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France to Impose Curfews Wherever Needed: PM Sebastien Lecornu



IANs News Paris, Oct 20

France will impose fresh curfews wherever necessary to maintain law and order following violent protests and looting, Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu said on Tuesday, crediting targeted restrictions with helping keep the situation calm.

In a post on X, Lecornu thanked police officers, gendarmes and prefects for enforcing the curfews, adding that decisions on fresh restrictions would be taken locally by prefects in coordination with mayors.

Curfews were imposed in parts of Paris, Lyon, Nice and several towns on Monday night following incidents of looting, arson and clashes. In Paris, restrictions covered areas around Republique Square and Chatelet-les-Halles, where looting was reported over the weekend.

Lecornu says targeted restrictions helped maintain calm after violent protests; over 2,000 arrested across the country

In Lyon, a curfew was enforced in the central zone after a tourist office was set on fire during Saturday's protests. Restrictions in Nice, Lille, Douai, Wattignies and Denain applied to unaccompanied minors in designated areas.

French Interior Minister Laurent Nunez said on Sunday that more than 2,000 people had been arrested during violent protests across the country on Saturday.

The unrest erupted alongside nationwide demonstrations against rising inflation, with protesters clashing with police, setting fires and looting dozens of shops.

Hacker Group Claims Access to 3.75 Lakh SBI Data Entries

IANs News New Delhi, Oct 20

An unidentified hacker group operating under the name 'Siriusim' has claimed to possess confidential information allegedly linked to the State Bank of India (SBI), including 3.75 lakh data entries and 2,722 PDF documents.

Cybersecurity monitoring account CyberPulse56 highlighted the claim in a post on X, stating that the material included customers' personal details,



residential addresses, loan applications, supporting documents and account-opening records.

The account first reported the alleged data exposure on

October 16, describing it as the group's first disclosure of the dataset.

However, the authenticity and origin of the data remain unverified. There is no independent confirmation that SBI's systems were compromised or that the documents originated directly from the bank. The reported number of entries also does not necessarily represent the number of individual customers affected.

According to The Economic Times, SBI had not responded to an email seeking comment

Alleged leak includes 2,722 PDF documents; authenticity and source of data remain unverified

by the time of publication on Tuesday.

CyberPulse56 warned that, if genuine, the information could be exploited for identity theft, financial fraud, targeted phishing attacks and fraudulent loan applications.

The claim has renewed concerns over cybersecurity risks in India's financial sector. However, the alleged exposure remains unconfirmed, and no conclusion can yet be drawn about a breach of SBI's systems.

Trump blames immigration for unrest in Europe

IANs News Washington, Oct 20

US President urges France and Italy to tighten border controls amid protests and violence

Washington, Oct. 20 (IANs): US President Donald Trump has blamed immigration for unrest in Europe, urging France and Italy to tighten border controls to prevent further instability.

Speaking at the White House on Monday, Trump said he had repeatedly warned French President Emmanuel Macron against allowing large numbers of migrants into France. "I told Emmanuel (Macron), you should close up your borders," he said, linking the unrest in France and Italy to their immigration policies.

His remarks came amid violent protests in France over deteriorating school conditions, rising living costs and declining purchasing power. Clashes and looting were reported in several cities, with vehicles set ablaze and public buildings and businesses damaged.



Sajjanar appeals for cruelty-free Dussehra, protection of Palapitta

Munsif Desk Hyderabad, Oct 20

Hyderabad Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar on Tuesday appealed to people to celebrate Dussehra without cruelty to the Palapitta (Indian Roller), warning against capturing, caging and clipping the wings of the bird in the name of tradition.

In a social media post, Sajjanar said some people capture the Telangana state bird and confine it without food or water for commercial gain, exploiting the belief that sighting the bird on Dussehra brings good luck.

Describing the Indian Roller as an important part of the environment



and a friend of farmers, he urged people to allow the bird to fly freely and refrain from encouraging captive bird displays.

Sajjanar said capturing, selling or exhibiting the bird was an offence under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. He appealed to citizens to report such violations by calling 18004255364, 9803338666 or the emer-

gency number 112.

The Commissioner and other officials released posters carrying the slogan 'Act Now! Save Palapitta' as part of the awareness campaign.

The Telangana Forest Department has also urged people to ensure cruelty-free celebrations and report the illegal capture or display of the bird.

Habitat loss, pesticide use and illegal trapping are among the threats facing the species. Wildlife advocates have raised concerns over the cruel practices used to prevent captured birds from flying, often leaving them severely distressed and vulnerable to death.

Owaisi Seeks Rijju's Intervention to Save Delhi Mosque

IANs News New Delhi, Oct 20



AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi on Tuesday urged Union Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju to intervene to protect Delhi's historic Hujra Kuan Mosque near the Race Course, alleging threats of demolition despite its gazetted waqf status since 1977.

Owaisi said the Delhi Waqf Board had neither challenged the demolition order nor taken steps to resolve the issue. He urged the Centre to intervene, noting that the board had not been constituted since 2023.

The Hyderabad MP al-

leged that worshippers were being prevented from offering namaz at the mosque and its caretaker had been threatened with eviction without formal notice. He demanded that the alleged threats be withdrawn. Caretaker Mohammed Haroon, associated with the mosque for nearly 40 years, claimed he had been given six days to vacate the premises. He also alleged that authorities had disconnected electricity and water supplies and closed the gates.

Mumbai Police Seize Heroin Worth Rs 10.16 Crore, Arrest Three

IANs News Mumbai, Oct 20

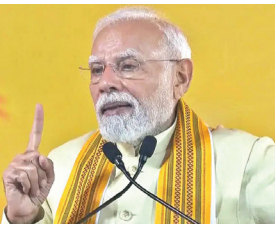
Mumbai Crime Branch arrested three persons and seized 2.032 kg of heroin worth Rs 10.16 crore in two operations in Kandivali West on October 14 and 17.

Police recovered 758 grams of heroin from two suspects in the first operation and another 1.274 kg from a third suspect based on interrogation leads.

A case has been registered under the NDPS Act. Police are investigating the suspected interstate drug network and tracing the suppliers.

Modi calls for national unity against forces dividing society

IANs News New Delhi, Oct 20



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday called for national unity against forces that undermine India's dignity, social harmony and cultural heritage while greeting people on Vijayadashami.

Addressing a gathering, Modi said the festival symbolised the triumph of good over evil and urged political parties and institutions to unite against the country's adversaries. He invoked Lord Ram's ideals of truth, righteousness, compassion and equality, noting that Ram's life offered lessons in overcoming adversity without abandoning dharma. Modi said Lord Ram's

conduct towards Nishadraj and Shabari reflected respect, kindness and social harmony, while his vision of Ram Rajya represented good governance, justice and equal opportunity.

Recalling his vision expressed during the consecration of the Ram temple in Ayodhya, the Prime Minister emphasised the journey from "Ram to Rashtra" and "Dev to Desh", calling for collective commitment to the nation.

'This Is Mahatma Gandhi's Country': Manoj Jha Hits Back at Bhagwat

IANs News New Delhi, Oct 20



RJD Rajya Sabha MP Manoj Jha on Tuesday hit back at RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat's remarks about forces seeking to "dismantle" India, invoking Mahatma Gandhi's legacy of non-violent resistance.

"Don't worry, this is Mahatma Gandhi's country," Jha told IANS, accusing the RSS ideology of being opposed to Gandhi's

principles.

Citing the Non-Cooperation, Civil Disobedience and Quit India movements, Jha said Gandhi's methods would continue to inspire resistance against what he described as authoritarianism.

Bhagwat had said attempts to dismantle India would not succeed, citing global challenges from forces opposed to establishing institutions, cultural values and social order.

He also cautioned against actions by protesters, law enforcement agencies and political leaders that could fuel hatred and social divisions.

Meanwhile, Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Arvind Sawant questioned the country's economic situation and government policies, citing the privatisation of public sector enterprises and rising unemployment. He urged Bhagwat to reflect on the state of the nation and the conduct of those sharing the stage with him.

Jaishankar, Rubio discuss India-US ties

IANs News Mumbai, Oct 20

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Tuesday discussed strengthening bilateral ties, focusing on trade, energy, technology, defence and regional developments. Earlier, Jaishankar, Rubio and UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan held trilateral talks on regional energy security and economic cooperation.

US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor said the three countries had opportunities to expand cooperation in trade, technology and regional connectivity.

Rubio, on his second visit to India, will travel to Jamnagar in Gujarat for further discussions, including enhanced energy cooperation, the US State Department said.

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SC to hear YSRCP plea against HC order refusing extension of nomination deadline

IANs
New Delhi, Oct 20:

The Supreme Court is scheduled to hear, on Wednesday, a plea filed by the YSRCP challenging an Andhra Pradesh High Court order refusing to extend the deadline for filing nominations for the state's Urban Local Body elections amid allegations of violence and obstruction of Opposition candidates.

As per the cause list published on the official website of the apex court, a Bench of Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana will take up the matter for hearing on Wednesday at 10.30 a.m.

The Special Leave Petition (SLP), filed under Article 136 of the Constitution, challenges the High Court order dismissing an application seeking a one-day extension for receipt of nominations in view of alleged disruptions during the nomination process.

The YSRCP has con-

tended that its candidates were prevented from filing nominations in several areas, including Punganur, Rayachoti, Kadapa and Tirupati, on October 16, the first day of the nomination process.

According to the petition, nomination papers of a party candidate in Kadapa were allegedly seized and torn, while several candidates in Tirupati were physically prevented from entering the rooms of the Returning Officers concerned.

It also alleged that party workers and an MP, P.V. Midhun Reddy, were attacked while travelling to file nomination papers.

The YSRCP had earlier approached the Andhra Pradesh High Court seeking directions for alternative nomination centres with adequate security, alleging that the failure to ensure safe and free filing of nominations violated constitutional provisions.

However, a single judge, on October 15, declined

to grant the blanket relief sought by the party, while allowing individual candidates facing threats to approach the Election Officers concerned for permission to file nominations at alternative locations.

The YSRCP subsequently filed an appeal and sought an extension of the nomination deadline, submitting that the alleged obstruction had prevented its candidates from participating in the electoral process.

Dismissing the application on October 18, a Division Bench of the High Court observed that the time for filing nominations had expired and that any direction at that stage would amount to interference with the election process.

The High Court said the relief sought in the application went beyond the scope of the original writ petition.

It also observed that, in the absence of a copy of any rejection order passed by the State Election Commission on the party's

representation, the justification for such rejection could not be examined.

It further observed that constitutional courts would be "loath to issue" directions after the expiry of the nomination deadline if doing so amounted to interference with the election process.

