



Urdu Teachers Seek Vidya Volunteers in Telangana Schools

Statewatch, Page 3



Six-Member Judicial Inquiry Ordered into Kolkata Puja Stampede

Nation, Page 4



Russian Diesel Tanker Departs in 2-3 Days: Putin

Horizons, Page 5



Rashid, Sediqullah Climb ODI Rankings; Windies Trio Rise

Sports, Page 7

Seven-day legal cap ends custody of CJP leaders Das and Ranka

Magistrate rejects police plea for three more days; bonds of Rs 50,000 each accepted



Key Highlights

Detained at Jantar Mantar on October 13; custody set at five days, then extended by two on October 19.

Delhi High Court declined to interfere earlier on Wednesday; the pair withdrew their plea.

CJP alleges bail proceedings were delayed; police response not available.

Lawyers said the order copy had not reached them at the time of release

- OUTCOME -
Detention Limits Tested
The release shows a magistrate cannot hold anyone beyond seven days, raising questions about preventive arrests, peace bonds and protest rights.

FSSAI seeks proof for infant formula and Complan health claims

- Claims under query: “easy to digest” whey protein, “5 HMOs” immune support, Complan’s “2X Faster Growth”.
- Nestlé must show why action under the FSS Act should not follow, within the “stipulated period”

Munsif Bureau New Delhi, October 21:

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has asked Nestlé India and Zydus Wellness to scientifically substantiate health claims on infant formula and Complan. The notices were disclosed on October 21. They seek explanations and are not findings of violation. For Lactogen Pro 1 Powder, FSSAI questioned the claim that its whey protein is easy to digest. For NAN Excella Pro Stage 1, it flagged a claim that “5 HMOs” support the normal immune system. The regulator said this implies use for a physiological condition, which the rules bar unless specifically permitted. It also sought proof of the whey protein claim. Nestlé must explain why action should not be initiated under the FSS Act, 2006. Zydus has been asked to explain Complan’s “2X Faster Growth”, concentration-and-memory and “34 Vital Nutrients” claims. In a separate notice, FSSAI alleged that an Instagram reel by influencer Ira Fathima, ranking infant formulas, violated the Infant Milk Substitutes Act, 1992. Nestlé India, Abbott Healthcare, Nutricia International and Mead Johnson Nutrition (India) were also named. The infant formula claims are not new. FSSAI began three adjudication cases against Nestlé over the same products on September 18. A Nestlé spokesperson said the latest post repeats those points and a detailed response has already been submitted.

SBI flags dark-web exposure of 3,897 customer records, five days after first alerts

Mobile numbers, birth dates and loan-lead data among exposed fields; source unknown, customer notification plan not stated.

Key Facts About Data Exposure

- 3,897 customer records found among about 375,000 on the dark web
- Alerts reached SBI on October 16; public disclosure came October 21
- Exposed data includes addresses, emails, CIF identifiers and loan metadata
- Bank has engaged a CERT-In-empowered agency and reports no material impact on core operations



Munsif Bureau Mumbai, October 21:

State Bank of India (SBI) has told the stock exchanges that 3,897 customer records containing personal information were found in a dark-web dataset of about 375,000 records. The disclosure came on October 21, five days after the bank first received alerts. Affected customers are now waiting to hear whether, and how, they will be told directly. The reports on the filing that I reviewed did not mention any notification plan. The alerts on October 16 came from the bank’s threat-intelligence provider, the Defence Cyber Agency and CERT-In. The exposed fields include registered mobile numbers, dates of birth, names, gender, email and residential addresses, branch and customer information file (CIF) identifiers, lead IDs, and loan and lead metadata. Such details can make impersonation and fraud calls more convincing. The bank said a detailed investigation must establish whether the data is authentic, how far the exposure extends and what risk it poses. It has activated incident-response protocols and engaged an independent CERT-In-empowered agency. The bank said core operations, financial performance and business continuity are not materially affected. Key questions remain open. According to The Hacker News, the filing does not say whether the records belong to 3,897 different people. It also does not show whether the data came from SBI, a subsidiary or a third-party provider handling banking applications.

Türkiye, Qatar, Pak & Indonesia sign defence-memorandum

DOHA, October 21:

Türkiye, Qatar, Pakistan and Indonesia signed the “Badr” memorandum of understanding in Doha on Wednesday, Türkiye’s defence ministry said. It covers cooperation in military production, military capabilities, technical training, research and development.

The signatories were Türkiye’s Yaşar Güler, Qatar’s Sheikh Saud bin Abdulrahman bin Hasan Al Thani, Pakistan’s Khawaja Muhammad Asif and Indonesia’s Deputy Defence Minister Yusuf Jauhari. Reports describe the memorandum as focused on defence-industry cooperation, and Al Jazeera

notes it concerns industrial cooperation rather than a mutual defence pledge. That separates it from the Makkah defence agreement, reportedly signed in August by Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Türkiye, under which an attack on one is treated as an attack on all. The full funding arrangements and any technology-transfer commitments had not been made public.

UN warns El Niño could be “off the charts”

UN warns El Niño could be “off the charts”

TELANGANA ALREADY UNDER WATER AND POWER STRESS

WMO sees Pacific waters up to 3.8°C above average this winter; state reports drought-like conditions in 315 mandals

Hyderabad, Oct 21:

The UN has warned that the current El Niño could be unprecedented in strength, and urged governments to act before its worst effects arrive. At a Geneva briefing on Wednesday, WMO Secretary-General Celeste Saulo and UN humanitarian chief Tom Fletcher called for “urgent and coordinated anticipatory action” for vulnerable communities. WMO’s new seasonal update says tropical Pacific sea-surface temperatures may reach 3.8°C above average between November and January. These are forecasts and risk assessments, and Saulo said impacts will be felt long after the late-2026 peak. Telangana is already under strain. A report on the state’s new Cabinet Sub-Committee, headed by Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, cites a 17 per cent monsoon deficit and drought-like

conditions in 315 mandals. Peak power demand reached 20,003 MW on October 15. On September 17, the Irrigation Minister told the Assembly, Krishna and Godavari basin storage was 241 TMC, against 497 TMC a year earlier. Hyderabad has barred new borewells for construction, and officials say groundwater has fallen by over five metres since last year. The Chief Secretary has asked for local contingency plans.

cover People’s Plaza, Garden Point, and the baby ponds at Jalavihar and Sanjeevaiah Park. They will be enforced as local traffic and processions require. Key junctions include VV Statue, Old Saifabad Police Station, Ravindra Bharathi, Liberty, Upper Tank Bund and Nallagutta

PHP flaws force Govt Sites offline in Europe

New Delhi, Oct 21:

Government websites in Finland, the Netherlands and France were taken offline Wednesday as operators addressed two critical PHP vulnerabilities. Emergency updates released at 7:30 p.m. IST fixed flaws rated 9.2 that could let attackers execute server code without logging in. Cloudflare reported attacks hours before the release, following leaked details on October 20. CERT-EU advised organisations unable to patch promptly to consider taking systems offline. Security firm Sansec said at least one widely used Linux repository had yet to provide the fix. No Indian advisory or shutdown had been reported at the time of writing, leaving local exposure unconfirmed. European shutdowns do not establish that Indian systems were compromised. Operators were urged to install the emergency security updates immediately upon availability.

Projectile hits anchored tanker off Oman’s Bukha; fire out, all crew safe

Muscat, October 21: An unidentified projectile struck a tanker 11 nautical miles west of Bukha in Oman, which overlooks the Strait of Hormuz, the UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) centre reported on Wednesday. A fire that broke out was extinguished, and the vessel was at anchor. All crew were reported safe, and no environmental impact was reported. The incident occurred at about 0145 GMT, according to a UKMTO warning. The agency did not say who was responsible. The vessel’s name, flag, owner, cargo and the crew’s nationalities were not disclosed, so it cannot be said whether any Indian seafarers were aboard. UKMTO also reported a separate Tuesday incident, in which a projectile hit a tanker 30 nautical miles from Al Faw, Iraq, causing no casualties or damage.

No new borewells for construction as groundwater falls; STP water for building sites from Nov 1

Borewells allowed only for drinking water; enforcement drive targets illegal pumps on municipal taps

Hyderabad, Oct 21:

The Telangana government will not permit new borewells for construction or other non-drinking uses in Hyderabad, as officials prepare for the possible impact of El Niño on water availability. Special Chief Secretary Jayesh Ranjan said borewell permission should be granted only for drinking water, in line with existing regulations. Existing borewells may be deepened, but exclusively for drinking needs. HMWS&SB Managing Director K Ashok Reddy said groundwater levels have dropped by over five metres compared with last year. Builders must now look



beyond groundwater. From November 1, treated water from sewage treatment plants will be supplied to construction sites through green water tankers. A special drive with HYDRRA and other agencies is also removing illegal motor

pumps fitted to municipal water taps. El Niño is a warming of sea surface temperatures in the Pacific that can alter rainfall patterns, though its effects vary by region and season. The Chief Secretary said department-wise contingency plans are ready, and that a Cabinet Sub-Committee meeting and an all-party meeting would be held soon. The reports reviewed do not say how long the restriction will last.



District Collector Ila Tripathi attended a programme organised by the district police at the Police Headquarters in Nizamabad on Wednesday to mark Police Commemoration Day. On the occasion, Collector Ila Tripathi and Police Commissioner P. Sai Chaitanya paid floral tributes at the Police Martyrs' Memorial and observed a two-minute silence in honour of the personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty. Addressing the gathering, Collector Ila Tripathi said that police personnel continuously strive to maintain law and order and face numerous challenges while discharging their duties. She recalled the sacrifice of CCS Constable Pramod Kumar, who lost his life at the hands of anti-social elements in Nizamabad last year, and expressed her sorrow over his death. She also highlighted the bravery of Constable Tukaram during the Mumbai terror attacks.

