

SC Seeks Delhi Govt Reply on CEC Ouster Protest, Orders Normal Metro Services

New Delhi, Oct 11 (UNI) The Supreme Court today issued a notice to the BJP-led Delhi government seeking its reply on why contempt of court proceedings should not be initiated against it over the closure of Metro stations during the October 10 protests demanding the ouster of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

A special bench, comprising Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana, directed the authorities to file a short affidavit responding to the contempt petition and submit a compliance report on implementation of the court's earlier directions, issued on October 9, concerning public transport and movement during the protests.

In a slew of directions, the court ordered that Metro and railway services



should function normally, subject to regulatory measures necessitated by public-order considerations. It said movement across the city should not be obstructed except through traffic regulation, directed an immediate review of road barricades and ordered that internet services remain undisturbed, subject to statutory powers available

to the authorities.

The bench further directed that there should be no unlawful detention and that peaceful assembly should be permitted outside areas where restrictions under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNS), which replaced the erstwhile Section 144 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, were in opera-

tion. Justice Mohana also reminded those supporting the protests of their responsibility to ensure peaceful demonstrations. "All of you present here, if you are seriously interested in public welfare, please undertake that you will all protest peacefully and not instigate any other person," she said.

Senior advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan agreed, while seeking a corresponding assurance from the authorities. "Absolutely. And that undertaking should come from their side also about how to behave with peaceful protesters," he said. The court also ordered removal of a board outside the Supreme Court announcing imposition of Section 163 BNS in the vicinity, observing that citizens and lawyers should not be impeded in accessing the court.

CJP to approach Delhi Police to get date for anti-CEC protest

New Delhi, Oct 11 (UNI) The Narendra Modi-led Centre thwarted the call for protest at Jantar Mantar to press for the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, with the Delhi Police detaining over 7,000 protesters, including Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) leaders Abhijeet Dipke, Sauro Das, Ashutosh Rana, YouTuber Dhruv Rathee, AISA president Neha Bora, opposition parties with four former chief ministers and scores of journalists, lawyers and citizens.

Dipke, Das and Ranka were detained as soon as the plane touched down at Delhi Airport. In a pre-recorded video message, Dipke said the organisation's in-charge, Ajinkya Shinde, would lead its protest at Jantar Mantar. The CJP asserted that the protest would continue nationwide, with or without its



leaders. They were taken to an undisclosed location.

The Opposition likened the situation to one worse than the Emergency. "This has gone beyond an Emergency; it has become a Super Emergency," Trinamool Congress (TMC) chief Banerjee said.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi urged the youth to "keep protesting" and asserted that "we are going to ensure that this regime and the people who have

attacked the Constitution are defeated". Activist Sonam Wangchuk said he would consider launching a peaceful protest, including a hunger strike or a march in Leh or Delhi, if the detainees were not released within 24 hours.

A large number of police personnel detained groups of protesters from several places, including Hanuman Temple, Akashwani Bhawan, Safdarjung Flyover and Kerala House. Regular announce-

ments were being made by the police at Jantar Mantar, instructing people and mediapersons not to gather in one place.

Former Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot has given a "Delhi Chalo" call, urging people, particularly the youth, to join a march to the Supreme Court on Monday to submit a memorandum to the CJJ against alleged suppression of protests and electoral irregularities.

Akhilesh Demands Release of Arrested Delhi Protesters

Lucknow, Oct 11 (GNS) Samajwadi Party President Akhilesh Yadav today demanded the release of students and youth arrested in Delhi for protesting as well as the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. He urged the government to release the arrested students and youth, saying that a government that fears its own end resorts to injustice.

Akhilesh Yadav, while talking to media after paying tribute of Jayaprakash Narayan, said, "Who doesn't know that the Election Commission is working to ensure the BJP's victory? The EC's job is to ensure that as many people as possible cast their votes, but the Commission is cutting those votes. This is the first time we're seeing people being prevented from voting. Their names are being deleted. The public is going to defeat them in 2027. Change has begun, and only 40 days are left."

The SP president also

raised the issue of alleged violence against people from Uttar Pradesh in Delhi. He commented on the current situation, citing Hitler's rule, and demanded the CEC's resignation. He reminded that Form 7s were filled by forging the signatures of those who did not know how to sign, and people's votes were cancelled. The rule states that a person cannot fill more than five Form 7s, but votes were cancelled by making them fill more than 100 forms. In the by-election, people saw that policemen were dressed in plain clothes and were made to cast fake votes. We also saw such pictures in the by-election in which an officer was seen with a revolver threatening women not to vote.

Earlier, SP President Akhilesh Yadav visited the Jayaprakash Narayan International Centre (JPNIC) in Gomtinagar to celebrate the birth anniversary of Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan.

Congress Accuses Modi Govt of Attacking Democracy Over Vote Theft Protests

New Delhi, Oct 11 (UNI) Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh on Sunday accused the Narendra Modi government of undermining Indian democracy by allegedly using force against students, young people and Opposition leaders protesting in the national capital against what the Congress calls "vote theft".

In a post on social media platform X, Ramesh alleged that the government was resorting to authoritarian methods to silence dissent, describing the action against protesters as an assault on the foundations of Indian democracy. "The arrogant Modi government's brutal use of force against students, young people and Opposition leaders raising their voices against vote theft in the national capital, and its attempt to silence them through authoritarian means, is an attack on the foundations of democracy in India," Ramesh said.



Accusing the government of showing contempt for the Constitution, the Congress leader alleged that its actions reflected an arrogance of power and a determination to remain in office at any cost. "In its arrogance of power and its stubborn determination to cling to office at any cost, the Modi government has shown utter disrespect for the Constitution," he said. Ramesh maintained that India's democratic strength rested on its traditions of respecting dissent and recognising the voice of the people.

He argued that efforts to suppress these principles

for political gain would erode constitutional rights and weaken the country's democratic institutions. "India's strength has always lain in its democratic traditions, respect for dissent and the voice of its people," he said, warning that crushing these values to protect those in power amounted to undermining the constitutional foundations of the republic. The Congress general secretary went further, accusing the government of damaging India's democratic credentials in its pursuit of political power. Describing the alleged conduct as "treason against India", he charged that the government was compromising the country's democratic principles in its determination to remain in office.

The remarks come against the backdrop of an intensifying confrontation between the Congress-led Opposition and the Election Commission of India over the revision of electoral rolls.

PM Modi Unveils Rs 13,000-Crore TN Development Package

New Delhi, Oct 11 (GNS) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday unveiled a development package worth more than Rs 13,000 crore in Chennai, inaugurating completed projects, dedicating infrastructure to the nation and laying foundation stones for new initiatives across metro rail, highways, railways, ports, petroleum and education, while emphasising industrial growth, employment generation and cooperation between the Centre and Tamil Nadu.

