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Maharashtra CEO seeks changes to Form 6 for SIR-deleted voters

Proposal aims to ease re-enrolment without forcing previously registered electors to declare themselves first-time voters

Munsif Desk Mumbai, Oct 18

Maharashtra’s Chief Electoral Officer has approached the Election Commission of India (ECI) seeking changes to Form 6 to help voters whose names were deleted during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) re-enrol without declaring themselves first-time voters, sources said.

The proposal, reportedly sent last week, seeks to address concerns among previously registered electors who fear that making the existing declaration could amount to submitting false information and attract legal penalties.

Form 6 is generally used for new voter registration, but the



ECI has also directed people whose names were omitted during the SIR to use it for seeking inclusion. Section 31 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, provides for imprisonment of up to one year,

a fine, or both for knowingly making a false declaration in connection with electoral rolls. The Maharashtra CEO has proposed removing the words “New Voters” from the form’s title, adding an alternative

- Maharashtra CEO has asked the ECI to amend Form 6.
- Proposed changes include an alternative declaration and a field for the previous EPIC number.
- ECI approval is pending; the claims-and-objections deadline is October 26.

declaration for previously registered electors no longer enrolled anywhere, and allowing applicants to provide their earlier Elector Photo Identity Card (EPIC) number to help officials verify past records.

The claims-and-objections window in Maharashtra is scheduled to close on October 26, with the final electoral roll due on November 16. The ECI has yet to approve the proposed changes, which remain recommendations and are not currently in force.

Tiger Shroff escapes unhurt as gunmen fire at his car in Mumbai

Three rounds fired in Juhu; actor’s driver injured; unverified social media video claims Bishnoi gang responsibility

IANs News Mumbai, Oct 18

Bollywood actor Tiger Shroff escaped unhurt after three men on a motorcycle allegedly opened fire at his car in Mumbai’s Juhu area on Sunday, injuring his driver and others nearby, police said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police Mohit Garg said three rounds were fired as the 36-year-old actor was leaving a playground after football practice. His injured driver was taken to Nanavati Hospital, while an autorickshaw driver and others in the area were also reported injured.

The firing triggered panic, prompting people to seek shelter. Police cordoned off the spot and called in forensic experts to collect evidence. Maharashtra Cultural Affairs Minister Ashish Shelar contacted the actor’s family to enquire about his safety, while his father, actor Jackie Shroff, later confirmed that Tiger was safe.

Hours after the incident, a video cir-



culated on social media in which a man identifying himself as Anil Pandit and claiming links to the Lawrence Bishnoi gang took responsibility for the firing. The video allegedly warned Tiger against working with superstar Salman Khan. However, police had not officially confirmed any Bishnoi gang link to the attack.

The incident revived memories of the 2024 killing of former Maharashtra legislator Baba Siddique in Bandra East, which was claimed by the Bishnoi gang.

Hoardings depicting Rahul, Akhilesh as Ravana’s heads spark row



IANs News Lucknow, Oct 18

Hoardings depicting Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav, entrepreneur Elon Musk and others as Ravana’s ten heads were installed at several locations in Lucknow on Sunday ahead of Dussehra, triggering a political controversy.

Put up by the Sanatan Raksha Sangathan under the title “Ravana, Enemies of Sanatan Bharat”, the dis-

Sanatan Raksha Sangathan’s displays in Lucknow removed by SP workers amid ongoing BJP-SP poster war

plays also featured Supreme Court lawyer Prashant Bhushan, Bangladesh’s Muhammad Yunus, US Congresswoman Ilhan Omar, investor George Soros and several other public figures. SP workers subsequently removed the hoardings.

The incident adds to the ongoing poster war between the ruling BJP and the opposition SP. Earlier displays had targeted Akhilesh Yadav over power supply and alleged links to criminal elements, while SP posters criticised the BJP over alleged corruption, political funding and reservation policies.

The latest episode highlights the growing use of public hoardings by rival political groups to attack opponents in Uttar Pradesh.

Harish Rao slams festival fare hike, TGSRTC defends charges

Munsif Desk Hyderabad, Oct 18

BRS MLA T. Harish Rao on Sunday criticised the Telangana government over alleged steep hikes in TGSRTC fares during the festive season, while the corporation rejected the charges, maintaining that its fare structure complied with existing government guidelines.

In a post on X, Harish Rao alleged that reduced regular services and higher fares collected in the name of festival specials were burdening commuters. He cited the JBS-Karimnagar fare rising from ₹230 to ₹400 and the Mahabubnagar-



MGBS fare increasing from ₹220 to over ₹290.

He alleged that the corporation had not added sufficient buses but was merely attaching festival-special boards to regular services to collect higher fares. He also claimed that the Congress government had increased RTC fares five times during its three-year tenure.

In a statement,

TGSRTC refuted the allegations, saying festival-season fares were governed by a 2003 government order and that operations followed the prescribed guidelines. It denied curtailing services during Dasara, stating that 7,000 special services had been arranged to manage the rush.

The corporation said 97 per cent of the additional services had operated successfully since October 10, ensuring safe travel for festival-goers. It also maintained that the Mahalakshmi scheme, providing free bus travel for women, continued to be implemented across the State with necessary operational safeguards.

RSS march at JNU sparks political row

IANs News New Delhi, Oct 18

The RSS march-past at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) on Saturday triggered a political row, with the organisation defending the event as democratic and opposition leaders warning of possible campus tensions.

Held as part of the RSS Vijayadashami Utsav, the march saw volunteers in full uniform parade across the campus.

RSS National Executive Member Indresh Kumar termed it a “good beginning”, saying the organisation’s march should not surprise anyone in a democratic country.



Congress leader V. Hanumantha Rao called the development “dangerous”, alleging it could create law-and-order problems and disrupt students’ education. AAP MP Sanjay Singh alleged that such programmes were held with the protection and support of the government and police.

The event has drawn contrasting reactions, with the RSS defending its presence on campus and opposition leaders questioning its implications for JNU’s academic environment.

Kolkata stampede: CM to meet victims’ families; VIP passes cancelled

West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari will visit the families of the 19 people killed in the Chorebagan Sarbojanin Durga Puja pandal stampede on October 20 and 21 to hand over compensation cheques. Meanwhile, Kolkata Police has tightened safety measures for the remaining festival days.

Seven people, including organisers, have been arrested in connection with the incident. Adhikari announced compensation of ₹5 lakh for each deceased person and said families of the 25 injured would also receive cheques at a programme on October 26.

The Chief Minister said a proposed Special Investigation Team would function under a sitting judge, subject to approval from the Calcutta High Court Chief Justice. Personnel from Kolkata Police, the Kolkata Municipal Corporation and the State Fire Services Department would be excluded from the team.

The stampede occurred after a large crowd gathered at the north Kolkata pandal and part of its exit-gate structure collapsed. Police said 19 people died and 25 were injured.

Kolkata Police Commissioner Ajay Nand ordered the cancellation of all VIP passes and directed organisers to keep entry and exit points clear of stalls and obstructions. Police will control public-address systems, and each pandal must have at least one constable alongside volunteers.

Gwalior accident: CSP removed, eight cops suspended

IANs News Bhopal/Gwalior, Oct 18

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Sunday ordered the removal of Jhansi Road CSP Ravi Bhadauria and suspended eight police personnel over alleged negligence in the truck accident near Gwalior’s Sheetla Mata Temple that claimed 14 lives. Those suspended include three SHOs, a Traffic Inspector, a Head Constable and three constables. Yadav ordered a comprehensive probe, stressing that negligence involving public safety would not be tolerated. The Chief Minister directed Ministers to visit Gwalior to review arrangements for affected families. The government announced compensation of ₹4 lakh for each deceased person’s family, ₹2 lakh for each seriously injured person and ₹50,000 for other injured victims.

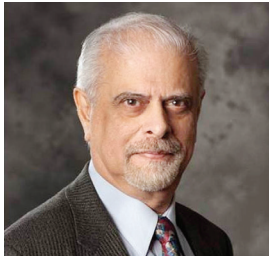
Mumbai-raised engineer Azad Madni wins 2026 John Fritz Medal

IANs News Washington, Oct 18

Indian-American engineer Azad M. Madni, a University Professor at the University of Southern California (USC), has won the 2026 John Fritz Medal, regarded as the “Nobel Prize of Engineering”, for his pioneering work in systems engineering.

Madni, executive director of USC’s Systems Architecting and Engineering Program, was recognised for advances integrating multiple disciplines, augmented intelligence and virtual-world technologies.

Raised in Mumbai, Madni studied at St. Mary’s High School and St. Xavier’s College before moving to the US in 1965 to pursue engineering at the University of California, Los Angeles.



He later worked on NASA’s Space Shuttle programme at Rockwell International and founded Intelligent Systems Technology Inc. in 1994 before joining USC in 2009.

Established in 1902, the John Fritz Medal has honoured prominent engineering innovators, including Thomas Edison, Alexander Graham Bell and Andrew Viterbi. Madni, a member of the US National Academy of Engineering, has also received several major honours, including the NAE Gordon Prize and the IEEE Simon Ramo Medal.

Army officer’s wife booked for alleged espionage

IANs News Jammu, Oct 18

Jammu and Kashmir Police have booked the Telangana-based wife of a senior Army officer for allegedly sharing sensitive information with foreign intelligence operatives, including suspected Chinese agents.

The woman allegedly came into contact with individuals posing as academicians and digital content creators, who engaged her to write articles on defence and geopolitics. Police suspect she shared sensitive documents, photographs and electronic data through encrypted channels.

A case has been registered under the Official Secrets Act and relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Investigators are examining digital devices and financial transactions to establish the extent of the alleged links.

DRI seizes drugs worth Rs 100 crore, arrests four in Tamil Nadu

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) has seized 137 kg of suspected crystal methamphetamine, valued at ₹100 crore in the illicit market, from a coastal village in Tamil Nadu’s Nagapattinam district and arrested four people in connection with an alleged drug-smuggling network targeting Sri Lanka.

According to the DRI, the operation followed specific intelligence that a large consignment of narcotics had been transported to the coastal area for storage and onward smuggling to Sri Lanka. Searches led to the recovery of six duffel bags containing 27 silver-foil packets, each weighing approximately 5 kg.

The packets contained a white crystalline substance suspected to be high-purity methamphetamine. Samples were sent for laboratory examination, and the contraband was seized under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985.

In a simultaneous search at the premises of the suspected organiser, officials recovered ₹10 lakh in cash believed to represent proceeds from drug sales. Two four-wheelers and a two-wheeler allegedly used to transport the consignment were also seized.

The four accused were arrested under the provisions of the NDPS Act and remanded to judicial custody.





Ensure No Drinking Water Shortage in Nizamabad District: Government Adviser P. Sudarshan Reddy

Collector Ila Tripathi Calls for Strict Monitoring to Prevent Water Wastage; Farmers Advised to Avoid Paddy Cultivation During Rabi in View of El Niño Effects

Munsif News Bureau Nizamabad, Oct 18:

State Government Adviser P. Sudarshan Reddy has directed officials to ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply across Nizamabad district in view of the El Niño effect, drought conditions and declining groundwater levels. He advised farmers to avoid paddy cultivation during the Rabi season and opt for crops that require less water, particularly vegetables and pulses.

Sudarshan Reddy, along with District Collector Ila Tripathi, held a review meeting with officials of various departments at the Integrated District Offices Complex on Saturday. Reviewing water availability in the Nizam Sagar and

Sri Ram Sagar reservoirs, he expressed concern over the difficulties in providing irrigation water during Rabi and the possible impact on electricity generation and agricultural power supply.