Police Martyrs' Sacrifices Unforgettable: Collector Ila Tripathi, CP Sai Chaitanya

Munsif News Bureau
Nizamabad, Oct. 21:

The sacrifices of police personnel who laid down their lives to protect law and order are unforgettable, and society will always remain indebted to them, said District Collector Ila Tripathi and Police Commissioner P. Sai Chaitanya. The Collector attended a programme organised by the district police at the Nizamabad Police Headquarters on Wednesday to mark Police Commemoration Day. On the occasion, Collector Ila Tripathi and Police Commissioner P. Sai Chaitanya paid floral tributes

at the police martyrs' memorial and observed a two-minute silence in honour of the fallen personnel. Collector Ila Tripathi said police personnel work tirelessly to maintain law and order and face numerous challenges in the line of duty. Recalling the sacrifice of CCS Constable Pramod Kumar, who lost his life at the hands of anti-social elements in Nizamabad last year, she expressed her sorrow. She also recalled the bravery of Constable Tukaram during the Mumbai terror attacks. She said the role of the police extends beyond maintaining law and order. Their responsi-

bilities include tracing missing children and reuniting them with their parents, ensuring women's safety, and building confidence among all sections of society. She assured that the government and district administration would always stand by the families of police martyrs. Efforts would also be made to expedite appointments for eligible family members on compassionate grounds. Police Commissioner P. Sai Chaitanya stated that 154 police personnel across the country had sacrificed their lives in the line of duty during the current year. He said that since 1986,

a total of 21 police personnel had been martyred while confronting anti-social elements within the Nizamabad Police Commissionerate limits. He further informed that residential plots had already been allotted to the families of 11 martyrs. Discussions were underway with Revenue Department officials to allot plots to the remaining 10 families at locations including Kamareddy, Makloor, Hyderabad and other places, according to their preferences. He assured that the matter would be continuously monitored until all the martyrs' families received plots.

Head Constable Gadupale Babu Dies in Road Accident; Nirmal SP Pays Tributes

Munsif News Bureau
Mudhole, Oct. 21:

Grief has engulfed the police department following the sudden death of Head Constable Gadupale Babu (HC 2228) in a road accident. He was serving in the Intelligence Wing of the police department. He died in a road accident in Bhainsa town last night while returning home after completing his duty. His last rites were performed on Wednesday at his native village in Tanur mandal of Nirmal district. Nirmal District Superintendent of Police Dr. G. Janaki Sharmila, IPS, attended the funeral and paid floral tributes to the mortal remains of Gadupale Babu.



Later, the SP met the bereaved family members and expressed her condolences. Sharing their grief during this

difficult time, she assured them that the police department would stand by the family and extend all possible assistance. Speaking on the occasion, SP Janaki Sharmila said the death of Head Constable Gadupale Babu was an irreparable loss to the police department. His valuable services to the department would always be remembered, she added. She prayed for the departed soul to rest in peace and for the family members to be granted the strength to overcome the profound loss. Bhainsa ASP S. Sai Kiran, IPS, Mudhole Circle Inspector Ravinder Naik, Tanur Sub-Inspector Sheikh Zubair Khan, Police Association President Dandekar Sai Kumar, police personnel, relatives and friends attended the funeral and paid

Sacrifices of Police Martyrs Are Unforgettable: Suryapet SP K. Narasimha

Munsif News Bureau
Suryapet, Oct. 21:

District Superintendent of Police K. Narasimha, IPS, said the sacrifices of police personnel who laid down their lives to protect the lives and property of the public and maintain peace and order in society would never be forgotten. He participated in a programme organised at the parade ground of the District Police Headquarters on Wednesday to mark Police Martyrs' Memorial Day and Police Flag Day, paying rich tributes to the fallen personnel. On the occasion, Additional SP Ravinder Reddy read out the

names of 154 police personnel from across the country who had sacrificed their lives in the line of duty. Addressing the gathering, SP K. Narasimha said the day was not merely an occasion to remember the sacrifices of the past, but also an opportunity to learn from them and renew the commitment to serve the public with greater dedication and discipline. He said police personnel work round the clock to ensure that people can lead peaceful lives with their families and that women, children and senior citizens can live without fear. The police profession, he stressed,

was not merely a job but a sacred responsibility. Recalling the sacrifices of police personnel in Suryapet district, the SP said Head Constable Bade Sahib was martyred in a Naxalite attack on Thirumalagiri Police Station. He further recalled that on April 2, 2015, Constable M. Lingaiah and Home Guard K. Mahesh lost their lives in a terrorist attack while checking vehicles near the Hi-Tech Bus Stand in Suryapet town. Similarly, Constable Sheelam Kamalakar was killed after being hit by a car while conducting vehicle checks within the limits of Nagarum Police Station.

He said the sacrifices made by these personnel in the line of duty were irreparable losses for both the police department and their families. The SP stated that the sacrifices of the martyrs would never go in vain and that their courage would continue to inspire serving police personnel. He assured that the police department would always stand by the families of the martyrs. He observed that the death of a police personnel leaves the family devastated and said the department would take responsibility for supporting the families, including ensuring the care and bright future of their children.

Road Safety Awareness Month Inaugurated at KSRTC Unit in Bidar

Munsif News Bureau
Bidar, Oct. 21:

The Road Safety Awareness Month programme was inaugurated at the Kalyana Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KKRTC) Unit-1 in Bidar city by watering a sapling. Addressing the gathering after inaugurating the programme, Bidar Regional Transport Officer M.D. Jaffer Sadiqa said that if a road accident occurs while a driver is operating a vehicle, the bus driver's driving licence will be suspended for 90 days. He stated that driving at a controlled and appropriate speed could help reduce road accidents, fatalities and inju-

ries. Under the Rah-Veer scheme, a person who helps an injured road accident victim reach a hospital and survives the incident is eligible for a reward of ₹25,000. The helper will also be protected from legal proceedings and questioning in connection with the incident, he said. He urged the public not to hesitate to take accident victims to hospitals. He further advised that buses should be parked only in designated areas meant for public transport and passengers. If a bus has to be parked on the road, it should be positioned appropriately to avoid obstructing traffic. He warned that driving on

the wrong side of the road causes accidents and urged motorists to avoid wrong-side driving under all circumstances. Motor Vehicle Inspector T. Purandara Dasa said drivers should arrive at least 30 minutes before their scheduled duty. He advised them to inspect the vehicle thoroughly before taking it onto the road, checking the lights, engine oil, coolant, DJ and other essential components. KKRTC Divisional Controller Rajendra Jadhav stressed the importance of developing the habit of driving in accordance with traffic signs and signals displayed on roads.

Former MLA Begala Ganesh Gupta Meets Harish Rao

Nizamabad, Oct 21
Former Nizamabad Urban MLA Begala Ganesh Gupta met senior Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leader and former state minister T. Harish Rao on the occasion of Vijayadashami (Dussehra). During the meeting, Ganesh Gupta presented a bouquet to Harish Rao and conveyed his Dussehra greetings, sharing the festive spirit of the occasion. The meeting was held as a gesture of goodwill and to exchange festive greetings on the occasion of Vijayadashami.



District Superintendent of Police K. Narasimha, IPS, said the sacrifices of police personnel who laid down their lives to protect the lives and property of the public and maintain peace and order in society would never be forgotten. He participated in a programme organised at the parade ground of the District Police Headquarters on Wednesday to mark Police Martyrs' Memorial Day and Police Flag Day, paying rich tributes to the fallen personnel.



District Collector Pratima Singh said all necessary measures were being taken to ensure that the examinations were conducted transparently, systematically and peacefully. TGPSC Chairman Burra Venkatesham reviewed the examination arrangements through a video conference with district collectors and police officials concerned and issued necessary instructions.

Elaborate Arrangements for TGPSC Examinations in Medak District

Munsif News Bureau
Medak, Oct. 21:

Elaborate arrangements are being made in Medak district for the computer-based tests (CBTs) scheduled to be conducted by the Telangana State Public Service Commission (TGPSC) on October 24. District Collector Pratima Singh said all necessary measures were being taken to ensure that the examinations were conducted transparently, systematically and peacefully. TGPSC Chairman Burra Venkatesham reviewed the ex-

amination arrangements through a video conference with district collectors and police officials concerned and issued necessary instructions. Participating in the meeting from the video conference hall at the Collectorate, Collector Pratima Singh said an examination centre had been established at BVKIT in Narsapur. The examinations are being conducted for recruitment to the posts of Assistant Scientist (Analyst Grade-II) and Assistant Environmental Engineer in the Pollution Control Board. A total of 200 candidates are expected

to appear for the examinations in the district. The Collector said the examination for the post of Assistant Scientist (Analyst Grade-II) would be conducted in two sessions on October 24. The first session will be held from 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., while the second session will take place from 2.30 p.m. to 5 p.m. She instructed candidates to reach the examination centre well before the scheduled time. Entry for candidates appearing in the first session will begin at 8.30 a.m., and the gates will close at 9.30 a.m.

Applications Invited for Paramedical Diploma Courses at Medak Govt Medical College

Munsif News Bureau
Medak, Oct. 21:

Applications have been invited from eligible candidates for admission to two-year Allied Health (Paramedical) diploma courses at Government Medical College, Medak, for the academic year 2026-27. In a statement, Dr. Nitin Kumar Kabra, Additional Deputy Medical Engineer and Principal of Government Medical College, Medak, said candidates who have completed Intermediate are eligible to apply for the two-

year paramedical diploma programmes. The courses offered include Diploma in Medical Laboratory Technology (DMLT) and Diploma in Anaesthesia Technician (DANS). Interested and eligible candidates can submit their applications at Government Medical College, Medak. Candidates can visit the official website of the Telangana Paramedical Board at www.tgpmc.telangana.gov.in for details regarding the courses, admissions and other related information.

Fiji appoints Dr. Boddapati as Honorary Consul in Hyderabad

NSS
Hyderabad, Oct. 21:

Dr. Seetha Ramaiah Boddapati has been appointed as the Honorary Consul of the

Republic of Fiji in Hyderabad, extending consular jurisdiction across Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka. The appointment was

formally conferred through a Consular Commission signed by Sitiveni L. Rabuka, Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the

Republic of Fiji. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India, has officially conveyed its concurrence, establishing Dr.

