



Azharuddin Urges Wider Graduate Voter Enrolment

Citybeat, Page 8



Modi Urges Unity Against Divisive Forces, Pushes Viksit Bharat

Nation, Page 4



Trump Signals Possible Further Action on Iran

Horizons, Page 5



Asian Para Games: Mona Wins Second Gold, Breaks Record

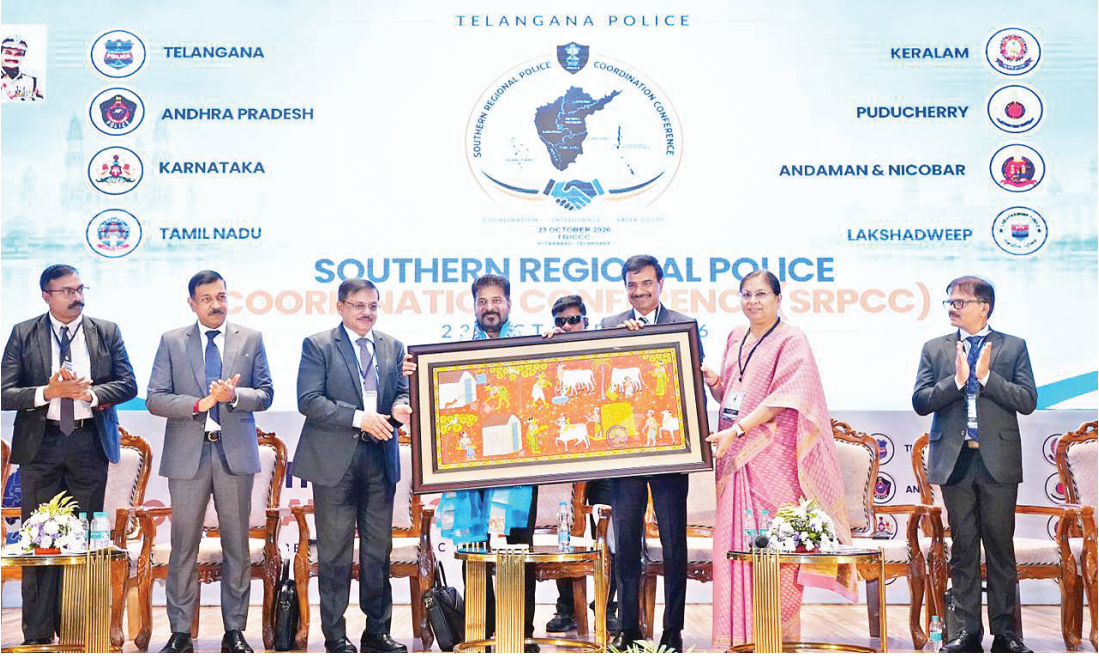
Sports, Page 7

REVANTH REDDY CALLS FOR STRONGER COORDINATION AMONG SOUTHERN POLICE

Telangana offers to share technology and ICCC systems with neighbouring states

- **Coordination:** Strengthen cross-border cooperation among southern states.
- **Technology:** Telangana offers to share ICCC infrastructure.
- **Crime control:** Focus on cybercrime, drugs and traffic challenges.
- **Police reforms:** Emphasis on specialised units, training and personnel welfare.

NSS News Hyderabad, Oct 23



Regional Police Coordination Committee meeting at Hyderabad's Integrated Command and Control Centre, he offered to share Telangana's technological infrastructure and ICCC systems with neighbouring

states. Revanth stressed continuous police reforms, technology integration, specialised training and inter-state cooperation. He highlighted Telangana's initiatives through units such as HYDRAA,

EAGLE and T-SAFE, and underscored the need to ensure police welfare. Police chiefs and senior officials from southern states, Union Territories and Central agencies attended the meeting.

Telangana Plans Indiramma Towers Near Poor Families' Localities

Government targets one lakh houses within QR jurisdiction

Munsif News Bureau Hyderabad, Oct 23

The Telangana government plans to construct Indiramma Towers near existing residential areas of poor families to protect their livelihoods and employment, Revenue and Housing Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said on Friday. Reviewing the housing programme with officials from Hyderabad, Rangareddy and Medchal-Malkajgiri districts at the Secretariat, he directed collectors to identify suitable government land on a priority basis and expedite preparations for the first phase. The government has set a target of one lakh houses within the QR jurisdiction, with around 500 houses planned per constituency in the first

- **Target:** One lakh houses within QR jurisdiction.
- **First phase:** Around 500 houses per constituency.
- **Priority:** Identify government land and protect existing livelihoods.
- **Next steps:** Prepare sites for subsequent phases and review double-bedroom house beneficiaries.

phase. Officials were also asked to identify land for subsequent phases and review beneficiaries for double-bedroom houses. Revenue Department Secretary D.S. Lokesh Kumar, Housing Department Secretary V.P. Gautham and other officials attended the meeting.



Owaisi seeks independent report on China border situation

Munsif Desk Hyderabad, Oct 23



AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi on Friday demanded a comprehensive and independent report on the situation along the China border, urging the Centre to convene a special session of Parliament to discuss the country's policy towards Beijing. Reacting to the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) Director General's confirmation of a serious situation along the Arunachal Pradesh border, the Hyderabad MP sought a detailed clarification from the Narendra Modi government on the alleged Chinese intrusions.

Owaisi demanded to know the number of locations where Chinese troops had allegedly entered Indian territory, how long the situation had continued and whether Indian patrols and citizens had been stopped. He also questioned why, according to him, the government had not adequately informed the public about developments along the border. "I have raised this issue even earlier and have not got any answers from the government. Now we

know why," Owaisi said in a post on X. The AIMIM chief alleged that the government had repeatedly avoided parliamentary discussion and public scrutiny on the border situation. Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks in June 2020, he questioned the government's account of Chinese activities along the border. Owaisi said the country deserved transparency and political accountability on matters affecting its territorial integrity. He called for an independent assessment of the situation to establish the facts and urged the government to explain its China policy before Parliament.

Maharashtra CM ready for talks on Tummidihatti Barrage: Revanth

NSS New Hyderabad, Oct 23

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday said Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis had expressed willingness to hold talks on the proposed Tummidihatti Barrage across the Godavari. Reviewing the project with ministers and irrigation officials, Revanth directed officials to prepare technical reports on water availability, submergence and diversion to secure Maharashtra's approval for a 152-metre barrage. He said the project was crucial to providing irrigation to two lakh acres in the undivided Adilabad district. Officials said a 152-metre barrage could submerge around 2,300 acres, while a 150-metre structure would affect less than 1,000 acres. The Chief Minister stressed minimising submergence in Maharashtra while maximising water diversion and asked officials to keep details of earlier Central Water Commission meetings ready. He also directed engineers to plan the water-flow route to Yellampalli and prepare for land acquisition once the barrage height is finalised. Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and other ministers and senior officials attended the meeting.

Stranded Umrah pilgrims returning safely: Rijju

IANs News New Delhi, Oct 23

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju on Friday said stranded Umrah pilgrims had returned safely to India, while efforts were underway to bring back the remaining pilgrims. In a post on X, Rijju said over 10,000 regular Umrah pilgrims and around 3,000 stranded pilgrims had re-

turned over the past week. The Ministry of External Affairs said the Indian Embassy in Riyadh and Consulate in Jeddah were coordinating with airlines and tour operators to facilitate their return. Round-the-clock control rooms have been set up to assist Indian nationals. The development follows an attack on King Fahd International Airport



in Dammam on October 21 that killed two people, including an Indian resident, and injured eight others, among them two Indians. Airport operations have since resumed, Saudi authorities said.

Left Parties, Student groups demand CEC's resignation

IANs News New Delhi, Oct 23

Left parties, student organisations and civil society members on Friday marched towards the Election Commission of India (ECI) headquarters, demanding Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's resignation over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The protesters, including CPI(M) leader Brinda Karat, CPI leader P. Sandosh Kumar and activist Yogendra Yadav, gathered near Bangla Sahib Gurdwara and marched towards the ECI office amid heavy security. Several protesters were detained. Yadav said the agitation

would continue, while Sandosh Kumar warned of intensified protests until Kumar resigned. The march prompted traffic diversions in parts of central Delhi, with police advising commuters to avoid affected routes between 1 p.m. and 5 p.m. The protesters have gained momentum following reports of differences within the poll panel over SIR procedures. Earlier this month, Opposition INDIA bloc leaders and members of the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) also staged protests demanding the CEC's resignation. Meanwhile, the BJP has launched a nationwide campaign, "Save Democracy, Remove Anarchy", to counter the Opposition's criticism of the SIR.

Polling held for 28 MLC seats across four States

Munsif Desk New Delhi, Oct 23

Polling was held on Friday for 28 Legislative Council seats across Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra and Karnataka, with counting scheduled for October 27. The election process is expected to conclude by October 31, according to the Election Commission of India.

Uttar Pradesh accounted for the highest number of seats at 11, followed by Bihar with eight, Maharashtra with five and Karnataka with four. The elections were held in graduates' and teachers' constituencies to fill vacancies arising from the completion of sitting members' terms. In Bihar, 150 candidates contested the eight seats, with around 5.32 lakh voters

eligible to exercise their franchise. The elections in Uttar Pradesh have particular political significance, with the BJP and Samajwadi Party seeking to strengthen their position ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections. Unlike general elections, voting in these constituencies was restricted to eligible registered graduates and teachers. Ballot papers were used

under the single transferable vote system, allowing voters to indicate their preferences by ranking candidates in order. The results are expected to determine the composition of the respective Legislative Councils in the elected constituencies and provide an indication of the political standing of parties among these specialised voter groups.

Adani Power Q2 profit soars 141% to Rs 7,019 Cr

IANs News Ahmedabad, Oct 23

Adani Power Ltd on Friday reported a 141.5 per cent jump in Q2 FY27 consolidated net profit to Rs 7,019.32 crore, against Rs 2,906.46 crore a year earlier. Revenue rose 39.4 per cent to Rs 19,950.60 crore, while EBITDA grew 45.7 per cent to Rs 8,743.22 crore. Power sales increased

to 26.4 billion units from 23.7 billion units, with plant load factor improving to 70.1 per cent. India's power demand rose 11.5 per cent to 502 billion units during the quarter. For the first half of FY27, the company's net profit nearly doubled to Rs 11,885.92 crore, while revenue grew 36 per cent to Rs 39,272.90 crore.

