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Telangana Forms Cabinet Panel to Coordinate Drought, El Niño Measures

Munsif New Bureau Hyderabad, Oct 19

The Telangana government has constituted a Cabinet Sub-Committee to coordinate measures to mitigate the impact of the prevailing drought situation and El Niño conditions across the state. The panel will review developments, direct departments concerned and recommend protective measures.

According to G.O.Rt.No. 1523, issued by the General Administration (Cabinet) Department on October 19, Deputy Chief Minister and Finance and Planning Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu will chair the committee.

The panel's mandate includes regular monitoring of drought and El Niño-related developments and issuing necessary directions to departments. It will submit recommendations from time to time on measures needed

Telangana forms a Cabinet Sub-Committee headed by Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu to monitor drought and El Niño conditions and coordinate mitigation measures.



Water Supply, Women and Child Welfare; Tummalala Nageswara Rao, Minister for Agriculture, Marketing, Cooperation, Handlooms and Textiles; and Vakitii Srihari, Minister for Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Fisheries, Sports and Youth Services.

K. Ramakrishna Rao, Advisor and Ex-Officio Special Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, has been appointed as a special invitee. He will coordinate the committee's activities and provide periodic updates on the situation. The Secretary to the Government, Planning Department, will serve as convener. The order was issued by Sanjay Jaju, Chief Secretary to the Government of Telangana, by order and in the name of the Governor.

to mitigate their impact. It will also examine matters requiring intervention by the Government of India and recommend appropriate action.

Five other ministers will serve on the committee: N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, Minister

for Irrigation and CAD, Food and Civil Supplies; Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, Minister for Revenue and Housing, Information and Public Relations; Dr. Danasari Anasuya Seethakka, Minister for Panchayat Raj and Rural Development, Rural

Telangana Orders Power Conservation Amid El Niño

Munsif Desk Hyderabad, Oct 19

The Telangana government has directed government offices to conserve electricity amid rising demand and concerns over power generation due to El Niño.

Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju on Monday instructed offices to set air conditioners at 25 degrees Celsius, use them only when necessary and significantly reduce their operation after 6 p.m.

He assured that domestic and agricultural power supply would continue and industries would face no power cuts. Officials were directed to maximise generation at thermal power plants,



particularly Yadadri.

Reviewing preparedness, Jaju ordered grass-roots-level contingency plans to prevent power and drinking water shortages. An all-party meeting and a Cabinet Sub-Committee meeting will be held shortly to discuss El Niño's impact.

Officials said excessive water extraction through motor pumps was increasing electricity loads and burning out transformers. With the regular

110 MGD supply from the Manjeera and Singur reservoirs unavailable, alternative sources, including Mission Bhagiratha and the Krishna River, were being tapped.

Special Chief Secretary Jayesh Ranjan said new borewells in Hyderabad would be permitted only for drinking water. A drive is under way to remove illegal pumps attached to municipal water taps. From November 1, treated sewage water will be supplied to construction sites through green tankers.

Meanwhile, officials are preparing alternative water supply plans for Rangareddy district amid declining groundwater levels.

Revant Inaugurates Future City Police Commissionerate



Munsif New Bureau Hyderabad, Oct 19

Police Commissionerate at Ibrahimpatnam to strengthen security and law enforcement in the rapidly developing region. Spread across 4,337.19 sq km, the commissionerate comprises three zones — Maheshwaram, Shadnagar and Chevella — 22 law and order police stations and four traffic police stations.

Revant Reddy presented a bouquet to Police Commissioner Tarun Joshi and wished him success. DGP C.V. Anand and other senior police officials attended the event. Established through a government order on December 29, 2025, the commissionerate was carved out of the Hyderabad, Cyberabad and Rachakonda police jurisdictions to meet the security needs of the proposed Future City. Covering six Assembly and two Parliamentary constituencies, the region's population is projected to reach 25-30 lakh by 2030. The commissionerate will also secure the 19,333-acre development area under the Telangana State Industrial Infrastructure Corporation (TGIIC).

Chief Minister A. Revant Reddy on Monday inaugurated the Telangana Future City

Marseille Bans Protests Amid France Unrest

IANs News Paris, Oct 19



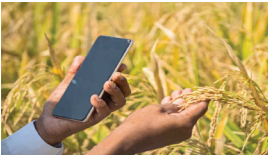
Authorities in France's Marseille on Monday banned all gatherings and demonstrations from noon to 8 p.m. amid nationwide unrest.

President Emmanuel Macron vowed legal action against those involved in Saturday's violence, which saw 2,397 arrests and 997 police personnel injured, including seven seriously, according to the Interior Ministry.

Around 5.5 lakh people protested across France over rising living costs, fuel prices and public service cuts. Protests over housing and living costs also swept Italy, Belgium and Portugal, with clashes reported in Milan and Brussels.

Centre Launches Agri Portal for Farmers

IANs News New Delhi, Oct 19



Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Monday launched an upgraded Agri Welfare Portal to provide farmers mobile access to government schemes, subsidies and agricultural information.

The single-window platform integrates initiatives such as PM-KISAN, AgriStack and the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, eliminating the need to visit multiple offices or websites.

Farmers can also access information on weather,

seeds, fertilisers, scientific farming practices and market prices. Designed for basic smartphones and weak internet connectivity, the portal aims to simplify access for small and marginal farmers.

Chouhan directed officials to keep information accurate and updated. Training programmes through Krishi Vigyan Kendras will help farmers use the portal and other digital services.

SIR Irregularities a PDA Win: Akhilesh

IANs News Lucknow, Oct 19

Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Monday called the Election Commission's acknowledgement of alleged SIR irregularities a major achievement for the PDA alliance. Citing multiple voter IDs and duplicate entries across polling booths, he rejected the EC's report-



ed description of the discrepancies as minor errors and demanded corrections. Yadav also questioned the de-notification of Delhi's Jantar Mantar as a protest site. He said the party would discuss its election manifesto on November 26, Constitution Day.

CJP leaders get two more days in judicial custody

IANs News New Delhi, Oct 19

A Special Executive Magistrate on Monday extended the judicial custody of Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka by two days in

the Jantar Mantar trespassing case.

The duo were detained on October 13 along with 12 others for allegedly entering the de-notified protest site through private premises and obstructing police personnel.

The CJP members were protest-

ing against alleged irregularities in the Election Commission's Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls. Delhi Police sought extended custody, citing concerns over repeated violations, while the party's legal affairs head, Ratna Singh, questioned the need for further detention.

Over 25,000 Nominations Filed for AP Civic Polls

IANs News Amaravati, Oct 19

A total of 25,809 nominations have been filed for elections to 100 urban local bodies in Andhra Pradesh scheduled for October 28.

The nomination process ended on Sunday, with scrutiny scheduled for Monday and withdrawals allowed until October 21.

The State Election Commission received 320 nominations for mayoral posts in 13 municipal corporations and 1,038 for chairperson posts in 87 municipalities and nagar pancha-

yats. Nominations were also filed for thousands of ward-member seats.

The ruling TDP-led alliance and the opposition YSRCP have fielded candidates across the state. TDP working president Nara Lokesh cited the high number of nominations as evidence of democratic participation, rejecting YSRCP chief Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy's allegations that candidates were prevented from filing papers.

Jagan had approached Governor S. Abdul Nazeeb on Sunday, seeking intervention over alleged irregularities in the nomination process.

BRS Serves Legal Notices to Congress Leaders

IANs News Hyderabad, Oct 19

The BRS has served legal notices on TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud, Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy and MP Vamsi Krishna Gaddam over allegations that Kondapochamma Sagar water was diverted to former Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Rao's farmhouse.

BRS Legal Cell in-charge Soma Bharat Kumar demanded that the leaders delete their social media posts and withdraw the allegations, warning of defamation proceedings if they failed to comply.

Ramsharan Joins Congress After Quitting BJP

IANs News New Delhi, Oct 19

Senior Uttarakhand leader Ramsharan Nautiyal, father of singer Jubin Nautiyal, joined the Congress on Monday, days after resigning from the BJP, ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections.

Nautiyal, a former Dehradun district panchayat president, returned to the Congress after leaving it in 2014. State Congress leaders welcomed his induction, saying his experience would strengthen the party.

The induction coincided with the Congress's attack on the Pushkar Singh Dhami government over the Ankita

Bhandari murder case and corruption allegations against minister Rekha Arya. Party leaders questioned the CBI probe into the murder case, particularly the alleged VIP angle, and demanded a transparent investigation.

The Congress also announced a statewide campaign and a protest outside the Uttarakhand Assembly on October 27 over alleged corruption, crimes against women and government policies.





Saddula Bathukamma celebrations were held in a grand manner at Ranga Leela Grounds in Warangal. Warangal East MLA and former minister Konda Surekha attended the event and joined women in playing Bathukamma, sharing in the festive spirit.

Telangana Government Approves Recruitment of 429 Assistant Professors Across Seven

Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct. 19:

Telangana Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar has welcomed the state government’s decision to approve recruitment to vacant Assistant Professor posts in universities across Telangana. In a statement, the minister said that direct recruitment would be undertaken for 429 Assistant Professor posts across seven universities in the first phase, including 49 posts under Satavahana University. According to the minister, the Finance Department has issued Government Orders (GOs) Nos. 141 and 142 in this regard. Recruitment notifications are expected to be issued by the

4. SATAVAHANA UNIVERSITY:		
S.No.	Name of Department	No. of Asst. Prof. Vacancy
University College of Engineering at Husnabad		
1	Computer Science Engineering	07
2	CSE – Artificial Intelligence	07
3	Electronics and Communication Engineering	07
4	Information Technology	05
5	Electrical and Electronics Engineering	01
6	Mechanical Engineering	02
7	English	01
8	Mathematics	02
9	Physics	02
10	Chemistry	02
11	Physical Education Department	01
12	Librarian	01
University College of Law, University Campus		
1	Law	08
University College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, LMD campus		
1	Pharmacy	02
University College of Commerce and Business Management, University Campus		
1	Commerce	01
TOTAL		49

end of this month in accordance with common guidelines and the roster system. Under Satavahana University, the vacancies at the University College of

Engineering, Huzurabad, include seven posts each in Computer Science Engineering, Artificial Intelligence, and Electronics and Communication Engineering;

five in Information Technology; one in Electrical and Electronics Engineering; two in Mechanical Engineering; one in English; two each in Mathematics, Physics, and Chemistry; one in the Physical Education Department; and one Librarian post. Similarly, recruitment will be undertaken for eight posts at the University College of Law, two at the College of Pharmaceutical Sciences, and one at the College of Commerce and Business Management. Ponnamp Prabhakar said the appointments would further strengthen the higher education sector and help ensure the delivery of quality education. He urged eligible unemployed youth to take use of this opportunity.