The main writ appeal has been listed before the High Court on October 26, while the election schedule provides for withdrawal of candidatures on October 21, polling on October 28 and counting of votes on October 30.

In its SLP filed before the Supreme Court, the YSRCP has contended that the principle of non-interference in elections is a rule of judicial restraint and not an absolute bar to directions facilitating the conduct of free and fair elections. It has argued that the expiry of the nomination deadline, allegedly caused by obstruction, should not itself defeat the request for relief.

KCR Celebrates Dasara at Erravelli Residence

Munsif Desk
Hyderabad, Oct 20:

BRS chief and former Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao celebrated Dasara at his residence in Erravelli on Tuesday with family members and party leaders.

In the presence of Vedic priests, KCR performed traditional vehicle and weapons poojas, followed by special prayers to the Jammi tree. He extended Dasara greetings to family members and party leaders attending the celebrations.

KCR's family members, former Home Minister Mohammed Mahmood Ali, Jahangir and other BRS leaders attended the celebrations.

Grand Dasara Celebrations in Vemulawada as Government Whip Aadi Srinivas Drives Bullock Cart in Festive Rally

Munsif News Bureau
Rajanna Sircilla, Oct 20:

Dasara celebrations were held in a grand manner in Vemulawada town of Rajanna Sircilla district on Tuesday, with a colourful bullock cart rally emerging as a major attraction. Local MLA and Government Whip Aadi Srinivas attended the event as the chief guest and personally drove a bullock cart, drawing enthusiastic responses from the public.

The rally began at the Jammi tree near the Mahalakshmi Devasthanam and proceeded through Subhash Nagar, the CESS office, Korutla bus stand and Baddi Pochamma Temple before reaching Mahalakshmi Street. Decorated bullock carts, public representatives and a large number of devotees added a festive atmosphere to the town.

Extending Vijayadashami greet-

Andhra Pradesh municipal polls: 22,806 nominations found valid

IANs
Amaravati, Oct 20:

A total of 22,806 nominations have been found valid for the Andhra Pradesh urban local body elections scheduled for October 28, while 1,531 nominations were rejected during scrutiny on Monday, according to the State Election Commission (SEC).

For the posts of mayors of 13 municipal corporations, 286 nominations were found valid. The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) filed 46 nominations, Jana Sena eight and the BJP four. The YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) had 47 valid nominations, the Congress 35, while 93 independent candidates were also in the fray.

For chairperson posts in 86 municipalities and nagar



panchayats, 927 nominations were declared valid out of 1,027 received. The TDP accounted for 246 nominations, Jana Sena 84, BJP 20, YSRCP 277 and Congress 76.

For 922 municipal corporation ward-member posts, 7,610 nominations were found valid out of 8,217 received. These included 2,752 from the TDP, 972 from Jana Sena, 332 from the BJP, 2,129 from the YSRCP and 194 from the Congress.

Meanwhile, 15,196 nominations were found valid for 2,988 ward-member posts in municipalities and nagar panchayats. The YSRCP had 5,497 valid nominations, followed by the TDP with 6,032, Jana Sena with 1,290, the BJP with 508 and the Congress with 191.

The elections will cover ward-member and mayor/chairperson posts across municipal corporations, municipalities and nagar panchayats in Andhra Pradesh.

Temporary Police Station Inaugurated at Basara Amid Temple Development Works

Munsif News Bureau
Rajanna Sircilla, Oct 20:

A new temporary police station has been established in Sharda Nagar Colony at Basara following the demolition of the old police station building to facilitate ongoing development works at the Sri Gnana Saraswati Devi Temple premises.

Nirmal District Superintendent of Police Dr G. Janaki Sharmila inaugurated the temporary police station. On the occasion of the Dasara Navaratri celebrations, Basara Circle Inspector Deepak and police personnel performed special pooja amid the chanting of Vedic hymns by temple



priests before the inauguration.

The temporary facility has been set up to ensure that police services continue without interruption while development works at the temple are underway.

The arrangement is expected to ensure the uninterrupted availability of

police assistance to devotees visiting the temple and local residents.

The inauguration was attended by police personnel and other officials, who emphasised the importance of maintaining public safety and providing prompt assistance to devotees during the festive season.

Former Minister Srinivas Goud Alleges Karnataka Is Diverting Telangana's

Munsif Desk
Hyderabad, Oct 20:

Former minister V. Srinivas Goud accused Karnataka of diverting water released for Telangana from the Tungabhadra Dam, allegedly affecting farmers dependent on the Rajolibanda Diversion Scheme (RDS).

He said Telangana had sought around 3 TMC of water between October 10 and 24, but the expected supply had not reached the RDS ayacut by October 20. He urged Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to conduct an urgent review, seek an inquiry into the alleged diversion and ensure that Telangana receives its allocated water on time.

Pooja Tehlani Finds True Happiness in Feeding the Hungry and Helping the Needy

Munsif News Bureau
Degloor, Oct 20:

Serving humanity with compassion, helping the needy selflessly and bringing smiles to their faces are among the finest expressions of human values. Guided by this spirit, Pooja Tehlani has been actively involved in various welfare activities aimed at supporting underprivileged people and easing their difficulties.

Pooja Tehlani says the happiness she experiences when a hungry person eats the food provided by her and offers heartfelt prayers in return is difficult to describe in words. For her, these blessings are a source of inner peace, emotional satisfaction and genuine happiness.

Sharing her views on social service, Pooja said she helps others neither for publicity and recognition nor for any personal benefit. Instead, she finds immense satisfaction in being there for people in need and making their lives a little easier.

She believes that feeding a hungry person, meeting the basic needs of a needy individual or supporting a distressed family can bring a sense of fulfilment that material rewards cannot match.

As part of her welfare activities, she donates food, refreshments and other essential supplies to schools and hospitals according to their requirements. She also distributes food and ration among poor and deserving families to help them meet their basic needs.

According to Pooja, many people in society face difficulties that can be eased through small acts of kindness and timely assistance. If financially well-off individuals come forward to support those in need, they can not only reduce their hardships but also strengthen the values of love, compassion, brotherhood and mutual cooperation in society.

"The true beauty of service lies in helping others

without expecting anything in return," she says.

She believes that feeding someone who is hungry, providing ration to a struggling family or recognising and addressing the silent distress of a needy person may appear to be small gestures, but they can make a significant difference in someone's life.

Pooja said that watching people eat the food provided by her and hearing their heartfelt blessings reminds her of the purpose and importance of her efforts. These blessings strengthen her determination and encourage her to continue working with greater dedication towards the service of humanity.

She appealed to affluent individuals, philanthropists and socially conscious citizens to make helping the needy a part of their lives according to their means. She emphasised that serving humanity does not require enormous wealth; what matters is a compas-



sionate heart, sensitivity towards the suffering of others and a sincere willingness to help.

Pooja firmly believes that if every individual in society resolves to assist at least one needy person according to their capacity, countless lives could be filled with hope, happiness and greater opportunities.

"My greatest happiness is knowing that the food I provide fills a hungry person's stomach and brings a heartfelt prayer from their heart," Pooja Tehlani said.

Her message highlights the fact that a person's true

greatness is measured not by wealth, fame or social status, but by character, compassion and selfless service to others.

Those who feed the hungry, provide ration to struggling families and help ease the hardships of the underprivileged are, in essence, lighting the lamps of humanity, love and hope in society. For Pooja Tehlani, the heartfelt blessings of those she helps remain the most precious reward for her service, inspiring her to continue her humanitarian work with sincerity, kindness and dedication.



Munsif News Bureau
Kagaznagar, Oct 20:

Rebena police arrested a couple and seized 5.232 kg of dried ganja during vehicle checks near Kagaznagar X Road in Komaram Bheem Asifabad district. The total value of the seized ganja, two mobile phones and a scooter is estimated at approximately ₹2.70 lakh.

District Superintendent of Police Nethika Pant briefed the media on the operation. According to the police, a case was registered at Rebena Police Station on October 19, and an investigation has been

initiated.

The arrested persons were identified as Jumor Gain (33) and her husband, Suranjan Gain (46), residents of Kagaznagar.

Preliminary investigations revealed that Jumor Gain had travelled to Odisha on October 14, where she allegedly purchased ganja worth ₹15,000 from a person identified as Pintu. On her return to Kagaznagar, her husband was reportedly waiting for her with a scooter.

Acting on credible information, Rebena police conducted vehicle checks and seized the contraband,

subsequently arresting both the accused.

Police are also investigating the possible involvement of other individuals in the case, including Pintu from Odisha, Munni from Mancherial, and Chandrasekhar and Raju from Jaipur.

SP Nethika Pant warned that strict legal action would be taken against those involved in the illegal transportation and sale of ganja.

Commending the team for successfully detecting the case, the SP appreciated Asifabad DSP B. Ashok, Rebena Circle Inspector-In-Charge Venugopa



Revanth Reddy Offers Prayers at Native Village on Dasara

Munsif Desk
Hyderabad, Oct 20:

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy visited his native village of Kondareddypally in Nagarkurnool district on the occasion of Dasara and participated in several traditional and religious programmes.

During the visit, the Chief Minister offered special prayers at the Anjaneya Swamy Temple in the village, seeking prosperity for the state and well-being for its people.

He also interacted with local public representatives, residents and officials, exchanging greetings and discussing matters during his visit.



Later, Revanth Reddy participated in the traditional Jammi programme organised in Kondareddypally as part of the Dasara celebrations.

The visit formed part of the Chief Minister's observance of the festival in his native village, where the celebrations included religious rituals and local

traditions.

The village wore a festive look as residents gathered to celebrate Dasara with devotion and enthusiasm. The Chief Minister's participation in the traditional festivities reflected the significance of preserving local customs and maintaining his connection with his native village.

Parbhani Announces 'Abhay Yojana 2026-27', Offers 100% Waiver on Late Fees for Property Tax and Water Tax Arrears

Why is Degloor Not Extending the Same Relief to Its Residents?

Munsif News Bureau
Degloor, Oct 20:

The Parbhani Municipal Corporation has announced the 'Abhay Yojana 2026-27' to provide relief to residents and increase tax collection. Under the scheme, property owners will receive a 100 per cent waiver on late payment charges on outstanding property tax and water tax dues. The initiative has raised questions in Degloor over why

a similar relief scheme has not been introduced by the Degloor Municipal Council.

Residents have expressed displeasure over the issue, questioning why municipal councillors and political parties have not raised the matter or demanded a similar concession for the people of Degloor.