India to Launch Homegrown Smartphone Brands by 2028: Vaishnaw

IANs News New Delhi, Oct 23

India is expected to have its own global-ly competitive smartphone brands by 2028, with mobile phones designed, manufactured and branded domestically, Union IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Friday. Addressing the NDTV World Summit in New Delhi, Vaishnaw expressed confidence that India would achieve its own "Apple and Samsung moment" in the smartphone industry, marking a major milestone in the country's electron-

ics manufacturing ambitions. "This is 23 October 2026. Please note it: 23 October 2028. You will have Indian-designed, Indian-manufactured, Indian-branded mobile phones," he said. Explaining the challenges involved, the minister said smartphone design required the integration of complex technologies, including radio frequency systems, antennas, processors, memory, cameras, displays and power management, within a compact device. Engineers must also balance weight, power ef-



iciency and performance, making handset development a demanding engineering task. Vaishnaw said the government had begun building domestic design capabilities several years ago by challenging Indian engineers and technology firms to develop printed circuit board (PCB) designs, which form the motherboard of a mobile phone.



Special Officer and State Endowments Department Commissioner Hanumantha Rao has directed officials to speed up the ongoing works for the Godavari Pushkaralu at Kandakurthi in Nizamabad district. During his visit to the famous pilgrimage centre on Friday, he inspected the development works being undertaken at temples under the Endowments Department, the construction of new Pushkara ghats and the renovation of existing ghats. Accompanied by District Collector Ila Tripathi, Additional Collector Bhoojanga Rao and other officials, Hanumantha Rao reviewed the works being carried out under the supervision of the

Hanumantha Rao Directs Officials to Expedite Godavari Pushkaralu Works at Kandakurthi

Munsif News Bureau Nizamabad, Oct. 23:

Special Officer and State Endowments Department Commissioner Hanumantha Rao has directed officials to expedite the ongoing works for the upcoming Godavari Pushkaralu at Kandakurthi in Nizamabad district. During his visit to the famous pilgrimage centre on Friday, Hanumantha Rao inspected development works at temples under the Endowments Department, the construction of new Pushkara ghats and the renovation of existing ghats. Accompanied by District Collector Ila Tripathi,

Additional Collector Bhoojanga Rao and other officials, he reviewed works being undertaken by the Endowments, Irrigation, Roads and Buildings (R&B), Panchayat Raj and other departments. He instructed officials to maintain high standards of construction, closely monitor the progress of works and complete all projects within the stipulated deadlines. He stressed that there should be no compromise on quality and that adequate facilities must be provided to ensure that devotees visiting the pilgrimage centre do not face any inconvenience. The Commissioner reviewed

the works taken up by each department, including temple development and renovation, construction and repairs of Pushkara ghats, road development, drinking water facilities, parking arrangements and the construction of a VIP ghat. He directed officials to make necessary modifications and provide additional facilities wherever required. Referring to the problems encountered during previous Pushkaralu, Hanumantha Rao called for appropriate precautionary measures to prevent their recurrence. He said the safety of devotees must be the top priority and directed offi-

cials to take stringent measures to prevent untoward incidents. He also instructed them to construct ramps on both sides of the Pushkara ghats and suggested establishing watchtowers and check posts in view of the expected large gathering of devotees. District Collector Ila Tripathi said that works at all locations where Godavari Pushkaralu-related activities are planned, including Kandakurthi, Yanch and other places in the district, would be completed on a priority basis. She said the progress of works at Kandakurthi was being regularly monitored at

Dharmapuri Arvind Demands 50,000 Aid for Farmers Before Crop Holiday Declaration

Munsif News Bureau Nizamabad, Oct. 23:

Nizamabad BJP MP Dharmapuri Arvind has demanded that the Telangana government provide financial assistance of ₹50,000 to each farmer before considering a declaration of a crop holiday in view of the prevailing drought-like conditions. Addressing a press conference at the district BJP office in Nizamabad on Friday, Arvind appealed to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and the state government to take immediate measures to support farmers and tackle the worsening water crisis. Blaming the previous BRS government led by K. Chandrashekar Rao for the

situation, Arvind alleged that nearly ₹1 lakh crore had been spent on the construction of the Kaleshwaram project, resulting in a massive waste of public funds. He alleged that the project had also enabled the former Chief Minister's family to accumulate wealth through commissions. He claimed that poor planning, unwise decisions, substandard construction and flawed project design had undermined the purpose of the Kaleshwaram project. Despite the expenditure of ₹1 lakh crore, he alleged, the project had failed to deliver the expected water for agriculture, holding K. Chandrashekar Rao responsible for the situation. Arvind also criticised the present Congress government,

alleging that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy had failed over the past three years to resolve the water crisis and complete pending irrigation projects. Predicting a bleak political future for the BRS, the Nizamabad MP claimed that the party would be wiped out in the 2029 Assembly elections and asserted that the younger generation would not forgive those who voted for it. He also predicted that the BJP would sweep the next elections like a tsunami. Commenting on BRS working president K. T. Rama Rao's remarks concerning shaving his beard, Arvind said that KTR would not become the next Chief Minister, accusing him of maintaining double standards.

CPI leaders express joy over CM's decision on Dindi project

Hyderabad, Oct.23 (NSS): CPI leaders expressed happiness over Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's instructions to officials to make arrangements to lift water from Edula for Dindi Lift Irrigation Scheme. CPI National Secretary Palla Venkat Reddy, Nalgonda District party Secretary and MLC Nellikanti Satyam expressed their joy over Chief Minister Revanth Reddy's instructions to officials to make arrangements to lift water from Edula for Dindi Lift Irrigation Scheme. They said that the state government had taken the appropriate decision to complete the Dindi project intended for drinking and irrigation water for the most fluoride-affected Devarakonda.

Suspicious Death of 17-Year-Old Girl in Suryapet District

Munsif News Bureau Suryapet, Oct. 23:

A tragic incident was reported from Boda Thanda in Atmakur (S) mandal of Suryapet district, where a 17-year-old girl died under suspicious circumstances. The discovery of her body near

an electricity transformer has caused concern in the locality. According to reports, the girl's body was found near the transformer, with burn marks reportedly visible on her body. The concerned authorities initiated necessary action after receiving information about the incident.

The police shifted the body to the Government General Hospital in Suryapet for a post-mortem examination to determine the exact cause of death. Meanwhile, the girl's family has expressed suspicion over her death. The police have registered a case and launched an

investigation. The exact circumstances surrounding the girl's death are expected to emerge after the post-mortem report and completion of the police investigation. It is yet to be established whether the death was accidental or involved any other circumstances.

Union Minister appreciates initiative to set up 'Steel Bank' in Husnabad

NSS Hyderabad, Oct. 23:

Union Environment, Forest and Climate Change Minister Bhupender Yadav has mentioned

the initiative of State Transport and BC Welfare Minister and Husnabad MLA Ponnamp Prabhakar to set up a 'Steel Bank' to reduce the use of single-use plastic items in auspicious events

and other mass events held in rural areas in Husnabad constituency. He has written a letter to this effect. The letter states that the idea of setting up a 'Steel Bank'

with complete sets of stainless steel utensils to be used in the auspicious events and other celebrations held in villages would help reduce plastic consumption and plastic waste at the field level.



Hanumakonda District Collector Chahat Bajpai directed officials to take necessary measures to improve basic facilities in schools and ensure a better learning environment for students. On Friday, the District Collector inspected the Government Upper Primary School, Anganwadi Centre and Gram Panchayat Office in Ratnagiri village of Bhimadevarpally mandal in Hanumakonda district.

Woman Killed as Eicher Van Hits Her on Bodhan Road in Nizamabad

Munsif News Bureau Nizamabad, Oct. 23:

A Muslim woman from Varni mandal was killed after an Eicher van hit her on the busy Bodhan Road in Nizamabad city on Thursday, triggering anger among local residents over the recurring road accidents on the stretch. The accident occurred near the Goushala Junction, opposite Bawarchi Hotel and close to the fruit market. According to reports, the woman was crossing the road when the Eicher van suddenly hit her, killing her on the spot. On receiving information, personnel from the One Town Police Station rushed to the



scene and shifted the body to the Government General Hospital. The tragic incident has once again raised concerns among

residents over the continuing accidents on Bodhan Road, one of the city's busiest thoroughfares. Members of the public ques-

tioned why permanent and effective measures had not been implemented to prevent such incidents despite repeated accidents.



Revenue officials in Warangal district are visiting various areas to review the progress of land resurvey works and ensure that the process is completed in an organised, transparent and effective manner. As part of this initiative, Warangal Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO) Soma and Warangal Tahsildar Srikanth visited Kothapet village on Friday and inspected the ongoing land resurvey works.

Bank Loans Should Be Utilised for Business Growth: Collector Garima Agrawal

Munsif News Bureau Rajanna Sircilla, Oct. 23:

Rajanna Sircilla District Collector Garima Agrawal has emphasised that loans obtained from banks should be effectively utilised for business development and expansion. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) organised an "MSME Samvaad" programme at a private function hall in Sircilla town on Friday. District Collector Garima Agrawal attended the programme as the chief guest. The programme aimed to create awareness among owners, master weavers and work-



ers associated with the handloom and powerloom sectors about institutional credit facilities, encourage them to utilise banking services

and guide them on enhancing the value of their products to increase income and generate employment opportunities.

Improve Basic Facilities in Schools: Hanumakonda Collector Chahat Bajpai

Munsif News Bureau Hanumakonda, Oct. 23:

Hanumakonda District Collector Chahat Bajpai has directed officials to take steps to improve basic facilities in government schools and provide students with a quality learning environment. On Friday, she conducted a detailed inspection of the Government Upper Primary School, Anganwadi Centre and Gram Panchayat office in Ratnagiri village of Bheemadevarpalli mandal in Hanumakonda district. During her visit, the Collector first inspected the Anganwadi

Centre and interacted with the children, enquiring about the subjects being taught and the activities conducted there. Later, she visited the Gram Panchayat office and questioned Panchayat Secretary Sujatha about the storage location of bleaching powder in the village and the availability of toilet facilities at the office. She also obtained details from Gram Sarpanch Tirumala and the Panchayat Secretary regarding the number of Indiramma houses sanctioned in the village, the progress of construction by beneficiaries and the number of additional eligible families requiring housing.