Addressing a gathering at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras in the presence of Tamil Nadu Governor Rajendra Arlekar and Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay, Modi described the projects as a significant milestone in the state's development, saying they would improve urban mobility, strengthen industrial and freight connectivity, expand trade infrastructure



and create opportunities for young people. "This is a historic day for Tamil Nadu," the Prime Minister said. "Today's programme involves projects worth Rs 13,000 crore. We are inaugurating many completed projects and laying foundations for new ones. Some will make daily travel easier. Others will strengthen industry and

trade. Together, they will create jobs for young people across Tamil Nadu."

Seeking to underline the political and administrative continuity of his development agenda, Modi said his approach had consistently rested on the principles of democracy, the participation of people and cooperative federalism.

India beat WI by 14 runs, take 2-1 lead in T20I series

Indore, Oct 11 (GNS): India survived a sensational late assault from Shamar Springer to beat the West Indies by 14 runs in the third T20 International here on Sunday, taking a 2-1 lead in the five-match series.

Chasing 224 for victory, the West Indies finished at 209 for seven in their 20 overs after Springer smashed an unbeaten 35 off just 11 balls, including four sixes and two fours, to threaten an improbable turnaround at the Holkar Stadium. India's victory was built on Abhishek Sharma's explosive 69 off 30 balls and a collective bowling effort led by Arshdeep Singh, who claimed three wickets for 44 runs. Naman Dhir chipped in with two wickets, while Axar Patel and Nitish Kumar Reddy took one each.

Earlier, Abhishek's six fours and five sixes powered India to 223 all out af-

ter West Indies captain Shai Hope opted to bowl. Ishan Kishan provided strong support with 37 off 18 balls as the hosts raced to 87 in the mandatory powerplay. The pair added 108 runs for the second wicket before Roston Chase dismissed Kishan and trapped India captain Shreyas Iyer for one in the same over.

Abhishek fell to Shamar Springer for 69, triggering a middle-order collapse that saw India lose three wickets for nine runs. Tilak Varma made 28 off 16 balls, while Nitish Kumar Reddy scored 21 off 14 deliveries. Naman Dhir contributed 10 off five balls, and Axar Patel made 20 off 14 balls, but India's progress was repeatedly undermined by poor running between the wickets. Varma and Axar were both run out following costly communication failures, while Arshdeep Singh struck a late six before falling for 11.

Hyderabadi Killed In Riyadh Airport Attack

Hyderabad, Oct 11 (UNI) A Hyderabad-based man lost his life in Saudi Arabia's capital city of Riyadh, and his two sons and a man from Kamareddy were severely injured after a missile struck the city's King Khalid International Airport on Sunday.

The deceased man, Mohammad Yousuf Ali, was a resident of Mehdiapatnam and has been working in Riyadh as an IT professional. About a week ago, he travelled from Hyderabad to Saudi Arabia along with his wife, two sons, daughter and his aunt to perform Umrah.

According to the Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia, 10 Indians are among 300 people injured in the attack launched by Yemen's Houthi rebels. The Embassy said they are in touch with local authorities to enquire about their well being. Yousuf Ali is one of 13 people reportedly killed in the attack.

According to preliminary reports, the incident



occurred while the family was waiting at Riyadh Airport to travel to Madinah. Yousuf was reportedly waiting near a check-in kiosk, when the missile struck the airport.

He suffered fatal injuries after debris fell on him, while both his sons sustained severe injuries. His elder son reportedly suffered multiple injuries from glass shards and is said to be in critical condition, and his aunt suffered injuries to the head while his wife and daughter were unharmed.

Shaikh Sayeed from Kamareddy was also report-

edly hit by the strike, and is reportedly undergoing treatment at a hospital in Riyadh.

AIMM president and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi, in a tweet, said Mohammad Yousuf Ali's "son is undergoing knee surgery, and another son is in the hospital and 3 of his toes have been cut off. I am in touch with Yousuf's brother-in-law in Riyadh and the DCM has assured me that they're taking care." He also urged the Union external affairs minister Dr. S. Jaishankar to provide assistance to the family.

Arunachal Cabinet Clears Recruitment, Healthcare Reforms

Itanagar, Oct 11 (GNS): The Arunachal Pradesh Cabinet, led by Chief Minister Pema Khandu, on Sunday approved a series of decisions aimed at strengthening higher and technical education, improving healthcare services, expanding support for women in distress, and streamlining administrative and institutional frameworks across the state. A senior official of the Chief Minister's Office said that the state Cabinet approved uniform and merit-based recruitment rules for several teaching and technical positions in government engineering and polytechnic colleges.

In a significant step towards standardising recruitment procedures in technical education institutions, the Cabinet approved recruitment rules for 12 categories of posts in government engineering and polytechnic colleges in accordance with the applicable All India Council

for Technical Education (AICTE) Regulations, 2019.

The decision is expected to bring greater uniformity, transparency and consistency to the recruitment process in technical education institutions across the state, the official added.

He said that by aligning the recruitment rules with the applicable AICTE regulations, the state government aims to strengthen the institutional framework of engineering and polytechnic colleges and ensure that appointments are made in accordance with prescribed standards.

To strengthen support for women facing distress and emergencies, the state Cabinet approved the creation of 20 posts to operationalise the Women Helpline-181 scheme in accordance with the guidelines of Mission Shakti. The Women Helpline-181 is a toll-free, round-the-clock service designed to provide emer-

gency assistance and immediate response to women in distress. The helpline is intended to connect women requiring assistance with a range of essential services, including medical care, shelter, legal aid, emotional support and guidance, the official noted.

The creation of the 20 posts is expected to facilitate the effective functioning of the service and strengthen the support mechanism for women facing emergencies, violence or other difficult circumstances.

The official said that in the healthcare sector, the state Cabinet approved an enhancement of grade pay for different categories of posts under the National Leprosy Elimination Programme (NLEP) in the Department of Health and Family Welfare. The decision aims to address concerns relating to wage parity and fairness among employees working under the programme.

How smart systems are modernising food distribution

SANJEEV CHOPRA

INDIA has digitised its food security architecture over the last decade. Every stage of the value chain from procurement and storage to transportation, distribution and subsidy settlement is now underpinned by digital systems, generating continuous operational data, while serving nearly 80 crore beneficiaries every month. The next governance challenge is converting this transparency into administrative responsiveness. The system must be able to interpret patterns, prioritise risks and respond in a timely manner. Recognising this shift, the Union government is deploying artificial intelligence (AI) to strengthen decision-making across the system.

During procurement, quality assessment of rice supplied after milling to the Food Corporation of India (FCI) relies on visual evaluation against prescribed parameters, such as broken grain percentage, impurities and discoloration. At scale, outcomes can vary due to human subjectivity. AI-enabled automatic grain analysers (AGA) are being deployed to assess these parameters through image-based analysis. These systems improve consistency in quality verification while operating within existing procurement norms.

At storage facilities operated by the FCI and the Central Warehousing Corporation, IoT-based monitoring systems are being introduced to strengthen oversight. Sensors capture temperature, humid-



ity, phosphine and CO2 levels, while AI-enabled computer vision tools support automated bag-counting and stock verification. These systems generate continuous data on inventory and environmental conditions.