Boddapati's consular office and jurisdiction in the region. In his official role, Dr. Boddapati will represent Fiji from Hyderabad, serving as

a point of contact for government institutions, commercial entities, and communities across the three southern states. His primary respon-

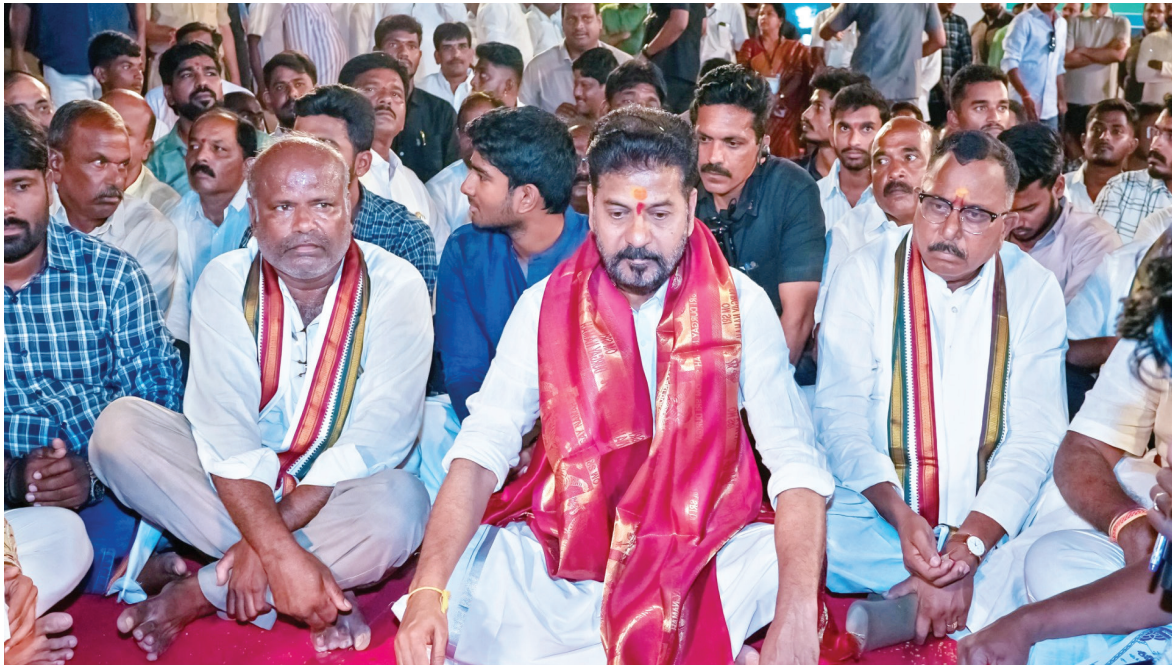
sibilities include facilitating diplomatic dialogue, advancing trade partnerships, and extending consular assistance. The diplomatic footprint is

expected to drive economic, institutional, and cultural ties between Fiji and Southern India. Hyderabad's strategic position in life sciences.



STATEWATCH | Where Telangana Speaks

People, civic issues, communities and developments from across Telangana



Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy celebrated Dussehra in his native village of Kondareddypalli in Nagarkurnool district on Tuesday. The Chief Minister received a warm welcome from villagers upon his arrival. He later offered special prayers at the local Anjaneya Swamy temple along with his family members. He also met villagers and elected representatives during his visit.

Yadadri Thermal Power Station Achieves Major Milestone as Unit 5 Connects to Grid

NSS Nalgonda, Oct. 21:

Telangana has achieved a significant milestone in power generation with Unit 5 of the Yadadri Thermal Power Station (YTPS) successfully connecting to the grid at 11:06 am on October 20, 2026.

The 5×800 MW power project, being developed by

TGGENCO at Veerlapalem village in Damaracherla mandal of Nalgonda district, has a total installed capacity of 4,000 MW.

Following the successful grid connection, Unit 5 was hand-tripped as part of preparations for the subsequent stages leading to commercial power generation.

The project comprises five units, each with a ca-

capacity of 800 MW. Stage I consists of Units 1 and 2, while Stage II includes Units 3, 4 and 5.

Four units—Units 1, 2, 3 and 4—are already operational and supplying electricity. The successful grid connection of Unit 5 marks another crucial step towards bringing the entire 4,000 MW capacity of the power station into operation.

Once fully operational, the Yadadri Thermal Power Station is expected to strengthen Telangana's power-generation capacity and help meet the state's growing electricity demand.

The latest development represents an important advancement in the state's efforts to enhance its energy infrastructure and ensure a reliable power supply.

Urdu Teachers Urge Telangana Govt to Appoint Vidya Volunteers

Munsif News Bureau Ram Nagar, Oct. 21:

A delegation led by Hafiz Yaseen Bin Khalid, President of the Telangana Urdu Trained Teachers Association, along with Chief Patrons Sarwar Shah Bayabani and Afzal Mohiuddin, met Telangana Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar on the occasion of Dasara. They were accompanied by young Congress leader Shahid Afridi.

During the meeting, the delegation discussed various issues faced by Urdu-medium schools and urged the government to appoint Vidya Volunteers immediately to address the shortage of teachers and prevent disruption to students' education. The delegation also requested the government to conduct a special DSC recruitment drive for Urdu-language teachers, as promised by the Congress in its election manifesto.

After listening to their representations, Minister Ponnamp Prabhakar assured the delegation that Vidya



Volunteers would be appointed at the earliest.

He stated that the government was serious about

addressing the issue.

Hafiz Syed Mutahharuddin, Qazi Mohammed

Shujauddin, Hafiz Abdul Majeed Ishtiaq, Mirza Shaukat Baig and Suhail were also present.

Police Martyrs Honoured for Their Supreme Sacrifices in the Line of Duty: SP Nithika Pant,

Munsif News Bureau Kagazmagar, Oct. 21:

District Superintendent of Police Nithika Pant, IPS, stated that the sacrifices of police martyrs would always inspire society and that the services of those who laid down their lives for the nation, the maintenance of law and order, and public safety would never be forgotten.

On Wednesday, a Police Commemoration Day programme was organised at the Police Headquarters in Asifabad. District SP Nithika Pant attended the programme, received the ceremonial salute from the police contingent and inaugurated the event by lighting a lamp. She subsequently paid floral tributes at the martyrs' memorial in honour of police personnel who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty.



During the programme, the armed police contingent performed the ceremonial salute in remembrance of the martyrs.

Police officers, personnel and family members of the martyrs observed two minutes of silence to pay their respects. Subsequently, DSP B. Ashok read out the names of 154 police personnel who had sacrificed their lives in the

line of duty across the country during the past year.

Addressing the gathering, SP Nithika Pant said that police service was not merely a job but a sacred responsibility that demanded dedication to the public and unwavering commitment to the nation.

She noted that police personnel worked tirelessly to protect citizens and maintain peace and order in society,

often putting their own lives at risk.

She recalled that on October 21, 1959, ten personnel of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) laid down their lives in a Chinese attack at Hot Springs in Ladakh.

In honour of their supreme sacrifice, Police Commemoration Day is observed every year on October 21.

Adilabad Pays Tribute to 154 Police Martyrs

NSS Adilabad, Oct. 21:

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

They demanded the immediate commencement of works to supply water from the Yedula reservoir to the Dindi Lift Irrigation Scheme, which serves Munugodu and Devarakonda constituencies. They cautioned that arguments over district-wise ownership of water could fuel regional differences in Telangana. Palla Venkata Reddy said the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of the Palamuru project included provisions for irrigation and drinking water in Munugodu and Devarakonda. He criticised the previous BRS government for failing to take a clear decision on the water source, leading to delays. The CPI leader further said the Congress government's cabinet, led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, approved supplying water from the Yedula reservoir to the Dindi scheme on September 22, 2024, and granted administrative approval for Rs.1,800



crore on January 22, 2025. With the tender process completed, he questioned the delay in commencing the works. Recalling that Nalgonda had not raised regional objections when water was supplied from Nagarjunasagar to Hyderabad, he called for an end to divisive politics.

He also urged the government to complete pending

projects, including Bhima, Nettekpadu, Kalvakurthi and Koilsagar, and called for an all-party meeting to press the Centre for national project status for Palamuru.

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

Revanth Reddy celebrates Dussehra in native village

NSS Hyderabad, Oct. 21:

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy celebrated Dussehra in his native village of Kondareddypalli in Nagarkurnool district on Tuesday.

The Chief Minister received a warm welcome from villagers upon his

arrival. He later offered special prayers at the local Anjaneya Swamy temple along with his family members. He also met villagers and elected representatives during his visit. Revanth Reddy subsequently visited the Maisamma temple and performed special pujas at the Jammi tree as part of the

Dussehra festivities.

On his way back to Hyderabad, the Chief Minister attended Dussehra celebrations at the Government High School grounds in Kalvakurthi, where he participated in the traditional Ravana Dahanam, the burning of Ravana's effigy.

He later took part in the

Dussehra celebrations at the Government Degree College grounds in Jadcherla and extended festive greetings to the people.

MP Mallu Ravi, MLA Anirudh Reddy and other leaders were present at the celebrations in Jadcherla, which drew a large number of people from across the constituency.

TTD thanks all for grand success of Navaratri Brahmotsavams; 6.46 devotees had darshan

NSS Tirumala, Oct. 21:

Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) Chairman B.R. Naidu and Executive Officer M. Ravichandra thanked the officials, priests, employees, Srivari Sevak, police, district administration, media and devotees for the successful conduct of Srivari Navaratri Brahmotsavams held between October 12 and 20.

Addressing the mediapersons at Annamayya Bhavan on Wednesday, the TTD Chairman said the nine-day festival concluded successfully due to coordinated efforts across the departments, despite heavy rains, particularly on Garuda Seva day.

