
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Protesters detained as INDIA Bloc slams curbs on dissent

CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke gets conditional bail; demonstrators demand restoration of Jantar Mantar as designated protest site

IANs News
New Delhi, Oct 17

CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke was granted conditional bail by a Delhi court on Saturday after signing a peace bond following his arrest over the party's proposed 'Lehra Do Tiranga' rally at Connaught Place.



The development came amid continuing protests against the Election Commission of India (ECI) and the de-notification of Jantar Mantar as a designated protest site. Several demonstrators were detained during a 'Reclaim Jantar Mantar' march demanding restoration of the venue for public demonstrations.

INDIA Bloc leaders criticised the police action, alleging that the detentions undermined democratic rights and freedom of expression. Samajwadi Party MP Awadhesh Prasad, CPI(M) MP V. Sivadasan, Congress spokesperson Surendra Rajput and Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Priyanka Chaturvedi questioned the restrictions on protests.

The CJP had planned its rally at Connaught Place's Central Park, but permission was denied. Dipke was detained on Friday and later arrested, while AISA president Neha Bora was also detained and subsequently released with conditions.

Protesters marching to reclaim Jantar Mantar raised slogans against the ECI and demanded withdrawal of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The government has designated Ramlila Ground, Burari Ground and CBD Ground in East Delhi as alternative protest venues.

CJP leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka remain in Tihar Jail after being sent to five days of judicial custody, while security barricades and police deployments continue around Jantar Mantar.

Trump waives Russia oil tariffs, relief for India

IANs News
Washinton, Oct 17

US President Donald Trump has waived proposed tariffs of up to 100 per cent on major buyers of Russian oil, offering potential relief to India and China ahead of the October 18 deadline under a new sanctions law.

An executive order signed on Friday implemented the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026 but immediately suspended the duties and most sanctions prescribed under it. The law provided for 100 per cent additional duties on goods from the five largest importers of Russian oil and gas and the top five facilitators of sanctions evasion, besides a 500 per cent increase in duties on Russian goods.

Trump told Congress the waiver was in the US national interest, but the required certification and



supporting report have not been made public. The exemptions will remain in force until authorities decide further action is necessary. Existing sanctions against Russia remain unchanged.

India, a major buyer of Russian crude, had its additional 25 per cent US tariff linked to oil purchases removed in February. The move was part of a trade framework that reduced reciprocal duties on Indian goods from 25 per cent to 18 per cent. The two countries are nearing finalisation

US report flags sweeping H-1B curbs

IANs News
Washinton, Oct 17

The Trump administration's sweeping H-1B visa restrictions have raised hiring costs and scrutiny for employers, while applications from some technology companies have declined sharply, according to a Congressional Research Service report.

The October 14 report said the administration replaced the random visa lottery in February 2026 with a weighted system favouring higher-paid and more highly skilled applicants.

The Labour Department has proposed raising prevailing wage requirements, estimating an additional \$1.46 billion in employer costs in the first year. The report also cites a proposed \$103,265 fee for certain H-1B petitions, separate from the \$100,000 fee introduced in September 2025 for hiring workers from overseas. The latter has been temporarily blocked by litigation.

Other measures include expanded scrutiny of employers, changes to biometric fees and restrictions affecting foreign workers' stay after job loss and spouses' work authorisation.

The report found a 91 per cent decline in initial consular-processing petitions from cap-exempt employers during the first eight months of the \$100,000 fee.



Telangana mandates CAG audit of road safety funds

NSS News
Hyderabad, Oct 17

The Telangana government has made CAG audits mandatory for state and district road safety funds to ensure transparency and accountability, Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said on Saturday.

Under GO Ms. No.

48, the road safety cess collected under the Telangana Motor Vehicles Taxes (Amendment) Act, 2026, will be credited to the Telangana Road Safety (Non-Lapseable) Fund, administered by the State Road Safety Council chaired by the Chief Minister.

The Telangana Online Accounting System will

be extended to all districts, and fund details uploaded to the Union Transport Ministry's portal for scrutiny by the Supreme Court Road Safety Committee.

District collectors must activate road safety committees, hold monthly meetings, appoint coordinators and submit safety plans. Concerned departments and agencies have

been directed to appoint nodal officers and submit quarterly action-taken reports.

The office of the Additional Director General of Police (Road Safety) will be brought under the State Road Safety Council to improve coordination. Prabhakar said preventing accidents and saving lives remained a priority.

Voter roll revision drive begins across UP districts

IANs News
Lucknow, Oct 17

Lucknow, Oct. 17 (IANs): The Election Commission's Special Summary Revision (SSR) campaign began across Uttar Pradesh on Saturday, with Booth Level Officers (BLOs) helping eligible voters register, correct details and seek inclusion of missing names in electoral rolls.

The campaign runs from October 17 to 24, with special camps set up at polling stations across Etawah, Basti, Lucknow, Unnao and Mainpuri. Officials are monitoring



arrangements and urging residents to participate.

In Etawah, BLOs were deployed at 1,437 polling booths, while special camps in Basti received applications for voter registration and corrections. In Lucknow, residents submitted Form 6 applications for family members whose names were missing from the rolls.

Stalin targets TVK after Rs 270-crore drug seizure



IANs News
Chennai, Oct 17

DMK leader M.K. Stalin targeted the ruling TVK after its Nagapattinam functionary Boobalan was arrested in a drug case involving 135 kg of methamphetamine, allegedly worth ₹270 crore and intended for smuggling to Sri Lanka.

Stalin questioned how Boobalan, a district executive committee member who handled election work in Kilvelur constituency, had held party responsibilities. He demanded a probe into the source of the drugs and the alleged trafficking network. The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence seized the consignment during searches in Nagapattinam district on Friday. Boobalan, a 42-year-old advocate, was arrested, while three others were detained for questioning after the drugs were recovered from a house belonging to J. Sugan. Following the arrest, TVK district secretary M. Sugumaran announced Boobalan's removal from all party posts. Stalin also criticised Chief Minister Vijay's stance on narcotics, using references to the crime series Breaking Bad to target the ruling party.

Iran says supertanker hits mine, explodes in Strait of Hormuz

IANs News
Tehran, Oct 17

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Navy said on Saturday that a supertanker carrying more than two million barrels of crude oil exploded and caught fire after hitting a naval mine in the Strait of Hormuz.

The vessel had attempted to cross the strategic waterway through an "unauthorised" route, with its GPS and radar systems switched off, the

IRGC said. It alleged that the ship had US military support and described the passage as a violation of shipping rules. The claims could not be independently verified.

The statement follows an earlier IRGC announcement that a container ship sank after striking a naval mine south of the strait. IRGC Navy Commander Ali Azmaei has warned that vessels violating Iran's shipping rules would face a deci-



sive response.

Meanwhile, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian reiterated on Friday that Tehran had no intention of developing nuclear weapons, dismissing contrary allegations as propaganda during a meeting with Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Kobakhidze in Yerevan.

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Nizamabad Gets Aadhaar Seva Kendra to Bring Services Closer to Public

Munsif News Bureau
Nizamabad, Oct 17:

District Collector Ila Tripathi on Saturday inaugurated a newly established Aadhaar Seva Kendra at Munnuru Kapu Sangham Bhavan near Sri Abhaya Anjaneya Swamy Temple at Kotagalli on Varni Road in Nizamabad city, aimed at making Aadhaar-related services more accessible to the public.

Speaking on the occasion, the Collector said Aadhaar had become essential for accessing government welfare schemes and availing various banking and other services.

She noted that the Central Government was taking steps to bring essential services closer to citizens and that Aadhaar services, previously concentrated in Hyderabad in Telangana, were being de-



centralised to 10 districts, including Nizamabad.

Tripathi directed the staff to ensure that the centre provides quality, efficient and responsible services to all sections of society, particularly senior citizens, women, students and residents of rural areas. She stressed the need to make Aadhaar services easily accessible and ensure that applicants receive proper assistance.

Warning against fraudulent enrolment, the Collector said any attempt

to obtain Aadhaar through forged certificates or false documents must be identified and brought to her notice. She cautioned that strict legal action would be taken against those involved in such activities.

The Aadhaar Seva Kendra will function daily from 9.30 am to 5.30 pm, including Sundays, second Saturdays and festival holidays. The Collector urged government employees, private-sector workers and other residents to make use of the extended service schedule.

UIDAI Assistant Manager Sravan Kumar, e-Governance District Manager Karthik Kumar, Protean Technologies' Nizamabad Aadhaar Seva Kendra Manager Suresh Kumar, Kamareddy Aadhaar Seva Kendra District Manager Anil Kumar, centre staff and others attended the inaugural programme.

El Niño Concerns: Farmers Advised Against Paddy Cultivation in Rabi Season

Munsif News Bureau
Nizamabad, Oct 17:

Telangana Government Advisor P. Sudarshan Reddy has advised farmers in Nizamabad district to avoid paddy cultivation during the upcoming Rabi (Yasangi) season due to rainfall deficit, declining groundwater levels and concerns over water availability amid the El Niño effect.

Sudarshan Reddy, along with District Collector Ila Tripathi, held a review meeting with municipal commissioners and officials of various departments on Saturday to assess drinking water availability and the agricultural situation. He reviewed water storage levels in the Nizamsagar and Sriramsagar reservoirs and stressed the need for advance planning to prevent drinking water shortages over the next ten months. Expressing concern over inadequate water reserves for irrigation,



he urged farmers to opt for less water-intensive crops such as pulses and vegetables. Officials were directed to create awareness among farmers and ensure that available reservoir water was prioritised for drinking purposes across urban and rural areas. The Government Advisor also cautioned farmers against private traders and middlemen, advising them to sell their paddy only to buyers who make immediate cash payments, in order to avoid being cheated.

Collector Ila Tripathi directed officials to prevent water wastage, promptly repair leaking pipelines and restore non-functional borewells. She emphasised interdepartmental coordination, regular field inspections and the removal of illegal water connections. Hiring agricultural borewells for drinking water was suggested wherever necessary, while new borewells should be dug only in emergencies.

State Urdu Academy Chairman Taher Bin Hamdan, State Agriculture Commission member Gadugu Gangadhar, Additional Collectors Rajagoud and Bhujangarao, NUDA Chairman Kesha Venu, Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dileep Kumar and officials from various departments attended the meeting.