Integrated with Depot Darpan, the Department of Food and Public Distribution's warehouse grading platform, this data can be analysed using predictive analytics to identify patterns associated with spoilage risk, stock discrepancies or compliance gaps, enabling earlier and more risk-based supervisory action. The transportation of food grains is planned with route optimisation tools ('Anna Chakra'), while vehicle location tracking systems (VLTS) gener-

ate real-time GPS data on truck movement. States have reported annual savings of approximately Rs 238 crore through route optimisation. However, monitoring thousands of journeys across states presents operational challenges. AI-based pattern detection and anomaly identification are being planned to analyse movement data and flag recurring route deviations, abnormal delays or unusual stoppages. These analytics strengthen oversight and enable more focussed verification of transport operations.

At the distribution stage, beneficiary records maintained by states are consolidated under the SMART-PDS platform, creating a unified national repository of ration cards.

This enables cross-verification with other government databases to identify potentially ineligible cards under state-defined criteria. To date, 8.51 crore ration cards have been flagged through such verification, with 2.18 crore deleted by state governments after due process.

However, inconsistencies in names, addresses, Aadhaar seeding and household composition can limit the effectiveness of rule-based checks at scale. Machine learning-based data-matching techniques are being planned for deployment to identify probable duplicates, linked identities or unusual restructuring of households. The resulting risk flags would support targeted verification by states. Beneficiary com-

plaints serve as important signals on service delivery and grain quality. Although multiple channels for registering grievances exist (online portals, call centres, WhatsApp, and IVRS), the volume and linguistic diversity of grievances can complicate timely routing and resolution.

The government has rolled out the Anna Sahayata Holistic AI Solution (ASHA), which uses multilingual voice outreach and AI-based analysis to gather structured feedback from beneficiaries. Automated classification and sentiment analysis generate dashboards for administrators, improving prioritisation and response times. ASHA currently reaches 20 lakh beneficiaries each month and is being scaled.

Cong-DMK rift resurfaces ahead of Tamil Nadu polls

NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN

WHAT'S an election season without a problem in an alliance? As Tamil Nadu gears up for the state Assembly polls in a couple of months, a Congress-DMK spat that seemed to be heading towards a break-up appears to have blown over for now, but the issue at the heart of the very public clash still hovers over the Secular Progressive Alliance: why can't those who fight elections together in Tamil Nadu agree to share power in a coalition government if voted to office?

What began as the Congress asserting this demand to its Dravidian ally in the state came close to breaking point for a long-standing alliance, delaying seat-sharing talks. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi was the first to raise it in January, when DMK deputy general secretary K Kanimozhi met him for seat-sharing talks.

After Kanimozhi reportedly said a firm "no" at a stormy meeting, Gandhi did not rake up the demand again, but prominent voices in the party close to the central leadership picked up the baton. Earlier this month, Chief Minister MK Stalin reiterated at a public forum that the DMK was not for a coalition government in Tamil Nadu. But the matter did not end there. The argument being put forward for power-sharing is that the Congress has stood with the DMK all these years, even providing unconditional outside support when the DMK formed a minority government in 2006, but suffering ignominy and parliamentary defeat in 2014 "because of the DMK" — a veiled reference to the alleged 2G scam. So, it's payback time.

The DMK's response is



that a coalition government at the Centre and Dravidian rule in the state is the ideal formula for the health of federalism and the Dravidian model. Second, the Congress has benefited by winning seats in both the Assembly and Parliament due to the alliance, and that the very idea of a coalition puts off Tamil Nadu voters due to concerns about stability.

The DMK believes it has experienced popular rejection due to a power-sharing agreement. In 1980, on the back of a sweeping win in the Lok Sabha election, including in Tamil Nadu, the Congress-DMK believed it could repeat the performance in the state Assembly election. The MGR-led AIADMK government was dismissed. The Congress and the DMK agreed on a coalition government. The alliance lost to the AIADMK-led alliance.

The Congress could have pushed for power-sharing in 2006, when the DMK did not win a majority. But Sonia Gandhi and other party leaders were disinclined. The Congress may have believed it had greater leverage by offering outside support to a

minority DMK government, but that lost opportunity is being aired as a bad decision now.

It's not just the DMK that is against power-sharing in the state. The AIADMK, too, does not believe in power-sharing coalitions. Like the DMK, it has fought elections in alliance with national and state parties, and been part of ruling coalitions in Delhi since MGR's support for the Janata government. But never in the state. AIADMK leader Edappadi Palaniswami was quick to deny any arrangement for a coalition rule with the BJP when Union Home Minister Amit Shah announced after persuading the party into an alliance that the "NDA" would form the next government in Tamil Nadu.

With Congress Member of Parliament Manickam Tagore and All-Indian Professionals' Congress chair Praveen Chakravarthy pressing on with the demand, it seemed the party was going for broke, the TNCC president's frantic reprimands notwithstanding. The perception grew that this was more than posturing for a

higher share of seats, and that the Congress was opportunistically escalating the matter at a time when the entry of actor Vijay has introduced more fluidity than usual in Tamil Nadu's political scene. His Tamililaga Vetttri Kazhagam (TVK) has not joined any alliance yet.

As the rhetoric escalated, Stalin conveyed that the DMK was not afraid of going it alone. The sudden Rs 5,000 payouts to 1.32 crore women — a three-month advance to the beneficiaries of the Rs 1,000 universal basic income scheme for women, plus a bonus "summer allowance" of Rs 2,000 — may have been as much a gearing-up for a possible break with the Congress as a pre-emptive move against an anticipated Election Commission of India strike at the scheme.

Stalin is also banking on the state's economy, headlining the government's target of a \$1-trillion economy by 2031, its growth rate of 11.19% in 2024-2025, and welfare programmes. Over the last two years, the DMK leader has also been focussed on positioning the contest in Tamil Nadu as one of

the ideologies — between the Dravidian model and Hindutva, cultural nationalism, federalism and constitutionalism. On Wednesday, he tabled the report of his government-appointed High-Level Committee on Union-State Relations, among whose recommendations is a paring down of the Governor's powers. DMK supporters are clear that while a break-up with the Congress might cost the party some seats, it is the Congress that stands to lose more.

In every election that the two parties have fought together, the national party, which has no organisation to speak of in Tamil Nadu, has been fully dependent on its Dravidian ally and its well-oiled machinery of cadres for smooth vote transfers. With its winnability, the DMK has helped keep Congress alive in Tamil Nadu. The INDIA bloc's biggest haul of 40 seats was from Tamil Nadu.

Over the last few days, when a split in the alliance seemed imminent, social media lit up with speculation of a Congress-TVK alliance. Sections within the Congress and among

Strong penalties in Seeds Bill to curb fake seeds

THE Seeds Bill, 2025, which provides for a fine of up to Rs 30 lakh and jail of five years, is likely to be effective in curbing the sale of fake or substandard seeds.

Notably, the Seeds Act, 1966, the Seeds Rules, 1968 and the Seeds (Control) Order, 1983 do not provide for stringent punishment or heavy fines. Under these rules, if farmers suffer losses due to counterfeit seeds or if the Seeds Act is violated, the selling company or individual could be fined Rs 500 or imprisoned for six months. Thus, offenders have no fear of this law and the sale of spurious seeds remains unchecked and continues unabated.

