



**IMD Forecasts Heavy Telangana Rain from October 2**

Statewatch, Page 2



**Complaint Against Kharge Over Remark on Modi's Father**

Nation, Page 4



**Nearly 1,000 Arrested as Fresh Protests Erupt in France**

Horizons, Page 5



**Tilak, Nitish Power India to Thrilling Win Over New Zealand**

Sports, Page 7

# GOVT TO UNVEIL AEROSPACE & DEFENCE POLICY 2.0 SOON: REVANTH REDDY

- Aerospace and Defence Policy 2.0 to be unveiled soon.
- Raksha Expo scheduled for December 7-9 at Bharat Future City.
- Focus on defence research, advanced technologies and investment.
- CM urges investors to double their proposed investments.

Raksha Expo to bring global defence firms. MSMEs and startups to Hyderabad

Hyderabad, Oct 25:

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Saturday announced that the State would soon unveil Aerospace and Defence Policy 2.0 to attract major investments and position Hyderabad as a leading defence research hub.

Addressing the curtain-raiser for Raksha Expo, he said the event would be held from December 7 to 9 at Bharat Future City as part of the Invest Telangana Global Summit. It aims to bring together global original equipment manufacturers, MSMEs, startups, defence officials and technology experts.

Revanth highlighted Hyderabad's research institutions, skilled workforce and strategic defence facilities, stressing that Telangana could become a major industrial hub



for the sector. He also called for greater collaboration in aerospace, space, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence and drone technology. Emphasising the need to make

India a defence technology exporter rather than an importer, he urged investors to double their proposed investments and assured them of the government's support.

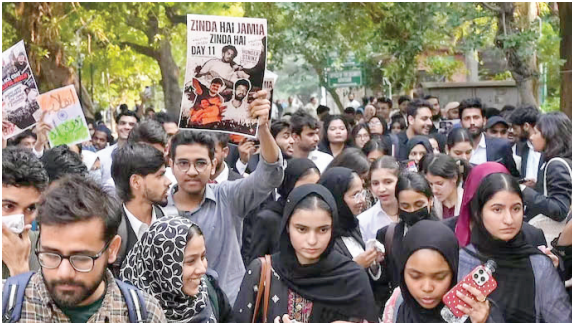
## Jamia Protest Enters 14th Day, Students Press Three Key Demands

IANs News  
New Delhi, Oct 25

The protest at Jamia Millia Islamia entered its 14th day on Sunday, with students continuing their sit-in over three key demands: restoration of the university students' union, revocation of disciplinary action against protesters and action against those accused of using force during the agitation.

The protesting students have also demanded the resignations of the university Proctor and chief security advisor. They alleged that students faced suspensions, show-cause notices and campus entry bans following the October 17 protests.

Student Anish Khan said the movement,



which began with the demand to restore the Jamia Millia Islamia University Students' Union (JMIUSU), had expanded to include action against those accused of mistreating protesters.

Another student, Farhan Israel, said the agitation would continue until the demands were met. He alleged that the university administration was attempting to forcibly end the protest.

## Cyclone Likely to Hit Andhra Coast on Oct. 28

IANs News  
Visakhapatnam, Oct 25

A very severe cyclonic storm is likely to cross the Andhra Pradesh coast between Bapatla and Visakhapatnam on October 28, with winds reaching 125 kmph and gusts up to 140 kmph, the IMD said on Sunday. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu put the administration on high alert, directing officials to warn fishermen against venturing into the sea and alert residents in low-lying areas. Heavy to very heavy rainfall is forecast along coastal Andhra on Tuesday and Wednesday.

## Musk Proposes \$1 Payments Through X Like Button

IANs News  
New Delhi, Oct 25

Elon Musk has announced a proposed X Money feature that would allow users to send \$1 to content creators by long-pressing the Like button, advancing his plan to turn X into an all-in-one platform.

"We're adding long press on like to send someone \$1 via X Money," Musk said in a post on X. The feature aims to let users tip creators and reward posts without leaving the app.

X Money offers peer-to-peer transfers and a Visa debit card in the US. However, the company has not announced a rollout date for the new feature or its availability outside the US, including India.



## BJP announces Nationwide protests against Kharge's remarks

IANs News  
New Delhi, Oct 25

The BJP will hold nationwide protests on Monday against Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's remarks about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's late father, describing them as "insulting, indecent and offensive".

In a statement, the BJP said demonstrations would be organised at all its state

headquarters, with party leaders demanding an unconditional apology from Kharge.

BJP leaders alleged that the remarks crossed the limits of political discourse and amounted to a personal attack on the Prime Minister's family. The party has directed its state units to organise peaceful protests, saying political differences should not lead to personal insults.

## Operation Trident Exposes Rs 100-Crore Hawala Network, 18 Arrested

IANs News  
New Delhi, Oct 25

Operation Trident, a coordinated anti-narcotics crackdown across Assam, Mizoram and Manipur, has exposed Rs 100 crore in hawala transac-

## Saudi Airports Resume Partial Operations as Indian Flights Remain Suspended



King Khalid International Airport in Riyadh is set to partially reopen, with separate terminals designated for domestic and international flights operated by Saudi national carriers, following attacks that disrupted airport operations.

However, Air India and Air India Express flights to and from Riyadh and Dammam will remain suspended until November 7, while services

to and from Jeddah will stay suspended until October 31, the Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia said.

The suspensions follow attacks on civilian infrastructure, including airports in Riyadh and Dammam. India has said one Indian national was killed and two injured in an attack on Dammam airport, while another Indian was injured at the Shaybah oil field.

The Ministry of External Affairs said around 3,000 stranded Umrah

**Air India services to Riyadh and Dammam halted till Nov. 7; Jeddah flights suspended till Oct. 31**



pilgrims had returned to India over the past week. Indian diplomatic missions are coordinating with airlines and tour operators to facilitate the return of others, while operating round-the-clock helplines in Riyadh and Jeddah. Meanwhile, Yemen's Houthi group and the Saudi-led coalition have exchanged missile, drone and air strikes, with both sides reporting attacks on military and infrastructure targets.

## Iran's Supreme Leader Seeks Compensation for US-Israeli Attacks

IANs News  
Tehran, Oct 25

Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei has called for efforts to secure compensation for damages caused by US-Israeli attacks, stressing the need to pursue the Iranian people's rights.

During a meeting with Judiciary Chief Gholamhossein Mohseni-Ejei, Khamenei also called for promoting justice, combating corruption and ensuring timely handling of judicial cases, according to a statement on his website.

The demands come amid continuing tensions following the US-Israeli strikes on Iran launched on February 28 and Tehran's retaliatory missile and drone attacks.

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump has raised the prospect of renewed military action against Iran, saying Washington could seize the country's oil or take control of the entire country. He also suggested another operation, dubbed "Epic Fury," could be launched, though no decision has been confirmed.



## Zelensky Ready to Freeze Front Lines, Rejects Territorial Concessions

IANs News  
Kyiv, Oct 25

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky has said Kyiv is ready to freeze combat operations along existing front lines to end the conflict but will not surrender territory.

In an interview with ABC News, Zelensky rejected proposals to give up 25 per cent of Ukraine's territory and expressed concern over declining US military assistance. He said Ukraine had received only 24 Patriot interceptor missiles from Washington in the past three months, against an average monthly requirement of 350.



Trilateral talks involving Ukraine, Russia and the United States are planned for the first half of November in Abu Dhabi, with discussions expected to cover security arrangements after a peace settlement.

Zelensky said the timing depended on Russia and called for European representatives to participate. He also stressed the need for a leaders-level meeting to resolve key issues.

tions, led to 18 arrests and the freezing of 1,424 bank accounts, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Sunday.

Agencies raided 38 locations on October 23, dismantling an alleged international narco-cartel operating

across India, Myanmar and Bangladesh. The operation also resulted in the attachment of properties worth Rs 17.82 crore, seizure of 500 detonators and Rs 12 lakh in cash.

Shah congratulated the central agencies and police forces

of the three states, reiterating the Centre's target of making India drug-free by December 31, 2029. He said the coordinated offensive was aimed at dismantling drug networks and curbing their financial links.



CPM District Committee member Manjam Anand Kumar has expressed serious concern over alleged irregularities in tenders for development works worth Rs. 18.70 crore being undertaken under the Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF) in Kagaznagar Municipality. He urged the Sub-Collector, Kagaznagar, to order a comprehensive and impartial inquiry into the entire matter and take strict legal action against those responsible if the allegations are established.

## PM Rahat Scheme Must Ensure Better Medical Care for Road Accident Victims: Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju

Munsif News Bureau  
Nizamabad , Oct. 25:

State Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju has emphasised that the PM Rahat Scheme is crucial for providing better medical care to road accident victims and called for its effective implementation.

The Chief Secretary held a review meeting through video conference with district collectors and senior officials of the concerned departments to assess the implementation of the PM Rahat Scheme, which provides cashless treatment and hospitalisation support to road accident victims.

The meeting discussed the timely provision of emergency medical treatment, coordination between government and private hospitals, and the process of releasing funds.

Officials explained that under the scheme, eligible road accident victims can receive cashless treatment of up to ₹1.5 lakh for a period of seven days following an accident, subject to police verification and approval.

Sanjay Jaju stressed that the golden hour following an accident is crucial for saving lives and called for an immediate response to ensure timely

treatment.

He directed district collectors to coordinate with road safety committees and involve district transport officials to ensure the effective implementation of the scheme.

He also emphasised the use of the 2.0 TMS portal to monitor road accidents, prevent mishaps and maintain transparent records of victims.

The Chief Secretary instructed officials to strictly implement the system under which treatment expenses are paid directly to hospitals through general insurance arrangements.

## Rs.10 LAKH DONATION TO TTD

Tirumala, Oct.25 (NSS): K.C. Agro Farm, a Guntur-based organization, donated Rs. 10,00,116 to the TTD Sri Venkateswara Anna Prasadam Trust on Sunday.

On behalf of the donor, TTD Board Member Nannapaneni Sadashiva Rao handed over the demand draft to the Temple Deputy EO, Bhaskar, at the Ranganayakula Mandapam inside the Srivari Temple.

Temple Peishkar Ramakrishna was also present.

# IMD FORECASTS INTENSE RAIN IN TELANGANA FROM OCTOBER 27

Munsif News Bureau  
Hyderabad, Oct. 25:

After a prolonged dry spell, Telangana is likely to receive heavy rainfall, thunderstorms and gusty winds from Tuesday, October 27, with extremely heavy rain forecast in isolated areas on Wednesday, October 28.