According to the official order issued by the Parbhani Municipal Corporation, the scheme

will remain in force from October 12 to November 12, 2026. During this period, owners of government, semi-government and other properties in Parbhani can avail themselves of a complete waiver on late payment charges, subject to the prescribed conditions. The order makes it clear that the benefit will be available only to property owners who pay their outstanding dues along with the property tax and water tax for the current financial year in full and in a single instalment within the stipulated period.

A Model Wedding in Warangal Promotes Simplicity and Avoids Extravagance

One Dish, One Curry and One Sweet: Jamaat-e-Islami Hind District Nazim Sets an Example

Munsif News Bureau
Warangal, Oct 20:

Warangal: At a time when lavish wedding celebrations and extravagant spending have become increasingly common, Khalid Saeed, District Nazim of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind in Warangal, has set an example by organising a simple wedding for his third son, Maulana Sarwar Saeed, LL.B., with the daughter of Yousuf, a teacher.

The wedding and Walima arrangements reflected a message of simplicity, restraint and adherence to the Sunnah of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). By limiting the Walima menu to one main dish, one curry and one sweet, the family sought to highlight the importance of avoiding unnecessary expenditure and elaborate customs associated with marriage ceremonies.

In his appeal to the community, Khalid Saeed stressed that marriage should be conducted to seek the pleasure of Allah and in accordance with the teachings of the Prophet. He



expressed concern over the growing trend of spending large sums on weddings to display wealth and social status, observing that such practices often place an unnecessary financial burden on families.

He also drew attention to the increasing inclusion of band performances, dancing, music, photography, videography, qawwali and ghazal programmes at weddings, along with elaborate menus featuring numerous dishes and accompaniments. Such arrangements, he suggested, often become a means of displaying social prestige rather than focusing on the true purpose of marriage. The family pointed out that the money spent extravagantly on a single

wedding could instead help several financially disadvantaged families arrange marriages for their daughters. The Walima invitation also featured a fixed dining schedule, from Maghrib until 10 pm. This arrangement was intended to avoid unnecessary delays and late-night ceremonies, while also offering convenience to elderly guests and people with health concerns, including those managing diabetes. The family observed that wedding receptions often begin late because the groom arrives around 10 pm, with ceremonies continuing until 2 or 3 am. Such delays can cause inconvenience to guests and lead to a considerable waste of time.

Bhainsa Observes 70th Dhammachakra Pravartan Day



Munsif News Bureau
Bhainsa, Oct 20:

The Dalit community in Bhainsa observed the 70th Dhammachakra Pravartan Day on Tuesday with a programme near the statue of Dr B.R. Ambedkar opposite the town bus stand. Political leaders, public representatives, police officials and a large number of community members participated in the event.

Mudhole MLA Pawar Ramarao Patel, Bhainsa Municipal Chairperson Tamulla Tatri, Municipal Vice-Chairperson representative Mirza Idris Baig, Agriculture Market Committee Chairperson Anandrao Patel and several other leaders were present.

The programme began with the hoisting of the Dalit community flag, followed by floral tributes to Dr Ambedkar. Speakers

highlighted the teachings of Gautama Buddha and Dr Ambedkar, stating that their message of truth, equality and social justice was relevant to everyone.

They urged young people from the Scheduled Caste community to follow the teachings of Buddha and Ambedkar and contribute to the progress of society and the country.

The observance commemorates the historic conversion to Buddhism led by Dr Ambedkar in 1956. As part of the celebrations, a procession was taken out through different parts of Bhainsa, featuring tableaux and images of Gautama Buddha. Young participants were seen dancing during the procession.

Several political leaders, community representatives and Dalit youth took part in the celebrations.

Nizamabad Launches 'Swetcha Ratham' to Raise Awareness Against Forced Labour

Munsif News Bureau
Rajanna Sircilla, Oct 20:

Additional Collector (LB) Bhoojang Rao on Tuesday flagged off the 'Swetcha Ratham' at the Nizamabad District Collectorate to create public awareness against forced labour and strengthen the mechanism for registering complaints from victims.

A publicity poster high-

lighting the campaign to eradicate bonded labour was also released on the occasion. Officials appealed to the public to report cases in which workers are forced to work, denied the freedom to leave their jobs or subjected to compulsory labour.

People can register complaints by calling the toll-free Bonded Labour Helpline at 080-69434343. Officials stressed that public cooperation is essential to eliminate forced labour and urged everyone to work together to make Nizamabad a forced-labour-free district.

In-charge DCL Shrivani, Assistant Labour Officers Narendra Raj and Naveen, Anti-Human Trafficking Inspector Suresh, DWO Soundarya, DCPO Chaitanya, officials and staff from various departments, IJM representatives Deepak and Merica, and cultural teams participated in the programme.

Warangal Police Commissioner N. Swetha Performs Traditional Ayudha Pooja on Vijayadashami



Munsif News Bureau
Warangal, Oct 20:

Warangal Police Commissioner N. Swetha, IPS, performed the traditional Ayudha Pooja at the local Police Headquarters on Tuesday on the occasion of the auspicious festival of Vijayadashami.

The special pooja was conducted in the presence of Goddess Durga, under the supervision of Vedic priests, at the police armoury. Later, pooja was also performed for police vehicles at the Motor Transport Centre under the Armed Reserve wing, as part of the traditional celebrations symbolising the victory of good over

evil.

On the occasion, Commissioner N. Swetha extended Vijayadashami greetings to the public, police personnel and their families. She urged everyone to celebrate the festival with happiness, joy and religious fervour.

She said the police department was working round the clock to maintain law and order and ensure a peaceful atmosphere across the Warangal Police Commissionerate limits. Highlighting the importance of weapons in police duties, she said performing special pooja for weapons on Vijayadashami was a longstanding tradition.

The Commissioner wished people success, prosperity and happiness on the festive occasion. She also performed special pooja to the Jammi tree as part of the Vijayadashami rituals. East Zone DCP Ankit Kumar, Central Zone DCP Dhara Kavitha, Additional DCP (Administration) Rayala Prabhakar Rao, Additional DCP (Crimes) B. Swamy, Armed Reserve Additional DCPs Suresh and Srinivas, ACPs Anthayya and Surender, Reserve Sub-Inspectors Sparjan Raj, Satish and Sridhar, along with Motor Transport staff and other police personnel, participated in the programme.

Special Financial Inclusion Camps in Warangal District from October 21 to December 31

Munsif News Bureau
Warangal, Oct 20:

Special camps to facilitate access to various financial inclusion and social security schemes will be organised across all gram panchayats and urban local body jurisdictions in Warangal district from October 21 to December 31, 2026. The initiative is being undertaken under the aegis of the Union Ministry of Finance, with the District Collector overseeing its implementation.

The camps will facilitate enrolment of eligible beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana

and Atal Pension Yojana. Assistance will also be provided to open bank accounts under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana and reactivate dormant bank accounts.

Other services will include linking Aadhaar with bank accounts, completing Re-KYC procedures, updating nominee details in bank accounts and providing awareness about digital banking services. People will also be educated on precautions to be taken against cybercrime and digital financial fraud.

The District Collector appealed to the public to make full use of these spe-

cial camps and ensure that all eligible individuals are enrolled in social security schemes. He also urged bank account holders to update their KYC details, link their Aadhaar numbers with their bank accounts and ensure that nominee information is properly recorded and updated.

The programme will be implemented in coordination with all banks operating in the district, banking correspondents and gram panchayat officials to ensure that the benefits of financial inclusion initiatives reach eligible beneficiaries across rural and urban areas of Warangal district.

Bhainsa Police Put Elaborate Security Arrangements in Place for Durga Devi Immersion Procession

Munsif News Bureau
Bhainsa, Oct 20:

Police have made extensive security arrangements for the Durga Devi procession and immersion scheduled to be held in Bhainsa town on Wednesday, October 21, with more than 300 police personnel to be deployed to maintain law and order. A total of 61 Durga Devi idols have been installed in the town this year.

Additional SP Sai Kiran is supervising the arrangements, while Nirmal District SP Janaki Sharmila will directly monitor the procession. Police officials, including Circle Inspector Sai Kumar and Sub-Inspectors Navneet Reddy, Adil Singh and Srinivas, are coordinating the security measures.

As part of the precautionary measures, temporary barricading and coverings have been arranged at sensitive locations along the procession route, including Pancha Shah Mosque and other places of worship. Posters of Muslim leaders displayed along the route are also being covered temporarily. Additional police personnel have been brought in and deployed at key roads and sensitive locations.

Sai Kiran said the security arrangements would include two Additional SPs, 10 Circle Inspectors, 31 Sub-Inspectors and more than 300 personnel, including special police, home guards and other staff. Women police personnel and plain-clothes officers will also be deployed. Vajra vehicles,

dog squads and bomb detection squads will be kept ready.

Twenty police pickets have been established, with patrolling conducted across four zones. CCTV cameras installed at important junctions and other locations are being monitored through a control room. The procession will also be video-graphed, with drone cameras used for surveillance.

The Additional SP appealed to people from both communities not to pay attention to rumours and to immediately inform the police about any untoward incident. He urged residents to cooperate with the police and help maintain peace and communal harmony in the town. The municipal authorities



have also made extensive arrangements at the Gudna Vagu project for the immersion programme, including lighting facilities and lights along roads to ensure convenience for participants. Police have called the organisers to the station and issued instructions regarding the procession.



At a Glance

Northeast Monsoon Gains Strength in Tamil Nadu

IANSS
Chennai, Oct. 20

A low-pressure area is likely to form over the Southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining central parts of the sea on October 23 as the Northeast monsoon strengthens over Tamil Nadu, the weather department said.

An upper-air circulation over the Gulf of Thailand and Myanmar is expected to influence the north Andaman Sea by Wednesday morning, paving the way for the system’s formation. It may move west-north-westwards and intensify into a depression, though its future strength remains uncertain.

The department has warned of very heavy rainfall in seven districts on Tuesday, but their names were not specified in the information provided.

Coastal districts, the Cauvery delta and areas along the Western Ghats have received rainfall amid increasing monsoon activity. Chennai also experienced continuous rain on October 17.

Further bulletins are expected to clarify the system’s movement, intensity and potential impact on Tamil Nadu. The department has not confirmed whether it will develop into a cyclonic storm.

Two wild elephants found dead in Karnataka

IANSS
Chamarajanagar, Oct. 20

Two wild elephants were found dead at separate locations, officials said.

A decomposed carcass was found near Karadigudda Lake in the Hanur forest division. Samples have been sent to the Forensic Science Laboratory to establish the cause of death.

A female elephant was found near Marikatte Lake in Bandipur forest division. Officials suspect natural causes, possibly age-related illness.

Wildlife enthusiasts raised concerns over alleged lapses in forest patrolling and monitoring.