He directed officials to use available water resources carefully and ensure clean drinking water reaches all residential areas, municipal localities and rural habitations for the next 10 months. He also advised farmers to remain cautious while selling paddy, prefer immediate cash payments and avoid being cheated by private traders and middlemen.

District Collector Ila Tripathi instructed officials to prevent water wastage and give top



priority to drinking water supply, warning that those responsible would be held accountable for shortages. She ordered the prompt repair of leaking pipelines, restoration of non-functional borewells, removal of illegal tap connections and regular field inspections. Officials were also directed to hire agricultural borewells wherever necessary and avoid drilling new ones except in emergencies.

The meeting was at-

tended by Telangana State Urdu Academy chairman Taher Bin Hamdan, State Agriculture Commission member Guddu Gangadhar, Additional Collectors Raja Goud and Bhujanga Rao, Nuda chairman Kesh Venu, District Library Institution chairman Anthi Reddy Rajireddy, Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dileep Kumar, Zilla Parishad CEO Saya Goud, DRDO Saiyanna and other depart-

Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju Reviews Preparations for Telangana Global Summit

Munsif Desk Hyderabad, Oct 18:

Telangana Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju reviewed arrangements for the upcoming Telangana Global Summit at a meeting held at the Secretariat on Saturday.

The meeting discussed preparations for the important event, with particular emphasis on sending invitations to key stakeholders and ensuring the participation of prominent personalities from various sectors. During the meeting, the Chief Secretary reviewed the status of invitations for the Invest Telangana Global Summit and the introductory programmes being organised in connection with it. The introductory programmes are scheduled to be held in Hyderabad on October 24 and in New Delhi on October 29. Officials informed him that invitations had already been sent for

both programmes.

The Chief Secretary directed the concerned officials to invite all important stakeholders associated with the aerospace, space technology and defence sectors to participate in both programmes.

He said establishing contact with leading representatives of industry, experts from the relevant sectors and other prominent personalities was essential, as their participation would play an important role in achieving the objectives of the Global Summit.

He also instructed officials to invite ambassadors from various countries, representatives of major industrial organisations such as the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) and the Confederation of Indian

Industry (CII), along with other prominent personalities from different sectors.

The Chief Secretary stressed that the invitation process should be carried out in an organised, focused and comprehensive manner to ensure the participation of all targeted key guests. He asked the concerned officials to take personal responsibility for the arrangements, maintain effective coordination with stakeholders and make collective efforts to ensure that those invited participated in the programmes.

He further stated that comprehensive planning and effective coordination were essential to ensure that the programmes in Hyderabad and New Delhi achieved their intended objectives and attracted active participation and interest from industrial leaders, international representatives and other key stakeholders. Senior officials attended the meeting.

Harish Rao Accuses Telangana Government of Cheating Youth Over Germany Jobs

Munsif Desk Hyderabad, Oct 18:

BRS leader Harish Rao accused the Revanth Reddy government of cheating unemployed youth with false promises of jobs in Germany through TOMCOM. He alleged that 70-75 candidates paid up to Rs. 4.5 lakh each but received no jobs even after two years.

He demanded refunds, compensation, alternative employment and a CID or judicial inquiry, while questioning the Congress government's promise of two lakh jobs.

Harish Rao demanded a refund of fees, compensation and a probe into the alleged Germany job scam, accusing the Congress government of failing unemployed youth.

D.K. Aruna Demands Immediate Halt to Dindi Project to Protect Mahabubnagar's Interests



Munsif Desk Hyderabad, Oct 18:

Mahabubnagar MP and BJP leader D.K. Aruna demanded an immediate halt to the construction of the Dindi project, stating that the interests of farmers and people of Mahabubnagar district must be protected.

She said Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy stopped the project if he genuinely cared about the people of his home district. Questioning the revival of the project, Aruna recalled that the previous BRS government had

stopped it following pressure over concerns about Mahabubnagar's water rights. She expressed apprehension that the project could worsen drought conditions and migration in the Palamuru region.

Aruna urged leaders to consider the irrigation needs of Mahabubnagar, pointing out that Nalgonda district had greater access to irrigation facilities.

She reiterated that the present government must immediately stop the project and safeguard farmers' interests.

Mohammed Jalaluddin Akbar Assumes Charge as Karimnagar District Minority Welfare Officer



Munsif News Bureau Karimnagar, Oct 18:

Mohammed Jalaluddin Akbar has assumed charge as the District Minority Welfare Officer of Karimnagar following his appointment by the Telangana government.

According to a press release issued by the District Minority Welfare Department, Karimnagar, Akbar formally took charge of the post on October 16, 2026. Until his appointment, the District Revenue Officer had been holding additional charge of the Minority Welfare Officer's post under the Full Additional Charge

(FAC) arrangement.

After assuming charge, Akbar paid courtesy visits to the District Collector and the Additional Collector. Prior to taking charge, he also met Karimnagar District Collector Chitra Mishra. Akbar said he would make every effort to ensure that welfare schemes introduced by the Telangana government for minority communities reach all eligible beneficiaries. He emphasised the importance of facilitating access to these schemes so that deserving members of minority communities could avail themselves of the benefits intended for them.

Jamaat-e-Islami Hind and SIO Hold Public Meeting in Nizamabad, Urge Youth to Promote Islamic Values

Munsif News Bureau Nizamabad, Oct 18:

Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, Nizamabad, and the Students Islamic Organisation of India (SIO) jointly organised a public meeting titled "Bahar Ho Ke Khizan, La Ilaha Illallah" on Fort Road. Speakers highlighted the role of Islamic teachings in addressing moral and social challenges and urged youth to contribute to positive change.

Maulana Waliullah Saeedi Falahi, Naib Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, said Islam offered guidance for every aspect of life. Referring to the Quranic verse, "O you who believe, enter into Islam completely," he described Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) as an example for humanity and stressed



justice, equality, compassion and the rights of the vulnerable. He urged Muslims to rise above differences and promote national unity, peace and harmony.

SIO National President Abdul Hafeez called upon young people to use their abilities and knowledge for society's welfare, while SIO Telangana president Muhammad Faraz Ahmed urged Muslims to guide humanity towards Islamic values and counter materialism, obscenity

and hatred.

Abdul Aziz, member of the Telangana Shura of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, stressed the need to eliminate discrimination, establish justice and oppose oppression. Muhammad Azharuddin, Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, Telangana, highlighted collective effort, clear objectives and organised work. Speakers also called for helping the poor and vulnerable and strengthening brotherhood.

The programme began

with Quran recitation and translation by Abdul Sattar Khan Amjad, local Amir of Yaqub Pura. Certificates were distributed to students who completed courses at Al-Khair Computer Centre, established by the Ahmadi Bazar branch of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind near Rahim Malapalli Masjid. An SIO member presented an anthem.

Those present included Abdul Rahman Dawoodi, city Nazim of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind, Nizamabad; local Amirs Abdul Sattar Khan, Muhammad Khalid Ahmed, Muhammad Ghouse Pasha and Muhammad Abdul Rahim; and SIO Nizamabad president Syed Ansar Ali. Muhammad Faisal Khan conducted the proceedings, while Muhammad Khalid Ahmed proposed the vote of thanks.

Poet Dharmapuri Venkateshwarlu Honoured at Literary Event in Hyderabad

Munsif News Bureau Nizamabad, Oct 18:

Renowned poet and teacher Dharmapuri Venkateshwarlu from Komaram Bheem Asifabad district captivated the audience with a recital of his poems at a literary programme held at Ravindra Bharathi in Hyderabad on Friday evening.

Organised by the Darbhanam Literary Forum with the support of the Telangana Department of Language and Culture, the programme marked the launch of a literary anthology featuring works by 65 poets.

Venkateshwarlu, who is



also a literary critic associated with the forum, was felicitated with a shawl and a certificate of appreciation in recognition of his literary contributions. The honours were presented by noted poet Ammangi Venugopal, Darbhanam

Literary Forum General Secretary and poetess Chidella Seethalakshmi, and Kavi Sangamam founder and poet Yakub.

The event provided a platform for poets to showcase their creativity and celebrate Telugu literature.

Godavari Board Rejects AP's Request on Telangana Projects

Munsif Desk Hyderabad, Oct 18:

The Godavari River Management Board (GRMB) has rejected Andhra Pradesh's request to reopen discussions on Telangana's irrigation projects that have already secured the required clearances.

The board clarified that it lacked the authority to reconsider projects approved by the Central Water Commission (CWC) and cleared by the Technical Advisory Board. It consequently declined to take up Andhra Pradesh's objections.

The GRMB released the agenda for its October 30 meeting, covering approval of the 17th meeting minutes, contributions from both Telugu states towards board expenses, installation of telemetry stations and progress in inspections of Andhra Pradesh projects.

267 Beneficiaries Receive Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak Cheques in Mudhole

Munsif News Bureau Mudhole, Oct 18:

Mudhole MLA Pawar Ramarao Patel distributed financial assistance cheques to 267 beneficiaries under the Kalyana Lakshmi and Shaadi Mubarak schemes across three mandals in the constituency.

The MLA said the Telangana government was providing financial support to economically weaker families for the marriages of their daughters, helping reduce their financial burden. At a programme in Kuntala mandal, cheques were distributed to 68 beneficiaries as a Dasara gift. Another 102 beneficiaries received cheques at the Rythu Vedika in Kubheer mandal, while 97 beneficiaries received assistance at the Rythu Vedika in Lokswaram mandal.

Patel said the schemes



were offering relief to poor and middle-class families and that efforts were being made to ensure all eligible beneficiaries received the benefits.

Addressing farmers' concerns, he said natural calamities, the possible impact of El Niño and electricity-related problems were adding to their difficulties. In view of drought conditions, he advised farmers to use irrigation water carefully and cultivate short-duration crops that require less water.

He said completion of works under the 27th package related to Godavari water would help provide irrigation facilities to farmers in Kuntala mandal. He added that he had raised the issue several times in the Assembly and hoped the project would help ease the water shortage.

The MLA also urged sarpanches to prevent water wastage in villages, suggesting that borewell operating hours be regulated. He advised farmers to construct water storage structures in

their fields under the VB-G RAM G scheme and build soak pits at homes to improve rainwater percolation and groundwater levels.

Patel appealed to farmers to monitor changing weather conditions, follow the advice of Agriculture Department officials and take precautionary measures to protect their crops from potential losses.

Sarpanches, public representatives, senior mandal leaders, party workers and beneficiaries attended the programmes.



Drinking water supply and sewerage management wings should be vigilant during festivals: Water Board

**NSS
Hyderabad, Oct 18:**

Hyderabad Water Board Managing Director Ashok Reddy has instructed officials to take preventive measures to prevent disruptions in drinking water supply to the city people and problems of sewerage overflow on roads during the upcoming festivals including Bathukamma. He advised all departments to work in coordination so that the people do not face any inconvenience during the festivals. On Sunday, a review meeting was held via Zoom with the Water Board EDs, Directors, CGMs, GMs and other senior officials. Several orders were issued to the officials on water supply, sewerage management, establishment of green water tankers, functioning of STPs, alternative water sources and summer ac-

tion plans.

The MD ordered that special monitoring be carried out to prevent sewage overflows in areas with heavy traffic, main roads and places where festivals are held during the festival. He said that Manholes and sewerage lines should be inspected in advance and preventive measures should be taken in problematic areas. It was suggested that complaints should be responded to and resolved immediately after receiving them and that necessary personnel and machinery should be made available.

The MD ordered that arrangements be made to start the proposed green water tanker services from November 1 to use the treated sewage for construction, landscaping and other works that do not require drinking water and added that special at-

tention should be paid to the registration of tankers, uniform branding and development of filling stations.