According to TTD, 6.46



lakh devotees had darshan between October 12 and 19, while hundi offerings amounted to Rs.25.79 crore. The temple administration distributed 22.60 lakh Anna Prasadam packets, sold 34.34 lakh laddus and facilitated tonsure for 2.44 lakh devotees. The APSRTC operated 13,608 trips from Tirupati to Tirumala, carrying 4.01 lakh pilgrims, and 13,667 return trips, transporting five lakh

devotees.

Around 6,777 artistes from 252 troupes representing 26 States, besides Qatar and Dubai, performed cultural programmes during the festival. Floral decorations used nearly 60 tonnes of flowers, five lakh cut flowers and 80,000 seasonal flowers.

Security arrangements included 2,800 police personnel and 2,000 vigilance staff, with an additional 1,000 police personnel deployed on Garuda Seva day. Medical services included 75 doctors, 60 paramedical staff, 20 ambulances and four mobile clinics.

About 4,500 Srivari Seva volunteers participated in the arrangements, while 3,500 sanitation workers were deployed on Garuda Seva day.

SC steps in over alleged violence in AP Municipal polls; orders police protection

NSS New Delhi, Oct. 21:

In a significant development, the Supreme Court on Wednesday directed the Andhra Pradesh State Election Commission (SEC) to consider extending the nomination deadline in urban local bodies where candidates were allegedly prevented from filing nomination papers due to violence, intimidation and law-and-order problems. A special bench comprising Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana directed the SEC to examine representations submitted by the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) and its candidates, along with supporting documentary and electronic evidence, and take a decision by October 22.



Wherever an extension is granted, candidates must be allowed an additional 48 hours from the publication of the decision to file nominations. The court also postponed publication of the final list of contesting candidates from October 21 to October 25.

The bench directed the Director General of Police to ensure adequate security for

candidates, sufficient police deployment and CCTV surveillance at nomination centres. It also stressed the need for suitable arrangements at district headquarters to enable candidates to file nominations without fear or obstruction.

During the hearing, the court questioned whether the absence of police complaints could establish that the situ-

CINEVARAM 2026 OPENS AT GITAM HYD WITH FILM WORKSHOPS

Hyderabad, Oct. 21 (NSS):

CineVaram 2026, a two-day cinematic festival organised by G-Studio, a student club at GITAM Deemed to be University, Hyderabad, in association with MeeSeva, commenced on Wednesday with workshops, film screenings, a photography exhibition and interactive activities.

The festival aims to nurture students' filmmaking skills and creativity by bringing aspiring filmmakers into contact with industry professionals.

Bobz Choudhary, Brand Ambassador of FujifilmX India, evaluated student entries at the photography exhibition, while director Nikhil Nadella conducted a work-

shop. Interactive game stalls and a Polaroid Photo Booth added to the festivities.

The second day will feature a storyboarding competition and a session titled "Documenting the World Around You" by documentary photographer Kishor Krishnamoorthi. Music composer Thaman will participate in an interactive session, while filmmaker Krishna Chaitanya will attend as the guest for the Short Film Contest.

Students actively participated in the sessions, interacted with experts and clarified their doubts. They appreciated the learning opportunities and thanked the university management for organising the initiative.

At a Glance

India Chem 2026 global industry meet to kick off in Mumbai from tomorrow

IANSS
New Delhi, Oct. 21



The Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, with FICCI, will organise India Chem 2026 from Thursday at Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai. The three-day event is expected to attract participants from over 100 countries, with Japan as partner country. More than 200 exhibitors, 8,000 business visitors and over 50 CEOs are expected.

The theme is “Advantage Bharat: An Emerging Global Chemicals Hub”. Union Minister J.P. Nadda will inaugurate the event.

India is the world's sixth-largest chemical producer. The industry is projected to reach \$300 billion by 2030 and \$1 trillion by 2040, an official statement said.

Wife, Lover Held in Koderma Murder

IANSS
Jharkhand, Oct. 21

Jharkhand Police arrested a woman and her alleged lover for the murder of her husband, Naresh Thakur, whose body was found in an abandoned quarry, officials said Wednesday.

Police said the case was solved within 48 hours. The body was recovered on October 17 near Lakrahi pond under Nawalsahi police station limits.

Investigators alleged that Naresh's wife, Kiran Devi, had asked Sunil Thakur to kill him. Sunil allegedly lured Naresh to Koderma on the pretext of treatment and administered a poisonous injection at his clinic.

Police said Sunil put the body in a yellow plastic sack and dumped it in the quarry. The victim's motorcycle, phone and wallet have been recovered. Further legal proceedings are underway.

CISF SEIZES FOREIGN CURRENCY WORTH RS 1.13 CRORE AT KOLKATA AIRPORT

Munsif
Kolkata, Oct. 21

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) seized foreign currency worth about Rs 1.14 crore from the hand baggage of two passengers bound for Bangkok at Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport, Kolkata.

The seizure took place around 10.20 a.m. on October 19 during routine screening at the International Terminal Security Hold Area. A CISF screener noticed suspicious images in

JAN SURAAJ PARTY'S BIHAR CHIEF ASSAULTED IN CAR; NO FIR REGISTERED

IANSS
Patna, Oct. 21

A video purportedly showing an attempted physical assault on the Jan Suraj Party's Bihar President, Manoj Bharti, has surfaced, triggering indignation in political circles on Wednesday.

The video showing the misbehaviour with Manoj Bharti is reportedly 15 to 20 days old.

According to an official, the incident took place inside the Jan Suraj Party office premises when Bharti was leaving in a car.

An individual allegedly confronted him, abused him, grabbed him by the collar and attempted to slap him.

Party workers present at the spot intervened and defused the situation.

The dispute reportedly arose over the alleged non-payment of rent for a car that had been used by the party office for around two years.

However, the claim regarding unpaid rental dues has not been independently verified.

Bharti subsequently submitted a written communication to the Patliputra police station informing it about the



incident and requesting steps to prevent similar occurrences in the future.

According to police, the communication did not seek registration of an FIR.

Police conducted an enquiry after receiving the communication.

During the enquiry, Jan Suraj representatives informed them that the matter had been resolved through a settlement between the parties.

The individual accused of misbehaviour also reportedly apologised to the leader.

No FIR has been registered in connection with the incident.

When contacted for its response, Jan Suraj said the matter had been re-

solved amicably through reconciliation between the parties concerned. However, an official statement by the Jan Suraj Party is awaited.

Sources said the party hires vehicles on rent from time to time for official purposes.

A large number of vehicles were also hired during the 2025 Bihar Assembly elections for campaigning, and the party paid the rental charges, they said.

A party official said hiring vehicles for organisational work was a routine practice.

The unusual incident has drawn public attention, as it has raised questions about the party's image and functioning.

Naidu Accuses YSRCP of Using Courts to Stall Local Body Polls

IANSS
Amaravati, Oct. 21

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday accused the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) of trying to stall elections and development by approaching courts.

Naidu alleged that YSRCP president and former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy was plotting sabotage from Bengaluru. He described Jagan as a “criminal litigant”, accusing him of planning destructive acts and then approaching courts.

The Telugu Desam Party (TDP) chief made the remarks during a teleconference with ministers, MLAs, MPs, candidates and booth-level party workers. He directed them to work for the victory of the TDP and its allies in the local body elections.

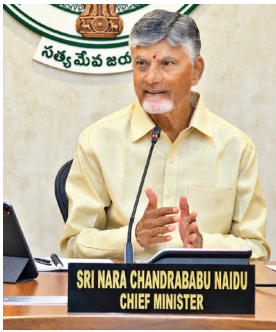
Naidu alleged that whenever the government acted against what he described as the YSRCP's

destructive activities, the party approached courts to delay the polls. “Whenever their attempts at sabotage are thwarted, they rush to the courts to try and halt the elections. This is how those who lack faith in democracy think,” he said.

He also accused the YSRCP of attempting to distort court verdicts, apparently referring to its response to a Supreme Court order on a petition concerning urban local body elections.

Calling the YSRCP the “Axe Party”, Naidu said the NDA was selecting strong candidates while Jagan was allegedly planning sabotage, including bringing people from other states to target specific areas.

He said the YSRCP had questioned the voter list and sought a halt to local body elections until a new electoral roll was prepared. He further alleged that the party had obstructed Backward Class (BC) reservations



by filing nearly 60 petitions in the High Court and Supreme Court.

Naidu said people with a “twisted” mindset should be kept away from politics, alleging that their presence would obstruct development and welfare delivery.

He told TDP leaders to coordinate with the Jana Sena and BJP and prioritise alliance candidates' victory. He urged them to take every stage seriously, from candidate selection to the final results.

“We are selecting strong candidates, prioritising those who have worked hard for the party. The ‘Axe Party’ is fielding destructive individuals as candidates,” he said.

two bags. The currency had been wrapped in newspaper, apparently to conceal it from security personnel. Of the total, USD 74,900 was found in one passenger's bag and USD 45,000 in the other.

Following prescribed formalities, both passengers and the seized currency were handed over to the Air Intelligence Unit (AIU) of Customs for investigation and legal action.

On October 20, the passenger carrying USD 74,900 was taken by AIU/Customs officials to the District and Sessions Court for further pro-

ceedings. The second passenger was released by Customs after a detention receipt was issued for the USD 45,000 recovered from the bag.

In a release, CISF reiterated its commitment to aviation security through effective screening, alert surveillance and professional conduct. Officials said the detection highlighted the importance of coordination between airport security personnel and Customs in addressing suspected currency-related violations. Customs inquiry is continuing at present.

SIX-MEMBER JUDICIAL INQUIRY ORDERED INTO KOLKATA DURGA PUJA PANDAL STAMPEDE

IANSS
Kolkata, Oct. 21

The West Bengal government on Wednesday announced the formation of a six-member judicial probe panel to investigate the stampede in the community Durga Puja pandal of Chorbagan Sarbojanin in Kolkata on the night of October 17 which claimed 19 human lives.

