

Backward Class Hindus can't claim quota post conversion, rules SC

New Delhi, Oct 15 (UNI): Hindus belonging to Backward Classes can't claim quota benefits after converting to Islam or Christianity as their social backwardness can't be transferred from the Hindu social order to a non-Hindu social order after conversion, the Supreme Court ruled on Thursday. A Bench of Justice Prashant Kumar Mishra and Justice Shree Chandrashekar dismissed the Tamil Nadu Government's petition challenging the Madras High Court's June 25 order, which held that a Hindu converting to Islam can't claim reservation under Backward Class (Muslim) category solely on the basis of conversion.



Justice Mishra said, "A person who converts from a Hindu social order to a non-Hindu social order cannot claim affirmative action under Article 16(4) of the Constitution merely on the basis of the social backwardness associated with his pre-conversion status; the backwardness suffered in the antecedent social order cannot, by itself, be carried forward so as to confer upon him the status of a backward class in the religion to which he has converted."

The top court upheld the high court's order quashing the state's government order dated March 9, 2024, saying,

"It creates an artificial route by which a person moves from a pre-conversion backward social order into a notified Muslim backward class without establishing the necessary social and legal link."

The controversy emanated from a case filed in 2022 by Sameer—born as Paramasivam in a Hindu family—who converted to Islam in 2015. He moved the Madras High Court after his application for

a BC-Muslim (Muslim Lebbai) community certificate was rejected by a tehsildar.

Writing the judgment for the Bench, Justice Mishra said, "A person who converts to Islam does not, by that act alone, become a member of any one of the seven notified Backward Class Muslim communities in the state. His former caste or community status cannot automatically be transposed into the Muslim Backward Class category, nor can a private religious body conclusively determine such statutory entitlement."

It cited paragraph 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, according to which a person who professes a religion other than Hinduism, Sikhism or Buddhism cannot be deemed to be a member of a Scheduled Caste. Consequently, upon conversion to a religion not specified in the 1950 Order.

PM: New Sports Policy to Boost Ladakh's Sporting Talent

New Delhi, Oct 15 (UNI): Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated and dedicated five major development projects worth around 3,350 crore in Ladakh today via video conferencing. Celebrating a new chapter in the region's development through virtual participation, the Prime Minister inaugurated multiple key projects designed to ease travel, improve electricity and water access, and preserve ancient heritage. He fondly noted the enthusiasm of citizens waving the Tricolor amidst fresh snowfall in Zaskar, while extending his gratitude to the engineers, laborers, local workers, and the BRO personnel who executed these challenging works. "I extend my heartiest congratulations to all the people of Ladakh for these projects," affirmed Shri Modi.



Recalling his earlier laying of the foundation stone for the Kushok Bakula Rinpoche Airport terminal in Leh, the Prime Minister expressed delight at inaugurating the 650-crore-rupee facility that triples flight capacity and expands annual passenger handling from 10 lakh to 35 lakh. He highlighted that the terminal is India's first to feature geothermal heating

alongside solar energy usage to suit the harsh climate, energizing local tourism while balancing infrastructure growth with ecological care. "Our effort is to develop modern infrastructure in Ladakh while taking full care of the local environment," asserted Shri Modi.

Underscoring the strategic and economic value of regional connectivity, the

Prime Minister dedicated the 2,500-crore-rupee Nimmu-Padum-Darcha road to the citizens, noting that it slashes travel time from 12 hours down to just 3 hours. He emphasized that beyond saving commuters' time, this vital corridor will significantly boost local commerce. "This road will also greatly help trade and business," noted Shri Modi.

Building upon his prior inauguration of the Srinagar-Leh transmission line, the Prime Minister dedicated the Hanu hydroelectric project and its associated transmission network while noting ongoing modern power generation initiatives in Puga Valley. He explained that reliable electricity transforms rural life by illuminating homes and empowering children's education, healthcare delivery, and small-scale enterprises.

CJP protest at Connaught Place today as Delhi HC refuses curbs



New Delhi, Oct 15 (UNI): The Delhi High Court on Thursday refused to restrain the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) and its founder Abhijeet Dipke from holding a protest at Connaught Place's Central Park on Friday, even as the Delhi Police assured the court that it would take 'appropriate steps' to regulate the gathering and prevent disruption to business activity in the Capital's commercial hub. Hearing an urgent plea by Anil Kumar Gupta, a licensed street vendor who sells ready-made garments at Palika Bazar, a division bench of Acting Chief Justice Nitin Wasudeo

Sambre and Justice Sanjay Sharma took the police's assurance on record and listed the matter for further consideration on November 3.

Dipke has called for a nationwide 'Lehra Do Tiranga' demonstration on October 16, urging citizens to assemble at Connaught Place with the national flag. The protest call comes a day after CJP co-conveners Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka were remanded to five-day judicial custody for allegedly trespassing into Jantar Mantar, violating bond conditions and obstructing police personnel on duty. Both have

been sent to Tihar Jail.

Appearing for Gupta, senior advocate Sachin Puri argued that the proposed protest was planned at a site not designated for demonstrations and could bring business activity across Connaught Place to a standstill.

"In the heart of CP, it will block the entire CP. This is not about Jantar Mantar. They may ensure that the protest does not take place and movement is not stopped," Puri submitted, seeking a direction to prevent the gathering and ensure that public movement remained uninterrupted.

Ankita Bhandari's parents detained from India Gate at 4 am

New Delhi, Oct 15 (UNI): The police detained the parents of 19-year-old Ankita Bhandari, who was murdered in Uttarakhand in 2022, around 4 am on Thursday morning while they were protesting near India Gate. The action came hours after Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra met them at India Gate, where they were protesting against the appointment of Dushyant Kumar Gautam as Sikim Governor. Gautam is alleged to be the "VIP" linked to the case. Ankita's parents were later released around 5 am, said sources. Several Congress leaders, including Pawan Khera and Supriya Shrinete, and Indian Youth Congress chief Uday Bhanu Chib, were also detained.

Meanwhile, the Congress accused the BJP government of silencing Ankita's family by detaining her parents. Rahul, Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge and party MP Shashi Tharoor condemned the detention, questioning



why grieving parents seeking justice had been picked up in the dead of night while the proposed appointment of the BJP leader remained under scrutiny. "At 4 am, while the world was asleep, Ankita Bhandari's parents were taken into custody," Rahul said in a post on X. He said Ankita's parents had been sitting peacefully at India Gate, asking only that Gautam's appointment be deferred until the CBI probe was complete.