Kidnapped minor girl rescued, four proclaimed offenders arrested: Delhi Police

IANSS
New Delhi, Oct. 20

Delhi Police have arrested four proclaimed offenders in separate operations and rescued a kidnapped 14-year-old girl from Punjab, officials said on Tuesday.

The accused were identified as Sunder Raj, 49, Log Nathan alias N. Loganathan, 36, and Rukman, 49, all residents of Tiruchirappalli, Tamil Nadu, and Chotu Kashyap, 29. Courts had declared them proclaimed offenders in separate cases.

According to police,

INDIA’S NUCLEAR PLAN DEDICATED TO PEACEFUL PURPOSES: JITENDRA SINGH

IANSS
New Delhi, Oct. 20

India’s nuclear programme is dedicated to peaceful purposes and national development, not warfare, Union Minister of State for Atomic Energy Jitendra Singh said.

Speaking on the sidelines of the ‘Bloomberg Economy Forum 2026’, Singh said nuclear energy would play an increasingly important role in meeting India’s future energy needs, particularly the growing demand for reliable electricity to support Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data centres.

Recalling the vision of Homi Bhabha, the architect of India’s nuclear programme, the minister said the country had consistently pursued nuclear technology for peaceful applications and national development.

This commitment remained central as India expanded its capabilities to meet emerging developmental and technological needs, he said.

Singh said India’s nuclear ambitions should be viewed in the context of its long-term development goals and clean en-



ergy commitments.

With the country targeting 100 GW of nuclear power capacity by 2047 and Net Zero emissions by 2070, nuclear energy is expected to complement other power sources by providing a continuous supply of clean electricity.

The minister said the expansion of AI and data centres would require dependable electricity sources capable of meeting substantial, continuous energy needs.

Nuclear energy would supplement India’s other energy programmes and help meet the power requirements of an increasingly technology-driven economy, he added.

On AI’s growing role,

Singh said it should be viewed as a tool applicable across sectors rather than as a domain in itself.

From space and life sciences to other areas of scientific and technological development, AI was set to become an important instrument.

Emphasising the need for human judgement, he said, “One has to be intelligent enough to use Artificial Intelligence.”

Singh said AI offered significant advantages across fields, but ensuring its optimal use while preventing misuse by individuals and other actors remained a key challenge.

Although regulations were in place, integrity

at individual and national levels was fundamental to ensuring responsible use, he said. India had made efforts in this direction under Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership.

The minister also referred to the wider opening of critical and sensitive sectors to non-government players under the Modi government.

He said the approach had expanded private sector participation in areas traditionally more restricted, creating opportunities for industry to contribute to technological advancement, innovation and national development as well.

Noida village worships Ravan as ‘son of the soil’, rejects Dussehra effigy burning

IANSS
Greater Noida, Oct. 20

While Dussehra celebrations across India culminate in the burning of Ravan’s effigies, Birsakh village in Greater Noida follows a different tradition, worshipping the Lanka king and rejecting the practice as disrespectful to their ancestors.

Located around 30 km from the national Capital, Birsakh is believed to be Ravan’s birthplace. Residents offer prayers and perform religious rituals instead of burning his effigy.

Mahant Ramdas Maharaj said the village was associated with sages Brahma and Pulastya. Special prayers and a yagya were organised at the temple on Dussehra, attracting devotees who offered flowers and sweets.

According to local tradition, Birsakh was earlier known as Vishveshara, associated with Ravan’s father, Vishrava. It is believed that Vishrava was born there during the Treta Yuga and established a



Shiva Lingam. Ravan, a devotee of Lord Shiva, is also believed to have worshipped at the site.

A similar tradition is followed at Kanpur’s Dashanan Temple in the Shiwala area, which opens only once a year on Vijayadashami. Temple priest Pandit Ram Bajpai said the shrine was built in 1868 by Maharaj Guru Prasad Shukla.

On Dussehra, the idol is bathed with milk and holy water before traditional rituals and aarti are performed. Devotees regard Ravan not merely as a symbol of evil but also as a learned scholar, an intelligent ruler and a devotee of Lord Shiva.

In Madhya Pradesh’s Vidisha district, Ravan village also worships the king as ‘Ravan Baba’, whom residents consider their protector.

Pandit Naresh Tiwari, the temple priest, said the village had a 12-foot reclining idol believed to date back to the Parmar era. Instead of burning effigies, villagers organise Ramayana recitations, devotional singing and a community feast.

Tiwari said residents seek Ravan Baba’s blessings before weddings and other auspicious occasions, believing that beginning activities without his blessings could invite obstacles.

Tiger Shroff firing case: Three suspects to be taken to Mumbai under tight security

IANSS
Kota, Oct. 20

The Mumbai Police are scheduled to take three suspects arrested in connection with the firing incident involving Bollywood actor Tiger Shroff from Kota in Rajasthan to Mumbai on Tuesday, amid heightened security concerns.

The suspects were kept overnight in the lock-up of the Railway Colony police station in Kota under tight security amid fears of a possible escape. Commandos and armed personnel were deployed at the police station as a precautionary measure.

The police station’s CCTV surveillance network was connected to a command centre to ensure continuous monitoring. Kota City Superintendent of Police Tejaswini Gautam also visited the police station late Monday night to re-

view the security arrangements.

The Mumbai Police had earlier postponed the transfer of the suspects from Kota due to security concerns. The three remained in custody throughout the night under enhanced surveillance.

According to police, the suspects were apprehended by Kota Police at the railway station on Monday while travelling on the Pune-Jaipur train (12939). They were found sitting at different locations in a general coach.

Investigators suspect that the three were attempting to evade arrest following the firing incident in Mumbai. According to the police, they allegedly planned to reach Jaipur by train, travel to Delhi by bus and then escape to Nepal. However, Kota Police intercepted them before



they could proceed with the alleged plan.

Following their arrest, the suspects were taken to the Railway Colony police station, where security was tightened in view of the sensitivity of the case and the possibility of an escape attempt.

The Mumbai Police are scheduled to take the trio to Mumbai for further questioning and investigation into the firing

incident. Investigators are expected to examine their alleged roles in the case and gather further evidence.

The deployment of armed personnel, round-the-clock CCTV monitoring and the visit by senior police officials underline the security measures adopted while the suspects remained in custody.

Further details are expected to emerge as the investigation progresses.

Kolkata police register 726 traffic violation cases on Ashtami night

IANSS
Kolkata, Oct. 20



Kolkata Police registered 726 cases of traffic violations across the city on Ashtami night, officials said on Tuesday. These include cases such as two-wheeler riders not wearing a helmet, triple riding, and reckless and drunk driving.

Kolkata police released a list of traffic violations on Tuesday. According to figures released by Lalbazar, the Kolkata Police headquarters, 231 cases were registered against two-wheeler riders for not wearing helmets, while 155 cases involved triple riding.

Another 90 cases were registered for rash or reckless driving and 81 for drunk driving. The remaining 169 cases involved other traffic violations, police said.

Kolkata, as always, witnessed tight security around Durga Puja this year too. Police patrolling and surveillance have also increased on

the streets. Special vigilance has been kept on the days of the festival to ensure there is no reckless or drunk driving.

This time, surveillance has been carried out from the night of Panchami. The number of arrests has increased. In addition, the number of cases filed for violating traffic laws has almost doubled compared to the initial puja days.

Until the first Saptami (Saturday), the number of such cases was around 450. In the second Saptami (Sunday), it increased to 833.

Earlier on Saturday, in a tragic incident on Saptami, as many as 19 people lost their

lives in the stampede at Chorebagan Sarbojonin Durga Puja pandal in north Kolkata. At least 25 people were also injured in the incident.

Security has also been stepped up around major Durga Puja pandals following the stampede. Seven people have been arrested in connection with the incident. A senior police officer has said investigators were examining a video in which the announcer could be heard saying the pandal was about to collapse.

“We are trying to identify who made the announcement and what prompted it,” the officer told a news agency.



At a Glance

Trump urges voters to imagine his name on ballot

IAN S
New York, Oct. 20



US President Donald Trump is urging voters to imagine his name on the November 3 mid-term ballot and back Republicans, making the election a referendum on his presidency. Polls suggest Democrats could win the House, while Senate races remain tight. Rising prices linked to tariffs and the Iran war are weighing on Trump. A CBS News poll found 70 per cent of voters believe his policies are pushing prices up. RealClear Politics puts Trump's disapproval at 59.3 per cent and Democrats 8.3 points ahead in generic congressional polls. Trump has warned a Republican defeat could lead to his impeachment. Polls remain uncertain.

Pakistan: Khyber Pakhtunkhwa reports 100 dengue cases

IAN S
Islamabad, Oct. 20

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa recorded 99 new dengue cases in 24 hours, taking its 2026 total to 4,091, Dawn reported, citing disease surveillance data. The province has 144 active cases, while 3,946 patients have recovered. Kohat reported 80 cases since October 1, Bannu 24 and Peshawar 18. The outbreak in Kohat has strained hospitals. Islamabad recorded 42 cases from January 1 to October 16: 32 in rural areas and 10 in urban areas. Anti-dengue teams conducted 382,000 surveillance and control activities in October, eliminating 7,669 mosquito-larvae sites, Dawn reported. WHO says mosquito control, detection and medical care help prevent dengue too.

Hasina's son alleges US role in 2024 ouster

IAN S
Washington, Oct. 20

Sajeeb Wazed Joy, son of former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, alleged that the United States helped engineer the 2024 protests that led to his mother's removal from power. At a Washington press conference organised by the Center for US-Bangladesh Relations, Joy claimed the former Biden administration supported activities contributing to Hasina's ouster in August 2024. He alleged that the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and democracy-promotion organisations helped mobilise protest groups. "Of course, the Biden administration was heavily involved through USAID funding to the tune of \$50 million for this regime change," Joy said. He accused the National Democratic Institute and International Republican Institute of helping organise and train groups involved in the unrest. Joy presented no documentary evidence that US funds were intended to overthrow Hasina, and his allegations have not been independently verified.

Joy claimed former interim government chief Muhammad Yunus was installed following US diplomatic pressure on Bangladesh's military leadership, alleging that the US ambassador in Dhaka influenced his selection. On regional security, Joy accused the authorities that succeeded Hasina of releasing convicted militants and allowing extremist groups to regain influence. He claimed Pakistan-linked militant groups had increased activities in Bangladesh and alleged that people associated with Lashkar-e-Taiba had appeared at public gatherings. Joy said these develop-

ments could pose risks to India and the wider region. Joy questioned Bangladesh's ability to meet commitments to US companies, citing contracts involving energy firm Excelerate Energy and aircraft manufacturer Boeing. He claimed Bangladesh lacked funds to pay for the aircraft. "They've signed a contract for 29 Boeings. The government of Bangladesh does not have the money to pay for them," he said. He also alleged that US energy suppliers were not receiving full payments. Neither the companies nor the Bangladesh government responded in the



supplied transcript. Event included former officials and party supporters too.