TPCC Chief M Kumar Goud Takes Tough Stand Against Encroachments on Government Lands

Munsif News Bureau
Nizamabad, Oct. 19:

Nizamabad: Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president Mahesh Kumar Goud has adopted a firm stance against illegal encroachments on government lands in the Nizamabad Urban Assembly constituency. According to reports, after a complaint about encroachments on government land was brought to his notice, Mahesh Kumar Goud immediately contacted Nizamabad District Collector Ila Tripathi over the phone and directed her to take strict action without delay.



Mahesh Kumar Goud, who represents the Nizamabad Urban Assembly constituency, reportedly instructed officials to remove illegal encroachments and protect government property without yielding to any political pressure. It may be recalled that on October 15, following direc-

tions from District Collector Ila Tripathi, officials from the Revenue Department, Municipal Corporation and Police Department conducted an operation against illegal encroachments on government land in Nizamabad city. The encroachments at Mujahid Nagar and Qila Road were removed, and unauthorised structures were demolished using JCB machines. At Mujahid Nagar in the Nizamabad Urban Assembly constituency, an encroachment was identified on 13 guntas of land out of 18 acres of government land recorded under Survey No. 2545.

Following directions from TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud to the District Collector, officials inspected the site, conducted a formal survey and confirmed the encroachment. They subsequently demolished the unauthorised temporary sheds. Similarly, attempts by certain individuals to encroach upon approximately two acres of valuable vacant government land under Survey No. 25/45 on Qila Road, a prominent area of the city, also came to light. A sheet-metal wall had reportedly been erected in an attempt to occupy the land.

Nizamabad Police Commissioner P. Sai Chaitanya Extends Vijayadashami Greetings

Munsif News Bureau
Nizamabad, Oct. 19:

Nizamabad Police Commissioner P. Sai Chaitanya has extended his heartfelt Vijayadashami (Dussehra) greetings to the people of Nizamabad district on the occasion of the festival to be celebrated on October 20. In his festive message, the Police Commissioner said

Vijayadashami symbolises the victory of good over evil. Drawing inspiration from the festival’s message, he urged people to promote unity, solidarity and brotherhood in society. He wished all residents of the district a healthy, prosperous and happy life with their families. Emphasising the importance of maintaining law and order

within the Nizamabad, Armoor and Bodhan police divisions, he appealed to the public not to encourage religious differences or communal tensions and to extend full cooperation to the police in maintaining a peaceful atmosphere. He further stressed that friendly relations, mutual respect and a spirit of brotherhood should always prevail between

the public and police personnel. He urged everyone to act responsibly during the festival and celebrate in a peaceful and secure environment. The Police Commissioner once again conveyed his warm Vijayadashami greetings to all residents of the district and extended his best wishes for a life filled with happiness, good health and peace.



Nizamabad Police Commissioner P. Sai Chaitanya has extended his heartfelt Vijayadashami (Dussehra) greetings to the people of Nizamabad district on the occasion of the festival to be celebrated on October 20.

Grand Bathukamma Celebrations Held at Ranga Leela Grounds

Munsif News Bureau
Warangal, Oct. 19:

Saddula Bathukamma celebrations were held in a grand manner at Ranga Leela Grounds in Warangal. Warangal East MLA and former minister Konda

Surekha attended the event and joined women in playing Bathukamma, sharing in the festive spirit. Speaking on the occasion, Konda Surekha said that Bathukamma, a festival in which flowers are revered and worshipped as divine, is not

merely a celebration but also symbolises the inseparable bond between nature and human life. She added that the festival reflects Telangana’s rich culture, traditions and heritage. Extending Bathukamma greetings to all women, she expressed

the hope that they would celebrate the festival with joy and enthusiasm. Library Chairman Mesala Prakash, festival committee honorary president Gopal Naveen Raju, president Nagapuri Sanjay Babu, general secretary Medidi Madhusudhan.



District Additional Collector B. Hari Singh has directed the concerned district officials to accord top priority to the Prajavani programme, organised to address public grievances, and resolve the applications received within the stipulated time. He stated that applications received at the district and mandal levels must be registered promptly on the online portal in accordance with government orders. He also instructed officials to take effective measures to resolve pending applications on a war footing.

Public Grievances Must Be Resolved Promptly: Additional Collector B. Hari Singh

Munsif News Bureau
Suryapet, Oct. 19:

District Additional Collector B. Hari Singh has instructed officials of various departments to accord top priority to the Prajavani public grievance redressal programme and resolve petitions received from the public within the stipulated timeframe. He said applications received at the district and mandal levels must be registered promptly on the online portal in accordance with govern-

ment orders. He also called for effective measures to ensure the speedy resolution of pending petitions. Addressing a review meeting with district officials at the Integrated Collectorate Office on Monday, following the Prajavani programme, the Additional Collector said the participation of district-level officials in the public grievance redressal programme held every Monday was mandatory. He emphasised that officers of the concerned departments

must pay special attention to resolving applications pending on the Prajavani portal. He further directed officials to ensure that newly received petitions were entered into the online portal regularly. Officers should also take the initiative to expedite the disposal of petitions pending at the state level under Prajavani. Each officer must review the pending applications available under their respective login accounts and ensure their resolution within the prescribed timeframe.

N Neelima Reddy Participates in Bathukamma Celebrations, Joins Women in Traditional Dance

Munsif News Bureau
Hanamkonda, Oct. 19:

Naini Neelima Reddy, wife of Warangal West MLA Naini Rajender Reddy, participated in Bathukamma festival celebrations held in various localities of the Hanamkonda West Assembly constituency and joined women in celebrating the traditional festival. She took part in the celebrations organised at Naim Nagar, Ashok Colony, Siddharth Nagar and the L&T Colony in Shayampet. On the occasion, Naini

Neelima Reddy joined local women in decorating Bathukamma with colourful flowers and participated in traditional dances, enjoying the festive spirit. She said that Bathukamma symbolises Telangana’s rich culture, traditions and unity. She added that celebrating the festival together with family members and the community was a source of joy. A large number of local women and residents participated in the celebrations and marked the festival with great enthusiasm. must attend these programmes without fail. He noted that resolving public issues at the local level would spare people from making unnecessary visits to district offices and help ensure timely relief.

Public Grievances Must Be Resolved at the Earliest: Additional Collector B. Hari Singh

Munsif News Bureau
Suryapet, Oct. 19:

District Additional Collector B. Hari Singh has directed the concerned district officials to accord top priority to the Prajavani public

grievance redressal programme and resolve the applications received within the stipulated time. He instructed officials to ensure the timely online registration of applications received at the district and mandal levels in accor-

dance with government orders and take effective measures for the speedy disposal of pending grievances. Addressing a review meeting with district officials after the Prajavani programme held

at the Integrated Collectorate Office on Monday, the Additional Collector said the participation of district-level officials in the Prajavani programme conducted every Monday was mandatory. He stressed that officers of the

concerned departments must pay special attention to the immediate resolution of applications pending on the Prajavani portal. He further directed officials to regularly register newly received applications on the online portal.

Officers should also take the initiative to clear grievances pending at the state level. Every officer must review the applications pending under their respective logins and ensure their resolution within the prescribed

time limit. He cautioned officials against unnecessarily keeping public grievances pending. Referring to public grievance hearings conducted at the mandal level, the Additional Collector said officials from all departments

must attend these programmes without fail. He noted that resolving public issues at the local level would spare people from making unnecessary visits to district offices and help ensure timely relief.



BRS leader RS Praveen Kumar has accused the Telangana police of allegedly torturing journalists and filing illegal cases against them under Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's government.

BRS ALLEGES THIRD-DEGREE TORTURE OF JOURNALISTS, DEMANDS PROBE

NSS
Hyderabad, Oct. 19:

BRS leader RS Praveen Kumar has accused the Telangana police of allegedly torturing journalists and filing illegal cases against them under Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's government. He demanded an impartial investigation into the alleged assault on two reporters of Ek Dham News.

Praveen Kumar alleged that

the journalists were booked for reporting on police interference in land disputes in Gambhiraopet mandal of Rajanna Sircilla district. He claimed that the two reporters were subjected to third-degree methods of torture and that an attempt on their lives was also involved.

He said the journalists had lodged a complaint with the Karimnagar Police Commissioner, but no FIR had

been registered against the accused police personnel so far.

Questioning the alleged inaction, Praveen Kumar asked why DGP CV Anand had not intervened and alleged that the police were disregarding Supreme Court guidelines, including those laid down in the DK Basu case, on arrest and detention procedures.

The BRS leader said Ek Dham News had been reporting public issues for the past

one decade and demanded that the authorities establish who had directed the sub-inspector to attack the journalists.

Calling for a transparent probe, he suggested handing over the case to the CID or constituting a Special Investigation Team (SIT), besides taking strict action against those found responsible. Praveen Kumar warned that the BRS would continue its fight until justice was delivered to the affected journalists.

TRS demands ₹25-crore cofferdam at Kannepalli to combat drought

NSS
Hyderabad, Oct. 19:

Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) President Kalvakuntla Kavitha on Monday urged the Telangana government to immediately construct a 93-meter cofferdam near the Kannepalli pump house to divert Pranahita River waters and relieve farmers facing severe drought.

Speaking after inspecting water levels at the Kannepalli site alongside party leaders, Kavitha presented a technical proposal indicating the temporary dam could be built within 45 days at an estimated cost of ₹25 crore.

Kavitha noted that despite widespread drought across the state, nearly two thousand million cubic feet (TMC) of water continues to flow



through the Pranahita daily.

She argued that harnessing this flow would provide critical irrigation relief and urged the administration to complete construction by

November.

Presenting a detailed PowerPoint plan, Kavitha offered to share technical blueprints with state engineers and accepted that experts

could modify the design as needed. She urged the state government not to delay relief by using ongoing issues at the Medigadda barrage as an excuse.