"The appointment cannot wait for the investigation to conclude, but the parents

asking questions are picked up in the dead of night," he said, accusing the government of suppressing the voices of victims and silencing those demanding accountability. He added that the Congress would stand with Ankita's family until justice was delivered.

Rahul has also written to President Droupadi Murmu, requesting her to ask the government to reconsider Gautam's appointment, and ensure that he does not take office until the CBI completes its investigation.

IAF to get its own satellite, boost real-time connectivity

New Delhi, Oct 15 (UNI): The Indian Air Force (IAF) will get its own dedicated satellite, providing greater connectivity among aircraft and enabling faster decision-making. The Ministry of Defence (MoD) on Thursday inked a Rs 2,563-crore contract for the satellite, named GSAT-7C. So far, the IAF has been sharing satellite transponder space on other satellites with the Navy and the Army.

The MoD said the contract for GSAT-7C, valued at Rs 2,563 crore, was signed with NewSpace India Limited, a commercial arm of the Bengaluru-headquartered Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). Sources said having a dedicated satellite operational was still 36-40 months away, the time needed to build one.

The MoD said, "This indigenously designed, developed and manufactured satellite will enhance the

secure, resilient and seamless communication capabilities for the assets of the IAF, thereby strengthening operational effectiveness."

Separately, the MoD also signed a Rs 1,543-crore contract with public sector Bharat Dynamics Limited for the supply of 'Varun-astara', an indigenous ship-launched anti-submarine torpedo. The Navy has already been using the torpedo and the new order will add to its existing arsenal. "Equipped with advanced manoeuvring capabilities, it is capable of engaging enemy submarines at long ranges, thereby enhancing the anti-submarine warfare capability of the Indian Navy," the MoD said.

India's military use of space began in the 1990s, when imagery from international satellites was used. In 2013, ISRO launched GSAT-7, known as 'Rukmini'. All naval ships and aircraft are connected to it.

Markets & schools shut, roads blocked in Punjab over Jhota killing



Mohali, Oct 15 (GNS): Punjab observed a bandh on Thursday over the killing of anti-drug activist Parvinder Singh Jhota, with the situation remaining largely peaceful across the state, barring reports of political hoardings being torn down and a tobacco kiosk set on fire in Mansa.

Shops, several banks and educational institutions remained closed as protesters, including Nihangs and farmers, took to the streets, urging people to shut their business establishments. Mansa town remained shut for the third consecutive day as the agitation continued.

Markets remained shut at several places in the state, including Hoshiarpur, Amritsar, Ferozepur, Ludhiana, Jalandhar, Sangrur, Barnala, Moga, Patiala and Mansa, and protesters blocked roads, disrupting traffic movement. However, emergency services remained operational. Several toll plazas, including in Ludhiana and Patiala, did not charge any fee from the commuters in support of the bandh call. Amid mounting pressure from protesters, the Mansa City-2 SHO, Inspector Beant Kaur, was suspended on administrative grounds on Thursday, two days after Jhota's murder.

Special summary revision of voters' list in Punjab, 16 other states from Nov 2

New Delhi, Oct 15 (UNI): The Election Commission on Thursday announced that the schedule for conducting special summary revision (SSR) of electoral rolls in 17 states and union territories -- including the poll-bound states of Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Manipur, Goa and Gujarat -- will begin from November 2 and conclude with the publication of final voters' list on January 4, 2027. The qualifying date for this exercise would be January 1, 2027. The SSR will also be conducted in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

The EC noted in its statement that the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls had already been completed in all these 17 states and UTs.

As per the schedule re-



leased by the poll body, rationalisation or rearrangement of polling stations will be done by November 2, while publication of integrated draft electoral rolls will take place on November 12. The period for filing claims and objections will be from November 12 to December 11. Disposal of claims and objections will be completed by November 28, while final electoral rolls will be published on January 4, 2027. The SSR is conducted every year for the enrolment of eligible elec-

tors with qualifying dates of January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1. The year when the SIR is conducted, SSR is not held. Since SIR was held in 2026, no SSR was conducted this year.

The poll panel said the SSR was now being held to facilitate the enrolment of eligible electors with reference to the qualifying date of January 1, 2027, along with seeking advance applications for the three subsequent qualifying dates of April 1, July 1 and October 1, 2027.

Reform global institutions to match new realities: EAM

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Thursday called for urgent reforms of multilateral institutions to reflect the evolving global order, saying stronger co-operation among smaller groups of countries could help drive the process.

Jaishankar made the remarks during a session of the Raisina Dialogue's Middle East edition in Abu Dhabi, where he joined UAE Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al-Nahyan for a discussion on "The World Ahead: Power, Purpose & Possibility".

Highlighting the accelerating pace of change in global order, Jaishankar said it was being shaped by both long-term trends and immediate shocks, prompting countries to reassess partnerships and explore new options in response to their specific circumstances.

"New partnerships and fresh options are inevita-



bly explored in that pursuit," he said in a social media post after the discussion. He said nations must move beyond traditional comfort zones and develop sharper strategic awareness to navigate a rapidly changing world.

"The reform of multilateralism is urgent. It can be supported through stronger mini-lateralism," Jaishankar said, referring to issue-based cooperation among a limited number of countries to achieve more effective outcomes. Pointing to the India-

UAE relationship as an example, he said the partnership forged over the past decade demonstrated how countries could adapt successfully to changing geopolitical environment.

Separately, Jaishankar also held a bilateral meeting with Zayed Al-Nahyan, describing it as "warm and productive". In another social media post, Jaishankar said he and the minister "exchanged perspectives on bilateral and global issues in the spirit of our comprehensive strategic partnership".

The quiet toll of climate extremes

Suryaprabha Sadasivan

This year hasn't given people much of a breather. A punishing summer rolled straight into a relentless monsoon, and many families have lurched from coping with extreme heat to mopping up after floods. We count lives lost and homes damaged, as we should. But we rarely make space for the quieter toll—anxiety, sleeplessness, trauma, and the long shadow these events cast on people's ability to study, work, and rebuild their lives.

The summer of 2025 was one of the harshest on record for India. The Lancet Countdown warns that Indians are exposed to hundreds of hours of heat stress annually, and doctors across India reported spikes in psychiatric emergencies, sleep disorders and confusion during the peak heatwave. Even the ministry of earth sciences has acknowledged symptoms such as anxiety, palpitations, and behavioural changes linked to extreme temperatures, showing that the mental health toll of heat is no longer invisible.

