

INDIA BLOC VOWS PROLONGED FIGHT OVER 'VOTE CHORI'

Rahul warns Modi, Shah and CEC Gyanesh Kumar

New Delhi, Oct 13 (UNI) Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday warned Prime Minister Narendra Modi, union Home Minister Amit Shah and Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar that "the net is closing around them", as the INDIA bloc vowed to intensify its campaign against alleged electoral manipulation and fight to "restore democracy in India".

Addressing a joint press conference with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and other opposition leaders in New Delhi, Gandhi said the movement against alleged "vote chori" would continue until its objectives were achieved, insisting that the opposition was united behind a single mission - the resto-

ration of democracy. "There are no parallel protests, there is one singular protest and the protest has one mission - restoration of democracy in India," Gandhi said, accusing the government of undermining democratic institutions, the electoral system and the Constitution. Warning the Prime Minister, Home Minister and Chief Election Commissioner against assuming they could escape accountability, he said:

"It is not going to be so simple that you can destroy the Indian Constitution and get away with it." The INDIA bloc's campaign centres on allegations that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls has led to large-scale voter deletions, with opposition leaders claiming that nearly

Demands accountability from Election Commission and challenges restrictions on protests.



13 crore names have been removed or affected. The allegations and the scale of any wrongful deletions re-

main subject to verification through official records and judicial scrutiny. Gandhi also challenged the authori-

ties' decision to de-notify Jantar Mantar as a designated protest venue, arguing that administrative re-

strictions could not silence democratic dissent.

"The one method of expression of democracy was

Jantar Mantar, and now, the government has decided that Jantar Mantar can no longer be used to express democratic feelings. Well, we are going to challenge that idea," he said. Referring to Monday's opposition mobilisation, Gandhi said the protests reflected public concern beyond political parties. "What happened yesterday could not have happened without the expression of the average citizen of this country, non-political citizen of this country," he said, adding that the struggle was about the future of the people rather than the political fortunes of individual leaders.

Gandhi declared that the agitation would continue for months or years if necessary. "Today nahi to kal, kal nahi to parson,

parson nahi to teen mahine baad, teen mahine baad nahi to chhe mahine baad, chhe mahine baad nahi to ek saal, nahi to do saal, ye rukne wali nahi hai. Ye end goal tak jayegi," he said, signalling a sustained campaign combining political mobilisation, public protests and legal action. While expressing respect for the Supreme Court, the Chief Justice of India and the judiciary, Gandhi said the opposition would not suspend its political resistance while awaiting judicial intervention.

"No matter what happens, no matter which institution plays a role, or does not play a role, political resistance will continue, people's resistance will continue and it will triumph," he said.

'Stop blaming SIR for electoral routs, prepare for 2029 defeat': HM Amit Shah tears into Rahul Gandhi, Congress

New Delhi, Oct 13 (UNI) Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday launched a no-holds-barred attack on Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, and the Congress, dismissing their repeated allegations against the electoral process as an attempt to cover up a string of humiliating poll defeats.

Rubbing salt into the Opposition's wounds following the BJP's sweeping victory in Gujarat's civic elections, Shah challenged Gandhi to explain whether the Congress would blame the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls for its latest electoral rout as well.

In a blunt warning to the Congress leadership, he said: "2029 mein haar ka mann bana lein (Make up your mind to face defeat in 2029)", asserting that the people had seen through the party's alleged attempts to shield infiltrators under the pretext of opposing SIR. He questioned whether the Congress would



blame the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls for its crushing defeat in the Gujarat civic elections as well. Asking Gandhi to introspect rather than find excuses for repeated electoral setbacks, Shah said the people had seen through the Congress' attempt to use the SIR controversy to "protect infiltrators" and "undermine the electoral process".

Delivering a sharp political message to the Congress leadership, the Home Min-

ister said: "The party should prepare itself for another massive defeat in the 2029 Lok Sabha elections." "The BJP-led NDA would return to power with a thumping majority under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership," he added. Taking a swipe at Gandhi over his protests demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, Shah questioned the Opposition's continued attempts to attribute its electoral failures to the re-

vision of voter lists (SIR). He pointed out that the current SIR exercise began only after the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, whereas the Congress had been losing elections under Gandhi's leadership.

"Will Rahul Gandhi now say that the Congress lost Gujarat because of SIR?" Shah asked, questioning whether the party would continue to blame the electoral process for every defeat instead of examining its own political shortcomings. The Home Minister's attack came after the BJP registered a sweeping victory in Gujarat's civic elections, winning 38 of the 44 seats in the Gandhinagar Municipal Corporation. The BJP also retained control of the Thara and Okha municipalities. Shah said the results reflected the continued confidence of Gujarat's voters in Prime Minister Modi's leadership. He highlighted that the BJP's vote share in the Gandhinagar civic body had increased by 10 percentage points.

India's growth story continues to create immense opportunities across sectors: PM Modi

New Delhi, Oct 13 (UNI) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said India's growth story continues to create immense opportunities across sectors and welcomed Bloomberg's plans to deepen its engagement with the country as the global financial information and media company completed 30 years here.

In a post on X, PM Modi said it was a delight to meet Bloomberg LP co-founder and majority owner Mike Bloomberg earlier in the day. The Prime Minister congratulated Bloomberg on completing three decades in India and expressed support for the company's plans to expand its presence in one of the world's fastest-growing major economies.

"It was a delight meeting you this morning. Congratulations to Bloomberg on completing 30 years in India. We welcome Bloomberg's plans to expand



its presence in India and deepen its engagement with our economy, markets and people. India's growth story continues to create immense opportunities across sectors," PM Modi said. The remarks came after Bloomberg shared details of his interaction with the Prime Minister, highlighting India's rapid economic transformation and increasing role in global affairs. Bloomberg said PM Modi, India's longest-serv-

ing elected Prime Minister, has overseen the country's strong economic growth and emergence as a global leader, while continuing to pursue ambitious goals for the future.

"As India's longest-serving elected Prime Minister for consecutive terms, Narendra Modi has overseen India's rapid economic growth and rise to global leadership, and he has ambitious visions for its future," he wrote on X.

India and Kenya deepen cooperation in professional military education

New Delhi, Oct 13 (UNI) India and Kenya on Tuesday continued work on deepening cooperation in professional military education as a delegation from the Kenyan Defence Forces, led by Maj Gen RW Mwanza, visited the College of Defence Management (CDM). "A delegation from the Kenya Defence Forces, led by Maj Gen RW Mwanza, visited College of Defence Management CDM IDS as part of a five-day interaction with premier Armed Forces Training Institutes (AFTI)," Headquarters of Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) stated on X. "The delegation was briefed on the College's ethos and training philosophy, its vision, its approach to creating and sharing knowledge, and the curriculum of the flagship HDMC. The interaction deepens India-Kenya cooperation in professional military education and the wider defence partnership between the two nations," it added.

Abhijeet Dipke condemns police action against CJP activists carrying Tricolour at Jantar Mantar in Delhi

Mumbai, Oct 13 (UNI) Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke on Tuesday criticised the reported detention of party members Ashutosh Ranka, Saurav Das and Ajinkya Shinde at Jantar Mantar in New Delhi, questioning whether waving the national flag could be considered a violation of the law.