'I may be killed, but I will return': Sheikh Hasina

IAN S
Washington, Oct. 20

Former Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said she will return to her country despite the risk of arrest, torture or death, saying she cannot stay away while her supporters suffer. Speaking virtually at a Washington press conference, she said the risks would not deter her. She left Bangladesh after her government

collapsed in August 2024 and has since lived in India. "How risky it is, I don't care. I have to go back," she said, thanking the Indian government and people for giving her refuge. Hasina recalled returning in 1981 after the 1975 assassination of her father, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and other family members. She accused Bangladesh's current

leadership of using cases against her and Awami League members to suppress opposition, and called for trials. She did not announce a return date. Her son, Sajeeb Wazed Joy, said none had been fixed. Hasina urged Washington to support democracy, political pluralism and inclusive elections rather than favour any leader or party. "I ask the U.S. to choose democracy," she

said, according to the conference transcript. She called for independent courts, freedom of expression and association, minority protection and due process. Acknowledging questions about her government and the 2024 protests, she said allegations against anyone, including herself, should be resolved through transparent and impartial proceedings.

US bill seeks to replace H-1B visa system

IAN S
Washington, Oct. 20

A Republican lawmaker has proposed replacing the H-1B visa selection system with a merit-based framework favouring highly skilled, better-paid workers, while restricting family-sponsored immigration and ending the Diversity Visa lottery. Arizona Congressman David Schweikert announced the SMARTER Act on October 19. Bill H.R. 10460 was introduced on September 16 and referred to the House Judiciary Committee. It has not become law. The proposal would create a five-member board to set immigration limits. The initial limit for the replacement H-1B system would be 85,000. A points-based system for permanent employment immigration would assess age, education, English proficiency, salary and achievements. Applicants aged 26 to 30 would receive the highest



age-related points. The bill would remove country-specific limits on employment-based immigration, potentially affecting Indians facing green-card backlogs. Any impact on waiting times would depend on visa limits. Schweikert said immigration policy should address an ageing population and demand for skilled workers. Republican staff estimate the proposal could cut federal expenditure by \$335 billion and raise GDP by at least \$549 billion over 10 years. These are proponents' projections, not established outcomes.

The bill would limit family-sponsored immigration mainly to spouses and minor children, end several family-preference categories and abolish the Diversity Visa Programme. It also proposes a gold-card programme for qualifying applicants. Another provision would direct Homeland Security to use artificial intelligence to identify visa overstayers. Some employment-based applicants could change jobs. The H-1B programme is a route for Indian technology professionals in the US, while green-card backlogs remain a concern.

US SAYS IRAN OIL EXPORTS BLOCKED AT HORMUZ

IAN S
Washington, Oct. 20

The United States has effectively blocked Iranian oil exports through the Strait of Hormuz while allowing crude from other countries to reach global markets, Secretary of State Marco Rubio has said. He described the strategy as an effort to weaken Tehran's economy without disrupting international energy supplies. Rubio said 13 million to 14 million barrels of oil were passing through the waterway daily, with US forces escorting commercial vessels against Iranian attacks. His remarks came in an interview with Breitbart News on October 15, released by the State Department on October 19. "Today, on average over the last 10 days and certainly over the last 30, about 13 to 14 million barrels of oil are going through the Straits of Hormuz out to the global market, and some days it's actually equivalent to



what it was pre-conflict," Rubio said. The figures reflect the administration's assessment and were not independently verified in the interview. The Strait of Hormuz connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea. It is a route for oil and liquefied natural gas shipments, including India. Rubio claimed US military operations had deprived Iran of control over the waterway and that Washington was using sanctions and a blockade to restrict Tehran's oil revenues. "The only country in the world that cannot get a single barrel of oil

through the Straits of Hormuz is Iran," Rubio said. The interview provided no independent shipping data showing how much Iranian oil exports had been affected. Rubio said Washington wanted to prevent Iran from using energy supplies and maritime security to pressure other countries. He said US operations had weakened Iran's military capabilities. Defending sanctions, Rubio said they were intended to reduce resources available to Iran's military and allied armed groups, including Hezbollah, Hamas and militias in Iraq. "Every dollar you deny them in sanctions is a

dollar they don't have for Hizballah, a dollar they don't have for Hamas, a dollar they don't have for the terrorist militias inside of Iraq, and a dollar they don't have for their own military or their own nuclear ambitions," he said. Rubio acknowledged public frustration but maintained that Washington had achieved important military objectives. He described the US role as defensive, focused on protecting shipping while economic pressure continued. The claims about Iran's military losses, oil exports and the blockade's effectiveness could not be independently established from the interview alone.

63 US lawmakers seek faster green cards

IAN S
Washington, Oct. 20

Sixty-three US lawmakers have urged the Trump administration to expedite green-card applications of legally present immigrants at risk of losing federal healthcare. In a letter to US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), they said restrictive October 1 threatened coverage for refugees, asylum recipients and survivors of domestic violence and human trafficking.



The appeal was led by Democratic Congresswoman Yvette D. Clarke and Adelita S. Grijalva. The lawmakers sought emergency processing for applicants facing healthcare loss while permanent residence

applications remained pending. They said restrictions under the One Big Beautiful Bill Act affected access to Medicaid, Medicare, the Children's Health Insurance Program and Affordable Care Act tax credits. They cited an Arizona woman with metastatic breast cancer who lost Medicaid coverage on October 1 while awaiting a green card. A congressional press release said more than 281,000 legally present immigrants in nine states and Washington, DC, faced

losing Medicaid coverage. It cited a Congressional Budget Office estimate that 1.4 million could become uninsured nationwide by 2034. The lawmakers requested expedited processing of Form I-485 applications, clarification of existing criteria and coordination with healthcare agencies to consider delaying coverage terminations. Clarke said "needless red tape should never be the determinant between life and death". USCIS has not confirmed it will comply either.

North Korea vows 'tit-for-tat' action against South Korea-US military

IAN S
Seoul, Oct. 20

North Korea condemned South Korea-US drills and a separate US-Japan exercise, calling them "muscle flexing" by "enemy states" and warning of a "tit-for-tat" response. In an English-language commentary carried by the Korean Central News Agency (KCNA), Pyongyang said a "tit-for-tat principle based on strong

power" would be applied. It said the drills threatened North Korea's security and regional stability, describing its self-defence efforts as necessary to deter hostile forces. The comments came as South Korea launched its annual Hoguk exercise involving US forces on Monday. Japan began large-scale military drills with the United States, known as Keen

Sword, Yonhap News Agency reported. Pyongyang criticised Seoul over what it called the "aggressive and provocative nature" of Hoguk, warning that threats required stronger deterrence. "Bolstered deterrent is required to deal with ever-escalating threats, and repeated provocations are bound to meet with such prompt reaction as bolstering of stronger capabilities," KCNA said.

The agency added that North Korea would continue strengthening its defence capabilities to protect its sovereignty amid what it described as military provocations by the United States, Japan and South Korea. Hoguk is scheduled to continue until October 30. South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said US Forces Korea was participating to improve interoperability with South Korean troops.

Digital Convenience Must Not Become Public Exclusion

While online platforms have streamlined everyday transactions for millions of Indians, essential services must retain human assistance and workable offline alternatives so that technological progress does not disenfranchise vulnerable citizens.



- Abdul Moghni Siddiqui

A public service cannot be considered fully accessible merely because it is available online. Digitisation across India has undoubtedly delivered faster transactions, reduced travel and easier access for millions of citizens. Yet when essential tasks depend entirely on smartphones, one-time passwords (OTPs), online forms or automated support, convenience for some becomes exclusion for others.

Elderly people, citizens with limited literacy or digital skills, persons with disabilities, and those without reliable internet or personal access to a mobile phone routinely struggle to access pensions or welfare, book hospital appointments, complete banking verification, pay utility bills or resolve service complaints.

National data illustrate why household connectivity must be distinguished from an individual's ability to independently complete an online transaction. In the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) Comprehensive Modular Survey: Telecom, 2025 (published May 2025 for January–March 2025, covering 34,950 households and 1,42,065 persons nationwide), 86.3% of households had home internet access and 85.5% possessed a smartphone.

However, among individuals aged 15 years and above, personal mobile phone ownership stood at 70.2% (83.9% men; 56.2% women), while only 48.9% (60.5% men; 37.0% women) could independently perform online banking transactions, and just 35.9% could send or receive email.

Even among youth aged 15–29, online banking ability was 68.7%, showing that smartphone presence does not guarantee digital competence, just as many older citizens capably use digital platforms. Furthermore, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) performance report for January–March 2026 (published June 2026) recorded 440.87 million rural internet subscribers against 651.93 million urban subscribers, reflecting uneven connectivity.

In everyday practice, an expired OTP on a weak network, a screen-reader-incompatible form, an English-only portal or an unhelpful chatbot can prevent someone from completing a vital task.

Crucially, few services legally mandate digital-only access; rather, organisations increasingly make digital channels the default in practice while thinning physical counters. Existing rules protect offline and assisted routes: central pension guidelines retain paper life certificates alongside the voluntary Jeevan Pramaan portal, and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) norms require doorstep banking for seniors aged 70 and above and persons with disabilities, while June 2025 RBI directives mandate local Know Your Customer (KYC) camps for periodic updates and inoperative accounts.