Then came the rains. By early September, all-India monsoon rainfall was nearly 8 percent above normal, which is good for reservoirs but was marked by an erratic intensity. In many places, the rains arrived with cloudbursts, floods, and landslides that uprooted families, especially the poorest in low-lying settlements or on unstable slopes. While the national numbers for 2025 are being compiled, last year offers a perspective: 5.4 million disaster displacements through 2024, including 2.4 million due to monsoon floods. Displacement is not just physical movement; it is psychological dislocation that can linger for years. Re-



search after floods in Uttarakhand, Kerala and Assam found consistently high prevalence of posttraumatic stress, depression, and anxiety among survivors, often persisting long after the waters recede.

Yet, when we look at policy, heat and mental health continue to move in silos rather than converging. Heat action plans, now numbering more than a hundred across states, districts and cities, have saved lives through early warnings, work-hour advisories and hydration support. But reviews highlight weak localisation, unclear funding, and the absence of mental health considerations.

At the same time, India has expanded access to mental healthcare. Tele-MANAS, launched in 2022, has fielded over 2 million calls across 36 states and Union territories. The district mental health programme operates in more than 700 districts, offer-

ing a platform on which climate-linked stress could be integrated without creating a new structure.

The national guidelines on psychosocial support in disasters were updated in 2023, urging integration of such care into disaster systems. Civil society has contributed to NGOs in Kerala and Assam, which have piloted community-based interventions after floods, working with schools, women's groups, and youth clubs. These examples show that India has assets to build on. The challenge is that they remain scattered and disconnected from climate resilience frameworks.

That disconnection is precisely what needs to be addressed. Heat action plans and disaster management plans should be expanded to include modules on psychosocial support. These can set out simple protocols for frontline workers—ASHAs, anganwadi work-

ers, teachers, panchayat members, and relief volunteers to recognise distress, offer psychological first aid, and refer cases onwards to formal care. Training people in these skills before each summer or monsoon season is inexpensive, yet it can make a measurable difference to recovery.

Equally important is the creation of data systems that capture climate-linked stress. Currently, Tele-MANAS does not enable counsellors to tag calls related to heat or flood trauma. Adding such categories would, over time, build a map of where distress spikes after extreme events, helping authorities deploy resources where they are most needed. Without such information, planning remains blind to one of the most pervasive effects of climate extremes.

Preparedness must also extend to adolescents. Evidence shows that young

Indians carry a heavy psychological burden after disasters if support is delayed. Schools, therefore, should be part of recovery strategies, offering group sessions that help normalise reactions, rebuild routines, and identify students who need specialised care. This is not about labelling every emotional response as a disorder, but about ensuring that distress does not harden into long-term damage.

Another critical gap is resources. Psychosocial care often slips off the priority list during budget allocations. Creating a dedicated budget line for mental health within climate and disaster resilience plans would signal seriousness and ensure continuity. Linking relief and livelihood support with mental health outreach can also help, since financial stress is often the most powerful trigger of psychological distress after a disaster.

A Deluge of Disasters: A Call to Action

The Himalayas are the giants of our world, majestic and awe-inspiring. We, who live in their shadow, see them as a symbol of strength and permanence. But the truth is, these mountains are not ancient, stoic patriarchs. They are young, restless, and incredibly fragile. And our relentless, greedy pursuit of "development" is pushing them to their breaking point. The air in Srinagar today feels crisp and clean, but beneath the surface, a sense of unease lingers. We're hearing more and more about a new kind of normal: scorching summers, unpredictable rains, and floods that wipe out everything in their path. It's not just a coincidence; it's a terrifying pattern that connects our choices, a warming planet, and the heart-wrenching natural disasters unfolding across northern India. As a youngster, I see this not as a distant problem for adults to solve, but as a direct threat to my future and to the world I will inherit. The Himalayas are geologically young, still rising and changing. They were formed when the Indian tectonic plate crashed into the Eurasian plate, a process that continues today. This makes them inherently unstable, with steep slopes and weak rock formations prone to tremors and seismic activity. Landslides, flash floods, and avalanches are a natural part of this landscape. For centuries, communities lived in harmony with these risks, building their homes and towns with a deep respect for nature's power. They knew not to disturb the fragile balance. They understood that the mountains were not something to be conquered, but a force to be revered and lived with.

The root of this crisis can be summed up in one powerful and destructive word: greed. Greed for money, for power, and for an unsustainable lifestyle that puts profit over people and the planet. For years, we've heard about the exploitation of natural resources in the name of "development." In the Himalayan region, which is the lifeline of northern India, this greed has taken a particularly ugly form. Unregulated mining, reckless construction of hydroelectric projects, and the felling of ancient forests have stripped the mountains of their natural defences. We've built on floodplains, encroached on riverbeds, and ignored the warnings of scientists and environmentalists. This isn't just about big corporations; it's also about a collective mindset that values short-term gain over long-term sustainability.

This relentless human greed is the main driver behind global warming. The burning of fossil fuels for our cars, factories, and power plants has filled the atmosphere with greenhouse gases, trapping heat and causing the Earth's temperature to rise. The Himalayas, a critical part of our climate system, are warming at a rate faster than the global average. This has severe consequences. Glaciers, which are the primary source of water for major rivers like the Ganga and the Yamuna, are melting at an alarming rate. This melting initially leads to a surge in water flow, causing floods, but it will eventually result in a severe water crisis for millions of people. The connection between human actions and natural disasters is no longer a theory; it's a grim reality. Over the past few years, we've witnessed a horrifying series of disasters in our own backyard. The 2013 Kedarnath floods in Uttarakhand were a stark warning. The tragedy, which claimed thousands of lives, was exacerbated by unchecked construction and tourism development in a fragile ecosystem. The devastation was a direct result of building hotels, shops, and roads on a flash flood-prone area, proving that we were not only ignoring nature's power but actively inviting disaster.

The 2021 Chamoli disaster in Uttarakhand was another terrifying example. A glacial burst caused a massive flash flood, destroying two hydroelectric projects and killing over 200 people. Scientists have linked such events to climate change and the rapid melting of glaciers. This tragedy wasn't just an act of nature; it was a consequence of building large-scale infrastructure in a vulnerable and unstable region. We are literally putting our lives and the lives of those who live in these areas at risk for the sake of energy and profit.