The activists were reportedly detained by Delhi Police after entering the protest venue early in the morning, a day after authorities withdrew its status as a designated site for demonstrations. Speaking to reporters in Hingoli, Dipke said a team of CJP members led by Ashutosh Ranka, Saurav Das and Ajinkya Shinde had reached Jantar Mantar on Tuesday morning and waved the Indian Tricolour. Questioning the police action, he asked when displaying the national flag in one's own country had become an offence. He



further alleged that anyone who considered hoisting the Tricolour at Jantar Mantar a violation of the law was acting against national interests. Dipke demanded strict action against those responsible for detaining the activists, maintaining that they had been taken into custody merely for waving the national flag. Describing the incident as a reflection of what he called a dictatorial mindset, the CJP founder questioned the justification for restricting such an expression of na-

tional identity. He reiterated that displaying the Tricolour in India should not be treated as unlawful conduct. According to reports, Delhi Police detained Das, Ranka, Shinde and several other CJP members early on Tuesday after they allegedly breached a security cordon and entered Jantar Mantar. The group reportedly assembled at the venue and began demonstrating before security personnel arrived and took them into custody.

SC seeks senior delhi police officer's appearance over protest allegations

New Delhi, Oct 13 (UNI) The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked a senior Delhi Police officer to remain present before it on October 15 to assist the court and explain allegations of sexual harassment, assault and intimidation of women journalists covering the October 10 protest in the national capital demanding the ouster of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

Chief Justice Surya Kant, heading a bench also comprising Justices Joy-malya Bagchi and V Mohana, said: "I would like some senior officer to be present here to assist us or to explain." The direction came while the bench was hearing a petition filed by the Network of Women in Media, India, seeking safeguards for journalists covering protests and public demonstrations. Senior advocate Indira



Jaising, appearing for the petitioner organisation, told the court that the petition specifically concerned allegations of sexual harassment faced by women journalists while covering the protests. She requested that the matter be heard along with other petitions arising from the October 10 protests and informed the bench that advance notice had been given to Solicitor General Tushar Mehta.

The petition seeks protection for journalists against alleged assault,

intimidation, and arbitrary detention. It has also sought enforceable safeguards governing police interaction with journalists during protests, an independent inquiry into the alleged incidents and action against police personnel found responsible. The plea refers to allegations by women journalists that they were manhandled, detained and prevented from performing their professional duties despite identifying themselves as members of the press.

Jantar Mantar de-notified as protest site: Police to HC

New Delhi, Oct 13 (UNI) The Delhi Police on Tuesday told the Delhi High Court that it had de-notified Jantar Mantar as a designated protest site and identified three alternative locations for demonstrations in compliance with the Supreme Court's directions on facilitating peaceful protests.

Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Chetan Sharma, appearing for the Delhi Police, submitted before a single-judge Bench of Justice Amit Mahajan that the decision to identify alternative sites had been taken in accordance with the apex court order passed last week.

"The Supreme Court said appropriate sites need to be identified and designated and we have precisely done that," the Centre's law officer submitted. The submission came during the hearing of a plea filed by Indian Youth Congress (IYC) President Uday Bhanu Chib challenging the Delhi Police's refusal

to grant permission for a protest against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar at Jantar Mantar. ASG Sharma argued that since Jantar Mantar had been de-notified as a designated protest site, the petition had become infructuous. The Ramila Group, the Burari Ground, and the CBD Ground in east Delhi are the new designated protest sites.

However, senior advocate Siddharth Luthra, appearing for Chib, contended that other prayers raised in the petition remained maintainable and sought issuance of notice on them. Opposing the request, the Delhi Police counsel argued against issuing notice. After hearing the submissions, Justice Mahajan issued notice on three of the prayers raised in the petition. The development comes days after the Supreme Court asked the competent authorities to consider identifying and designating suitable.

Siddaramaiah–DKS Power-Sharing Speculation Continues

BS Arun

In Karnataka, three issues have been grabbing headlines in the last few days: first, the internecine battle in the ruling Congress as well as in the opposition BJP; second, the gold smuggling scandal involving a film actress that has alleged links to two cabinet ministers; and third, the attempt to honey-trap a senior minister of the Siddaramaiah government and his son, who is a member of the state legislative council.

In the gold smuggling scandal, the police have arrested two persons, actor Ranya Rao and her friend Tarun Raju. Authorities say more arrests are likely. Rao's stepfather, a senior IPS officer, has been sent on compulsory leave. Central investigative agencies have taken over the case. This scandal has also exposed Dubai-Bengaluru as a prime route for gold smuggling.

The internal strife between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy CM D K Shivaumar over sharing power has been going on almost since the Congress government took charge in the state in the middle of 2023. The group supporting Siddaramaiah has demanded that DKS, as Shivakumar is widely called, step down as president of Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC). Hardly a week passes without some Congress leader or the other making a statement in favour of or against the power-sharing formula.

As per the formula proposed at the time of swearing in, Siddaramaiah would rule for the first two-and-a-half years, and then, DKS would take over. However, no one from the Congress high command has come out openly on this so far. It must be maintained that despite the power struggle, the CM and deputy CM have



shown utmost cordiality in public. One prominent member of the group supporting Siddaramaiah, and has been at daggers drawn with DKS, is the 73-year-old minister of cooperation, K N Rajanna. It is Rajanna who claimed on the floor of the House on March 20 that a honey-trap attempt had been made against him and his son. The scandal has shocked everyone. That Rajanna himself admitted it in the House and called for a high-level probe indicated the seriousness. His son Rajendra told the media that such attempts had been going on “for months”.

Though the issue was raised by two BJP MLAs in the assembly on March 20, the party itself failed to cash in on it on the first day. The two MLAs didn't get wider support from others. It was a good opportunity for the opposition to hold the government by the scruff of its neck. The failure was perhaps brought to the notice of the party's high command. Amends were made the next day, the last of the session. The BJP raised the issue

along with the Muslim quota bill and brought the House to a halt. The BJP asked the government: “Who is the director and producer of these honey-traps?”

This was an issue that has deeply embarrassed the ruling Congress, but the BJP failed to take advantage of it on Day One. Imagine a minister, a senior one at that, stands on the floor of the House, expresses his helplessness, and asks the home minister to launch a probe so that the culprits behind the honey-trap scandal can be brought to book. Rajanna even said the state has become a “CD factory” and that there are 48 honey-trap cases in Karnataka involving leaders of different political parties and states. Incidentally, in Karnataka, several politicians have obtained injunctions from courts restraining media houses from publishing ‘defamatory’ content on them.

Rumours of honey-trapping of minister/s were making rounds in the corridors of power for at least a week. It seems a senior minister even brought this

to the notice of the CM, who is said to have assured that a probe would be launched into the matter. With the legislature session on, MLAs and MLCs were heard discussing in hushed tones about the scandal. Despite all this, Home Minister G Parameshwara said he came to know of the issue only after BJP MLA Sunil Kumar spoke about it on the floor of the assembly. If this was so, what was the state intelligence, which reports to the CM, doing? Parameshwara has assured of a probe. One hopes it would find the truth and help bring the culprits to justice. A honey-trap case involving then BJP minister Ramesh Jarkiholi became big news and forced him to resign in 2021. Next year, a personal assistant of then chief minister Basavaraj Bommai was also honey-trapped.