The India Meteorological Department (IMD), Hyderabad, has warned of extremely heavy rainfall in parts of Telangana on October 28, under the influence of a developing weather system over the Bay of Bengal.

According to the IMD's forecast issued on Sunday, rainfall activity is expected to

intensify over the State from Tuesday. Heavy rain is likely at isolated places on October 27, followed by extremely heavy rainfall on October 28. Heavy rain and thunderstorms are also likely on October 29.

The IMD has issued a red alert for Mulugu, Bhadradi Kothagudem and Khammam districts, where heavy to very heavy rainfall, with isolated extremely heavy downpours, is likely on October 28.

Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds are also forecast in parts of Telangana as the weather system approaches the Andhra Pradesh coast.

An orange alert has been issued for several districts,



including Jayashankar Bhupalpally, Warangal, Hanumakonda, Mahabubabad and Suryapet, where heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely at isolated places. Other districts may also receive heavy rain.

The IMD has forecast heavy rainfall at isolated plac-

es on October 29, with thunderstorms and lightning likely in parts of the State.

Residents, particularly those in eastern Telangana districts, should monitor official weather bulletins as the system develops and rainfall warnings may be updated.

## APCR Delegation Participates in Protest Against SIR, Election Commission

Munsif News Bureau  
Nizamabad , Oct. 25:

The Telangana State Police Department organised a cycle and bike rally in Nizamabad district as part of the Police Martyrs' Commemoration Week, observed in connection with Police Commemoration Day (Police Flag Day) on October 21, 2026.

The rally was organised under the supervision of Additional DCP (Administration) N. Shubham Prakash, as per the directions of Nizamabad Police Commissioner P. Sai Chaitanya, IPS. The rally



commenced at 8 a.m. from Phulang Crossroads, where N. Shubham Prakash flagged

it off. The rally proceeded from Phulang Crossroads

via Pragathi Hospital, LIC Crossroads, Court Crossroads and NTR Crossroads.

## District Collector Directs Officials to Prevent Drinking Water Shortage in Villages

Munsif News Bureau  
Suryapet, Oct. 25:

District Collector Tejas Nandalal Pawar has directed officials to take advance measures to ensure that villages do not face drinking water shortages in view of the prevailing drought conditions. He instructed them to identify local water resources alongside the supply provided through Mission Bhagiratha and prepare a ward-wise drinking water action plan.

He made it clear that the plan must be prepared within a week and its details presented to the public at the Gram Sabha.

During a review meeting held at Midutnapally village



in Utmukur (S) mandal, the Collector discussed key issues, including drinking water supply, employment guarantee works and measures to raise

groundwater levels, with officials from various departments and village residents.

Officials informed the meeting that three borewells were cur-

rently available in the village to meet drinking water needs. However, they expressed concern that groundwater levels could decline further.

## Pratima Foundation Extends Financial Assistance to Poor Student for Medical Education

Munsif News Bureau  
Rajanna Sircilla , Oct. 25:

The Pratima Foundation has extended a helping hand to a student who secured a seat in medical education through hard work and dedication despite financial hardships.

nnPoduri Glory, a resident of Hanumaji Pet village in Vemulawada Rural mandal of Rajanna Sircilla district, performed well in the NEET examination and secured a Bachelor of Dental Surgery (BDS) seat at a private college in Khammam.

nnHowever, due to her family's weak financial condition, meeting the expenses of higher education, including college fees, had become difficult. The matter was brought to the notice of BJP State Spokesperson



Vikas Rao.

nnResponding to the request, Vikas Rao visited Glory's residence in Hanumaji Pet on Sunday and handed over a cheque for Rs. 45,000 on behalf of the Pratima Foundation.

nnOn the occasion, he conveyed his best wishes for the student's bright future and encouraged her to pursue her studies with dedication, become a successful doctor and serve the poor. The

student and her family expressed their gratitude to Vikas Rao for extending financial support towards her education.

nnVillage Sarpanch Janke Madhu, BJP leaders.



BJP Telangana president N. Ramachandar Rao has said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' programme provides inspiration and guidance to students, youth and all sections of society. The BJP Telangana president watched the 139th episode of 'Mann Ki Baat' live along with residents at Lakshmi's Emporia Apartments in Miyapur under the Serilingampally Assembly constituency on Sunday. He appreciated the Prime Minister's appeal ahead of Diwali and Chhath festivals to prioritise cleanliness, keep surroundings clean and actively participate in nature conservation.

## Legal Awareness Seminar for Govt and Private Doctors on Medical Responsibilities

Munsif News Bureau  
Nizamabad , Oct. 25:

District Principal Judge G.V.N. Bharatalakshmi has advised doctors and other medical professionals to maintain medical records properly and preserve them carefully, emphasising their importance in legal proceedings.

A legal awareness seminar on various issues concerning government and private doctors and healthcare professionals was organised by the District Legal Services Authority at the main conference hall of

the Integrated District Offices Complex in Nizamabad on Saturday.

District Principal Judge G.V.N. Bharatalakshmi attended the programme as the chief guest. District Collector Ila Tripathi, Additional DCP Shubham Nagarale and other officials also participated.

The District Judge, the Collector and other speakers offered important suggestions on doctors' rights and their legal responsibilities in providing medical services.

The seminar covered the Healthcare Professionals

and Clinical Establishments (Prevention of Violence) Act, 2025, the maintenance of medical records, their legal significance and their authenticity in judicial proceedings.

The speakers emphasised that doctors must protect patients' rights, adhere to professional and medical standards, and preserve medical records to ensure their proper use in legal proceedings. They also highlighted the importance of doctors as key stakeholders in the judicial system and stressed the need for them to discharge their professional responsibilities effectively.

## Mann Ki Baat' inspires all sections of society: NRR

Munsif News Bureau  
Hyderabad, Oct. 25:

BJP Telangana president N. Ramachandar Rao has said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Mann Ki Baat' programme provides inspiration and guidance to students, youth and all sections of society.

The BJP Telangana president watched the 139th episode of 'Mann Ki Baat' live along with residents at Lakshmi's Emporia Apartments in Miyapur under the Serilingampally

Assembly constituency on Sunday.

He appreciated the Prime Minister's appeal ahead of Diwali and Chhath festivals to prioritise cleanliness, keep surroundings clean and actively participate in nature conservation.

On the occasion, Ramchandhar Rao also highlighted the voter registration process for the upcoming elections to the two Graduates' MLC constituencies in Telangana Mahabubnagar-Rangareddy-Hyderabad and Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda.

# Comprehensive Development of Vemulawada Is Our Goal: Adi Srinivas

Munsif News Bureau  
Rajanna Sircilla, Oct. 25:

The government is according special attention to the comprehensive development of the

sacred town of Vemulawada in Rajanna Sircilla district and the provision of basic amenities to its residents, Government Whip and Vemulawada MLA Adi

Srinivas said.

On Sunday, he inspected the ongoing 80-foot-wide road expansion works in Vemulawada, which are nearing completion,

along with municipal officials and public representatives. He stated that the development of the Vemulawada Rajarajeswara Swamy Temple

and the expansion of the town were equally important priorities for the government, describing them as its two eyes. Accordingly, development

works were being undertaken simultaneously in both areas. The government's primary objective was to transform Vemulawada into a major spir-

itual destination and an internationally renowned temple city, he added. He instructed officials not to compromise on construction quality and

to ensure that the road works were completed in accordance with sound technical standards so that the road would remain durable for a long time.



Chief Commissioner of Land Administration (CCLA) Lokesh Kumar has directed district collectors to expedite the first phase of the land resurvey programme and complete the survey process in the selected villages as early as possible. He said 70 revenue villages in each district had been selected for the first phase and instructed officials to accord priority to completing the survey works in these villages.

## Indian culture is getting popular abroad: Medak MP Raghunandan Rao

Munsif News Bureau  
Hyderabad , Oct. 25:

Medak MP Raghunandan Rao has claimed that the popularity of Indian culture and traditions was increasing abroad.

He said that there were articles in the newspapers that the number of Ayyappa devotees was gradually increasing in America as well. A grand Alai Balai program was organized in Siddipet on Saturday.

These celebrations were held under the auspices of senior BJP leader Dudi Srikanth Reddy at Konda Malliah Garden. MP Raghunandan Rao participated and spoke as the chief guest at these celebrations.

Speaking on the occasion, he said that India was the abode of great culture and traditions and added that he was happy that everyone, regardless of parties, castes and religions, had come together

at the event. He said that it was commendable that Alai Balai was organized not only in Hyderabad but also in tier-2 cities. He said that the spirit of Alai Balai was that all people should come together regardless of the politics.

He said that Bathukamma celebrations were also being held in Islamic countries like the Gulf countries.

The MP also said that even though the countries have changed, the admiration for

the Indian culture and traditions had not diminished. He said that it was a matter of pride for them that Indian culture was spreading all over the world. He hoped that more programs should be held to increase the intimacy between people by leaving aside the caste and religious differences. MP Raghunandan Rao stated that it was the responsibility of everyone to pass on the Indian culture and traditions to future generations.

## Former NSUI leader joins BRS party

Munsif News Bureau  
Hyderabad , Oct. 25:

Adilabad district senior Congress leader and former NSUI president Bhargav Deshpande joined the BRS party. BRS party working president KTR warmly welcomed him into the party by covering him with a pink party scarf.

Former minister and the party MLA Vemula Prashanth Reddy, former minister Jogu Ramanna, MLC Pochampally Srinivas Reddy, MLAs Kova

Lakshmi, Anil Jadhav, former MLA Balka Suman, Khanapur constituency in-charge Johnson Nayak and others participated in the program.

Later, he spoke to the media. He claimed that the Congress party in Telangana state had completely changed after the entry of CM Revanth Reddy from the rival Telugu Desam Party (TDP). He said that As an activist and leader, who has worked for so many years, the Congress

party gave him an MLA ticket and made him the NSUI state president and the district Congress president twice. "I have been an AICC member for 10 years.. But today, the Congress party is not the Congress party what we think of."

The Congress party is completely in the hands of Telugu Desam, RSS and BJP. Rahul Gandhi will say something in Delhi. He will talk about the Constitution. He will talk about freedom

of expression for students and youth. But, the government in Telangana is completely opposite to the words that Rahul Gandhi says in Delhi," Bhargav Deshpande said. He alleged that state ministers Uttam Kumar Reddy, Bhatti Vikramarka and Sridhar Babu had completely surrendered to CM Revanth Reddy.