Reddy said that In addition to the system where consumers can set up their own tankers and get treated water, the facility of booking the tankers registered with the Water Board online will be made available. He said that the IT department should work in coordination to complete the digital platform arrangements and conduct a trial run by October 20.

The MD clarified that special attention should be paid to the performance of sewage treatment plants (STPs) in the city and the quality of treated water. He made it clear that the Officials from the Projects, O&M and AMRUT departments should jointly visit the STPs and inspect the treatment process,



laboratory performance, quality tests and record management.

He ordered that deficiencies in the STPs that do not meet the prescribed quality standards be identified and technical improvements should be made through the relevant agencies. He said that Additional filters and further treatment processes should be examined where necessary and steps should be taken to improve quali-

ty within a month.

He suggested that the capacity of existing filling stations for the supply of treated water in the STPs be increased and suitable areas should be identified for the establishment of new centers. He ordered that meters should be installed in each filling station to measure the quantity of water and that the supply details should be recorded and monitored.

Government Provides Rs. 5 Lakh Assistance to Suicide Victim's Family



**Munsif News Bureau
Nizamabad, Oct 18:**

The Telangana government has extended financial assistance of Rs. 5 lakh to the family of Sudhakar (60), who recently died by suicide at Bheemgal mandal headquarters.

At a programme held at the Bheemgal Tahsildar's

office on Sunday, Government Advisor P. Sudarshan Reddy and District Collector Ila Tripathi handed over a cheque for Rs. 5 lakh to the deceased's wife, Saroja, and son, Srinivas. They assured the family that the government would extend all possible support and announced that an Indiramma house

would be sanctioned to them.

The family thanked the state government for the assistance. Additional Collector Bhujangarao, Urdu Academy Chairman Taher Bin Hamdan, Bheemgal Municipal Chairperson Nagamani and other officials and public representatives attended the programme.

Congress Targets One Crore Women Millionaires; Sewing Machines Distributed to 37 Minority Women

**Munsif News Bureau
Hanamkonda, Oct 18:**

The Congress government aims to empower one crore women by helping them become financially independent and prosperous, said Parkal MLA Revanth Prakash Reddy. He stated that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy was taking special initiatives to create self-employment opportunities for women.

During a programme held at the Rythu Vedika in Konayamakula village of Geesugonda mandal in Warangal district, the MLA distributed sewing machines to 37 economically disadvantaged minority women from Sangem mandal and Greater Warangal's Divisions 15, 16 and 17 under the Indira Mahila Shakti scheme.

Addressing the gathering, the MLA said the government was taking steps to promote the welfare and economic development of



minority women. Along with providing modern sewing machines, the beneficiaries would also receive training to help them access employment opportunities at the Kakatiya Mega Textile Park.

He highlighted several welfare initiatives being implemented by the government, including the Indira Mahila Dairy scheme, 200 units of free electricity, farm loan waivers, subsidised cooking gas, inter-

est-free loans, Indiramma housing, new ration cards, distribution of Indiramma sarees, Rythu Bima, a bonus of ₹500 per quintal for fine paddy and the supply of subsidised rice.

Special Officer K. Ramesh, Minority Welfare Officer T. Ramesh, MPDOs Sridhar and Ravinder, Tahsildar Riazuddin, Mandal Congress presidents Dadi Shiva and Indla Ravi, along with other leaders, attended the programme.

Telangana GENCO Meets 36 Per Cent of State's Electricity Requirements; Power Demand Reaches 20,018 MW

**Munsif Desk
Hyderabad, Oct 18:**

Telangana GENCO is meeting 36 per cent of the state's total electricity demand, supplying more than 115 million units (MU) out of the daily consumption of 325 MU.

According to the corporation, Singareni is supplying 25 MU, while central power generation agencies contribute 64 MU. The remaining demand is being met through power purchases from external sources. GENCO CMD Dr. S. Harish submitted a report on the corporation's performance to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy.

The report stated that GENCO's installed capacity increased from 6,485.26 MW as of March 31, 2024,

to 9,624.96 MW by July 31, 2026. This includes 7,180 MW of thermal power, 2,441.76 MW of hydel power and 3.2 MW of solar power.

Electricity generation rose from 26,960.18 MU in 2024-25 to 32,568.89 MU in 2025-26. Hydel power generation reached 6,912.42 MU in 2025-26, exceeding the target of 3,931.69 MU by nearly 3,000 MU.

Meanwhile, Telangana recorded a new peak electricity demand of 20,018 MW at 10.41 am on October 16, surpassing the previous record of 20,003 MW registered on October 15.

The rising demand highlights the need to strengthen power generation and ensure a reliable electricity supply across Telangana.

Medical Services to Continue Despite NHM Staff Strike in Hanamkonda



**Munsif News Bureau
Hanamkonda, Oct 18:**

District Medical and Health Officer Dr. Appaiah has directed health officials to ensure uninterrupted medical services and vaccination for children despite the ongoing strike by National Health Mission (NHM) employees.

On Saturday evening, Dr. Appaiah conducted surprise inspections at government health centres in Kadipikonda, Bodagutta, Waddepally and Somidi to review staff attendance and the delivery of healthcare services. During the inspections, a total of 36 employees were found absent across

the centres.

He instructed the available Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMs) and other healthcare staff to coordinate and continue the vaccination programme without disruption, ensuring that children receive their scheduled immunisations despite the staff shortage.

Dr. Appaiah directed officials to ensure special medical arrangements, first-aid centres, essential medicines and emergency services during the Saddula Bathukamma festival. He stressed the need to maintain uninterrupted healthcare facilities for the public and ensure prompt medical assistance during the festival.

Mahabubnagar's Water Rights Cannot Be Compromised, Says Jadcherla MLA Anirudh Reddy

**Munsif Desk
Hyderabad, Oct 18:**

Jadcherla Congress MLA Anirudh Reddy said he would not remain silent if injustice was done to Mahabubnagar district. He stated that, if necessary, he could even sacrifice his life for Minister Komatireddy, but there would be no compromise on the rights of the people of Mahabubnagar.

Anirudh Reddy made it clear that the Dindi project should be considered only after Mahabubnagar was provided with its share of water. He proposed that water be transferred from Nagarjuna Sagar to Gotimukkala.

He said that during the BRS government's tenure, only 60 per cent of the works on the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Project had been completed.



Anirudh Reddy alleged that former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao had clearly stated in the Assembly that water would be transferred from the Edula reservoir to the Dindi project. However, he accused BRS leaders of now attempting to gain political mileage from the same issue.

He categorically stated that any attempt to transfer water from Edula to the Dindi project would not be tolerated.

Meanwhile, former BRS MLA Jaipal Yadav, former National BC Commission member Tallojju Achari, and JAC leaders Rajender Reddy and Raghu Achari demanded that pending irrigation projects in Mahabubnagar district be completed at the earliest and that farmers be provided with water for irrigation.

They also opposed the transfer of water from the Edula reservoir to the Dindi project.

Namaz-e-Istisqa Held at Eidgah in Mahabubnagar

**Munsif News Bureau
Mahabubnagar, Oct 18:**

Namaz-e-Istisqa was performed at the Modern Eidgah Waqf Rahmaniya in Mahabubnagar on Sunday at 11 am, seeking Allah's blessings for rainfall. The prayer was led by Hazrat Allama Hafiz Mohammed Ismail Qadri, Imam of Jama Masjid, and was followed by an emotional supplication for rain. A large number of Muslims participated in the prayer, and cattle were also brought to the venue.

The programme was organised jointly by the Eidgah Committee and the Jama Masjid Committee. Eidgah Committee president Mohammed Bashiruddin, secretary Waheed Khan Durrani and Jama Masjid Committee secretary Abdul Majeed thanked the community for its participation. They also expressed gratitude to corporator Siraj Qadri, Saadullah Junaidi, a member of the Hospital Committee, and others who extended support in making the arrangements.

Religious scholars representing different schools of



thought attended the programme, including Qazi Syed Ghouse Mohiuddin Qadri, President Qazi Hafiz Mohammed Ilyas Naqshbandi, and Maulana Naeem Kausar Rashadi, founder and head of Darul Uloom Qasd-us-Sabeel. Students of religious seminaries, representatives of various mosque committees, senior journalists, advocates, political and social leaders, and prominent citizens were also present.

Among those who attended were senior journalists Mohammed Rafi Ahmed Qadri and Abdul Rafi Zakki, advocate Qadir Mohiuddin, Ahmed Sana, Sheikh Sirajuddin, Mohsin Khan, All-Party Coordination Committee president Mohammed Hanif, Mohammed Iqbal, journalist Aleem Siddiqui, Abdul Rahim of the Nawab Mir Mehboob Ali Khan Bahadur Foundation, and other community representatives.

Three Degloor Degree College NCC Cadets Selected for National Trekking Camp in Kerala

**Munsif News Bureau
Hanamkonda, Oct 18:**

Three talented female NCC cadets from Degloor Degree College have been selected for the national-level Kerala Trekking Camp 2026, scheduled to be held in Kochi, Kerala, from October 20 to 29. The selected cadets are Vaishnavi Gondore, Vaishnavi Bande and Ambika Dubukwad. They will represent the 52 Maharashtra NCC Battalion under the Nanded Group at the national-level training camp. Their selection has brought recognition to the college and the region.

The camp will provide the cadets with practical trekking experience in a natural environment while helping them develop physical fitness, mental strength,



discipline, leadership qualities, teamwork and self-confidence. The experience is expected to contribute to their overall development. The cadets successfully completed the selection process under the guidance of the college's NCC officer, Captain Dr. Neeraj Upalanchwar.

Colonel Gurminder Singh, Commanding Officer of the 52 Maharashtra NCC Battalion, Nanded, and office-bearers of the educational society, including president Prakash Patel, vice-president Janardhan

Chidrawar, secretary Dr. Karamveer Angratwar, joint secretary Rajkumar Mahajan and treasurer Vilas Totawar, congratulated the cadets on their achievement. College Principal Dr. Mohan Khattar, Vice-Principals Dr. Anil Chidrawar, Dr. Muezzuddin Chamkure and Dr. Shrikr V.G., supervisor Professor Sangram Patil, Superintendent Govind Joshi, faculty members, non-teaching staff and students also congratulated the three cadets and wished them success in their future endeavours.



At a Glance

Speeding Car Kills Couple, Injures 3 Girls

IANS
Pandhurna, Oct. 18



A couple died and their three daughters were injured when a speeding car hit their motorcycle as they returned home after darshan in Madhya Pradesh’s Pandhurna, police said.

Vasudev Uike, 40, and his wife Sunita, 35, died at the scene. Their daughters Vaishnavy, 3, Sonu, 7, and Rakhi, 5, were injured.

Police said the family was crossing the Tigaon four-lane highway when the car struck their bike. Passers-by took the girls to hospital.

Vaishnavy suffered a fracture and was referred to Nagpur for specialised treatment. Sonu and Rakhi are stable but under observation at Pandhurna Civil Hospital, doctors said.

The car driver fled after the collision. Police are examining CCTV footage and leads to trace the vehicle and driver.

137 Cancer Drugs Get Price Cap

IANS
New Delhi, Oct. 18

The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority has capped trade margins on 137 non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs at 30 per cent of MRP. Prices take effect on November 9, 2026, with medicines expected to become up to 70 per cent cheaper.

Manufacturers must notify NPPA of revised prices within seven days of the Gazette notification. Retailers and hospitals must charge and display new prices.

The list includes immunotherapy drugs, denosumab, pegfilgrastim and bevacizumab. Pembrolizumab, durvalumab and osimertinib may become more affordable. Consumers can check prices on the Pharma Sahi Daam app or NPPA website.

Amit Shah to Visit Punjab on October 20 Amid Drug Crisis

IANS
Chandigarh, Oct. 18

Union Home Minister Amit Shah will visit Punjab on October 20, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Ravneet Singh Bittu announced on Sunday.