Ramesh, a member of the powerful Jarkiholi family from Belagavi, had led the rebellion against then CM H D Kumaraswamy and succeeded in bringing down the Congress-Janata Dal (Secular) government in

2019. He was part of the 17 MLAs of Congress and JD(S) to resign as part of ‘Operation Lotus’ and join the BJP. All of them contested and won, except one.

The BJP of today is a seriously divided house in Karnataka. Senior MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal is launching tirades against former CM B S Yediyurappa and his son B Y Vijayendra, now the state BJP chief, on a daily basis. The Lingayat MLA has been joined by about 10 others, including Jarkiholi, demanding the ouster of Vijayendra, a first-time MLA, as the party chief. The high command has surprised many by not taking any action against him, except issuing notices. A year ago, sleaze videos went public of Janata Dal MP Prajwal Revanna, grandson of former prime minister H D Deve Gowda. In 2012, videos of three MLAs watching porn in the Karnataka House became viral. It's sad that Karnataka, once proudly called a progressive state, is now facing ignominy because of such shameful incidents.

India’s reassessed GDP Growth rate of 7.6% is good but unevenly distributed

Shikha Mukerjee

The elephant in the room is reservation for women of one-third seats in the Lok Sabha and state assemblies as well as the National Capital Region post the expiry of the 2026 deadline. The current wrangling over delimitation is not limited to ‘freeze or increase’ in the number of seats whenever the 5th Delimitation Commission is set up, which by law requires a census to be held first.

Implementing women's reservation in representation was put off in 2023 when the 106th constitutional amendment was adopted following the passage of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, otherwise referred to as the Women's Reservation Act, on the entirely legitimate plea that it would have to be done on the basis of a full-fledged delimitation exercise. Be that as it may, that argument, however, was overturned in the case of delimitation of constituencies for the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh. The expansion of reservation of constituencies to create a new category-- women--requires a follow-through under the terms of the 2023. Freeze or increase, however the legislation establishing the Delimitation Commission is framed, one-third of all elected legislative seats, that is seats in the Lok Sabha, all the state assemblies, and the National Capital Region, will have to be assigned to women.

The brawl over delimitation, how it will impact states that have succeeded in slowing population growth—whether



it will be a penalty or a reward—is edging towards the centre-stage in national politics. The unanimous silence on how women's reservation will work out under these circumstances indicates a reluctance to address the issue. Unanimity seems to be there on how the political class chooses to work on women's reservation. There was near unanimity among parties that ensured the passing of the Women's Reservation Act and the 106th amendment. Curiously enough, there seems to be an identical unanimity, a sort of unspoken consensus, that the follow through action required to implement it shall not be discussed.

Having succeeded in making a paradigmatic shift in India's parliamentary politics, neither the Narendra Modi government nor the other parties in parliament that joined in sharing the credit for passing the law, seem to want to talk about it.

If the Modi government, with its overall majority of

seats through the National Democratic Alliance, decides to continue with the freeze and maintain the total number of elected seats in the Lok Sabha at 543, even then, there will have to be a delimitation exercise, because of the women's reservation law. Since the law states, as of now, that reservation will be for a limited 15-year period, which works out to three rotations of constituencies that will be exclusively contested by women, the delimitation exercise cannot be short-circuited.

Were the freeze put in place by the 84th amendment to continue beyond 2026, when the issue needs to be addressed by parliament, even then there would have to be a delimitation exercise. Marking out 131 parliamentary constituencies exclusively for women is a mathematically complicated exercise, because proportionality will have to be maintained when the seats to be reserved for women are identified. How will states that

have less than three seats in the Lok Sabha resolve the math?

Reservation for women will kick off a whole new ball game if the Modi regime proposes, as most political parties seem to believe it will, a big increase in the number of seats in the Lok Sabha which would also mean a major change in all elected state assembly sizes. If the number of seats goes up to anywhere between 700 and 848, as many experts speculate, then women's reservation poses an enormous challenge to the way the politics, the selection of candidates, and the monopolisation of power has been hitherto restricted to a predominantly male elite.

In the current Lok Sabha, out of the total elected 543 seats, women hold a mere 74 seats. Trinamool Congress has 11 women members of parliament, out of its 29 seats. That works out to a 37.9 percent weightage.

If the freeze continues, then the number of

women represented as a category would go up to 181 seats from 74. If there is an increase in the total number of Lok Sabha seats as is being speculated, then political parties would have to step up to the challenge, since the total number of reserved seats for women would go up to 233 seats. In case of an increase in the number of seats to 848 or thereabouts, then reserved seats for women would zoom to 282.

The empowerment of women through reservation may not immediately alter the fundamental inequality embedded in the social and political system, where women function in mostly “passive dependent” mode, as an “adaptive preference” as pointed out by philosopher Martha Nussbaum, who worked with Nobel Laureate Amartya Sen on social choice and women.

The emergence of ‘panchayat-pati’ (husband of a woman panchayat pradhan, elected under the reservation of constituencies system for panchayati raj institutions) is a reflection of how the social system has enforced male dominance by stripping women of power.

The state-by-state variations, and the different degrees by which patriarchy usurps women's power as representatives, indicate that reservation per se will not work like magic to make Indian law-making and budget allocations significantly different. The law, however, is the law. It has to be implemented. Postponing it will not change the law. It will merely brand those who did not implement it as cowards.

Revisiting History Is Reckoning, Not Divisiveness

In an increasingly polarised media landscape, especially outside India, it has become routine to portray cultural productions such as Chhaava — the recent historical about the torture and execution of Maratha leader Chhatrapati Shambhaji Maharaj at the hands of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb, as tools of political messaging. Yet to reduce such works to mere propaganda is to misunderstand a far more complex and necessary civilisational shift.

To accuse Prime Minister Narendra Modi of stoking divisiveness each time history is revisited is not only simplistic — it is a refusal to engage with the deeper process underway in India: a long-deferred reckoning with its past. This is not a distortion of historical memory but a release of long-suppressed narratives. Far from being a cultural regression, it reflects the growing maturity of a democracy that is learning to look itself in the mirror, however uncomfortable the image may be.

For decades, certain episodes of India's history, many of them documented, studied, and preserved through folklore and regional traditions — were curiously marginalised in mainstream discourse. The reasons were often political: the forging of national unity in the wake of Partition demanded a careful, often sanitised story of the past. But this came at the cost of clarity. The spiritual resistance of Sikh gurus, the armed struggle of Maratha warriors, the contributions of revolutionaries such as Veer Savarkar, and even the traumas of India's wars and internal displacements were frequently consigned to footnotes. Chhaava is only the latest in a line of films Uri, The Kashmir Files, to name a few, that challenge this selective remembering. None of these films present new “facts”. Rather, they give voice to chapters that were absent from cultural and institutional platforms for decades. Predictably, the sudden presence of these suppressed truths in the public square has unsettled some sections of society. But this discomfort speaks less to historical inaccuracy and more to an ideological dissonance — the shock of losing monopoly over historical interpretation.