He claimed that in the Congress government, except for four to five leaders, who move around CM Revanth Reddy, no one had improved.

## Telangana prioritising Korean investments, job creation: Bhatti

Munsif News Bureau  
Hyderabad , Oct. 25:

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka said the Telangana government was prioritising investments from South Korean companies, with a focus on job creation, technology transfer and skill development among youth.

Speaking at the K-Harmony Festa-Korea Culture Day 2026, held at Shilpakala Vedika here on Sunday, he said Telangana offered significant opportunities for collaboration with Korean companies in sectors such as electronics, electric vehicles, advanced manufacturing, life sciences, renewable energy and emerging technologies.

Bhatti recalled that the investment discussions held during Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's visit to South Korea in August 2024 had laid the foundation for economic cooperation between Telangana and South Korea. He said the state government would work to strengthen the partnership further, attract more investments and expand employment opportunities.

He observed that Telangana had much to learn from South Korea's economic progress, noting that sustained investments in education, skill development

## Farmers should focus on alternative crops in view of El Niño



Munsif News Bureau  
Hyderabad , Oct. 25:

In the wake of changing weather conditions and El Nino effect, Telangana Southern Power Distribution Company (TGSPDCL) Chairman and Managing Director Jitesh V. Patil suggested that farmers should change their cultivation methods in line with water availability and focus on cultivating alternative crops that earn more income with less water, less investment and less labor.

He said that the farmers should examine new cultiva-

tion methods in line with the changes taking place in the agricultural sector due to the effect of El Nino and added that the power department was always working to provide better electricity services to the farmers.

In this context, on Sunday, Jitesh V. Patil, along with Director (Projects and IT) of the conducted V. Shivaji, conducted a surprise field visit in Raikal, Vityala and Rameshwaram villages under Shadnagar division of Rangareddy district.

They inspected the conditions of the Agricultural Electricity Supply (AGL)

and the performance of distribution transformers and reviewed with the officials the steps to be taken to provide quality and stable electricity supply to the farmers.

In the context of high water requirement for paddy cultivation, the CMD suggested that the farmers should consider alternative crops depending on their land area, water availability and investment capacity. He said that opportunities should be explored to cultivate crops like greens, tungs, vegetables and flower gardens from a small area of one or two pits to one or two acres of land.

# CCLA DIRECTS COLLECTORS TO SPEED UP LAND RESURVEY

Munsif News Bureau  
Medak, Oct. 25:

Chief Commissioner of Land Administration (CCLA) Lokesh Kumar has directed district collectors to expedite the first phase of the land resurvey programme and complete the survey process in the selected villages as early as possible. He said 70 revenue villages in each district had been selected for the first phase and instructed officials to accord priority to completing the survey works in these villages.

Lokesh Kumar held a video conference with district collectors across Telangana to review the progress of the land resurvey programme. Medak District Collector Pratima Singh, Additional Collector Nagesh and District Revenue Officer (DRO) Ambadas Rajeshwar participated in the meeting from the Integrated District Offices Complex (IDOC) in Medak.

During the conference, the CCLA Commissioner stressed the need for all concerned officials to work in close coordination to complete the

resurvey within the stipulated time. He directed them to prepare proper survey plans and promptly resolve issues arising at the field level.

He made it clear that delays in the survey process would not be tolerated. Officials were instructed to ensure the availability of the required manpower, technical resources and survey equipment in advance to achieve the prescribed targets.

Lokesh Kumar also directed officials to form additional teams wherever necessary to accelerate the survey in select-

ed villages. He emphasised the effective utilisation of available personnel and their deployment according to the progress of the work. Survey staff should be provided with the necessary training and technical guidance to ensure systematic completion of the process.

Lokesh Kumar directed officials to set village-wise survey targets, review daily progress and prioritise slow-performing villages. He urged advance arrangements for staff, equipment and basic facilities to prevent delays.

## Complex Surgery on Pregnant Woman Successful at Peddapalli Hospital

Munsif News Bureau  
Peddapalli, Oct. 25:

A 30-year-old pregnant woman from Joolapalli village in Peddapalli district underwent successful surgery at Peddapalli District Hospital despite several complex medical complications. Both the mother and the newborn are currently stable.

The woman arrived at the district hospital for treatment, where doctors conducted medical examinations and scanning. They found that the amniotic fluid surrounding the baby in the

uterus was critically low.

The medical team also detected the passage of meconium (the baby's first stool) into the amniotic fluid. According to the doctors, the woman had been suffering from high blood pressure for the past four months and also had a uterine fibroid measuring approximately 10 centimetres.

Considering these complications, the surgical procedure was carefully performed under the supervision of District Hospital Superintendent Dr. K.

Sridhar, resulting in a successful delivery. Both the mother and the newborn are reported to be doing well.

Dr. K. Sridhar appreciated gynaecologist Dr. Ravalika, anaesthesiologist Dr. Krishnaveni, the nursing staff and the operation theatre team for their effective medical care and significant role in ensuring the safety and well-being of both mother and child under challenging circumstances.

On the occasion, Dr. Sridhar stated that Peddapalli District Hospital was provid-

ing several advanced medical services free of cost to the public.

These include laparoscopic surgery, laser treatment, fistula treatment, urological procedures, arthroscopy, cataract surgery and interventional radiology.

He appealed to the people of Peddapalli district to make full use of these advanced medical facilities and avail themselves of quality healthcare free of cost at the district hospital instead of travelling to distant places for expensive treatment.

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# COMPLAINT FILED AGAINST KHARGE OVER DEROGATORY REMARK ON PM MODI’S FATHER IN PATNA

IANS  
New Delhi, Oct. 25

Patna, Oct 25 (IANS) A Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader has filed a complaint against Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge at Patna’s Kotwali police station over his controversial remark concerning Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s father during a Congress event in the Bihar capital on Sunday.

Krishna Kumar, a member of the BJP’s state working committee, submitted the complaint, seeking an investigation into the remark made by Kharge during a programme at Babu Sabhagar to mark the birth anniversary of Bihar’s first Chief Minister Sri Krishna Singh.

In his complaint, Krishna Kumar said he learned about the alleged remark through television news coverage and was deeply hurt by the statement.

He added that making



derogatory comments about an individual’s family on a public platform was a sensitive matter and stressed the need to maintain dignity and mutual respect in public life.

The complainant requested the police to examine news reports, video footage and other available evidence to establish the exact words used by Kharge and the context in which they were spoken.

He also urged the police to initiate appropriate legal action if the investigation established that any law had been violated.

The controversy erupt-

ed during Kharge’s address at the Congress programme.

While the Congress President was criticising Prime Minister Modi, a person in the audience reportedly interjected that the Prime Minister was not going anywhere. Kharge responded, “Even PM Modi’s father will have to go”, triggering a political row.

Videos of the incident reportedly showed Congress workers confronting and assaulting the individual who had interrupted the speech.

The circumstances surrounding the altercation have also drawn attention.

The remark prompted strong reactions from BJP leaders.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah and BJP President Nitin Nabin criticised Kharge’s statement, while Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary demanded an apology from both Kharge and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

Choudhary described the remark as unfortunate and accused the Congress leadership of displaying hostility towards the Prime Minister’s family.

He demanded an immediate apology, saying that political differences should not lead to personal attacks against family members.

The incident has intensified the political confrontation between the BJP and Congress in Bihar.

The complaint has sought a formal investigation, with the exact context of the statement and any potential legal implications to be assessed by the authorities.

# MODI ARRIVES IN KASHI, TO ATTEND AIR FORCE DAY SHOW ALONG WITH DEFENCE MINISTER

IANS  
Varanasi, Oct. 25

Prime Minister Narendra Modi arrived in his parliamentary constituency Varanasi on Sunday, to participate in the two-day long Air Force Day Aerial Display-2026, commemorating the 94th anniversary of the Indian Air Force (IAF).

PM Modi, after reaching Varanasi, inaugurated a new textile unit of Arvind Limited in the city’s Mirzamurad area, marking a significant step towards strengthening India’s textile and apparel sector. The new garment manufacturing facility is set to boost employment, particularly for women, and strengthen the region’s economic growth. The facility underscores Uttar Pradesh’s growing manufacturing potential, with garments produced in Varanasi reaching global markets and advancing women-led development. Spanning an area of

about 7 acres, this facility will produce garments such as undergarments, T-shirts, shorts, and lowers. The Prime Minister inspected the factory and interacted with female workers to learn about the production activities. Following this, the

to witness the dazzling Air Show.

Meanwhile, large crowds have gathered at Namo Ghat and the surrounding ghats to witness the aerial manoeuvres of the Indian Air Force aircrafts. Spectators are also assembling at Bhosale



Prime Minister is set to attend an Indian Air Force (IAF) air show organized at Namo Ghat.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will be present on the occasion

Ghat and on the opposite bank of the Ganges, towards Ramnagar.

Extensive security arrangements have been made at the ghats. Personnel from the Water Police, Provincial Armed Constabulary

(PAC), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), along with divers, have been deployed at Namo Ghat and the surrounding areas.

As part of the security measures, surveillance is also being done using military helicopters.

A patriotic atmosphere prevails throughout the area at Ganga ghat, as people have assembled in large numbers to witness the dazzling air show. Cultural programs are also being held at the air show venue.

Earlier in the day, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath extended warm welcome to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh ahead of the Indian Air Force’s ‘Wings Over Ganga’ air show in Varanasi, highlighting the event’s significance for national defence, industrial development and the region’s cultural heritage.



## Speeding Car Kills Three in Dewas

IANS  
Dewas, Oct. 25

Three people, including an 80-year-old man, died when a speeding car hit them near Dad village in Madhya Pradesh’s Dewas district around 11 am on Sunday, police said.

The car hit two roadside women, then struck Shankar, 80, outside his house before crashing into a tree. Manibai, 40, died at the spot; Jamunabai, 45, and Shankar died in hospital. All lived in Devnaliya-Junapani.

The car was travelling from Indore to Udaynagar for a picnic. Driver Dharmendra Jain was injured and taken into custody.

Police handed over the bodies after post-mortems at Bagli Health Centre. An accidental death report was registered, and police are investigating.

## NDA Leaders Hit Out at Naseeruddin Shah Over BJP Remarks

IANS  
New Delhi, Oct. 25

NDA leaders criticised Naseeruddin Shah over remarks against the BJP. The row followed Shah’s support for students at the Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, holding an indefinite sit-in after a violent campus incident.