Deputy Director Reviews New Criminal Laws and Measures to Combat Human Trafficking

Munsif News Bureau
Nizamabad, Oct 17:

Deputy Director of Prosecution M. Rajini held a meeting with Public Prosecutors serving in the erstwhile undivided Nizamabad district, including Kamareddy, to discuss the implementation of newly enacted criminal laws and measures to prevent human trafficking.

The meeting was organised in accordance with the directions of Telangana Director of Prosecution S. Sambasiva Reddy. During the session, Rajini briefed the prosecutors on case management and discussed the provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), along with guidelines issued by the



Union Ministry of Home Affairs to prevent human trafficking.

The discussion highlighted the importance of leveraging technology to identify, prevent and combat human trafficking. It also emphasised the crucial role of State governments in ensuring the effective implementation of the prescribed measures, with a focus on coordination, initiative and accountability.

Public Prosecutors from the erstwhile undivided Nizamabad district participated in the meeting, which was presided over by Deputy Director of Prosecution M. Rajini.

Kishan Reddy Concludes Seva Sankalp Drive with Welfare Activities

NSS
Hyderabad, Oct 17:

Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy concluded the month-long Seva Sankalp drive at Tarnaka on Saturday by distributing sarees to underprivileged women and sanitation workers. The nationwide programme marked Prime Minister Narendra Modi's birthday and included various welfare activities.

Kishan Reddy highlighted Modi's contributions to public welfare, cleanliness and infrastructure, and greeted people on Bathukamma and Dussehra.

Kalyana Lakshmi, Shaadi Mubarak Cheques Distributed to 134 Beneficiaries in Mudhole



Munsif News Bureau
Mudhole, Oct 17:

Mudhole MLA Pawar Ramarao Patel said the government was implementing various welfare schemes to support poor families and empower women economically through self-employment. He distributed Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak cheques to 134 beneficiaries from Tanur and Mudhole mandals.

Addressing a programme held at his camp office in Mudhole, the MLA said the schemes were providing

crucial financial assistance to poor families. He added that cheques were being distributed to eligible beneficiaries across all mandals in the constituency in view of the Dasara festival.

Later, Patel distributed sewing machines to 35 women under the SC Corporation scheme at the Mudhole mandal headquarters. He advised the trained women to utilise the opportunity to pursue self-employment and contribute to their families' financial well-being.

The MLA also inaugurated an Indiramma house sanctioned to Waghmare Jalpa, a resident of Mudhole mandal. He assured that efforts would continue to secure Indiramma houses for eligible poor families in a phased manner.

Later, Patel attended the housewarming ceremony at the new residence of Anand Rao Patel in Vanalpud village of Bhainsa mandal and conveyed his greetings to the family. Sarpanches of the concerned villages, former public representatives and local leaders participated in the programmes.

154 Minority Women Receive Sewing Machines Under Indira Mahila Shakti Scheme

Munsif News Bureau
Parkal, Oct 17:

Parkal MLA Revari Prakash Reddy distributed sewing machines to 154 poor minority women from five mandals under the Indira Mahila Shakti scheme at his camp office.

He said the Congress government was promoting women's empowerment through self-employment, skill training and job opportunities at the Kakatiya Mega Textile Park.

He also highlighted welfare schemes for minority women and said a marriage hall costing ₹2 crore was being taken up in Parkal. The Minority Study Circle and Career Counselling Centre were providing competitive exam coaching and employment guidance to unemployed youth.

DRDO officer Meena Srinivas, Municipal Chairman Poushetti Sunil and others attended.

Youth Should Prioritise Health and Make Sports Part of Daily Life: Minister Sridhar Babu

Munsif News Bureau
Hanamkonda, Oct 17:

Telangana IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu has urged young people to prioritise their health and make sports and physical exercise an integral part of their daily lives. He said sports promote physical fitness, mental well-being and a healthy society.

The minister attended the second edition of the Tri-Cities Half Marathon 2026, jointly organised by Naini Vishal Trust and CREDAI Warangal, as the chief guest and flagged off the 5K run in the presence of Warangal West MLA Naini Rajender Reddy and Wardhannapet MLA K.R. Nagaraju.

Addressing the gathering, Sridhar Babu said health was the greatest wealth and stressed the importance of regular exercise, sports and meditation in managing stress and anxiety. He urged youngsters to avoid



harmful habits, particularly substance abuse, and adopt a healthy lifestyle. Around 4,000 to 5,000 participants had registered for the marathon, he said.

The minister said the state government was giving special attention to the development of Warangal and Hanamkonda, citing initiatives related to the proposed Warangal airport, Kakatiya Mega Textile Park, industrial growth and employment generation.

He also stressed the need to provide rural youth with better sports training and opportunities to compete at national and international levels.

Wardhannapet MLA K.R. Nagaraju said sports help reduce mental stress and build self-confidence among youngsters. He congratulated Naini Rajender Reddy, Vishnu Vardhan Reddy and Dr. Sri Gowda Reddy for organising the event.

Warangal West MLA Naini Rajender Reddy said the marathon aimed to promote health and fitness, discourage drug use and other harmful habits, and encourage a sporting culture. He noted that the event had received a better response this year than in the previous edition and thanked the minister, fellow MLA, CREDAI representatives, sponsors, organisers, runners and youth for their support.

Alleged Unauthorised Water Extraction from Hapanelli Tank Raises Concerns Amid El Niño Fears

Munsif News Bureau
Mudhole, Oct 17:

Concerns have been raised over the alleged extraction of water through motors from Hapanelli tank in Tanur mandal of Mudhole constituency, at a time when authorities are stressing the need to conserve water in view of the possible effects of El Niño and the risk of reduced rainfall.

According to local residents, around five borewells are being operated in the vicinity of the tank, with water reportedly being pumped out through motors. They fear that continued extraction could lead to water



shortages in the coming days, affecting agriculture and other essential needs. Residents alleged that they had brought the issue to the notice of Irrigation Department officials several times, but no effective action had been taken so far.

They questioned the lack of intervention despite the government's emphasis on conserving water in tanks and other reservoirs.

The residents have urged the concerned authorities to conduct an immediate inspection, examine the alleged extraction of water through motors and take necessary action in accordance with the rules. They stressed that protecting water resources was essential for ensuring adequate availability of water in the future.



Warangal being developed on a par with Hyderabad: Sridhar Babu

NSS Hyderabad, Oct 17:

Minister for IT and Industries D. Sridhar Babu said the State government was developing Warangal into a major urban centre on a par with Hyderabad, with Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy set to inaugurate the KU Hub as part of the initiative.

The Minister offered prayers at the Sri Bhadrakali temple in Warangal on Saturday as part of the Devi Sharannavaratri celebrations. He said the government was taking precautionary measures across Telangana in anticipation of the impact of El



Niño.

Sridhar Babu said Godavari water was being pumped from Dharmasagar Lake into Bhadrakali Lake to help improve groundwater levels in Warangal and Hanamkonda.

He also announced that IT Towers would be inaugurated in Warangal to

create employment opportunities for local youth.

The State government had allocated ₹40 crore for the construction of mada streets around the Bhadrakali temple, he said. The Minister also appreciated the donors who had sponsored the construction of a new temple chariot.

KTR Assures Medical Support to 13-Year-Old Battling Brain Cancer

Munsif Desk Khammam, Oct 17:

BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has assured medical support to 13-year-old Karne Vinay, who is battling brain cancer.

Vinay, a Class 8 student from Narsimhulugudem village in Kusumanchi mandal, had expressed a wish to meet KTR and take a photograph with him. Former MLA Kandala Upender Reddy helped arrange the meeting. During the interaction, KTR comforted Vinay and assured his parents that efforts would be made to provide him with the best possible medical treatment.

Harish opposes Godavari-Cauvery link agenda

NSS Hyderabad, Oct 17:

BRS senior leader and former minister Harish Rao has strongly objected to the inclusion of the Godavari-Cauvery river-linking project in the agenda of the National Board for Dam Safety (NBDS) meeting scheduled for November 3, alleging that the move would undermine Telangana's water rights. Addressing the media at Telangana Bhavan on Saturday, Harish Rao alleged that the Centre had acted promptly on a letter written by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on October 7 and included the issue in the meeting agenda without adequately considering Telangana's interests.

Accusing Chandrababu Naidu of attempting to di-



vert Godavari waters for Andhra Pradesh, Harish Rao alleged that Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy was remaining silent on the issue as a form of "gurudakshina" to his Andhra Pradesh counterpart. Harish Rao asserted that Telangana's interests could be protected only if the river-linking project was taken up through the Sammakka Sagar project. He alleged that the Centre's proposal to route

the interlinking project through Bollepalli, which he claimed would be under Andhra Pradesh's control, was part of a larger conspiracy against Telangana. Harish Rao said the previous BRS government had secured half of the clearances required for Sammakka Sagar. However, he alleged that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) had been returned due to the negligence of the present Congress gov-

ernment.

Harish Rao also accused the government of releasing Devadula waters downstream, warning that the situation could force farmers in Telangana to observe a crop holiday.

Demanding an immediate apology from Chief Minister Revanth Reddy to the people of Telangana, Harish Rao questioned whether the Centre was giving greater weight to Andhra Pradesh's demands because the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) had 16 MPs in the NDA.

He also questioned the silence of Telangana's 17 MPs and Union Ministers G. Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay Kumar, asking why they were not raising the issue with the Centre. Warning that the BRS would not remain silent if Telangana's rightful share of Godavari waters was denied, Harish Rao said the party would announce its action plan shortly.

Telangana Public School to Be Set Up at Navipet with 9.76 Crore; Officials Review Drinking Water Supply

Munsif News Bureau Nizamabad, Oct 17:

Government Advisor P. Sudarshan Reddy and District Collector Ila Tripathi on Saturday inspected the Government Girls High School premises at Navipet mandal headquarters to assess the feasibility of establishing a Telangana Public School.

They examined the available land and facilities and sought details from the concerned officials. Sudarshan Reddy said the government planned to establish the school on three acres with modern amenities, providing quality education from Class 1 to Class 12. He said ₹9.76 crore had been allocated for its construction.

Collector Ila Tripathi directed officials to prepare comprehensive proposals for the proposed school.



Later, the Government Advisor and the Collector inspected the Mission Bhagiratha Nyalkal Pump House at Yancha village in Navipet mandal and reviewed the supply of protected drinking water to designated villages.