According to the order issued by the West Bengal Chief Secretary Manoj Kumar Agarwal, the judicial probe panel will be led by Justice Anindita Roy Saraswati (retired) as the Chairperson.

The other five members of the probe committee will be the Principal Secretary to the State Disaster Management and Civil Defence department, the Director General of the Special Task Force (STF) of the state police, a second representative from the state police in the rank of Additional Director



General, a representative from the state Home and Hill Affairs department, not below the rank of Joint Secretary, and representative from the National Disaster Response Force in Kolkata.

As per the order, the said probe panel would likely request the state government to induct any other officer, as may be required for the discharge of its functions and the panel members will examine the matters set out in the foregoing recitals and undertake such further inquiry as may be necessary, subject to applicable laws and proce-

dures.

“All concerned departments, authorities, agencies and persons shall extend full cooperation to the Special Investigation Team (SIT) and provide such records, information and assistance as may be required for the inquiry. The SIT shall submit its report, together with its findings and recommendations, to the state government within three months from the date of issue of this order, for consideration and further action as deemed appropriate in accordance with law. This order shall take immediate effect,” the or-

der said, a copy of which is available with IANS.

Immediately after the tragedy, Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari had said he would like the judicial probe panel to be led by a serving judge of the Calcutta High Court.

Accordingly, a letter of request on this count was also sent from the office of Chief Secretary to office of Calcutta High Court's Chief Justice, Ravindra Vithalrao Ghuge.

However, on Tuesday, Chief Justice Ghuge told the state government that as per a previous order of the Supreme Court, it was not possible to appoint a serving judge to any commission and therefore the state will have to select a retired judge of its own choice to lead the judicial probe commission in the matter, nearly a day after that the state government had announced the formation of the six-member judicial probe panel.

'I'M NOT A TRAVEL AGENT': THAROOR ON RAHUL GANDHI'S FOREIGN TRIP

IANSS
Thiruvananthapuram, Oct. 21

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor responded curtly on Wednesday when asked about Rahul Gandhi's latest foreign trip, adding a touch of intrigue to the Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition's travel plans and the reluctance of his party colleagues to speak on the subject.

“I am not a travel agent,” Tharoor said, adding, “I am here now and mind you, everyone has their own reasons.”

Tharoor said this when reporters caught up with him in the state capital, which he represents in the Lok Sabha.

The pointed response from Tharoor, known for his carefully chosen words, was significant at a time when Rahul Gandhi's movements have become a subject of political discussion.

Rather than offer an explanation for the

Congress leader's trip, Tharoor chose to distance himself from the question, making it clear that he was not in a position to speak for Rahul Gandhi.

His remark that “everyone has their own reasons” added another layer to the response, leaving the question of Gandhi's travel plans unanswered while underscoring the individual choices of political leaders.

The exchange also brought the spotlight back on Tharoor, whose public remarks are closely watched for signals about his relationship with the Congress leadership.

His response was brief, but it carried an unmistakable message that he was in Thiruvananthapuram and would speak for himself, not explain the movements of another leader.

Rahul Gandhi, the Congress MP and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, has often drawn



political attention over his domestic and overseas visits.

Such trips can become fodder for political opponents, particularly when they coincide with major political developments or invite questions about the priorities of the party's leadership.

For the Congress, the episode presents a familiar challenge, and questions about its prominent leaders' movements can

quickly turn into a political talking point, with every response scrutinised for its implications.

Tharoor, however, offered no further explanation, leaving his two-line response to speak for itself.

In a political landscape where leaders are frequently expected to answer questions on behalf of their colleagues, his message was simple -- Rahul Gandhi has his reasons, and so does he.

'Big Help for Poor': Ayushman Bharat Brings Free Treatment to Koderma Families

IANSS
Jharkhand, Oct. 21

Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana is providing free treatment and financial relief to poor families in Jharkhand's Koderma district.

The scheme enables eligible patients to receive cashless treatment for serious illnesses and surgeries at empanelled government and private hospitals, helping families avoid heavy medical expenses and debt.

A young girl from Koderma diagnosed with appendicitis said she sought medical attention after experiencing severe pain. Doctors informed her family that an Ayushman card could help her receive treatment free of cost. After obtaining the card, she said she was receiving treatment without payment.



She said the scheme was particularly beneficial for people with limited means, who often struggle to arrange large sums for medical emergencies. She thanked the Prime Minister for the initiative and hoped such schemes would continue to expand.

Another beneficiary, Rahima Parveen, said she approached a hospital after severe stomach pain and was diagnosed with stones. The estimated treatment cost was around Rs 30,000 to Rs 40,000,

she said. After learning that an Ayushman card could cover the expenses, she obtained one and began receiving treatment without payment.

Parveen said the scheme was beneficial, especially for poor families, and thanked the Prime Minister.

Under Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY, eligible families are entitled to cashless hospital treatment worth up to Rs 5 lakh per year. The benefit covers eligible second-

ary and tertiary care at empanelled public and private hospitals across India, subject to scheme rules.

Relatives of patients undergoing treatment for serious illnesses and surgeries said the programme had reduced their families' financial burden. They said the assistance provided relief when arranging money for urgent medical care was difficult.

Koderma has government hospitals and several empanelled private hospitals where eligible residents can access treatment under the scheme. By reducing out-of-pocket expenses for covered hospital care, the programme is helping families obtain treatment while easing the risk of debt. It helps families access care.



At a Glance



India, Thailand discuss strengthening cooperation between Air Forces

IANSA
Bangkok, Oct. 21

India and Thailand discussed expanding Air Force cooperation through exercises, joint operations and training. Indian Ambassador Puneet Agrawal met Royal Thai Air Force chief Air Chief Marshal Sakesan Kantha on October 20, the Indian Embassy said on X. In September the countries' navies held Staff Talks in New Delhi on training and cooperation. In July, Indian ships INS Udaygiri, INS Shakti and INS Kavaratti conducted a passage exercise with Thai vessel HTMS Chao Phraya to boost maritime security for peace.

AI driving acceleration of online radicalisation: Australian authorities

IANSA
Canberra, Oct. 21

Artificial intelligence (AI) is accelerating online radicalisation, with people manipulated within days rather than months or years, AFP official Sandra Booth told a parliamentary inquiry. Booth, acting deputy commissioner of National Security Investigations, called youth radicalisation a challenge. She cited AI, grievances and young people's search for belonging. She warned AI is making manipulation easier and could cause serious harm. Without intervention, mental health, education, finance and justice services could be overwhelmed by vulnerable people targeted online. The inquiry, set up in August to examine AI's risks and opportunities, is due to report by the end of November.

First Russian tanker carrying 40,000 tonnes of diesel to depart in 2-3 days: Putin

IANSA
Saint Petersburg, Oct. 21

The first tanker carrying 40,000 tonnes of Russian diesel fuel will depart in two to three days, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday. Russia is currently preparing shipments of several tankers carrying diesel fuel, Putin said during a meeting with US special envoy Steve Witkoff at the Konstantinovsky Palace in St Petersburg. The fuel is intended for all global and US markets, Xinhua news agency reported. Putin spoke with US President Donald Trump by telephone on October 9, with considerable attention given to prospects for resolving the Ukraine crisis, the Kremlin said. On global energy developments Russia reaffirmed its readiness to supply oil and petroleum products to the United States and other markets, according to the Kremlin. On Tuesday,



Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky discussed proposals for different ceasefire formats with Witkoff in Oslo, Norway, Ukraine's Ukrinform news agency reported. Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store and Finnish President Alexander Stubb attended the meeting. Zelensky said the talks covered security guarantees for Ukraine and the country's recovery. Witkoff later travelled to St Petersburg, where he met Russian leaders

to discuss peace efforts. Global energy markets have faced sustained pressure since hostilities erupted in the Middle East earlier this year. The conflict has caused what the International Energy Agency described as the "largest supply disruption" in the history of global fuel markets. Last week, Trump said "massive" oil, gas and mineral exploration was "getting ready" to begin in Greenland. In a post on Truth Social, he said experts believed

the Arctic island had "easily available oil" in quantities greater than almost anywhere else in the world. He provided no estimates or details of exploration plans. Trump also said any future attack on the United States would "have to come across Greenland", where, he said, US defences would routinely intercept drones, missiles or other weapons. His remarks followed a deal signed in late September by the United States, Denmark and Greenland to expand the US military presence on the island. The agreement came after months of pressure from Trump, who repeatedly called for acquiring the autonomous Danish territory and did not rule out military or economic measures. The proposal has faced strong opposition from NATO allies and Greenlanders. The Kremlin confirmed Russia's readiness to supply oil to global markets as well.

US FINALISES RULES FOR DIGITAL DOLLAR TOKENS

IANSA
Washington, Oct. 21

The United States has finalised a federal framework for payment stablecoins, setting reserve, redemption, risk management and supervision requirements for US firms. The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) announced the final rule implementing the Guiding and Establishing National Innovation for US Stablecoins (GENIUS) Act. It takes effect on January 18, 2027. The rules cover permitted payment stablecoin issuers, qualifying foreign issuers and certain custody activities by OCC-supervised institutions. They set standards for reserves, redemption, capital, operational safeguards, audits, reporting and supervision. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent called the framework a major development in American finance. "The GENIUS Act marks a watershed moment in American finance, further cementing the United States as the crypto capital of the world," he said.



Comptroller of the Currency Jonathan Gould said the regulations would encourage innovation while protecting the financial system. "We are providing a clear, practical framework for payment stablecoin innovation, with strong standards for reserve backing, redemption, and risk management," he said. The OCC said issuers must hold specified assets against outstanding tokens and meet standards for redemptions, risk management and disclosures. The framework also covers custody arrangements for digital assets held for customers. It applies to national banks, federal savings associations, qualifying

nonbank and state-regulated issuers, and foreign issuers within OCC jurisdiction. The agency received hundreds of comments from financial institutions, crypto companies, industry groups and academics. The rule does not address every part of the GENIUS Act. Anti-money laundering requirements under the Bank Secrecy Act and sanctions administered by the Office of Foreign Assets Control will be developed separately with the Treasury Department. The GENIUS Act was enacted on July 18, 2025. The OCC proposed regulations in February 2026 before finalising the rule this week.