The stringent punishments and heavy fines under the new Seeds Bill, 2025 will deter such offences. This Bill also provides farmers the right to "grow, sow, re-sow, save, use, exchange, share, or sell" seeds from their fields. Farmers can produce their own seeds and exchange them with other farmers.

According to Section 17 of the Seeds Bill, 2025, no producer shall grow or organise the production of seeds unless they are registered by the relevant state government. No person shall operate a seed processing unit unless such a unit is registered by the state government.

For registration, the producer or seed processing unit must possess the infrastructure, equipment and qualified manpower as per the prescribed specifications in the case. Every seed producer and seed processing unit shall maintain such records and shall furnish to the state government from time to time returns detailing the quantity of different varieties of seeds produced or processed by it. The state government may suspend or cancel the registration of any defaulter.

Under the new Bill, any individual or company supplying counterfeit seeds or seeds of unregistered varieties or duplicate seeds to farmers will be considered a major offence. Lab testing and labelling will be required to prevent counterfeit seeds. A QR code on seed packaging has also been made mandatory for tracking.

Under the current framework, seed testing labs can only test the germination percentage of the seeds. They lack the ability to test genetic purity, quality, variety, and Bt gene, which are crucial for supplying quality seeds to farmers. The yield and quality of the crop depend on the variety and quality of seeds.

Every seed has the potential to germinate naturally, but crop yield depends on the purity, quality and variety of the seed. With guaranteed quality seeds, the farmers' economy will improve and their debt burden lighten. Today, farmers can afford the price of seeds, but poor quality seeds can lead to unbearable crop losses.

In the past 60 years, no violator has been punished or fined under the Seeds Act and other related laws. If the new law is strictly enforced, the sale of counterfeit and unauthorised seeds can be curbed. The Seeds Bill, 2025 also calls for the government to determine the selling price of seeds. It is a major effort to modernise the seed regulatory framework by ensuring seed quality, traceability and accountability. If the Seeds Bill, 2025 includes a provision to compensate farmers for losses caused by substandard seeds and is implemented under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, it would be even more beneficial for farmers.

Next Leap Beyond IT

THE inauguration of the India AI Impact Expo in New Delhi marks a significant milestone in India's technological journey. The India AI Impact Expo is a strategic statement that the Government recognises Artificial Intelligence as the defining force of the coming decades. The strong political backing signals that AI is no longer a futuristic concept but a core pillar of economic growth, governance efficiency and global competitiveness. Globally, the AI race is intensifying rapidly, with the United States continuing to lead through aggressive investments, cutting-edge research and strong private sector participation. Every passing month brings breakthroughs in generative AI, automation, defence technology and data analytics. The pace of innovation is so fast that countries that fail to invest today risk technological dependency tomorrow. In this context, India's decision to accelerate AI development through policy incentives, exhibitions, global summits and startup support is both timely and strategically essential.

For decades, India has been recognised as a global leader in IT services and consultancy. However, AI represents the next technological leap-one that shifts value creation from services to intellectual property, platforms and deep technology innovation. Events like this Expo help bridge the gap between research, industry and Government policy. By bringing startups, global companies, research institutions and policymakers under one roof, such initiatives create an ecosystem where ideas can move quickly from concept to commercialisation.

Developing advanced AI models, semiconductor infrastructure, and high-performance computing ecosystems requires investments of billions of dollars and lengthy gestation periods. This is where collaboration becomes critical. Instead of reinventing the wheel, India can accelerate progress through strategic partnerships with global AI leaders while simultaneously nurturing domestic innovation. The presence of global technology giants that already operate research and development centres in India offers a ready foundation for deeper cooperation. Companies such as Intel, Google and Microsoft have long maintained major development and R&D operations in India. This reflects global confidence in Indian engineering talent and cost-efficient innovation capabilities. Over the last decade, Government policy has consistently supported startups through access to funding, incubation programmes, tax incentives, and simplified regulatory frameworks. The results are visible in the rapid growth of India's startup ecosystem and the increasing global relevance of Indian tech entrepreneurs.

One of the biggest structural challenges in the AI race is semiconductor manufacturing. Advanced chips required for AI computing are currently dominated by a handful of global manufacturers, and production capacities are often booked years in advance. India faces this constraint as well.

However, Government incentives such as long-term tax benefits, infrastructure support and special policy zones for AI and semiconductor industries can help attract global manufacturing partnerships. Another major strength India holds is its vast and diverse data ecosystem. AI models thrive on data. With a massive population, rapidly expanding digital infrastructure and widespread adoption of digital payments, e-governance and online services, India possesses one of the richest real-world datasets globally. If leveraged responsibly with strong privacy safeguards, this data advantage can significantly accelerate AI model training and real-world deployment capabilities. The Government must strategically use this as a bargaining chip in global AI collaborations. India's young demographic profile is another decisive advantage. Indian youth have consistently demonstrated rapid learning ability in emerging technologies. Even limited technical collaborations in AI research or applied solutions can generate large-scale outcomes due to the sheer volume and quality of skilled engineers entering the workforce every year. With focused training programmes, AI-focused education reforms and industry-academia partnerships, India can rapidly scale AI expertise. The global AI summit and international participation in the Expo signal growing confidence in India as a reliable technology partner.

Door closed' on wheat, rice, maize, and dairy - No imports at any cost: Agriculture Minister

New Delhi, Oct 11 (GNS): Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, and Rural Development, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan today categorically dismissed various speculations surrounding the India-US Trade Agreement from Jaipur, Rajasthan, stating in clear terms that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, there will never be any compromise on farmers' interests.

Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan emphasised that as India's Agriculture Minister, he is stating with full responsibility to the farmers that no compromise has been made on Indian farmers' interests in any agreement. He made it abundantly clear that the door is firmly closed on sensitive crops like wheat, rice, and maize. India is now

number one in the world in rice production, having surpassed China. In such a scenario, no imports that could harm farmers have been accepted.

Addressing questions raised on the apple issue, Union Agriculture Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan explained that India requires approximately 5.5 lakh metric tons of apples every year, which currently come from countries like Turkey and Iran as well. He stated that if only 1 lakh metric tons of apples are sourced from the US out of this quantity, with a quota determined by adding a duty of 25 over the import value of 80 per kg, it will not cause any harm to India's apple producers. Rather, it is merely a minor shift from sourcing from Turkey to another place.

On soybeans and maize,

he clarified unequivocally that no concessions have been granted on these. He also reminded that during the Congress regime, agricultural imports worth \$20 billion took place, which included dairy products as well.

Shivraj Singh Chouhan stressed that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given clear instructions that no dairy products — milk, ghee, curd, paneer, or any others — will be allowed to be imported onto Indian soil at any cost, ensuring no harm comes to the country's milk-producing farmers.