Even closer to home, the recent floods in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and parts of Punjab and Haryana are a direct result of these interconnected factors. Heavy, unseasonal rainfall, made more intense by a warming climate, overwhelmed rivers and triggered landslides. The loss of life, the destruction of homes, and the devastation of livelihoods have become a recurring nightmare. In cities like Srinagar, residents are constantly on edge during the monsoon season. The devastating floods of 2014 remain a stark memory for many. Experts had long warned that such disasters would grow more frequent and severe if we failed to change course, but their ecological warnings went unheeded. In 2025, both Jammu and Kashmir have been struck by natural calamities. Countless lives have been lost, and the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was shut for several days. Although traffic has recently resumed, the roads are in a terrible state. If not for the timely intervention of Indian Railways, Kashmir's fruit industry would have faced a serious setback.

It's easy to feel powerless in the face of such massive problems, but as young people, we have a unique and vital role to play. We must demand a future that is not defined by environmental destruction. We must hold our leaders and corporations accountable for their actions. We can use our voices on social media to raise awareness, organize local clean-up drives, and pressure our governments to adopt sustainable policies. We can make small but significant changes in our own lives, like reducing our consumption, conserving water, and supporting local businesses that are committed to ethical practices. The journey toward a sustainable future begins with a fundamental shift in our mindset. We must move away from the relentless pursuit of growth at any cost and embrace a philosophy of harmony with nature. This means investing in renewable energy, promoting sustainable tourism that respects local ecosystems, and protecting our forests and rivers. It means listening to the wisdom of indigenous communities who have lived in harmony with the land for generations. It means understanding that a healthy planet is the foundation for a healthy economy and a prosperous society.

Ultimately, this is a story about choices. The choice between short-term profits and long-term survival. The choice between a consumerist culture and a more sustainable way of life. The choice between burying our heads in the sand and facing the crisis head-on. The natural disasters we are witnessing are not random acts of nature; they are a direct and brutal consequence of our collective choices. It's a wake-up call, and it's time we listened. We must understand that greed is not a strategy for success; it's a recipe for disaster. The future of the Himalayas, of northern India, and of our generation depends on the actions we take today. Let's not just hope for a better future; let's build it. Jammu Tourism Guide. The impact of climate change on the Himalayan region also extends beyond floods and landslides. Rising temperatures are disturbing the region's delicate biodiversity, threatening rare plants, wildlife and the livelihoods of communities that depend on agriculture and horticulture. Changes in snowfall patterns and the shrinking of glaciers are affecting the availability of water, while the increasing frequency of extreme weather events is making farming more uncertain. For Kashmir, where apples and other fruits support thousands of families, unpredictable weather can damage crops, reduce production and create financial difficulties for farmers. Protecting the Himalayas is therefore not merely an environmental concern; it is also essential for safeguarding the region's economy, culture and way of life.

Another major concern is the rapid expansion of tourism without adequate environmental planning. Tourism is an important source of employment in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, but unplanned hotels, excessive vehicle movement, plastic waste and pressure on water resources can place enormous stress on mountain ecosystems. Popular destinations often struggle with overcrowding, poor waste management and construction that exceeds the carrying capacity of the surrounding environment. Tourism must not come at the cost of the very natural beauty that attracts visitors. Authorities, business owners and tourists should work together to promote responsible travel, improve waste disposal systems, restrict construction in ecologically sensitive areas and encourage visitors to respect local communities and natural habitats.

Equally important is the need for stronger disaster preparedness and scientific planning. Governments must ensure that development projects undergo thorough environmental impact assessments before receiving approval. Construction near unstable slopes, riverbanks and flood-prone areas should be strictly regulated, while illegal mining and deforestation must be addressed firmly. Modern weather forecasting systems, early-warning networks and effective evacuation plans can help communities respond quickly when danger approaches. Local residents should receive regular training on disaster management, and essential infrastructure such as roads.

What a 'Win-Win' TikTok deal means to China

Catherine Thorbecke

When President Donald Trump first brought up banning TikTok due to perceived national security concerns more than five years ago, the app from Beijing-based ByteDance Ltd. was the envy of the global tech industry. Its powerful algorithm reinvented a tired social media landscape by keeping users engaged not just via posts from their friends, but by endlessly recommending content based on how they interacted with clips they came across.

Beijing drew a red line, saying there was no way they were giving up their crown jewel of the consumer tech industry. Chinese officials accused Washington of trying to plunder their private companies and even updated export laws to prohibit a sale of the secret-sauce algorithm. That uncompromising stance now appears to have softened, at least on the surface. While Trump has hailed an accord that ostensibly saves TikTok's US operations, and values it at \$14 billion, Beijing has revealed almost nothing about what was agreed. But state-backed media has repeatedly described it as a "win-win" in readouts of the negotiations. The details of the purported deal have raised more questions than answers on both sides of the Pacific. The biggest one that Americans should be asking is: What did Trump give up to save TikTok?

It's possible that China could still pull the rug out from under a deal or that the terms won't pass muster in Washington. It doesn't always appear that the two sides are on the same page. Beijing has yet to publicly confirm whether it has given its approval, despite Trump signing an executive order Thursday to advance plans for American investors to buy the US



operations. But the time is ripe for Xi to concede TikTok. A law was passed with bipartisan support to ban the app or force a divestiture during the Biden administration, and TikTok has exhausted its legal battle to remain in the US.

More than half a decade since this all began, Washington and Beijing are now locked in a battle over tariffs, rare earth magnets and advanced semiconductors. Those lines of code powering TikTok have become one of the biggest sticking points in stabilizing a deteriorating relationship between the two superpowers. With deflationary pressures at home and broader macroeconomic uncertainty, Xi has bigger worries. Trump, meanwhile, campaigned on saving the app, and has credited it with making him a "star" and reaching younger voters. TikTok doesn't even operate in China, and it's become very clear over the years that it means much more to Trump than it does to Xi. This has only given Beijing more leverage. Now is the

time to use it. Xinhua reports that a framework for a consensus was reached that also aims to resolve other issues, such as reducing investment barriers and promoting economic and trade cooperation. That suggests that something was offered up in exchange for allowing TikTok to continue operating in America. US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent has said that it was the threat of allowing the app to go dark in America that ultimately sealed the deal.

Yet Trump has gone beyond the law to punt the deadline for TikTok's US shutdown four times this year alone, and when the app did briefly cease operations in the country in January, it was the president himself who took credit for its return in a message to its 170 million US users. Clearly, something else was offered to prevent Trump's favorite platform from being turned off at home after he promised to save it.