To argue that this is the majority “asserting its narrative” misses a more vital point: must the pain of the majority always be dismissed as majoritarianism? India, with its civilisational ethos of resilience and coexistence, once mistook acceptance for passivity. Not any more. As the country ascends towards great power status, it is beginning to shed these reflexes. The process requires clarity, not confusion; memory, not myth. It will test not only India's democratic institutions but also its emotional and historical intelligence. PM Modi's declaration of 14 August as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day is emblematic of this new posture. It was not a call to vengeance but to reflection — a national gesture honouring the millions displaced or killed during Partition and a reminder that social divisions must be confronted, not buried. As the Prime Minister himself stated, the day is meant to “remove the poison of social divisions, disharmony, and further strengthen the spirit of oneness”. That such a move is viewed as politically motivated in some circles reveals more about entrenched biases than about the act itself. The criticism, then, needs to be reframed. Why did it take India more than seventy years to allow mainstream films on such episodes? Why were imperial invaders like the Mughals consistently romanticised while the resistance they faced from native dynasties was downplayed? Why, until very recently, did Indian cinema steer clear of stories that showed the armed forces in active combat, or acknowledge that India fought four wars over Kashmir between 1947 and 1999?

The idea that India is sliding into cultural intolerance because certain stories are now being told is ironic, especially when one considers the long-standing stereotyping of Sindhis, Parsis, Sikhs, and others in Indian films of the 1950s through the 1990s. If anything, today's cinema is less caricatured, more layered, and finally courageous enough to explore civilisational complexity without being hemmed in by post-independence dogma. There is also a geopolitical dimension to this debate. In contrast to authoritarian states like China, where historical memory is tightly controlled by the state, India remains a democratic and open society. Its cultural expression — however noisy or chaotic — is a sign of institutional resilience. India is not perfect, but it is plural. It is not uniform, but it is unafraid to debate. And that very openness, while a source of domestic contestation, is what makes India a more viable long-term partner for the democratic world. Some argue that this cultural assertiveness will make India less tolerant. But the greater risk lies in suppressing civilisational memory in favour of a bland, borrowed consensus. As India becomes more geopolitically important, economically, strategically, and demographically, it will naturally also face more pressure to conform to global narratives shaped elsewhere. Expecting the world order to let a rising India be is naïve. These very tools — cinema, media, social debate — will be used to push back against its rise. But the country is now more aware than ever that strength must come from a sense of historical rootedness, not denial.

In this context, Chhaava is not a piece of political theatre. It is part of a larger moment — an opening up of the cultural space where India's diverse past can be re-examined with courage and complexity. It is not about stoking communalism.

It is about recognising that trauma, when acknowledged honestly, need not lead to vengeance; it can lead to reconciliation. The global tendency to interpret India's cultural debates through the prism of immediate electoral politics misses the scale of what is happening. India is not just changing Governments. It is rediscovering itself. The next fifty years will be critical. If India is to fulfil its potential as a stabilising power in the multipolar world, it must continue on this path of self-clarification.

Not all truths will be comfortable. But no democracy, especially one as large and diverse as India — can afford to run from them. Cinema may not be a constitutional tool, but it is a cultural one. And if it becomes the vehicle through which India finally tells the whole story of itself, the world should not fear it. It should listen.

The debate surrounding historical films such as Chhaava also raises an important question about the relationship between cinema, historical scholarship and public memory. While filmmakers have the creative freedom to bring neglected episodes to the screen, historical narratives must be examined through credible records, contemporary accounts and the wider political and social context of their times. A balanced understanding of history requires acknowledging the sacrifices of rulers, warriors and ordinary people without overlooking the complexities and contradictions that shaped their actions. India's civilisational history is not confined to the achievements of a single dynasty, community or period. It encompasses the contributions of numerous kingdoms, religious traditions, reformers, poets, philosophers and freedom fighters who shaped the country's cultural identity. From the resistance of the Marathas and Sikh warriors to the contributions of regional rulers and social reformers, these stories offer valuable insights into India's diversity and resilience. Bringing them into mainstream cultural discussions can broaden public understanding, provided that historical interpretation remains open to evidence and different perspectives.

Educational institutions, museums, archives and cultural organisations also have a significant role to play in ensuring that renewed interest in history translates into meaningful learning. Documentaries, historical exhibitions, academic discussions and well-researched publications can complement cinema by offering audiences a deeper understanding of the events depicted on screen. Such initiatives would enable younger generations to distinguish historical evidence from dramatic representation while developing a stronger appreciation of the country's heritage. Encouraging research and preserving regional historical records can further ensure that lesser-known accounts receive the attention they deserve.

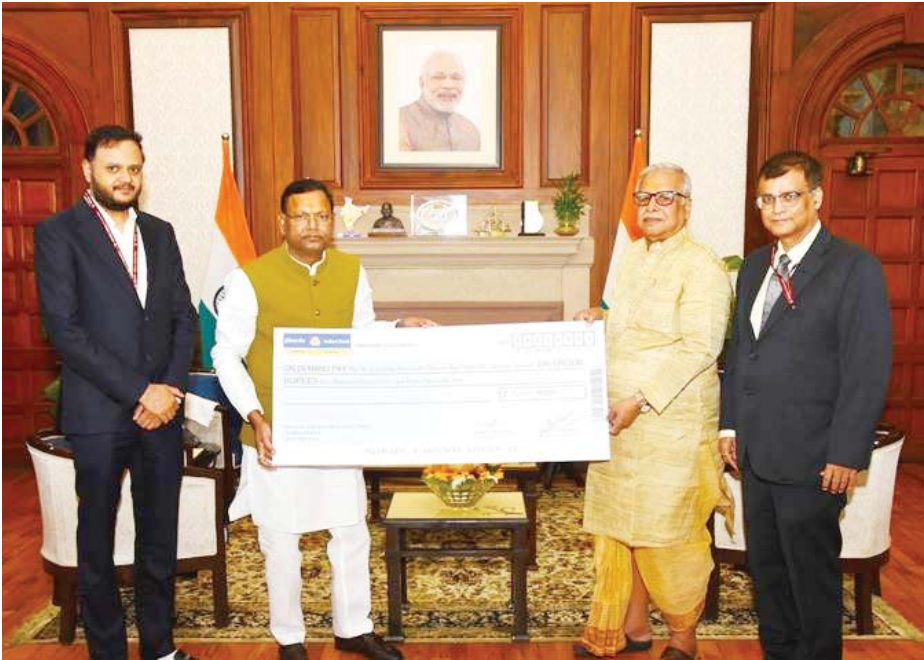
At the same time, India's democratic strength lies in its ability to accommodate disagreement without allowing historical debates to undermine social harmony. Different communities may remember the same historical period through distinct experiences and traditions, making dialogue essential to a shared understanding of the past. Recognising the suffering of one group does not require dismissing the experiences of another. Instead, a mature public discourse should create space for multiple historical memories while firmly rejecting collective blame against people today for actions attributed to individuals or rulers centuries ago.

Union MoS Finance hands over 515.31 cr for Rose Valley scam restitution

New Delhi, Oct 13 (GNS): Union Minister of State for Finance Shri Pankaj Chaudhary handed over a Demand Draft of Rs. 515.31 crore today to Justice D.K. Seth (Retd.), Chairman of the Asset Disposal Committee formed for the purpose of restitution of properties to legitimate investors in Rose Valley Ponzi scam. Rahul Navin, Director, ED and other senior officials of the government were also present on the occasion.