This will be HM Shah’s second visit in 20 days. He last visited Punjab on September 30 to address an anti-drug rally in Jalandhar. Announcing the visit in a post on X, Bittu stated that at a time when Punjab is grappling with a serious drug problem, there is a need for decisive action, strong leadership, and firm determination to safeguard the youth and the future of the state.

“Punjab welcomes Hon’ble Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah Ji on his visit to Punjab on 20th October. At a time when Punjab is battling the grave menace of drugs, we need decisive action, strong leadership and a firm resolve to secure our youth and our future,” the former Union Minister said.

Taking aim at the Punjab government over the growing drug menace in the state, Bittu said, “The AAP Govt in Punjab has lost his mandate much before his completion of



term. I appeal to every Punjabi to support Amit Shah Ji and have faith in our collective mission to make Punjab drug-free, once and for all.”

“Let us unite to save Punjab’s youth and reclaim Punjab’s future!” he added.

HM Shah’s visit comes at a time when political parties are gearing up for the 2027 Assembly elections in Punjab. It is likely that during his visit, he will focus on strengthening the BJP and discussing preparations for the polls.

There is also a possibility that the Home Minister might visit Mansa to meet the family members of anti-drug activist Parwinder Singh Jhota.

Earlier this week, HM Shah raised concerns over the alleged rise in drug trafficking, gangsterism and organised crime in Punjab, questioning the Bhagwant Mann-led government over the safety of

the state’s residents.

In a post on social media platform X in Hindi, he said recent incidents in Dirba and Mansa had raised serious questions about the law and order situation in the state.

HM Shah further said that the Home Ministry will also seek responses from the Punjab government on both these incidents.

During his September 30 rally, the Home Minister promised to make Punjab free of the illicit ‘chitta’ (synthetic drug) trade before December 31, 2029, saying the BJP would contest the next Assembly elections in the state primarily on the issue of a drug-free Punjab.

He urged the mothers and the youth of Punjab to extend support to the BJP in the next Assembly elections by voting for the lotus symbol, promising to free the state from the illicit drug trade.

Nanded Police destroy illegal sand mining equipment worth Rs 3.15 crore in major crackdown

IANS
Nanded, Oct. 18

In a major crackdown on illegal sand mining, the police in Maharashtra’s Nanded have seized and destroyed equipment and materials worth Rs 3.15 crore used for illegal extraction of sand from the Godavari river, officials said on Sunday.

The action was carried out on October 16 following instructions from Nanded Superintendent of Police Neelabh Rohan.

The operation was conducted under the leadership of Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Manik Bendre, with teams from Nanded Rural, Airport and Mudkhed police stations participating in the coordinated raids.

According to an official police statement, simultaneous raids were conducted at several illegal sand extraction points along the Godavari riverbed.

During the operation, police seized and de-

stroyed nine large iron boats, each valued at Rs 30 lakh, with a combined value of Rs 2.70 crore.

These boats were destroyed through controlled explosions using gelatin sticks after completing the necessary documentation at the spot.

One smaller boat worth Rs 15 lakh and a sand extraction engine valued at Rs 3.5 lakh were also destroyed.

Moreover, 23 floating rafts, each valued at Rs 50,000, along with 58 brasses of illegally extracted sand, were destroyed by burning and immersing them in the river. Their combined value was estimated at Rs 14.40 lakh.

Police also seized a tipper truck loaded with two brasses of sand, valued at Rs 12.10 lakh.

The total value of the seized and destroyed material stands at Rs 3.15 crore, according to the police.

The process of register-



ing cases under various provisions, including the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), has been initiated at Nanded Rural, Mudkhed and Airport police stations.

The operation was supervised by Police Inspectors Ashok Jadhav, Ganesh Karad and Ramdas Shendge, along with their respective teams.

Police said such special drives would continue to curb illegal mining, protect the river ecosystem, and prevent revenue losses to the government.

17 dead, 25 injured in Kolkata Puja pandal stampede; PM Modi announces ` 2 lakh ex-gratia relief

IANS
Kolkata, Oct. 18

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has announced ex-gratia assistance of Rs 2 lakh for the next of kin of each person killed in a stampede at the Chorbagan Sarbojonin Durga Puja pandal on Muktarembabu Street in North Kolkata on Saturday. Seventeen people died and 25 were seriously injured in the incident.

In a post on X, Modi described the stampede as saddening and conveyed his condolences to the bereaved families. He wished the injured a speedy recovery and said the West Bengal government was providing all possible assistance to the affected families.

The Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) said the assistance would be provided from the Prime Minister’s National Relief Fund (PMNRF). The injured would receive Rs 50,000 each, it said.

President Droupadi



Murmu expressed grief over the deaths, describing the news as extremely heartbreaking. She conveyed her deepest condolences to the families of the deceased and prayed for the swift recovery of those injured.

Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan said he was deeply anguished by the tragedy. In a post on X, he offered condolences to the families who had lost loved ones and wished the injured a speedy recovery.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah postponed his scheduled Durga Puja-related engagements in West Bengal on Sunday following the incident. He said

he was in touch with Chief Minister Suwendu Adhikari and expressed distress over the casualties at the pandal.

Shah offered condolences to the bereaved families and prayed for the peace of those who died. He said the administration was making arrangements to ensure the best possible medical treatment for the injured. He also said he was postponing his programmes in the state to visit the injured in hospital and prayed for their swift recovery.

West Bengal Governor R. N. Ravi also expressed sorrow over the loss of lives. In a statement, the Governor’s office conveyed condolence-

Jagan regrets supporting law on appointment of Election Commissioners

IANS
Tadepalli (A.P), Oct. 18

Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) President Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy said on Sunday that he regrets supporting the 2023 law on appointment of Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners, saying the ruling Telugu Desam Party-led coalition government should not control the selection process.

Addressing a press conference, Reddy added that be it State Election Commissioner or Central Election Commissioner, the ruling TDP should not nominate them.

YSRCP had supported Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023.



“Earlier at the Centre, YSRCP supported the system wherein the ruling party can nominate the Election Commissioner but today we are regretting the mistake we made by supporting it,” the YSRCP Chief said.

He remarked that an examiner cannot be appointed by the student.

“No matter, how sincere is the examiner, he has to face the criticism, if appointment is not done by a neutral body,” Reddy said, demanding restoration of the earlier system of appointment of Chief Election Commissioner and other

Election Commissioners. The YSRCP Chief said Leader of Opposition, Chief Justice of India and Prime Minister should appoint the Chief Election Commissioner. He added that the presence of Chief Justice of India will make it a neutral body.

“Currently, Prime Minister and a Minister nominated by the Prime Minister have two votes and Leader of Opposition one vote. Since two votes go in favour of one person, he will be a nominee of the government. This is a flaw in the system. We realised this after we made the mistake,” he said.

es to the bereaved families and wished those injured a speedy recovery.

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami expressed grief and prayed for the departed souls and strength for their families to bear the loss. He also prayed to Maa Durga for the recovery of the injured.

Union Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said it was deeply painful that families had been struck by tragedy during the festive season. He conveyed condolences to those who had lost loved ones and wished the injured a swift recovery.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said he was deeply saddened by the loss of life in the stampede. He said relief and rescue efforts were under way to provide timely assistance to those affected.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge urged party leaders and workers to assist all affected families at the difficult time.

Calling for reforms to restore the earlier system, the YSRCP Chief added that this was necessary to ensure the credibility of election system.

He demanded similar reform for appointment of State Election Commissioner (SEC). He said the Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu or the TDP should not appoint the State Election Commissioner.

THE YSRCP Chief was speaking to media after meeting State Election Commissioner Anil Chandra Punetha to complain about the attempts by the ruling TDP-led coalition government to stop YSRCP candidates from filing nominations for the upcoming local body polls.

Stating that SEC Punetha is appointed by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu, the YSRCP leader alleged that SEC was acting on his directions.

WHY NATIONS NEED TO BE WARY OF CHINA’S CHEAP AI

IANS
New Delhi, Oct. 18

There is much to fear from artificial intelligence (AI) developed by Chinese companies such as DeepSeek and Xiaomi China and handed to businesses and governments in the West almost free of charge, according to a report.

The report in the UK’s The Guardian highlights that Chinese developers are launching AI models by the dozen each month at a fraction of the cost of US equivalents. In practice, an AI user has the choice between a cheap Chinese open system they can tweak for their own ends or expensive US software that comes with various attachments that they probably don’t need.

The policy governing DeepSeek’s online chatbot says it collects prompts and uploaded



material, processes and stores personal data in China, and permits disclosure to Chinese authorities, the report by Phillip Inman pointed out. It cited Michael Wooldrige, a Professor of AI at the University of Oxford, as saying it is not unreasonable to assume data inputted into the chatbot could be shared with the Chinese state.

“The consequences for policymaking are profound. The UK should reject the lure of cheap Chinese AI and seek to

better tame US AI while supporting domestic and EU suppliers. Relying on Chinese tech, from cars to AI, is going to hollow out industry and undermine the security of our data,” the report stated.

The report points out that cheap AI takes the export threat from China to “a much higher level” than the communist country’s low-priced products such as EVs, which hurt domestic car industries of other countries.

“It’s scary because Beijing is entering a new

phase in the long march of economic development, taking the world’s second largest economy closer to making China great again,” the report states.

It also underscores that China is building a fleet of warships to challenge the US in the Pacific, much as Japan did in the 1930s. Taiwan, the engine of semiconductor development, is also in its sights.

The report further states that where Russia is using AI to enhance cyberattacks on European government agencies and businesses to create chaos, China wants merely to widen the circle of friends that consume its goods without asking awkward questions. However, this has the potential to enable Beijing to turn states into clients who depend for the basics of life on Chinese technology.

Three Arrested, One Absconding After Garba Dispute Assault in Mumbai

Munsif
Mumbai, Oct. 18

Three men have been arrested and one is absconding after a 43-year-old man was allegedly assaulted with an iron rod and bamboo sticks following a dispute over stopping a Garba event in Malvani, Mumbai, police said on Sunday.

The incident took place at Ambujwadi in Malad West on October 16. According to Malvani police, complainant Sanjay Dubey, an auto-rickshaw driver, was at home at around

10.30 pm when four men allegedly entered his house, abused him and attacked him, leaving him injured.

Police identified the accused as Ajay Kashyap, Salam, Rehan Akbar Sheikh, 18, and Mazar Azhar Sheikh, 21. The alleged assault followed a disagreement over stopping Garba celebrations in front of the Durga Mata temple, officials said.

Following the dispute, the four men allegedly forced their way into Dubey’s house and attacked him with an iron

rod and bamboo sticks. The allegations are part of the complaint and have not been established in court.

Based on Dubey’s complaint, Malvani police registered a case under Sections 118(1), 115(2), 333, 352 and 3(5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

Police have arrested three of the four accused. Kashyap, described as the main accused, is absconding, and a search is under way to trace and apprehend him.

Officials said security measures were need-

ed to prevent similar incidents during the festive season. Police are also investigating the case and checking the accused persons’ criminal backgrounds, officials said.

Further investigation is under way. Police have not detailed all accused’s alleged roles. Investigators are examining the complaint to establish the sequence of events. Efforts to trace the absconding accused continue, officials said. Further details are awaited as the investigation proceeds.



At a Glance

Vance Defends H-1B Remarks

IAN S
Washington, Oct. 18

US Vice President JD Vance defended calling some H-1B workers “indentured servants”, saying he criticised companies exploiting foreign employees, not the workers.

Vance admitted his immigration rhetoric had been imperfect. He said firms recruit foreign workers after dismissing Americans, leaving visa holders dependent on employers and vulnerable if they challenge them.