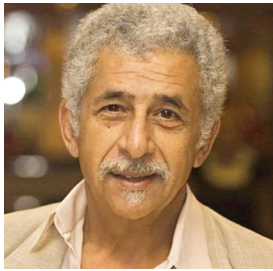
Union Minister Pralhad Joshi said in Hubballi

that the remarks had little significance, adding that freedom of expression reflected India’s democracy.

Shiv Sena spokesperson Sanjay Nirupam alleged Shah’s opposition to the BJP could undermine national unity. JD-U spokesperson Rajiv Ranjan urged the actor to distinguish between disagreement and anarchy.

BJP MLA Ram Kadam said he valued Shah’s act-

ing but criticised his statements, comparing them to those of a Pakistani spokesperson. These were political reactions to Shah’s position.



# MUMBAI CHOKES ON ‘VERY POOR’ AIR AS DELHI SEES POLLUTION RELIEF

IANS  
Mumbai, Oct. 25

Mumbai’s air quality deteriorated sharply on Saturday, with the Air Quality Index (AQI) reaching 322 in the ‘very poor’ category, while Delhi recorded an AQI of 176, its best October 24 reading in a decade.

Mumbai’s pollution was attributed to construction dust, slow winds, garbage burning, emissions from crop fires and lingering firecracker smoke. The haze prompted complaints of headaches, sore throats and

eye irritation. Doctors advised children, elderly people and vulnerable groups to limit outdoor exposure.

Civic officials acknowledged the spike, while environmental activists and residents called for tighter monitoring of construction sites, a ban on open garbage burning and better coordination to curb regional emissions. The report also said the Bombay High Court had declared an emergency and directed authorities to step up enforcement against polluting activities.

Delhi’s moderate AQI marked a contrast with previous years, when early-winter pollution typically begins to worsen around this time. Officials attributed the improvement to sustained anti-pollution measures, including regular road sweeping, removal of construction and municipal waste, and water sprinkling on roads and dust-prone areas.

The Delhi environment department said coordinated action by civic agencies and technology to identify pollution

hotspots had helped keep particulate levels under control.

Authorities cautioned, however, that air quality could deteriorate with the onset of winter and stubble burning in neighbouring states. Experts said Delhi’s improvement was encouraging, but Mumbai’s decline highlighted the need for year-round pollution-control measures in coastal cities.

Both cities continue to face calls for stronger and more consistent enforcement of environmental rules.

## India’s UPI Processes 2,400 Crore Monthly Transactions, FM Says

New Delhi, Oct 25 (IANS):

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Sunday that India’s Unified Payments Interface (UPI) now processes more than 2,400 crore transactions a month, or nearly 80 crore daily, making it the world’s largest real-time payment system.

Speaking at the inauguration of the Reserve Bank of India’s Greenfield Data Centre and Training Institute in Khordha, Odisha, by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Sitharaman said UPI’s annual transaction volume

had grown around 13000 times since 2016-17.

She said UPI’s expansion had helped create the fintech ecosystem, bringing credit, insurance and investment opportunities to millions of first-time users across India.

Calling data centres the “vaults of the digital age”, Sitharaman highlighted measures to strengthen digital infrastructure. Data centres received infrastructure status in 2022, while the Union Budget 2026-27 announced a tax holiday for foreign companies providing global cloud services from data centres in India.

She said the new RBI facility would strengthen domestic digital infrastructure and support systems underpinning India’s payments network.

The campus will house the central bank’s mission-critical systems, including Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) and National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT). The training institute, with a research wing, will build expertise in cybersecurity, artificial intelligence and data centres, she said. The centre will support secure payment operations nationwide.

## From Classrooms to Careers: Adani Celebrates 14 Vidya Mandir Alumni

IANS  
Ahmedabad, Oct. 25

Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani said on Sunday that meeting 14 former students of Adani Vidya Mandir showed how education can transform lives when talented children receive the right opportunities and support for every child.

In a post on X on Sharad Purnima, Adani said he met 14 alumni, each with a unique journey that began at the school.

“On this auspicious Sharad Purnima, it was heartwarming to meet fourteen remarkable



young people. Fourteen different journeys. Fourteen moving stories that all started at Adani Vidya Mandir,” he wrote.

The alumni have built careers in diverse fields, including medicine, law, engineering, accountancy, science, policing and

the merchant navy, he said.

“From doctors and lawyers to IIT engineers, CAs, scientists, police and merchant navy officers, they show what talent and opportunity can achieve,” Adani said.

He said their achievements demonstrated what becomes possible when talent is nurtured and opportunities are accessible. The meeting reinforced his belief in education’s power to change lives and teachers’ role in shaping young people’s futures.

Adani praised the

alumni’s accomplishments, saying their journeys reflected the impact of institutions that encourage students to pursue their aspirations. He wished them success and urged them to keep aiming higher in their professional and personal lives.

“Meeting these inspiring alumni was a powerful reminder of what education can make possible when talent meets opportunity and when teachers believe in the dreams of every child. Proud of each one of you. Keep soaring!” he wrote.

## ED Freezes 1,424 Bank Accounts, Attaches Rs 17.82 Crore in Drug Cases

IANS  
New Delhi, Oct. 25

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has frozen 1,424 bank accounts and provisionally attached properties worth Rs 17.82 crore in three money-laundering cases linked to drug trafficking from Myanmar, taking assets secured to more than Rs 26 crore.

The ED said its Aizawl and Imphal offices searched premises on October 23 in Aizawl, Champhai and Lawngtlai in Mizoram, and Churachandpur in Manipur, with the



Narcotics Control Bureau and Mizoram Police. Six people were arrested, while proceedings to arrest four more accused in custody are underway.

The cases involve alleged trafficking of heroin, brown sugar and methamphetamine tablets, and hawala transfers to settle drug proceeds with

suppliers in Myanmar. The investigation, based on FIRs under the NDPS Act, found that bank accounts in Mizoram received money generated in Manipur, Mizoram, Assam and Tripura.

According to the agency, cash from drug sales was deposited through Mini-ATM and customer service counters in Manipur, then transferred to traders, pharmacies and individuals in Mizoram. Some account holders allegedly rented out accounts for Rs 500 per lakh. Investigators said layered transactions chan-

nelled funds to unlicensed rupee-kyat exchangers in Champhai.

The ED alleged that chemicals supplied from India were moved to Myanmar for use in methamphetamine tablet production. Finished drugs were smuggled into India through the Champhai-Zokhawthar corridor.

The agency said proceeds were invested in businesses and property, including a five-storey commercial building in Champhai. Searches led to the seizure of ledgers, cheque books and debit cards too.



## Trump leaves door open to aides' pardons

**IAN S**  
Washington, Oct. 25

US President Donald Trump has left open the possibility of pardoning administration officials, saying he wanted to protect innocent people from costly investigations, although he said he had not considered such a move.

Speaking to reporters after voting early in Palm Beach, Florida, on Saturday, Trump was asked whether he might pardon junior officials to shield them from congressional inquiries.

“I haven’t thought about it, but certainly I’d be allowed to,” he said.

Trump said it would be unfair for officials to face what he described as the “corrupt weaponization” of investigations. His characterisation was a political allegation.

He referred to former President Joe Biden’s pardons, including protections for people involved in the congressional investigation into the January 6, 2021, attack on the US Capitol. Trump argued Biden’s actions offered a precedent for protecting others but did not confirm a pardon plan.

Trump said presidential pardons were among a president’s most powerful tools and framed possible clemency as protection for people he considered innocent, rather than as a response to a specific conviction or charge. He announced no specific pardons yet publicly.

The remarks came as he discussed campaigning ahead of the mid-term elections. Asked whether he would work with Democrats if they gained control of either chamber of Congress, Trump said he wanted to preserve his administration’s legislative achievements and expressed confidence in his campaign efforts.

# ALMOST 1,000 PEOPLE ARRESTED AS ANOTHER WAVE OF PROTESTS ERUPT IN FRANCE

**IAN S**  
Paris, Oct. 25

Paris, Oct 25 (IANS) Almost 1,000 people have been arrested in France on Saturday as another wave of protests took place in the country, with over 40,000 residents taking part in the demonstrations, a report has said.

The majority of the protests took place peacefully. However, clashes erupted between protesters and police in several cities of France, including Marseilles, Rennes, Paris, Lyon, Bordeaux and Toulouse, Euro News reported.

Police fired tear gas and charged crowds around Porte de Vincennes in Paris while some of the protesters launched fireworks towards security personnel, as per the report. Police deployed a water cannon to break up protesters and conducted checks of people travelling through the Nation Square.

French authorities had planned a ramped-up operation after the chaos erupted in France last weekend, when protests against rising inflation resulted in people setting fire to many places and looters breaking into dozens of shops to strip them bare.

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The Yellow Vests movement has said that another protest will be held on October 31, Euro News reported.

On Sunday, French Interior Minister Laurent Nunez thanked regional prefects, police officers, gendarmes, and firefighters for their commitment and professionalism in ensuring the safety of the people of France.

He said that people of the ultra-left and radical far-left tried to sow

disorder in Marseille, Lyon, Grenoble, Nantes, Angers, Lille, Paris and many other cities, terming the acts “unacceptable.” He asserted that the violence inflicted upon the internal security forces is “intolerable.”

In a post on X, Nunez said: “I want to salute the exceptional commitment and professionalism of all the regional prefects, prefects, police officers, gendarmes, and firefighters mobilised across France to ensure the safety of our fellow citizens and allow the processions to proceed smoothly. But notably in Paris, Marseille, Lyon, Grenoble, Nantes,

Angers, Lille, and many other cities, individuals from the ultra-left and radical far-left have once again sought to sow disorder, particularly during the dispersal of the processions. These acts are unacceptable.”

“I also extend my full support to the police officers and gendarmes injured today. The violence inflicted on the internal security forces, once again, is intolerable. They are deliberately targeted because of their uniforms and, above all, because they are the bulwarks of our Republic that these radical militants seek to bring down,” he added.

## Iran’s FM says Hormuz Strait’s routes, management not to return to pre-war era

**IAN S**  
Tehran, Oct. 25

Iran’s Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi on Sunday reiterated that the administration of the Strait of Hormuz and routes in the waterway will not be the same as they were in the past, according to the official news agency IRNA.

Araghchi made the remarks at a ceremony in the Iranian capital Tehran, while stressing that “fundamental and strategic” changes have taken place in West Asia following the U.S.-Israeli war against Iran, Xinhua News Agency reported.