DON'T TURN WATER INTO A DISTRICT DISPUTE: CPI

NSS
Hyderabad, Oct. 19:

CPI National Secretary Palla Venkata Reddy and party MLC and Nalgonda district secretary Nellikanti Satyam have urged political parties to stop creating inter-district water disputes for political gains, warning that such efforts could jeopardise the irrigation and drinking water needs of fluoride-affected areas.

They demanded the immediate commencement of works to supply water from the Yedula reservoir to the Dindi Lift Irrigation Scheme, which serves Munugodu and

Devarakonda constituencies. They cautioned that arguments over district-wise ownership of water could fuel regional differences in Telangana.

Palla Venkata Reddy said the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the Palamuru project included provisions for irrigation and drinking water in Munugodu and Devarakonda. He criticised the previous BRS government for failing to take a clear decision on the water source, leading to delays.

The CPI leader further said the Congress government's cabinet, led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, approved supplying water from the

Yedula reservoir to the Dindi scheme on September 22, 2024, and granted administrative approval for Rs.1,800 crore on January 22, 2025. With the tender process completed, he questioned the delay in commencing the works.

Recalling that Nalgonda had not raised regional objections when water was supplied from Nagarjunasagar to Hyderabad, he called for an end to divisive politics.

He also urged the government to complete pending projects, including Bhima, Nettempadu, Kalvakurthi and Koilsagar, and called for an all-party meeting to press the

Centre for national project status for Palamuru.

Nellikanti Satyam said the Dindi Lift Irrigation Scheme was crucial for providing irrigation and drinking water to fluoride-affected areas that had waited for decades.

He alleged that attempts to obstruct the project would deprive people of their rightful water supply.

He said the Palamuru project DPR had earmarked half a TMC of water for irrigation and drinking water needs in the fluoride-affected areas of Nalgonda and demanded an end to misinformation surrounding the scheme.



Former minister and BRS Deputy Floor Leader T. Harish Rao spent on Monday morning alongside Siddipet's municipal sanitation workers, joining them for breakfast and addressing their grievances individually. Marking the Dasara festival, Harish Rao personally funded and distributed sarees to female workers and shirt-and-trousers sets to male workers, emphasising that no municipal funds were used for the initiative.

"Silent revolution" Sweeping Country under Rahul Gandhi: Minister Uttam

NSS
Hyderabad, Oct. 19:

Telangana Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Monday claimed that a "silent revolution" was sweeping the country under Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, with people increasingly seeking an alternative to the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Addressing the annual Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Yatra Commemoration Day and Rajiv Sadbhavana award function at Charminar, Uttam expressed confidence that growing public support for Rahul Gandhi and the Congress reflected a wider desire for political change. He urged party workers to strengthen secularism, democracy and national unity.



The event, organised annually since 1990, commemorates former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's contributions to communal harmony, national integration, technological advancement and youth empowerment.

Uttam called for greater recognition of grassroots Congress workers who endured hardships during the

previous BRS regime, saying their sacrifices and efforts were instrumental in the party's return to power in Telangana.

He also urged ministers and elected representatives to participate actively in party programmes and maintain closer coordination between the government and the organisation.

Madhu Yaskhi meets CM Revanth, Discusses Welfare Schemes & Development

NSS
Hyderabad, Oct. 19:

Former MP Madhu Yaskhi Goud, who recently assumed charge as Chairman of the All India Professionals Congress (AIPC), met Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy at the MCRHRD centre in Jubilee Hills on Monday.

The Chief Minister congratulated Madhu Yaskhi on assuming charge as AIPC chairman.

The meeting lasted around one-and-a-half hours, during which the two leaders reported discussed the state's political and economic situation, welfare schemes, fee reimbursement, and the financial burden arising from loans of approximately Rs.8 lakh crore taken by



the previous BRS government. With the Congress government approaching the completion of three years in office, the leaders discussed the need to take the welfare initiatives and development programmes implemented so far to a wider section of the public.

Yaskhi Goud highlighted several initiatives undertaken by the state government,

including free bus travel for women, free electricity for domestic consumers, subsidised LPG cylinders, the farm loan waiver scheme, a Rs. 500 bonus for farmers cultivating fine varieties of paddy, the establishment of integrated schools in every constituency, and employment generation through the proposed skill university.

Harish distributes festival gifts to Siddipet civic workers

NSS
Hyderabad, Oct. 19:

Former minister and BRS Deputy Floor Leader T. Harish Rao spent on Monday morning alongside Siddipet's municipal sanitation workers, joining them for breakfast and addressing their grievances individually.

Marking the Dasara festival, Harish Rao personally funded and distributed sarees to female workers and shirt-and-trousers sets to male workers, emphasising that no municipal funds were used for the initiative.

Reflecting on past governance, the BRS leader contrasted current conditions with the tenure of previous

Congress administrations under K. Rosaiah and N. Kiran Kumar Reddy. He noted that sanitation workers frequently faced pay delays ranging from three to six months, often forced to stage protests outside revenue and municipal offices for their earned wages.

He added that the outsourcing wage at the time was ₹8,300, which was routinely delayed by third-party contractors.

Attributing Siddipet's national Swachh Survekshan accolades to the workforce, Harish Rao commended the daily dedication of the town's sweepers. He outlined key civic infrastructure upgrades implemented during the BRS tenure.



At a Glance



Heroin worth Rs 24.82 lakh seized, two held: Gujarat

IANSA Ahmedabad, Oct. 19

Police arrested Rohit Rajput, 28, and Anand Prajapati, 37, and seized 124.11 grams of heroin worth Rs 24.82 lakh in Ahmedabad. The total value of the drugs, cash, handsets and a two-wheeler was estimated at Rs 25.74 lakh. The raid took place near Soneriya Block in Bapunagar following specific information. Police seized two phones worth Rs 15,000, cash of Rs 5,550 and a two-wheeler valued at Rs 70,000. A case was registered at Bapunagar police station under Sections 8(c) and 22(b) of the NDPS Act. Police are searching for two other accused, Nanu alias Bhavesh Patni and Tinaben Patni. The operation was supervised by Police Inspector V.K. Gadhvi. Further investigation is underway. Police said legal procedures were followed.

PRESIDENT MURMU EXTENDS GREETINGS ON THE EVE OF VIJAYADASHAMI



IANSA New Delhi, Oct. 19

President Droupadi Murmu on Monday extended greetings to fellow citizens on the eve of Vijayadashami and called for a united resolve to build an inclusive society and a Viksit Bharat. In her message, the President said, “On the auspicious occasion of Vijayadashami, I extend my heartfelt greetings to all Indians living in the country and abroad.” She said, “The festival of Vijayadashami has a special significance. It symbolises the victory of Bhagwan Shri Ram over Ravana. Bhagwan Shri Ram is revered as the embodiment of righteousness and moral conduct.” This festival celebrates the triumph of Dharma and justice over Adharma and injustice, she said. “Indian culture is rooted in the ideals of morality and duty. On this

occasion, let us resolve to uphold the noble ideals of our cultural traditions and contribute towards building an inclusive society and a Viksit Bharat,” she said. “On this sacred occasion, I extend my heartfelt wishes for the happiness, good health and well-being of all citizens,” said Murmu. In a separate development, official sources said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is likely to attend Dussehra celebrations at IP Extension in east Delhi on Tuesday. Elaborate arrangements are being made ahead of the Prime Minister’s expected participation in the festivities at IP Extension. The Dussehra festival traditionally features the burning of effigies of Ravan to symbolise the victory of good over evil. The festival is celebrated across the country with

religious fervour and enthusiasm, commemorating the triumph of good over evil. Prime Minister Modi has frequently participated in prominent Dussehra celebrations in the national capital over the years. Last year, however, the Prime Minister’s scheduled visit to the Dussehra event at Patparganj in East Delhi on October 2 was cancelled due to heavy rainfall. In 2024, PM Modi attended the Ramleela celebrations at Parade Ground near Delhi’s Red Fort alongside President Murmu. The event was organised by the Shri Dharmik Leela Committee as part of the annual festivities. In 2023 and 2019, the Prime Minister participated in the Ravan Dahan celebrations organised by the Shri Ramleela Society at Dwarka Sector 10 in Delhi.

VIJAY UNVEILS `1,439-CRORE WATER SCHEME, COLLEGE AND HOUSING PROJECTS

IANSA Chennai, Oct. 19

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Monday announced projects for Madurantakam and Dharapuram, including a ₹1,439-crore combined drinking water scheme, a women’s college, irrigation works and housing. The announcements follow Assembly bypoll victories by Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam candidates Maragatham Kumaravel in Madurantakam and Sathyabama in Dharapuram. Vijay directed departments to expedite implementation, a government release said. The Cauvery-based scheme will cover 1,232 rural habitations in Tiruppur district outside the existing network, serving areas in Dharapuram, Kangeyam, Kundadam, Pongalur and Vellakoil panchayat unions, plus seven panchayats in Mulanur and 17 in Palladam. In Dharapuram, 2,700 free house-site pattas will be distributed. Steps will



also be taken to provide pattas to about 87 families who have lived for two decades at Guruvappa Naickenpalayam. Across Tiruppur district, 159 works costing around ₹10 crore will clear irrigation channels. About 271 km of channels in Dharapuram will be cleared of silt and obstructions. Overhead tanks and around 13,000 drinking water connections are planned in Dharapuram, Mulanur and Kundadam. Mulanur will get a fire and rescue station. Dharapuram munici-

pality will receive water supply improvements, a ₹6-crore overhead reservoir, streetlights and solid waste management works. In Madurantakam constituency in Chengalpattu district, a women’s arts and science college will be established at Acharapakkam for ₹20 crore. A semi-covered, 20,000-tonne paddy warehouse will be built at Athur for around ₹20 crore. Six procurement centres will be set up for ₹1.80 crore, and a state seed farm developed on 25 acres for ₹10 crore. Water projects include

a ₹5-crore check dam at Pukkathurai, sluice-gate repairs at the Chembundi Public Works Department lake for ₹4.50 crore, and desilting and tank-bund strengthening in Nelvoy for ₹1.30 crore. A feasibility study will examine a proposed high-level check dam across the Palar between Padalam and Udayambakkam. The 30-km Madurantakam high-level canal, built in 1984 to supply 30 lakes, will be desilted and renovated in phases. Other plans include a tourism park at Madurantakam lake, a working women’s hostel, a ₹3-crore youth knowledge centre and a ₹4-crore weekly market. Pukkathurai Government High School will be upgraded to a higher secondary school, while Karunguzhi will get a mini sports ground for around ₹80 lakh. A 25 MVA transformer will be installed at Madurantakam substation for ₹3 crore. New homes and additional bus services are also planned in Chengalpattu district

Centre Launches Agri Portal for Farmers to Access Schemes on Mobile Phones

IANSA New Delhi, Oct. 19



Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Monday launched the upgraded Agri Welfare Portal,

giving farmers mobile access to government schemes, financial assistance and agricultural information. Chouhan said farmers would no longer need to visit government offices or browse multiple websites for scheme details or applications. It will provide single-window access to PM-KISAN, AgriStack and the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. Chouhan said Prime Minister Narendra Modi

wanted the government to remain accessible to farmers through their phones, adding that technology must reach rural communities. He directed officials to keep information accurate and updated, warning that outdated details could undermine public trust. The portal must be very simple for small and marginal farmers, including those with limited formal education. Krishi Vigyan Kendras

will conduct training to help farmers use the portal. The ministry said the portal will consolidate information on schemes, subsidies, rules and digital services. It can run on basic smartphones and work in areas with weak internet connectivity. Farmers can access information on weather, farming practices, seed and fertiliser availability, and market prices.