In the case of cotton, Union Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan stated that domestic production falls short of the needs of industries, which necessitates some cotton imports to keep the textile industry



running, boost employment, and increase exports. He informed that India's textile exports, combining various products, currently stand at about 4 lakh crore rupees, with the potential to reach 45 lakh crore. Ultimately, the benefits will accrue to farmers and the rural economy.

He announced emphatically that no room has been left for imports of spice crops like cumin, fenugreek, and psyllium

produced in Rajasthan, along with other Indian spices. Instead, arrangements have been made to increase exports of these spices to markets like the United States with zero duty, directly benefiting Indian farmers.

The Union Agriculture Minister stated in unequivocal terms that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had made two promises to the nation — "I will never let India bow down" and "I will keep farmers' interests paramount and not allow any harm to come to them" — and the government stands firmly on both. Citing Operation Sindoor, air strikes, and surgical strikes, he remarked that just as no compromise was made on national security, similarly, there will be no compromise on agriculture and farmers' interests. Every

global agreement will be viewed through a "farmer-first approach."

This detailed clarification from Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan comes amid ongoing discussions and concerns about the India-US trade agreement, particularly regarding its potential impact on India's agricultural sector. The minister's statements aim to reassure farmers and stakeholders that the government's negotiations have prioritized protecting domestic producers from any adverse effects of increased foreign competition. By specifying quotas, duties, and outright bans on sensitive items, the agreement ensures that India's self-sufficiency in key food grains and dairy remains intact.

For instance, wheat, rice, and maize — staples that form the backbone of In-

dia's food security — are completely shielded from US imports. This is crucial given India's position as a global leader in rice production, a status achieved through years of focused agricultural policies and farmer support programs.

Similarly, the dairy sector, which supports millions of small-scale producers across rural India, has been ring-fenced with absolute prohibitions, reflecting the cultural and economic significance of products like milk and paneer in daily life.

The apple import allowance, limited to a modest quota with protective duties, exemplifies a balanced approach. India's annual apple demand is met largely through imports due to limited domestic temperate horticulture suitable for this crop.

Atal Innovation Mission launches 'AI-Preneurs of India' at India AI Impact Summit 2026, showcasing India's purpose driven AI Ecosystem

New Delhi, Oct 11 (GNS): Reaffirming India's emergence as a global leader in responsible and inclusive artificial intelligence, Atal Innovation Mission, under NITI Aayog, today launched AI-Preneurs of India, a flagship coffee table book chronicling the journeys of 45 pioneering AI startups shaping solutions for real-world challenges. The book was unveiled at the India AI Impact Summit at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, marking the 7th edition of AIM's Innovations For You coffee table series and reinforcing AIM's leadership in building India's deep-tech and AI startup ecosystem.

AI-Preneurs of India features startups working across 30+ sector domains, including healthcare, edu-

cation, sustainability, mobility, sports analytics, deep tech, and social impact. Drawing from a nationwide network of Atal Incubation Centres (AICs), the book reflects the geographic and thematic diversity of India's AI innovation landscape, extending far beyond traditional technology hubs.

Speaking at the launch, Deepak Bagla, Mission Director, Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog, said:

"The Hon'ble Prime Minister has consistently articulated a clear vision for Artificial Intelligence, one that is rooted in inclusive growth, ethical deployment, and AI for social good. AI-Preneurs of India is a reflection of that vision in action. The founders featured in this book are not merely building cutting-

edge technologies; they are developing AI solutions that are grounded in India's realities and aligned with national priorities. This book showcases India's path toward leading the global AI discourse through purpose-led innovation and today through this book on this great occasion, AIM celebrates these unsung heroes of Innovation."

The publication highlights the growing role of artificial intelligence in addressing critical challenges across India and demonstrates how startups are translating innovative ideas into practical solutions. By bringing together the experiences of 45 AI startups, the book aims to showcase the potential of homegrown technolo-

gies in improving public services, strengthening industries and supporting sustainable development. The startups featured in the book represent a wide range of applications, from AI-powered healthcare and educational tools to intelligent mobility systems, environmental solutions and advanced data analytics. Their work illustrates how artificial intelligence can improve efficiency, expand access to essential services and create new opportunities for communities across different regions of the country.

The initiative also underscores the importance of Atal Incubation Centres in nurturing emerging entrepreneurs and supporting technology-driven enter-

prises. Through mentorship, infrastructure, networking opportunities and institutional support, these centres help startups develop innovative ideas into scalable businesses capable of addressing real-world needs. The seventh edition of the Innovations For You coffee table series further reflects the Atal Innovation Mission's efforts to strengthen India's innovation ecosystem and promote entrepreneurship beyond established technology hubs. By highlighting founders from diverse geographical and sectoral backgrounds, the publication seeks to encourage aspiring entrepreneurs and demonstrate the importance of inclusive technological advancement.

Government owned Sovereign 'Large Language Model', Multilingual AI Stack Takes Shape: Dr. Jitendra Singh

New Delhi, Oct 11 (GNS): Lauding India's first government owned, sovereign "Large Language Model", Multilingual AI stack, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology; Earth Sciences; and Minister of State for PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh today said that Artificial Intelligence is no longer an option but an essential component of working in every sphere of life, as he addressed the session on "BharatGen Models: Vision and Technical Execution 2026" at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

The session was hosted by BharatGen in association with the India AI Mission, Ministry of Electronics & In-



formation Technology (MeitY), and the Department of Science and Technology (DST), as part of the Global AI Summit. Congratulating the BharatGen team, the Minister said the initiative represents a significant milestone in India's journey towards technological self-reliance. He underlined that BharatGen stands out as a

government-owned sovereign multilingual and multimodal Large Language Model (LLM) initiative, tailored to India's socio-cultural context and linguistic diversity. While large language models are known globally, he noted that BharatGen's distinct feature lies in its sovereign, government-supported character, re-

flecting a proactive policy approach at an early stage of technological evolution.

Union Minister observed that BharatGen exemplifies a "whole-of-science, whole-of-government and whole-of-nation" model. The initiative is implemented through a consortium led by the TIH Foundation for IoT and IoE at IIT Bombay, with partner institutions including IIIT Hyderabad, IIT Hyderabad, IIT Mandi, IIT Kanpur, IIM Indore and IIT Madras. It is supported by DST through the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS) with 235 crore of funding, and further strengthened through the India AI Mission of MeitY with an outlay of 10,585 crore. Highlighting the technological depth of the project, the Minister noted that

BharatGen spans multiple AI modalities, including text-based large language models, speech technologies such as text-to-speech and automatic speech recognition, and document vision-language models. He stated that BharatGen's foundational models are designed for inclusive, India-centric applications in governance, healthcare, education, agriculture and legal systems, especially in linguistically diverse regions. Referring to recent developments, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that BharatGen has already released domain-specific fine-tuned models such as Ayur Param for Ayurveda, Agri Param for agriculture and Legal Param for the Indian legal domain. He further noted that the Hon'ble Prime Minister launched.