Six Hospitals in Warangal Agree to Implement Employees Health Scheme

Munsif News Bureau Warangal, Oct. 23:

Warangal District Collector Dr. Satya Sharda has held a review meeting with hospital

representatives and Indian Medical Association (IMA) officials to improve healthcare facilities for government employees, pensioners and

other eligible beneficiaries in the district. The meeting, held on Thursday night, discussed the implementation of the

Employees Health Scheme (EHS) and enforcement of the Telangana Clinical Establishments Act. Following the Collector's

directions, the meeting was conducted under the supervision of District Medical and Health Officer (DMHO) Dr. B. Raja Reddy.

Representatives of six hospitals in the district agreed to implement the Employees Health Scheme at their respective institutions.

Officials said the scheme would enable eligible government employees, pensioners and other beneficiaries to access better medical services.

Eligible individuals were urged to make full use of the healthcare facilities available under the scheme.



Medak Additional Collector Nagesh has directed the officials concerned to conduct the land resurvey accurately and transparently to help farmers resolve land-related disputes. The Additional Collector inspected the ongoing land resurvey work at the field level in Manoharabad mandal headquarters. During the visit, he reviewed the progress of the survey and issued necessary instructions to the officials concerned.

Land Resurvey Must Be Conducted with Utmost Precision: Collector K. Haritha

Munsif News Bureau
Kumaram Bheem, Oct. 23:

District Collector K. Haritha has directed the officials concerned to conduct the government's land resurvey programme in a systematic and meticulous manner, ensuring the highest level of accuracy.

On Friday, the Collector inspected the ongoing resurvey work in Nagapur village of Kerameri mandal and reviewed its progress at the field level.

Speaking on the occasion, she instructed the survey officials to carry out the process thoroughly and accurately. She stressed the need to inform farmers in advance and ensure their participation by making announcements through the traditional Tom-Tom system.

The Collector said the land resurvey would help prevent boundary disputes and other land-related issues in the future. She informed that two teams had been constituted for each



mandal to carry out the survey efficiently.

She further stated that modern Rover equipment had been arranged to ensure precise land

measurements. The Collector issued necessary instructions to the survey officials for the smooth and effective implementation of the programme.

Avoid Politicising Police Actions Without Knowing Facts: Congress

Munsif News Bureau
Medak, Oct. 23:

The Congress party has termed the allegations levelled by BRS leaders baseless, stating that facts, evidence, complaints and police investigations should be given priority in any incident rather than resorting to political accusations.

The party said it was inappropriate to claim that one's own side was right merely on the basis of political affiliation or to declare others guilty before the completion of an investigation.

Congress criticised for-

mer BRS MLA M. Padma Devender Reddy and P. Shashidhar Reddy, alleging that they were making statements based on accounts presented by their party workers without attempting to ascertain the facts and were portraying the issue according to their own convenience.

According to Congress, BRS leaders are now making an issue of providing an auto-rickshaw to a Muslim man, Habib, as though it were an extraordinary achievement. The party questioned why BRS had not thought of helping even a single Muslim obtain an auto-rickshaw for

self-employment during its 10 years in power.

Congress also sought clarification on whether an initial amount for purchasing the auto had been provided by a leader associated with BRS and whether that amount was subsequently returned before the vehicle was purchased with personal funds. The party further questioned whether BRS had provided even a single Muslim with a pushcart to earn a livelihood during its decade in power, alleging that the community had been neglected. It asked whether any concrete assistance had been extended to

Muslims to help them become self-employed.

Congress also criticised BRS over its initiatives for the Muslim community, questioning whether the party had spent much of its tenure focusing on the construction of Muslim function halls without taking adequate steps to provide employment or financial assistance.

The party alleged that the provision of an auto-rickshaw to one Muslim individual was now being portrayed as a major achievement, as though it had transformed Habib's life and secured the future of generations of his family.

“Public Must Remain Alert to Possible El Niño Effects”

Munsif News Bureau
Medak, Oct. 23:

In view of the possible effects of El Niño, people should remain alert and use water and electricity judiciously, Medak District Collector Pratima Singh has said.

The cautioned that El Niño could bring changes in weather conditions, reduced rainfall and rising temperatures, and stressed the need for precautionary measures to address the potential challenges.

The Collector said public participation, along with the efforts of government departments, was essential to effectively tackle the possible impact of El Niño. She appealed to people to use water and electricity carefully and consider the conservation of natural resources a social responsibility.

Describing water as a precious natural resource, she urged people to avoid wasting drinking water and irrigation water, particularly in view of the possibility of

reduced rainfall in the coming months. She also called upon the public to actively support rainwater harvesting initiatives to improve ground-water levels.

Emphasising the importance of electricity conservation, the Collector advised people not to leave lights, fans and other electrical appliances switched on unnecessarily.

She urged every citizen to contribute to reducing overall electricity demand by using power responsibly.



Warangal Police Commissioner N. Swetha, IPS, conducted a surprise inspection of Inthezargunj Police Station last night and reviewed its administrative functioning, cleanliness, maintenance of official records, and the performance of police officers and staff.

Negligence in Police Station Administration Will Not Be Tolerated: CP N. Swetha

Warangal, Oct 23: Warangal Police Commissioner N. Swetha, IPS, conducted a surprise inspection of Inthezargunj Police Station last night and reviewed its administrative functioning, cleanliness, maintenance of official records, and the performance of police officers and staff.

During the inspection, she observed the day-to-day activities at the police station and instructed the concerned officials to discharge their duties with responsibility, alertness and discipline. She made it clear that negligence in administrative matters would not be tolerated, emphasising that providing better police services to the public was one of the department's foremost responsibilities. During the visit, Commissioner Swetha issued key instructions to Station Inspector Shakoore on various aspects of police station management. She directed the staff to keep the station premises clean and orderly and ensure that official records were maintained and preserved in accordance with established rules and procedures.

Life Imprisonment for Husband and Wife in Double Murder Case in Nizamabad

Munsif News Bureau
Nizamabad, Oct. 23:

Nizamabad Sessions Judge G.V.N. Bharatha Lakshmi on Friday sentenced a man and his wife to life imprisonment for murdering his younger brother's wife and her two-year-old son in August 2022. The court also awarded seven years of rigorous imprisonment to both accused for destroying evidence, along with separate fines for the two offences.

Public Prosecutor Dharpally Rajeswar Reddy disclosed the details of the judgment.

According to the prosecution, Dasari Rajashekar and Dasari Rajababu were brothers residing in Subhash Nagar of Navipet mandal and jointly owned properties. Rajababu had a wife, Latha,

and children. Taking advantage of his younger brother's condition, Rajashekar allegedly conspired with his wife, Dasari Nagalakshmi, to murder Latha and her two-year-old son, Harshavardhan, with the intention of usurping the family property.

In the early hours of August 2, 2022, Rajashekar and Nagalakshmi allegedly entered Rajababu's hut and strangled Latha and Harshavardhan with a nylon rope. They subsequently transported the bodies in a Tata Indica car and dumped them in thorny bushes near the National Highway on the outskirts of Gandlapet village in Mortad mandal.

Following a complaint lodged by Latha's father, Gandaiah, Mortad Police Station Sub-Inspector

Mutyam Raju initiated the investigation. The case was later handed over to Bhingal Circle Inspector A. Venkateshwarlu.

During the investigation, police examined CCTV footage from Navipet, Janakampet, Ankapur, Armour and Mortad, which helped them trace the movements of the vehicle allegedly used in the crime. The absconding husband and wife were apprehended within a few days, and their statements were recorded in the presence of witnesses.

Investigators also collected documents relating to properties in Navipet, Chandrashekar Colony in Nizamabad city and Gangasthan. They gathered evidence concerning the alleged sale of a plot in

Nizamabad city for Rs 66 lakh without Rajababu's knowledge. Deleted WhatsApp chats recovered through the concerned company's assistance were also included in the investigation.

Police subsequently filed a charge sheet before the court against five accused: Rajashekar (A1), Nagalakshmi (A2), Vanam Saibaba (A3), Koya Gangadhar (A4) and Koya Nagamani (A5). The latter three were accused of conspiring in and abetting the murders.

After examining the evidence and witnesses during the trial, Judge Bharatha Lakshmi found Rajashekar and Nagalakshmi guilty of murdering Latha and Harshavardhan and attempting to destroy evidence.

Applications Invited for Seven Posts under National AYUSH Mission in Mulugu

Munsif News Bureau
Mulugu, Oct. 23:

Applications have been invited for seven posts in various categories on an outsourcing basis under the National AYUSH Mission (NAM) in the Mulugu district AYUSH Department.

The recruitment notification has been issued by the District Selection Committee, chaired by District Collector Bhorkade

Hemant Sahay Dev Rao, IAS. District Selection Committee Nodal Officer Dr. E. Sunitha disclosed the details in a statement.

According to the notification, the vacancies include four AYUSH Medical Officers, one Pharmacist, one Yoga Professional and one Psychosocial Counsellor.

The monthly remuneration for each AYUSH Medical

Officer has been fixed at Rs. 40,000, while the Pharmacist will receive Rs. 15,000 per month and the Yoga Professional Rs. 28,000 per month. The services of the Psychosocial Counsellor will be engaged as required, with a payment of Rs. 500 per visit. A minimum of 200 visits per year has been prescribed for this position.

Age Limit and Eligibility

As per the notification, applicants must be between 18 and 44 years of age as of July 1, 2026. Age relaxation will be applicable to eligible candidates in accordance with government rules. Candidates have been advised to carefully check the educational qualifications, eligibility criteria and other conditions prescribed for their respective posts before submitting applications.

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At a Glance

Delhi Police Arrest Man in Rs. 2 Lakh Cyber Fraud

IANS Bhopal, Oct. 23

Delhi Police have arrested a 41-year-old man for allegedly cheating a garment manufacturer of around Rs 2 lakh by promising to supply readymade garments and sewing machine materials.

The accused, Pawan Kumar Dugar, a resident of Badarpur, was arrested by Shahdara district’s Cyber Police Station following a technical investigation. Police recovered a mobile phone allegedly used to contact the complainant, Neeraj Kumar Jain.

According to police, Dugar contacted Jain on July 6, posing as a supplier and sharing catalogues, invoices and transport documents to gain his confidence. Jain transferred around Rs 2 lakh through multiple transactions, but the goods were never delivered and the money was not refunded.

Police said financial scrutiny revealed that accounts linked to the accused had surfaced in six cybercrime complaints involving suspected fraudulent transactions worth lakhs of rupees.