As part of the deal, Beijing is sticking to its original red line. ByteDance will reportedly still own the

coveted algorithm, but will license a copy of it to a US consortium to rebuild its own version of "from the ground up," a White House official has stated. It's unclear whether this scheme will abide by the US law to ban the app, as well as ensuring that Beijing won't have even a shred of influence. After all this, China is still holding onto the algorithm. A leasing arrangement may give ByteDance a way to earn money to focus on its other priorities. The tech landscape has also moved on over the years. The short-form video field is now crowded with copycats, from Alphabet Inc.'s YouTube Shorts to Meta Platforms' Instagram Reels. ByteDance in the US is still most well-known for being the TikTok parent company, but in China it has already shifted its focus to becoming an AI powerhouse. It's Doubao chatbot is the most popular AI app in the country by monthly active users, beating out even DeepSeek. And its latest model is the highest-ranked Chinese AI system on benchmarking

platform OpenCompass' leaderboard, just behind OpenAI and ahead of Alibaba Group Holding Ltd.'s Qwen and DeepSeek.

While it was once the centerpiece of China's global tech ambitions, TikTok may now be just another tradeable asset in a larger strategy to secure dominance in key technologies of the future. Xi has held his ground so far by standing up to Trump and eking out an extended trade war truce. Now, something has to give. Allowing the White House to find a way to keep TikTok in the US is a strategic peace offering in exchange for more pressing priorities. In his 2025 book chronicling the entanglement of Apple Inc.'s relationship with Beijing, tech journalist Patrick McGee writes: "In China, 'win-win' means China wins twice." The White House may be taking a public victory lap for keeping a version of the popular social media platform in the US, but this could prove far less valuable than what Beijing quietly walked away with.

Govt is committed to women’s welfare; only when women are healthy will families and the nation remain healthy”: Chouhan

New Delhi, Oct 15 (GNS): Union Minister for Rural Development and Agriculture & Farmers’ Welfare Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan today virtually attended the launch event of the ‘Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivaar Abhiyaan’ at the Community Health Centre (CHC), Saket in New Delhi. The Abhiyaan was launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at Dhar in Madhya Pradesh. Shri Chouhan, along with other public representatives, watched the live telecast of the PM’s Programme.

Later, addressing the gathering, Shri Chouhan extended heartfelt wishes to the Prime Minister on his 75th birthday and said that under his leadership, the nation is moving towards becoming a glorious, prosperous, powerful, developed, and self-reliant India. The Union Minister said that the Prime Minister has strengthened India’s image across the world. “Today, India’s global stature has risen, and the credit goes to the Hon’ble Prime Minister. He has devoted his entire life to the service of the people. His life is an embodiment of discipline and devotion. When



he was the Chief Minister of Gujarat, he gave the nation a new model of development and transformed Gujarat into a remarkable state. Later, in 2014, the nation reposed its trust in him, giving him a clear majority as Prime Minister. Today, under his leadership for the third time, India is achieving unprecedented progress” Shri Chouhan said.

Chouhan highlighted that the Prime Minister has always placed the coun-

try’s interests above everything. He has represented India’s stand firmly before the world. Referring to the Pahalgam terror attack, he mentioned how India’s decisive response through ‘Operation Sindoor’ showcased the valour of our armed forces under the Prime Minister’s leadership. Recently, in trade agreements too, the Prime Minister has made it clear that India will only sign deals on its own terms.

The Union Minister further said that various programmes are being organised across the nation to mark the Prime Minister’s birthday. Today also marks the beginning of the ‘Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivaar Abhiyaan’. He expressed displeasure at the negligence of the previous government in Delhi regarding health services, remarking that health centres were opened only for formality. In contrast,

Shri Chouhan appreciated the current initiatives under the present Chief Minister through ‘Ayushman Arogya Mandirs’, which are effectively bringing health facilities to the people.

Chouhan highlighted that the launch of ‘Seva Pakhwada’ on the Prime Minister’s birthday is a special initiative. Special health check-up camps for women have been set up at the Arogya Mandirs. He emphasised that women’s health is crucial because a healthy woman ensures a healthy family. He recalled that the Prime Minister has always prioritised women’s empowerment and has launched several welfare schemes for women and daughters, including ‘Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao’. Referring to his own tenure as the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Chouhan said that initiatives like the ‘Ladli Behna Yojana’ were started to place women’s welfare at the forefront.

He underlined the need for women to remain mindful of their own health. Women often care for others but neglect themselves, he said. The Government has

now taken this responsibility seriously, which is why the ‘Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivaar Abhiyaan’ was launched. The Union Minister stressed the importance of regular health check-ups to prevent serious diseases in the future. Early detection allows for timely and effective treatment. He called on all women to avail themselves of the free check-up facilities in these camps and to encourage other women around them to do the same.

Chouhan also urged women to adopt good habits such as taking a nutritious diet, practicing yoga, and doing pranayama. Giving the example of the Prime Minister, he said that despite a busy schedule, Shri Modi follows a healthy daily routine, which serves as a great inspiration for everyone. Chouhan recalled the Prime Minister’s commitment to adopting ‘Swadeshi’ and urged all citizens to use indigenous products for their daily needs and during the upcoming festivals. This, the Union Minister said, would strengthen the economy and reinforce the vision of an ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’.

Centre Announces ₹5,000 Aid for Delhi Dumpsite Workers

New Delhi, Oct 15 (GNS): In a major push toward reclaiming one of Delhi’s largest landfill sites, the Bhalswa dumpsite is now set for complete remediation. As the dynamic ‘Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) 2025’ campaign kicked off, Union Minister Shri Manohar Lal led the national launch from Delhi’s Bhalswa Dumpsite - adopting the site for its remediation and transformation into a cleaner, more sustainable urban space. Dating back to 1994, this long-standing dumpsite now extends across 70 acres of land. Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) in collaboration with Delhi Development Authority (DDA) will speed up the remediation of the legacy dumpsite and facilitate the establishment of new processing sites.

Launching the campaign on-site, the Union Minister, Shri Manohar Lal formally adopted the Bhalswa dumpsite, reaffirming the Centre’s commitment to sustainable urban development. He was accompanied by Shri Ashish Sood, Delhi UD Minister, Raja Iqbal Singh, Delhi Mayor, Shri S. Katikithala, Secretary, MoHUA, councilors, officials of DDA & MCD.