New Delhi, Oct 11 (GNS): The Ministry of Education organised a special session titled "Ministry of Education – Pushing the Frontier of AI in India" today at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, as part of the India AI Impact Summit 2026. The session was attended by Union Minister for Education Shri Dharmendra Pradhan and was also graced by Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State for Education & Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (Independent Charge).

Senior officials including the Secretary, School Education & Literacy, Shri Sanjay Kumar; Secretary, Higher Education (DoHE), Dr Vineet Joshi, ; Secretary, IIT Madras, Prof V Kamakoti; academic leaders, researchers, and founders from leading startups who use AI in Education, participated in the proceedings. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Pradhan described the Summit as a pathbreaking initiative envisioned by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi to showcase and accelerate the growth of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in India.

Highlighting India's rapid technological progress, Shri Pradhan stated that the world is increasingly looking at India as the nation embraces AI at a remarkable pace. He expressed confidence that AI will play a transformative role in driving India towards becoming a global knowledge superpower and contribute significantly to the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Emphasising the role of young innovators, the Minister noted that Indian youth are thinking in ways different from previous generations. He underscored that "AI in education and education in AI are deeply intertwined," calling upon students and young pro-

fessionals to harness AI to educate, embrace, empower, and create pathbreaking initiatives. He further remarked that such efforts will help position India as a leading force in the evolving global AI landscape.

Jayant Chaudhary, said that the deliberations at #IndiaAIImpactSummit2026 were insightful. He stated that, in the presence of the Hon'ble Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, eminent personalities from academia and industry discussed a structured integration of AI across education, spanning foundational learning, skilling, research, and global leadership, aligned with the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.

He further mentioned that he also visited the Ministry of Education and Skill India pavilions, which showcased practical, scalable, and India-first AI solutions translating policy vision into on-ground impact.

Over the last decade, the Ministry of Education has progressively laid the foundations for AI-enabled education through national digital platforms, policy frameworks, institutional reforms, and large-scale capacity-building initiatives spanning school education, higher education, skilling, and advanced research and innovation ecosystems.

Following last year's Budget announcement, the Government established a Centre of Excellence in AI for Education at IIT Madras. The Ministry also conducted wide-ranging consultations with academia, industry, civil society, and government bodies to chart the roadmap for AI integration in education. Recently, the Minister held discussions with AI startup founders in the education sector and chaired the two-day "Bharat Bodhan AI Conclave 2026,"

bringing together key stakeholders to advance responsible AI-driven transformation.

The session at the Summit highlighted India's transition from policy vision to implementation at scale, leveraging public digital infrastructure, Centres of Excellence, teacher training programmes, curriculum integration, and deep collaboration with industry and startups.

The session was moderated by Prof. Manoj S. Gaur, Director, IIT Jammu. The discussion focused on how governance frameworks, national learning platforms, indigenous AI innovation, and the responsible deployment of frontier AI models are converging to reshape education outcomes in India. Emphasising systemic interventions rather than isolated pilots, the session showcased how policy, institutions, and technology are being aligned for sustainable, nationwide impact.

The discussions also highlighted the need to ensure that AI-powered educational tools remain accessible, inclusive and relevant to India's diverse learning environments. Participants stressed the importance of strengthening digital infrastructure, developing multilingual learning resources and equipping teachers with the necessary skills to integrate AI effectively into classrooms. Responsible use of technology, data protection and ethical safeguards were identified as important considerations in the adoption of AI across educational institutions. The Centre of Excellence in AI for Education at IIT Madras is expected to play a significant role in advancing research, developing innovative learning solutions and promoting collaboration between academic institutions.

Blurring Boundaries: AI-Powered Cloud-Network Synergy Delivers Next-Gen Performance

New Delhi, Oct 11 (GNS): The Department of Telecommunications (DoT), in collaboration with the Software Technology Parks of India and Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), today organized two key sessions on telecom and artificial intelligence at the India AI Impact Summit 2026 in New Delhi. The Summit brings together policymakers, technology leaders, researchers, and innovators to deliberate on the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in shaping India's digital future. The session was curated by Sh. Anil Bhardwaj, DDG(SE), DoT.

The first session, titled "Gen AI and Future Networks," brought together leading voices from industry and government to deliberate on the transformative impact of generative AI on

next-generation telecom infrastructure. The session featured Shyam Prabhakar Mardikar, President and Group CTO (Mobility), Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd; Randeep Singh Sekhon, Chief Technology Officer (India and South Asia), Bharti Airtel; Jagbir Singh, Chief Technology Officer (CTO), Vodafone Idea; Syed Tausif Abbas, Deputy Director General, DoT; Gurvinder Singh Ahluwalia, Founder and CEO, Digital Twin Labs; and Jeanette Whyte, Head of Public Policy (APAC), GSMA.

The discussion deliberated on how AI-driven predictive maintenance, intelligent spectrum optimization, energy-efficient network management, and AI-native architectures are reshaping telecom networks into adaptive, self-optimizing systems capable of supporting large-scale AI workloads.



Speakers in the first session highlighted how cloud and network are becoming more agile. The boundaries between data centers, the cloud, and the network are blurring as they are required to provide a seamless experience to users. AI engines have to, on a real-time basis, seek more computing power and compute-on-demand

to deliver outcomes that are required by the networks. They highlighted that the future networks will provide on-demand speed and on-time connectivity with such ultra-low latency that the real-time experience for AR/VR and other applications will be visible.

The second session, titled "AI Powered Bharat through

Universal Digital Connectivity," was the highlight of the day and featured the keynote address by Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani, Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications and Rural Development. It also included a panel discussion moderated by Sanjeev Sharma, Deputy Director General, DoT, with

panelists Robert Ravi, CMD BSNL; Lt. General Dr. S.P. Kochhar, Director General, Cellular Operators Association of India; Vikas Garg, DDG SPPI, DoT; Ravi Gandhi, President and Chief Public Policy and Regulatory Officer, Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd.; Ambika Khurana, Chief Regulatory and Corporate Affairs Of-

ficer, Vodafone Idea; Rahul Vatts, Chief Regulatory Officer, Bharti Airtel; and Julian Gorman, Head of Asia Pacific (APAC), GSMA.

This session explored how artificial intelligence is strengthening India's digital connectivity for the customers, capacity building, and use of AI in addressing telecom frauds. Panelists highlighted that the network and universal meaningful digital connectivity will be achieved only when the last person gets full connectivity & connectivity on demand and delivers the quality of service to provide the content and real-time experience to a person wherever she or he is. The second aspect highlighted by the panel was that providing secured communication remains the responsibility of network providers, policymakers,

and regulators. DoT and Telcos highlighted the citizen-centric initiatives taken up in recent times, like Sanchar Saathi, FRI, etc., to help citizens get the desired digital safety.

Dr. Chandra Sekhar Pemmasani, Hon'ble Minister of State for Communications and Rural Development, also visited key stalls at the India AI Impact Summit 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, and took interest in the products displayed by global tech firms and AI enthusiasts. He briefly met with Sh. Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Hon'ble Minister of Railways, Information and Broadcasting, and Electronics and Information Technology, and conveyed his appreciation for the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on organizing an inspiring expo and summit.