Investigators said the accused allegedly acted as the caller and was directly involved in the fraud. Further investigation is underway to trace the money trail, identify other victims and establish the full extent of the alleged scam.

Heroin, Betel Nuts Seized Near Myanmar Border

IANS Aizawl, Oct. 23

The Assam Rifles seized heroin and Burmese betel nuts worth Rs 2.74 crore in two operations in Mizoram’s Champhai district, arresting four persons, including a Myanmar national, officials said.

In Ngur, personnel recovered 1,189 grams of heroin worth Rs 2.37 crore. In North Diltlang village, a joint operation with Mizoram Police led to the seizure of 3,600 kg of areca nuts worth Rs 36.87 lakh, three Bolero vehicles and the arrest of three persons. The seized items and accused were handed over to the concerned authorities for legal action.

CANCER DRUG PRICES MAY FALL UP TO 70% UNDER CENTRE’S PROPOSED CAP

IANS New Delhi, Oct. 23

The Centre has told the Supreme Court that a proposed 30 per cent cap on trade margins for anti-cancer medicines could reduce their maximum retail prices (MRP) by 20-70 per cent and save patients around Rs 2,500 crore annually.

In an affidavit responding to a public interest litigation by Dr Sanjay Kulshrestha, the Department of Pharmaceuticals said the proposal followed stakeholder consultations and

OM PRAKASH MATHUR TAKES OATH AS KERALA’S 29TH GOVERNOR

IANS Thiruvananthapuram, Oct. 23

Om Prakash Mathur was sworn in as the 29th Governor of Kerala on Friday, taking charge at a time when the state has a new government following the recent Assembly elections.

Kerala High Court Chief Justice Soumen Sen administered the oath of office to Mathur at a ceremony held at the Lok Bhavan here.

Mathur, who was serving as the Governor of Sikkim, was appointed to Kerala following the transfer of Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar to Tamil Nadu.

Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan, Speaker Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan, ministers and elected representatives attended the swearing-in ceremony.

The Leader of the Opposition, Pinarayi Vijayan, however, was absent.

The ceremony marked the formal beginning of Mathur’s tenure in Kerala, where he will assume the constitutional responsibilities of the Governor, including his role in the functioning of the state government and the legislature.

Later, CM Satheesan



wrote on X, “I had the distinct honour of attending the solemn swearing-in ceremony of Shri Om Prakash Mathur Ji as the 29th Hon’ble Governor of Keralam at Lok Bhavan today. The oath of office was administered by Hon’ble Justice Soumen Sen. On behalf of the Government and the people of Keralam, I extend my heartfelt congratulations and warmest wishes to the Hon’ble Governor. May his tenure be marked by distinguished service, meaningful contributions, and continued progress for our state.”

Mathur arrived in the state capital on Thursday and was accorded an official reception at

the technical area of Thiruvananthapuram airport.

Chief Minister Satheesan led the reception, which was attended by Ministers, the Chief Secretary, and others.

Mathur was received with official honours as he arrived to take up his new assignment.

Speaking after his arrival, Mathur expressed happiness at the opportunity to serve in Kerala.

He described the state as God’s Own Country and said he was delighted to begin a new journey here.

The Governor occupies an important constitutional position in the state.

The office plays a key role in the legislative process, including summoning and proroguing the Assembly and giving assent to bills, in accordance with the Constitution.

The Governor also serves as the constitutional head of the state, while the elected government, headed by the Chief Minister, exercises executive authority under the parliamentary system.

Mathur’s tenure will therefore see him work with the Satheesan-led government on constitutional and administrative matters as they arise.

The swearing-in ceremony was attended by senior government functionaries and public representatives, marking the formal transition at the Raj Bhavan complete.

PM MODI CALLS FOR UNITY AGAINST DIVISIVE FORCES, PUSHES VIKSIT BHARAT VISION

IANS New Delhi, Oct. 23

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday called for unity against divisive forces and urged citizens to embrace self-reliance and work towards building a developed India by 2047.

Addressing the Chinmaya Amrit Mahotsav Global Sammelan in New Delhi, Modi said new challenges and social distortions had emerged over the decades, making it the collective responsibility of citizens to address them. “We have to unite society against the divisive forces. We must awaken our citizens to the need for self-reliance and connect every citizen with the resolve for a developed India in 2047,” he said.

The Prime Minister said he had consistently placed young people at the centre of government policies and welcomed their participation in the Chinmaya Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.

He highlighted the efforts of young members of the Chinmaya Mission who travelled across the country for 300 days, covering 40,000 kilometres and interacting with more than one lakh young people.



Referring to the Upanishadic expression ‘Vayam Amritasya Putrah’, meaning ‘We are the children of immortality’, Modi said it referred not to physical immortality but to the eternal nature of consciousness. He also described Bharat as a land devoted to knowledge and research.

Recalling the 75th anniversary of Independence, Modi said the milestone should inspire the vision of a developed nation while highlighting India’s enduring civilisational values and concern for humanity.

He praised Swami Chinmayananda for dedicating his life to promoting the country’s cultural heritage and development, describing his life as a confluence of knowledge, action and devotion.

The Prime Minister also recalled the spiritual leader’s birth centenary and the release of a commemorative coin in his honour in 2015.

Highlighting education reforms, Modi said the National Education Policy was designed to meet the needs of a new India. He said it emphasised traditional knowledge systems, education in the mother tongue, modern science and emerging technologies.

Modi urged citizens to become more active in advancing self-reliance, social unity and the goal of a developed India by 2047.

GOVT EXTENDS DEADLINE FOR DUTY-FREE IMPORTS OF SUGAR TILL DEC 31

IANS New Delhi, Oct. 23

The government has extended the deadline for duty-free imports of 1 million tonnes of raw sugar under the Tariff Rate Quota (TRQ) by two months to December 31 to ensure adequate supplies are available during the festive season at reasonable prices.

The Finance Ministry had, on August 20, allowed duty-free imports of 1 million tonnes of raw sugar until October 31. It has now issued a fresh notification to extend the last date for duty-free imports to December 31, 2026.

Around 2.6 lakh tonnes of raw sugar have been imported until now. Imports have remained low as sugar prices in the domestic market have also come down following the government’s announcement to allow more imports. The extension is aimed at securing supplies whenever domestic prices go up so that imports help to cool down prices. Any permission to allow imports tames inflationary expectations, which drive up prices and tends to lower prices in the domestic market to clear stocks even before the foreign consignments actually arrive.

Besides allowing imports, the government has taken a series of measures like imposing stockholding limits on traders to ensure adequate domestic supplies and tame the price spiral.

Sugar production for the 2025-26 marketing year (October-September) is now estimated at 306 lakh tonnes, down from an earlier forecast of 343 lakh tonnes. Annual domestic demand is estimated at around 280-285 lakh tonnes.

Meanwhile, earlier this month, the government constituted a high-level committee to examine issues raised by sugarcane farmers and recommend appropriate measures for addressing their concerns.

The Committee will examine the demand for an increase in remunerative returns to sugarcane farmers, taking into account cultivation costs and other relevant factors. It will also examine the demand for revision of the ex-mill Minimum Selling Price (MSP) of sugar in the context of sugar production costs, market realisations, and the financial viability of sugar mills.

Other key areas that the committee will examine include existing mechanisms for testing and reporting sugar recovery, measures to ensure transparent verification of recovery, and prevailing sugarcane weighing practices at sugar mills, including the adequacy of calibration, inspection and verification mechanisms.



DELHI-NCR AIR QUALITY WORSENS AS WINTER APPROACHES

IANS New Delhi, Oct. 23

Air pollution remained a concern across Delhi-NCR on Friday, with several monitoring stations recording Air Quality Index (AQI) readings in the ‘poor’ category as temperatures gradually declined ahead of winter.

According to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), AQI readings included 289 at Pusa, 284 in Jahangirpuri, 281 each in R.K. Puram and Rohini, 276 at DTU, 275 in Punjabi Bagh, 274 in Sirifort, 273 in Narela, 269 in Bawana, 268 in Dwarka Sector 8 and 264 in Patparganj. Other stations also reported elevated pollution levels.

The minimum temperature is expected to remain around 19 degrees Celsius, while the maximum is likely to hover around 32 degrees Celsius.

Delhi recorded its first ‘poor’ air quality day of the season on October 21, when the AQI reached 245, its highest level in around 100 days. The deterioration followed Dussehra celebrations and coincided with reports of stubble burning in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh. Firecrackers were also burst in parts of Delhi. However, no direct link has been established between the festivities and the decline in air quality. Authorities have invoked Stage I of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) to strengthen dust-control measures and address local emission sources. Stage I applies when the AQI is between 201 and 300. Stage II covers readings of 301-400, Stage III 401-450, while Stage IV applies when the AQI exceeds 450.

Delhi Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa said implementing GRAP this late in the season was unprecedented in recent years. He said the government was pursuing short- and long-term strategies, with public participation and coordination between the Centre and the Delhi government forming key parts of the effort.

Sirsa said an 11-point action plan was being implemented, focusing on dust control, electric vehicles, curbs on vehicular emissions and identifying local pollution sources.

An Integrated Command and Control Centre has been established to monitor pollution from construction activities. An artificial intelligence-based traffic management system is also being used to improve traffic flow and help reduce vehicular emissions.

Prolonged exposure to polluted air poses health risks, particularly for children and senior citizens.



At a Glance

Azerbaijan Sees Stronger India Ties

IAN S
Baku, Oct. 23



Azerbaijan Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov on Friday said ties with India were poised to reach “higher levels” following his meeting with External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar in Baku.

The discussions covered bilateral cooperation, regional security and global issues. Bayramov said bilateral trade stood at around \$600 million this year, with scope to expand cooperation in energy, pharmaceuticals, agriculture and transport corridors.

He noted that over 1,000 Indian companies operate in Azerbaijan. The ministers also discussed Armenia-Azerbaijan relations, Middle East tensions and the Russia-Ukraine war. Jaishankar earlier met Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev to discuss strengthening bilateral ties.



US still hasn't apologised for attacking our primary school: Iranian diplomat

IAN S
Washington, Oct. 23

Iranian diplomat Abdol Majid Hakeem Ilahi on Friday said the US had yet to apologise for a February 28 attack on a primary school in Iran that he said killed 168 children. He urged the international community to condemn the incident and prevent its recurrence.