“We must accept that new realities have taken hold. The routes in the Strait of Hormuz will not be the same as they once were, and the strait’s management will also not be as it was in the past,” he said. “There are matters on which we have held negotiations, and these negotiations will continue.”

The minister stressed that the region’s security must be ensured by regional countries and without reliance on foreign forces, “who have come to the re-



gion aiming to safeguard their own interests and protect Israel, and whose continued presence will lead to nothing but insecurity for the entire region.”

He added that Iran was ready to cooperate with all regional countries.

Meanwhile, Iran’s Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei has stressed the need for “serious” efforts to pursue the Iranian people’s rights and ensure the payment of compensation for the damages inflicted on the country during the US-Israeli attacks.

The issues were highlighted in a meeting between the supreme leader and the country’s Judiciary Chief Gholamhossein Mohseni-Ejei, according to a statement published on the leader’s website on Saturday.

Among the issues underlined during the meeting were promoting justice, safeguarding public rights, fighting corruption and its root causes effectively, handling judicial cases promptly, precisely and decisively, enforcing judicial rulings in a timely and deterrent manner, and bringing about a “comprehensive and tangible” transformation in the country’s judicial apparatus.

The other matters included the necessity to draw up plans and make efforts to decisively fight crimes as well as to seriously pursue the restoration of the Iranian people’s rights and compensation for the material and non-material damages resulting from the “crimes perpetrated by the US-Israeli criminals.”

## ‘China’s manufacturing model faces global resistance’

**IAN S**  
New Delhi, Oct. 25

China’s economic model, which catapulted the communist nation into becoming a factory for the world, is no longer “politically tenable” as it has resulted in hurting industries in other countries, which has led to a loss of jobs and slowed down growth, according to an article.

The article on the Time news website highlights that the United States has imposed hefty tariffs and export controls on Chinese goods, while multinational companies have adopted “China plus one” strategies with an emphasis on supply chain resilience.

“China’s manufacturing dominance is generating resistance. And not only in America. Europe worries about the erosion of its industrial base. Developing countries welcome Chinese investment and admire aspects of China’s development experience, but still ask a reasonable question: where, in this model, is our development?” the article by Chinese economist Keyu Jin contends.



It points out that for years, Western companies complained that access to China’s huge market came with demands for technology transfers. Now, China finds itself on the other side of the table, being asked to share its own expertise.

The article sees a new model of Chinese globalisation emerging, which is not simply exporting the products of China’s industrial ecosystem, but giving other countries access to the knowledge embedded within it.

The article observes that such a shift is already under way. In Brazil, BYD is moving from importing cars to manufacturing them locally and developing local suppliers. In Hungary, it is pairing its first European passenger-car factory with a research and develop-

ment centre that will work with Hungarian universities and companies.

In Indonesia, Chinese investment is helping to build an integrated battery industry stretching from nickel processing to battery production and recycling. These early examples point to a different relationship with the world: one based less on exporting what China makes than on exporting the capability to make it.

Most countries do not simply want to buy Chinese electric vehicles, batteries, solar panels, machinery, and robots. They want factories of their own. They want their workers to acquire new skills and their suppliers to move up the value chain. They want technology and know-how, the article contends.

## Egypt’s water security cannot be compromised: president

**IAN S**  
Cairo, Oct. 25

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi said here on Sunday that Egypt faces a unique water challenge due to its geographic nature and reliance on the Nile River, warning that the country’s water security cannot be compromised.

In a recorded address opening the ninth Cairo Water Week, Sisi noted that the Nile provides Egypt with more than 98 per cent of its renewable water resources, reiterating his country’s willingness to cooperate with other basin states based on international law, consultation, coordination, good neighbourliness, and the principle of causing no harm.

The Egyptian president noted that Egypt has consciously chosen the path of cooperation and dialogue, saying “Egypt respects and supports the right of all Nile Basin



states to development.”

Highlighting cooperation with southern Nile Basin countries on proposed projects in energy, agriculture and irrigation, Sisi said Egypt looks forward to reinforcing cooperation in the Eastern Nile Basin as well “in a manner that serves the interests of Egypt, Sudan, and Ethiopia.”

Meanwhile, Sisi emphasised, “Any wager that Egypt will accept a fait accompli or compromise its water security is a losing wager,” stressing that the state will not ne-

glect its responsibility to protect the interests of the Egyptian people.

The president called for turning the potential of the Nile Basin into partnerships that maximize shared benefits, safeguard the rights of all nations, and ensure that the Nile remains a source of development, prosperity, and stability for all peoples of the Basin, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Downstream countries, Egypt and Sudan, have repeatedly voiced concern over their water shares following the con-

struction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) by upstream Ethiopia. Years of trilateral negotiations have failed to produce a binding legal agreement on the rules governing the filling and operation of the dam.

Ethiopia officially inaugurated the dam in September 2025, saying the hydropower project would boost electricity generation and economic development without harming downstream countries.

Held under the theme “Water as a Catalyst for Peace, Shared Prosperity and a Sustainable Planet,” the five-day Ninth Cairo Water Week runs until Thursday. More than 130 sessions are scheduled on water security, capacity building, and preparations for the 2026 UN Water Conference to be convened in the UAE in December.

## ROAD ACCIDENT KILLS FOUR, INJURES EIGHT IN NORTHERN AFGHANISTAN

**IAN S**  
Kabul, Oct. 25

At least four people were killed and eight injured when a passenger vehicle overturned in Afghanistan’s northern Badakhshan province late on Saturday, local media reported.

The vehicle was travelling from Kofab and Yafat districts when the accident occurred, Ariana News quoted a local official as saying. Authorities have not disclosed the cause of the crash. The

injured were taken to the provincial hospital for treatment, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Badakhshan is a sparsely populated, mountainous province with rugged terrain and limited road infrastructure, conditions that can complicate travel.

In a separate accident on September 23, eight people were killed and four injured when a vehicle veered off the road and overturned in the Gazestan area of Kalafgan district in

northern Takhar province. Provincial police spokesperson Naqibullah Masroor said the injured were taken to hospital and the cause was under investigation.

On September 22, one person died and nine were injured after a minibus plunged into a ravine in Padpakh district of eastern Laghman province. Police spokesperson Mohammad Yunus Yusufzai said officers took the injured to a hospital in the provincial capital, Mehtarlam.

An investigation was launched.

On September 20, four members of a family were killed when their speeding vehicle left the road and hit a tree in Bati Kot district of eastern Nangarhar province. The driver was injured, provincial police spokesperson Sayed Tayeb Hamad said, attributing the crash to reckless driving. Authorities continue to investigate these incidents across the country. The reports highlight recurring deadly crashes across the region.

## PAKISTANIS STRUGGLE AS PETROL, DIESEL AND FOOD PRICES SURGE

**IAN S**  
Islamabad, Oct. 25

Fuel and food prices are squeezing households in Pakistan. Petrol prices rose 26.11 per cent and high-speed diesel 26.39 per cent in the first four months of 2026-27, local media reported.

Petrol climbed from PKR 299.50 per litre on July 1 to PKR 377.71 on October 24, while diesel rose from PKR 311.47 to PKR 393.66, The Express Tribune re-

ported. Transporters face higher costs.

The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics’ weekly Sensitive Price Indicator showed prices of 51 essential commodities rising about 5.81 per cent between July 2 and October 22. Salaried employees, daily-wage workers, pensioners and low-income families face rising household expenses daily. LPG prices have increased.

In Karachi, low- and middle-income families are struggling to afford

meals as flour and other food prices rise. LPG became PKR 150 per kilogram costlier in a week, prompting tandoor operators to warn that roti prices could rise further.

Consumers have complained of profiteering and said official price lists are unavailable in markets, The Express Tribune reported.

In July, members of Pakistan’s transgender community protested rising inflation and fuel prices outside the

Karachi Press Club, urging Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif’s government to reduce the cost of essential goods.

Gender Interactive Alliance spokesperson Zehrish Somroo said inflation was worsening the community’s cost-of-living pressures. Protesters said price hikes had pushed some low-income households to sell personal belongings to meet daily expenses. They warned of larger demonstrations if their demands were not met.

# India holds 40 pc of global rice exports, key to world food security

India is not only the world’s largest rice exporter but also playing an increasingly major role in ensuring global food security, industry leaders, exporters and agri-experts said on Saturday.

Speaking with IANS on the sidelines of Bharat International Rice Conference 2026 here Tarun Bajaj, General Manager, APEDA under the Ministry of Commerce, said the Bharat International Rice Conference is gradually becoming one of the world’s largest rice-focused events.

“India holds about 40 per cent share in global rice exports and is the undisputed leader. It is important to have such a platform in India where people from the entire value chain - from farmer to consumer - can sit together and discuss challenges and solutions,” he said.

Bajaj said logistics remains the biggest challenge at present. Tensions in areas like the Strait of Hormuz and the Red Sea have affected vessel movement, increased shipping time, raised insurance costs and multiplied freight

charges. Despite this, joint efforts by the central government, state governments and industry are keeping exports smooth, he said.

He added that rice is not just a commercial product but linked to food security of many nations, and India, as a responsible country, is balancing its own needs while taking care of food security of importing nations.

Meanwhile, Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Executive Director, Rice Exporters Association told IANS that India’s position in the global rice export market is extremely strong - the combined share of the second, third and fourth largest exporters is still less than India’s.

However, he cautioned that logistics cost is the biggest hurdle.

While competitors like Thailand and Vietnam depend more on waterways, India relies mostly on road transport, which pushes up costs. He suggested greater focus on producing varieties that have higher demand in international markets to fetch better value, adding that government support has helped India maintain 35-40 per



cent global market share for several years.

Similarly, Prashant Raizada, Partner, EY (Ernst & Young LLP), said the conference is the biggest and most impactful event for the rice sector so far, offering an opportunity to exchange ideas with senior experts, exporters and policymakers.

Rajesh Paharia Jain, Chief Manager, KRIBHCO Agri, said the scale and participation this year has grown compared to last year, with the entire value chain - from bag manufacturers, surveyors, custom house agents, farmers to exporters - present on one platform.