They directed officials to ensure that the tank supplying water to the pump house was filled to capacity

and that any leakages were repaired immediately. They also stressed regular monitoring to ensure drinking water reached the last habitation without wastage. The officials advised people to use water carefully, noting that storage levels could decline in the coming days due to the possible impact of El Niño.

State Urdu Academy Chairman Taher Bin Hamdan, State Agriculture Commission member Gadugu Gangadhar, Additional Collector Bhujangarao, Nizamabad RDO Rajendra Kumar, in-charge DEO Sayagoud, TGEWIDC Executive Engineer Ravinder, AE Uday and other officials accompanied them.

BRAOU Celebrates Bathukamma with Traditional Fervour

NSS Hyderabad, Oct 17:

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University celebrated Bathukamma on its campus on Saturday. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ghanta Chakrapani inaugurated the festivities along with Registrar Dr. L. Vijaya Krishna and Women's Cell In-charge Prof. K. Rani Rajita Madhuri.

Prof. Chakrapani highlighted the festival's cultural significance and greeted women employees. Faculty members and teaching and non-teaching staff participated in the celebrations.

He said Bathukamma celebrates flowers and promotes unity among women beyond caste, religion and regional differences.

AIPTF South India Meet Focuses on Primary Education and Teachers' Issues



Munsif News Bureau Hyderabad, Oct 17:

The All India Primary Teachers Federation (AIPTF) organised its South India Regional Meeting at Grand Plaza, Hyderabad, on Saturday, with representatives of teachers' organisations from Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka and Puducherry participating to discuss primary education reforms, educational standards and teachers' issues.

Former united Andhra Pradesh Education Minister Shailajanath and former School Education Commissioner Balasubramaniam attended the meeting as distinguished guests. Shailajanath stressed the importance of a strong foundation in primary ed-

ucation and urged teachers to impart moral values alongside academic instruction for the overall development of students. He also emphasised unity and educational progress among the southern states.

Balasubramaniam recalled the introduction of a transparent counselling system for teachers' transfers during his tenure and proposed organising workshops, seminars and symposiums through AIPTF to exchange best practices among states. He described teachers as an important pillar of democracy and highlighted their essential role in conducting elections and declaring results.

AIPTF South India Coordinator Showkath Ali presided over the meeting and outlined key issues, including the present sta-

tus of primary education, the need for reforms and the impact of the National Education Policy on South India's cultural traditions and heritage.

Delegates discussed educational schemes, challenges faced by teachers and measures to improve school standards. They called for appointing at least one teacher for every class, constructing separate classrooms for each class and providing adequate infrastructure and essential facilities in schools. Dr. Khaleel delivered the closing remarks, stressing educational development, resolution of teachers' grievances and cooperation among southern states. G. Kamaraj from Tamil Nadu was announced as the All India Deputy Secretary General of AIPTF.

'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' Awareness Drive Held at Nizamabad Bus Stand

Munsif News Bureau Nizamabad, Oct 17:

An awareness programme under the 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' initiative was organised at Nizamabad Bus Stand under the aegis of the District Hub for Empowerment of Women (DHEW), functioning under the Department of Women, Child, Disabled, Senior Citizens and Transgender Welfare.

As part of the initiative, handles carrying the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao logo and emergency helpline numbers were installed in buses to promote awareness about the protection and education of girl children and women's safety.



District Welfare Officer Soundarya said the programme aimed to sensitise the public to the importance of protecting and educating girls and encourage people to make use of emergency helpline numbers whenever necessary.

Depot Manager Venkataramana, Urban CDPO Vijayalakshmi, Depot Assistant Engineer Vasundhara, District Mission Coordinator Swapna and DHEW staff participated in the programme.

20% additional arrangements for Navarathri Brahmotsavams



NSS Hyderabad, Oct 17:

Keeping in view the past experience 20 per cent additional arrangements have been made in Tirumala for the Sri Vari Navaratri Brahmotsavams to ensure a comfortable darshan experience for devotees, said TTD Chief Engineer Manoharam.

Speaking at a media conference in the Media Centre of Ram Bagicha-2, Tirumala, on Saturday, he said all four Mada Streets around the temple have been systematically arranged, with beautifully painted Rangolis and decorations.

New stainless steel rail-

ings have been installed at Srivari Pushkarini, while 120 additional mobile toilets have been provided for the festival.

He said a foot overbridge near Nandakam Rest House has eased traffic movement.

Planned parking facilities at various points in Tirupati have also enabled devotees to park conveniently and travel to Tirumala by bus, reducing congestion on the hill town.

TTD Electrical SE Venkateswarlu said the electrical illuminations in Tirumala have been enhanced grandly, and LED screens have been installed in Tirumala and

Woman Killed as Thar Cars Racing Hit Bike in Mahabubnagar

Munsif Desk Mahboobnagar, Oct 17:

A 40-year-old woman, Shahana Begum, died after two Thar vehicles allegedly racing on the road rammed into a motorcycle near

UPS School in Amistapur village under Bhoothpur Municipality. Her husband, Shakir, sustained serious injuries, while their daughter Ayara suffered minor injuries.

The family was returning

from a relative's wedding when the accident occurred. One of the cars reportedly fled the scene, while locals intercepted the other. Police reached the spot, registered a case and launched an investigation.

Telangana Grameena Bank's Special Deposit Schemes Brochure Released by Gadwal Collector

Munsif News Bureau Gadwal, Oct 17:

District Collector Rizwan Basha Shaik on Saturday released a brochure detailing the special fixed deposit schemes offered by Telangana Grameena Bank at his chamber in the Integrated District Offices Complex (IDOC).

The Collector urged people to cultivate the habit of saving and choose deposit schemes according to their financial needs. He said the bank was offering special fixed deposits for 1,000 days and 444 days, with interest



rates of 8 per cent and 7.40 per cent respectively for senior citizens. Customers were advised to verify the latest rates and terms with bank officials before investing.

For details, customers can visit the bank branch near the New Bus Stand on

Registration Office Road, beside SV Tiffin Centre, or contact 9247543618. The Collector also urged bank officials to create awareness about banking services and deposit schemes in rural areas. Branch Manager Vaibhav, Assistant Manager Gayatri and others attended.



At a Glance

Pappu Yadav Questions Centre on Nepal

IANSPatna, Oct. 17

Purnea MP Rajesh Ranjan alias Pappu Yadav questioned the Centre’s Nepal policy and alleged Bihar’s flood-hit people had not received adequate aid.

Yadav claimed Prime Minister Narendra Modi provided flood assistance to Nepal but no comparable relief to Bihar.

On Gen Z-led developments in Nepal and Bangladesh, Yadav questioned why India recognised Nepal’s new government but sheltered former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. He asked whether the Centre had a role in Nepal’s political upheaval, saying this was his own question, not the Congress party’s.

Yadav alleged force was used against protesters in New Delhi and claimed one lakh security personnel were deployed. He alleged transport and internet restrictions. The claims were not independently verified.



Two killed, one injured in Jabalpur road accident

IANSJabalpur, Oct. 17

Two people were killed and another seriously injured after a speeding truck hit a motorcycle and a pedestrian on the Jabalpur-Katangi road in Madhya Pradesh on Saturday. Narendra Yadav and Manish Barman died on the spot, while Rahul Yadav was rushed to hospital.

The accident occurred near Saiyad Baba shrine under Patan police station limits. Police chased the truck after its driver allegedly tried to flee, intercepted it near Sangrampur village and arrested him. Further investigation is underway.

SC Says Children Cannot Be Denied Internet Access in the Name of Safety

IANSPNew Delhi, Oct. 17

The Supreme Court on Saturday held that access to and use of the internet is a fundamental right of every individual, including children irrespective of age, and said measures to protect them from online sexual exploitation must target harmful content and those responsible for its circulation rather than restrict children’s internet access.

A bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and K. Vinod Chandran made the observation while dealing with the circulation of Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Material (CSEAM) on online platforms.

The court was hearing an application by Just Rights for Children Alliance (JRCA) seeking effective implementation of its September 23, 2024, judgment in Just Rights for Children Alliance vs S. Harish, which addressed social media intermediaries’ obligations to report suspected offences involving child sexual abuse material.

The bench said the right to access and use the internet was fundamental under Article 21 read with Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution, and children enjoyed the same rights irrespective of their age.

It observed that denying children internet access altogether would be as absurd as suggesting that children below a certain age had no conscience worth protecting or freedom of speech worth expressing.

Acknowledging that the internet was far from safe for children, the court said measures to ensure their safety must focus on harmful material and those responsible for it, not on children themselves.



Keeping children away from the internet because of such failures, it said, would amount to mistaking the victim for the problem.

The bench highlighted the internet’s role as a platform for ideas, creative expression and information. For children in remote areas, it said, the internet was often the only source of learning and information. For children with special needs, it could also provide an opportunity to connect with others facing similar experiences.

Rejecting blanket restrictions as a solution to online abuse, the court said their effectiveness remained unproven and they could expose children to greater risks. Children might continue accessing the internet secretly, moving to unregulated platforms and websites that could be even more unsafe.

The bench also warned that restrictions could discourage children facing online enticement or threats from reporting incidents to parents, guardians or trusted adults for fear of being reprimanded. This, it said, would undermine child safety and defeat the objective of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

However, the court clarified that it was not opposed to age-based safeguards. It suggested a framework emphasising parental consent, guidance and oversight, along with a dedicated “child mode” for social media accounts, particularly for pre-teens. Measures could include private accounts by default, restrictions on messages and contact from unknown adults, and moderation of advertisements and content accessible to children.

The bench left the details of such measures to the Union government while clarifying that its observations would not prevent restrictions on specific categories of content or services inherently harmful to children, including adult-content websites.

The court said online intermediaries must ensure that CSEAM and other material likely to harm children were not offered, hosted, uploaded, promoted or circulated through paywalls or subscriptions. It urged the Centre to frame guidelines for content scrutiny and proportionate regulation of material children could access or subscribe to.

The judgment also called

for children to be taught from the primary stage about their bodies, safe and unsafe touch, consent, healthy relationships, respect for others and safe internet use. They should learn to protect personal data and privacy and recognise grooming, sexual extortion and other exploitative practices.

Children must know whom to approach when they face inappropriate conduct and how to report wrongdoing. The court stressed that they should be encouraged to speak up without fear and assured that disclosures would be handled confidentially, with support and without reproach.