BJP Has Turned Goa Into A Hub Of Drug Peddlers: Revanth Reddy

Hyderabad, Oct 11 (GNS) Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Sunday accused the BJP government in Goa of failing to curb drug trafficking and questioned why the Centre's 'Nasha Mukht Bharat' campaign, promoted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union home minister Amit Shah, had not been effectively implemented in the state. Addressing a public meeting following the 'Goy Rakhonn Yatra' (Save Goa March), a 27-day campaign launched by the Congress on September 22 to protect Goa's land, environment, identity and heritage ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections, Revanth Reddy said the Congress would eradicate the drug menace if voted to power.

"Similar to Goa, Telangana was also facing the drug menace. After taking office, I formed the EAGLE force to keep in check and eradicate



the drugs. When we found that the source of these drugs was Goa, I sent our EAGLE team which launched a crackdown and nabbed drug peddlers," he explained. Revanth Reddy questioned Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant over his government's response to drug trafficking despite having access to state and Central enforcement agencies.

"Goa has transformed into a hub of drugs. What is stopping Pramod Sawant from ini-

tiating action, when the entire state and Central agencies are at your disposal? Why haven't the Prime Minister and the Union home minister, who speak of a 'Nasha Mukht Bharat' failed to implement that vision here?" he asked. Revanth Reddy also accused the BJP of attempting to divide Congress votes through smaller parties and alleged that the names of poor voters were being deleted from electoral rolls.

He alleged that the BJP had

earlier used investigative agencies, including the Income Tax department, Central Bureau of Investigation and Enforcement Directorate, for electoral advantage. He further accused the party of using Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls to influence elections.

"The people of Goa are fed up with the BJP. If the BJP comes to power for a third time, the people of Goa risk becoming strangers in their own land, as lands are being alienated and transferred to others. People here are calling the Goa CM not 'Pramod Sawant', but 'Property Sawant'. Instead of developing Goa, the Chief Minister is busy handing over local assets to others," he cautioned.

Revanth Reddy urged voters to support the Congress, claiming that votes cast for smaller parties would indirect-

ly benefit the BJP. "The people of Goa have already been deceived twice and cannot afford to get deceived a third time by BJP. While Rahul Gandhi is trying to unite the people of the nation, Modi is trying to divide them. Should drug lords and the land mafia be allowed to rule Goa? Just think about it. This is a battle between Ravana and Rama," the Chief Minister underlined.

He compared the electoral contest in Goa to a battle between Rama and Ravana, describing the Congress as Rama and the BJP as Ravana. Revanth Reddy said he was attending the programme on behalf of Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, who could not participate in the padayatra due to intensified protests in Delhi demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and the scrapping of the SIR exercise.

EAGLE busts Goa-Hyderabad drug network, one held

Hyderabad, Oct 11 (GNS) The Telangana EAGLE Force, in coordination with the Hyderabad Enforcement Wing (H-NEW) and Hyderabad City Police, has apprehended an absconding drug supplier in Goa, with the investigation revealing a suspected Goa-Hyderabad drug network and financial transactions worth about Rs. 48.4 lakh.

The arrested person, Custodio Fernandes alias Kristy, a resident of North Goa, is suspected of supplying narcotic substances to contacts in Hyderabad. Officials have identified more than 25 individuals from Telangana whose possible links to the alleged drug-purchasing network are being verified.

The investigation follows a case registered by Panjagutta police on May 9, 2026, when R Keshav Raj Singh was apprehended while allegedly attempting to sell drugs pro-

cured from Goa to three persons. Police seized 13 grams of MDMA and seven grams of charas from the dashboard of his car and registered a case under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

During questioning, Keshav Raj Singh allegedly disclosed that he had procured MDMA and charas from individuals identified as Vedank of Marredpally and Kristy of Goa. He reportedly travelled to Goa in the second week of April and purchased drugs worth about Rs. 40,000 from Kristy, intending to sell the consignment for around Rs. 80,000. Financial analysis reportedly revealed credits totalling approximately Rs 48.4 lakh in accounts examined during the investigation. Officials are scrutinising the transactions to establish their sources and possible links to the alleged drug trade. Ac-

cording to officials, associates of the Goa-based supplier allegedly travelled to Hyderabad, delivered drugs to customers and collected cash. The money was subsequently deposited through ATMs into bank accounts linked to Fernandes, officials said. They are examining the transactions to trace the flow of funds and identify the persons involved in the alleged supply chain. Examination of Fernandes's mobile phone reportedly yielded the names and contact details of more than 25 individuals from Telangana suspected of having links to the network. Their identities, financial transactions and possible involvement are being verified. Officials cautioned that the presence of a person's name or contact number in a mobile phone does not, by itself, establish drug consumption or criminal involvement.

ED moves Telangana HC seeking speedy, daily trial against Jagan Mohan Reddy, others

Hyderabad, Oct 11 (GNS) Invoking the right to speedy trial under Article 21 of the Constitution, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) has moved the Telangana High Court seeking speedy and day-to-day trial in money laundering charge sheets filed against the former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and others, an official said on Saturday.

The petition filed by the ED before the High Court on September 23 has also sought the personal appearance of all the accused, including YSR Congress Party President Jagan Mohan Reddy, in the charge sheets filed under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, the official said in a statement. The ED approached the High Court with the prayer to direct the criminal justice system to ensure that proceedings are conducted with reasonable expedition, it said.

The proceedings have remained pending in the Jagan Mohan Reddy case for nearly 10 years and the chronology of the proceedings itself demonstrates the absence of reasonable expedition in the prosecution of the matter, the ED said. The petition was filed before the High Court to conduct a speedy and day-to-day hearing/trial of the charge sheets filed along with discharge petitions mentioned, in the interest of justice, it added.

The investigation pertained to alleged governmental favours extended to large corporate entities and individuals and the receipt of huge investments



into companies of Jagan Mohan Reddy and his family members as part of a quid pro quo arrangement for the favours extended by the Andhra Pradesh government during his Chief Ministership, the ED said.

The ED investigation was initiated on the basis of an FIR registered by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on the direction of the High Court of Andhra Pradesh under Sections 120-B read with 420 of IPC, 1860, and Section 13(2) read with 13(1) (c) and (d) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, against Jagan Mohan Reddy and others.

The ED investigation revealed that substantial investments were made by companies and individuals such as Aurobindo Pharma, Hetero Drugs, Indu Projects, Indu Tech-zone, Lepakshi Knowledge Hub, VANPIC Projects, VANPIC Ports, Nimmagadda Prasad, Ramky Pharma City (India) Ltd, The India Cements Ltd, among others, through subscription of shares at exorbitant rates into companies such as Bharati Cement Corporation, Jagati Publications, and Janani Infrastructure, which are related to Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and his

family members. The ED filed nine charge sheets against Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy and others before the Special CBI Court at Nampally in Hyderabad between 2016 and 2021, the statement said.

"Cognisance was taken in all nine charge sheets and the cases remain pending for hearing of discharge petitions. The pendency of these discharge petitions has kept the charge sheets at a preliminary stage and consequently delayed further progress," the ED said.