Vance argued the system gives companies much power and harms U.S. workers and immigrants. Addressing concerns about anti-immigrant rhetoric, he cited his wife Usha’s Indian heritage and her parents’ migration from South India. He said the US could welcome immigrants while protecting citizens’ interests.



Egypt’s National Defense Council decides to support Saudi security

IAN S
Cairo, Oct. 18

Egypt’s National Defence Council, chaired by President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, pledged “all possible” support to Saudi Arabia amid Houthi attacks, the presidency said.

The council said it would help protect the kingdom’s territory, resources and Islamic holy sites, while pursuing diplomacy to ease regional tensions. It called attacks on Saudi Arabia unacceptable and linked the kingdom’s security to Egyptian and Arab security.

Sisi said Egypt was ready to take measures requested by Riyadh, but intervention would require parliamentary approval and remain defensive.

Meanwhile, clashes erupted anew near Yemen’s Bab al-Mandeb Strait as troops advanced against Houthi positions. A military official said fortified positions and minefields slowed the offensive.

TRUMP VOWS IRAN WILL NEVER GET NUCLEAR WEAPON

IAN S
Washington, Oct. 18

US President Donald Trump has declared that Iran’s nuclear weapons capability has been destroyed by American military operations and vowed that Tehran would never be allowed to rebuild it, presenting the campaign against the Islamic Republic as one of the major national security achievements of his second presidency.

Addressing a Republican election rally at Northern Kentucky University’s Truist Arena on Saturday, Trump defended his decision to launch military operations against Iran, saying the threat of a nuclear-armed Tehran had made American intervention necessary.

“They cannot have a nuclear weapon. They can’t because they’ll use it,” Trump told supporters while discussing the military campaign.

The President said the United States had successfully struck Iran’s nuclear infrastructure and was taking steps to ensure



that the programme could not be revived.

“We have to make sure it doesn’t come back,” he said, recalling his instructions to senior administration officials during the operation.

Trump linked the military action to his broader argument that American military strength had been restored under his leadership and that Washington was once again prepared to confront threats to its national security.

He said the decision to undertake military operations had come at a time when the American economy and stock market were performing strongly.

The President acknowledged that the operation had required the United States to devote attention and resources to the Middle East, but argued that preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons was more important than any short-term economic consequences.

He also suggested that energy prices would decline once the military campaign was concluded. “It’s gonna end very quickly,” Trump said, adding that petrol prices would fall below their previous levels when the operation ended.

The President returned to the subject later in his speech, describing the

military action as a defining accomplishment of his administration.

“Iran won’t have, doesn’t have, and never will have a nuclear weapon, very simple,” he declared.

Trump argued that the issue should have been resolved by previous American administrations and insisted that his government had demonstrated the resolve necessary to confront Tehran.

“Should have been done years ago,” he said.

The President placed the Iran operation alongside other foreign policy initiatives, including developments involving Venezuela and Greenland.

He also highlighted increased American defence spending, saying his administration and the Republican-controlled Congress had delivered more than \$1 trillion for the armed forces.

Trump said that the United States possessed the world’s strongest military and said American defence capabilities were central to restoring the country’s international standing.

Yemen govt forces launch fresh offensive against Houthis

IAN S
Sanaa, Oct. 18

Fierce fighting erupted near Yemen’s strategic Bab al-Mandeb Strait on Sunday as government forces launched a fresh offensive against Houthi positions in the area, a government military official told Xinhua.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said units from the Giants Brigades and Nation Shield Forces advanced from several directions to seize key Houthi-held positions overlooking approaches to the strait.

Heavy clashes were raging as Houthi fighters resisted the advance from fortified positions and trenches, the official said, adding that extensive minefields had complicated the government forces’ push, Xinhua News Agency reported.

“The fighting is among the fiercest we have seen in the area,” the official said. “The Houthis are heavily entrenched, and our forces are trying to break through their defensive lines.”

The official said the Houthis also deployed fibre-optic-guided first-person-view kamikaze drones known as “Shawaz” against the



advancing government troops.

Several people on both sides were killed or wounded in the fighting, the official said, without giving specific figures.

The outcome of the offensive remained unclear as clashes continued, with no confirmation of significant territorial gains.

The latest push follows previous attempts by government forces to break through Houthi defences in the area. Bab al-Mandeb, separating Yemen from the Horn of Africa, connects the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden and serves as a vital passage for international trade.

The Saudi-led coalition in Yemen announced on Saturday that it had intercepted and destroyed four drones over Riyadh and Saudi Arabia’s east-

ern and southern regions in recent hours, while also destroying two ballistic missile launchers in Yemen’s northern Saada province.

In a series of posts on social media platform X, coalition spokesperson Turki Al-Maliki said coalition forces had intercepted and destroyed four drones in different parts of the kingdom, without providing further details on their exact locations or possible casualties.

Al-Maliki also announced that coalition forces destroyed two ballistic missile launchers in Yemen’s Saada province.

The development came amid escalating hostilities between the Houthis and Saudi Arabia, with both sides exchanging attacks and military warnings in recent days.

1,800 people arrested during protests: French Interior Minister Laurent Nunez

IAN S
Paris, Oct. 18

French Interior Minister Laurent Nunez said on Sunday that 1,800 people had been taken into custody following violent protests that caused widespread damage and looting across the country. Investigations are underway to identify those responsible, he said.

Nunez condemned attacks on law enforcement personnel and public institutions, as well as damage to public buildings and looting of businesses. He thanked police officers, gendarmes and firefighters who responded to the unrest.

“Manifesting is a fundamental right. Sowing disorder with violence and in a concerted manner is not,” Nunez said in a post on X. He added that nothing could justify attacking security forces, targeting institutions, damaging public buildings, breaking into prefectures or town halls, or looting shops.

According to the minister, several thousand far-left individuals began targeting public buildings and confronting security forces from midday on Saturday, while un-



rest began in Marseille in the morning. He said looters later joined them and ransacked businesses in Paris, Marseille, Lyon, Bordeaux, Rennes, Strasbourg, Grenoble, Nice, Limoges and other cities.

Nunez said more than 500 police officers, gendarmes and firefighters had been injured, adding that the figure was provisional. Several hundred merchants had also suffered material damage. “The Republic will yield nothing to those who seek to impose disorder and violence,” he said.

In Limoges, a fire that devastated the town hall during Saturday’s protests was brought under control, the police prefect of the Haute-Vienne department said.

Maurice Barate said a “wild horde” had “deliberately” set fire to the 143-year-old building. Its roof largely collapsed during the unrest, France 24 reported.

Clashes between police and protesters broke out in Paris and other parts of France on Saturday during nationwide marches against rising inflation. Protesters set fires at several locations, while looters broke into dozens of shops. The unrest followed weeks of student protests.

Tens of thousands of people marched across eastern and northern Paris in one major demonstration. Protesters chanted slogans including “Everyone hates the police” and “Macron, resign”.

In Lyon, protesters set fire to a tourist office in the city centre, while town halls in Marseille and Lille were broken into and vandalised, France 24 reported. Dozens of shops were looted, including many in Marseille.

More than 300 protesters attempted to move towards the Champs-Élysées in Paris, an area known for its luxury stores. Police fired tear gas and blocked their way as demonstrators shouted anti-police slogans.

Nunez said the protests continued late into Saturday night in some cities. He offered his “full support” to emergency personnel who had intervened “under extreme conditions”. The minister said investigations were being conducted so those responsible for the violence and damage could face justice.

The minister said the damage was “considerable”, particularly for merchants whose businesses were targeted. He reiterated that demonstrations were a fundamental right, but said violence and attacks on public institutions could not be justified.

South Korea: Heavy downpours flood Seoul streets, cause damage

IAN S
Seoul, Oct. 18

Heavy downpours accompanied by strong gusts battered Seoul on Sunday, causing urban flooding and safety hazards across South Korea’s capital city.

According to municipal officials, localised torrential rain inundated parts of the city, as fallen leaves swept by gale-force winds clogged drainage systems.

Gangbuk Ward in the northern part of the city recorded a peak hourly rainfall of 53.5 millimetres, the highest hourly intensity nationwide during the storm, Yonhap News Agency reported.

By 5:00 pm (local time), Seoul fire authorities had received 129 emergency calls – 47 calls for drainage assistance, 21 instances of fallen trees and 60 safety inspection requests for public facilities.

Seoul issued an emergency alert via text at 3:16 pm (local time), urging

its residents to stay away from low-lying and high-risk areas amid heavy rainfall in blustery conditions.

While heavy rain advisories covering the northeastern, northwestern, and southwestern districts were lifted at 3:30 pm (local time), scattered showers persisted throughout the afternoon. Cumulative rainfall as of 5:00 pm peaked at 65 mm in Gangbuk Ward, with the southern Songpa District recording a city-low of 20 mm.

Rising water levels forced city officials to restrict access to 16 major urban streams.

Traffic was also disrupted across key corridors. Roads beneath the Jeungsan Bridge in Seodaemun Ward were completely blocked around 3:04 pm due to flooding. Weather warnings were also issued for major highways, urging drivers to exercise caution on wet roads and against high winds.

A tree fell onto a busy

road in Gangnam Ward in southern Seoul, obstructing traffic and pedestrians. Water levels in Eunpyeong Ward in northwestern Seoul reached above the knees in some low-lying areas.

Some shop owners were seen manually clearing piles of fallen leaves blocking catch basins to expedite drainage.

The inclement weather forced the cancellation of major outdoor public events, such as the Grand Mint Festival scheduled at Olympic Park in Songpa.

Seoul activated Level 1 emergency response protocols at 2:40 pm and partially operated 12 rain-water pumping stations to clear inundated roads.

“Although the rain appears to be letting up, reports of damage continue to come in,” a Seoul official said. “Our primary focus is on rapidly resolving pending safety reports and preventing secondary accidents in close cooperation with district offices.”

BANGLADESH MEASLES OUTBREAK CLAIMS SEVEN MORE LIVES, TOLL RISES TO 1,196

IAN S
Dhaka, Oct. 18

Seven more children died from measles-like symptoms in Bangladesh in the 24 hours until 8 am on Sunday, taking the outbreak’s death toll to 1,196.

The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) classified all seven deaths as suspected measles deaths. Suspected deaths rose to 1,092, while confirmed deaths remained at 104, the Dhaka Tribune re-



ported. Bangladesh recorded 1,254 new suspected cases, taking the total to 213,244. Another 65 confirmed cases raised the tally to 23,122.

Since March 15, 189,484 suspected patients have been admitted to hospitals;

181,756 have recovered and been discharged, the DGHS said.

Despite resuming vaccine procurement through UNICEF in April and launching an emergency vaccination drive, containing the outbreak quickly remains difficult, former DGHS disease control director Benazir Ahmed said, The Daily Star reported.

Experts linked the resurgence to vaccination gaps and delays in detecting infected children and isolating them at home.

Public health expert Mushtuq Husain told The Daily Star that children need three to four weeks after vaccination to develop immunity. The current wave could continue for at least another month, he said.

The Canada-based Global Centre for Democratic Governance called the outbreak one of Bangladesh’s worst recent public health crises, citing vaccine supply disruptions in 2024-2025, missed vaccinations and procurement delays.

MASSIVE DRONE ASSAULT HITS MULTIPLE RUSSIAN REGIONS

IAN S
Moscow, Oct. 18

Russian regions came under drone attacks overnight, with the Defence Ministry saying air defences shot down more than 1,000 Ukrainian drones.

Drones were intercepted over Belgorod, Bryansk, Leningrad and Moscow regions and the Black Sea, the ministry said.