Gujarat CM meets PM Modi; reiterates ‘Developed Gujarat, Developed India’ goal

IANSA New Delhi, Oct. 19

Gujarat Chief Minister, Bhupendra Patel, on Monday met Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, in New Delhi and said he had received guidance on improving the lives of the state’s poor, young people, farmers and women, and creating new opportunities for them. He also reiterated his government’s commitment to the goal of ‘Developed Gujarat – Developed India’.

In a post on social media platform X following the meeting, Patel said the discussions focussed on bringing happiness and prosperity to these sections of society. “Today, I

had the privilege of meeting the Hon’ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi,” Patel said. “During this meeting, I received his guidance and valuable advice on bringing happiness and prosperity to the lives of the state’s poor, youth, farmers and women, and creating new opportunities for them,” he added. Patel said the meeting had reaffirmed the commitment to realising the vision of a developed Gujarat contributing to a developed India. He added that “meeting the Prime Minister always brought a renewed sense of energy and enthusiasm”. The meeting comes ahead of the National Unity Day celebrations



scheduled for October 31 at Ekta Nagar in Narmada district, marking the 151st birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The Chief Minister visited Ekta Nagar on October 17 to review preparations for the celebrations and launch Ekta Prakash Parv-2026. During the visit, Chief Minister Patel held a review meeting with officials at Arogya Van and inspected the main parade venue

and arrangements for visitors, according to reports. The annual National Unity Day event is held at the Statue of Unity, the 182-metre monument dedicated to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. The site has become a major tourism destination in Gujarat. On October 31, the Prime Minister is expected to pay tribute at the Statue of Unity before attending the National Unity Day celebrations.

ED ARRESTS RTGS AGENT IN `2.6-CRORE GOA DIGITAL ARREST CASE

IANSA Panaji, Oct. 19

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has arrested an alleged “RTGS agent” accused of facilitating a cybercrime network involved in the digital arrest of a Goa woman and the extortion of Rs 2.6 crore, an official said on Monday. Mukesh Kumar Pukhraj Jain alias Mukesh Bhai was arrested on October 16 by the ED’s Panaji Zonal Office under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. A Special Court

(PMLA) in Goa remanded him to ED custody till Monday, the agency said. He is the sixth accused arrested in the case. According to the ED, Jain destroyed records and mobile phones containing evidence after searches were conducted at premises linked to the cybercrime network. He also failed to appear on the scheduled date to record his statement and gave evasive replies when he later appeared, the agency said. The investigation began following an FIR registered by the Cyber Crime Police

Station in North Goa. The victim was allegedly kept on a video call and made to believe she was under criminal investigation before being coerced into transferring about Rs 2.6 crore to accounts falsely described as “Secret Supervision Accounts”. The ED said the extorted money passed through a network of companies created to receive cyber fraud proceeds through bank transfers, convert them into cash and then into foreign currency. Accounts linked to the network figure in more

than 300 victim complaints and over 160 FIRs across more than 20 States and Union Territories, involving reported losses of about Rs 417 crore, the agency said. Jain allegedly arranged bank credits into the network’s accounts as an RTGS agent and received cash from those controlling the network, retaining a commission. In statements recorded under the PMLA, he admitted knowing that the money came from cyber frauds, including digital arrest scams, the ED said.

FSSAI NOTICES ZEPTO, THREE FIRMS OVER FOOD SAFETY, LABELLING CLAIMS

IANSA New Delhi, Oct. 19

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) issued notices to Zepto and three firms over alleged food safety, labelling and advertising violations. It also sanctioned adjudication proceedings against Storia Foods & Beverages. FSSAI sought an explanation from Zepto over a complaint that two packets of besan marked “Use By: 12 September 2026” were delivered after expiry. It sought order details.

HealthyHey Foods LLP received a notice over cranberry extract capsules. FSSAI flagged colour declaration discrepancies and said “Supports Urinary Tract Health” may require prior approval. Bakelite Food Processing Pvt Ltd was questioned over Malpani’s Bake-Lite Puneri Cream Roll, sold through Blinkit and Zepto. Its ingredients reportedly contain no dairy, while its name and packaging could mislead consumers, FSSAI said.

BMS Lifescience received a notice over HAOG’S Cranberry Urinary Tract Health Capsules, allegedly marketed under an expired registration certificate with claims about urinary infections, kidney health and disease prevention requiring approval. FSSAI sanctioned proceedings against Storia over its pomegranate juice product. It said the product contained 4 per cent pomegranate concentrate and 12 per cent apple



juice concentrate, and flagged branding and claims including “No Added Sugar” and “Equivalent to 100 per cent Fruit Juice (Reconstituted)”.

Class 10 exams begin in J&K; over 97,000 students appear at 1,003 centres

IANSA Srinagar, Oct. 19

More than 97,000 students appeared for the Class 10 annual regular examinations conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE) at 1,003 centres on Monday. The examinations began in the Kashmir Valley and Jammu division’s winter-zone areas. Officials said 72,232 students were registered in Kashmir and 25,268 in Jammu’s winter-zone areas. Of the centres, 687

are in Kashmir and 316 in Jammu’s winter zone. JKBOSE Chairman Ghulam Hassan Sheikh said exams were being held across 10 Kashmir districts and seven districts of Jammu division, with few students also appearing in Leh and Kargil. A dedicated centre at the Board’s office is catering to eligible candidates with special needs. Sheikh said they were being given 20 minutes of extra time, scribes according to their disabilities and a five-mark concession in

passing criteria. “We try our best to facilitate them and to make their academic dreams come true,” he said, adding that the Board had planned arrangements in advance and consulted officials to ensure smooth conduct. Education Minister Sakina Itoo wished students appearing for Classes 10, 11 and 12 success, saying JKBOSE had completed preparations. She urged students to remain confident, manage time wisely and approach

exams calmly. JKBOSE has constituted a Grievance cum Monitoring Cell for transparency and timely resolution of examination-related complaints. Ram Niwas Sharma urged education officials to provide counselling and support to help students manage exam stress. Class 10 examinations will conclude on November 18. Class 12 annual regular examinations will begin on October 21 and end on November 21.



UN Biodiversity Conference: World gathers in Armenia to 'save' nature

Yerevan, Oct. 19

Government representatives, Indigenous peoples and local communities gathered in Armenia for the 2026 UN Biodiversity Conference, as a report warned progress towards 2030 nature targets remains inadequate.

Running until October 30, the conference marks the halfway point between adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework in 2022 and its 2030 deadline. The State of Biodiversity Action report says nearly 90 per cent of parties have set national targets and over 70 per cent have submitted reports. Action covers all 23 targets, but fewer than half of national targets are on track.

Delegates will review progress and discuss finance, science, biosafety and fair sharing of benefits from genetic resources. Meetings include the Convention on Biological Diversity.

COP 17 President Hambarzum Matevosyan called for renewed commitment. Convention on Biological Diversity Executive Secretary Astrid Schomaker said faster action was essential because food, water, health, and livelihoods depend on healthy ecosystems worldwide.

US DEMOCRATS LEAD BY NINE POINTS AS SENATE MAP EXPANDS SOUTH

Washington, Oct. 19

With 16 days before the November 3 midterm elections, polls suggest a difficult climate for President Donald Trump's Republicans, with Democrats favoured for the House and the Senate race competitive.

An NBC News Decision Desk poll put Trump's approval rating at 39 per cent,

INDIAN DIPLOMAT, MADINAH'S DEPUTY GOVERNOR DISCUSS STRENGTHENING INDIA-SAUDI ARABIA TIES

Riyadh, Oct. 19

India's Consul General in Jeddah, Fahad Suri, met Madinah Deputy Governor Prince Saud bin Nahar bin Saud bin Abdulaziz Al Saud on Monday to discuss strengthening India-Saudi Arabia ties, issues concerning the Indian community and cooperation in areas of mutual interest.

The Indian Consulate General in Jeddah said on X that Suri called on the deputy governor and discussed ways to strengthen bilateral relations and enhance cooperation.

The meeting follows a series of engagements between Indian and Saudi officials. Last week, India's Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Vipul, met Deputy Minister for International Multilateral Affairs Abdulrahman Al-Rassi. The Indian Embassy said they discussed matters of mutual interest, with a focus on enhancing multilateral cooperation.

On October 8, Suri met



Abdulaziz bin Aboud, Director General at the Ministry of Sport in the Makkah Region. Their discussions focused on strengthening sports co-operation, promoting youth and community engagement, and exploring joint sporting and fitness initiatives in western Saudi Arabia, according to the consulate.

Earlier, on October 4, Ambassador Vipul met Saudi Vice Minister of Hajj and Umrah Abdulfattah bin Suleiman Al-Mashat and other senior ministry officials to

review preparations for Haj 2027. The Indian delegation included Suri and Consul (Haj) Sadaf Choudhary.

The two sides reviewed preparations and discussed continued coordination between the Indian Haj Mission and Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Hajj and Umrah for the forthcoming pilgrimage, the consulate said in a post on X.

Vipul, accompanied by Suri and Choudhary, also visited the Haj Terminal at Jeddah Airport and the Haramain High Speed

Railway Station to review facilities, infrastructure and operational arrangements. He interacted with officials on preparations for Haj 2027, the consulate said.