Moreover, following the Supreme Court's April 2025 Pragma Prasun ruling under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, the RBI's August 2025 KYC (2nd Amendment) Directions prohibited automated facial liveness checks from excluding persons with disabilities and required human officer review before any re-

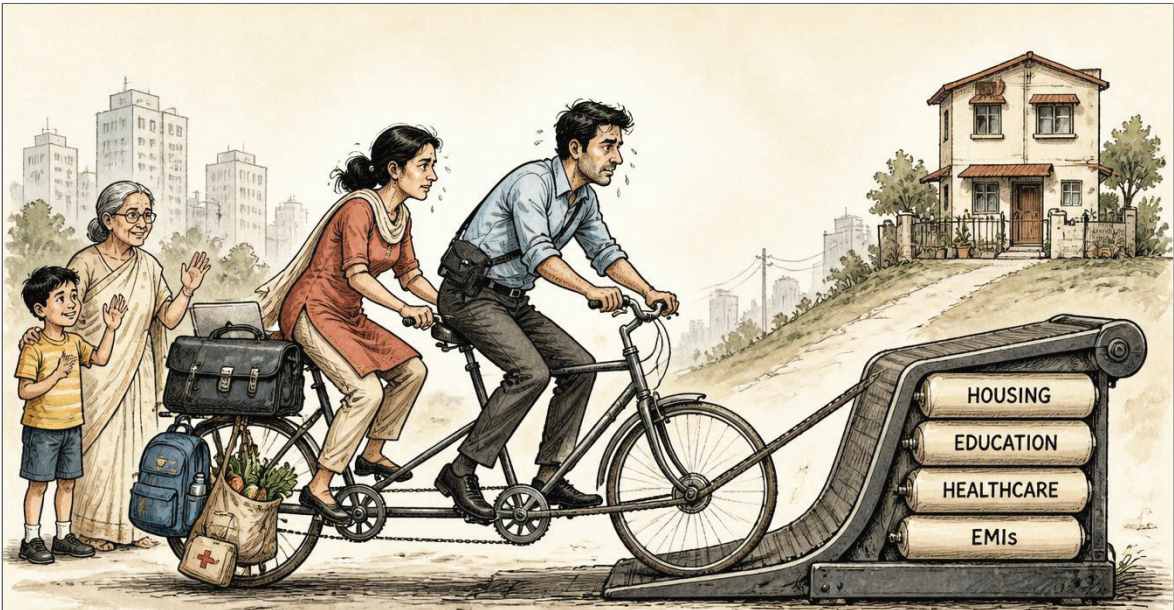
jection. When institutions neglect these safeguards, vulnerable users face repeated visits, lost working time, paid intermediaries and the privacy risks of sharing credentials with helpers.

Digital literacy programmes alone cannot fix inaccessible design, patchy networks or absent staff; human assistance is part of service delivery, as underscored by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) CPGRAMS report for July 2026 (published August 2026), which logged 9,475 state-level complaints filed via Common Service Centres amid 2,33,714 pending cases across States and UTs.

Beyond enforcing existing obligations, three institutional priorities require action. First, government agencies and essential service providers must retain affordable, clearly advertised in-person counters and staffed telephone assistance.

Second, institutions must enforce official GIGW 3.0 accessibility standards, offer regional-language interfaces, and provide workable offline or assisted authentication with proper identity safeguards when digital verification fails. Third, grievance systems must ensure complaints reach a responsible human officer, backed by tracking, clear resolution timelines and an appeal route.

Ultimately, government departments and service providers must evaluate performance by successful access and resolution for vulnerable citizens, not merely by app downloads or online transaction volumes. Digital progress should expand citizens' choices and access, while preserving meaningful assistance for those who need it.



The Sandwich Generation's Squeeze: Why Hard Work No Longer Guarantees Family Security

Caught between rising living costs, informal employment and two-generation caregiving, working-age Indians need stronger public institutions alongside personal thrift.

- Zia Junaidi

For decades, India's aspirational compact rested on a clear premise: education, steady employment and hard work would secure a family home, upward mobility for children and dignified care for ageing parents. Today, for working-age Indians managing mid-life responsibilities, those conventional milestones increasingly collide with structural economic pressures.

According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Annual Report published by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) in March 2026 for the January–December 2025 calendar year, regular salaried positions accounted for just 23.6% of total employment, leaving most workers in self-employment (56.2%) or casual labour (20.2%).

Even among salaried employees, average monthly earnings between the 2024 and 2025 survey periods rose in nominal terms by 5.8% for men to ₹24,217 and 7.2% for women to ₹18,353, representing modest nominal increments that yield far smaller gains in inflation-adjusted purchasing power once urban housing, schooling and medical costs are deducted.

These income constraints tighten when adults must simultaneously support dependent children and older relatives.

While national debt figures reflect households broadly rather than a single generation, the Reserve Bank of India's June 2026 Financial Stability Report shows household debt reached 45.5% of GDP as of March 2026, with non-housing retail loans forming 58.4% of borrowings, signalling growing reliance on credit for routine expenses.

Urban shelter adds strain: National Housing Bank RESIDEX data released in July 2026 for the April–June 2026 quarter show continued price rises across major cities alongside scarce formal rental options.

Simultaneously, the United Nations Population Fund's India Ageing Report, published in September 2023 using 2021–2022 baseline data, projects that Indians aged 60 and above will double from 10.1% of the population in 2021 to 20.8% by 2050, with over 40% of seniors in the poorest wealth quintile and 18.7% lacking personal

income. Furthermore, the Health Ministry's May 2026 National Health Accounts report for financial year 2022–23 shows that with government health spending at 1.43% of GDP, household out-of-pocket expenditure still absorbed 43.4% of total health spending.

Crucially, this squeeze is neither uniform nor confined to salaried metropolitan professionals. Earners without inherited family property face steep barriers to urban stability, while informal workers lack statutory social security, paid leave and employer-sponsored health cover.

Within families, the deficit in public care infrastructure falls disproportionately on women. MoSPI's Time Use Survey, published in February 2025 for the January–December 2024 period, found that women aged 15–59 spent 305 minutes daily on unpaid domestic work, while female caregivers aged six and above spent 137 minutes daily on unpaid family care versus 75 minutes for men. Across white-collar and platform roles alike, constant digital connectivity further blurs working hours, creating pressure to remain perpetually available that heightens time scarcity and financial strain without necessarily raising productivity.

Personal financial planning can help households manage cash flows, yet individual thrift cannot substitute for institutional responsibility. First, the Union and State governments must raise public health expenditure and expand outpatient and diagnostic coverage so that a family member's illness does not deplete household savings. Second, municipal authorities and housing ministries must incentivise affordable rental housing near transit corridors, offering working families secure tenure without unsustainable debt.

Third, state governments and employers must expand community daycare, subsidised geriatric care facilities and workable caregiving leave provisions. Hard work remains vital, but in an ageing, urbanising republic, individual diligence can translate into a reasonably secure life only when society underpins private effort with accessible public healthcare, affordable shelter and shared care infrastructure.

A City Must Be Safe for Those Who Walk

When urban infrastructure prioritises vehicle speed over usable footpaths and safe crossings, cities deny children, elderly citizens and persons with disabilities their fundamental right to independent mobility.

- Editorial Desk

Across urban India, cities invest heavily in flyovers and signal-free corridors for faster vehicle movement, while residents struggle to cross a road or reach a bus stop safely. Because every public transit trip begins and ends on foot, street design directly distributes public space and physical risk. According to the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) Road Accidents in India report for 2024 (published June 2026), pedestrian fatalities nationwide rose 2.6% to 36,526—over one-fifth of total road deaths—while 2025 recorded 1,83,434 total road fatalities. In Telangana, Transport Department data (October 2026) show that

even as total road deaths fell from 7,949 in 2024 to 7,687 in 2025, pedestrian fatalities rose from 1,586 to 1,632 (21.2%), with 789 pedestrians killed across Greater Hyderabad during 2024–2025.

These casualties occur because a footpath's existence on paper does not make it usable. Discontinuous pavements, parked vehicles, construction debris, open drains, poorly placed utilities and dark, unsafe crossings force walkers into moving traffic. This disproportionately restricts access for children near schools, elderly citizens needing longer crossing times, wheelchair users and people with visual impairments. Moreover, as Indian Roads Congress

(IRC:103) guidance notes, footbridges and subways often impose long detours, steep stairs and unreliable lifts, making them poor substitutes for accessible surface crossings.

Restoring walkways requires fair governance that distinguishes commercial obstructions, illegal parking and debris from street vending, pairing clear paths with planned vending zones under the Street Vendors Act, 2014. Accessible streets are a binding legal duty under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 and the Supreme Court's rulings in S. Rajasekaran (2025) and Maniyar Iliyaz Shaik Riyaz (June 2026), which affirmed unobstructed footpaths as a funda-

mental right under Articles 19(1)(d) and 21. As the Telangana High Court's June 2026 reprimand of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation shows, sporadic drives cannot replace systemic upkeep.

Cities must now act on three priorities: building continuous, accessible footpaths with safe construction detours; installing speed-calming crossings with adequate signal time near schools, hospitals and transit stops; and mandating published safety audits, clear agency accountability and time-bound maintenance. Ultimately, a city's progress must include the freedom of its most vulnerable residents to move safely and independently.

The Patient Deserves an Explanation, Not Just a Prescription

Clear explanations must become an everyday standard of safe, respectful healthcare across India.

Leaving with medicines is not leaving with understanding. Across India's public and private healthcare, hurried consultations, jargon and language barriers can obscure decisions.

WHO's 2024 global charter supports informed participation. A 2024 Cochrane review of 209 international studies found decision aids improved knowledge and understanding of risks. India's charter implementation rests with States and Union Territories, as the Health Ministry clarified in 2022.

Patients need explanations of diagnosis, uncertainty, medicines, tests, significant benefits, risks and reasonable alternatives. Affordability and foreseeable expenses belong in that discussion;

estimates may change. A signature alone cannot establish understanding. Discussions must reflect clinical urgency.

Crowded departments, staff shortages and time pressure demand institutional support. Management and care teams must provide plain-language explanations, interpreters and accessible formats; check understanding through patients' own words; and supply written instructions, follow-up arrangements, warning signs and a contact for questions. These support treatment, safety and trust.

Limited schooling does not mean limited capacity to participate. Respect disability-related needs, preferences and confiden-

tiality; involve families according to patients' wishes and applicable consent requirements. Digital summaries must leave room for questions.

Understandable communication must be a measure of healthcare quality and a responsibility built into everyday practice.





England collapse to 87-run defeat against Pakistan: Arafat Minhas stars with bat and ball in Rawalpindi

England lose last seven wickets for just 50 runs, bowled out for 215 chasing 303: opening stand of 91 between Ben Duckett and Tom Banton wasted as Pakistan's Arafat Minhas takes career-best 6-40 after maiden ODI fifty

Munsif Desk,
RAWALPINDI, October 20:

Arafat Minhas produced a brilliant all-round performance as Pakistan defeated England by 87 runs in their ODI tri-series match on Tuesday, exposing the visitors' vulnerability against spin.

The 21-year-old left-arm spinner scored 59 before claiming 6-40, his best ODI figures, as England collapsed chasing 303 at the Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium.

Ben Duckett and Tom Banton gave England a promising start, adding 91 inside 15 overs. Duckett scored 45 and Banton 57, but their dismissals triggered a collapse, with the final seven wickets falling for 50 runs.

Arafat dismissed Banton, captain Harry Brook, Jordan Cox, Will Jacks, Jamie Overton and Adil Rashid. He also ran out Gus Atkinson with a direct hit, while Haris Rauf took 3-32.