It is estimated that this amount will be used to restitute money to approximately 7.5 lakh victims out of the total claims of 31 lakh lodged so far with Asset Disposal Committee. Earlier, the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) had handed over an amount of Rs. 22 crore to the ADC which was used to restitute money to 32,319 lawful investors.

The amount of Rs. 515.31 crore was attached by ED in the years 2015-17 by investigating money trail and tracing 2,987 different bank accounts where the money collected from innocent victims had traversed. The said bank accounts were then seized/ attached following due process of law and con-



verted into more than 700 Fixed Deposits (FDs) after confirmation of attachment by the Adjudicating Authority. It may be mentioned that ED has also attached other movable and immovable assets of Rs. 1,172 crore (present market value of the assets is estimated to be more than Rs. 2,000 crore), which is also in process of liquidation and refund to the victims.

ED is investigating five

(5) Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) cases against the Rose Valley Group in the states of West Bengal, Odisha, Assam and Tripura. ED has filed prosecution complaints in all these cases before the Special Courts under PMLA. Investigation under PMLA revealed that Rose Valley Group companies, had collected funds of Rs. 17,520 crore by luring people mostly from the lowest strata of

society with promises of providing land parcels or time sharing in hotels and in the event of inability to deliver the land/time sharing, refund with high rate of interest was promised on maturity of investments. Investigation has revealed that out of the above, an amount of Rs. 6,666 crore, which constitutes the proceeds of crime, remained unpaid to the investors. This is one of the single largest

investigation of this type undertaken by the ED, and an order passed by the Special court (PMLA) at Khurda, Bhubaneswar, on 29.03.2025 has paved the way for the return of investors' money all over the country through the Asset Disposal Committee (ADC).

It is pertinent to mention that on the direction of the Hon'ble High Court of Calcutta, an Asset Disposal Committee (ADC) was constituted under the Chairmanship of Justice Dillip Kr. Seth (Retd.), High Court of Calcutta with ED and others as members for restitution of properties to the lawful investors of Rose Valley Group Ponzi Scam.

ED has played a crucial role in attachment, possession and disbursement of assets of the Rose Valley Group thereby smoothening and expediting the restitution of properties to the lakhs of victims of the States of West Bengal, Odisha, Assam, Tripura etc. Till now, around 31 Lakh investors of Rose Valley Group have registered their claim on the website www.rosevalleyadc.com. ED is also providing assistance to the ADC in conducting survey and valu-

ation of confirmed attached properties and facilitating expeditious monetisation of the assets for timely disbursement of the same to the investors/victims of Rose Valley Group of Companies.

Further, the restitution process is expected to continue in full swing over the coming months as more claims are being scrutinised and validated by the ADC. The instant restitution is in line with the commitment of the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, to return the money looted from poor people.

The Prime Minister of India has consistently emphasised the urgent need to recover and return funds misappropriated from the poor and innocent citizens of the country, and has repeatedly stressed that money siphoned off through fraudulent means must be rightfully restored to those who have been cheated in Ponzi schemes.

The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs has also reiterated that the Government's commitment for restitution of assets attached by ED to the victims/ rightful owners and made a statement in Parliament to

Jitendra Singh Lauds Global Nod for Indigenous Underwater Test Facility



CHENNAI, Oct 13 (GNS): Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh today hailed the global recognition and international certification of the Underwater Acoustic Test Facility (ATF) at the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai, describing it as a proud milestone in India's journey towards scientific self-reliance in underwater acoustics and ocean technology.

After unveiling the commemorative plaque, Dr. Jitendra Singh witnessed a live demonstration of the facility's capabilities, which include precise testing and calibration of a wide range of underwater acoustic instruments such as hydrophones, transducers, and acoustic modems—vital for both strategic and civilian applications. Describing the facility as a “critical national asset,” the Minister highlighted its pivotal role in strengthening India's self-reliance in ocean technology. “The Acoustic Test Facility enhances our ocean observation capabilities, supports tsunami detection systems, and reinforces national security through its strategic applications,” he said.

Established in 2004 under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, the ATF is India's only facility accredited by the National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) for hydrophone calibration.

Since 2005, it has consistently maintained this accreditation and caters to a broad spectrum of users, including naval laboratories, IITs, universities, and major industrial players such as BEL, L&T, and Tata Power.

In 2018, the facility's global competence was validated when it participated in a Key Comparison Test organized by the National Physical Laboratory, UK, alongside laboratories from seven other countries, including the US, UK, and Russia. The ATF's calibration results matched international benchmarks, establishing its parity with top global labs.

In a significant milestone, the facility was recently recognized as India's “Designated Laboratory” in the field of underwater acoustics under the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM), Paris, through CSIR-NPL, effective January 30, 2024. This means NIOT now holds the national standards for measurements in underwater acoustics—a crucial responsibility for ensuring measurement accuracy across strategic sectors. Experts say this recognition not only boosts India's scientific credibility but also opens up opportunities for global collaborations in underwater research and maritime technology.

As India scales up its ambitions in ocean exploration and maritime security, the Acoustic Test Facility is expected to play a defining role in shaping future technologies, offering both precision and indigenous strength to the nation's deep-sea endeavours.

India-Nepal Hold 21st DG-Level Customs Talks in Kathmandu

New Delhi, Oct 13 (GNS): The 21st Director-General Level Talks on Customs Cooperation was held between India and Nepal in Kathmandu, Nepal on 10th-11th April, 2025. Both the sides discussed a host of bilateral issues for enhancing Customs Cooperation between the two countries. The Indian delegation was led by Mr. Abhai Kumar Srivastav, Director-General, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence, Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, Government of India and Nepali delegation was led by Mr. Mahesh Bhattarai, Director-General, Department of Customs, Ministry of Finance, Government of Nepal.

The agenda items of the meeting covered measures to check smuggling; review progress on MoU on Pre-arrival Exchange of Customs Data and Electronic Origin Data Exchange System (EODES); finalization of Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement (CMAA); facilitation of movement of transit cargo under Electronic Cargo Tracking System (ECTS); automation and digitisation of transit processes; upgradation of border infrastructure; knowledge sharing program and support for capacity development, among others.

Issues related to trans-border criminal activities and smuggling of gold; narcotics; Fake Currency Notes (FCN), prohibited/restricted category of goods, such as e-Cigarettes, e-lighters, certain varieties of garlic and other cases of commercial frauds, including sensitive goods were also deliberated. It was acknowledged that smuggling of goods has been a common challenge and both sides looked forward towards cooperation in preventing smuggling across the borders with active engagement and exchange of intelligence. Both the nations agreed to take necessary measures to control the unauthorised trade and work in tandem.

Nepal is a priority partner of India under its 'Neighbourhood First' Policy. India accounts for two-thirds of Nepal's exports and is the largest

trade partner of Nepal. The bilateral talks on Customs cooperation are an important mechanism to facilitate genuine trade as well as to prevent illicit trade along the border in an interconnected world.