It further called for digital safety and age-appropriate sex education to be included in the core curriculum. The NCERT and State Councils of Educational Research and Training (SCERTs) should develop the curriculum in consultation with child psychologists, educators and parenting experts.

Teachers and school staff should also be trained to identify grooming, abuse and online harassment, respond appropriately to disclosures and comply with their reporting obligations under the POCSO Act.

The case has also triggered political controversy, with allegations on social media that senior Congress leaders were attempting to protect the driver.

Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala on Saturday expressed displeasure over sections of the media allegedly circulating baseless reports suggesting efforts were being made to shield the accused.

The investigation, including the examination of the car’s EDR, is continuing.

MP: Mild earthquake tremors felt in Singrauli

IANSSingrauli, Oct. 17

Mild earthquake tremors were felt in the Singrauli district of Madhya Pradesh on Saturday, India Meteorological Department (IMD) officials said.

According to preliminary data, the intensity of the earthquake was measured at 3.5 on the Richter scale.

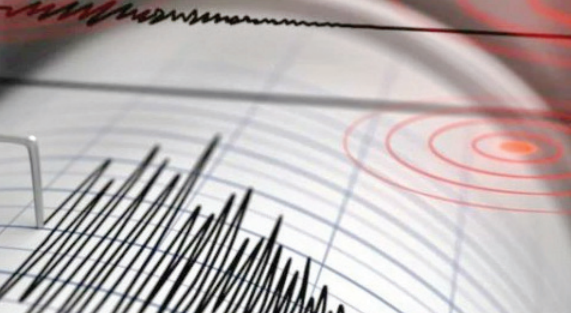
The epicentre was located at a depth of around 10 km below the surface, officials added.

The tremor was recorded on Saturday at 2:12 p.m. Officials monitoring seismic activity confirmed that the quake had an intensity of 3.5, with the focus situated around 10 km beneath the earth’s surface.

The information is based on initial readings and remains subject to further verification by scientific agencies.

Residents in parts of Singrauli reported feeling the mild shaking during the afternoon hours.

While the intensity was relatively low, the sudden



tremor caused momentary concern among people in the affected areas.

No immediate reports of damage to buildings or injuries have been received so far.

Earthquake monitoring agencies are examining the preliminary data to determine the exact location of the epicentre and assess any aftershock possibilities.

A magnitude of 3.5 is generally classified as a light earthquake, which is often felt by people nearby but rarely causes significant structural damage, especially when the focus is at a moderate depth of around 10 km.

Authorities in Singrauli have advised the public to remain calm and follow

standard safety guidelines in case of any further seismic activity.

Local administration is closely tracking the situation and is in coordination with relevant scientific bodies for updated information.

This is not the first time the region has experienced mild seismic activity, though such events of low intensity usually pass without major incident.

Experts note that earthquakes of this magnitude are relatively common in various parts of the country and typically do not pose a serious threat when the depth is around 10 km.

Further details are awaited as agencies continue to analyse the complete data set.

'Rs 5,000 Relief a Mockery': Supriya Sule Slams Maharashtra Government

IANSPune, Oct. 17

NCP (Sharadchandra Pawar) Working President and MP Supriya Sule has criticised the Maharashtra government’s Rs 5,000 financial assistance to drought-hit farmers, calling it a mockery of their suffering.

Sule said the state had announced annual assistance of Rs 6,000 under the Namo Shetkari Mahasanman Nidhi scheme, following the Centre’s scheme. The last instalment was credited to beneficiaries’ accounts on January 13, 2026. However, the government had not released the previous Rs 4,000 due for the current financial year, she said, calling the delay a grave injustice.

Referring to a letter by Sharad Pawar, Sule demanded direct compensation of Rs 1 lakh per hectare. She also urged the government to immediately credit the pending Rs 4,000 along with the newly announced Rs 5,000, taking the total to at least Rs 9,000.

While the government claimed that the state treasury was empty when it came to helping farmers, it was purchasing luxury cars



worth Rs 18 crore for ministers, she alleged.

Sule also questioned discrepancies in voter data. She claimed that the number of voters in her Baramati Lok Sabha constituency had fallen from 25 lakh to 19 lakh, with around seven lakh voters reportedly disappearing. In Khadakwasla Assembly constituency, she said, the count had dropped from five lakh to 2.5 lakh after 50,000 voters were allegedly added artificially. She demanded answers from the Election Commission and called for an inquiry into her own constituency, saying elections should be won through hard work rather than copied or manipulated processes.

On superstition, Sule said the Anti-Superstition Act had been passed collectively and alleged that a Cabinet minister promoting superstition could face legal consequences. She urged the Chief Minister to take

action rather than protect such ministers.

She said the INDIA Bloc and her party supported peaceful protests conducted within the framework of the Constitution. Raising concerns over alleged irregularities in the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act mechanism, Sule questioned the functioning of the Intelligence Bureau, the Union Home Ministry and the banking system. She said four senior Home Ministry officers had been dismissed over alleged malpractices in the FCRA mechanism.

Sule also announced that the Pawar family would not celebrate Diwali or the political Padwa festival in Baramati this year following the death of Ajit Pawar. She said the family was mourning its personal loss while farmers and working people continued to suffer from drought and inflation.

J.P. NADDA VISITS HOSPITALISED ADVANI, ENQUIRES ABOUT HEALTH

IANSPNew Delhi, Oct. 17

Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda met veteran BJP leader Lal Krishna Advani at Indraprastha Apollo Hospital in New Delhi on Saturday and enquired about his health.

The 98-year-old former Deputy Prime Minister was admitted to the hospital’s pulmonary department around 7.30 p.m. on Friday with a chest infection. Hospital officials said his condition was stable and he was under observation, with medical tests underway.

Advani has been hos-

pitalised several times in recent months. He was admitted to Apollo Hospital in May this year due to age-related health complications and remained under medical care for a few days before being discharged.

In December 2024, he was admitted to the intensive care unit of Indraprastha Apollo Hospital for medical management and investigations. He was treated under a neurologist’s supervision, and his condition was reported to be stable.

Born on November 8, 1927, in Karachi, now in



Pakistan, Advani is one of the BJP’s most prominent leaders. He played a key role in expanding the party’s organisational base and strengthening its national presence.

His Ram Rath Yatra in 1990 marked a significant turning point in Indian politics. Advani served as BJP president on several

occasions and was India’s Deputy Prime Minister from 2002 to 2004 under Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He also held important portfolios, including Home Affairs.

In recognition of his contribution to public life, Advani was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 2024. He received the Padma Vibhushan in 2015.

DELHI POLICE RESCUE 19 WOMEN, ARREST 10 IN SPA RAIDS

IANSPNew Delhi, Oct. 17

Delhi Police rescued 19 women and arrested 10 people during simultaneous raids on two spa establishments in the Nabi Karim and Paharganj areas over alleged illegal activities, officials said on Saturday.

Two FIRs have been registered under Sections 3, 4 and 5 of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, and further investigation is underway.

In the first operation,

Nabi Karim police raided Hollywood Spa, located on the second and third floors of property number 8709-10 on Desh Bandhu Gupta Road, following information about an alleged sex racket.

Police said a decoy customer was deployed to verify the information before the raid on October 16. Fourteen women were rescued and nine people were arrested.

The arrested persons were identified as spa owner Preeti Iman Ali, 39, manager Rizwan

Ali, 38, and Asif, 35, Shajeb, 31, Mohd. Umar, 39, Sameer, 25, Shahrukh, 35, Gulrej alias Danish, 28, and Shiva, 25. They are residents of Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Karnataka.

An FIR (No. 473/26) was registered at Nabi Karim police station.

In a separate operation, Paharganj police raided New Latest Unisex Salon and Spa at property number 3738 on Desh Bandhu Gupta Road. Five women were rescued and one person

was arrested.

The accused, Shakeel Ahmed, 46, a native of Rampur in Uttar Pradesh, was residing at the spa premises in Delhi.

An FIR (No. 452/2026) was registered at Paharganj police station on October 17.

The operations were conducted under the supervision of the respective station house officers, with the Nabi Karim raid also supervised by the ACP, Paharganj. Further investigation is underway.



At a Glance



UN Holds Sixth Poll for Guterres' Successor

United Nations, Oct. 17

The UN Security Council held its sixth straw poll on candidates seeking to succeed Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, whose term ends on December 31. “The sixth round of straw polls has taken place,” Greece’s Permanent Representative to the UN, Aglaia Balta, said on Friday. Greece holds the council’s rotating presidency for October. Balta said candidates would be informed of the results through the permanent representatives of the member states that nominated them. The President of the UN General Assembly would also be notified that the poll had been conducted, Xinhua news agency reported.

The straw polls are informal, closed-door ballots used by Security Council members to assess candidates. Their results are not officially released. The council will eventually recommend a candidate to the General Assembly for appointment.

Members are believed to cast ballots marking each candidate as “encouraged”, “discouraged” or expressing “no opinion”. A candidate needs at least nine favourable votes and must avoid opposition from any of the five permanent council members to secure the recommendation.

Seven candidates remain in the race: Ivonne A-Baki and Maria Fernanda Espinosa of Ecuador; Rafael Grossi of Argentina, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency; Rebeca Grynspan of Costa Rica, secretary-general of the UN Conference on Trade and Development; former UN Under-Secretary-General Olara Otunnu of Uganda; Guyana’s UN Permanent Representative Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett; and former Senegalese president Macky Sall.

The next secretary-general is scheduled to take office on January 1, 2027.

Trump Says Iran War Will End Soon, Warns of Depression if Democrats Win

Washington, Oct. 17

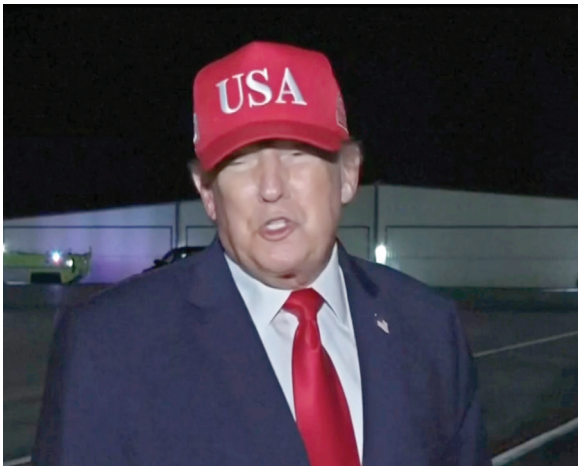
US President Donald Trump has said the military campaign against Iran would end soon, claimed that US operations in Venezuela had delivered economic benefits and warned of an economic depression if Democrats regained control of Congress in the November 3 midterm elections.