More than 100,000 Indian pilgrims travel through the Haj Committee of India route. The consulate described the Haj Terminal and Haramain train services as important operational points for pilgrims' arrival and onward travel during the annual pilgrimage. Haj plans were also discussed by both sides.

ZELENSKY SAYS READY TO RUN IN WARTIME ELECTIONS

Kyiv, Oct. 19

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said he was ready to contest presidential elections if a vote was held before the conflict with Russia ended, Ukrinform reported Monday.

"If it takes place during the war, of course, it is my duty, because I must defend my country from the beginning until the end of the war," he said.

Zelensky said Ukrainian law requires elections at least six months after hostilities end. However, he was

ready to explore holding a vote during the conflict if Russia agreed to a 60-day ceasefire, Xinhua News Agency reported.

The 60-day period would allow Ukraine to amend election laws and arrange security measures, he said.

Ukraine held presidential elections in 2019. Martial law was imposed in 2022 amid the conflict with Russia, prohibiting elections. Earlier this month, US President Donald Trump called on Ukraine to hold a presidential election.

Separately, Zelensky

said the United States suspended intelligence sharing with Ukraine for three days, leaving its forces without American warnings of Russian ballistic missile attacks.

In an interview with NBC's "Meet the Press", he said restrictions on satellite communications used by Ukrainian forces had not been fully lifted, raising questions about Washington's military and intelligence support.

He said the interruption affected information only the US could provide, particularly warn-

ings of ballistic missile strikes.

"We didn't see attacks of Russia using ballistic missiles," Zelensky said. Ukraine continued receiving intelligence from European governments and other partners, but their capabilities could not fully replace American systems, he said.

"We have dozens of countries who help. But United States has this unique intelligence to say, to tell us, to tell our side when Russia uses ballistic missiles," he said.

TRUMP DEFENDS RUSSIA SANCTIONS WAIVER

Washington, Oct. 19

US President Donald Trump defended suspending new sanctions and tariffs targeting Russia and buyers of Russian energy, saying he did not want to undermine negotiations to end the Ukraine war.

Trump signed an order waiving key provisions of the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026, which could have affected India because of its Russian oil purchases. He said fresh penalties could push Moscow away from negotiations.

"I am in the process of negotiating Peace in the war between Russia and Ukraine, and don't want to do anything that will drive, foolishly, Russia away from the bargaining table," Trump wrote on Truth Social.

Trump also cited Iran and energy markets. He said Russia was providing less assistance to Iran than it potentially could, and argued Ukrainian attacks on Russian diesel refineries were disrupting fuel supplies.

The order provided for tariffs of 500 per cent on certain Russian goods and 100 per cent on goods



from the five largest importers of Russian crude oil and natural gas, subject to statutory conditions. However, it waived those duties and most new sanctions provisions. Existing US sanctions remain in place.

The waiver matters for India, a key buyer of Russian energy, as the legislation could expose such countries to additional US tariffs.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio said the administration needed time to assess the economic consequences. He named India among countries that could be affected and said Trump wanted up to 60 days to consider the implications.

The waivers will remain effective until

Trump or the Secretary of State determines that further action is appropriate.

The decision has drawn criticism from lawmakers favouring stronger pressure on Moscow. Republicans and Democrats have questioned whether suspending the measures could weaken Washington's leverage while the war continues. The White House says the waiver supports peace efforts.

The Graham Act, signed on September 18, was designed to pressure Russia through sanctions and tariffs on countries buying its energy. The President may waive provisions after certifying to Congress that doing so serves US national interests.

Iran says 'violating' oil tanker exploded after hitting mine south of Hormuz Strait

Tehran, Oct. 19

The navy of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) announced early Monday that a "violating" oil tanker suffered a blast in the preceding hours after hitting a naval mine south of the Strait of Hormuz.

In a statement published on the IRGC's official news outlet Sepah News, the navy said the blast caused a fire in the oil tanker's engine room. It added that the vessel had turned off its GPS and navigation systems and, in disregard of the regulations, was seeking to exit the strait through the "unauthorised" route south of the waterway, Xinhua News Agency reported.

The IRGC Navy stressed that if vessels transiting the Strait of Hormuz and surrounding waters turn off their navigation and identification systems, they will be dealt with "severely and deci-



sively." Over the past week, the navy has reported that several "violating" oil tankers attempting to cross the Strait of Hormuz exploded after striking naval mines.

The navy has claimed to exercise full control and dominance over the strait's eastern waters, the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea, and is "aware of the risks involved in (vessels') transit in forbidden regions."

Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi said Sunday that Tehran's proposed seven-day plan to reopen the Strait of Hormuz is "still on the

table." Araghchi made the remarks in an interview with Iran's official news agency IRNA on the sidelines of the 52nd Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad.

He said Iran's conditions for ceasing hostilities and reopening the strait were "completely clear" and had been submitted to the United States under the seven-day plan.

Washington has presented its views on the plan, which Tehran is reviewing, he added.

Police burn nearly one tonne of illegal drugs in Afghanistan's Farah

Kabul, Oct. 19

Police burned nearly one tonne of illegal drugs in Afghanistan's western Farah province on Sunday, provincial police spokesman Kalimullah Nangyal said on Monday.

The seized narcotics included 955 kg of opium-type drugs and hashish, along with 36 kg of methamphetamine. They were recovered during recent operations and publicly burned on Sunday, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Police also arrested a suspected drug smuggler, who will be handed over to the judiciary after a preliminary investigation, Nangyal said.

On October 16, the provincial Directorate of Information and Culture said counter-narcotics police had seized 136 kg of opium-type drugs and detained three suspected smugglers in southern Helmand province. The drugs were recovered from two cars in Sangin district on October 15, and the suspects were detained for investigation.

Afghan authorities have intensified their crackdown on illegal drugs. On October 13, police said they had incinerated 161 tons of assorted illicit narcotics seized during a year-long counter-narcotics campaign in western Herat province.

Provincial police spokesman Sayed Massoud Hussaini said the drugs had been recovered in Herat city and several districts. He did not disclose how many people had been arrested for storing or trafficking the substances, but said police would not allow

smuggling, cultivation or processing of illicit drugs anywhere in Afghanistan.

In a wider anti-narcotics drive, police also destroyed 10 drug-processing laboratories and found materials used to manufacture heroin in neighbouring Ghor province, officials reported on Wednesday.

The Afghan government has banned drug production, trafficking and opium poppy cultivation. It has pledged to continue the campaign until the country, long known for its poppy fields, becomes drug-free.

KENYA'S EBOLA CASES RISE TO EIGHT AS HOSPITAL ATTENDANT

Nairobi, Oct. 19

Kenya has confirmed its eighth Ebola case after a 49-year-old hospital patient attendant tested positive for the Bundibugyo strain, the Health Ministry said.

Patrick Amoth, the ministry's director-general for health, said the man developed fever, headache and muscle pain and was isolated for treatment. Of 38 people tested on Sunday, one returned a positive result, he said in an interview



with Citizen TV.

Amoth said all seven previously confirmed patients had received monoclonal antibodies and were responding well. The World Health Organisation says there are no approved vaccines

or specific treatments for the Bundibugyo strain, though candidate products are being evaluated in trials.

The latest case follows four infections announced on Saturday, including a close male relative of Kenya's first patient and three health workers who treated him in hospital.

Amoth said risk of community transmission from quarantined people was low. Authorities are tracing contacts and quarantining people exposed to confirmed cases.

By October 17, officials had identified 130 contacts of the first patient and traced 128, the ministry said. Contact tracing for newer cases is continuing.

Kenya confirmed its first case on October 6. The index patient, a Kenyan man who had been living in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, arrived in Nairobi on October 3. He died while receiving treatment at a Nairobi hospital and was later given a safe burial at a public cemetery to reduce transmission risks.

Future City Takes a Step Towards Secure Growth

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's inauguration of the Telangana Future City Police Commissionerate office at Ibrahimpatnam anchors an ambitious urban blueprint in essential administrative and public safety capacity.

- Honey Gowda

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's inauguration of the Telangana Future City Police Commissionerate office at Ibrahimpatnam on October 19 marks a decisive transition from master-planning to functioning governance. While the state government legally constituted the commissionerate on December 29, 2025, through G.O. Ms. No. 141 of the Home Department as part of its wider reorganisation of Greater Hyderabad policing into four commissionerates, establishing a dedicated operational headquarters under Police Commissioner Dr. Tarun Joshi gives tangible administrative presence to the fast-changing southern corridor.

Revanth Reddy's inauguration of the Future City Police Commissionerate is a welcome and forward-looking step that strengthens the institutional foundation for Telangana's urban ambitions. Integrating public safety into the region's development can help build confidence, support investment and create safer communities, provided the government sustains effective implementation and inclusive governance.

Too often in Indian urban expansion, civic and security institutions arrive only after unregulated sprawl has strained local administration. Placing public safety at the foundation of urban planning reverses that sequence and links dependable governance directly with a city's future liveability. Clarity of scope is essential here. As reported by *The Munsif* and official briefings, the commissionerate oversees a vast policing jurisdiction of 4,337.19 sq. km across six Assembly and two Parliamentary constituencies—structured into the Maheshwaram, Shadnagar and Chevella zones with 22 law-and-order police stations and four traffic police

stations.

Within this broader peri-urban belt, where population growth has reached 48.16 per cent since 2001 and is projected by officials to touch 25 to 30 lakh by 2030, lies the core Bharat Future City project: a proposed 30,000-acre greenfield smart city governed by the Future City Development Authority, encompassing a 19,333-acre Telangana Industrial Infrastructure Corporation development area. Securing the wider corridor early helps ensure that institutional order precedes demographic pressure.

In the near term, a dedicated command structure can deliver better inter-departmental coordination, more accessible policing and improved public confidence, subject to adequate staffing, modern equipment and ground-level operational readiness. As land transactions rise and construction accelerates, responsive policing—backed by the commissionerate's specialised units for women's safety and cybercrime, vigilant protection against land and financial fraud, and orderly traffic management along key highways—can help safeguard residents, workers and businesses alike.

Over the medium term, such stability could foster a more dependable environment for families and enterprises as supporting services and infrastructure develop. The corridor already shows early institutional momentum alongside the operational commissionerate, with construction progressing at the Young India Skill University, the foundation stone laid on Monday for the National Institute of Urban Management campus, and groundwork initiated in July for an Amazon Web Services data centre campus. Still, proposed multi-sectoral hubs and investment commitments remain projections that can support broad-based employment, entre-

preneurship and local commerce only when reliable policing is complemented by transport links, skills training and effective civic administration.