Ilahi also said Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei was in good health. Palestine's Ambassador to India, Abdullah Abu Shawesh, accused Israel of genocide in Gaza and criticised US military and political support for Israel.

SOUTH KOREA PROPOSES MILITARY TALKS TO EASE BORDER TENSIONS

IAN S
Seoul, Oct. 23

South Korea on Friday proposed military talks with North Korea to resolve differences over their shared border and prevent accidental clashes following a land mine blast in the Demilitarised Zone (DMZ) last month.

The September 21 blast injured three South Korean troops. Seoul blamed Pyongyang, which denied responsibility and warned it could take military action along the border if necessary.

TRUMP SIGNALS POSSIBLE FURTHER ACTION ON IRAN

IAN S
Washington, Oct. 23

US President Donald Trump suggested that further military action against Iran remained possible, while acknowledging that the war could carry a political cost for Republicans in the approaching congressional elections.

Asked how the conflict had affected the election campaign, Trump said Americans were divided over his decision but defended it as necessary to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon.

“Well in one way, they love it because I’m doing what should have been done by other presidents, and another way maybe they don’t,” he told reporters before departing Washington.

“It’s — there’s a price to pay, which I knew immediately when I did it, but we can’t let Iran have a nuclear weapon.”

Trump did not specify whether he was considering a new operation, identify potential targets or give a timetable.

“The Iran War, and we’ve knocked the hell out of them, and we may do it a little bit further,”



he said.

That statement was an indication of possible further action, rather than an announcement that an operation had been ordered. His assessment of the damage inflicted on Iran was not accompanied by a military briefing or supporting figures.

The President argued that some voters supported the campaign even if others opposed it.

“I mean, in one way, people probably don’t love it, but many people, many great patriots, really love it. This should have been done a long time ago by other presidents,” he said.

Trump’s comments linked his conduct of the war directly to the domestic political contest.

During the same exchange, the President said Republican prospects would depend heavily on whether his supporters turned out to vote.

The remarks came as UN Secretary-General António Guterres warned in New York that widening conflicts were transmitting economic shocks far beyond the countries where fighting was taking place.

Guterres identified energy markets, shipping lanes, supply chains and financial systems as channels through which wars were affecting households.

“The distance from the Strait of Hormuz to a family home or village market is shorter than we think,” he said.

Guterres called for fighting to stop, civilians to be protected and diplomacy to be given space. He also announced that he would travel to Egypt on Friday.

Asked about the visit, he described Egypt as one of the mediators in the conflict between the United States and Iran. He did not announce a negotiating breakthrough or a meeting between American and Iranian representatives.

The two sets of remarks offered no confirmed timetable for ending the conflict. Trump left open the possibility of further action, while the UN chief emphasised diplomatic efforts and the consequences for civilians and developing economies.

Spy agency says social media rumours of North Korean leader's death are false

IAN S
Seoul, Oct. 23

South Korean spy agency on Friday reported to a parliamentary committee that recent unverified rumours circulating on social media claiming North Korean leader Kim Jong-un might have died are false, sources said.

The National Intelligence Service (NIS) delivered the assessment during a closed-door meeting with ruling and opposition lawmakers on the National Assembly's Intelligence Committee, according to sources who attended the meeting.

The rumours, which claimed Kim had suffered a severe brain haemorrhage, fallen into a coma and died, have spread widely on overseas social media and been picked up by several foreign media outlets earlier this week. No evidence has been provided to substantiate the claims, Yonhap News Agency reported.

North Korean state media have not directly addressed the speculation but reported Tuesday that Kim visited a garment and footwear exhibition in Pyongyang a day earlier.



Photos released by the state media showed him touring the exhibition with his daughter Ju-ae.

During the briefing to the committee late last month, the NIS said Kim, who weighs more than 140 kilogrammes, was at high risk of cardiovascular disease due to severe obesity but showed no notable signs of health problems.

The agency cited his ability to move without difficulty, including running up stairs during an inspection of a destroyer and the close monitoring of his health by dedicated medical staff.

Friday's briefing also included information on the inspection of a fortification construction site along the southern

border by Kim Yo-jong, a senior official of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea and leader Kim's sister, alongside Pak Jong-chon, an adviser to the North's defence ministry, according to the participants.

The visit came as North Korea has stepped up efforts to fortify the border with South Korea since April 2024, following leader Kim's characterisation of inter-Korean ties as relations between “two states hostile to each other.”

The leader's sister has threatened to resume propaganda loudspeaker broadcasts targeting South Korea within days and warned of a “horrible and distressing situation” amid tensions over the border fortification work.

The NIS is scheduled to undergo a parliamentary audit by the committee Thursday, when lawmakers are expected to examine developments in North Korea and a range of other security issues.

Indian EB-2 Green Card Queue Stuck in 2013 as US Reviews Premium Processing Rule

IAN S
Washington, Oct. 23

Indian professionals seeking US green cards under the EB-2 advanced-degree category face continued delays, with the November 2026 Visa Bulletin keeping India's final action date unchanged at November 1, 2013, for the second consecutive month.

Meanwhile, a proposal to amend premium processing deadlines used by employers, including those sponsoring H-1B workers, is under review at the White House Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA).

According to reginfo.gov, the US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) proposal, titled “Amending the Premium Processing Timeframe”, was received on October 13 and remains pending review. Its text has not been made public, and



details of the proposed changes and the visa categories affected remain unknown.

A separate proposal to reform the H-1B visa programme has been pending at OIRA since August 24 and is classified as economically significant.

In the November bulletin, EB-2 final action dates for most countries advanced by three months to April 1, 2025, while China remained at October 1, 2021. India's EB-2 date did not move.

India's EB-3 final ac-

tion date advanced three weeks to January 22, 2014. The EB-1 date remained February 1, 2023, while the EB-5 unreserved category stayed at December 1, 2023.

For employment-based applicants in the US, USCIS said the Dates for Filing chart must be used in November. India's EB-2 and EB-3 filing dates stand at January 15, 2015. This allows eligible applicants with earlier priority dates to file adjustment-of-status ap-

plications, although final approval remains subject to the applicable final action date.

Indian family-sponsored applicants saw movement in several categories. Final action dates for F1, F2B and F3 advanced to January 22, 2021, August 22, 2020, and October 22, 2015, respectively. The F4 category for siblings of adult US citizens remained at December 15, 2006.

The State Department said per-country limits apply to India, China, Mexico and the Philippines. The limit is 7 per cent of the combined family-sponsored and employment-based annual quota, or 25,620 visas.

The latest bulletin follows renewed calls by New Jersey Democrat Josh Gottheimer to end per-country caps on employment-based green cards. He said on X that the projected wait for Indian applicants could reach 179 years.

US PLANS \$150 MILLION BOOST FOR REFINERY CAPACITY

IAN S
Washington, Oct. 23

The United States plans to provide up to \$150 million to expand domestic refinery capacity, petroleum storage, using national defence funding powers, the Department of Energy announced.

President Donald Trump announced the initiative on Thursday. Funding under Title III of the Defense Production Act would support increased production of gasoline, diesel, jet fuel and other petroleum products.

Supported projects are expected to increase US refining output by millions of gallons a day. The department did not provide a precise capacity estimate, fuel-wise breakdown or timeline.

“These Defense Production Act funds will be used strategically and in partnership with private industry to rapidly bolster America's existing energy infrastructure,” Energy Secretary Chris Wright said.

The initiative aims to strengthen civilian fuel supplies and infrastructure considered critical to national defence.

Although the announcement headline referred to restarting an American refinery, the department did not identify the facility or clarify whether funding would support a restart or expansion elsewhere.

The number of projects under consideration, assistance terms and expected private investment have not been disclosed. Selections are expected soon.

Wright said the administration intended to increase refined petroleum supplies and reduce consumer costs. However, the announcement did not quantify potential fuel

price reductions or say when consumers might benefit.

The department said \$1 billion had been appropriated under legislation it calls the Working Families Tax Cuts for energy projects considered critical to national security. The refinery initiative would draw on this broader allocation.

Enacted in 1950, the Defense Production Act gives the US President powers to ensure industrial resources are available for national defence. Title III supports domestic production capabilities across the US.

India's Blue Economy: The Next Wave of Opportunity

For centuries, the seas have served as gateways to India's trade, shaped its coastal cultures and strengthened its strategic influence. Today, with a coastline stretching 11,098 kilometres, abundant marine resources and a strategic location in the Indian Ocean, the oceans are opening up new avenues for India's growth and development.

As the country advances towards the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, the blue economy is emerging as a powerful driver of prosperity, sustainability and national strength. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has placed this opportunity at the heart of India's development vision. In his 80th Independence Day address, he included the blue economy among the seven key growth pathways, or 'Sapt Dhara', that will propel the nation forward.

The blue economy is much more than an economy linked to the sea. It is an economy of ideas, innovation and opportunity. Its purpose is to secure better livelihoods for fishers and coastal communities, create opportunities for entrepreneurs and investors, strengthen food and energy security, and use science to make coastal regions more resilient to climate change. Above all, it seeks to ensure that economic growth and environmental responsibility advance together.

Yet, this opportunity comes with challenges that demand urgent attention. Marine pollution and climate change are placing increasing pressure on ocean resources. These challenges can also serve as catalysts for innovation, sustainable practices and investment. By accelerating technological development, encouraging entrepreneurship and attracting investment, India can transform emerging sectors such as offshore renewable energy, marine biotechnology, advanced aquaculture, marine data services, sustainable tourism and deep-sea technology into powerful engines of blue-economy growth.

A robust blue economy can improve incomes and strengthen food security through sustainable fisheries and aquaculture. Modern ports, shipping and efficient logistics can enhance trade competitiveness. Offshore renewable energy can support India's transition towards cleaner energy sources. Marine tourism can generate local businesses and employment, while ocean science, forecasting and digital services can help protect lives, assets and livelihoods. Together, these sectors can strengthen maritime



By Dr Jitendra Singh

security, technological self-reliance and India's leadership in the Indian Ocean region.

That is why India views the blue economy not as a collection of isolated projects, but as an integrated strategy for national development. Its guiding principle is straightforward: science should inform policymaking, policy should enable enterprises and institutions, and these institutions should deliver tangible value to people and the planet. The Ministry of Earth Sciences is building the scientific, technological and institutional foundations for this transformation.