The transformation initiative received a significant boost thereby accelerating the clean-up to improve living conditions in the surrounding areas. During the visit, the Union Minister conducted an on-ground assessment of the dumpsite and its operations and issued a set of clear directives to accelerate progress. The Union Minister has announced that before Diwali 5,000 each will be given to all who are engaged in all three dumpsites in Delhi - including SafaiMitra, beldars, truck drivers etc. under both MCD and Pvt agencies. For the wellbeing of those involved, regular health check-ups will also be conducted periodically. The Union Minister announced that 25 acres of the legacy waste dumpsite have been remediated - 5 acres now host bamboo plantations.

while the remaining 20 acres will support sanitation activities and processing machinery etc. Presently, fresh waste continues to enter the landfill, but moving forward, it will be managed and processed separately to ensure better waste handling. He committed to personal oversight through regular site visits, progress monitoring, and expediting the process. For the Bhalswa site, the DDA will serve as the partner organization, due to its expertise.

India Ranks Among Top Global Contributors in Adverse Event Reporting: DCGI

New Delhi, Oct 15 (GNS): The Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC), functioning as the National Coordination Centre for the Pharmacovigilance Programme of India (NCC-PvPI), inaugurated the 5th National Pharmacovigilance Week (NPW) at the Bharat Mandapam Convention Centre, New Delhi. National Pharmacovigilance Week is being observed from 17th–23rd September 2025 under the theme “Your Safety, Just a Click Away: Report to PvPI”. The week-long campaign aims to sensitize healthcare professionals, regulators, researchers, and the public to actively report adverse drug reactions (ADRs) through simplified digital platforms.

Delivering the keynote address, Dr. Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi, Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI), highlighted the growing role of pharmacovigilance in safeguarding patient health. “Initiation of National Pharmacovigilance Week in the journey of Pharmacovigilance in the country has changed the course of Pharmaco-



vigilance” Dr. Raghuvanshi said while addressing the gathering. “With the number of reporting, we ranked among the top contributors globally in reporting adverse events”, he added.

Highlighting the significance of Pharmacovigilance, Dr. Rajeev Singh Raghuvanshi emphasized that ‘since the inception of the programme, the majority of reports have come from healthcare professionals,

whereas meaningful impact can only be achieved when patients themselves actively participate in reporting’. He further added that, despite the availability of significant data for analysis, its optimum utilisation in strengthening Pharmacovigilance is still lacking.

Furthermore, he also stated that “the content of Pharmacovigilance needs to be changed as the context has changed in the country.

It is now that pharmacovigilance has got a strong base and policies are being designed and regulated”

He also emphasized that, “We need to develop a culture of curiosity within organisation, not the culture of apprehension, for better results.” “What is needed is the smart integration of technology and innovative approaches to drive differential thinking,” he further added. Underlining the

strides made in the direction of Pharmacovigilance, Dr. Raghuvanshi stated that, “We have been successful in bringing IPC and IP at the highest agenda of this country.”

On this occasion, IPC unveiled a series of new initiatives, including the launch of a short film on PvPI, a pharmacovigilance comic published in multiple vernacular languages to enhance public awareness, and a new online reporting platform designed for easy access through a QR code.

The National Pharmacovigilance Week campaign seeks to encourage people to report suspected adverse drug reactions and strengthen the country’s drug safety monitoring system. Adverse drug reactions may occur even when medicines are used correctly, making timely reporting essential for identifying potential risks and improving patient safety. The initiative also aims to increase awareness among healthcare professionals and the general public about the importance of monitoring medicines after they enter the market.

Through various schemes and initiatives, significant progress has been achieved, including in Bihar’s MSME sector : Union MSME Minister

New Delhi, Oct 15 (GNS): The Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India organised a ‘PM Vishwakarma and National SC-ST Hub Mega Conclave’ today in Bodh Gaya, Bihar. The event was held to commemorate the second anniversary of PM Vishwakarma Scheme. Jitan Ram Manjhi, Union Minister of MSME, Government of India, presided over the event, and Sushri Shobha Karandlaje, Union Minister of State for MSME, Government of India, graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour.

Nitish Mishra, Minister of Department of Industries; Dr. Prem Kumar, Minister of Cooperation and Shri Janak Ram, Minister of SC & ST Welfare Department of the Government of Bihar also graced the event.

The Union Minister of MSME, Shri Jitan Ram Manjhi extended his warm greetings and expressed happiness at being in Bodh Gaya for the ‘PM Vishwakarma and National SC-ST Hub Mega Conclave’. He extended gratitude to all the



beneficiaries and added that the Ministry of MSME has taken several remarkable steps and organized impactful programs for them. “Through various schemes and initiatives, significant progress has been achieved, including in Bihar’s MSME sector. I warmly congratulate all beneficiaries and wish them success in mov-

ing forward as promising entrepreneurs,” Shri Manjhi stated. The Union Minister for MSME stated that “the PM Vishwakarma Yojana, launched on September 17, 2023, by Hon’ble Prime Minister, has completed two years. Aimed at empowering traditional artisans and craftsmen through recognition, skills, and prosperity,

the scheme has registered 30 lakh beneficiaries in under two years. Of these, 23 lakh have received free skill training, 8 lakh toolkits have been delivered via India Post, and loans worth 4,100 crore have been sanctioned to 5 lakh artisans without any collateral”.

Manjhi stated that in Bihar alone, 1.62 lakh artisans

are registered, with 1.05 lakh trained and loans worth 160 crore given to nearly 19,000 beneficiaries. He further added that over 92% of the state’s beneficiaries belong to SC, ST, and OBC categories, with women comprising 33%. 735 artisans have received loans worth 7 crore in Gaya District. The Union Minister of State,

Govt's commitment to provide passenger-centric experiences at future-ready airports



New Delhi, Oct 15 (GNS): Minister of Civil Aviation Rammohan Naidu launched the initiative of ‘Yatri Sewa Diwas’ at airports across the country. The occasion was marked with free medical check-ups and health awareness campaigns at the airports, with a special focus on women travelers under the Swastha Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched the Swastha Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan on his 75th birthday, aligning with his vision for empowered communities. Building on his outlook of Jan Bhagidari, the Prime Minister has encouraged active participation from all stakeholders for strengthening healthcare services for women and children across India.

Aligning with it, Shri Rammohan Naidu initiated the campaign of Yatri Sewa Diwas, observed at all the airports, underscoring the government’s continuous efforts to provide the best travel experience and world-class services to all passengers. Launching the program from Hindon Airport, Shri Rammohan Naidu said,

“Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, as the Pradhan Sevak of the country, has reshaped the very idea of governance over the past 11 years anchoring it in service of the people. Drawing inspiration from this vision, we in aviation see every passenger as our priority and every journey as an opportunity to serve with dedication. Recognizing that passengers are the heartbeat of our rapidly growing aviation ecosystem, we have today launched Yatri Sewa Diwas. It is a celebration of our growth as well as a reaffirmation of our commitment to make every journey seamless and dignified, carrying forward the spirit

of Passenger First, rooted in the Prime Minister’s guiding principle of Nation First.”