Crucially, the promise of a new urban growth engine must include the communities that already inhabit this landscape. Across the 56 revenue villages in the core planning zone and the wider rural hinterland of Rangareddy district, farmers, village residents, small traders, women and migrant workers form the backbone of the local economy. Rapid peri-urban transformation often brings anxieties over land disputes, livelihood transitions and unequal access to public services.

For the new commissionerate to earn enduring trust, its officers must remain accessible and responsive to ordinary citizens rather than functioning solely as security buffers for upcoming industrial enclaves. Fair treatment, sensitised local policing and community participation are essential foundations for successful and equitable development.

Over the long term, Future City has the potential to become a significant, liveable economic centre contributing to Telangana's development, if implementation is sustained across every dimension of urban governance. Public safety cannot succeed in isolation; establishing a credible urban model requires linking law enforcement with reliable public transport, inclusive housing, quality education, assured water security and the conservation of reserve forests and local waterbodies.

Revanth Reddy's initiative gives the Future City vision an important institutional foundation. With sustained investment, accountable policing and inclusive planning, it can help translate Telangana's urban ambition into safer communities, broader opportunities and lasting public confidence.



BEHIND THE UNREST IN FRANCE: Separating Riots, Crime and Social Strain

Understanding the violent clashes across French cities requires distinguishing between opportunistic rioting, organised crime and legitimate social protest so the state can pair firm law enforcement with accountable policing and targeted social reform.

- Editorial Desk

Violent scenes across France on October 17 and 18, following weeks of student blockades and union marches over living costs and school conditions, have renewed urgent questions about public order.

Masked groups torched the historic town hall in Limoges, vandalised civic buildings in Lyon and Marseille, and looted nearly 2,000 shops nationwide, leaving almost 1,000 officers injured and prompting nearly 2,400 arrests.

Arson, looting and attacks on public servants are indefensible and must be condemned unequivocally. Yet explaining why France experiences recurring unrest requires separating peaceful protest from criminal destruction and testing whether violence is truly rising nationwide.

Official statistics from the Interior Ministry statistical service for 2025, published in July 2026, challenge assumptions of a uniform surge in crime: homicides stabilised at 975 and armed robberies and burglaries declined, although recorded physical assaults rose by 5 per cent, sexual violence by 8 per cent and drug trafficking offences by 9 per cent.

Crucially, different forms of violence have different causes and cannot be reduced to a single explanation or blamed collectively on immigrants, Muslims or ethnic minorities. Street riots and opportunistic looting during demonstrations differ fundamentally from narco-trafficking bloodshed in Marseille, isolated extremist attacks and alleged police abuses.

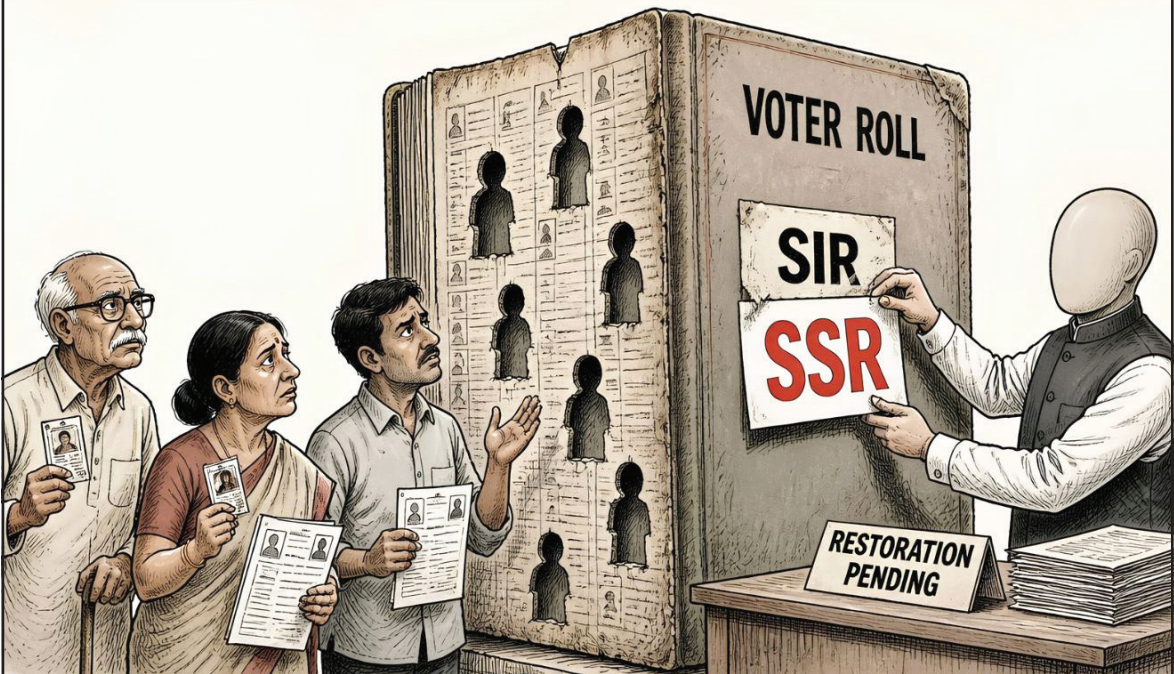
Behind the latest unrest lie com-

pound pressures: economic strain, political polarisation ahead of the 2027 presidential election, socioeconomic exclusion in disadvantaged suburbs and aggressive crowd control tactics now under investigation by the police watchdog in over two dozen cases.

While President Emmanuel Macron and Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu blamed radical left militants and criminals and backed localised curfews, Interior Minister Laurent Nunez rightly acknowledged intelligence failures after police lost control. France needs an evidence-based response that combines public safety, accountable policing and attention to the specific conditions driving violence: prosecuting rioters and drug networks, reforming crowd control, and addressing social grievances.

OPINION SSR Cannot Absolve the Failures of SIR

The Election Commission's return to routine roll updates across 17 states and Union Territories neither automatically restores wrongly excluded voters nor answers grave questions over its intensive verification drive.



Monday, 19th October 2026
- Zia Junaidi

By announcing a Special Summary Revision (SSR) of electoral rolls on October 15 across 17 states and Union Territories—including five states heading to Assembly polls in early 2027—the Election Commission of India appears eager to project a return to institutional normalcy. Having skipped the annual summary update in 2026 after initiating its contentious Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in June 2025, the Commission has now set a familiar calendar: polling station rationalisation by November 2, draft rolls on November 12, a claims and objections window until December 11, disposal by December 28, and final publication on January 4, 2027, with January 1 as the qualifying date. Yet SSR cannot absolve the failures of SIR. A fresh revision timetable does not answer concerns about wrongful voter exclusion, restore every eligible person omitted from the rolls, or remove the Election Commission's obligation to explain and correct its mistakes.

Citizens must not be misled into believing that resuming the SSR automatically reverses the disruptions of the past sixteen months. The two exercises differ fundamentally in design and effect. While the SIR rebuilt voter lists afresh through door-to-door verification—requiring existing electors to fill enumeration forms, re-establish eligibility, and navigate stringent documentation norms—the SSR merely updates existing electoral rolls under Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950. In the 16 states and Union Territories where earlier phases of the SIR have concluded (Assam being the only state in this round where SIR was not conducted), the post-SIR rolls form the baseline for the November draft lists. Consequently, updating an existing list will carry unresolved omissions forward unless officials actively investigate and correct them. Eligible voters struck off during the intensive revision will not reappear on the draft rolls by default; the burden of re-enrolling falls squarely on the excluded citizen.

Electoral integrity requires both accuracy and inclusion. The Commission's stated rationale for the SIR—removing deceased, duplicate, and permanently shifted electors under a statutory mandate upheld by the Supreme Court in May 2026—reflects a legitimate requirement. Nor should every removed entry be conflated with wrongful disenfranchisement. Honest assessment requires distinguishing between initial omissions from SIR draft rolls—which exceeded 13 crore names nation-

wide—net deletions from final rolls, such as the 47 lakh reduction in Bihar's Phase I and 5.18 crore across Phase II states, pending claims awaiting disposal, and confirmed wrongful exclusions. Yet the Commission cannot parade raw deletion totals as proof of success. When Supreme Court intervention was required in West Bengal to restore 16 lakh voters among millions contested, and when opposition parties, civil society petitioners, and media reports highlighted opaque automated discrepancy flags, internal Commission dissent, and restrictive verification rules, serious institutional lapses became undeniable.

Furthermore, citizens must not bear the cost of administrative mistakes. During the Bihar revision, initial guidelines that excluded widely held identity documents such as Aadhaar, ration, and NREGS cards in favour of scarce birth or matriculation certificates created severe compliance barriers before informal relaxations followed. Expecting eligible voters wrongly omitted during the SIR to reapply during a one-month SSR window ignores the heavy toll of bureaucratic error: lost wages, travel expenses, repetitive paperwork, and prolonged uncertainty over voting rights. Civil rights groups and United Nations rapporteurs have raised serious concerns that rigid documentation requirements and spelling-based discrepancy flags place disproportionate burdens on migrant workers, the rural poor, women, and marginalised communities least equipped to navigate administrative appeals.

The Commission's recent adjustments for the SSR—providing political parties with searchable PDF rolls without photographs and clarifying that SSR applicants using Form 6 are exempt from the contested additional declaration required in SIR states—are partial concessions, not remedies for past exclusions. To restore credibility, the Commission must demonstrate substantive corrective action. It must release transparent data on contested SIR exclusions, restoration applications, decisions, and unresolved complaints; subject disputed deletions and automated algorithms to independent scrutiny; provide accessible doorstep assistance to re-enrol wrongly omitted electors; and guarantee individual notice with meaningful opportunities to challenge adverse decisions. Ultimately, public trust depends on outcomes, and the SSR must be judged by whether every eligible citizen can participate rather than by procedural assurances. A fresh administrative exercise cannot close the debate over SIR while eligible voters affected by its errors are still seeking restoration and answers.