Through the Deep Ocean Mission, pilot projects in marine spatial planning, ocean observation networks, digital platforms, forecasting systems and advanced marine services, the Ministry is translating ocean knowledge into public benefit. Indigenous capabilities in deep-sea exploration, marine biotechnology, ocean energy and seawater desalination are opening new pathways for resource conservation, innovation and self-reliance. Fisheries advisories, early-warning systems and coastal management initiatives are supporting livelihoods and strengthening disaster preparedness.

The next phase must be defined by scale, speed and measurable outcomes. India needs integrated ocean governance, stronger coordination, a reliable pipeline of projects and wider use of digital technologies for evidence-based decision-making. Investment in the blue economy is projected to rise from approximately Rs. 3.9 lakh crore during 2015–2025 to around Rs. 25.8 lakh crore during 2026–2035, signalling an unprecedented opportunity. Converting this potential into sustainable outcomes will require innovative financing, re-

sponsible private investment, greater participation by start-ups and transparent implementation. Coastal communities must remain active partners in this journey and among its principal beneficiaries.

The most exciting chapter, however, belongs to India's youth. For every young entrepreneur, investor, scientist, technologist, professional and skilled worker, the blue economy offers a vast horizon of possibilities. Traditional sectors such as ports, shipping, logistics, fisheries and tourism are being reshaped by automation, digital platforms, cleaner fuels, electric mobility and sustainable practices. Emerging fields—including offshore renewable energy, marine biotechnology, deep-sea technology, aquaculture, marine robotics, artificial intelligence for ocean applications, island tourism, electric boats and green maritime systems—are creating new opportunities for employment, enterprise and investment.

This is the time to develop future-ready skills, launch new ventures, build indigenous technologies, invest responsibly and turn research into scalable solutions. India's universities, laboratories, industries and coastal communities must become interconnected centres of experimentation and enterprise. Young Indians can develop smarter fisheries systems, cleaner vessels, climate-resilient ports, marine data platforms and bio-based products, as well as technologies that enable deep-sea exploration while protecting fragile marine ecosystems.

The blue economy is not a distant promise. It is a national mission waiting for a generation with the courage and creativity to lead it. I urge India's youth to bring their imagination, ambition and innovative spirit to this rising blue wave of transformation. Let our oceans become laboratories of innovation, engines of livelihood and pathways to sustainable prosperity.

Together, we can build a blue economy that is productive and responsible, globally competitive and locally empowering, and firmly aligned with the spirit of 'Sapt Dhara'. The journey towards Viksit Bharat 2047 will be shaped not only on land, but also across the vast blue expanse that surrounds us and connects us to the world.

The author is Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences.

India's real estate industry likely to touch \$5.8 trillion by 2047



The real estate industry of India is on track to reach \$5.8 trillion by 2047 and has expanded fivefold since 2017 due to several factors such as rising institutional investment, deepening domestic capital pools and strong demand across, a report said on Friday.

According to a joint report by Anarock and FICCI, the sector was valued at about \$600 billion in 2025, compared with \$120 billion in 2017 and is projected to grow to \$1 trillion by 2030.

Real estate's contribution to India's gross domestic product is expected to increase to 13 per cent by 2030 from about 6 per cent in 2017, it added.

However, the value of real estate under construction nearly doubled between 2019 and 2025 with residential projects accounting for roughly 85 per cent of the total.

Raj Menda, chairman

of FICCI's Committee on Urban Development and Real Estate, said deepening domestic capital markets, streamlining project approvals and expanding growth beyond major metropolitan areas would be critical to sustaining the sector's expansion.

Anarock Chairman Anuj Puri said India's real estate market was increasingly becoming a long-term institutional asset class rather than a cyclical play on land prices with domestic savings, operating assets and larger investment platforms expected to shape the next phase of growth.

The report further showed that the country's real estate funding ecosystem has evolved from being dominated by promoter equity and buyer advances to drawing capital from global private equity funds, sovereign wealth funds, domestic alternative investment

funds (AIFs), public equity markets and real estate investment trusts (REITs).

Meanwhile, private equity (PE) investment in the domestic realty industry has remained resilient with absorbing up to \$7.7 billion annually between 2015 and 2025.

In the first nine months of 2026, disclosed PE investments had already reached \$6.1 billion across 55 deals led by data centres at \$2.5 billion and office assets at \$1.7 billion.

In addition, deal sizes have also increased significantly with transactions above \$100 million accounting for 76 per cent of total PE value between 2021 and 2025, compared with 44 per cent during 2011-2015.

The report said domestic funds invested \$2.6 billion in the first nine months of 2026, compared with \$0.4 billion in 2020, while their

share of total PE investment increased to 42 per cent from 8 per cent over the same period.

Foreign capital remains dominant but domestic capital is growing much faster, supported by the rapid expansion of AIFs.

Total AIF commitments rose to Rs 17.53 lakh crore in June 2026 from Rs 3,47,802 crore in December 2019.

The report said demand fundamentals remain strong across major asset classes.

Residential sales value in India's top seven cities reached a record Rs 6.1 lakh crore in fiscal 2026 which is more than double the level recorded in fiscal 2022.

Office demand has also strengthened with gross absorption in the top seven cities reaching a record 80.5 million square feet in 2025, more than double the level seen in 2021.

SIM-binding rule: What changes for WhatsApp, other messaging apps from Jan 1, 2027?

If you use messaging apps like WhatsApp or Telegram without keeping the registered SIM card inside your phone, you need to be aware of new rules that could come into effect from January 1, 2027.

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has set December 31, 2026 as the compliance deadline for messaging platforms to implement SIM-binding requirements aimed at cracking down on cyber fraud and misuse of Indian mobile numbers.

From next year, users may lose access to their messaging accounts if the SIM linked to the account is removed, deactivated or replaced. Under the new framework, messaging apps that use Indian mobile numbers for registration will have to verify that the registered number is tied to an active SIM card or eSIM present on the device. In practical terms, users may no longer be able to continue accessing an account indefinitely after removing the SIM card used to create it. If the registered SIM is taken out, replaced or becomes inactive, the app could suspend functionality until the same number is restored through a valid SIM or eSIM profile.

The government's decision is part of a wider effort to combat cybercrime, phishing operations and so-called dig-



is not expected to be covered by the SIM-binding mandate.

Signal's status remains unclear, with reports suggesting the platform had not responded to government communications when the issue was reviewed.

The information available so far does not suggest that WhatsApp will stop working on particular iPhone or Android models from January 1, 2027. The proposed restrictions are linked to SIM verification

and account authentication, not to device brands or operating systems.

The changes could have the biggest impact on users who keep the registered SIM card in a secondary phone while using WhatsApp on another device, those who remove the SIM after completing account setup, and those who depend largely on Wi-Fi and rarely use cellular services. Users with dual-SIM devices may also need to ensure that the number linked to their messaging account remains active and compliant with platform requirements.

The rules are expected to apply to both physical SIM cards and eSIM profiles. As long as the registered mobile number is associated with an active eSIM on the device, users are unlikely to face issues solely because they do not use a physical SIM card.

India's smartphone shipments slump 20 pc in Q3 over high memory costs



India's smartphone shipments fell 20 per cent year-on-year in Q3 2026 to their lowest level in a decade as record-high memory prices pushed device costs up and pulled down volumes for most brands, a report said on Friday.

Amid persistently soft demand, OEMs held back on channel inventory, even ahead of the festive season, the report from Counterpoint Research said.

The report added that sub-Rs 20,000 shipments declined by 47 per cent in Q3 2026 as rising model prices pushed devices into higher price bands.

"Rising component costs pushed device prices higher, putting increasing pressure on affordability and weakening the traditional

mass-market volume engine, particularly below Rs 15,000," said Research Analyst Shubham Singh.

Research Director Tarun Pathak said that India's smartphone market is forecasted to shrink by around 13 per cent in 2026, with continued pricing pressure weighing on affordability and replacement demand.

The post-festive seasonal slowdown will add to the pressure, while elevated component costs are likely to drive another round of price hikes after the festive season sale, he said.

The impact is already visible in the mass market, where OEMs are restructuring portfolios by introducing more 4G and lower-specification models and trading down speci-

cations across some price segments to manage costs while maintaining price points.

The market is likely to remain on a challenging footing in 2027, as higher device prices continue to extend replacement cycles and limit volume recovery. Growth opportunities will increasingly shift toward the premium and upper-mid segments, while the mass market remains under pressure from affordability constraints and tighter OEM margins.

"With upfront prices rising, no-cost EMIs, exchange offers and retailer-led promotions will become increasingly important conversion levers, helping consumers manage higher upgrade costs," the report added.

Nifty can hit 42,800 level in next five years

India's benchmark Nifty index could reach 39,600 in three years and 42,800 in five years under a base-case scenario, according to a report by OmniScience Capital released on Friday.

The report projects annualised total returns of 21–24 per cent over three years and 17.1–18.9 per cent over five years, based on earnings growth, potential valuation rerating and dividend yields. Under an optimistic scenario, the index could reach 43,000 and 46,500, respectively.

OmniScience Capital CEO and Chief Investment Strategist Vikas Gupta clarified that these figures are not market predictions but mathematical estimates based on fundamentals and potential valuation changes.

The report also examined historical valuation trends, finding that the Nifty recorded an average annualised growth rate of 28.25 per cent across ten instances when its price-to-book ratio breached 2.8 times.

Separately, another report said the Nifty needs to gain around 15.9 per cent to recover its peak of 26,329, recorded on January 2, 2026. The index stood at 22,716 on September 30, 2026, up 1.7 per cent from its March low of 22,331.



Badminton: Sindhu storms into BWF French Open semifinals

Paris, Oct. 23:

Indian badminton ace and two-time Olympic medallist PV Sindhu sailed into the semifinal of the BWF French Open, beating Chinese Taipei's Chiu Pin-Chian 21-13, 21-14 in Paris on Friday.

The Indian made a good start, winning the first game 21-13. She took that momentum into the second game and led 11-2 at the interval. Chiu showed signs of fightback, but Sindhu closed out the win, taking the game 21-14.

Sindhu, who won a silver medal in the 2016 Rio Olympic Games followed by a bronze at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, will next meet either fifth seed Putri Wardani of Indonesia or Hina Akechi of Japan for a place in the final.

Earlier, Sindhu comfortably saw off Japan's Riko Gunji 21-12, 21-16 in 44 minutes to advance. Notably, Gunji had knocked out Unnati Hooda in the opening round.