UN CONDEMNS DRONE STRIKES IN SUDAN

IANSA
United Nations, Oct. 21

The United Nations has strongly condemned relentless drone strikes on civilians and critical infrastructure across Sudan. "We also strongly condemn the reported killing of dozens of civilians in a drone strike on a market in the locality of Al Dibab, West Kordofan State, on Sunday," said Stephane Dujarric, the spokesman for the UN Secretary-General, on Tuesday (local time). "This attack is part of a deeply concerning pattern. We remain alarmed by the relentless drone strikes across the country, as well as the damage they are causing to critical infrastructure. These attacks are taking a devastating toll on communities already struggling with the consequences of more than three years of conflict," said the spokesman. In Khartoum, three children, aged between two and six, and their father were reportedly killed on Monday, when a drone struck a residential area, reports Xinhua news agency. In South Darfur state, a drone strike re-



portedly hit a residential house in the state capital Nyala on Monday, causing civilian casualties and damaging surrounding homes. On Tuesday, in White Nile state, drones reportedly damaged the main power station in the town of Tendalti, Dujarric said. "We reiterate that civilians and civilian infrastructure must be protected in accordance with international humanitarian law. All parties must take constant care to spare civilians and civilian objects during military operations," said the spokesman. Dujarric also said the world body condemns a series of drone strikes across the southern border into the Abyei region between Sudan and South Sudan, killing at least 28

civilians at Amiet Market and Todach on Monday, with many more injured and unaccounted for. He said that the secretary-general's personal envoy, Pekka Haavisto, is in Geneva for the Sixth Consultative Meeting on Enhancing Coordination of Peace Initiatives and Efforts in Sudan, which aims to build a shared understanding of recent developments to find a solution to end the civil war, which has lasted more than three years. Neither the Sudanese government nor the Rapid Support Forces would be represented at the meeting in Geneva because when the platform and the mechanism were established, it was for mediators to coordinate their actions together, Dujarric added.



US veteran data theft suspect pleads guilty

IANSA
Washington, Oct. 21

Robert Wayne Boling Jr., 45, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud and money laundering in a scheme targeting US military personnel, veterans and their families, the Justice Department said. From the Philippines, Boling used data stolen by US Army civilian employee Fredrick Brown in South Korea to access victims' bank and benefits accounts. Victims included elderly and disabled veterans. Each charge carries up to 20 years in prison. Deported to the US in May 2026, Boling will be sentenced on January 14, 2027.

Bangladesh sees 1,147 deaths from measles over weak immunisation

IANSA
New Delhi, Oct. 21



Bangladesh is battling the world's worst measles outbreak this year due to failure in routine immunisation with over 2,02,000 suspected cases and 1,147 deaths reported since the outbreak began in mid-March, a new report has said. Citing the World Health Organization data, the report from The Japan Times said that Bangladesh saw "more suspected cases than any other country this year." WHO data showed 22,000 laboratory-confirmed cases among the suspected total, and 94 per cent of reported deaths have been among

children under five. "Bangladesh's experience shows the challenge of containing an outbreak when vaccination coverage falls below 95 per cent, a level the WHO says is needed to prevent outbreaks. Bangladesh almost achieved that in recent years but in 2025 coverage dropped," the report said. Experts said the crisis was worsened by gaps in vaccination coverage, weak data and inadequate outreach. Numbers of inoculated individuals exceeded 100 per cent of those targeted, indicating mistakes in counting doses or target numbers. UNICEF and the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics found that 40 per cent of children went unregistered, while government data showed around a third of health worker posts are unfilled. Data from WHO documents along with interviews with scientists, health workers and officials revealed that Bangladesh also suffered

weak emergency response due to faulty data that left out millions of children. The report mentioned a case in northeast Sylhet region, where a two-year-old Arman Hossain died unvaccinated in July, 24 hours after admission to hospital for treatment paid for by selling the family's three-wheeled auto rickshaw. His father said health workers did not reach their remote village in time. Bangladesh in September saw 1,198 new cases on average daily, marking the highest total since May. WHO and UNICEF had estimated first-dose coverage in 2025 had fallen to 90 per cent, while second-dose coverage was 86 per cent, several percentage points below the 95 per cent needed for herd immunity. Health experts also urged the government to expand vaccination drives to children over five years, the age group that accounts for a third of measles cases.

NEARLY 16 MILLION PEOPLE FACE ACUTE FOOD INSECURITY IN AFGHANISTAN: UN

IANSA
Kabul, Oct. 21



Nearly 16 million people in Afghanistan face acute food insecurity, including 3.4 million experiencing emergency hunger, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) warned that conditions could worsen in winter. OCHA spokesperson Olga Cherevko said unemployment, low incomes and limited services leave millions

unable to afford food, Khaama Press reported. Conflict, economic hardship and drought have weakened families' resilience. She urged investment in agriculture, water systems, health services

and opportunities for women, and called for help to reach vulnerable families before winter. The Food and Agriculture Organisation and World Food Programme projected that 19.2 million Afghans, or 38 per cent of population, would face acute food insecurity during the November-April lean season, up from 17.4 million a year earlier. About five million people are expected to face emergen-

cy hunger, double the number projected for April-September 2026. Acute malnutrition cases are forecast to rise nearly 10 per cent from 2026 to four million in 2027, with a quarter severe and life-threatening, the agencies said. The crisis is driven by returns of over 1.2 million Afghans from Iran and Pakistan, border closures, higher prices linked to Strait of Hormuz shipping disruptions and aid funding shortfalls.

US approves new hepatitis B treatment

IANSA
Washington, Oct. 21

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved Hibsago (bepirovirsen), an injectable GSK medicine for certain adults with chronic hepatitis B without cirrhosis. The first FDA-approved antisense oligonucleotide for hepatitis B, it interferes with genetic instructions the virus uses to reproduce and produce proteins. It may help some patients maintain viral control after stopping treatment. Eligible adults must

have received antiviral therapy for at least six months, have suppressed virus levels and hepatitis B surface antigen levels of 3,000 international units per millilitre or less, confirmed by an FDA-authorised test. In two trials, patients received injections for up to 24 weeks while continuing antiviral medicines for at least another 24 weeks after the final injection. Some could stop treatment if they met medical and laboratory criteria. Across both trials,

24 per cent of Hibsago recipients qualified to stop antiviral medication, compared with none in placebo groups. Twenty-four weeks after stopping all treatment, 19 per cent maintained viral control, with no detectable hepatitis B surface antigen in their blood. Most participants did not achieve this outcome. The FDA warned of serious liver reactions and low platelet counts that can cause life-threatening bleeding. Other risks include worsening kidney func-

tion and inflammatory reactions. Patients require regular blood tests and monitoring. Common side effects included injection-site reactions, fever, fatigue and headache. FDA acting infectious diseases office director Wendy Carter said the medicine offers some patients the possibility of controlling the virus after treatment ends. The approval was granted to GSK, the agency said. The FDA did not say when it would be available outside the US, including India.



SIR SYED AHMAD KHAN: The Founder of Aligarh Muslim University

The Man Who Turned the Darkness of Despair into the Light of Knowledge and Courage

A tribute on his 209th birth anniversary — October 17, 2026

By Dr. Mohammad Qutubuddin
Indiana, USA
Advisor to Mohammad Ali Clay

His struggle, his vision, his leadership, and his enduring message for Indian Muslims in an age of uncertainty, discrimination, and social polarization.

History remembers great men not merely for what they achieved during their lifetime, but for the light they leave behind for generations yet unborn. Among the towering architects of modern India, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan (1817–1898) occupies a distinguished place as a visionary reformer, courageous thinker, educational pioneer, and champion of intellectual awakening.

On October 17, as we commemorate his birth anniversary, we must do more than garland his portrait, celebrate his achievements, or deliver ceremonial speeches. We must ask ourselves a profound question: **Have we truly understood Sir Syed’s message, and are we prepared to translate his vision into action?**

Sir Syed did not simply establish an educational institution. He ignited an intellectual revolution. He recognized that a community deprived of knowledge, divided by internal disagreements, and overwhelmed by fear could not secure its future through nostalgia, emotional slogans, or dependence upon political patronage.

His answer was education. His instrument was reason. His strength was courage. His ultimate vision was human dignity through intellectual and social advancement.

From the Ashes of 1857 to the Dawn of Aligarh

The uprising of 1857 and its aftermath marked one of the most traumatic periods in Indian history. The collapse of established political structures, widespread suffering, and British suspicion of sections of the Muslim population created an atmosphere of insecurity and uncertainty.

Where others saw only devastation, Sir Syed saw the urgent necessity of reconstruction.

He understood that the future could not be built by endlessly mourning the past. A new generation needed modern scientific education, intellectual confidence, moral discipline, and the ability to participate meaningfully in a changing world.

Despite criticism and opposition, he pursued his educational mission with extraordinary determination. His efforts culminated in the establishment of the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College at Aligarh in 1875, which eventually became Aligarh Muslim University in 1920.

The Aligarh Movement represented something greater than an institution. It was a declaration that Muslims could remain faithful to their religious and cultural identity while embracing modern science, rational inquiry, and educational progress.

Sir Syed challenged the dangerous assumption that faith and scientific knowledge must be enemies. He envisioned a generation capable of studying religion alongside mathematics, medicine, philosophy, history, and the natural sciences.

His legacy reminds us that a community’s greatest wealth is not its political influence, its buildings, or its numbers, but the quality of its educated minds and the character of its people.

A Visionary Who Refused to Surrender to Despair

Sir Syed’s greatness lay not only in his educational achievements but also in his remarkable courage to challenge the prevailing attitudes of his time.

Institutions That Advanced His Vision

- **The Scientific Society, established in 1863:** He encouraged the translation and dissemination of modern knowledge.
- **Tahzib-ul-Akhlaq:** He challenged social stagnation and promoted moral and intellectual reform.
- **The Muhammadan Educational Conference, founded in 1886:** He extended the educational movement beyond Aligarh.