A drone attack on St Petersburg killed one person and injured five, Governor Alexander Beglov said, Xinhua reported. Pulkovo Airport sus-



pending flights, the Federal Air Transport Agency said.

Leningrad Governor Alexander Drozdenko said 144 drones were shot down there. Falling debris damaged an apartment block, private house and power lines, causing local outages.

The Russian ministry said its forces targeted Ukrainian logistics hubs, ports and vessels. It reported damage to a logistics centre storing drone components and said a dry-cargo ship carrying dual-use goods was struck 30 km east of Odesa port.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio denied that the Trump administration restricted satellite internet used by Ukrainian drones. He distinguished Starlink, SpaceX’s commercial network, from military-oriented Starshield, and said Kyiv sought access to a separate US military communications system for deep strikes inside Russia.

“No one at the White House ordered anyone to slow down internet or slow down speed so that certain drones couldn’t use it,” Rubio said.

Torn Between the Classroom and the Cloth: Why Azerbaijan’s Hijab Ban Is Breaking Hearts—and Alliances—Across the Muslim World

- By The Editorial Desk

There is a quiet, devastating violence in turning a child away from a school gate. In Baku this month, that quiet devastation became a national roar. Across Azerbaijan—a nation where nearly **96% of the population identifies as Muslim**—young girls and female teachers have found themselves standing outside locked iron gates, barred from their classrooms for refusing to remove their hijabs.

What the authorities in Baku call a standard enforcement of secular school uniform policies has quickly mutated into a profound crisis of conscience. In scenes that have pierced the heart of the wider Islamic world, unveiled classmates in Baku have staged spontaneous walkouts, refusing to enter their schools in solidarity with their veiled peers. Meanwhile, at least **37 people have been detained**—including a young man given 30 days in custody simply for painting **“Freedom for the hijab!”** on a school wall, and another jailed for 25 days over a TikTok video. With reports of Instagram and TikTok throttling across the country, the message from the state is unmistakable: compliance is not optional.

Yet, when a predominantly Muslim nation treats a foundational symbol of Islamic modesty as contraband at the classroom door, it forces an agonizing question upon its citizens and neighbors alike: *When does state secularism stop being a shield for neutrality and start becoming a sword against personal faith?*

The Anatomy of a Secular Paradox

To understand why a Muslim-majority country is policing the headscarf, one must understand the ghosts of Azerbaijan’s past and the anxieties of its present. Following seven decades of militant Soviet atheism, independent Azerbaijan enshrined strict secularism in its constitution. The state’s unofficial doctrine has always been clear: faith belongs in the heart and the mosque, never in public institutions.

First introduced in December 2010 under the guise of mandatory school uniform regulations, the restriction on headscarves in secondary schools has periodically flared into public unrest. This month’s renewed, rigid enforcement, however, hits a vastly more connected and vocal generation.

Azerbaijani officials fervently deny charges of Islamophobia or religious persecution. **Zahid Oruj**, chairman of the parliamentary human rights committee, recently defended the policy, arguing that headscarves remain completely legal in public life and that the school rules merely ensure **“uniformity within the educational environment”**. In Baku’s view, millions of Azerbaijanis revere the Quran and believe in God without wearing the veil, and standardized dress codes prevent social and sectarian division among minors.

Beneath the administrative language of **“uniformity,”** however, lies deep geopolitical paranoia. Situated directly north of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Baku’s ruling elite has long viewed political Islam and visibly growing piety—especially among its majority Shia population—as a potential Trojan horse for foreign clerical influence. By keeping the hijab out of schools, the state believes it is inoculating its youth against extremism. In doing so, however, it has conflated the personal devotion of a twelve-year-old schoolgirl with a national security threat.

A Rupture Between Brothers: The Outcry in Türkiye

Perhaps the most shocking reverberation of this crisis has not come from Baku’s traditional adversaries, but from its closest ally on earth: **Türkiye**.

For decades, Ankara and Baku have operated under the cherished banner of *“İki devlet, bir millet”*—**Two states, one nation**. Yet, images of weeping Azerbaijani schoolgirls barred from education have reopened one of modern Türkiye’s deepest psychological wounds. For millions of Turkish citizens, the footage from Baku is a haunting mirror of their own country’s *“February 28”* era in the late 1990s, when strict secularists banned the headscarf in Turkish universities and state jobs, fracturing families and derailing the lives of a generation of pious women.

The emotional dam broke in Ankara when **Oktay Saral**, senior adviser to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, issued a blistering public rebuke:

“Leaving a student who covers her head for reasons of faith at the school gate—how can this fit into any conscience, any sense of justice? We expect Azerbaijan to reverse this mistake as soon as possible.”

Outside the Azerbaijani consulate in Istanbul, demonstrators gathered in the rain, chanting in support of their *“sisters in Baku.”* Rather than heeding the fraternal warning, Azerbaijan’s ruling New Azerbaijan Party bristled at the criticism, accusing Turkish commentators of stoking domestic tensions and insisting that brotherhood must never become *“tutelage”* over Baku’s sovereign affairs. For the first time in recent memory, a wedge of faith and identity has been driven directly into the heart of the Turkic alliance.

The Iranian Mirror and the Broader Muslim Conscience

Across the southern border in **Iran**, the reaction has been fierce, complicated, and steeped in irony. Clerics and students in Tabriz and Tehran have staged fiery rallies, with hardline parliamentarians like **Alireza Salimi** and dailies like **Vatan-e Emrooz** condemning Baku’s crack-down as a *“satanic,”* Western- and Israeli-inspired assault on Islamic identity. Iranian commentators have bitterly noted that President Ilham Aliyev’s government was happy to mobilize Islamic rhetoric and mosque prayers when liberating territories in Karabakh, only to turn around and strip religious girls of their right to learn.

Yet, the crisis has also sparked a profound philosophical reckoning across the Middle East. Reformist voices and human rights advocates in the region have pointed out the glaring symmetry between Tehran and Baku: **both states are obsessed with policing women’s heads**. While one state uses the law to force the cloth onto a woman’s hair, the other uses the law to rip it off. As exiled commentators and rights groups have noted this week, compulsion to veil and compulsion to unveil are two sides of the exact same authoritarian coin. Both reduce a woman’s body and conscience to battlegrounds for state ideology.

The Verdict of History

A nation’s strength is not measured by the uniformity of its children’s clothing, but by the breadth of its tolerance and the security of its classrooms.

When a young girl in Azerbaijan is told she must choose between her duty to God and her right to an education, the state is not teaching her modernity; it is teaching her alienation. The most hopeful image to emerge from this sorrowful chapter is not from any parliament or diplomatic cable, but from the schoolyards of Baku—where uncovered girls linked arms with their hijabi classmates, refusing to walk through doors that would not welcome them all.

True secularism does not fear a piece of fabric. If Azerbaijan wishes to secure its future as a modern, confident, and cohesive republic, it must listen to the quiet wisdom of its own children—and open the school gates to every daughter of the nation, exactly as she chooses to stand before her Creator.



How to Make Hyderabad a Peaceful

By: Shujath Ali Sufi

Hyderabad, the capital of Telangana, is known for its rich cultural heritage, historical monuments, and tradition of communal harmony. People from different religions, cultures, and backgrounds live together in this beautiful city. However, maintaining peace and harmony requires the collective efforts of citizens, government authorities, and community leaders.

The first step towards making Hyderabad a peaceful city is to promote religious tolerance and mutual respect. People should respect each other’s beliefs, customs, and traditions. Religious and community leaders must spread messages of peace, unity, and brotherhood. Hate speech, rumours, and provocative messages on social media should be discouraged.

The police and administration also have a crucial role to play. Law and order must be maintained impartially, and strict action should be taken against those who incite violence or disturb public peace. At the same time, the authorities should strengthen community policing and encourage dialogue between different communities to resolve disputes peacefully.

Education can play a significant role in building a peaceful society. Schools and colleges should teach students the values of tolerance, equality, compassion, and national integration. Citizens must also learn to settle disagreements through discussion rather than confrontation.

Furthermore, the government should address public grievances promptly, improve civic facilities, and provide equal opportunities to all sections of society. Responsible journalism and social media use are equally important in preventing misunderstandings and promoting harmony.

Hyderabad belongs to all its citizens, irrespective of religion, caste, language, or region. Peace cannot be achieved through laws alone; it must begin in our homes, neighbourhoods, and everyday interactions. Every citizen has a responsibility to reject hatred and stand for justice and humanity.

A peaceful Hyderabad is possible when its people choose unity over division, dialogue over conflict, and love over hatred. Let us work together to make Hyderabad a model of peace, harmony, and brotherhood for the entire nation.

FROM FARM GATE TO DINNER PLATE: Why FSSAI’s Crackdown on Perishable Cold Chains is a Battle for Public Survival

For millions of households across India, the daily purchase of *paneer*, *khoya*, fresh meat, and fish is done with routine, unquestioning trust. We assume that the milk solids going into our festive sweets and the protein feeding our children are safe. Yet, behind that routine lies an invisible, festering hazard that has quietly threatened public health for decades: the open-air truck, the uninsulated delivery van, and the dreaded “temperature abuse” of highly perishable foods.

In a decisive move that is as overdue as it is urgent, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has issued a sweeping, stringent advisory tightening the norms for the storage and transportation of core perishable commodities—specifically targeting khoya, paneer, meat, and fish.

This is not merely a bureaucratic tweaking of regulatory paperwork. It is a vital public security intervention. For too long, the journey of our food from the farm gate or slaughterhouse to the local market has been a blind spot in India’s food safety architecture. With this new mandate, the regulator has sent an unambiguous message to Food Business Operators (FBOs): The systemic poisoning of our food supply chain under the guise of negligence will no longer be tolerated.

To understand the gravity of the FSSAI’s intervention, one must look closely at what happens when perishable goods are left exposed to India’s punishing climate without a maintained cold chain.

Items like *paneer* and *khoya* are dense, protein-rich dairy products with high moisture content. Meat and fish are prime breeding grounds for dangerous pathogens



like *Salmonella*, *E. coli*, and *Listeria*. When these items are subjected to what food scientists call “temperature abuse”—transported in ordinary, sun-baked vehicles, packed in non-food-grade gunny bags, or left unprotected from dust and pests—they transform within hours into ticking biological time bombs.

Under the reinforced parameters of Schedule 4 of the Food Safety and Standards Regulations, 2011, the FSSAI has now mandated that FBOs maintain strict, prescribed temperature controls uninterrupted across the entire supply chain—from the initial point of sourcing right down to the final consumer delivery. Furthermore, the directive bans crude, unhygienic packaging like old gunny bags, insisting instead on food-grade materials that insulate against moisture, pests, and cross-contamination.

Advisories in India have historically suffered from a chronic implementation gap. Brilliant guidelines drafted in air-conditioned offices in New Delhi often dissolve into toothless enforcement by the time they reach dusty district markets, wholesale meat mandis, and local

dairy hubs.

For this crackdown to succeed, state-level machinery must match the FSSAI’s urgency. Local food safety officers must move away from tokenistic inspections and build continuous, aggressive surveillance networks. Small-scale vendors and transporters must be supported, trained, and subsidized where necessary to adopt low-cost cold-storage solutions, rather than being driven underground by punitive measures alone. At the same time, habitual violators who gamble with public health for higher profit margins must face exemplary prosecution.

What we eat defines not just our physical health, but the integrity of our society. A nation aspiring to global standards of development cannot look away while the food on its children’s plates is transported in conditions unfit for industrial waste, let alone human consumption.

The FSSAI has drawn a firm line in the cold chain. It is now up to state administrators, local enforcement agencies, and food businesses to ensure that this line is fiercely guarded. Our dinner tables deserve nothing less than absolute protection.