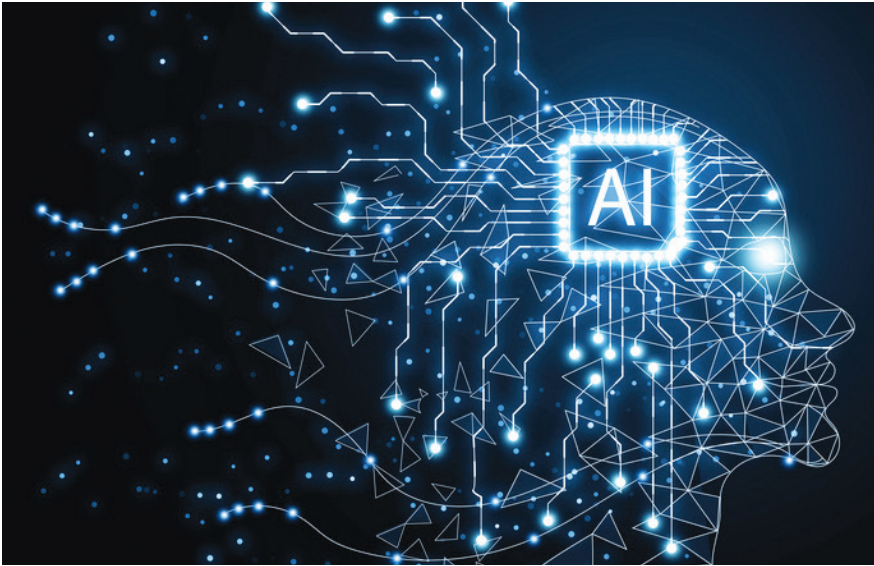
“Despite weather-related challenges and possible dip in crop output, the country has adequate buffer stock of about 5.5 to 6 crore tonnes through Food Corporation of India (FCI), so the situation remains secure,” he told IANS.

Hansa Singh Rakya, Founder, Agriguru Online, said her company has developed the world’s first AI-based market intelligence platform that provides real-time prices, freight costs, trade rules, global developments and reliable market information to buyers and sellers at one place, which is crucial amid geopolitical tensions and changing trade policies.

Dr. Pankaj Jaimini, Managing Director, Eurofins Analytical Services India, said the event is a successful attempt to bring the entire industry - buyers, exporters, testing labs and research institutions - together to discuss future challenges.

Purvi Shah, Head, SGS Food Testing Services said such conferences help ease global trade and sharing of buyer-seller meets and new global requirements can reduce customs or quality-related rejections.

# AI could create \$2.5 trillion in annual value globally



Artificial intelligence (AI) has the potential to generate \$2.52 trillion in annual economic value worldwide by automating and enhancing existing work processes, but rising deployment costs could significantly reduce those benefits, according to a new report by consulting firm McKinsey.

The report, titled The AI Value Curve: The Economics of Applying AI to Existing Work, highlights a growing disconnect between the rapid adoption of AI technologies and the economic value organisations are actually able to capture.

According to the study, many companies are prioritising AI implementation without adequately evaluating whether the technology is delivering sufficient returns on investment.

McKinsey estimated that a 30 per cent increase in the effective cost of AI deployment could erase as much as \$850 billion in annual economic value. Under such a scenario, the technology’s projected global impact would decline from \$2.52 trillion to \$1.67 trillion per year.

In the United States, the report found that annual economic value generated by AI could fall from \$960 billion to \$640 billion if costs rise by a similar margin. McKinsey noted that these figures represent a modelled scenario rather than a prediction of future outcomes.

The findings come at a time when businesses are spending heavily on AI infrastructure, software platforms and automation technologies. The report estimated that global investments in AI infrastructure could reach approximately \$7 trillion by 2030, requiring annual profit pools of around \$760 billion to justify those expenditures.

Among industries, financial services emerged as the sector with the highest potential gains from AI adoption, with estimated annual economic benefits of \$530 billion.

The education sector ranked second, with potential gains of \$410 billion, followed by technology, media and telecommunications at \$360 billion. Healthcare could generate an estimated \$310 billion in annual value through AI-enabled applications. The report also challenged the perception that AI’s primary role is to replace lower-wage workers. Instead, it suggested that some of the most attractive economic opportunities lie in supporting highly skilled professionals in fields such as law, healthcare, management and computer-related occupations, where the technology can enhance productivity and decision-making.

## Human rights, ESG reporting remain weak among Pakistan-listed firms



Pakistan’s publicly listed companies have recorded a decline in corporate transparency, according to Transparency International Pakistan’s TRAC 2026 assessment. The study of 104 companies listed on the Pakistan Stock Exchange recorded an average score of 66.73 per cent, down from 72.3 per cent in the previous edition.

Oil and Gas Development Company, Fauji Cement and Sazgar Engineering Works were the top performers, although no company achieved a perfect score.

Human rights and corporate social responsibility disclosures were the weakest area, with an average score of 45.98 per cent. Environmental, social and governance disclosures scored 47.84 per cent, while anti-corruption transparency averaged 53.41 per cent.

In contrast, companies performed well in disclosing organisational structures and domestic financial information, scoring over 92 per cent in both categories. The report also highlighted gaps in disability inclusion, grievance mechanisms for discrimination and systems for reporting corruption.

# Dance with Joy, Not Pain: Protect Your Spine During Festive Celebrations

Festivals are a time of joy, music and celebration, with dancing adding energy and excitement to the festivities. From energetic footwork and rapid turns to sudden changes in direction, dancing can provide a good workout and help people stay active. However, spending hours on the dance floor without adequate breaks, proper posture or preparation can put excessive strain on the spine, neck and surrounding muscles. Health experts caution that while mild muscle soreness may settle with rest, persistent pain or symptoms affecting the arms and legs should never be ignored.

The spine supports the body, enables movement and protects the spinal cord. The soft discs between the vertebrae act as cushions, absorbing pressure during movement. Repeated twisting, sudden movements, awkward postures and excessive physical exertion can strain the muscles and supporting tissues around the spine. In some cases, a spinal disc may bulge or herniate, pressing on nearby nerves and causing pain in the back, buttocks or legs. However, not every episode of back pain after dancing indicates a disc problem, as muscle strain and other conditions can also cause discomfort.

Pain in the neck or back that persists after dancing, repeatedly returns or interferes with standing, bending, walking or sleeping deserves medical attention. Pain spreading to the shoulders, arms, buttocks or legs, accompanied by numbness, tingling or muscle weak-



ness, may indicate nerve irritation or compression. Difficulty gripping objects or lifting the foot can also be a warning sign. New difficulties with urination, loss of bladder or bowel control, reduced sensation around the groin or inner thighs, or rapidly worsening leg weakness require immediate emergency medical attention, as these symptoms may indicate serious pressure on the nerves in the lower spine.

A few simple precautions can help people enjoy festive dancing while reducing the risk of injury. Begin with five to ten minutes of gentle walking and light movements to warm up the body. Wear comfortable footwear that fits properly and provides good grip. Avoid abrupt, forceful twists and movements that place excessive pressure on the back. Those who are not accustomed to prolonged dancing should gradually increase the duration and intensity instead of pushing themselves beyond their physical limits. Taking regular breaks,

drinking sufficient water and allowing the body time to recover are equally important.

Anyone experiencing pain should stop dancing rather than trying to push through the discomfort. If the pain persists, worsens or is accompanied by numbness or weakness, medical advice should be sought promptly. Doctors may conduct a physical and neurological examination and recommend imaging tests, including an MRI, when necessary. Such scans are not required for every case of back pain. Most episodes can be managed without surgery through appropriate activity modification, medication prescribed by a healthcare professional and physiotherapy. Surgery may be considered in selected cases involving significant nerve compression or progressive neurological weakness.

Festive dancing is a wonderful way to stay active, connect with others and celebrate cultural traditions. The key is to recognise personal lim-

its, maintain control over movements and give the body enough time to rest. Ignoring pain in the excitement of the moment can turn a joyful celebration into a prolonged health problem. By warming up properly, avoiding excessive exertion and recognising warning signs early, people can protect their spinal health while enjoying the festivities. The message is simple: celebrate with enthusiasm, but listen to your body. A few sensible precautions can help ensure that festive memories are filled with happiness rather than pain. Experts also recommend that people with existing back problems or a history of spinal injuries take extra care during festive celebrations. Choosing dance movements suited to one’s fitness level and avoiding sudden, forceful twists can help reduce unnecessary strain. Staying physically active throughout the year, maintaining a healthy weight and strengthening the core muscles can further support spinal health and make dancing safer and more enjoyable.

# Five Potential Health Benefits of Coffee and the Right Way to Drink It

Coffee is one of the world’s most popular beverages, enjoyed for its ability to boost alertness and energy. Research suggests that its antioxidants, caffeine and other bioactive compounds may be associated with a lower risk of certain chronic diseases when consumed in moderation. Hyderabad-based cancer surgeon Dr Arjun Shankaran recently highlighted these potential benefits in an Instagram post, noting that studies have linked coffee consumption with longer life expectancy.

Regular coffee consumption has been associated with a lower risk of fatty liver disease, liver cirrhosis and other chronic liver conditions. Coffee may also help lower the risk of type 2 diabetes by improving insulin sensitivity and supporting blood sugar regulation. Figures cited by Dr Shankaran suggest that drinking one, two or three cups daily is associated with an 8, 15 and 21 per cent lower risk of type 2 diabetes, respectively. These findings reflect associations observed in studies and do not guarantee the same benefits for everyone.

Some studies have also linked regular coffee consumption with a



lower risk of endometrial cancer and Parkinson’s disease. Research has reported a 20 to 29 per cent lower risk of endometrial cancer among women who regularly drink coffee, while Dr Shankaran cited findings suggesting a 37 per cent lower risk of Parkinson’s disease among regular coffee drinkers. Moderate coffee consumption has also been associated with better cardiovascular outcomes, including lower risks of certain heart-related problems and death from heart disease or stroke. However, coffee alone cannot prevent these diseases or replace appropriate medical care.

The way coffee is consumed is equally important. Drinking extremely hot beverages can damage the oesophagus. The International Agency for Research on Cancer identifies beverages consumed above 65 degrees

Celsius as probably carcinogenic to humans, with the concern linked to temperature rather than coffee itself. Excessive sugar can contribute to weight gain and metabolic problems, while caffeine consumed late in the day may interfere with sleep. People who experience insomnia, anxiety or palpitations may need to reduce their intake.

Dr Shankaran suggested two to three small cups daily, preferably with little or no added sugar, and advised avoiding coffee after 2 p.m. to minimise its impact on sleep. However, caffeine tolerance varies, and pregnant women and people with certain health conditions should seek appropriate medical advice. Ultimately, coffee can be part of a healthy lifestyle when consumed in moderation, at a safe temperature and without excessive sugar.