Meanwhile, Ashmita Chaliha's dream run came to an end as the youngster fell 10-21, 21-17, 16-21 to Japan's Nozomi Okuhara



in the quarterfinals on Friday. Chaliha was enjoying a memorable week as she claimed the biggest victory of her career, a 21-19, 21-18 win over world No.3 Akane Yamaguchi to reach her maiden Super 750 quarterfinal on Thursday.

Having lost to Yamaguchi just a week earlier in Denmark, Chaliha had a different mindset in Paris. The world No. 36 Indian, who won her maiden BWF World Tour title at the Korea Masters Super 300 earlier this year, drew confidence from her previous encounter and was better prepared to deal with one

of Yamaguchi's most dangerous shots.

Meanwhile, Ayush Shetty's campaign ended in the men's singles when he retired hurt against sixth seed Kodai Naraoka of Japan, having lost the opening game 21-17 and trailing 11-6 in the second. Ayush Shetty had beaten Kidambi Srikanth in the opening round of this year's French Open. Lakshya Sen had withdrawn ahead of his opening-round match.

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy-Chirag Shetty and Treasa Jolly-Gayatri Gopichand had also suffered opening-round exits in Paris.

Ishan Kishan ruled out of second T20I vs NZ with adductor strain: BCCI

New Delhi, Oct. 23:

India wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan has been ruled out of the second T20I against New Zealand due to a low-grade right adductor strain, the BCCI announced on Friday. Kishan sustained the injury during the first match, which India won by four wickets in Christchurch. The BCCI medical team is monitoring his recovery.

With Kishan unavailable, 15-year-old batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi could get an opportunity in the playing XI. Batting coach Sitanshu Kotak said he was among the leading contenders, subject to medical advice.

India chased down 226 in the series opener, with Tilak Varma scoring six off 11 balls and Kishan managing just one off three deliveries. Sooryavanshi's impressive IPL and age-group performances could strengthen his chances of joining Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma in the top order.

15-year-old Vaibhav Sooryavanshi could replace injured Ishan Kishan in the second T20I against New Zealand.

Sooryavanshi in focus as India step out for milestone T20I against New Zealand

Christchurch, Oct. 23:

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi's potential return has grabbed the headlines again as India gear up to face New Zealand in the second T20I of the five-match series at Hagley Oval here on Saturday.

India, the reigning two-time T20 World Champions, will be stepping onto the field for their 300th T20I match and will be looking to double up their 1-0 lead in the series after they won a run-scoring feast at the same venue on Thursday.

That was also India's highest T20I chase as the likes of Sanju Samson, Abhishek Sharma, Shreyas Iyer and Naman Dhir starred in the 226-run chase. Now they are likely to get the addition of Sooryavanshi as Ishan Kishan is out of the second match due to a low-grade right adductor strain.

Sooryavanshi, if he gets the nod, would be licking his lips as the second match will also be played at the same venue and on the same pitch which hosted the 455-run feast across the two innings. That might also mean that the used surface can have something in it for the bowlers, with likely wear and tear



expected too.

With Sooryavanshi likely to return, India are likely to open with two left-handers in Sooryavanshi and Abhishek Sharma and shift Samson to No.3. This might also open the window for the Kiwis to bring an off-spinner up front, at which India struggled during the T20 World Cup 2026.

New Zealand would be happy to take the game to the last over despite the start India had and dew being there in Christchurch in the opener. But they would want to make a comeback sooner rather than later, as another defeat would make a comeback way too far in the five-match series.

This would not be ideal for the Kiwis as West Indies recently pushed

India to the limits and tied the five-match series 2-2 with the last game getting washed out. India's 300th T20I match will see them become just the second team to complete a triple century of matches in the format, after Pakistan, who have played 304 games. The Men in Blue have 199 outright wins, but their six super over and bowl-out wins have already put them past the 200-mark, and they have 205 wins in the format.

When: October 24, 2026, 12:30 PM

Where: Hagley Oval, Christchurch

Where to watch: The match will be shown live on the Sony Sports Network channels on TV, and live streaming is available on

the Sony LIV app and website.

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 Chakaravathy, 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 Tuckner.

Asian Para Games: Mona Agarwal clinches second gold, breaks world record in 50m Rifle 3P SH1

Toyota, Oct. 23:

Indian para-shooter Mona Agarwal continued breaking records as she clinched a gold medal in the Women's 50m Rifle 3 Positions SH1 event with a world record outing at the Aichi Pref. General Shooting Gallery here on Friday.

Mona won her second gold at the ongoing Games after having clinched the yellow metal in the 10m air rifle standing SH1 event. She shot a world-record 357.5 to win gold in the 50m rifle 3P SH1, while her compatriot Avani Lekhara finished fourth with 333.2.

Mona broke Swedish shooter Anna Benson's world record score of 356, which she had set during the World Cup in Novi Sad in July 2026. The previous Asian record had belonged to South Korea's Lee Yunri, who had hit 355.7 last month.

Mona qualified sixth during the qualification with a score of 566-17x, while Avani topped the qualification sheets with 580-24x. Avani's score was also the Asian Para Games qualifi-



cation record.

However, Mona did extremely well in the final to win the gold. She scored 101.4 in the Kneeling Series 1 and then a 102.1 in the Prone Series 1. She kept nailing good scores in the Standing Series too, hitting 53, 50.8, 10.4, 10.3, 10.1, 9.6 and 9.8 in the seven standing series to bag the gold. China's Cuiping Zhang won a silver with a score of 353.7, while South Korea's Miyoung Kim secured a bronze with a score of 344.4, as Avani missed out to a medal.

Earlier, Mona had won a

gold in the women's 10m air rifle standing SH1, where Avani had won a silver. Mona shot an Asian Para Games record score of 250 to bag the gold, while Avani shot 249.6 to win the silver as India opened their medal tally in the ongoing Games. Mona made a brilliant comeback in the final after she was reeling in fifth place to storm into the podium positions before fending off the challenge from others to win the coveted gold. Behind Mona and Avani, South Korea's Yunri Lee won the bronze with a score of 227.9.

Taskin back as Bangladesh name squad for first West Indies Test

New Delhi, Oct. 23:

Taskin Ahmed has made his return as Bangladesh named their squad for the first of the two Test matches against the West Indies at home.

Taskin was rested for Bangladesh's previous Test against Afghanistan in Abu Dhabi, which was a heroic draw for Afghanistan. Taskin, who had wished Hasan Mahmud for his hat-trick in the Afghanistan Test, is now back in the squad in place of Khaled Ahmed for the Test that will begin on October 28 in Mirpur.

White-ball captain Litton Das, who missed the ODI tri-series in the UAE due to a hip injury, has also been included, while Soumya Sarkar has been dropped from the 15-member team after he warmed the benches against Australia and Afghanistan. His last Test came more than five years back in February 2021.

Meanwhile, Mehidy Hasan Miraz has also been



included after he played in one of the two tri-series games due to a viral fever.

Najmul Hossain Shanto's squad features three specialist spinners and as many fast bowlers. Mehidy, Taijul Islam and Nayeem Hasan will shoulder the spin duties, as it remains interesting to see what surface will be dished out for the opener. Shoriful Islam, Ebadot Hossain, Hasan and Taskin are the pacers, while Nahid Rana is absent as he is on the mend from a side strain.

The two Tests will be crucial for Bangladesh in their push for the World Test Championship 2027 final. They are currently in fourth

place with three wins from six matches, a draw and two losses. Their PCT currently reads 55.56%, and they sit below South Africa, who recently won the second Test against Australia and have a PCT of 66.67%.

Bangladesh squad for the first Test against the West Indies:

Najmul Hossain Shanto (capt), Taskin Ahmed, Jaker Ali, Litton Das (wk), Mominul Haque, Tanzid Hasan, Ebadot Hossain, Tawhid Hridoy, Shadman Islam, Shoriful Islam, Taijul Islam, Hasan Mahmud, Mehidy Hasan Miraz, Mushfiqur Rahim, Nayeem Hasan

'We are really looking forward to it': Harleen eyes inaugural Women's Champions Trophy

Vadodara, Oct. 23:

Indian batter Harleen Deol said being world champions brings "a little pressure" but is also a privilege as the team looks ahead to the inaugural ICC Women's Champions Trophy, scheduled to be held in India from February 14 to 28, 2027.

India, who won the Women's ODI World Cup in 2025, will aim to build on that success as they begin their three-match ODI series against Zimbabwe on Friday.

"Definitely, we're looking forward to it. Obviously, we are world champions, and that adds a little pressure on us. It is also a privilege, and we are grateful for it. We're really looking forward to the cycle," Harleen told broadcasters ahead of the match.

The inaugural edition of the Women's Champions Trophy will be another major assignment for India, who will look to es-

tablish the right combinations and strengthen their preparations in the 50-over format.

Harleen said the team had been considering different combinations and approaches, while acknowledging that the time available before the tournament was limited.

"We've collected a few thoughts and made a few changes here and there. We're looking at different combinations. We have very little time for the Champions Trophy, and we're focusing on the opportunities available. The rest will happen," she said.

The Indian batter also stressed that her priority remained performing well for the team, irrespective of the position she was asked to play. "My role is very simple in my head. I just have to do well; that's it. No matter which position you're playing in, it doesn't matter. The only thing that matters is adapting well to the conditions and performing well,"

India batter Sabbineni Meghana announces retirement from all forms of cricket

Indian women's cricket team batter Sabbineni Meghana on Friday announced her retirement from all formats of the game, bringing the curtain down on her professional playing career. The Andhra Pradesh-born batter represented Railways in domestic cricket and made her international debut in a Women's ODI series against New Zealand in 2022. She went on to represent India in three One-Day Internationals and 17 T20 Internationals. Meghana was also part of the Indian women's team that won the silver medal at the 2022 Commonwealth Games. In the Women's Premier League, she represented Gujarat Giants in the inaugural season before moving to Royal

Challengers Bengaluru in 2024. She was part of the RCB squad that won the WPL title that year. Announcing her retirement in a social media post, Meghana described her journey in cricket as a dream come true and expressed gratitude to her family, coaches, teammates, support staff and fans for standing by her throughout her career. She also thanked the BCCI, Andhra Cricket Association, Royal Challengers Bengaluru, Gujarat Giants and the Railways Sports Promotion Board for their support and opportunities.

Although her playing career has come to an



end, Meghana said she would remain connected to the sport and intends to contribute to cricket by mentoring young players and giving back to the game.