MEASLES OUTBREAK IN BANGLADESH CLAIMS SEVEN MORE LIVES, DEATH TOLL RISES TO 1,196

Dhaka, Oct 18 (IANS):

As Bangladesh grapples with an unprecedented measles outbreak, seven children died from measles-like symptoms in Bangladesh in the 24 hours until 8 am (local time) on Sunday, raising the total number of fatalities from the ongoing outbreak to 1,196.

All seven fatalities have been classified as measles-suspected deaths in Bangladesh, according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS). With the latest fatalities, the total number of suspected measles fatalities rose to 1,092, while the number of confirmed deaths remained the same at 104, the Dhaka Tribune reported.

As many as 1,254 suspected measles cases were reported in Bangladesh in the 24 hours till Sunday morning, raising the suspected cases to 213,244. During the same period, 65 new confirmed cases were reported, raising the total number of confirmed cases in the country to 23,122.

As many as 189,484 suspected measles patients have been admitted to hospitals in Bangladesh since March 15. Among those, 181,756 patients have recovered and been discharged from hospitals, according to the DGHS, Dhaka Tribune reported.

Despite Bangladesh reinstating vaccine procurement through UNICEF in April, followed by an

emergency vaccination drive, the epidemic is unlikely to be quickly contained given the speed of transmission, said Benazir Ahmed, former Director of Disease Control at DGHS, last week, The Daily Star reported.

Public health experts have linked the resurgence to gaps in previous vaccination coverage and shortcomings in hospital and patient management, including delays in detecting infected children and isolating them at home.

Speaking to The Daily Star, public health expert Mushtaq Husain said children generally need three to four weeks after vaccination to develop sufficient immunity. “Therefore, the current wave of infections, hospitalisations and deaths may continue for at least another month,” he added.

Earlier, a leading international advocacy group described the 2026 measles outbreak as one of Bangladesh’s worst public health crises in recent history, highlighting the concern that the disease is preventable through vaccination.

In its report titled ‘Preventable Tragedy: Bangladesh’s 2026 Measles Outbreak’, Canada-based Global Centre for Democratic Governance (GCDG) said that although the measles outbreak appeared sudden to the public, it was not an unexpected event from an “epidemiological perspective”.



NAGOYA OPENS WITH NATIONAL PRIDE

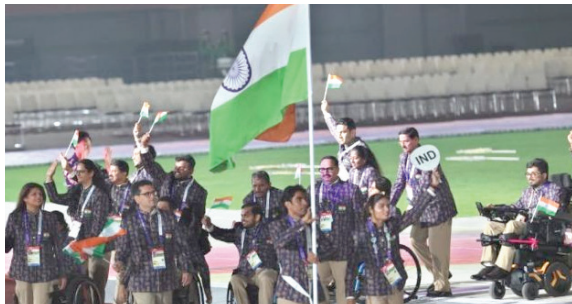
PM Modi Sends Warm Wishes as India's 281-Member Contingent Enters Asian Para Games 2026

Flagbearers Pramod Bhagat and Simran Sharma lead the national delegation at Paloma Mizuho Stadium as India targets 100 medals across 11 disciplines

NEW DELHI, October 18:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi extended his best wishes to India's para-athletes on Sunday as the Asian Para Games 2026 officially opened with an absorbing ceremony at the Paloma Mizuho Stadium in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

Taking to social media, Prime Minister Modi praised the contingent, writing on X, "As the Asian Para Games 2026 begin in Aichi-Nagoya, conveying my best wishes to the Indian contingent. India is immensely proud of our phenomenal para-athletes. Their grit, dedication and indomitable spirit inspire 140 crore Indians. May they compete with confidence



and give their very best."

The opening ceremony featured para-badminton star Pramod Bhagat and para-athlete Simran Sharma proudly carrying the tricolor as joint flagbearers, leading out a 281-strong Indian contingent. The delegation includes 168 athletes—112 men and 56 women—competing across 11 sporting disciplines. The Indian squad also turned heads with its ceremonial

attire, wearing deep blue blazers adorned with golden motifs inspired by the Indus Valley Civilisation, incorporating symbols of the Priest-King sculpture, the Dancing Girl figurine, and ancient seals.

Heading into competitions through October 24, Head Coach Satyanarayana targets around 100 medals, with stars like Nishad Kumar poised for strong opening-day performances.

Won't Be Satisfied Until I Play for India": Gurjapneet Singh Eyes National Cap After 4-34 in Ranji Trophy

Chennai, October 18:

Tamil Nadu left-arm pacer Gurjapneet Singh claimed 4-34 to dismiss Uttarakhand for 134 on Day One of their Ranji Trophy match at Chepauk on Sunday.

Playing his 10th first-class game after returning from India A duty, Gurjapneet wreaked havoc with the new ball on a moisture-laden pitch.

"There is no satisfaction unless I play for India. That's the main job, and that box is still empty," Gurjapneet said after the day's play. The Chennai Super Kings pacer credited his confidence to net sessions against senior national stars and technical guidance from bowling coach Morne Morkel.

Hyderabad Warriors Beat Fateh Warriors CC by 33 Runs in T20 Match

Mohammad Fahad's 36-ball 76 and Imran Khan's 6/29 powered Hyderabad Warriors to a 33-run win over Fateh Warriors CC in a T20 match in Hyderabad.



Hyderabad, October 18:

An explosive half-century by Mohammad Fahad and a match-winning six-wicket haul from Imran Khan propelled Hyderabad Warriors to an impressive 33-run victory over Fateh Warriors CC in a high-scoring T20 encounter.

Batting first, Hyderabad Warriors posted a formidable total of 207 for 8 in their allotted 20 overs.

Mohammad Fahad anchored the innings with a blistering 76 off just 36 balls, smashing five fours and six sixes.

Md Ayaz Ali bolstered the middle order with a valuable 42 off 27 deliveries, while Irfan Khan provided late acceleration with a quick-

fire 33 off 14 balls.

Chasing a target of 208, Fateh Warriors CC put up a strong fight through steady contributions across the batting order.

Shoaib Yafai and Faiyaz scored 34 runs apiece, while Syed Umais added 33 and Mohammed Layeeq chipped in with 21.

However, Imran Khan turned the contest decisively in Hyderabad Warriors' favour, returning remarkable figures of 6 wickets for 29 runs in his four overs.

His spell dismantled the opposition's batting lineup and restricted Fateh Warriors CC to 174 all out, sealing a memorable victory for Hyderabad Warriors.



Team Resilience and Momentum: A Blueprint for Future Success

This stellar performance proves the grit and talent within the Hyderabad Warriors. With explosive batting and disciplined bowling setting the benchmark, carrying this winning momentum forward will inspire even greater milestones on the pitch.

Mandhana Leads India to Series Win Over Zimbabwe

Munsif Bureau Raipur, October 18:

India women kicked off their new era under captain Smriti Mandhana by sealing a dominant T20I series victory against Zimbabwe, cruising to a nine-wicket win with 67 balls to spare in the second match at the Shaheed

Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium on Sunday.

Chasing a modest target of 103, vice-captain Shafali Verma smashed 55 off 25 balls, while Mandhana remained unbeaten on 47 off 25 deliveries as the hosts chased down the total in just 8.5

overs to take an unassailable 2-0 lead. The victory marks India's 17th T20I win of the calendar year, setting a new national record, and establishes a new global benchmark for the biggest win by balls remaining while chasing targets above 100 in Women's T20Is.

Earlier, India restricted Zimbabwe to 102/8, anchored by standout spells from debut sensation Niki Prasad, who claimed 2/7—becoming the first Indian woman to take a wicket off her very first T20I delivery. The final match of the series is scheduled for October 20.

Akshay Kumar Meets Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami to Discuss State's Film Policy and Production Growth

Maharashtra Chief Minister directs Police Commissioner to take strict action as Lawrence Bishnoi gang claims responsibility; opposition slams deteriorating law and order

Munsif Bureau Mumbai, October 18:

Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar met Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami at his official residence in Dehradun on Sunday to discuss the state's progressive film policy and its expanding potential to attract major cinematic productions.

During the meeting, Chief Minister Dhami emphasized that Uttarakhand has cemented its status as a premier shooting destination nationwide, driven by its natural landscapes, cultural heritage, and film-friendly administrative framework. He credited the Uttarakhand Film Policy-2024—particularly its streamlined



single-window clearance system—for facilitating smooth permissions for visiting production crews

The Chief Minister noted that increased film activity is vital not only for boosting local tourism, hospitality, and transportation sectors, but also for

generating sustainable employment opportunities for regional artists, technicians, and youth.

Kumar is currently stationed in the hill state to film his upcoming untitled project directed by Anees Bazmee. The actor and co-star Raashii

Khanna were recently spotted shooting a song sequence across scenic locales in Mussoorie and Landour. The production follows an earlier schedule wrap in Kerala earlier this May, which featured co-stars Vidya Balan and Raashii Khanna.

Rajinikanth's 'Jailer 2' Surpasses ₹300 Crore Worldwide in 3 Days; 'Drishyam 3' Chases ₹350 Crore

Mumbai, October 18:

Nelson Dilipkumar's high-octane action sequel Jailer 2, headlined by superstar Rajinikanth alongside Mohanlal, Hrithik Roshan, and Vidya Balan, crossed the ₹300 crore worldwide gross mark on Sunday within just three days of its theatrical release. The strong opening weekend performance propelled the film past Karuppu to secure its position as the second-highest-grossing Tamil release of 2026. Meanwhile, in

Hindi cinema, Ajay Devgn and Jaideep Ahlawat's suspense thriller Drishyam 3: The Conclusion maintained steady momentum, closing in on the ₹350 crore net milestone in India by its third Sunday (Day 17) with cumulative domestic earnings touching approximately ₹346 crore and global gross receipts surpassing ₹528 crore. Concurrently, Yami Gautam's latest release, Nayvi Navelli, crossed the ₹10 crore mark domestically by its second day.



Alia Bhatt Expresses Admiration for Sister Shaheen's Social Media Updates in a Playful Family Exchange

Mumbai, Oct 18:

Actress Alia Bhatt has confessed that she is completely "obsessed" with the social media content shared by her sister, Shaheen Bhatt.

On Sunday, Shaheen took to Instagram to give followers a glimpse into her weekend, posting a series of pictures captioned "Lunch and other things." The post featured snapshots of her waiting for food at a restaurant, a goofy selfie, and scenic views of her surroundings.

The post quickly drew a warm and humorous reaction from her family. Alia jumped into the comments section to write, "Obsessed with your content," prompting Shaheen to reciprocate with, "@aliaabhatt Obsessed with

you." Veteran actress and mother Soni Razdan also joined the lighthearted banter, playfully questioning, "I thought you were sticking to a healthy (strict) eating plan." Shaheen humorously retorted, "@sonirazdan Of course I was, I don't know what you're talking about."

Beyond their social media exchanges, the sisters share a strong professional partnership under their joint production banner, Eternal Sunshine Productions. The company recently backed the young-adult romantic comedy Don't Be Shy, directed by Sreeti Mukerji and starring newcomers Aarushi Bajaj, Ansh Duggal, Bianca Arora, and Piyush Khatri, which premiered on Amazon Prime Video.



Bishnoi gang demands apology from Salman Khan as they claim responsibility for attack on Tiger Shroff

Munsif Bureau Mumbai, October 18:

The Lawrence Bishnoi group has claimed responsibility for the attack on Tiger Shroff in Juhu on Sunday evening, according to a post shared by Anil Pandit, a representative of the group. In the post, which also named Harman Sandhu, the group said it had tried to warn Tiger Shroff, but he did not listen—and that they therefore had to resort to such drastic actions. The post opened with the words "Jai Mahakal... Jai Shri Ram...Greetings to all the brothers."