## Tilak Varma, Nitish Reddy Power India to Thrilling Win Over New Zealand



**Wellington, Oct. 25:**

India defeated New Zealand by four wickets in a thrilling second T20 International on Saturday, taking a 2-0 lead in the five-match series. Hyderabad batter Tilak Varma led the chase with a match-winning half-century, earning the Player of the Match award.

Chasing 181 for victory, India reached 184 for six with one ball remaining. Tilak held his nerve under pressure, while Naman Dhir's quickfire 31 off 17 balls and Nitish Kumar Reddy's valuable support helped India recover from a top-order collapse.

India were struggling at 70 for five after losing Abhishek Sharma (27), Sanju Samson (14), Vaibhav Suryavanshi (4), captain Shreyas Iyer (7) and Axar Patel (11). Naman Dhir counterattacked with three sixes before Mitchell Santner dismissed him, leaving India needing 68 runs from the final five overs. Tilak and Nitish then produced a determined

partnership, combining aggressive strokeplay with quick running between the wickets. Tilak accelerated in the penultimate over, hitting three fours and a six to bring India within reach of victory. He completed his half-century in the final over before Nitish scored the winning runs.

Earlier, New Zealand posted 180 for five in 20 overs. Glenn Phillips top-scored with 70 off 43 balls, including four fours and four sixes, while Bevon Jacobs made 58 off 46 deliveries. Their 116-run partnership for the fourth wicket revived the New Zealand innings after the hosts lost three wickets in the powerplay.

Arshdeep Singh claimed two wickets for 33 runs for India, while Prince Yadav and Bhuvneshwar Kumar also struck early. India's composure in the closing overs ultimately proved decisive.

The victory gives India a commanding 2-0 advantage in the series. The third T20 International is scheduled to be played in Wellington on Tuesday.

## 'Found himself like a fish out of water': Ashwin questions Sooryavanshi's No. 3 role in 2nd T20I

**New Delhi, Oct. 25:**

Former India spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has questioned the team management's decision to send teenage batter Vaibhav Sooryavanshi at No. 3 in the second T20I against New Zealand, saying the unfamiliar position restricted his natural attacking game.

Sooryavanshi, who replaced the injured Ishan Kishan in Christchurch, managed just four runs off eight balls. Ashwin said the youngster appeared "like a

fish out of water" and felt that batting at No. 3, particularly during the sixth over, did not suit him. He also stressed the importance of an experienced partner guiding a young batter through difficult moments.

Ashwin suggested that Sanju Samson could move to No. 3 if India want to accommodate all three batters in the playing XI, allowing Sooryavanshi to bat in a position better suited to his strengths. Meanwhile, Ashwin

## An Se-young Beats PV Sindhu to Win Fourth Consecutive French Open Title

**Paris, Oct. 25:**

India's PV Sindhu suffered a defeat in the women's singles final of the French Open, losing to South Korea's world No. 1 An Se-young, who clinched her fourth consecutive title at the tournament on Sunday.

In the final held at Arena Grand in Paris, Sindhu made an impressive start, winning the opening game 21-16 with an aggressive display that put the Korean shuttler under pressure.

However, An Se-young fought back strongly in the second game, raising the intensity of her play and taking control of the contest. She won the next two games 21-11 and 21-12 to seal the title after a match



lasting more than an hour.

Despite her strong start, Sindhu was unable to maintain the same level of performance as the match progressed. An Se-young's consistency and ability to respond under pressure proved decisive

in the final. The victory further strengthened the Korean star's dominance at the French Open, as she secured her fourth successive women's singles crown. Sindhu had to settle for the runner-up position.

The result also continued Sindhu's difficult run against An Se-young. According to the match record cited in reports, the Indian shuttler has now lost all 11 of her encounters against the world No. 1.

## Elena Rybakina defends Ningbo title for fourth trophy of 2026

**Ningbo, Oct. 25:**

World No. 1 Elena Rybakina defended her Ningbo Open title, defeating Canada's Leylah Fernandez 6-2, 6-2 in the final on Sunday.

The Kazakh won her fourth title of 2026 and 15th career tour-level trophy, extending her winning streak at the event to eight matches.

## Shardul Thakur set to miss Mumbai's Ranji Trophy clash against Haryana

**New Delhi, Oct. 25:**

Mumbai Ranji Team will be without the services of their experienced all-rounder Shardul Thakur, as he continues to recover from a finger injury and is set to miss the Elite round three clash against Haryana, which will be played at the BKC Complex from Monday.

Thakur, who has been sidelined since sustaining the injury during a training session ahead of the season's opening round, has not regained full match fitness despite returning to training with the Mumbai squad. He was initially expected to miss at least the first two rounds, with the team hoping he would be available for the Haryana fixture.

Mumbai, however, have decided against rushing his return and will field the same squad that registered a convincing victory over Himachal Pradesh in Bilaspur in their previous match, according to Cricinfo.

The 34-year-old last



featured in the Duleep Trophy quarter-final for West Zone against North Zone in late August. He took one wicket in 14 overs and scored 10 runs in his only innings as West Zone suffered a 54-run defeat.

While working towards his return to competitive cricket, Thakur is also set to take up commentary duties for some of India's ongoing T20 Internationals against New Zealand.

Mumbai have made an impressive start to their Ranji Trophy campaign, securing consecutive innings victories to collect 14 points and move to the top of Elite Group D. They

opened their campaign with an innings-and-155-run win over Chandigarh at the Wankhede Stadium before defeating Himachal Pradesh by an innings and 97 runs in Bilaspur.

Mumbai will continue to manage their resources carefully with several players unavailable. Vice-captain Ayush Mhatre is recovering from a hamstring injury, while opener Yashasvi Jaiswal is in New Zealand for the upcoming Test series after featuring in the India A series. Haryana, meanwhile, also enter the contest after winning their opening two matches, setting up a meeting between the top two teams in the group.

## Kieron Pollard Appointed Mumbai Indians Head Coach for IPL 2027



**Mumbai, Oct. 25:**

Former West Indies all-rounder Kieron Pollard has been appointed head coach of Mumbai Indians, with the franchise confirming that he will take charge from the 2027 Indian Premier League season.

Pollard, who has served as the team's batting coach in recent seasons, has been promoted to the top coaching role following Mahela Jayawardene's departure

from the position.

A long-time Mumbai Indians player, Pollard represented the franchise from 2009-10 through the 2022 season, featuring in 189 IPL matches. He scored 3,412 runs at a strike rate of 147.32 and claimed 69 wickets, playing a key role in the team's success. His appointment marks a new chapter in his association with the franchise, as he moves from batting coach to head coach ahead of the 2027 season.

## IOA chief PT Usha lauds Indian athletes after historic 114-medal haul at Asian Para Games

**New Delhi, Oct. 25:**

Indian Olympic Association (IOA) president PT Usha congratulated Indian para-athletes for their historic performance at the Asian Para Games 2026 in Japan, where India won a record 114 medals to finish fourth in the overall standings.

India secured 30 gold, 35 silver and 49 bronze medals, surpassing its previous best of 108 medals at the 2023 edition in Hangzhou, China. Usha praised the athletes' determination and hard work and also acknowledged the contribution of coaches and support staff.

Para-athletics led India's medal tally with 65 medals, followed by para-badminton with 16 and para-swimming with 11. Sumit Antil defended his gold in jav-



elin throw, while Simran Sharma won gold in both the women's 100m and 200m T12 events, setting Games records in both races.

Shooter Mona Agarwal won gold in the women's 50m rifle three positions SH1 event with record scores. India also secured six medals in para-archery and five in shooting. In para-table tennis, 50-year-old Jehan Dorab Madan created a milestone by becoming India's oldest medalist at the Games with a bronze.

## 193 Women Athletes Participate in Khelo India Wushu District League in Nizamabad

**Nizamabad, Oct. 25:**

The Asmita Khelo India Women's Wushu District League 2026 was successfully conducted at Saryu Convention Hall on Edapally-Bodhan Road along National Highway 63 in Nizamabad district on October 24, with 193 women athletes participating in the competition.

The event aimed to promote women's participation in sports, identify emerging talent and provide young athletes with opportunities to compete at higher levels. Participants showcased their sporting skills, discipline and confidence during the competition.

K. Ramchander, Sarpanch, attended the event as the chief guest. Other dignitaries included K. Narayana, Chairman; K.



Surya Narayana of Lions Club; Abdul Omer, General Secretary of the Amateur Wushu Association, Nizamabad district; P. Lakshmi Narayana, Chairman of the Red Cross Society; and Mohammed Irshad Ali.

The guests appreciated the enthusiastic participation of women athletes and encouraged them to pursue their sporting ambitions

with dedication and hard work. They highlighted the role of sports in promoting physical fitness, self-confidence, discipline and women's empowerment.

Abdul Omer said that creating better sporting opportunities for girls and encouraging more women to take up Wushu were important priorities. He also appreciated the efforts of the organisers, coach-

es, technical officials and parents in ensuring the successful conduct of the event.

The participation of 193 women athletes reflected the growing interest in Wushu among girls in Nizamabad district. The organisers thanked the chief guest, dignitaries and everyone who contributed to the successful completion of the competition.

## Shaheenw Afridi becomes quickest Pakistan fast bowler to complete 150 ODI wickets

**Lahore, Oct. 25:**

Pakistan ODI captain Shaheen Afridi achieved a significant milestone during the ODI tri-series second fixture against England at the Gaddafi Stadium here on Sunday as he completed 150 wickets in the 50-over format.

Shaheen has become the quickest Pakistan fast bowler to scalp 150 wickets in the format, breaking the joint record of greats Waqar Younis and Shoaib Akhtar. The 26-year-old achieved the milestone in his 80th ODI, while Younis and Akhtar had reached 150 wickets in 91 matches each.

Coming into the second match against England in the tri-series, Shaheen needed just one wicket to reach the mark, and he got there after dismissing inform opener Tom Banton in the first over. Banton,

who had hit four consecutive fifty-plus scores in his last four innings, chipped a full-length ball to cover for Arafat to hold onto a simple catch.

That helped Shaheen complete his 150th wicket in the format. He is also the second-fastest Pakistan bowler to get to the mark and is only behind Pakistan great Saqlain Mushtaq, the off-spinner, who completed his 150 wickets in 78 matches.

Overall, Shaheen is the joint-fourth fastest player in the world to get to 150 wickets. Nepal's Sandeep Lamichhane remains the quickest to the mark in the world, having reached 150 wickets in 73 ODIs, while Mitchell Starc (77) and Mushtaq are second and third, respectively.