Highlighting the unprecedented growth of the aviation sector over the past 11 years, he added that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the civil aviation sector has transformed from the travel of the elite to the travel of the masses. Supported by the visionary regional connectivity scheme UDAN, air travel in the country today is more available, accessible and affordable. In 2014, the number of air travelers stood at around 11 crores, a figure that has now surged to about 25 crores in 2025. Giving the example of Hindon Airport, he shared that the airport which had just one flight in 2020 is now connected to 16 cities nationwide, marking a significant milestone.

Minister Shri Rammohan Naidu also stated that very soon all airports across the country will be Wi-Fi enabled under the Digital India Mission, revolutionizing the passenger experience. Appreciating PM’s vision he said, “Under the dynamic leadership of the Prime Minister, we are aiming for Viksit Bharat, built on the foundations of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

The Minister said that the launch of Yatri Sewa Diwas reflects the government’s commitment to placing passengers at the centre of aviation services. The initiative aims to enhance passenger convenience, promote a culture of service and ensure that travellers receive timely assistance and a comfortable experience at airports. Special attention is being given to women passengers through health screenings and awareness programmes conducted under the Swastha Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan.

Ready for any probe on coal imports: Revanth

Hyderabad, Oct 15 (GNS): Chief minister A Revanth Reddy on Thursday hit back at BRS working president KT Rama Rao over allegations of foreign coal imports, saying he was ready for any inquiry into the issue and claiming that it was the previous BRS govt that had planned large-scale coal imports for the Yadadri Thermal Power Station (YTPS). Accusing the former regime of creating the conditions that led to the present coal and power crisis, he said his govt was working to maximise the use of domestic coal for the project.

Addressing a news conference, Revanth said the state govt had already discussed coal availability with Union minister G Kishan Reddy and was transporting coal from the Naini mines to the plant. He noted that the fifth unit of the 4,000 MW project was yet to be completed.

Launching a scathing at-



tack on the previous govt, the chief minister alleged that the Yadadri project had become significantly more expensive than originally planned and questioned the decision to locate the thermal station at Damarcherla instead of near the Singareni coal belt. According to him, the original agreement for the supercritical power project was valued at 17,950 crore, but the estimated cost later rose to

37,781 crore. He argued that the project's location and design had resulted in higher generation costs that would place a heavy burden on the state exchequer.

Comparing generation costs, Revanth claimed power from YTPS costs 6.60 per unit, against 4.62 at Manuguru, 3.94 at Kothagudem and 4.05 at Singareni's thermal units. He alleged that the cost differential could

impose an additional burden of 50,000 crore and lead to losses of up to 1 lakh crore over the plant's life cycle. The chief minister also questioned the previous govt's coal procurement strategy, alleging that an agreement signed in Dec 2016 envisaged importing 7 million tonnes of coal annually, with the remaining requirement to be met by Singareni.

He further alleged that despite 141 coal block auctions being held between 2019 and 2023, Singareni did not participate in any of them. "Though 141 coal blocks auctions were conducted between 2019 and 2023, Singareni did not participate in any auction. Steps had been taken in 2024 to secure the lifting of a National Green Tribunal stay after a public consultation supported the use of Singareni coal," he said. Revanth also accused the BRS of trying to divert attention from cor-

ruption allegations by targeting the Congress govt and said he was ready for a debate in the assembly on corruption, irrigation projects and power generation. He challenged the opposition to an open discussion on Krishna and Godavari river water disputes and questioned why major irrigation projects, including Palamuru-Rangareddy, Bhima, Nettekpadu, Koilsagar, SLBC, Dindi and Sita Rama Sagar, remained incomplete during the former BRS regime.

The chief minister also alleged that a canal linked Kondapochamma Sagar to Panchapandavula Cheruvu and supplied water to around 400 acres associated with former chief minister K Chandrasekhar Rao's farmhouse at Erravelli. He sought an inquiry into the arrangement and questioned whether special facilities had been extended to the former chief minister.

Malkajgiri crime cases rise 29%, 365 kidnappings reported



Hyderabad, Oct 15 (GNS): The crime barometer under the Malkajgiri Commissionerate has increased significantly, with property offences and road accident fatalities topping the list. So far this year, 23,747 cases were registered, marking a 29 per cent increase over 2024 and a 28.5 per cent rise over 2025. Theft cases surged 48 per cent to 2,196 in 2026, compared with 2024 (1,484 cases). Cheating cases rose 16 per cent to 2,789. Cases involving

injuries increased by 37 per cent to 1,797 during the same period.

Road accident fatalities rose to 340 in 2026 so far, compared with 308 in 2024 and 270 in 2025. The commissionerate also recorded 41 murder cases and 365 kidnapping cases this year.

Telangana Director General of Police (DGP) CV Anand held a review meeting with Malkajgiri Commissioner of Police B Sumathi and other senior officers. Referring to the murder of a

five-year-old girl at Villa Orchids gated community in Bollaram, the DGP stressed the need for continuous surveillance and adequate CCTV coverage in gated communities to prevent similar incidents. Keesara, LB Nagar, Uppal, Begumpet, Jawaharnagar, Medipally and Kushaiguda were identified as crime hotspots. Cherlapally Ghatkesar and Keesara were flagged as accident-prone stretches, with two-wheelers accounting for a significant share.

How long must muslims struggle for their rights?

Can Congress escape its historical responsibility?

Irfan Jamiawala questions all political parties: Beyond the slogans of love, India needs a serious conversation about social justice.

Indian politics has never been short of speeches about Muslims. Political leaders speak about love, brotherhood, secularism and protecting the Constitution. Yet one important question remains: how long must Muslims continue to struggle for equal opportunities in education, employment, social security and political representation?

Social activist, writer, journalist and political thinker Irfan Jamiawala has raised this question before all political parties. He believes that remembering Muslims during elections and overlooking their concerns afterwards cannot be considered meaningful democratic accountability. According to Jamiawala, the discussion about Muslim rights must go beyond religious identity. The Muslim community is socially and economically diverse, and many disadvantaged Muslim communities continue to face poverty, educational deprivation, occupational limitations and caste-based discrimination.

These are the concerns that deserve greater attention, particularly in discussions about the Pasmanda Muslim community. Congress Must Answer Questions About Its Past

Jamiawala has questioned the historical responsibility of the Congress party, which governed India for several decades after independence.