He understood that meaningful progress required more than speeches and resolutions. It demanded institutions, trained teachers, scientific thinking, economic opportunity, and sustained commitment.

He faced fierce opposition, yet he refused to abandon his mission. There is an extraordinary lesson in his leadership:

When circumstances become hostile, leadership must become more visionary; when society becomes divided, wisdom must become more inclusive; and when darkness appears overwhelming, education must become the lamp that illuminates the future.

Sir Syed's Message in Contemporary India

More than a century after Sir Syed’s death, Indian Muslims confront difficult questions concerning educational advancement, economic opportunity, political representation, religious identity, and constitutional protection.

These challenges must be understood within India’s broader political and social circumstances.

Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International, and Freedom House have

documented anti-Muslim hate speech, discriminatory practices, intimidation, and unlawful property demolitions in recent years. Human Rights Watch’s 2026 report specifically raises concerns about policies and actions under the BJP-led government.

The government and its supporters have defended various security, immigration, and law-enforcement measures as necessary for public order. Nevertheless, legitimate enforcement of the law must remain consistent with constitutional protections, due process, and equal treatment of citizens.

The deeper issue transcends political parties. It concerns the kind of India future generations will inherit: a nation where religious diversity is respected as part of its civilization, or one where identity increasingly determines belonging and opportunity.

India’s greatness has never depended upon religious uniformity. Its extraordinary heritage emerged from centuries of intellectual exchange, cultural interaction, philosophical diversity, and contributions by Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, Jains, and many others.

India belongs equally to all its citizens. Its constitutional promise of equality, liberty, fraternity, and religious freedom must remain the common inheritance of every Indian.

The Aligarh Spirit: Education Before Everything

What would Sir Syed emphasize if he were witnessing the challenges of contemporary India?

We cannot speak for him with certainty. But his life’s work suggests that he would place education, scientific progress, institutional development, and intellectual independence at the center of community advancement.

The twenty-first century demands mastery of artificial intelligence, medicine, engineering, biotechnology, economics, law, digital technology, and modern communication.

Expanding Educational Opportunity

- Educational opportunity must extend to villages, underserved neighborhoods, and families struggling with poverty.
- Girls and women must enjoy equal opportunities to acquire knowledge, pursue professional careers, and participate in community leadership.
- Mosques, schools, charitable organizations, universities, and professional associations can all contribute to educational advancement while respecting their distinct

A scholarship that enables a disadvantaged student to become a physician, scientist, teacher, or engineer is an investment whose benefits can extend across generations.

A community’s future cannot rest upon ceremonial celebrations of its glorious past. It must be constructed through the achievements of its children.

Leadership Must Rise Above Fear and Division

Sir Syed demonstrated that leadership requires courage, patience, institutional thinking, and the willingness to confront uncomfortable truths. His example invites serious reflection upon the responsibilities of contemporary Muslim leadership.

Community institutions benefit from transparent administration, educational priorities, financial accountability, meaningful opportunities for younger generations, and greater participation by women.

Leadership must also remain connected to the ordinary concerns of families: the quality of their children’s education, access to healthcare, employment opportunities, safety, and the ability to live with dignity.

Political representation and constitutional advocacy are legitimate and important dimensions of democratic life. So are professional excellence, entrepreneurship, scientific research, community service, and constructive relationships across religious boundaries.

These approaches need not compete. They can reinforce one another.

A community becomes stronger when its institutions produce knowledge, its leaders cultivate trust, and its young people acquire the confidence to contribute to the wider nation.

Defending Constitutional Rights and Preserving Communal Harmony

Discrimination and religious hostility must never be normalized. Every citizen deserves equal protection under the law.

The Indian Constitution provides a framework for religious freedom, equality before the law, freedom of expression, and the protection of minority educational institutions.

Peaceful civic participation, independent journalism, legal advocacy, interfaith dialogue, and constitutional institutions all have roles in protecting those principles.

The Supreme Court’s 2024 intervention against arbitrary punitive demolitions demonstrates the importance of judicial safeguards, even as rights organizations have documented continuing violations.

Yet the struggle for justice must not become a struggle against fellow citizens because of their religion.

Millions of Indians across religious communities share commitments to constitutional democracy, coexistence, and mutual respect.

This distinction is essential to building trust and resisting collective prejudice.

Hatred cannot be the foundation of a peaceful society. The answer to dehumanization must be a firm defense of human dignity.



Defending Constitutional Rights and Preserving Communal Harmony

The most meaningful tribute to Sir Syed would be a renewed commitment to the educational and social transformation he championed.

Imagine an India in which disadvantaged children have access to excellent schools, talented students receive scholarships regardless of their economic background, universities cultivate independent research, and young professionals become leaders in science, healthcare, public service, and industry.

Imagine community institutions that invest in libraries, vocational training, digital literacy, mental healthcare, and opportunities for women.

Imagine Indian Muslims contributing confidently to the country’s development while maintaining their religious and cultural heritage, alongside fellow citizens of every faith.

This would reflect the living spirit of Aligarh: **not isolation, but intellectual participation; not fear, but confidence; not resentment, but constructive achievement.**

Sir Syed’s own political views were shaped by the colonial conditions of his time and should not be transplanted uncritically into modern democratic India. Nevertheless, his emphasis on knowledge, disciplined institution-building, and social reform remains profoundly relevant.

A Special Message to the Youth

My dear young friends,

Never allow the prejudice of others to determine the limits of your aspirations.

Your identity is part of your heritage, but your education, integrity, creativity, and contribution will help shape your future.

Carrying His Vision Forward

- Study with determination and develop scientific curiosity.
- Read history critically and learn the Constitution.
- Master modern technology.
- Cultivate compassion and respect people of other faiths.
- Question misinformation, including misinformation circulating within your own communities.

Do not confuse anger with strength, or loudness with leadership.

True confidence comes from knowledge, character, courage, and service.

Sir Syed built an educational movement under circumstances of tremendous uncertainty. His example demonstrates that adversity need not extinguish ambition.

The greatest tribute young people can offer him is not merely to admire his portrait, but to carry forward his commitment to learning.

Let the Light of Aligarh Shine Again

On this 209th birth anniversary of Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, let us remember a man who transformed collective frustration and uncertainty into an educational mission and left behind an institution that continues to shape generations to come.

His enduring legacy is a reminder that despair is not a strategy, ignorance is not protection, and division is not destiny.

India needs educational excellence, social justice, constitutional equality, scientific advancement, and harmony among its communities.

Indian Muslims, like every community, deserve the freedom and opportunity to pursue these goals without discrimination or fear.

And every Indian has a stake in preserving a society where differences of faith do not diminish our common humanity.

Sir Syed did not build Aligarh merely to prepare students for examinations. He helped create an intellectual movement that encouraged people to prepare for the future.

May his vision continue to inspire institutions of learning, generous scholarship, compassionate leadership, and service to humanity.

May the light he kindled continue to illuminate minds and hearts across India and the globe.

Happy Sir Syed Day
— October 17, 2026

Khutb M. Uddin, Abu Shuja
MD, Ph.D
Chicago, USA

In the spirit of knowledge, human dignity, national unity, and service to humanity.



1st T20I: India battle jet lag as tough NZ test awaits in Christchurch

Christchurch, Oct. 21:

A jet-lagged India will face a strong New Zealand side in the first of five T20 Internationals at Hagley Oval on Thursday, October 22, hoping to overcome a demanding schedule and challenging conditions.

India head into the series after their rain-affected home T20I series against the West Indies ended in a 2-2 draw, with the final match washed out in Bengaluru on October 17. The team has had little time to recover after its Asian Games campaign in Japan and has managed just one training session in Christchurch.

India will be without pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, who has been rested with the upcoming Test series in mind, while all-rounder Hardik Pandya remains unavailable. Recalled pacer Bhuvneshwar Kumar is expected to feature, while the team management must decide on the combination of its batting and spin-bowling all-rounders.

Naman Dhir, who impressed against the West Indies, could miss out as India consider including both Nitish Kumar Reddy and Shivam Dube. Fit-again spinner Varun Chakaravarthi could also be left out if India opt for an additional fast bowler, with Prince Yadav among



the options.

New Zealand, meanwhile, will be confident after recent Test and ODI series victories in India. The hosts are expected to have most of their first-choice players available, although Mark Chapman and Rachin Ravindra are sidelined with injuries. Devon Conway could occupy a top-order position alongside Finn Allen and Tim Seifert.

Allen, who averages 35.68 at a strike rate of 184.21 in T20 Internationals at home, will be keen to make an impact. New Zealand also have a strong pace attack featuring Matt Henry, Lockie Ferguson, Adam Milne, Jacob Duffy, Kyle Jamieson and Blair Tickner.

Conditions could play a crucial role, with temperatures expected to drop by

the 8 pm local start and the fresh early-season pitch likely to assist seamers. Dew could also influence the toss, encouraging captains to bowl first.

India, however, have a favourable recent record against New Zealand, winning their last two bilateral T20I series in the country and 16 of their 20 completed matches against the Black Caps since January 2020.

Ishan Kishan will also have a personal milestone in sight, needing seven runs to surpass Suryakumar Yadav's record of 1,164 T20I runs by an Indian in a calendar year.

Match Details
Match: India vs New Zealand, 1st T20I
Date: October 22, 2026
Time: 12:30 PM IST (8:00 PM local time)
Venue: Hagley Oval, Christchurch

Live Telecast: Sony Sports Network

Live Streaming: Sony LIV

Squads
India: Shreyas Iyer (captain), Sanju Samson (wk), Ishan Kishan, Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Shivam Dube, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Naman Dhir, Prince Yadav, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Varun Chakaravarthi, Arshdeep Singh, Mayank Yadav and Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

New Zealand: Mitchell Santner (captain), Devon Conway (wk), Tim Seifert, Finn Allen, Bevon Jacobs, Glenn Phillips, Daryl Mitchell, Michael Bracewell, Josh Clarkson, Nathan Smith, Matt Henry, Lockie Ferguson, Adam Milne, Jacob Duffy, Kyle Jamieson and Blair Tickner.