The meeting concluded on an optimistic note. The Nepali side expressed their gratitude to the Government of India, particularly the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) for knowledge sharing and capacity enhancement programmes for Nepal Customs officials at different levels. Both sides emphasised on collaborating in areas that can enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of trade and Customs operations across the border that deliver significant economic benefits to both the countries. It was mutually agreed to consider new technologies for facilitating trade and preventing smuggling of goods.

The discussions also highlighted the importance of strengthening coordination between customs officials and other law enforcement agencies to address emerging challenges along the India-Nepal border. Improved intelligence sharing, timely communication and coordinated inspections were identified as important measures to detect suspicious consignments and prevent organised smuggling networks from exploiting gaps in border controls. Both countries are expected to continue working towards more effective mechanisms for identifying high-risk shipments while ensuring that legitimate traders face minimal disruption.

The proposed expansion of electronic data exchange systems is expected to improve transparency and efficiency in cross-border trade. The exchange of advance customs information and electronic origin data can help authorities verify consignments, assess potential risks and reduce delays in clearance procedures. Greater use of digital platforms would also support more accurate documentation, minimise manual intervention and strengthen the monitoring of goods moving between the two countries.

Industry Stakeholders Should Embrace Sustainability and Set Global Benchmarks: Goyal

CHENNAI, Oct 13 (GNS): Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal addressed the CAPEXIL's Vibrant Buildcon 2025 here today. He asked industry stakeholders to adopt best practices in sustainability, reduce import dependency, focus on clean and green construction, and work towards earthquake-resistant and modular infrastructure.

Goyal highlighted India's growing strength in the construction ecosystem—from Global Capability Centres (GCCs) to domestic manufacturing under Make in India. He underlined the importance of key sectors such as housing, infrastructure, commercial real estate, railways, airports, highways, and energy. “Every element, from cement and electricals to security systems and automation, plays a part in this ecosystem,” he said.

Goyal said the rapid infrastructure development has happened under the leadership of the Prime Minister. “PM Modi conceptualised world-class convention centres like Bharat Mandapam and Yashobhoomi, both of which were built during the pandemic. These state-of-the-art venues have hosted

global events such as the G20 Summit, BharatTex, Bharat Mobility and Startup Mahakumbh,” he pointed out. The Minister listed several major government initiatives, including 20 new smart industrial cities, improved tourism infrastructure across 50 destinations, and 100 new industrial plug-and-play hubs. “If we are to move from a \$4 trillion economy today to a \$30-35 trillion economy by 2047, every citizen must contribute to Viksit Bharat 2047,” he said. Commerce and Industry Minister noted that today India is breaking silos, fostering collaboration, and reimagining the future with a convergence of minds. “Vibrant Buildcon is only the beginning of the transformation of our construction ecosystem under one umbrella,” Shri Goyal said.

Greeting the gathering on the occasion of Baisakhi, the Union Minister talked about the role of farmers during the COVID-19 pandemic. He stated that despite global disruptions, India ensured uninterrupted food distribution, month after month, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. “Even during the peak of the pandemic, India con-

tinued its mission of feeding the poor and bringing millions out of deprivation,” he noted. Drawing a connection between India's food security and infrastructure growth, Shri Goyal said that Vibrant Buildcon exemplifies the country's ability to support rapid urbanisation, housing for all, and logistics transformation.

“This platform showcases our manufacturing and infrastructure strength, which is crucial to attract global investments and reduce logistics cost,” he added. In conclusion, Shri Goyal emphasised India's potential to emerge as a global superpower. “We must aim for audacious goals, ensure our labour force receives fair wages, and innovate continuously. Let there be no doubt—India will lead the world in growth, innovation, and inclusive development,” he said.

Goyal stressed that closer coordination among manufacturers, architects, engineers, developers and policymakers would be essential to build a resilient and globally competitive construction sector. He said industry stakeholders should invest in research, modern technologies and efficient production methods to improve

RBI starts bi-monthly monetary policy review

New Delhi, Oct 13 (GNS): The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday started its bi-monthly monetary policy review amid expectations of a 25 bps cut in key interest rates in the backdrop of moderating inflation and the need to stimulate growth as Trump tariffs pose severe challenges to the global economy.

The decision of the six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) headed by Governor Sanjay Malhotra will be announced on Wednesday. In February, the MPC slashed the repo rate by 25 basis points to 6.25 per cent. It was the first reduction since May 2020 and the first revision after two-and-a-half years. Experts are of the opinion that RBI's rate-setting panel will announce another rate cut of 25 bps this week. A research report of SBI said the global growth is likely to face significant headwinds due to non-linear yet intersecting trilemma of trade-related tariff barriers,

rapid currency swings and fractured capital flows, with no country being immune to the disruptions. It further said the trajectory of rate action by central banks, while being accommodative, may remain fuzzy. “We expect a 25-basis point rate cut in April 2025 policy. Cumulative rate cut over the cycle could be at least 100 basis points, with two successive rate cuts over February and April 2025. With an intervening gap in June 2025, the second round of rate cuts could start from August 2025,” said the research report from the State Bank of India's Economic Research Department 'Prelude to MPC Meeting: April 7-9, 2025'. Debopam Chaudhuri, Chief Economist, Piramal Group, said it is one of the rare occasions when a confluence of declining US interest rates, stronger rupee and domestic inflation dipping below the target level is emerging. “The RBI should make

most of this opportunity and deliver a 50 bps cut in the upcoming meeting, firstly to make up for the delay in shifting its policy stance and secondly because this confluence may not last long,” Chaudhuri said. Shikhar Aggarwal, Chairman, BLS E-Services, said that as the RBI prepares to announce its upcoming monetary policy, the assisted banking service industry is eagerly awaiting measures that will boost financial inclusion and drive growth.

“We expect the RBI to introduce policies that will enhance the reach and accessibility of assisted banking services, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas. A reduction in key lending rates would also be a welcome move, as it would increase the affordability of banking services for the underserved segments,” Aggarwal said. Ashish Gupta, CEO, Fretbox, said the industry is hoping to see a continued easing.

New Delhi, Oct 13 (GNS): NITI Aayog has released an insightful report titled "Automotive Industry: Powering India's Participation in Global Value Chains". The report was launched by Shri Suman Bery, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog in presence of Dr. V.K. Saraswat, Member, NITI Aayog, Dr. Arvind Virmani, Member, NITI Aayog and Shri BVR Subrahmanyam, CEO, NITI Aayog. This report offers an extensive analysis of India's automotive sector, highlighting both opportunities and challenges, and outlining a pathway for positioning India as a key player in global automotive markets.

In 2023, global automobile production reached approximately 94 million units. The global automotive components market was valued at USD 2 trillion, with the export share reaching approximately USD 700 billion. India has emerged as the fourth-largest global producer after China, USA and Japan, with an annual

production of nearly 6 million vehicles. The Indian automotive sector has gained a strong domestic and export market presence, particularly in the small car and utility vehicle segments. Supported by initiatives like 'Make in India' and its cost-competitive workforce, India is positioning itself as a hub for automotive manufacturing and exports.

The automotive industry is undergoing a transformative shift towards electric vehicles (EVs), driven by rising consumer demand for sustainable mobility, regulatory pressures to reduce carbon emissions, and advancements in battery technology. EV sales have surged globally, reshaping the automotive manufacturing landscape.