Containing the Ebola Resurgence Demands Urgent Solidarity and Trust

- Editorial Desk

The ongoing Ebola epidemic, declared a public health emergency of international concern following its May 2026 identification in the DRC, has scaled into an unprecedented challenge. Transmitted through direct contact with bodily fluids rather than airborne spread, the virus has exacted a heavy toll, with thousands of confirmed cases and fatalities re-

ported across multiple health zones. Containing this crisis demands rapid, transparent action, adequately supported health workers, strict adherence to safe burial practices, and active community trust.

A rigorous assessment of response indicators reveals critical vulnerabilities. Delays in investigating alerts, gaps in contact tracing, and insufficient isolation facilities have allowed

transmission chains to persist within households and healthcare settings. Furthermore, because this epidemic is driven by the Bundibugyo species—for which standard therapeutics and vaccines designed for the Zaire strain have faced deployment hurdles—frontline clinical care and ongoing trials acquire paramount importance. Authorities must address these operational shortcomings directly, ensuring trans-

parent accountability without resorting to stigmatisation or alarmism.

Ultimately, halting transmission relies on empowering local populations and protecting those on the medical front lines. Timely international funding, seamless regional coordination, and sustained investment in public health infrastructure remain vital to safeguard vulnerable communities and restore security.



Historic One-Two Finish: Mona Edges Avani for Shooting Gold

Mona Agarwal and Avani Lekhara dominate the 10m air rifle standing SH1 event, delivering India's historic opening gold and silver medals at the continental showdown.



Key Highlights of the Historic Event

Mona Agarwal claimed the gold medal with 250.0 points, while compatriot Avani Lekhara secured the silver with 249.6 points in the women's 10m air rifle standing SH1 event.

South Korea's Lee Yunri rounded out the podium, taking home the bronze medal with a score of 227.9 points.

The thrilling medal showdown took place at the 2026 Asian Para Games hosted in Aichi-Nagoya, marking a triumphant opening campaign for India's shooting contingent.

NAGOYA, Oct 19:

India launched its campaign at the Asian Para Games in style on Monday, securing a stunning one-two finish in the women's 10m air rifle standing SH1 event. Mona Agarwal clinched the gold medal with a record-breaking performance, edging compatriot and double Paralympic champion Avani Lekhara in a thrilling conclusion at the Aichi-Nagoya tournament.

Mona fired a final score of 250.0 points to set a new Asian Para Games benchmark, overtaking Avani in the closing stages of the tense 24-shot medal round. Avani, who held the initial momentum, claimed the silver medal with a score of 249.6 points, finishing just 0.4 points behind her compatriot. South Korea's Lee Yunri secured the bronze medal, finishing further back with 227.9 points.

The dramatic duel between the two Indian shooters came down to the absolute wire. Entering the final series of shots, Mona held a razor-thin advantage of 239.2 to 239.1 before sealing victory under pressure. The triumphant result not only opened India's gold account at the continental games but also added another milestone to the nation's burgeoning para-shooting legacy.

Betis' Colombian striker Hernandez suffers calf injury

Madrid, Oct 19 (IANS):

Real Betis confirmed on Monday that their Colombian international striker Cucho Hernandez sustained a calf injury during their match against Barcelona at the weekend.

"Cucho Hernandez sustained a muscle injury during Saturday's match against Barcelona. Medical tests conducted this morning confirmed an injury to the proximal soleus muscle in his left calf," the Seville-based club said on its website.

Although Betis did not specify how long Hernandez would be out, saying that "his return to the squad will depend on his progress," the injury is expected to sideline him for around a month.

Hernandez is therefore set to miss their Champions League matches against Feyenoord and Borussia Dortmund, La Liga fixtures against Celta, Malaga and Elche, and Betis' Copa del Rey second-round tie away to Navalcarnero.

Aditya, Tridev Reach World Boxing U-19 Pre-Quarterfinals

India's Aditya and Tridev reached the World Boxing U-19 pre-quarterfinals in Budva, while Aman Dev and Mausam Suhag also registered victories.

(IANS) New Delhi, Oct 19:

India's Aditya and Tridev advanced to the pre-quarterfinals of the 2026 World Boxing U-19 Championships in Budva, Montenegro, with contrasting victories in their respective weight categories.

Aditya defeated Christian Paez of the USA in the men's 55kg category after the referee stopped the contest in the second round. Paez received two counts in each round before the bout ended.

Tridev secured a closely contested 3-2 victory



over Poland's Kajetan Bajzert in the men's 85kg category on Sunday evening. Three of the five judges scored each of the three rounds in the Indian's favour.

Prashant, however, exited the men's 70kg competition after a unan-

imous 0-5 defeat against Australia's Luke Nassif. Earlier on Sunday, Aman Dev and Mausam Suhag advanced to the next round with unanimous victories. Aman dominated all three rounds against Hungary's Laszlo Papai to win 5-0

in the men's 50kg category. Mausam defeated Latvia's Romans Iljins by the same margin in the men's 65kg event.

The championships are being held from October 16 to 27 in Budva, with competition across ten weight categories each for men and women.

This is the second edition of the World Boxing U-19 Championships. The inaugural tournament took place in Colorado, USA, in October and November 2024 and was the first global championship competition hosted by World Boxing.

PRESIDENT MURMU CONGRATULATES INDIA'S ASIAN PARA GAMES MEDALLISTS

New Delhi, Oct 19 (IANS):

President Droupadi Murmu congratulated India's medallists at the Asian Para Games 2026, praising gold medalists Soumya, Rinku and Nishad Kumar alongside athletes who secured silver and bronze across swimming, athletics and para-judo.

In messages on X, the President lauded Soumya for winning gold in the women's 1500m T12/13 event with a personal best.

"In a race where every second counts, this is a particularly special accomplishment," Murmu wrote, describing the victory as a milestone celebrating both Soumya's personal best and the honour of representing the country.

She also congratulated Radha Venkatesh, who won silver in the same event, and wished her further opportunities to excel on the track.

In the men's javelin throw F46 event, the President praised gold medalist Rinku and silver medalist Ajeet Singh. She said Rinku's performance had brought pride to the country and could inspire aspiring javelin throwers, while wishing Ajeet fresh momentum in his sporting journey.

Murmu congratulated Nishad Kumar on his gold medal in the men's long jump T47 event, describing his success as a reflection of his versatility and willingness to take on new challenges.

The President also commended Ravi K. Budigina



for winning silver in the men's 100m freestyle S13 event, saying his achievement had given the nation a moment to cherish and could inspire aspiring swimmers to pursue their ambitions with conviction.

In para-judo, she congratulated Kokila on securing silver in the women's J2 -52kg cat-

egory. Murmu said the achievement could encourage more young people to explore judo and pursue their sporting aspirations.

She also extended her congratulations to Kapil Parmar on his bronze medal in para-judo, wishing him continued success and greater achievements in his sporting journey.

Tiger Shroff Firing Case: Three Accused Arrested in Kota After Juhu Attack

Three accused in the firing at Tiger Shroff's car in Juhu were arrested in Kota. The actor escaped unharmed; his driver was reportedly injured.

(IANS) Mumbai, October 19:

Three men accused of opening fire at actor Tiger Shroff's car in Mumbai's Juhu on October 18 were arrested at Kota railway station in Rajasthan within hours of the incident, police said.

Shroff escaped unharmed, while his driver was reportedly injured. The actor was returning from a football game on Sunday evening when three motorcycle-borne assailants allegedly fired at his car near Pushpa Narsee Park before fleeing.

Preliminary findings suggest the accused arrived in Mumbai about two weeks before the attack and monitored Shroff's movements. They allegedly conducted reconnaissance at his residence and gym and used paparazzi videos

and other social media content to identify places he frequently visited.

The accused were allegedly hired by the Bishnoi gang, although that suspected link remains part of the investigation.

After the firing, the three allegedly followed a planned escape route, abandoning their motorcycle near Andheri West railway station and taking a train towards Borivali. They reportedly travelled from Borivali to Surat by cab before boarding a train towards Kota.

The Mumbai Crime Branch reportedly deployed three to four teams at suspected locations. According to police, Kota Police apprehended the accused while they were travelling on a train.

Preliminary investigations in-



dicates that the three intended to reach Delhi and later flee towards Nepal. They were arrested before they could carry out that plan.

Daler Mehndi confronted by Uttarakhand Minister Subodh Uniyal for performing drunk: Bol toh jaa nahi raha



(IANS) Mumbai, October 19

Punjabi singer Daler Mehndi was confronted by Uttarakhand Cabinet Minister Subodh Uniyal over allegedly performing under the influence of alcohol at the Kunjapuri

Mela in Tehri during Navratri.

A video of the confrontation circulated widely on social media, drawing attention to the exchange between the minister and the singer.

"Bol toh jaa nahi raha,

gaana kya gaoge?" Uniyal asked, questioning how Mehndi could sing if he could not speak properly.

The minister expressed disappointment over the singer's conduct and reminded him of the religious significance of the programme. He said organisers had paid to bring him to the event so that local audiences could be entertained.

Uniyal also stressed that Mehndi had been invited because of his reputation as a performer and accused him of making a fool of the organisers.

"You are a big name," the minister told him during the exchange, reiterating that his standing as a singer was the reason for the invitation.

Mehndi responded by

asking Uniyal to leave the stage. "Sir, I request you with folded hands...please leave the stage," he said.

The minister continued to emphasise that the event was a Navratri celebration and should be treated with respect.

The video attracted critical comments from social media users, including some who accused Mehndi of disrespecting the occasion. Others expressed sympathy for him.

However, those reactions do not establish intoxication. The report provided no independent confirmation of alcohol consumption, while Mehndi's quoted response did not directly address the allegation made against him at the event.

Aishwarya Rai on Qualities She Valued in a Partner

Aishwarya Rai highlighted sensitivity, humour and mutual respect as qualities she valued in a partner, calling compatibility essential to lasting love.

Mumbai, Oct 19 (IANS):

Actress Aishwarya Rai once said sensitivity, humour and respect were qualities she valued in a partner, while describing compatibility as essential to a lasting relationship.

During an interaction with veteran actress Farida Jalal, Aishwarya said her ideal partner should be able to laugh at himself and accept people without judging them.

Describing herself as a people's person, she emphasised the importance of an uncomplicated, humane outlook.

She also said that, alongside love, compatibility would be the thread connecting a couple.

Aishwarya married actor Abhishek Bachchan on April 20, 2007. Their daughter Aaradhya was born in November 2011.