Who Is Shahneel Gill? Shubman Gill's Sister Builds a Career as Social Media Influencer

Shahneel Gill, the elder sister of Indian cricket star Shubman Gill, has carved out her own identity as a social media influencer, with a growing following on Instagram and an interest in travel, fitness and lifestyle content.

Born on December 16, 1997, in Fazilka, Punjab, Shahneel is currently 28 years old. While her brother is widely known for his achievements in international cricket, she has largely stayed away from the limelight of the sporting world and pursued her own professional interests.

Shahneel completed her schooling at Manav Mangal Smart School in Mohali before continuing her education at Mehr Chand Mahajan DAV College for Women in Chandigarh. She



later moved to Canada for higher studies and earned a diploma in Business Administration from Red River College Polytechnic.

During her stay in Canada, Shahneel also worked for a short period with food delivery company SkipTheDishes. She has since developed a presence on

social media, particularly Instagram, where she has around 578,000 followers. Her Instagram account features 177 posts, with content largely centred on travel, fitness and lifestyle. Her posts regularly attract engagement from followers, reflecting her growing popularity on the platform.

Shahneel's income is reportedly generated mainly through social media activities and brand promotions. Her net worth is estimated at around Rs. 1 crore, although the figure has not been independently verified. From her educational journey in Canada to her growing digital presence, Shahneel has established an identity beyond being the sister of one of India's prominent cricketers.

Azharuddin calls for wider Graduate Voter enrolment



NSS News
Hyderabad, Oct 23

Minorities Welfare Minister Mohammed Azharuddin has urged eligible graduates to

enrol as voters ahead of the upcoming Hyderabad-Rangareddy-Mahabubnagar Graduates' MLC elections. Azharuddin, along with Transport Minister

Ponnam Prabhakar, participated in a graduate voter registration drive at Teachers Colony Park in the Cantonment constituency on Friday to support Congress candidate Sama

Minister urges eligible graduates to register ahead of MLC elections

Ram Mohan Reddy. Describing Reddy as a young and educated candidate, Azharuddin expressed confidence that he would effectively raise public issues and represent people's aspirations in the Legislative Council. He urged eligible graduates to register and actively participate in the electoral process. Cantonment MLA Ganesh, Secunderabad DCC president Deepak John and other Congress leaders and workers attended the programme.

TG Safe Food raids uncover violations at Hyderabad sweet shops

Munsif News Bureau
Hyderabad, Oct 23

TG Safe Food Wing officials raided several sweet shops across Hyderabad, uncovering multiple food safety violations during inspections conducted by 12 teams. Officials found sweets being prepared in unhygienic conditions, shops operating without valid FSSAI licences and expired sweets allegedly being mixed with fresh ingredients. Peanuts and sweets contaminated with insects and fungus were also detected. At M/s Sudarshan Reddy Pure Ghee Sweets in Tarnaka, officials found the manufacturing unit operating without an FSSAI licence and issued a notice for violations. The enforcement drive aims to curb unsafe food practices and ensure compliance with food safety regulations. Further action is expected against establishments found violating the prescribed norms.

Plane accident averted at Shamshabad Airport

NSS News
Hyderabad, Oct 23

A major accident was averted for a Shamshabad Air India flight. A technical fault developed in the AI 417 flight to Mumbai with 109 passengers on board. The pilot, who noticed the problem five minutes after takeoff, immediately informed the ATC. On the instructions of the ATC officials, the plane made an emergency landing at the Shamshabad airport. The technical staff has examined the plane.

CS reviews preparations for Census 2027

NSS News
Hyderabad, Oct 23

Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju on Friday reviewed preparations for the second phase of Census 2027 at a meeting of the State-level Census Coordination Committee at the Secretariat.

Director of Census Operations, Telangana, Bharati Holikeri informed the meeting that the first phase, covering house listing and housing census, had been completed in the State. The second phase, involving population enumeration, is scheduled

for January and February 2027. Training for personnel engaged in the exercise will be completed before January. Jaju stressed meticulous planning, timely training and coordination among departments to ensure smooth and efficient conduct of the census.



It is a matter of immense pride and honour to share that Syed Khaled Shahbaaz, CEO Media Plus was felicitated at the 'Alai Balai Festival' 2026, in the presence of Mr. M. Venkaiah Naidu, former Vice President of India; Mr. Shiv Pratap Shukla, Governor of Telangana; Mr. Gulab Chand Kataria, Governor of Punjab; and Mr. Bandaru Dattatreya, former Governor of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. The event was held on October 22, 2026 at the Exhibition Grounds in Hyderabad.

Munsif News Bureau

Telangana completes all Phase-I deregulation reforms



NSS News
Hyderabad, Oct 23

Telangana has completed all 23 priority reforms under Phase I of its deregulation and compliance reduction exercise, achieving 100 per cent implementation, Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju announced on Friday. Reviewing progress at the Secretariat with Union Secretary Sukriti Likhi, Jaju said the enactment of the State Jan Vishwas Bill fulfilled the final pending requirement

under Phase I. Under Phase II, covering 28 priority areas—23 mandatory and five optional—the State has operationalised 12 areas and aims to complete all remaining applicable reforms by November 15, 2026. Jaju stressed the need to remove redundant procedures to improve the ease of doing business and support industrial growth. Likhi outlined Centre-led initiatives to reduce compliance burdens for businesses and citizens.

We will support jobless RTC workers: Vijayalakshmi

NSS News
Hyderabad, Oct 23

Vijayalakshmi on Friday assured dismissed RTC workers that their reinstatement issue would be brought to the notice of the RTC Managing Director and Chief Minister for a solution. She said 317 RTC workers had been reinstated earlier and the government would explore steps to support the remaining 180 workers who lost their jobs for various reasons. At the 263rd CM Prajavani programme held at Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Praja Bhavan, officials received 103 applications. Of these, 27 related to the Revenue Department, 18 to BC Welfare, 14 to Municipal Administration and 44 to other departments. Vijayalakshmi reviewed the grievances, endorsed the applications and contacted officials concerned to expedite their resolution. Officials from various departments attended the programme.

Shabbir Ali slams Modi over 'Failed Product' remark



Uttam calls for coordinated drought preparedness

Minister stresses district-level plans to protect water supplies, crops and livelihoods



NSS News
Hyderabad, Oct 23

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy has called for comprehensive drought preparedness across Telangana, urging departments to coordinate efforts and district collectors to prepare contingency plans.

Addressing the first meeting of the Cabinet Sub-Committee on drought and El Niño conditions at the Secretariat on Friday, he stressed advance planning to safeguard drinking water supplies, meet irrigation needs, protect crops and provide timely relief to vulnerable areas. Uttam called for adequate financial resources for district collectors and district-specific action plans to identify vulnerable areas, anticipate shortages and implement preventive measures. Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka chaired the meeting, attended by Ministers Thummala Nageswara Rao, Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy, Seethakka and Vakiti Srihari, along with Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju. The committee emphasised a swift, coordinated response to the emerging drought situation.

Congress seeks CPI support for Graduates' MLC polls



NSS News
Hyderabad, Oct 23

TPCC president Mahesh Kumar Goud on Friday said the Congress had sought CPI support for its candidates in the upcoming two Graduates' MLC elections. At a meeting with CPI leaders at the party's state office in Himayatnagar,

the leaders discussed political coordination and electoral support. Goud said the CPI was a partner in the INDIA bloc and had contested the Assembly elections alongside the Congress. He said both parties were working together for public welfare and added that discussions were also underway with the CPM for its support. Ministers Ponnam Prabhakar and Mohammed Azharuddin, Rajya Sabha member Vem Narendar Reddy and MP Mallu Ravi attended the meeting. CPI state secretary Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao, MLC Nellikanti Satyam and other senior leaders were also present.

KTR predicts KCR's return to power in Telangana

NSS News
Hyderabad, Oct 23

BRS working president KT Rama Rao on Friday claimed that former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekhara Rao's return to power in Telangana was inevitable, alleging growing public dissatisfaction with the Congress government. Addressing party leaders from Amberpet, KTR criticised the government over power disruptions, drinking water shortages and the agricultural crisis. He alleged that the administration had failed to prepare adequately for El Niño conditions despite advance warnings. KTR also accused the Congress government of mishandling water resources and keeping Kaleshwaram project pumps non-operational to undermine KCR's legacy. He further raised allegations over structural issues at the Medigadda barrage.

about voting rights, electoral integrity and government accountability. He alleged that Modi was avoiding key issues such as unemployment, inflation, economic distress and the independence of democratic institutions. He further accused the Prime Minister of invoking the Nehru-Gandhi family whenever the Congress questioned the government, instead of responding to contemporary public concerns.

BHEL Artisan Recruitment -2027

NSS News
Hyderabad, Oct 23

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, a Government of India undertaking, has invited applications from young, dynamic and skilled artisans for filling up of 660 skilled artisan posts. Candidates must possess class ten, plus National trade certificate (NTC/ITI) plus National apprenticeship certificate with not less than 60 per cent marks for general and OBC candidates and 55 percent marks for SC and ST candidates in both NTC/ITI and NAC. Last date for submission of online application is 18th November 2026. For details, log on to <http://careers.bhel.in>, says a notification.

OU to hold Job Mela on October 30

Osmania University's Employment Bureau will organise a job mela on October 30 to recruit junior assistants for Manappuram Finance Limited. The drive will be held at the Employment Bureau office opposite Arts College on the university campus. Candidates aged 18-35 with any degree or diploma are eligible to apply, with salaries of up to ₹20,000. Eligible candidates should attend the job mela with copies of their educational certificates. For details, contact Regional Manager Ravinder Kumar at 6261688998.

Bhatti orders drought action plans across Telangana

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Friday directed officials to prepare department-wise action plans to tackle the anticipated drought due to El Niño, ensuring drinking water, irrigation, power supply, farmer support and rural employment. The Cabinet Sub-Committee, chaired by Bhatti, decided to identify drought-hit mandals by October 31 and convene an all-party meeting soon to discuss the situation. Officials were asked to scientifically assess drought conditions and ensure timely relief through coordinated efforts.

Telangana steps up Khelo India Games preparations

Sports Minister Vakiti Srihari on Friday reviewed preparations for the Khelo India Games, scheduled across Telangana from December 11 to 22, directing officials to complete venue arrangements, logistics and athlete facilities well in advance. The government is conducting selections across 27 disciplines through a phased process to identify rural talent and provide specialised training for national-level competition.