In the same post, Anil Pandit warned that the group will not spare anyone working in close proximity with Bollywood actor Salman

Khan. The post stated: "We, Anil Pandit and Harman Sandhu, take responsibility for what happened in the Tiger Shroff incident today. We had called and warned him, but he did not understand. Therefore, today we made him understand in a stronger way. Anyone in the Mumbai film industry who does not listen to us or works with Salman Khan will be next. Wait and watch. (sic)" It further carried a note warning that those from other groups who think they can gain fame by using their name "will soon be killed, and we will make them famous that way."

In an audio shared by the Mumbai crime branch, Anil Pandit was heard asking Salman Khan to apologise to

Lawrence Bishnoi and the Bishnoi community. "Listen to me carefully Salman Khan. If you don't apologize to my elder brother, Lawrence Bishnoi, or to the Bishnoi community, then we won't even leave a dog in your house. We will destroy your entire family. Keep this in mind. Don't think that you are in security and nothing will happen to you," he said in the audio.

Three bikers fired at Tiger Shroff's car in Juhu Sunday evening; he was unhurt, his driver injured. CM Fadnavis ordered the Police Commissioner to probe and act strictly, recalling the 14 April 2024 shooting outside Salman's Bandra Galaxy Apartments.

Cyberabad Police blends Dandiya with cybercrime awareness

Around 2,000 people participate in cultural programme; Commissioner cautions against digital arrest, investment and OTP frauds



IANS News
Hyderabad, Oct 18

Cyberabad Police organised ‘Cyber Dandiya’ on Sunday, blending cultural celebrations with cybercrime awareness to educate the public on digital safety and strengthen police-public relations.

The programme, led by Cyberabad Police Commissioner Dr M. Ramesh in coordina-

tion with the Society for Cyberabad Security Council (SCSC) and Cyberabad Municipal Corporation (CMC), drew around 2,000 participants, including government officials, police personnel, IT professionals, youth, women and families.

Addressing the gathering, Dr Ramesh said the initiative aimed to bring cyber safety awareness

closer to citizens through cultural engagement. AI tools, videos and practical demonstrations were used to explain cybercrime methods and preventive measures in an accessible and interactive manner.

He cautioned people against digital arrest scams, investment and trading frauds, phishing, smishing, OTP frauds, fake links and fraudulent part-time job

offers. Citizens were advised never to share OTPs, passwords, PINs or banking credentials, click on suspicious links or trust online investment schemes promising unusually high returns.

Urging victims to report cyber fraud without delay, the Commissioner asked them to call the 1930 Cyber Crime Helpline and lodge complaints through the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal.

The programme was mentored and coordinated by Pushpa, DCP Crimes, Cyberabad, with the participation of senior police officers and personnel. She warned that cybercriminals often exploit fear, greed and trust, and urged citizens to remain cautious about unknown calls and video calls, suspicious APK files, fraudulent investment schemes and fake job offers.

Congress leaders pay tributes to T. Anjaiah



Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct 18

Congress leaders paid tributes to former united Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister T. Anjaiah on his 40th death anniversary by garlanding his statue near Lumbini Park in Hyderabad on Sunday.

TPCC president and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud said Anjaiah’s rise

from an ordinary worker to Chief Minister reflected his dedication and perseverance. He recalled Anjaiah as a people-oriented leader who remained accessible to the public and devoted himself to addressing their problems. He also noted that Anjaiah had earned the admiration of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

Government advisers Keshava Rao and V. Hanumantha Rao, MLA Danam Nagender, former Governor Bandaru Dattatreya, former MP KVP Ramachandra Rao, Agriculture Commission Chairman Kodanda Reddy, former MP Anjan Kumar Yadav and BC Commission Chairman Niranjan were among those who paid tributes.

Fire damages anti-drone company property worth Rs 1 cr

Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct 18

A major fire broke out at Unistring Tech Solutions near N Convention in Madhapur, damaging property estimated at ₹1 crore. The company manufactures anti-drone systems for defence and military applications. Employees panicked as flames engulfed the warehouse. Firefighters rushed to the spot after locals alerted them and brought the blaze under control. Officials suspect a short circuit caused the fire. Further details are awaited.

Zulfegar Ali visits accident victim in hospital

AIMIM Charminar MLA Mir Zulfegar Ali visited Care Hospital in Chaderghat and enquired about the health of Mohammed Abdul Qader, 23, of Sultan Shahi, who was seriously injured in a road accident. He urged police to register a case and appealed to doctors to provide the best possible treatment without negligence. Qader’s father is a muazzin at Akbari Masjid in Sultan Shahi. The MLA appealed to people to pray for the youth’s speedy recovery.

Car hits scooter in Hayathnagar, two killed

NSS News
Hyderabad, Oct 18

Two siblings, Rekha and Naveen of Pedda Amberpet, died after a car hit their scooter in Hayathnagar. A child was seriously injured and shifted to hospital for treatment. Naveen was taking his sister from Shamshabad to their hometown for Dussehra when the accident occurred. Police arrested the car driver, registered a case and launched an investigation.

Governor performs Ayudha Puja at Lok Bhavan

Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla performed special prayers at Lok Bhavan on Sunday on the occasion of Vijayadashami. He offered prayers to Goddess Durga and Goddess Pochamma and performed Ayudha Puja for security personnel’s weapons and official vehicles. He exchanged festive greetings with Lok Bhavan staff and wished people happiness, peace and prosperity.

CP Sajjanar performs Ayudha Puja

Hyderabad Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar performed Ayudha and Vahana Puja at the CAR Headquarters in Petla Burj on Sunday as part of the Dussehra festivities. Special prayers were held for weapons and police patrol vehicles. He wished police personnel and their families good health and happiness and urged staff to discharge their duties in a peaceful, stress-free environment.

Kavitha seeks rollback of NHM salary cuts

Flags ₹4,000–₹5,000 reductions for some employees, urges CM to intervene

NSS News
Hyderabad, Oct 18

Telangana Rakshana Sena chief K. Kavitha has demanded an immediate review of GO 1195, which reportedly cuts salaries of National Health Mission (NHM) employees.

Speaking at her Banjara Hills office on Sunday alongside NHM Employees’ JAC leaders, she said some of the 17,000 employees across Telangana had suffered salary cuts of ₹4,000 to ₹5,000.

Questioning the move amid rising inflation and drought-like conditions, Kavitha alleged that



some employees faced cuts while others received hikes. She also claimed that salaries were delayed despite Central funds being available.

Citing guidelines for a five per cent annual salary hike, she urged Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to direct the Health Minister to review the cuts and ensure a hike for affected employees.

Weekend-Special Drunk & Drive Checking's by Cyberabad Traffic Police

Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct 18

Cyberabad Traffic Police (CTP) has conducted a special drunk driving enforcement drive over the weekend, resulting in the apprehension of 320 offenders.

The total cases booked 265 two wheelers: 265, 16 three wheelers, 38 four wheelers 38 and one heavy vehicles based on their blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) levels ranging from 266 offenders had BAC levels ranging from 36 mg/100 ml to 200 mg/100 ml, 38 offenders had BAC levels ranging from 201 mg/100 ml to 300 mg/100 ml and 16 offenders had BAC levels ranging from 301 mg/100 ml to 550 mg/100 ml

All the offenders will be produced before the Court.

Cyberabad Police reiterate that driving under the influence of alcohol is a serious offence. If anyone is found to be driving in an inebriated condition and causes a fatal accident, such individuals



als will be booked under Section 105 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (Culpable Homicide Not Amounting to Murder). The maximum punishment under this section is 10 years of imprisonment along with a fine.

In the last week (October 12 to 17) a total 196 drunk driving cases were disposed in the courts, in which five persons got fine and social service, 191 persons got Fine only.

Two held in City digital arrest scam

Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct 18

Hyderabad Cybercrime Police have arrested two men for allegedly facilitating a digital arrest scam in which a 63-year-old retired employee and his daughter lost ₹29.17 lakh. A third accused, Sachin of Bengaluru, is absconding.

The arrested men, identified as Mohd Ashfaq Hussain and Ahmed Najeeb Uddin, allegedly arranged mule bank accounts,

withdrew the fraudulently obtained money and routed it through multiple accounts to conceal the transaction trail. Police said they also facilitated transactions involving USDT cryptocurrency for commissions.

According to Additional Commissioner of Police M. Srinivasulu, the victim received calls on March 3, 2025, from fraudsters posing as officials of the Delhi Police, CBI and Enforcement Directorate. They falsely implicated him in a money-

laundering case involving ₹6.8 crore, threatened him with arrest and sent forged documents to make their claims appear genuine.

The fraudsters allegedly obtained the victim’s and his daughter’s banking details and persuaded them to transfer ₹29,17,668 for purported verification, promising a refund. After the money was not returned, the victim approached the police.

Investigators said Ashfaq collected bank account details from

Retired employee and daughter cheated of Rs 29.17 lakh: third accused absconding

Najeeb and shared them with Sachin. The funds were allegedly withdrawn through cheques, deposited into other accounts using cash deposit machines and used to purchase USDT, which was later sold online for Indian rupees.

A case was registered under relevant provisions of the Information Technology Act and Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Police are searching for the absconding accused.

Jagadish Reddy accuses Congress govt of mishandling drought

NSS News
Suryapet, Oct 18

Former Minister and local MLA Guntakandla Jagadish Reddy today said that the Congress government was not able to govern the state and added that This government was throwing up its hands without knowing what to do. He alleged that the Chief Minister and ministers were only working for scams and shares. He said that the drought situation in this state was clearly visible and added that the state had not used even 18 TMC of water in Krishna so far despite the severe drought situation.

“If we turn on the Kannepalli pump house, every pond would be filled with water.. All Telangana projects used to be filled. We used to lift 250 TMC from Godavari. During former CM KCR’s

rule, Telangana would not have had any drought and the state used to be prosperous with the Kaleshwaram project. The Drought situation is getting worse only due to the inefficiency of the state government,” Reddy said.

He made it clear that Sundilla and Annaram projects can be started without any need for soil or water.



Pet carnival 'Pawse' draws dog lovers in Hyderabad

NSS News
Hyderabad, Oct 18

City based Vitalpass organized a fun pet carnival in Jalavihar in the city under the name Pawse. On this occasion, the first electronic pet tag that does not require any app and is available at a very low price was launched. Organizer Shiva Pabba said that the pet parenting was not something to be afraid of and added that one can get good premium care at a very low cost. In the carnival, various types of dogs made a

noise in the 1.2-kilometer dog marathon held from Necklace Road Jalavihar to PV Ghat and back to Jalavihar.

Later, a dog fancy dress competition was organized and prizes were given to the winners. Two new products were launched at the event. The first is the 6th generation Vitalpass Health Tag, an electronic pet operating system in the form of a customized dog tag and the second is a premium health supplement. It was made to reduce itching in the dogs and maintain gut health.

BRS serves legal notice on Telugu daily over KCR farmhouse report

Party seeks retraction and front-page apology within 24 hours, threatens defamation action

NSS News
Hyderabad, Oct 18

The Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) on Sunday served legal notices on Telugu daily Velugu over a report linking the Kondapochamma Sagar project and its canal network to former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao’s farmhouse, terming the article politically motivated.

BRS General Secretary and Legal Cell in-charge Soma Bharat Kumar issued notices to the newspaper’s management and editor, demanding the retraction of the October 17 front-page report titled ‘Kondapochamma diverted to KCR’s farmhouse’ and an unconditional apology.

The party sought an evidence-based explanation and demanded that the apology be published prominently on the newspaper’s front page, website and official social media platforms within 24 hours. It warned that failure to comply would invite civil and criminal proceedings, including defamation action.