Addressing a Republican campaign rally in Dalton, Georgia, Trump defended his foreign policy and economic record, promoted tariffs and urged supporters to treat the elections as a referendum on his presidency.

“We’re doing just as well in Iran. That will be over very, very soon and they will never have a nuclear weapon,” Trump told supporters.

He claimed US military operations had destroyed Iran’s aircraft, naval vessels and military infrastructure. Trump said 159 Iranian naval vessels had been sunk within three days and 289 aircraft destroyed, though the figures could not be independently verified from his remarks.

He said Iran had been close to acquiring nuclear weapons and posed



a threat to Israel, the Middle East and eventually the United States. He called the naval blockade of Iran successful.

Turning to Venezuela, Trump claimed a US military operation had achieved its objectives within 48 hours. He said Washington was benefiting from Venezuelan petroleum resources, asserting that the United States was taking billions of dollars’ worth of oil.

He also claimed his administration had reached an agreement with Denmark concerning Greenland but provided no details, describing it as a major real estate achievement. Trump joked about renaming the Strait of Hormuz the Trump Strait.

Trump claimed incomes, employment, exports and stock market performance had reached record levels under his administration. He said 70,000 manufacturing jobs and 50,000 construction jobs had been created this year.

He claimed his administration had secured investment commitments exceeding \$21 trillion in 15 months, crediting tariffs with encouraging foreign companies to expand production in the United States.

Trump renewed a promise to distribute \$5,000 to every adult American citizen if Republicans won both chambers of Congress. He estimated the programme would cost about \$1 trillion but offered no detailed funding or implementation plan.

Much of the speech focused on Georgia’s Senate and gubernatorial contests. Trump attacked Democratic Senator Jon Ossoff, endorsed Republican challenger Mike Collins and backed Rick Jackson for governor.

He accused Democrats of favouring weak immigration enforcement and claimed no undocumented migrants had entered through the southern border in the previous 17 months. He defended deportations and the designation of the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua as a foreign terrorist organisation.

Urging Republicans to vote, Trump acknowledged the party’s difficulties mobilising voters when he was not personally on the ballot.

“In this election, I’m asking you to — you have to pretend I’m on the ballot,” he said.

The November 3 midterm elections will determine control of the House of Representatives and the Senate for the remaining two years of Trump’s term, shaping his ability to advance legislation on taxation, immigration, healthcare and domestic spending.

TANKER ATTACKED NORTHEAST OF SAUDI ARABIA: UKMTO

London, Oct. 17

A tanker has reportedly been attacked 78 nautical miles northeast of Al Jubail, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) said on Saturday.

The master of the tanker reported being attacked by a rocket-propelled grenade from a small boat, resulting in damage to the aft port quarter, according to the UKMTO.

Crew are accounted for and reported safe, and a complete damage assessment and environmental impact are unknown, said the UKMTO.

Earlier this week, Yemen’s Houthi group said that it had launched a large-scale missile and drone attack targeting an airport and oil facilities in Saudi Arabia. It also vowed to continue strikes against Saudi targets in the coming days.

In a statement broadcast by Houthi-run al-Masirah TV, Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Sarea said the group targeted Saudi energy giant Aramco in Dhahran in the



Eastern Province, as well as King Khalid International Airport and an Aramco refinery in Riyadh.

According to Sarea, the operation involved “a large number of ballistic and cruise missiles and drones,” which accurately hit their targets, causing damage and fires.

The Houthi spokesperson said the operation was carried out in retaliation for Saudi Arabia-led strikes on the Houthi-held capital of Sanaa and other areas under the group’s control. He said Saudi-led forces had carried out 2,281 air and missile strikes since the latest escalation began, Xinhua news agency reported.

Sarea vowed that the group’s attacks “deep inside Saudi Arabia” would

continue in the coming days, targeting airports and oil facilities. He also renewed a warning to international airlines, civilians and employees to stay away from airports and oil facilities in Saudi Arabia that the group had designated as targets.

The Houthi claim came after the Saudi-led coalition in Yemen said it intercepted six Houthi missiles and three drones heading towards Saudi Arabia on Tuesday. An Aramco administrative building in Dhahran was targeted Tuesday evening, sparking a limited fire, while debris from two cruise missiles intercepted over Riyadh injured four people and damaged 15 homes, Saudi authorities said Wednesday.

Indian Navy ships conclude Seychelles port call

Victoria, Oct. 17

Ships of the Indian Navy’s First Training Squadron (1TS) concluded their port call at Port Victoria in Seychelles after conducting a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) with Seychelles Coast Guard ship Andromache, the Ministry of Defence said on Saturday.

INS Tir, INS Sujata and Indian Coast Guard Ship Sarathi departed on Thursday after a visit that began on Monday as part of their ongoing training deployment.

During the visit, the squadron’s Senior Officer and the ships’ commanding officers met Seychelles Defence Force Chief of Defence Forces Major General Michael Rosette to discuss bilateral cooperation.

The PASSEX featured joint patrolling, communication drills and coordinated manoeuvres. Activities also included professional exchanges, cross-train-



ing visits, firefighting and small-arms training for Seychelles Defence Force personnel.

The Indian Navy organised a medical camp, distributed essential supplies at the Point La Rue elderly home, hosted schoolchildren aboard the ships and presented a musical performance by its band.

The ministry said the deployment reflected the longstanding India-Seychelles partnership and India’s commitment to regional cooperation under its MAHASAGAR

vision.

In August, India handed over three repaired Dornier Main Electronic Units, 18 sets of calibrated specialised aircraft tools, 50 safety helmets and seamanship ropes to Seychelles.

The equipment was repaired or calibrated at Indian naval facilities free of cost to support aircraft maintenance, maritime surveillance, search and rescue, casualty evacuation and Coast Guard operational readiness, the Indian mission in Victoria said.

NEPAL SEEKS MAJOR INDIAN AID PACKAGE AHEAD OF BALEN SHAH’S VISIT

Kathmandu, Oct. 17

Nepal is seeking a substantial assistance package from India during Prime Minister Balendra Shah’s planned visit to New Delhi, likely on November 22 or 23, officials said.

“The Prime Minister is likely to visit India in the final days of November,” his press adviser Dipa Dahal told IANS.

Nepal wants reconstruction support after floods on August 26 that killed nearly 1,500 people, while more than 5,000 remain unaccounted for, according to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority. Floodwaters in the Bhote Koshi and Trishuli rivers swept away communities, hydropower plants, roads and bridges, causing billions of dollars in damage.

A Foreign Ministry official said Kathmandu had

sought large-scale assistance even before the floods and wanted funding with fewer conditions. The official did not specify the amount.

Nepal uses four Indian lines of credit worth a combined \$1.65 billion for infrastructure projects. The credits, provided through India’s Export-Import Bank, require a proportion of project components to originate in India.

During the visit, Nepal plans to seek progress on border disputes, energy cooperation, trade and transit, and air services. The dispute over Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura remains contentious.

Kathmandu is seeking additional air-entry routes through Indian airspace, as around 90 per cent of international flights enter Nepal through the congested Simara corridor. It has proposed routes through Janakpur, Bhairahawa



and Nepalgunj to improve access to newer international airports.

Nepal also wants an early review of the bilateral trade treaty, renewed in 2023, and relief from non-tariff barriers. Exporters have raised concerns over Bureau of Indian Standards certification requirements for cement, steel, plywood, footwear and electrical wires.

Officials expect the two sides to inaugurate India-assisted projects, including the Nepal Police Academy, a bridge in

Darchula, an integrated check post in Bhairahawa and a motorable bridge over the Mahakali River.

The agenda may include hydropower projects West Seti, Phukot Karnali and Seti River-6, involving India’s state-owned NHPC. Other proposed topics include a Koshi River project, the Ayodhya-Janakpur railway and Indian support for Nepal’s artificial intelligence ambitions.

Nepal’s Finance Minister Swamim Wagle has visited India to discuss post-flood assistance.

US bill seeks to block Russian diesel deal

Washington, Oct. 17

A bipartisan group of US lawmakers has introduced legislation to block President Donald Trump’s arrangement to purchase and import Russian diesel, arguing that the transactions could provide Moscow with additional revenue amid its war in Ukraine.

The Prohibit Corrupt Russia Oil Deals Act, introduced on Friday by Congressman Gregory Meeks, ranking Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, seeks to

prohibit certain US government investments in Russian energy and invalidate Treasury Department licences permitting Russian fuel transactions.

The bill would also prevent future authorisations and require sanctions targeting Russian energy. Republican Congressman Don Bacon is among its co-sponsors, alongside Democratic lawmakers, including Indian-American Representative Ami Bera.

Meeks said allowing Russian diesel purchases contradicted

Washington’s efforts to pressure Moscow. He also argued that the deal would not reduce fuel costs for Americans.

The legislation comes amid wider congressional criticism of the administration’s approach to Russian energy. A separate bipartisan letter led by Congressman Michael McCaul and Representative Jim Costa urged Trump to fully implement the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act by its October 18 deadline.

The letter identified

India and China as major buyers of Russian crude and called for secondary tariffs based on trade and maritime data.

The latest bill focuses specifically on Russian diesel transactions permitted by the US administration. Supporters argue that such purchases could weaken sanctions pressure on Russian President Vladimir Putin’s government.

However, the proposed legislation has not been enacted and must secure congressional approval before its provisions can become law.

Beijing, Oct. 17

China’s refusal to negotiate with the Dalai Lama reflects a calculated strategy to control his succession and weaken the Tibetan cause after his passing, but the approach could instead intensify resistance and attract greater international support, a report has warned.

Khedroob Thondup, nephew of the 14th Dalai Lama, wrote in The Tibet Express that Beijing fears dialogue could confer political legitimacy on the Tibetan spiritual leader,



whom it portrays as a separatist. It also worries that concessions to Tibet could encourage other minority regions to demand greater autonomy.