The ED added that even after considerable time has elapsed since cognisance was taken, there has been no significant progress in the proceedings before the Special CBI Court.

Discharge petitions were heard by the Special Court but have not yet been decided due to transfers of presiding officers and other reasons.

"While considering the seriousness of the case, in one of the criminal appeals, No. 730 of 2013 (Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy vs CBI), the Supreme Court said that economic offences constitute a class apart and need to be visited with a different approach," the ED said.

Telangana to cancel licences of shops selling synthetic manja

Hyderabad, Oct 11 (GNS) Licences of shops selling prohibited synthetic manja must be cancelled, Telangana's Head of Forest Force, Vinay Kumar, on Friday directed officials.

He asked officials to take stringent measures to curb the sale and use of synthetic manja and protect Indian rollers and other wildlife.

He was speaking at a review meeting with senior officials of various government departments held at Aranya Bhavan here on Friday to discuss these issues.

As synthetic manja is being supplied from other States, particularly Rajasthan and Gujarat, Vinay Kumar instructed officials to intensify surveillance on supplies originating from

these States. He directed Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) officials to issue instructions to shop owners not to sell synthetic manja and to take stringent action against those violating the rules. According to an official release, the Head of Forest Force instructed the police to establish special surveillance to prevent the sale of Chinese manja through online platforms.

He emphasised the need to identify sales of synthetic manja on e-commerce websites and coordinate with the concerned organisations to curb such sales.

He also instructed officials to put up posters at all public places, including bus stations, railway sta-

tions, markets and other crowded locations, to create public awareness about the ban on synthetic manja.

Vinay Kumar stated that the School Education Department should create awareness among students and their parents about the dangers posed by the use of Chinese manja to human beings and birds.

He further instructed officials to advise bus drivers and conductors to inform the Forest Department helpline if they identify the illegal transportation of synthetic manja or the transportation of Indian rollers and other wildlife on buses. During the meeting, it was brought to notice that voluntary organisations had lodged complaints.

Telangana official suspended over insulting remarks to a farmer

Hyderabad, Oct 11 (GNS) The Telangana government has suspended a local revenue official in Siddipet district for making allegedly derogatory remarks against a farmer who approached him over a land dispute. The government issued orders suspending Gajwek Tehsildar Chittampalli Swamy after a video showing him making the remarks went viral on social media. Acting on a preliminary inquiry report submitted by the Revenue Divisional Officer (RDO), Siddipet district Collector K. Haimavathi ordered his suspension.

Swamy has been directed not to leave his headquarters without prior permission. "Are you still alive?

Have you not consumed pesticides yet?" the tehsildar was seen asking the farmer when the latter approached the official over a land-related issue. The officer's insensitive remarks had evoked public outrage.

Following demands from farmers for action against the tehsildar, the district Collector had asked the RDO to conduct an inquiry. After the preliminary report submitted by the RDO, who found the official's behaviour to be inappropriate, the Collector issued the suspension order. Yesu, a farmer from Maktha Masanpally village in Gajwel mandal, had expressed distress over a land-related issue. As the farmer was explaining his problem,

the tehsildar made the insulting remark. Yesu expressed distress over this and questioned whether he had made the statement intentionally. "Yes, I did. Of course, I did," the official replied.

Meanwhile, another video has surfaced on social media in which Yesu stated that the incident happened 5-6 months ago.

The farmer said he had approached the tehsildar (Mandal Revenue Officer) following a dispute with the relatives with regard to the compensation for the land acquired for the Regional Ring Road (RRR). Yesu said village elders, including the sarpanch and the deputy sarpanch, had accompanied him to the MRO office.

Telangana Trains Teachers in Digital Education

Hyderabad, Oct 11 (GNS) He explained that the programme was organised with the support of the PM eVidya DTH Channels initiative under the Union Ministry of Education, NCERT and CIET, with the objective of equipping government teachers and resource persons across Telangana with the skills required to develop digital content.

Venugopal Reddy said Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy takes a keen interest in education and therefore personally holds the Education portfolio. He stated that the Chief Minister is working to make Telangana's education system the best in the country through trans-

formative reforms, including the establishment of integrated schools and Telangana Public Schools, alongside continued teacher recruitment.

Speaking on the occasion, SCERT Director R. Ramesh Kumar urged teachers who had received four days of training in television production, scriptwriting, post-production and the use of AI tools to share their knowledge with other teachers across the state and promote awareness of digital education. He called upon teachers to begin efforts to ensure that Telangana secures a position among the top 10 in the PARAKH evaluation test scheduled for November 2027.

JP's legacy remains a guiding light, says Venkaiah Naidu

Hyderabad, Oct 11 (GNS) Former Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu on Sunday paid tributes to Bharat Ratna Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan on his birth anniversary, saying his legacy remains a guiding light.

"My reverential tributes to the memory of the great Socialist & Gandhian, Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan (JP). In remembering him, we honour one of India's most venerable freedom fighters, Gandhian thinkers, & socialist icons. Jayaprakash Narayan devoted his life to the service of the nation – from his daring role in the 1942 Quit India Movement to his unyielding dedication to social welfare through

the Bhoodan (land-gift) movement," Venkaiah Naidu said in a post on 'X'.

"As a true leader of the masses, he embodied selflessness, moral courage, & political integrity. JP is best remembered for leading the Total Revolution (Sampoorna Kranti) movement in the 1970s. When democratic values faced unprecedented challenges, he galvanized students, youth, & citizens across the nation to rise peacefully in defense of freedom, justice, & accountability. Today, Lok Nayak's legacy remains a guiding light, reminding us to rededicate ourselves to upholding the democratic ideals, social justice, & selfless service.



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31 UoH researchers in 'world's top 2 pc scientists' list

Hyderabad, Oct 11 (GNS) Thirty-one researchers associated with the University of Hyderabad (UoH) figure in the 2026 Stanford-Elsevier database of highly cited researchers, popularly known as the "world's top 2 per cent scientists" list, the university said on Sunday, October 11.

In the institutional tally, UoH is ranked third among central universities, after Banaras Hindu University and the University of Delhi, and 18th among India's top 20 institutions, it said.

Of the 31, as many as 25 are on the career-long list, which measures cumulative citation impact up to 2025, and 18 on the single-year list, based on citations received in 2025. Twelve of them figure in both.

The School of Chemistry and the School of Life Sciences account for nine each.

The School of Computer and Information Sciences has four and the School of Physics three. The School of Humanities (English), the Centre for Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences and the Advanced Centre of Research in High Energy Materials (ACRHEM) have two each.

Those on both lists include chemists Goverdhan Mehta, Anunay K Samanta and R Chandrasekar, plant scientists AS Raghavendra and MNV Prasad; animal biologist MK Arunasree, computer scientists Satish N Srirama, Nagender K Suryadevara and Odellu Vanga; physicist Sharika Nandan Kaul, Soma Venugopal Rao of ACRHEM, and Pramod K Nayyar of the English department. The single-year list also includes the late Sarada D Tetali of plant sciences.



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