

Rahul Gandhi accuses Goa BJP govt of looting people's land

New Delhi, Oct 18 (GNS): Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Sunday launched a scathing attack on the BJP-led Goa government, alleging rampant corruption, the transfer of ordinary people's land to wealthy industrialists and a systematic assault on democratic institutions.

Addressing a major public meeting at the MCC Ground in Margao, South Goa, at the culmination of the Congress's 28-day 'Goy Rakhonn Yatra' (Save Goa Yatra), Gandhi also targeted Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over allegations of "vote theft", declaring that the party would continue its fight to expose electoral irregularities and hold those responsible accountable. "We are the protectors of the Constitution. By stealing votes, they have attacked

vows fight against 'vote theft'



the Constitution and undermined our sacred duty. We will never tolerate this," Gandhi said, asserting that defending the Constitution was a fundamental responsibility of the Congress and warning that the party would not allow alleged electoral manipulation to go unchallenged.

Taking direct aim at Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, Gandhi questioned the handling of allegations of electoral irregularities and maintained that the issues raised by the Congress could not be brushed aside indefinitely. Referring to the more than 45 defamation cases filed

against him, he pointed out that no case had been initiated against him over his allegations of vote theft. He suggested that a formal legal challenge could bring the matter under greater scrutiny and compel those concerned to respond to questions about the integrity of the electoral process.

The remarks marked a renewed escalation in the Congress's confrontation with the Election Commission, with the party making electoral transparency and accountability central to its campaign against the BJP. The Congress has repeatedly alleged that irregularities in the electoral process threaten the principle of equal representation and undermine public confidence in democratic institutions.

Gandhi maintained that the fight against alleged vote theft was inseparable from the larger struggle to safeguard the Constitution and democratic rights. Turning his attention to Goa, Gandhi alleged that corruption had become pervasive under the BJP government, making the sharp claim that "Goa might well be the most corrupt state in the entire country".

Tiger Shroff's car fired at in Mumbai

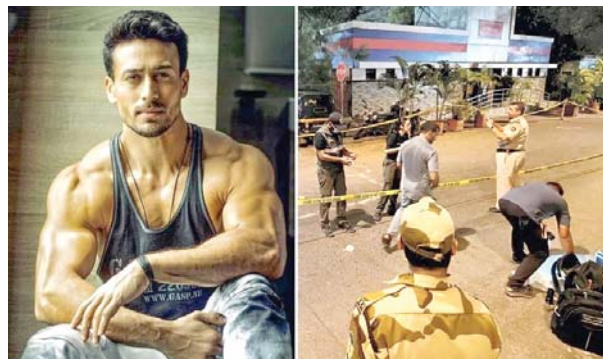
Mumbai, Oct 18 (GNS) Bollywood actor Tiger Shroff escaped unhurt after gunmen opened fire at him in Juhu area of Mumbai on Sunday evening, police said. His driver and another driver of an autorickshaw were injured in the incident, police said. The incident took place near Pushpa Park under Juhu police station limits in the western suburb, and the chain of events leading to the incident is being pieced together, an official said.

"Shroff is safe and has not sustained any injuries in the firing incident," the official reiterated. As per preliminary reports, an unidentified individual fired upon the actor and his friend.

A viral video showed an unidentified person opening fire on the actor's car.

A massive manhunt has been launched to nab those involved, with specialised teams checking CCTV foot-

Bishnoi gang claims responsibility



age of the area for leads, the official added. Tiger's father and actor Jackie Shroff confirmed that his son is unharmed and was assisting officials at the police station.

According to a viral social media post, the Lawrence Bishnoi gang has claimed responsibility for the attack, but police are yet to verify its authenticity. Born Jai Hemant Shroff on March 2, 1990, Tiger Shroff is one of

Bollywood's premier action stars and martial artists, holding a 5th-degree black belt in Taekwondo.

He debuted with the film Heropanti in 2014 and cemented his status as an action hero with blockbusters like Baaghi, Baaghi 2, and the YRF Spy Universe hit War. Outside of mainstream cinema, he is a prominent figure in the sports ecosystem.

Manipur transfers Kamjong SP after civilian killing

Imphal, Oct 18 (GNS) The Manipur government on Sunday transferred the Superintendent of Police (SP) of Kamjong district with immediate effect, a day after a Kuki civilian was killed in a gun attack by suspected militants, officials said.

According to a statement issued by the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms, Manipur Police Service officer Tholu Rocky, who was serving as SP of Kamjong, has been transferred with immediate effect until further orders. He will take charge as additional director of the Manipur Police Training College.

IPS officer Jay Barrage, who was serving as Additional SP (Law and Order) in Imphal West, will assume charge as SP-in-charge of Kamjong, the statement said. The transfer follows an attack on Saturday night in Chassad village, a Kuki settlement in the Naga-majority district, in which a 36-year-old civilian was killed and four others were injured. Suspected militants also set fire to 15 houses in the hill village, officials said.