Earlier, Pakistan recovered from 133-5 to post 302-9. Hasan Nawaz



anchored the innings with 79 off 74 balls, sharing a 78-run partnership with Arafat, who then added 72 with Faheem Ashraf.

Faheem contributed 39 as Pakistan collected 91 runs from the final 10 overs. England dropped three catches, including Arafat when he had scored 12.

Brook said England considered Pakistan's total slightly below par but acknowledged that repeated wickets prevented meaningful part-

nerships. Pakistan captain Shaheen Afridi praised Arafat as a complete all-rounder.

The result followed Pakistan's 37-run victory over Sri Lanka on Sunday, strengthening their position in the tournament.

England, missing Jos Buttler, Jofra Archer and Jacob Bethell, face Sri Lanka at the same venue on Thursday. Both teams will seek their first victory as England look to address concerns over their batting.

Harmanpreet, Nandani Shine As India Sweep Zimbabwe

Raipur, Oct 20 (IANS):

Harmanpreet Kaur's unbeaten 91 off 41 balls and Nandani Sharma's three wickets powered India to a 92-run victory over Zimbabwe in the third women's T20I on Tuesday, completing a 3-0 series sweep.

India posted 216/7 after opting to bat, with Shafali Verma contrib-

uting a half-century and opener Anushka Sharma adding 28. Harmanpreet reached her fifty in 25 deliveries before accelerating to take the hosts past 200.

Beloved Biza led Zimbabwe's bowling with 3/50, while Nomvelo Sibanda, Tendai Makusha and Nyasha Gwanzura claimed one wicket each.



Zimbabwe's chase began poorly as Kelis Ndlovu fell for a golden duck on the first delivery. Another wicket in the following over increased the pressure.

Biza scored 44 and Mayers struck a half-century during an 82-run partnership, but their scoring rate left Zimbabwe struggling to match the required pace.

The visitors finished at 124/7, with little support from the remaining batters.

Nandani returned 3/18, while Niki Prasad, Deepti Sharma, Kranti Gaud and Arundhati Reddy took one wicket apiece, sealing India's comprehensive victory at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium in Raipur.

Saudi League Test For Depleted Al-Nassr

RONALDO LEADS AL-NASSR AS INJURIES TROUBLE POSTECOGLOU

Coman, Simakan and Ghareeb absences limit options as Al-Nassr seek crucial points against Neom

Riyadh, Oct 20:

Cristiano Ronaldo was named to lead Al-Nassr's attack against Neom on Tuesday as coach Ange Postecoglou confronted injuries limiting his options in the Saudi Pro League's tenth round.

Kingsley Coman, Mohamed Simakan and Abdulrahman Ghareeb were reported unavailable, leaving the Australian searching for replace-

ments while maintaining his team's balance.

Speaking before the match, Postecoglou warned that Neom could not be underestimated and stressed the importance of securing three points to sustain Al-Nassr's title challenge.

The hosts entered the fixture third with 19 points from eight matches, having recorded six victories, one draw and one defeat.

Ronaldo's selection kept the Portuguese forward central to their attacking plans, while the absences reduced Postecoglou's flexibility to change the context from the bench.

The coach said his tactical approach would reflect the opposition's strengths and the demands of the match, with available personnel shaping his choices for a testing encounter against Neom.

Guruzeta Ruled Out As Athletic's Scoring Troubles Deepen

Madrid, Oct 20 (IANS):

Athletic Bilbao striker Gorka Guruzeta will miss the remainder of the season after rupturing the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee during Saturday's goalless draw at Valencia.

The injury deepens coach Edin Terzic's attacking concerns, with Athletic scoring once across three consecutive La Liga draws.

Terzic praised Guruzeta's optimism and pledged support throughout his recovery. The striker previously suffered a similar injury in his other knee.

Oihan Sancet remains unavailable for Wednesday's rescheduled visit to Levante, although Nico Williams could return.

Terzic stressed that improving finishing requires patience and careful management of injured players.

The fixture was postponed from September 16 after torrential rain flooded Levante's pitch at the Ciutat de Valencia Stadium, preventing play that day.

Tsitsipas Battles Past Kovacevic Into Almaty Second Round

(IANS)

Almaty, October 20:

Stefanos Tsitsipas defeated Aleksandar Kovacevic 7-6(9), 3-6, 6-3 at the Almaty Open on Tuesday, advancing to the second round after a demanding two-hour contest.

The Greek saved three set points in the opening tie-break before overcoming the American, who had beaten him in Winston-Salem in August.

Tsitsipas credited persistence and patience for his victory, praising Kovacevic's powerful



serving and recent improvement.

The 13-time tour champion improved his season record to 35-22 and next faces Kazakhstan's Mikhail Kukushkin, who is contesting his final tournament before retirement. Tsitsipas leads their head-to-head record 4-0.

Fifth seed Karen Khachanov, the 2024 champion, defeated Rei Sakamoto 6-2, 6-4 to progress.

Japan's Sho Shimabukuro overcame Roman Safiullin 6-7(4), 6-4, 6-4, earning a meeting with defending champion Daniil Medvedev.

ASIAN PARA GAMES: Murmu Hails Soorma's Record Gold



(IANS)
New Delhi, Oct 20:

Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Bengal and Vidarbha registered second-round Ranji Trophy victories on Tuesday, with Sai Kishore's 10-wicket haul and Rinku Singh's unbeaten century among the standout performances.

Tamil Nadu crushed Uttarakhand by an innings and 66 runs. Left-arm spinner Sai Kishore took 4/40 and 6/34, while Pradosh Ranjan Paul's 136 off 179 balls and Baba Indrajith's 77 helped Tamil Nadu post 313.

Uttar Pradesh beat Goa by 68 runs after Rinku struck an unbeaten 118. Aryan Juyal contributed 74 and Yash Dalal remained unbeaten on 36 as UP set a 236-run target. Zeeshan Ansari claimed five wickets to dismiss Goa for 167, despite Suyash Prabhudessai's 72.

Vidarbha edged defending champions Jammu and Kashmir by three wickets. Nachiket Bhute's 5/48 and Sunil

Kumar's 4/30 restricted J&K to 123 in their second innings. Chasing 79, Vidarbha recovered through unbeaten contributions from Harsh Dubey (22) and Bhute (13).

Bengal defeated Services by 60 runs, with Shahbaz Ahmed taking 4/35 and 3/44. Services were dismissed for 148 while chasing 209.

Elsewhere, Maharashtra declared at 527/5 against Jharkhand, powered by Ankit Bawne's 169 and Ruturaj Gaikwad's unbeaten 101. Jharkhand closed at 130/1.

Rajat Patidar's unbeaten 122, Chanchal Rathore's 78 and Shubham Sharma's 58 helped Madhya Pradesh reach 345 against Puducherry, who ended at 98/1.

Mumbai declared at 528/8 against Himachal Pradesh after Sarfaraz Khan scored 154 and Akash Anand made an unbeaten 117. Siddhesh Lad added 87 and Musheer Khan 57. Himachal Pradesh reached 144/3, still trailing by 244 runs.

Kiara Recalls Eight-Hour Wait During Kabir Singh Shoot

- Kiara said discussions over Shahid's footwear left her waiting hours.
- She shared the anecdote during an appearance on Koffee With Karan.
- The incident occurred during her first few days of filming.

(IANS)
Mumbai, October 20:

Actress Kiara Advani recalled feeling frustrated after waiting eight hours on the sets of Kabir Singh while discussions continued over co-star Shahid Kapoor's footwear.

Speaking during the Bingo segment of Koffee With Karan, Kiara said the incident occurred on her third or fourth day of shooting.

She explained that the prolonged discussion concerned which shoes Shahid would wear in the next scene. Host Karan Johar sympathised with her frustration over the lengthy delay.

Released in 2019, Kabir Singh was directed by Sandeep Reddy Vanga and starred Shahid opposite Kiara.

The film remade Vanga's Telugu drama Arjun Reddy, which featured Vijay Deverakonda. It was produced by Bhushan Kumar, Krishan Kumar, Murad Khetani and Ashwin Varde under their banners.

Kiara's recollection offered a glimpse into the frustrations actors can face on set, where discussions over costume details can delay filming. Her account focused on the lengthy wait during the early days of the production.

Ranveer, Deepika Name Their Second Daughter Devi

Mumbai, Oct 20: Actors Ranveer Singh and Deepika Padukone announced their second daughter's name, Devi Padukone Singh, on Dussehra through a joint social media post.

The announcement featured a family photograph with elder daughter Dua kissing her younger sister. All four wore matching golden ethnic outfits.

Actors Mrunal Thakur, Sharvari and Bhumi Pednekar responded with heart emojis.

The couple welcomed Devi on September 19, 2026, after announcing the pregnancy in April with a photograph of Dua holding a positive pregnancy test.

Ranveer and Deepika married at Lake Como, Italy, in November 2018. Their first daughter, Dua, was born on September 8, 2024.

Asian Para Games: Murmu Hails Soorma's Record Gold

President Congratulates Medallists Across Athletics, Swimming and Shooting



New Delhi, Oct 20 (IANS):

President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday congratulated Pranav Soorma and other Indian medallists at the Asian Para Games 2026, praising their achievements in athletics, swimming and shooting.

Soorma won gold in the men's discus throw F51/52/53 event with a record throw of 11.66 metres. Ram Ratan Singh claimed silver with 10.35 metres, securing a one-two finish for India.

"Your golden triumph has brought immense pride to Bharat and raised the bar for Indian para athletics," Murmu wrote on X, congratulating Soorma on his achievement.

She also praised Singh's technique and control, extending her best wishes for his future competitions.

In swimming, Niranjana Mukundan secured bronze in the men's 200m individual medley SM7, clocking 2:57.01. Congratulating

him, the President highlighted the importance of managing pace and maintaining rhythm throughout the race.

Himanshu Nandal added another swimming bronze in the men's 400m freestyle S11 event. Murmu wished him further milestones and continued sporting success.

The President also congratulated Ravanni Valasanaini, who won bronze in the women's 1500m T11. She described the achievement as a cherished moment that reflected the growing strength of Indian para-athletics.

In shooting, Shrishti Arora earned bronze in the women's 10m air pistol SH1 event. Murmu praised her podium finish, noting that the discipline demands precision with every shot, and wished her continued excellence.

In messages on X, the President praised India's medallists across disciplines, celebrating their achievements and encouraging further success.

Vicky Recalls Katrina's Intervention During Wedding Shoe Ritual

Katrina retrieved his hidden shoes without payment as sunset threatened their wedding photographs



Mumbai, Oct 20 (IANS):

Actor Vicky Kaushal recalled how Katrina Kaif helped him avoid paying her sisters during the traditional "Joota Chupai" ceremony at their wedding.