Thondup said Beijing expects the Tibetan exile community to fragment without the Dalai Lama’s

leadership, a state-appointed successor to undermine the legitimacy of an exile-recognised candidate, and international attention to fade.

However, he warned that Tibetan Buddhists worldwide could reject a successor appointed by

Chinese authorities, undermining Beijing’s religious legitimacy.

He argued that coercive measures and disputes over succession could deepen resentment among Tibetans and galvanise global support for their cause.

Thondup said Tibetans in exile must maintain unity and prepare for succession, while international actors should sustain engagement on religious freedom and cultural preservation to prevent Beijing from pursuing its strategy unchallenged.

A Call for Caution: El Niño’s Shadow Over Telangana and Beyond

EVERY DROP COUNTS

Protecting drinking water requires timely government action, support for farmers and responsible use of water and electricity.

- Give drinking-water security priority in allocating scarce reserves.
- Help farmers adopt crops that require less water.
- Repair leaks, reduce waste and conserve electricity.
- Strengthen contingency plans to protect vulnerable households.



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

Telangana’s shrinking water reserves demand urgent conservation and coordinated planning to safeguard drinking supplies, farming livelihoods and household budgets.

Urban Telangana Faces a Prolonged Water Crunch

Urban Hyderabad and towns across Telangana are staring at a prolonged water crisis that could stretch well into mid-2027. Reservoirs stand at roughly 200–209 TMC against a typical October level of around 460 TMC. Storage in the Krishna basin is about 72% lower than last year; the Godavari basin is down 40–42%. Rainfall deficits of 23–28% have left groundwater tables falling sharply. Borewells are drying in many localities, especially in IT corridors and expanding residential pockets. Tanker demand has already hit summer-like levels—daily bookings running between 5,000 and 8,000, more than double the usual off-season figure—and overall water demand has surged sharply in recent weeks. Officials warn of major supply pressures ahead if conservation does not take hold.

Urban Telangana Faces a Prolonged Water Crunch

This is not a routine dry spell. It is the local face of a strengthening “super” El Niño—an exceptional warming of the equatorial Pacific that

is already rewriting temperature and rainfall patterns across the globe. Forecasts point to sea-surface temperature anomalies potentially exceeding +3.7°C in the key Niño-3.4 region by late 2026, stronger than the 2015–16 peak, with high confidence that strong-to-very-strong conditions will persist into early 2027. The World Meteorological Organization has flagged impacts across nearly 100 countries. The pattern is linked to intensified heat, disrupted monsoons, droughts in some regions and floods in others, pressure on food systems, and elevated risks to health and energy supplies. India itself recorded a southwest monsoon about 12.6% below the long-period average—the weakest in 11 years—leaving large parts of the country water-stressed.

Other States Feel the Heat as Prices Rise

Maharashtra, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and parts of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh have already seen drought declarations or severe agricultural stress. Sugarcane fields, critical for both domestic sugar and ethanol ambitions, have suffered from the deficient rains and heat. Production forecasts have been cut sharply, prices have risen, and India—normally an exporter—has opened the door to imports. The result is upward pressure on food inflation at a time when households can least afford it. Higher costs for food, fodder, power and transport threaten to push overall inflation higher just as the economy absorbs the hit.

Chief Minister’s Appeal: Prioritise Drinking Water

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has framed the situation with unusual directness. He has described the coming eight to ten months as exceptionally difficult—comparable in scale of disruption to the COVID-19 period—and has appealed to farmers to defer water-intensive Rabi (Yasangi) paddy so that scarce reserves can prioritise drinking water for roughly 24,000 villages. “Anything can be bought, but water cannot,” he has said, urging conservation of every drop and restrained use of electricity as power demand has already climbed past 20,000 MW. The government is preparing contingency measures and seeking central support, but lasting relief depends on public cooperation.

Citizens Must Use Water, Power and Money Wisely

Urban households that once treated municipal supply and tankers as reliable backups now face the reality that groundwater is finite and reservoirs are not refilling. Simple discipline—shorter showers, no car washing with potable water, fixing leaks promptly, collecting greywater for plants, running washing machines and dishwashers only when full—adds up quickly across a city of millions. The same applies to electricity: Peak demand driven by cooling and pumping strains the grid and raises costs for everyone. Judicious spending also matters.

Higher food and essential-goods prices are likely, so households that conserve resources and avoid waste will be better placed to weather the months ahead. This is not alarmism. It is preparation. El Niño will not spare India or Telangana any more than it is sparing other regions. The difference between hardship and manageable scarcity will be measured in the collective restraint of cities, towns and villages. Saving water and power today is the most practical way to protect drinking supplies, standing crops where possible, and household budgets until the next reliable monsoon arrives—hopefully by July 2027. The Chief Minister has issued the call. It is now for citizens to answer it.

Telangana’s response must begin with a clear priority: securing drinking water while protecting livelihoods. The government must turn contingency plans into timely action and support farmers facing difficult crop choices. Citizens, too, must conserve water,

THE NATIONAL POLITICAL SCENE IN INDIA: Challenges, Responsibilities & The Way Forward

By: **Shujath Ali Sufi** (Veteran Journalist)

India’s national political scene is passing through an important period marked by intense political debate, questions of governance, economic aspirations and the evolving relationship between the government, the opposition and the people. As the world’s largest democracy, India carries the responsibility of protecting constitutional values while addressing the changing expectations of its citizens.

The strength of Indian democracy lies not merely in electoral victories, but in the ability of democratic institutions to function independently, uphold the Constitution and ensure that every citizen’s voice receives due consideration.

Governance and Democratic Accountability

The relationship between the ruling establishment and the opposition remains central to India’s political discourse. Parliament must serve as a forum for constructive debate, meaningful scrutiny and the development of policies that benefit the nation. Political differences are natural in a democracy; however, these differences should lead to informed discussion rather than prolonged confrontation.

Recent debates over electoral rolls and proposed constituency delimitation have brought questions of electoral transparency, representation and consultation into sharper focus. These matters require clear communication, institutional accountability and confidence among citizens that democratic processes are fair and accessible. Allegations and counter-allegations must be examined through evidence and established legal procedures.

Economic Growth and the Aspirations of the People

Economic development remains one of the most significant issues in national politics. Citizens expect economic growth to translate into employment opportunities, affordable living, quality education, accessible healthcare and improved living standards.

India’s young population represents an enormous opportunity for national progress. Yet, creating sustainable employment, strengthening skill development, supporting small businesses and ensuring opportunities for

disadvantaged communities remain important policy priorities. Economic progress must be measured not only by national growth figures but also by its impact on ordinary households.

Social Harmony and Constitutional Values

India’s diversity is one of its greatest strengths. People belonging to different religions, languages, regions and cultural traditions have contributed to the country’s development and national identity.

Political leadership at every level has a responsibility to encourage mutual respect, protect the rights of minorities and vulnerable communities, and prevent social divisions from undermining public trust. The constitutional principles of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity should remain guiding values in public life.

National unity becomes stronger when diversity is respected and every citizen feels a genuine sense of belonging.

The Role of the Opposition and Public Institutions

A functioning democracy requires both an accountable government and a responsible opposition. The government must explain its decisions and deliver on public commitments, while opposition parties must offer credible alternatives, raise public concerns and contribute constructively to legislative debate.

Independent institutions, a free press, an impartial electoral process and an effective judiciary are essential to democratic confidence. Their credibility depends on transparency, adherence to the law and the consistent application of constitutional principles.

Similarly, young people, civil society organisations and ordinary citizens must be encouraged to participate peacefully in democratic processes and hold public representatives accountable.

The Way Forward

India’s political future will depend substantially on the ability of its leaders to place public welfare above narrow political interests. Employment generation, educational reform, healthcare, rural development, women’s safety, technological advancement.

Old City Metro Needs Delivery, Not More Deadlines



By: **Munsif Desk**

Hyderabad’s Old City Metro project must now move from preparatory activity towards measurable delivery. Officials’ aim of securing pending statutory clearances within two to three months offers a timetable, but residents deserve clarity on what will follow. For the long-awaited 7.5-km corridor connecting MGBS and Chandrayangutta, progress must ultimately mean construction and a dependable transport service. Land acquisition has already brought substantial disruption. According to the figures provided, around 888 properties have been demolished, compensation has been paid for more than 830 properties at approximately Rs. 82,000 per square yard, and acquisition and clearance formalities remain pending for 55 properties. Authorities

should explain how these figures relate to one another and publish a clear account of compensation, unresolved claims and pending possession. Families and businesses affected by acquisition deserve timely payments, accessible grievance mechanisms and consistent treatment. The appointment of a Special Grade Deputy Collector to supervise land acquisition should strengthen accountability. Alongside the Revenue Department’s coordination, this must translate into quicker resolution of outstanding cases without weakening procedural safeguards. Speed matters, but so does fairness to those surrendering their property for a public project. Permissions involving older buildings and archaeological authorities require particular care. Better connectivity and the protection of the Old City’s historic character should be pursued together. Necessary scrutiny must be completed efficiently, with clear explanations of which permissions remain outstanding and why. Utility relocation is equally important. Electricity cables, water pipelines and other infrastructure must be shifted through coordinated planning that limits disruption to residents and traders. Poor coordination at this stage could create avoidable delays and repeated inconvenience once civil works begin. Tree removal also demands more than administrative approval. Authorities should assess opportunities to retain trees, disclose where removal is unavoidable and ensure that any transplantation or replacement planting receives sustained care. Environmental safeguards belong within project planning. The proposed two-to-three-month period concerns clearances and preparatory activities; it is not a confirmed construction start date. Tenders are to be invited only after these requirements are completed. Public communication must preserve that distinction and provide realistic milestones for tendering, contract award and civil works. The Old City needs reliable public transport and stronger connections with the wider city. Delivering this corridor requires urgency backed by transparent decisions, fair acquisition and disciplined execution. Residents should now be able to judge progress against published milestones, rather than wait for another assurance that construction is drawing closer.



Amruta Pujari Wins Silver at U23 Wrestling Worlds

Indian wrestler's run of pinfall victories ends against Ukraine's Iryna Zablotska in the women's 72kg final in Las Vegas

Pujari reached the final with two successive victories by fall.

Komal's 59kg bronze added to India's women's medal haul.

Vishvajit More earlier secured silver in Greco-Roman wrestling.