The Pakistan seamer is now level with Afghanistan's Rashid

Khan and India's Mohammed Shami, both of whom had also completed their 150 wickets in 80 ODIs.

Coming to the match, the Pakistan captain followed his milestone 150th wicket with another scalp when he removed England talisman Joe Root, caught at backward point.

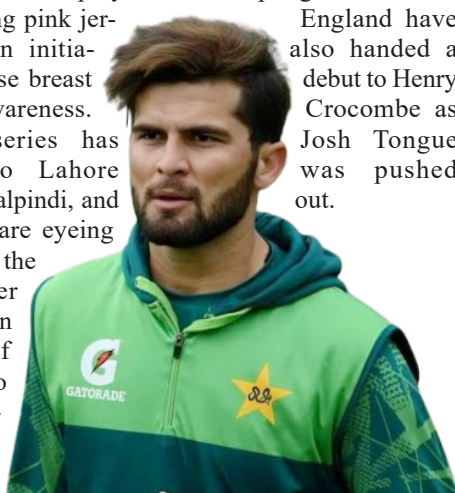
This game holds a special significance for Pakistan, as the players are wearing pink jerseys in an initiative to raise breast cancer awareness. The tri-series has moved to Lahore from Rawalpindi, and the hosts are eyeing a place in the final after having won both of their two matches against

Sri Lanka and then against the Three Lions - in the ongoing series.

They have made two changes to their playing XI, as Shadab Khan has returned, while Razaullah made his ODI debut.

Faheem Ashraf and Naseem Shah are out, with the latter having dislocated his finger in the warm-up, the Pakistan captain stated at the toss after opting to bowl.

England have also handed a debut to Henry Crocombe as Josh Tongue was pushed out.



# MSF stages protest against SIR at Indira Park

Munsif News Bureau  
Hyderabad, Oct 25

The Muslim Students Federation (MSF), the student wing of the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), staged a protest against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls at Dhama Chowk near Indira Park here on Sunday. A large number of MSF students participated in the protest and raised slogans against the exercise.

IUML Telangana president Mohammed Shakeel, who attended the protest, alleged that the Centre and the BJP were pursuing anti-people policies through SIR. He said the exercise, under the pretext of revising electoral rolls, could lead to the deletion of voters and undermine democratic principles.

Shakeel stressed the need to expose the Centre's policies and safeguard citizens' voting rights. He demanded the immediate removal of Chief

IUML Telangana chief Mohammed Shakeel demands removal of Chief Election Commissioner



Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, alleging that the electoral exercise threatened democracy. He further claimed that people from various sections of society, in-

cluding youth, intellectuals, religious scholars and other groups, were opposed to SIR. IUML and MSF state leaders also participated in the protest.

# Gutha Slams DK Aruna's Remarks on Dindi Project

NSS News  
Hyderabad, Oct 25

Legislative Council Chairman Gutha Sukhender Reddy on Sunday criticised BJP MP DK Aruna for seeking cancellation of the Dindi Lift Irrigation Project, urging her to focus on irrigation development rather than creating regional differences.

Speaking to the media in Nalgonda, Gutha said the Dindi project was crucial for providing safe drinking water to fluoride-affected areas in Devarakonda and Munugode, which had suffered for decades. He welcomed Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's decision to allocate 0.5 TMC of water to the project.

Gutha urged Aruna to press the Centre for national project status for the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme to secure funds and expedite pending works. Opposing regional divisions over water sharing, he pointed out that Hyderabad receives 30 TMC of water through the Alimineti Madhava Reddy Project. He stressed that the State's broader interests and equitable water utilisation should take precedence over regional disputes.



# Unhygienic conditions found at Telangana Sweet Units

TG SAFE inspects 53 units, collects 38 samples; notices planned for 20 establishments

Munsif Desk  
Hyderabad, Oct 25

A special food safety drive across Telangana has uncovered unhygienic conditions and several violations at sweet manufacturing and retail units. Food Safety Officers of the Telangana Standards Authority for Food and Essential Drugs (TG SAFE) inspected 53 establishments on October 23 and collected 38 samples on suspicion of adulteration.

Officials found clogged drains, unclean washing areas, damaged flooring, food waste, dirty walls, greasy exhausts and improper storage practices. Some establishments lacked pest control and food-handler health records, while workers were found without hairnets and gloves. Food and non-food items were also stored together, with some food articles kept

on the floor. TG SAFE will issue improvement notices to 20 establishments and a show-cause notice to one unit. The establishments will be reinspected, and further action, including penalties, will follow based on compliance.

The drive covered several districts, including Mancherial, Khammam, Nizamabad, Warangal, Nalgonda and Mahabubnagar.

In a separate operation last week, three sweet shops in Hyderabad lost their licences following inspections that revealed serious hygiene violations, including cockroach infestation, storage pests and fungal contamination in pickles. Officials had inspected 21 khoa and sweet units, collected 21 samples and seized 1,035 kg of food articles worth Rs. 7.75 lakh.

# Over 1,100 women take part in Starlight Strides Night Run



NSS News  
Hyderabad, Oct 25

More than 1,100 women participated in the sixth edition of Starlight Strides – Women's Night Run 2026, organised by the Hyderabad Runners Society at Gachibowli on Saturday night. The event featured 10K and 5K timed runs and a 5K fun run, attracting women across age groups and fitness levels. Several

participants ran in sarees, adding a traditional touch to the event. Hyderabad Runners Society president Arun Kumar said the initiative aimed to encourage women to prioritise physical and mental well-being, build confidence and promote empowerment. Under the Society's 'Gift a Run' initiative, free registrations were provided to women from NGOs, including SABA.

The event also marked the graduation run of the six-week Women's Couch25K training programme, with over 180 women completing their 5K run under the guidance of 17 women mentors, who were felicitated. The 'Run in Saree, Win Big' contest, presented by Mandir, offered gift vouchers worth a total of ₹2.5 lakh, adding to the celebrations.

# Danam accuses BRS of politicising El Niño Crisis

NSS News  
Hyderabad, Oct 25

Khairatabad MLA Danam Nagender on Sunday accused the BRS of politicising the El Niño crisis, alleging that its leaders' visit to the Medigadda barrage was a "joy trip" despite the serious environmental challenges facing the State.

Defending the Congress government's efforts to meet Hyderabad's drinking water needs, Nagender said previous Congress administrations had brought 10 TMC of Godavari water to the city through the Yellampally project. He criticised the previous BRS government over the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme, alleging that the project had failed to supply even one TMC of water from Medigadda for the capital's drinking needs.

He said Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy was implementing a plan to ensure long-term water security, including the supply of an additional five TMC of drinking water by January 2027.

Nagender also accused the BJP of illegally deleting voters' names in Bihar, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh. He urged people and party supporters to participate in the "Chalo Delhi" rally called by Rahul Gandhi at Ramlila Maidan on November 1 to protest alleged electoral malpractices.

# KTR says Rahul Gandhi lacks courage to visit Telangana State

NSS News  
Hyderabad, Oct 25

BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao on Sunday accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of avoiding Telangana and alleged that the Congress government had failed to fulfil its electoral promises.

Addressing a gathering at Telangana Bhavan, where Khairatabad leader Sharif joined the BRS, Rama Rao alleged that the Congress had failed to implement its six guarantees, 13 declarations and 420

promises even after nearly 1,000 days in office. He criticised Rahul Gandhi for speaking about issues concerning students across the country while allegedly remaining silent on Telangana's problems. Rama Rao also accused Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy of turning the State into an "ATM" for the Congress leadership at the Centre.

Reiterating that the BRS would remain a regional force, he said the party was committed to protecting Telangana's interests.



# Scrap shop explosion leaves owner critically injured

Munsif News Bureau  
Hyderabad, Oct 25

A scrap shop owner, Parashuram, suffered critical burn injuries in an explosion at his shop in Church Colony, Ramanthapur, on Sunday morning.

The explosion occurred while metal-cutting work was underway at the shop, located on the ground floor of a G+2 building. The blast triggered a fire, leaving Parashuram with severe burns.

After the incident, Parashuram managed to come out of the shop.

Local residents rushed him in an ambulance to Gandhi Hospital for treatment. According to reports, he sustained burns over nearly 70 per cent of his body, and his condition was stated to be critical.

Fire personnel rushed to the spot and deployed two fire engines to bring the blaze under control. Further details about the cause of the explosion were not immediately available.



# Bandru Foundation Holds Alai Balai in Aleru

NSS News  
Hyderabad, Oct 25

The Bandru Foundation, led by former State Women's Cooperative Development Organisation chairperson Bandru Shobha Rani, organised Alai Balai celebrations in Aleru to promote Telangana's culture and social harmony. Former Union Minister Bandaru Dattatreya, Bhongir MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy and former minister Motkupalli Narasimhulu attended the event. Kiran Kumar Reddy said the tradition promotes unity beyond caste, religious and political differences. Government Whip Addanki Dayakar, cultural activist Vimalakka, former MLA Gongidi Sunitha Mahender Reddy and Women's Commission chairperson Nerella Sarada were among those present.

# Eatala Seeks Permanent Solution to Jawahar Nagar Dumping Yard



NSS News  
Hyderabad, Oct 25

BJP MP Eatala Rajender on Sunday accused authorities of neglecting Jawahar Nagar residents affected by dumping yard pollution and demanded a permanent solution. Speaking at a round-table meeting at Haritha Plaza, he alleged that court orders were not being implemented and Ramky's CSR funds were not being used for local needs such as drinking water and roads.

Rajender called for zero-pollution waste disposal technology and conversion of garbage into electricity, biogas and organic manure. He announced a padayatra from October 27 to press for action on the issue. The meeting was attended by environmentalists, intellectuals and dumping yard victims.

# Revanth Leads Team to Mumbai for Thummadihatti Talks

NSS News  
Hyderabad, Oct 25

In a major initiative to resolve prolonged inter-state river water disputes, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has led a high-level official delegation to Mumbai for

high-level bilateral talks with Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis scheduled for Monday. The delegation, including Minister for Irrigation Shri N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and senior administrative officials, will engage in high-level discussions

aimed at reaching a consensus on the Thummadihatti barrage. The Telangana government is advocating for the barrage height to be established at 152 metres to meet the vital drinking and irrigation requirements of northern Telangana districts, particularly erstwhile Adilabad.

Addressing prior apprehensions raised by Maharashtra regarding submergence and tribal displacement in border pockets, the Telangana government has formulated a comprehensive plan designed to mitigate local impact while protecting state water interests.