Battery manufacturing hubs are emerging in regions like Europe and the U.S., spurring investments in industries related to lithium and cobalt mining, essential for EV production. These developments are altering traditional supply chains and

creating new opportunities for collaboration and competition. In parallel, the rise of Industry 4.0 is transforming automotive manufacturing. Technologies such as Artificial Intelligence (AI), Machine Learning (ML), Internet of Things (IoT), and robotics are enhancing production processes, improving productivity, reducing costs, and enabling greater flexibility. These digital advancements are not only optimizing manufacturing but also fostering new business models centered around smart factories and connected vehicles.

Despite being the fourth-largest automotive producer globally, India has a modest share (around 3%) in the global automotive component trade, which amounts to approximately \$20 billion. The bulk of global trade in automotive components is driven by engine components, drive transmission, and steering systems, but India's share in these high-precision segments remains low at just 2-4%.

Telangana Cabinet Approves Two Pending DAs

7,800-Crore Power Capacity Plan

Hyderabad, Oct 13 (GNS) Chief Minister Sri A for granting two DAs to government employees and retired employees in the state. The cabinet presided over by Revanth Reddy garu has approved it. It has been decided to grant immediately two DAs out of the pending DAs from 2024 Ariers are paid in installments. Chief Minister has approved granting DA to employees and DR to pensioners as per the promise made during recent discussions with employment unions despite being financially burden. With this decision, the government will be burdened with Rs.2500 crores annually.

Dr. BR Ambedkar's cabinet meeting held at length in the state secretariat discussed the situation arising due to El Nino. The current rainy season has a deficit of about 17 percent of rainfall. Monsoon season also ended with yesterday. Drought conditions have prevailed in around 235 mandals due to heavy rainfall.

The meeting decided to discuss comprehensively in the cabinet sub-committee on the measures to be taken immediately in drought areas. Chief Minister has ordered to arrange an all party meeting on this issue very soon. Meetings will be arranged with farmers' associations as well as experts from various fields.

Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy garu along with ministers Ponnam Prabhakar garu and Adluri Lakshman Kumar garu revealed to the media about the decisions taken in the cabinet.



El Nino will receive advice and suggestions from all groups on the situation and the relief measures to be taken. Along with the announcement of drought mandalas, the state ministry has requested the central government to provide adequate assistance to the state. Therefore, the cabinet has decided to go to Delhi soon and meet the Union Ministers to report on the situation in the state.

Suitable arrangements should be made for grain purchases in connection with the Kharif season. Grain purchasing centers should be opened very soon. The Department of Civil Supplies estimates that around 65 lakh metric tonnes of grains will have to be purchased this season. Authorities have been ordered to take all necessary steps to make the procurement process run smoothly.

Electricity usage in the state has increased significantly in the wake of El Nino situation. While the state usually has 15,000 megawatts of electricity consumption per day.. It

reached a record peak demand of 19,892 megawatts this season. The maximum consumption of 16,613 megawatts was recorded last year.

The minister explained that the decision was taken to pay special focus on the production of electricity and adequate electricity supply in accordance with the demand of electricity. It has been decided to supply and buy on demand without power cut anywhere in the state. It has been decided to focus on new renewable electricity generation, electricity equation, keeping in mind future demand and needs. The ministry has approved the installation of units aimed at generating around 7,800 megawatts of electricity.

The ministry discussed proposals for setting up 3,000 megawatts of solar power, 4,000 megawatts battery energy storage system, 800 megawatts wind power units. It has been decided that these projects should be undertaken in the bidding method according to the rules of the Union.

Telangana launches tear-resistant MeeSeva certificates with 15 security features

Hyderabad, Oct 13 (GNS) In a significant step towards enhancing the security, durability and long-term preservation of government-issued certificates, the Hon'ble Minister for Information Technology, Electronics & Communications, Government of Telangana, Sri D. Sridhar Babu Garu, today launched the upgraded Tear-Resistant MeeSeva Secured Base Stationery at Praja Bhavan, Begumpet, Hyderabad. Sri T. Ravi Kiran, I.E.S., Commissioner, Electronic Service Delivery (ESD), along with departmental officials and selected printing agencies and service providers, participated in the launch programme.

The newly introduced stationery features specially engineered tear-resistant and water-resistant paper incorporating 15 advanced



security features, offering enhanced protection, durability and authenticity. Its improved material quality helps citizens preserve their important certificates for extended periods, reducing the need for lamination for long-term storage under normal handling and storage conditions.

This ensures greater convenience for citizens while

helping maintain the durability and quality of important government-issued documents.

On the occasion, the Hon'ble IT Minister highlighted the special features, uniqueness and significance of the upgraded MeeSeva stationery. He emphasised that government-issued certificates are valuable documents that citizens depend

on for various personal, educational, legal and official requirements throughout their lives. Therefore, ensuring their security, authenticity and durability is of utmost importance.

He further observed that the introduction of specially engineered tear-resistant paper with multiple security features represents an important advancement in

the quality and protection of MeeSeva certificates. The improved stationery will help citizens preserve their important documents for longer periods while providing greater confidence in the authenticity and reliability of certificates issued through MeeSeva.

The Minister also underscored the Government's commitment to continuously upgrading public service delivery systems through innovative measures that enhance citizen convenience, strengthen document security and improve the overall quality of government services. MeeSeva, a flagship citizen-centric service delivery initiative of the Government of Telangana, provides access to a wide range of government services through its extensive network of MeeSeva centres and digital platforms.

Supply of goods to hostels should be given to local vendors: Harish

Hyderabad, Oct 13 (GNS) Former minister and BRS leader Harish Rao has strongly criticized the government over the policy of supplying goods to government schools and hostels in the state. He demanded that the newly introduced PMU (Project Management Unit) tenders for the supply of goods be immediately canceled. He alleged that this policy will seriously harm the interests of local small traders.

Speaking on the occasion, Harish Rao clarified that, like in the past, the school should be considered as a unit and the

responsibility of supply should be handed over to local traders through the DPC (District Purchase Committee). Only then will small traders be assured and students will get quality food. He criticized that there are huge commission benefits behind handing over tenders to a single company without giving a chance to local traders.

"It is a very wicked act to tie up tenders to a company that is already blacklisted just for the sake of commissions," Harish Rao fumed. He demanded that the government review its decision and restore the old policy.

Telangana to pay Rs 596 crore as Dasara bonus for Singareni employees

Hyderabad, Oct 13 (GNS) The Telangana government on Tuesday announced that the employees of state-owned Singareni Collieries Company Ltd (SCCL) will be paid Rs 596 crore as a bonus for Dasara. Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka declared a 34% profit share for permanent employees as a Dasara gift. Permanent employees of the company will be paid an average profit share of Rs 1,53,912 each, while contract employees will get Rs 5,500 each. Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, who also holds the Energy and Finance portfolios, announced that a total of 38,737 permanent employees and 29,717 contract workers would benefit from this decision. Like in the past, the government decided to allocate 34% of Singareni's profits as a share for the workers.

The deputy CM explained that out of the Rs 1,754 crore net profit earned by Singareni this year, 34%—amounting to Rs 596 crore—would be distributed to the workers as their profit share. Last year, the government had paid Rs 819 crore as a bonus. Each permanent employee was paid Rs 1,95,610.