PM Modi Praises Nishad Kumar After Asian Para Games Long Jump Gold

PM Modi praised Nishad Kumar after his 7.11m jump secured men's T47 long jump gold at the Asian Para Games 2026 in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan.

(IANS) New Delhi, October 19:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised Nishad Kumar's versatility and determination after the Indian won the men's long jump T47 gold with a best effort of 7.11m at

Park Athletic Stadium to secure India's second gold of the Games.

In a message posted by PMO India, Modi said Nishad's gold on his debut in the event made the achievement particularly special.



Nishad Kumar Asian Para Games long jump Gold Medalist Winner

the Asian Para Games in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, on Monday.

The two-time Paralympic silver medalist, known primarily for his high jump achievements, recorded the winning distance twice at the Nagoya City Mizuho

"Very proud of Nishad Kumar on winning Gold in the Men's Long Jump T47 event at the Asian Para Games 2026 with an outstanding jump. Winning a Gold on his debut in this event makes the achievement even more special. His versa-

tility, determination and sporting excellence are truly inspiring. Wishing him the very best for the endeavours ahead," Modi said.

Nishad opened with 6.95m and moved into the lead with 7.09m on his second attempt. He improved to 7.11m in the third round before fouling his fourth attempt. He matched his best distance in the fifth round and finished with 7.07m.

Uzbekistan's Omadbek Khasanov claimed silver with a season-best 6.99m, while Sri Lanka's Mohamadu Safran took bronze with 6.55m.

The victory marked a significant achievement for Nishad, who began exploring the long jump last year and entered the Games with limited competitive experience in the discipline.

His principal achievements have come in the men's T47 high jump, in which he won silver at the Paris 2024 Paralympics and has also claimed a world championship gold. He is the defending Asian Para Games champion in the high jump.

Bhatti Pushes for Faster Utilisation of SC, ST Funds



NSS News
Hyderabad, Oct 19

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka on Monday directed officials to expedite utilisation of funds under the SC and ST Special Development Sub-Plan, ensuring allocations are spent for the intended welfare and development programmes.

At a review meeting with Finance Department officials at the Secretariat,

Deputy CM directs departments to clear spending gaps and seeks action plan on financial reforms, resource mobilisation and debt restructuring

Bhatti examined department-wise allocations and expenditure, asking lagging departments to take corrective measures and address spending gaps without delay.

He stressed full utilisation of earmarked funds in proportion to SC and ST populations, in accordance with statutory provisions and budgetary allocations.

Bhatti also directed the Finance Department to prepare a comprehensive action plan covering financial reforms, resource mobilisation and debt restructuring to strengthen the State's finances.

Massive Fire at Textile Godown Near High Court



Photo: Syed Omar

Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct 19

A massive fire broke out at Bombay Hosiery, a wholesale textile shop and godown near Madina Cross Road, opposite the Telangana High Court, in the early hours of Monday.

Firefighters and Charminar police

rushed to the spot and launched firefighting operations to prevent the blaze from spreading to neighbouring shops. Thick smoke caused breathing difficulties for nearby residents.

The extent of property damage is yet to be assessed. Police have registered a case and launched an investigation into the cause of the fire.

Honey-trap racket busted in Hyderabad; Rs 25.16 lakh extorted

Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct 19

Saidabad police have arrested a 23-year-old man, Kondabhattula Pavan Kumar, for allegedly running a honey-trap racket using fake social media profiles of women to blackmail men and extort money.

Police said the accused created 13 fake Instagram and 14 Facebook accounts, befriended men online and persuaded them to share intimate photos and videos before threatening to circulate the material. He allegedly extorted ₹18 lakh and cheated victims of another ₹7.16 lakh, taking the total

to ₹25.16 lakh.

Investigators found that over 1,000 people had chatted with him, while 82 allegedly shared intimate images or videos. The victims included professionals and workers from across India and abroad. In one case, he allegedly extorted ₹4 lakh from a former diploma classmate and cheated a software employee of ₹7 lakh on the pretext of investment returns.

Police seized three mobile phones, a laptop and a pen drive. A case has been registered under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Information Technology Act, and further investigation is underway.



Former Haryana Governor Bandaru Dattatreya invites Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla to the Alai Balai celebrations scheduled for October 22 at Nampally Exhibition Grounds in Hyderabad on Monday.

HYD traffic diversions for PVNR expressway road work from Oct 19 to 22

NSS News
Hyderabad, Oct 19

Traffic diversions will be in place near Pillar No.37 of the PVNR Expressway towards Mehdiapatnam from October 19 to 22 due to cement concrete (CC) road-laying work, Hyderabad Traffic Police announced.

The following alternate routes have been suggested to ease congestion:

- Attapur to Nampally: Take a diversion at Pillar No. 92, make a U-turn and proceed via 100 Feet Road, Purana Pool and Jummat Bazar.
- Shaikpet to Attapur: Take the route via Nanal Nagar, Balika Bhavan Junction, Lakshmi Nagar, the 59 U-turn and Attapur Road.
- Shaikpet to Langer

House and Sun City: Divert at KFC U-turn and proceed via Shaikpet Nala, Banjari Darwaza, Makkai Darwaza, Ramdevguda and Tippu Khan Junction.

- Lakdi-ka-pul to Attapur: Take a diversion at Azizia Mosque and proceed via Meraj Cafe Junction, Yadav Bhavan, Gudimalkapur and Pillar No. 68 towards Attapur Road.

The police have urged commuters to follow Hyderabad Traffic Police updates on Facebook at facebook.com/HYDTP and its official X handle.

For emergency travel assistance, commuters can call the traffic helpline at 9010203626. Citizens have been advised to use alternate routes and cooperate with the traffic police.

SCCL Revises Pay Scales for E1-E7 Executives

Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct 19

Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) has revised pay scales for E1-E7 executives on par with Coal India Limited, with monetary benefits effective September 25, 2026, and notional effect from January 1, 2017.

Approved at the SCCL Board's 585th meeting, the revised scales range from ₹60,000-₹1.80 lakh for E1 executives to ₹1.20 lakh-₹2.80 lakh for E6 and E7 grades.

The revision applies to eligible executives who were on the company's rolls on September 25 and continued in service thereafter. Other provisions of the Third Pay Revision Committee guidelines remain unchanged.

Rajasthan man held in Shamshabad ATM theft; four absconding

Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct 19

Hyderabad police have arrested a 34-year-old Rajasthan man in connection with an Axis Bank ATM theft in Shamshabad and the theft of a car and motorcycle. Four other accused remain absconding.

The arrested man, Rashid alias Kakoo, was apprehended by the Commissioner's Task Force and Shamshabad police with Rajasthan Police assistance. Police seized ₹4,500 cash, a Santro car, a Bajaj Pulsar motorcycle, gas-cutting equipment, a cylinder and two mobile phones worth ₹1.84 lakh.

Police said the accused allegedly broke open the ATM with a gas cut-



ter in the early hours of October 6, spray-painted CCTV cameras and disabled the alarm system. A subsequent check revealed a cash shortage of ₹7.40 lakh. Investigators said the gang allegedly stole a motorcycle and a car to facilitate the crime before fleeing across several states. Rashid

reportedly received ₹90,000 as his share. Police said he faces 46 cases in various jurisdictions. The four absconding accused have been identified as Sohail, Faizan alias Ayaan, Rehan alias Zangi and Shamshuddin. Special teams are searching for them, and further investigation is underway.

Alai Balai to Celebrate Telangana's Heritage on October 22

NSS News
Hyderabad, Oct 19

The 2026 edition of Alai Balai, the annual cultural gathering celebrating Telangana's traditions and heritage, will be held at the Exhibition Grounds here in Nampally on October 22 from 10.30 am.

Organised by former Union Minister Bandaru Dattatreya, the event was launched in 2005 to promote camaraderie, harmony and brotherhood by bringing people together beyond political and social differences.

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh,

Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla and Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy are among the dignitaries expected to attend the celebrations, along with Union and State ministers, MPs, public representatives and other prominent personalities.

The event will showcase Telangana's cultural traditions through Bathukamma, Bonalu, Dappu, Gussadi, Kolatam and other folk performances. Traditional Telangana cuisine will also be a major attraction. Distinguished personalities and achievers will be felicitated for their contributions to society.

Telangana Revamps Revenue System for Transparency: Ponguleti



NSS News
Hyderabad, Oct 19

Telangana is overhauling its revenue administration to ensure transparent services, secure farmers' land rights and resolve long-pending disputes, Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said on

Congress leaders pay tributes to Rajiv Gandhi

NSS News
Hyderabad, Oct 19

A memorial meeting marking the Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Yatra was organised by the Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Yatra Memorial Committee at Charminar on Monday under the chairmanship of Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy.

TPCC president and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud, AICC secretary Sachin Sawant and AICC leader Gidugu Rudra Raju attended the meeting as chief guests. TPCC vice-presidents, DCC presidents, party general secretaries and other Congress leaders and representatives also participated.

Addressing the gathering, Mahesh Kumar Goud paid tributes to former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, describing him as a visionary leader who worked tirelessly for the country's development and dedicated his life to the nation. He said Rajiv Gandhi shared a special and inseparable bond with Charminar.

Mahesh Kumar Goud recalled that Rajiv Gandhi had lowered the voting age to 18, enabling young people to participate in the democratic process. He also credited the former Prime Minister's vision with laying the foundation for the widespread adoption of mobile phones and modern technology in the country.

Uttam Kumar Reddy expressed confidence that the growing public support for Rahul Gandhi and the Congress reflected a broader desire for political change at the national level. The Minister called on party workers to stand firmly behind Rahul Gandhi in the fight against the BJP and work towards strengthening secularism, democracy and national unity.

BRS Alleges Torture of Journalists, Demands Probe

NSS News
Hyderabad, Oct 19

BRS leader RS Praveen Kumar has accused Telangana police of torturing two Ek Dham News reporters and filing cases against them for reporting on alleged police interference in land disputes in Gambhiraopet mandal of Rajanna Sircilla district.

He alleged that the journalists were subjected to third-degree torture and that no FIR had been registered against the police personnel despite a complaint to the Karimnagar Police Commissioner.

Questioning DGP CV Anand's alleged inaction, Praveen Kumar cited Supreme Court guidelines on arrest and detention and demanded an impartial probe by the CID or a Special Investigation Team (SIT).

He sought action against those responsible and said the BRS would continue its fight for justice for the journalists.