NZ conditions ideal for Bhuvneshwar, should be first choice with new ball, says Pujara

New Delhi, Oct. 21:

Former India batter Cheteshwar Pujara has backed Bhuvneshwar Kumar as India's first-choice new-ball bowler for the upcoming five-match T20I series against New Zealand, saying the conditions are ideal for the experienced swing bowler.

Bhuvneshwar returned to the Indian squad for the fifth T20I against the West Indies, which was washed out due to rain. The New Zealand series begins on Thursday at Hagley Oval in Christchurch.

Former India cricketer Abhishek Nayar also praised Bhuvneshwar, highlighting his consistent performances for Royal Challengers Bengaluru over the last two IPL seasons, particularly during the challenging opening and closing overs.

Nayar said the pacer's experience and ability to make the most of different conditions had earned him the recall to the national side.

Rashid, Sediqullah gain big in ODI rankings; Windies trio rise in T20Is

Dubai, Oct. 21:

Afghanistan leg-spinner Rashid Khan has further strengthened his position at the top of the ICC ODI bowling rankings after an impressive four-wicket haul against Zimbabwe in the ongoing tri-series in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Rashid, who also holds the No. 1 position in the T20I bowling rankings, improved his rating from 714 to 742 points in ODI following his figures of 4/17 in eight overs against Zimbabwe. His performance helped Afghanistan secure a comprehensive 158-run victory in Abu Dhabi.

The 27-year-old now enjoys an 80-point advantage over Pakistan spinner Abrar Ahmed, who occupies second place, while South Africa's left-arm spinner Keshav Maharaj remains third in the updated ODI bowling rankings.

Afghanistan batter Sediqullah Atal was another major beneficiary of the latest rankings up-



date, climbing from 32nd to 20th in the ODI batting chart after scoring a century against Zimbabwe.

Atal struck 102 off 110 deliveries, registering his third ODI hundred, as Afghanistan completed their convincing win in the UAE tri-series, which also features Bangladesh.

Elsewhere, Pakistan batter Salman Agha moved up one place to 12th, while England left-hander Ben Duckett gained two positions to reach 13th following their meeting in Rawalpindi.

In the bowling rankings, Bangladesh's Shoriful Islam climbed two places

to 11th, while teammate Taskin Ahmed made a significant jump of nine positions to 12th. Pakistan fast bowler Haris Rauf also gained two places to reach a joint 20th position.

In the T20I rankings, the West Indies captain Shai Hope is in the top 10, moving up from 11th to ninth after a match-winning 102 not out in the fourth match of the series against India which ended in a 2-2 draw.

Sherfane Rutherford's 49 not out off 26 balls has lifted him six places to 18th while spinner Gudakesh Motie is up 10 places to 26th among bowlers.

Amit Mishra Joins Delhi Capitals as Spin-Bowling Coach

New Delhi, Oct. 21:

Former India leg-spinner Amit Mishra has been appointed spin-bowling coach of Delhi Capitals ahead of the IPL 2027 season, marking his first coaching assignment in the league.

The 43-year-old retired from all forms of cricket in September 2025. He began his IPL journey with Delhi in 2008 and expressed happiness at returning to the franchise in a coaching role.

Mishra claimed 174 wickets in 162 IPL matches and holds the record for the most hat-tricks, with three. He also played 68 international matches for India across all formats.

Asian Para Games: Praveen wins gold, Banti clinches silver in Men's High Jump T44

Nagoya, Oct. 21:

India celebrated a one-two finish in the Men's High Jump T44 at the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Para Games on Wednesday, with Praveen Kumar winning gold and Banti claiming silver.

Two-time Paralympic medallist Praveen successfully cleared a Games Record height of 2.05 metres to defend his title. Beginning his competition at 1.92 metres, he first broke Uzbekistan's Temurbek Giyazov's Games Record of 1.95m, set in Jakarta in 2018, with a jump of 2m before clearing 2.05m on his final attempt.

Banti secured silver with a personal-best jump of



1.92 metres, completing a double podium finish for India. Giyazov took bronze with 1.86m.

The T64 category is for athletes with lower-limb impairments who compete with a prosthesis, while T44 includes athletes with lower-limb impairments who compete without one.

Praveen first reached the Paralympic podium at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, held in 2021, winning silver in

the men's high jump T64 with a leap of 2.07 metres, then an Asian record. He continued his rise by winning gold at the Hangzhou Asian Para Games, held in 2023. At the Paris 2024 Paralympic Games, he secured gold with a jump of 2.08 metres. He subsequently won bronze in the men's high jump T64 at the 2025 World Para Athletics Championships in New Delhi, clearing 2.00 metres.

Asian Para Games: Sheetal-Payal win compound women's doubles silver

Nagoya, Oct. 21:

Sheetal Devi and Payal Nag win silver in Para Compound women's doubles after losing the compound women's doubles final at the Asian Para Games here on Wednesday.

The Indian duo put up a spirited fight in the final but went down to China's Xu Xueqing and Zhao Jing, with the score reading 141-150.

Defending champion in compound individual Sheetal made a remarkable start to her Asian Para Games Aichi-Nagoya 2026 campaign on Monday, equalling the world record in the compound women's qualification. She then teamed up with quadruple-amputee archer Payal in the compound women's doubles qualification.

Their combined score of 1379 set new Asian and Games records, surpassing the previous Asian mark of 1378. Payal contributed 675 points, helping the Indian pair top the women's doubles ranking.

Sheetal also teamed up with Toman Kumar to set a new world record in the



mixed team round as records tumbled in Okazaki. The 18-year-old scored 704 points out of a possible 720, matching the world record held by Turkiye's Oznur Cure Girdi.

Sheetal also improved her own Asian record of 698, set in Bangkok in March, by six points and raised the Asian Para Games record from 680 to 704. The reigning world champions and world number ones, Sheetal and Kumar, then combined for 1402 points in the mixed team qualification, breaking the previous world record of 1400, also set by India.

Payal, 18, a para-archer from Balangir, Odisha, lost all four limbs in a high-voltage electrocution accident at a young age.

Despite this, she learned to carry out daily activities using her mouth and later took up archery, inspired by Sheetal Devi.

Trained by her coach, she competes in compound archery using a specialised mouth-operated mechanism and customised equipment. She is among the first athletes in the world with quadruple limb loss to compete successfully at the international level.

She rose to prominence in 2025 with podium finishes at the Indian Para Archery Championships and a silver medal at the 2nd Khelo India Games 2025. She made her international debut at the 2025 Asian Youth Para Games in Dubai, marking a key milestone in her career.

Asian Para Games: Preethi Pal wins silver in women's 100m T35

Nagoya, Oct. 21:

India's Preethi Pal won silver in the women's 100m T35 event at the Asian Para Games on Wednesday, clocking 29.53 seconds. It was her second medal at the ongoing event, following silver in the 200m T35 on Tuesday.

Preethi has also won two bronze medals at the Paralympics and several medals at the World Para Athletics Championships. She made history at the 2024 Paris Paralympics by becoming the first Indian woman to win two track-and-field medals at the Paralympics.

Born into a farmer's family in Uttar Pradesh, Preethi overcame significant physical challenges before taking up para-athletics at the age of 17. With encouragement from her mentor, Paralympian Fathima Khatoon, she progressed through district, state and national competitions before making her international debut at the 2023 Asian Para Games in Hangzhou.

Kashmiri Cricketer Jehangir Lone Assaults Fan, Video Goes Viral

Srinagar, Oct. 21:

Srinagar: Kashmiri cricketer Jehangir Lone has sparked controversy after a video showing him assaulting a fan during the Red Premier League (RPL) at Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar went viral on social media.

The incident reportedly occurred after Sunday's semi-final between Athwas India XI and Royal Goodwill CC, which Athwas India XI won by three wickets. Following the match, fans entered the ground to celebrate, and an argument allegedly broke out between Lone, who represented



Royal Goodwill CC, and a supporter. The video appears to show the cricketer pushing the man down and punching him, while others try to intervene.

Lone told local media that opposition team sup-

porters abused him as his teammates were returning to the pavilion after the defeat. He alleged that some fans made insulting remarks about his mother, prompting him to lose his temper.

Hours after the video went viral, Lone posted "My Family! My Pride" on social media. The incident has drawn mixed reactions, with several fans condemning his behaviour and demanding disciplinary action, while others believe he was provoked. Officials are reportedly looking into the matter.

The incident has raised concerns over player conduct and discipline in local cricket tournaments. While some social media users have called for strict action against Lone, others have stressed the need to establish the circumstances that led to the altercation.

ICC announces U19 Women's T20WC 2027 schedule

New Delhi, Oct. 21:

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced the schedule for the 2027 Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup, to be co-hosted by Bangladesh and Nepal from January 21 to February 6. Sixteen teams will play 41 matches, with India aiming for a third consecutive title.

India are in Group A with Ireland, the West Indies and hosts Nepal. They will begin their campaign against the West



Indies on January 22 in Kathmandu. Other groups feature South Africa, New Zealand, Pakistan, Samoa, Australia, Bangladesh, Nigeria, UAE, England, Sri Lanka, USA and Scotland.

The group stage ends on January 26, followed by the Super Six stage. The semi-finals are scheduled for February 4, while the final will be held on February 6, with reserve days for both stages.

ICC CEO Sanjog Gupta said the tournament would offer young cricketers an opportunity to develop and inspire girls worldwide. Matches will begin at 9:30 am or 1:30 pm local time.

The opening matches will be played on January 21 in Sylhet and Kathmandu, with Bangladesh facing the UAE and Australia taking on Nigeria in Sylhet. Sri Lanka will meet Scotland before England play the USA in Kathmandu. The tournament will conclude with the final on February 6, while February 7 has been designated as the reserve day.