The company had earned a profit of Rs 6,394 crore in 2024-25. The Deputy CM explained various reasons behind the decline in Singareni's profits this year. He criticised the previous BRS government for failing to secure additional coal blocks over the past decade. Bhatti Vikramarka alleged that the organisation suffered significant losses because it was prevented from participating in the coal block auctions conducted by the Central



Government. he noted that the failure to utilise the opportunity to participate in the auction of approximately 141 coal blocks hindered the company's business expansion. The Deputy CM mentioned that the closure of some existing coal blocks was impacting both production and revenue. With nearly 14 blocks having shut down, there is an urgent need to acquire new blocks, he said.

Bhatti Vikramarka stated that the government is focusing on acquiring new coal blocks to strengthen the Singareni. He stated that measures to secure new coal blocks were initiated after the Congress government assumed office. He claimed that efforts were underway to expand the company's business by acquiring these new blocks.

The Deputy CM stated that there is currently intense competition in the coal market. He explained that coal is being supplied by entities such as Mahanadi Coalfields, Coal India, and Western Coalfields, while private companies are also offering coal at lower prices. He noted that due to the high price of Singareni coal, some companies are inclined to purchase coal from other sources. Under these circumstances, he said,

there is a need to rationalise Singareni's coal prices to align with market rates. He warned that failure to adjust prices could lead to the loss of coal buyers, potentially resulting in a further decline in the company's revenue.

Bhatti Vikramarka announced the government would issue pending dependent employment orders within 15 days. The announcement is expected to bring relief to families awaiting employment under the dependent employment scheme. He said instructions have been issued to complete the processing of about 250 to 300 pending dependent employment orders and other related legal formalities within the next 15 days, and to hand over the appointment orders to eligible candidates.

Bhatti Vikramarka said the government was committed to safeguarding the interests of Singareni workers while strengthening the company's financial position and operational efficiency. He emphasised that securing new coal blocks, improving competitiveness and addressing pending employment issues were essential to ensuring the company's long-term growth and providing greater security to employees and their families.

Centre clears LB Nagar-Hayat Nagar Double-Decker Corridor

Hyderabad, Oct 13 (GNS) The central government has approved several key infrastructure projects in Telangana. State Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy met Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari in Delhi on Tuesday. During the meeting, several key projects related to the state were discussed, and the central minister responded positively.

Gadkari approved the construction of a double-decker elevated corridor from LB Nagar to Hayatnagar, one of the busiest routes in Hyderabad. If this project is completed, the traffic problems on the Vijayawada National Highway will be significantly alleviated. Along with this, he also expressed his positive view on the proposal to lay the foundation stone

of the iconic cable bridges planned to be built on the Krishna River.

The construction of the Hyderabad-Amaravati Greenfield Highway connecting the Telugu states was also discussed in the meeting. Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy revealed that Gadkari responded positively to this proposal as well. In the same vein, he invited Gadkari to attend the 'Indian Road' Congress conference to be held in Hyderabad from November 19 to 22 as the chief guest.

Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said the proposed LB Nagar-Hayatnagar double-decker corridor would improve connectivity along the Vijayawada National Highway, which experiences heavy traffic due to the movement of commuters and commercial vehicles.

Special programmes planned at Telangana Global Summit: CS Jaju

Hyderabad, Oct 13 (GNS) As per the directions of Hon'ble Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, the State Government is taking special measures to transform Hyderabad into a national and international hub for the Gaming, VFX and Animation industries, Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju said.

The Chief Secretary today held a review meeting at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat on the arrangements for the Telangana Global Summit, scheduled to be held in December at Bharat Future City, Hyderabad. Joint Secretary, IT Department, Anudeep Durishetty, along with senior officials, attended the meeting. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary said the Telangana Global Summit is being organised as part



of the State's initiatives towards achieving the goal of a one-trillion-dollar economy. Special programmes are being planned to attract globally renowned companies from the Animation, Gaming, VFX and other creative and entertainment sectors and facilitate the establishment of their centres in Hyderabad.

Under the theme "Stories, Games & Dreams,"

several programmes aimed at engaging and inspiring the youth will be organised. A Comic, Gaming & VFX Business Day will also be held as part of the Summit. He said Comic Con, DreamHack and India Game Utsav will be organised along with a B2B Expo, Innovation Zone and Animation Stalls, providing a platform to showcase technology, innovations, investment and business opportunities in these sectors.

The Chief Secretary said Hyderabad already has around 50 large and nearly 150 medium-sized Animation and Gaming companies. The State is taking steps to attract more global companies to Hyderabad and create greater opportunities for the youth in these emerging sectors.

Hold camps for 1st-time voters: Telangana CEO to poll officials

Hyderabad, Oct 13 (GNS) A day after saying that there was a cap on the number of Form 7 filings per voter, Telangana Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) C. Sudharsan Reddy on Tuesday, October 13, directed district election officials to organise special camps at every polling station for enrolment of left-out and first-time voters, and to conduct a special drive for verification of entries deleted during SIR.

In a communication to District Election Officers (DEOs), Sudharsan Reddy said the Election Commission of India is committed to ensuring that "every eligible elector is added and no ineligible entries remain in the electoral roll".

The DEOs, therefore, are directed to issue necessary instructions to all the Electoral Registration Officers

(EROs) to organise Special Camps on October 15 and 16 at every polling station, where left-out and first-time or young electors can visit and file applications in Form 6 for enrolling themselves as electors in the electoral roll, he said. The Booth Level Officers (BLOs) shall remain present, and the Booth Level Agents (BLAs) will also be required to be present at the designated locations on the two days, he said.

The CEO directed the DEOs to give wide publicity on organising special camps.

On Monday, the CEO prescribed a procedure for EROs and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) to dispose of Form 7 applications, the number of which has been limited even though it hasn't been specified how many filings can be done by an elector.

Sabitha Indra Reddy slams govt over power, water supply and bullet trains

Hyderabad, Oct 13 (GNS) Former minister and BRS leader Sabita Indra Reddy has strongly accused the Congress government in Telangana of forcibly grabbing land from farmers. She said that the state government's acquisition of land for the bullet train project, the alignment of which has not yet been finalized by the central government, is completely illegal.

Referring to the statement of Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav, Sabita questioned why farmers' lands were taken with police protection in Bahadurguda when the bullet train route map has not yet been finalized. She said that the government is unnecessarily acquiring thousands of acres across the joint Rangareddy district and demanded that CM Revanth Reddy answer



why he is so greedy for land.

She criticized that the government is advising farmers not to plant crops after coming to power... She said that they are in a dire situation where they cannot even provide electricity, irrigation and drinking water. She said that it is strange that the government, which has canceled the metro tenders, is now talking about bullet trains. She questioned the

need for a new road from Kotwalguda to Kodangal. She alleged that the government is trying to rule by selling land. She expressed her concern that the government is not paying attention to the fact that private individuals are occupying government lands in Nadargool, and that farmers in the Kodangal constituency are committing suicide due to pressure from land acquisition. She advised the government to refrain from such partisan measures.

Sabitha Indra Reddy demanded that the state government immediately clarify the purpose, legal basis and status of the proposed land acquisition for the bullet train project. She said farmers should not be subjected to uncertainty or pressured into surrendering their lands before the project alignment.



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