It is reasonable to ask what meaningful steps were taken during those years to improve the social, educational and economic conditions of disadvantaged Muslim communities. Did these communities receive adequate opportunities to participate in political leadership and decision-making?

On 10 August 1950, the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order was issued with a religion-based eligibility provision. Sikhs were included in 1956 and Buddhists in 1990. Under the present legal framework, Muslims and Christians remain ineligible for Scheduled Caste status.

The issue continues to raise questions about historical discrimination, social disadvantage and constitutional equality.

Jamiawala argues that the social conditions of communities claiming a history of caste-based discrimination deserve serious and impartial examination. Political parties



should be prepared to discuss the issue openly, with reference to evidence, constitutional principles and the experiences of affected communities.

Congress must answer questions about its historical record. However, the responsibility for addressing the issue cannot be placed entirely on one party. Successive governments and all political organisations that speak about social justice must explain their positions and actions.

Why Should Pasmanda Muslims Remain Just a Vote Bank? One of the central concerns raised by Jamiawala is that the problems of Pasmanda Muslims are often acknowledged in political speeches but do not always receive the attention required to bring meaningful change.

Many families continue to struggle for quality education, stable employment, affordable healthcare and economic security. Political promises alone cannot solve these problems.

Political parties must explain what they have actually achieved. Have young people gained better access to education and employment? Have disadvantaged Muslim communities received meaningful representation within political organisations? What concrete measures have been taken to improve their economic circumstances?

These questions should be asked of every political party that claims to represent disadvantaged communities.

Social justice cannot be measured by speeches alone. It must be assessed through policies, opportunities and results.

Where Is Social Justice in the Politics of Love? Love, brotherhood and secularism are important principles in India's democratic tradition. But their

meaning becomes meaningful in practice only when the weakest sections of society can live with dignity and access equal opportunities.

A child who cannot obtain a good education because of poverty does not benefit from political slogans. A young person denied opportunities for economic advancement needs practical support. A community facing social discrimination needs effective remedies, not merely expressions of sympathy.

Governments and political parties must therefore focus on education, employment, healthcare, social protection and fair representation.

The demand for Scheduled Caste recognition for certain disadvantaged Muslim communities also deserves a serious constitutional and social debate. Such a discussion should be informed by historical evidence, research into social discrimination and careful examination of the applicable legal framework.

Muslims Need Action, Not Just Assurances

Jamiawala has called on all political parties to stop viewing Muslims, particularly disadvantaged Muslim communities, merely through the lens of electoral politics.

Congress should answer questions about its historical record. The present government and other political parties should also explain what they are doing to address the social and economic challenges faced by these communities.

The purpose of raising these questions is not simply to discredit a political party. It is to ask why communities that are promised equality under the Constitution continue to demand equal opportunities and meaningful representation.

El Nino impact to reach severe levels by February: CS Sanjay Jaju

Hyderabad, Oct 15 (GNS): The impact of El Nino is currently severe in Telangana and is likely to reach its peak by February 2027, said Chief Secretary of the state government Sanjay Jaju. He said that the impact of El Nino has had a significant impact on the monsoon, and temperatures have increased by 2 to 3 degrees above normal.

He spoke to the media after visiting the Singur reservoir in Sangareddy district on Thursday. He explained that a field trip was undertaken to assess the availability of drinking water in the state and the condition of crops under cultivation. It was revealed that the current situation will be discussed extensively in the cabinet meeting on Thursday evening.

The CS said that the next



15 to 20 days are very crucial for crops. He advised that all departments should work in coordination to save crops. He said that due to the significant drop in groundwater levels, water may not be available in some areas despite electricity supply. Therefore, he instructed the officials to give priority to drinking water needs.

It was revealed that nodal

officers are being appointed for each district. Under the supervision of the district collectors, the officials of the electricity and agriculture departments were advised to be available to the farmers and prepare action plans according to the conditions. The electricity department was instructed to take steps to ensure continuous supply of electricity for agricultural needs.

In the wake of the decreasing water reserves in Singur and Manjira reservoirs, the CS advised to use the available water economically. He clarified to the officials that the plans made should be effectively implemented without any disruption in the supply of drinking water to Hyderabad, Sangareddy, Kamareddy, Nizamabad and Medak districts.

KTR alleges Rs 3,000-crore coal import scam, seeks white paper on power crisis

Hyderabad, Oct 15 (GNS): Putting the Congress government in the dock, BRS working president KT Rama Rao described the ongoing power crisis in Telangana as a deliberate attempt to create an artificial coal shortage and facilitate foreign coal imports at inflated prices. He accused Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and the Congress government of being involved in an alleged Rs 3,000-crore scam by signing a prior agreement with a logistics company.

He demanded a white paper on the proposed imports and an independent investigation into the entire affair. He warned that the BRS would oppose any move that weakened Sin-



gareni or burdened the State with expensive imports, and demanded that the government publish a comprehensive report on the coal and power crisis.

In an open letter addressed to Revanth Reddy, Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka

and Union Coal Minister G Kishan Reddy, Rama Rao questioned the rationale for turning to expensive imported coal when Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) and other domestic sources could potentially meet the requirement. He said a prior agreement with

GHMC inspects Rs 1,090 crore steel flyover project in Hyd

Hyderabad, Oct 15 (GNS): The Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) has inspected a proposed Rs 1,090 crore, six-lane steel flyover project aimed at providing signal-free traffic movement between Jubilee Hills Checkpost and NFCL Junction in Hyderabad.

GHMC Commissioner RV Karnan, along with Khairatabad Zonal Commissioner B Santosh and engineering officials, inspected the proposed 4.3-km elevated corridor on Wednesday, October 14. The project is designed to improve traffic flow along the stretch through a six-lane, bi-directional steel flyover.

During the inspection, officials reviewed foundation excavation and junction improvement works. The measures are intended to improve traffic movement and reduce inconvenience to the public during construction.

Two arrested for selling ganja in Hyderabad's Dhoolpet

Hyderabad, Oct 15 (GNS): An assistant engineer of the Telangana Southern Power Distribution Company Limited (TGSPDCL) was caught by the Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Thursday, October 15, while allegedly accepting a bribe of Rs 1.2 lakh for sanctioning six new electricity meters. Pandala Sandhya Rakesh, Assistant Engineer at the Madannapet section under the Santosh Nagar subdivision in Hyderabad, allegedly demanded the money from a complainant for approving online applications for six new meters to replace missing ones. ACB stated in a release. Rakesh will be produced before the Principal Special Judge for Special Police Establishment.



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