Speaking on The Kapil Sharma Show, Vicky said Katrina's sisters hid his shoes and demanded a hefty payment for their return. His brothers initially tried to stop them, but he allowed the playful ritual to proceed.

After the wedding pheras, Katrina wanted sunset bringing the customary bargaining over his missing shoes to an abrupt end.

she intervened, scolded her sisters and ensured the footwear was returned without payment.

The North Indian wedding custom involves the bride's sisters, cousins or friends hiding the groom's shoes and negotiating a payment before returning them.

Vicky and Katrina married on December 9, 2021, in Rajasthan. His recollection offered a lighthearted glimpse into their celebrations, with the approaching sunset bringing the customary bargaining over his missing shoes to an abrupt end.

Padmini, Poonam Lead CINTAA Polls Amid Leadership Dispute

Mumbai, Oct 20 (IANS):

Padmini Kolhapuri and Poonam Dhillon led Tuesday's CINTAA elections with 604 and 601 votes, followed by Rakesh Bedi with 575. Around 670 members voted despite the festival holiday. Dhillon urged elected members to follow the constitution and commit to fairness and

welfare.

The polls followed 11 executive committee resignations in August amid a leadership dispute. Rival elections led by Upasna Singh took place in September; those results await implementation pending the October 26 court hearing, according to the news report.

IAF Chief Takes Final Trainer Sortie with First Flying Instructor

IANs News
Hyderabad, Oct 20

Indian Air Force (IAF) Chief Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh on Tuesday undertook his final trainer sortie in a HJT-16 Kiran Mk-1 aircraft at the Air Force Academy (AFA), Dundigal, near Hyderabad, flying alongside his first instructor, Wing Commander V.S. Kochar (retd).

The 55-minute flight in aircraft U 707 marked a full-circle moment for Singh, who undertook his maiden sortie at the same academy on January 28, 1984, with Kochar as his instructor.

Describing the experience as a dream come true, Singh said he was grateful to his instructor for helping him complete the journey in the same aircraft where his flying career began. He was accorded a water cannon salute after landing.

Kochar, 73, expressed happiness at flying with his former student, describing him as an exceptional



officer and wishing the IAF continued success.

The sortie highlighted the enduring bond between flying instructors and their students, as well as the Kiran aircraft's role in training generations of IAF pilots. Singh noted that the aircraft he first flew as a trainee continues to serve the IAF more than four decades later.

The IAF described the occasion as a tribute to the tradition of flying training and the contribution of in-

structors in shaping generations of air warriors. The special flight also offered a rare opportunity for the instructor and his former student to revisit the beginnings of Singh's aviation career. The water cannon salute marked the ceremonial conclusion of the memorable sortie.

Singh is scheduled to retire on October 31, 2026. Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit, currently Vice Chief of the Air Staff, is set to succeed him.

Telangana food products begin exports to New Zealand

Munshif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct 20

Telangana-made food products have begun reaching New Zealand under the India-New Zealand Free Trade Agreement (FTA), with a container dispatched from Dandu Malkapur Green Industrial Park in Yadadri Bhuvanagiri district.

Dr. Sampath Kumar, Deputy Director General of Foreign Trade, Telangana, flagged off the consignment containing rice, semolina, flattened rice (atukulu) and other agricultural-based food products manufactured by Framar Agri Foods Private Limited.

Kumar said the trade agreement would open new opportunities for Indian



exporters by providing customs duty concessions on eligible products, improving their price competitiveness in the New Zealand market.

The agreement is expected to strengthen market access for Indian businesses, particularly in agriculture and food processing, and help Telangana manufacturers expand their international presence. The shipment marks a step towards increasing the global reach of locally manufactured food products and strengthening India-New Zealand trade ties.

Telangana Raises Rs 2,000 Cr at Interest Rates Up to 7.65%

Munshif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct 20

RBI auction offers two borrowing tranches with repayment periods of 13 and 23 years

Hyderabad, Oct. 20 (Munshif News Bureau): The Telangana government has raised ₹2,000 crore through a Reserve Bank of India (RBI) e-auction under the State Development Loans (SDLs) programme.

The borrowing comprises two tranches of ₹1,000 crore each. The first carries an annual interest rate of 7.53% with a 13-year repayment period, while the second attracts 7.65% interest and is repayable over 23 years.

Based on the stated rates, the government's initial annual interest liability would be approximately ₹151.8 crore, subject to the applicable loan terms.

The funds are expected to support development works, welfare programmes and other budgetary requirements. On the same day, 11 states, including Telangana, collectively raised ₹23,016 crore through the RBI auction.



Bontu Rammohan emerges as front-runner for Telangana RTC Chairman



Munshif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct 20

Bontu Rammohan has emerged as the leading contender for the long-vacant chairman's post of the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC), with the government reportedly preparing to make an appointment after Dasara.

The post has remained vacant since

the Congress government assumed office, while the corporation's affairs are being managed by its Vice-Chairman and Managing Director. Sources said one or two other names were also under consideration, but Rammohan was reportedly a frontrunner.

The appointment assumes significance amid preparations for the proposed merger of RTC employees into the state government. The government is reportedly weighing whether to appoint a chairman before initiating the merger process, particularly after the Congress-backed union's performance in the recent recognised trade union elections.

The appointment and the timeline for the proposed merger will be clear only after the government issues formal orders.

El Niño a Global Challenge, Not Telangana-Created Crisis: Tummala

Munshif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct 20

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao on Monday criticised opposition parties for blaming the Congress government for Telangana's drought concerns, saying El Niño was a global climatic phenomenon affecting countries worldwide.

During a visit to Velugumatla in Khammam district, he urged farmers to consider short-duration crops requiring less water amid



uncertainty over rainfall, groundwater levels and electricity availability.

Tummala also directed officials to complete the Sitarama Tunnel by Vijayadashami next year.

Reviewing a model housing colony being

built for poor families at Velugumatla, the minister asked officials to complete houses and basic infrastructure by November 15. The colony is proposed to be inaugurated by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on December 9.

SC ruling may speed up Telangana ACB cases

Munshif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct 20

A Supreme Court ruling clarifying that prior government approval is not mandatory to investigate direct corruption offences such as bribery could help Telangana's Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) advance pending cases against public servants.

The court ruled that Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act requires prior approval

only for investigations involving official decisions or recommendations, not direct acts of corruption.

Several Telangana ACB cases have reportedly stalled over pending prosecution sanctions. By the end of last year, approval had reportedly been granted in only 115 of 650 cases cited in the data. The ruling may facilitate investigations where Section 17A approval is not required, subject to other applicable legal procedures.

TRS announces candidate for Graduates' MLC seat

Munshif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct 19

Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) has announced Dr. Nalamas Srikanth Goud as its candidate for Warangal - Khammam - Nalgonda Graduate's constituency.

TRS President Kalvakuntla Kavitha on Tuesday finalised the candidate for one of the two Graduate MLC seats going to polls scheduled to be held early next year.

Kavitha has appointed senior leader Syed Ismail as the state party observer for coordination.

This will be the maiden electoral battle for TRS, floated by Kavitha in April this year.

Last year, Kavitha had quit the Bharat Rashttra Samithi (BRS) following her suspension from the party led by her father and former Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao (KCR).

TRS is the second party to announce its candidate for the forthcoming biennial elections to the Telangana Legislative Council from the two Graduates' constituencies.

The ruling Congress party has already announced its candidates.

Sama Rammohan Reddy will be the Congress candidate from Mahabubnagar-Rangareddy-Hyderabad constituency while Ramreddy Sarvotham Reddy will contest on a Congress ticket from



Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda constituency.

BRS and BJP are yet to announce their candidates. The BJP last week began consultation to shortlist three names for each constituency. The list will be sent to the party's central leadership to finalise the candidates.

Voter enrolment in the two Graduates' constituencies is currently underway. The enrolment process began with the issue of public notice under Rule 31(3) of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960.

The electoral rolls will be prepared afresh with November 1, 2026, as the qualifying date. Those who previously registered as voters must also register afresh.

The Election Commission of India has announced that two vacancies are due in March 2027 and must be filled by conducting biennial elections.

As per the schedule announced by the Election Commission, draft electoral rolls will be published on November 25, 2026. Final electoral rolls are due for publication on December 30, 2026.

GUV extends Vijayadashami greetings, calls for unity & righteousness

IANs News
Hyderabad, Oct 20

Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla and Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Tuesday greeted people on Vijayadashami, wishing them peace, prosperity and happiness.

Shukla said the festival symbolises the victory of good over evil and called on people to promote righteousness, unity and social responsibility for Telangana's progress.

Revanth Reddy said Dussehra reflects the state's rich cultural traditions and values of courage, truth and brotherhood. He recalled Goddess Durga's victory over Mahishasura and Lord Rama's triumph over Ravana, and highlighted Telangana's tradition of worshipping the Jammi tree and exchanging its leaves with elders as a symbol of respect and blessings.

Mahesh Kumar Goud Greet Revanth Reddy on Dasara

Munshif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct 20

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president B. Mahesh Kumar Goud met Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and conveyed his greetings on the occasion of the Dasara festival.

During the meeting, Mahesh Kumar Goud extended his festive wishes to the Chief Minister and conveyed his best regards on the occasion.

Jamia Nizamia Scholars' Legacy Honoured at Hyderabad Gathering

Munshif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct 20

A gathering celebrating Shaikh-ul-Islam and the scholarly, religious and spiritual contributions of Jamia Nizamia was held at Salar-e-Millat Memorial Auditorium, Urdu Maskan, Khilwat, on Monday night.

Organised by Bazm Farzandan-e-Jamia Nizamia and Muhibban-e-Jamia Nizamia, the programme was held under the patronage of Hazrat Aqeel Baba Qibla and supervised by Hazrat Mahmood Padshah Qadri Zareen Kullah.

Scholars, Sufi masters and religious leaders paid tribute to Jamia Nizamia's founder, Hazrat Allama Hafiz Imam Muhammad Anwarullah Farooqi Fazilat Jung Bahadur, popularly known as Shaikh-ul-Islam. Speakers highlighted his contribution to Islamic education and spiritual traditions, drawing on references from the Holy Qur'an, Hadith and historical accounts.

Hazrat Maulana Syed Shah Yadullah Muhammad Muhammad Al-Hussaini, known as Nizam Baba, spoke about the founder's contributions to the spiritual family of Hazrat Bandanawaz. Other speakers highlighted Jamia Nizamia's role in preserving Islamic sciences, including Qur'anic studies, Hadith, jurisprudence, theology and Arabic literature.