Press Media
Las Vegas, October 17:

India's Amruta Pujari claimed the women's 72kg silver medal at the Under-23 World Wrestling Championships in Las Vegas, completing a campaign that featured two successive pinfall victories before defeat against Ukraine's Iryna Zablotska in the final. Akashvani reported the Indian's losing score as 0-6, while United World Wrestling confirmed that the bout was decided by

fall.

The final took place on Friday, October 16, in Las Vegas, with the result reported in India on Saturday. Zablotska secured the title by pinning Pujari, making the decisive outcome a victory by fall rather than simply a points win. Pujari finished with silver at the world age-group competition.

Pujari, from Solapur in Maharashtra, had demonstrated her own finishing ability on the way to the gold-medal contest. In

her opening bout against Kazakhstan's Zhibekzhan Sabyrzhanova, she established a 7-1 advantage before securing a fall.

Her semifinal against China's Wenjin Qiu was more closely contested. Pujari led 10-8 before pinning her opponent to book a place in the final.

Those victories ensured that her campaign would end on the podium, although she could not repeat the result against Zablotska.

Jodar, Davidovich Fokina Set Up All-Spanish Shanghai Final

Shanghai, Oct 17:

Jodar, seeded 12th, struck 22 winners against Medvedev's 14, using accurate groundstrokes to move the former world number one across the baseline. The straight-sets victory continued his breakthrough season and ended the fifth-seeded Russian's bid to regain the title he won in 2019.

The opening exchanges were demanding, with Jodar taking 13 minutes to hold serve in the first game. Medvedev resisted through extended rallies and saved four set points, but the Spaniard eventually took the opening set when the Russian sent a return long.

Jodar broke again for a 4-3 lead in the second set following a Medvedev double fault. He maintained his advantage and completed the victory with a forehand winner. "Super happy with how I handled the important moments," Jodar said afterwards.

Earlier, Davidovich Fokina recovered from losing a close opening set to beat Zverev 5-7, 6-4, 6-3 and reach his second Masters 1000 final.

Jayawardene Steps Down as Mumbai Indians Head Coach

Three-time title-winning coach ends a decade-long association; franchise's farewell statement names no successor ahead of the next IPL season



Press Media
Mumbai, Oct 17:

Mumbai Indians announced on Saturday that Mahela Jayawardene would step down as head coach, ending a decade-long association spanning three IPL titles and a wider leadership role across the franchise's international teams. The departure creates a coaching vacancy ahead of the 2027 campaign.

The former Sri Lanka captain coached Mumbai from 2017 to 2022, guiding them to championships in 2017, 2019 and 2020. He returned for a second spell ahead of the 2025 season, replacing Mark Boucher after serving as the organisation's global head of performance. His departure concludes a second stint after two seasons.

Mumbai reached the

playoffs in 2025 but finished ninth in the league standings in 2026. Those contrasting campaigns provide the competitive backdrop to the transition, although the franchise's farewell statement did not specify a reason for Jayawardene's departure or identify his replacement.

In its announcement, Mumbai Indians credited Jayawardene with helping develop the team's culture and approach. Nita Ambani thanked him for his contribution, praising his leadership and commitment during his years with the franchise.

Jayawardene expressed gratitude to the players, coaching staff, supporters and the Ambani family. "I leave with immense pride in what we have achieved together," he said in the

statement, while wishing Mumbai success in the coming years.

His responsibilities had extended beyond the IPL side. Appointed global head of performance in 2022, Jayawardene worked on the franchise's expanding overseas operations. The role was part of a central structure intended to maintain a consistent cricketing approach across Mumbai Indians, MI Emirates and MI Cape Town.

The change therefore ends an association involving both direct coaching and broader cricket planning. For the five-time IPL champions, appointing a successor will be a significant step in preparations for the next season. The farewell announcement provided no timetable for that appointment.

Chwalinska Beats Swiatek, Faces Kartal in Wuhan Final

Polish player saves two set points before straight-sets victory; Britain's Kartal wins two tie-breaks to reach her first WTA 1000

Press Media
Wuhan, October 17:

Maja Chwalinska defeated compatriot Iga Swiatek 7-5, 6-1 on Saturday to reach her first WTA 1000 final, setting up a Wuhan Open title clash with Britain's Sonay Kartal. The two first-time finalists at this level will meet on Sunday after eliminating former Grand Slam champions in contrasting semifinals.

Chwalinska recovered from 5-3 down in the opening set, saving two set points before turning the match in her favour. Swiatek received treatment for a leg injury and completed the contest despite appearing restricted in her

movement. The WTA recorded Chwalinska's victory in two hours and eight minutes.

Swiatek took a medical timeout with Chwalinska leading 6-5 in the first set. She returned with her left thigh bandaged but struggled to move across the court. Chwalinska secured the opening set and maintained control through the second to finish the match without requiring a decider.

The result added another significant final to Chwalinska's season following her runner-up finish at Roland Garros. Ranked 22nd and seeded 16th in Wuhan, she will now attempt to win her first tour-level singles title.

Netflix confirms 'Akka' premiere for October 30

Mumbai, Oct 17:

Netflix announced on Saturday that Akka, starring Keerthy Suresh and Radhika Apte, will premiere on October 30. Produced by YRF Entertainment, the series is written and directed by Dharmaraj Shetty and is set in a fictional South Indian kingdom in the 1980s.

The October 30 date had already appeared in September trade reporting; Saturday's announcement was the platform's official confirmation. The series is an Indian streaming release and is not connected to India's senior international cricket fixtures.

The lead cast and South Indian setting make the series relevant to Indian and Telugu-speaking audiences. PTI's report on the confirmation was published at 12:48 PM IST.

With the platform confirmation, Akka is set for an October 30 debut on Netflix. The series is a YRF Entertainment production, and Dharmaraj Shetty is credited as both writer and director; the announcement did not include further release details such as episode count or additional cast.

Krunal Pandya to lead India's Hong Kong Sixes side after Bhuvneshwar Kumar's national recall



Press Media
New Delhi, Oct 17:

Krunal Pandya will captain India's seven-member squad at the Hong Kong Sixes, Cricket Hong Kong, China confirmed on Saturday, after Bhuvneshwar Kumar was recalled to the national team for the tour of New Zealand. The confirmation settles the leadership ahead of the tournament, scheduled for October 30-November 1.

Bhuvneshwar, who was originally named captain of the Sixes squad, has returned to India's T20I set-up after nearly four years and was also called up as cover for the fifth T20I against the West Indies after Arshdeep Singh took a blow. Gujarat Titans pacer Kulwant Khejroliya

replaces him in the Sixes squad.

Not the senior national side

This is India's Hong Kong Sixes team — an invitational six-a-side outfit — and not the BCCI's senior national team. Krunal, who plays for Royal Challengers Bengaluru, was already part of the squad and now steps up to lead it.

India squad: Krunal Pandya (captain), Shashank Singh, Rahul Tewatia, Nitish Rana, Rahul Tripathi, T Natarajan, Kulwant Khejroliya.

Reacting to the change, Anuraag Bhatnagar, Director of Commercial and Marketing at Cricket

Hong Kong, China, said the organisers would miss Bhuvneshwar but welcomed his return to international cricket. "While we will certainly miss Bhuvneshwar Kumar at the Hong Kong Sixes 2026, we are delighted to see him earn a call-up to the national team. His return to international cricket after four years is a special milestone, and we wish him every success on India's tour of New Zealand," he said.

The Hong Kong Sixes, first held in 1992, features a unique format in which only six players take the field per side; one bowler can deliver two overs, while the remaining six overs are shared among four other players. The tournament will be held in Hong Kong.

Bhavina Patel Tops Group at Asian Para Games

Morphed photographs, duplicate registrations and deceased-voter entries emerge during verification as officials clear around 18 lakh notice cases for inclusion.

PTI
Nagoya, October 10:

India's Bhavina Patel maintained her winning run at the Asian Para Games on Saturday, defeating Jordan's Faten Eleimat 3-0 to finish top of Group A in the women's singles Class 4-5 para table tennis competition. The Paralympic silver medallist completed the match in 17 minutes, according to PTI.utm_source=chatgpt.com)

The sports Authority of India reported the game scores as 11-8, 11-7, 11-4 and confirmed her progression to the knockout stage. Bhavina won each game by an increasing margin, completing her second successive straight-games victory in the group.

She had begun her campaign on Friday by defeating Kuwait's Ahad



Alrasheedi 11-6, 11-3, 11-6. Saturday's result therefore ensured that she completed both group fixtures without conceding a game. Her unbeaten group campaign secured advancement, with the medal rounds still ahead.

Bhavina brings considerable international experience to the competition. She won the women's singles Class 4 silver medal at the Tokyo

Paralympics and bronze in the same classification at the previous Asian Para Games, held in Hangzhou in 2023. In Nagoya, she is competing in the combined Class 4-5 event.

Elsewhere in India's para table tennis campaign, Sonalben Patel recorded mixed results in women's singles Class 3. She opened with a 3-0 victory over Japan's Yuka Ikeyama before losing by

the same margin to South Korea's Migyu Lee. In men's singles Class 3, Shubham Wadhwa lost 0-3 to Saudi Arabia's Ibrahim AlHassan.

Bhavina's next challenge will come in the knockout phase, where she will seek to build on two group-stage victories. Topping Group A marks progress towards another continental podium finish, but does not itself guarantee a medal.

Kareena Kapoor calls Kapil Sharma an 'absolute star'

(IANS)
Mumbai, Oct 17:

Actress Kareena Kapoor called actor and comedian Kapil Sharma an 'absolute star' during a fun exchange between the two on social media on Saturday.

Bebo appeared on the latest episode of 'The Great Indian Kapil Sharma Show' with husband Saif Ali Khan.

Kapil took to his official Instagram Stories and uploaded a selfie with Kareena, Saif and the rest of the crew.

He admitted that he never could have imagined having so much fun with the power couple.

"Dear @kareenaka-poor Khan n @saifalikhanpa-

taudi never knew you guys n so much fun together...thank you for the beautiful fun episode...Love you both (sic)," read the text accompanying the pic.

Resharing Kapil's post on her official account, Kareena expressed her admiration for Kapil, saying, "Kapil you are an absolute star and we love you lots too (sic)".

Kareena and Saif spilled a lot of fun secrets during the entertaining episode.

Bebo revealed that Saif proposed to her not once, not twice, but thrice, in Mumbai, Greece, and Paris, only after which she agreed to marry him.

Bebo said, "He proposed



to me in Mumbai, he proposed to me in Greece and he proposed to me in Paris, and that's when I finally said 'Yes'".

Saif reacted to the revelation with his unique sense of humor. He said, "If you had just said yes in Mumbai, I would have saved a lot of money."

When asked about their secret for looking "young and fresh" even after 14 years of marriage, Saif gave the credit to the constant consumption of desi ghee. Kareena added that it is a staple in their household and that their children, Taimur and Jeh, also consume it on a regular basis.

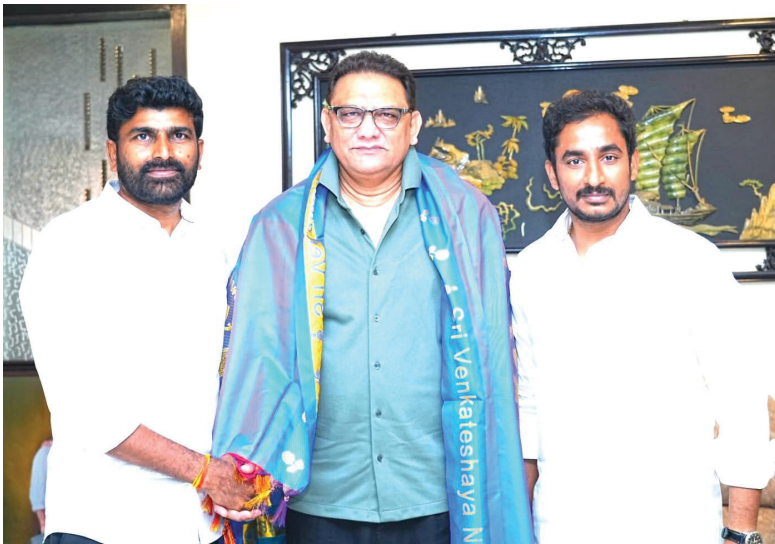
Drive sought to register minority graduates as voters

NSS News
Hyderabad, Oct 17

A special voter registration drive has been sought for eligible minority graduates in Hyderabad ahead of the Graduate MLC elections to ensure wider participation in the democratic process.

Congress Graduate MLC candidate Sama Mohan Reddy, along with former Rahmat Nagar Corporator C.N. Reddy, met Minister for Minorities Welfare and Public Enterprises Mohammed Azharuddin during a courtesy meeting and submitted a request seeking special registration camps for eligible minority graduates.

The Congress leaders stressed the need to create widespread awareness about the voter registration process, eligibility criteria and the documents required for enrolment. They also urged the



Minister to facilitate awareness programmes and registration camps to help eligible graduates complete the process.

Emphasising the importance of inclusive democratic participation, the ruling party leaders called for coordinated efforts to ensure that no eligible graduate from minority communities was left out of the voter registration process.

They sought Azharuddin's support in facilitating the initiative and encouraging greater participation among minority graduates in the forthcoming elections.

Tummala seeks Centre's aid to tackle drought in Telangana



NSS News
Hyderabad, Oct 17

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao has urged the Centre to provide immediate financial assistance to Telangana to tackle drought-like conditions in 315 mandals due to deficient rainfall and El Niño.

Participating in a video conference on the 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan' chaired

by the Union Agriculture Minister on Saturday, Tummala said the campaign would be conducted across Telangana from October 22 to November 30 at the village level.

He said the State government had directed officials to assess crop conditions, conserve water and ensure adequate irrigation and uninterrupted power supply to protect standing crops until harvest.

Governor calls for modernisation of Salar Jung Museum

NSS News
Hyderabad, Oct 17



Telangana Governor and Salar Jung Museum Board Chairman Shiv Pratap Shukla has called for comprehensive modernisation of the museum, focusing on gallery upgrades, visitor amenities, conservation and educational initiatives.

Chairing a Board meeting at Lok Bhavan on Saturday, he reviewed 13 agenda items covering gallery renovations, a temporary exhibition space, stepwell development and interactive visitor facilities.

Proposed improvements include modern displays across eight galleries, centralised air-conditioning, upgraded washrooms, roof waterproofing, improved elevators and better signage. A museum master plan and guest house renovation were also discussed.

Shukla said museums should serve as centres of learning, connecting younger generations with history, art and cultural heritage. He stressed that modern technology and engaging exhibits must go hand in hand with the conservation of rare artefacts.

Officials, museum Board members and representatives of the Union Culture Ministry and Osmania University attended the meeting.

Nampally police crack Rs 25 lakh robbery, arrest five

Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct 17

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 Ponnampallabharathi and Aduri 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.



41 women among 146 excise sub-inspectors passing out

NSS News
Hyderabad, Oct 17

A total of 147 Andhra Pradesh Prohibition and Excise officers, including 41 women Sub-Inspectors, completed six months of training at the Telangana Police Academy in Himayatsagar.

The correct headcount is 147 officers in total — 146 Sub-Inspectors (41 women and 105 men) and one Assistant Prohibition and Excise Superintendent.

Addressing the passing-out parade, Principal Secretary Mukesh Kumar Meena urged the officers to uphold integrity, discipline and impartial law enforcement. The recruits, comprising 146 Sub-Inspectors and one Assistant Prohibition and Excise Superintendent, will undergo field training across Andhra Pradesh.

10 arrested in Rs 1.30 cr kidnapping-for-ransom case

Gang allegedly demanded Rs 15 crore from jewellery businessman; Rs 1.07 crore, gold and five vehicles seized

Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct 17

Chikkadpally police and the Commissioner's Task Force have arrested 10 persons for allegedly kidnapping a 53-year-old jewellery businessman and extorting ₹1.30 crore from his family. Two accused, including an alleged co-conspirator, are absconding.

K. Srinivas Rao was abducted on October 5 while travelling to his shop in Ramanthapur. Police said the



gang demanded ₹15 crore, and released him after collecting the ransom.

ACB books Keesara inspector in Rs 2.28 cr assets case

Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct 17



The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has booked Keesara Police Inspector Arkapally Anjaneyulu in a disproportionate assets case after searches allegedly uncovered assets worth ₹2.28 crore.

ACB officials searched his residence, office and four locations linked to relatives and associates on Saturday, reportedly identifying properties in Saroornagar, Mansoorabad, Perur and Haliya, along with ₹7 lakh in cash, gold ornaments, a car and household valuables.

Anjaneyulu is already lodged in Chanchalguda Central Prison following his September arrest in a separate bribery case involving an alleged demand of ₹8 lakh and acceptance of ₹5 lakh through a subordinate. Further investigation into the assets case is under way.

DGP flags off anti-drug national motorcycle rally

NSS News
Hyderabad, Oct 17

Telangana DGP C.V. Anand on Saturday flagged off a nationwide motorcycle rally against drug abuse at the Integrated Command and Control Centre in Banjara Hills, urging stringent action against narcotics and efforts to protect youth.

Organised by the CRPF as part of the campaign linked to Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, the rally features riders from Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. They are travelling to Kevadia, Gujarat, for the October 31 celebrations marking Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary.

Anand stressed the need to curb both the supply and consumption



of drugs, highlighting the role of Telangana's EAGLE Force in tackling trafficking. He urged riders to spread awareness about drug abuse, promote national unity and follow traffic rules.

EAGLE Force Director Sandeep Shandilya, Hyderabad Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar and other officials attended the flag-off.

City Highlights

Revanth greets people on Saddula Bathukamma

NSS News
Hyderabad, Oct 17

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy extended Saddula Bathukamma greetings, describing the festival as a symbol of Telangana's culture, tradition and respect for women. He wished happiness and prosperity for every household and reaffirmed the government's commitment to women's empowerment.

Governor extends Saddula Bathukamma greetings

Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla greeted the people of Telangana on Saddula Bathukamma, to be celebrated on October 18, describing the festival as a symbol of the State's cultural heritage, reverence for nature and women's empowerment. He wished the people prosperity, peace, happiness and good health.

Amberpet to host Dasara festivities, Ravana Dahanam

Amberpet Devasthanam Seva Samithi will organise Dasara celebrations at Mahankali Temple from October 18 to 20.

Saddula Bathukamma and Gowri Matha Nimajjanam will be held at Bathukamma Kunta on October 18, while Jammi Pooja procession and Ravana Dahanam are scheduled at Amberpet Municipal Playground on October 20 from 6 p.m.

Union Minister G. Kishan Reddy, MLA Kalaru Venkatesh, MP Anil Kumar Yadav and other leaders are among the invitees.

Bathukamma celebrations at CAR headquarters

Hyderabad Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar joined police personnel and their families in Bathukamma celebrations at CAR Headquarters, Petlaburju.

Women officers presented floral Bathukammas, offered prayers to Goddess Gauramma, sang folk songs and performed Kolatam. Sajjanar said the festival reflected Telangana's cultural heritage and reverence for nature.

Erratic weather, habitat loss hit custard apple supply

Custard apple supplies have reportedly dwindled across Telangana this season, pushing prices sharply higher in local markets.

Erratic weather conditions and long-term habitat loss have contributed to a steep decline in yields, affecting the availability of the seasonal fruit. The shortage has hit consumers as reduced supplies drive up prices.

KTR congratulates Kaiteki Innovations on national award

BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao congratulated Kaiteki Innovations founder and CEO Raghu Duth Degala on winning the Special Category Award in the Disability category at Vande Bharatam 2026. The Hyderabad-based company was among the top 10 innovators selected from over 26,000 applications and received ₹11 lakh. Its flagship GUKO Bidet promotes accessible personal hygiene and independence for persons with disabilities.

Rs 2.63 lakh firecracker stock seized in Langer House

Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct 17

Hyderabad Commissioner's Task Force (Golconda Zone), along with Langer House police, seized firecrackers worth ₹2.63 lakh allegedly stored without a valid licence at a residential premises in Kalidasapura.

Police apprehended Durga Prasad Goud, 26, a private employee, following a tip-off. The seized stock comprised 68 varieties of fireworks, including crackers, sparklers, rockets, flower pots, ground chackers and bombs.

Police said storing explosive firecrackers in a densely populated residential area without prop-



er authorisation and safety measures posed a serious threat to lives and property.

A case was registered at Langer House Police Station under Sections 287 and 288 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Section 9(B)(1)(b) of the Explosives Act. Further legal action is under way.