Meanwhile, several Naga women staged a protest at the Kamjong district headquarters on Sunday evening against the transfer of the senior police officer. The protesters alleged that the decision followed a request made by a Kuki MLA to the chief minister and state Home Minister Govindas Konthoujam.



CJP alleges delay in release of leaders Saurav Das, Ashutosh Ranka, 4 sureties rejected

New Delhi, Oct 18 (GNS): The bail hearing of Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka was "delayed" on Sunday as the Special Executive Magistrate (SEM) did not arrive at the scheduled time, activist Ratna Singh said and alleged that four sureties had been rejected on "vague" grounds.

Das and Ranka were sent to five days of judicial custody on October 14 after they entered Jantar Mantar, which had been denotified as a designated protest site, by scaling its locked gates. The CJP leaders maintained that they had unfurled the national flag and raised slogans. In a post on X, Singh said she had been at the police station since 11 am, while the hearing was scheduled for noon. She said the Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP/SEM) had not arrived at the Mandir Marg police station by 4.42 pm. "This is really concerning. They have re-



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jected 4 sureties till now on vague reasons. They have made people who have FIRs against them for being part of protest as people having criminal antecedents (sic)," Singh alleged. There was no response from police on the allegations. In another post,

Singh said, "Unfurling the Indian National Flag is not a crime, and the boys should not remain in custody due to procedural delays."

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thorities to follow the hierarchy and alleged an "absolute misuse of power".

On Saturday, the CJP said in a post on X that it had consulted senior advocate Kapil Sibal and warned of legal action if Das and Ranka were not released by Sunday. "If Ashu and Saurav are not released by tomorrow, we will pursue legal action against all those who deliberately ensured that they continue to be in illegal custody, especially when they have not committed nor charged with any offence," the outfit had said.

"The deliberate use of delaying tactics to keep them behind bars cannot go unchallenged. Those responsible will be held accountable," it added.

The outfit has been protesting against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, alleging that the exercise threatens voters' rights.

12 killed as truck hits shops in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior

Gwalior, Oct 18 (GNS): Twelve people were killed, while over 25 were injured after a truck rammed into shops near Shitla Mata Temple in Madhya Pradesh's Gwalior early on Sunday, officials said.



The incident occurred at around 1:30 a.m. on Sunday when the truck lost control while descending a slope near the historic Shitla Mata Temple, located 18 kilometres from the district headquarters.

"Approximately 50 people were struck by the vehicle, resulting in at least 12 deaths. More than 25 others, including two police personnel and several children, have sustained injuries," an official said.

According to eyewitnesses, the truck was loaded with sacks of paddy and lost control while descending a hill and crashed into shops near the temple.

"The truck, approaching from the direction of Chinor, went out of control while descending the slope near the main outer gate of the temple and ploughed into the shops situated around the gate. The impact caused significant damage to several shops and destroyed multiple two-wheeled vehicles," an eyewitness told IANS.

Upon receiving news of the accident, police teams arrived at the scene and transported the injured to the hospital. About five individuals remain in critical condition. The bodies of the deceased have been taken to the Jaya Arogya Hospital in Gwalior.

Iran says its seven-day plan to reopen Hormuz Strait still on table

Tehran, Oct 18 (GNS): Iran's Foreign Minister Seyed Abbas Araghchi said Sunday that Tehran's proposed seven-day plan to reopen the Strait of Hormuz is "still on the table."

Araghchi made the remarks in an interview with Iran's official news agency IRNA on the sidelines of the 52nd Session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad.

He said Iran's conditions for ceasing hostilities and reopening the strait were "completely clear" and had been submitted to the United States under the seven-day plan, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Washington has presented its views on the plan, which Tehran is reviewing, he added.

"Iran's plan is still on the table," Araghchi said. "If they (the United States) meet those conditions, the

Strait of Hormuz will be reopened on the sixth day, and negotiations will resume on the seventh."

He said that Iran's conditions were neither extraordinary nor unusual, adding that they were the same commitments "the United States had already committed itself in the peace memorandum of understanding (MoU) and other negotiations."

Araghchi emphasised that Iran will not bow to threats and is prepared to defend itself, while remaining ready to pursue diplomacy.

Meanwhile, US President Donald Trump has declared that Iran's nuclear weapons capability has been destroyed by American military operations and vowed that Tehran would never be allowed to rebuild it, presenting the campaign against the Islamic Republic as one of the major national security

achievements of his second presidency.

Addressing a Republican election rally at Northern Kentucky University's Truist Arena on Saturday, Trump defended his decision to launch military operations against Iran, saying the threat of a nuclear-armed Tehran had made American intervention necessary.

"They cannot have a nuclear weapon. They can't because they'll use it," Trump told supporters while discussing the military campaign.

The President said the United States had successfully struck Iran's nuclear infrastructure and was taking steps to ensure that the programme could not be revived.

"We have to make sure it doesn't come back," he said, recalling his instructions to senior administration officials during the operation.

SC orders fresh elections in two more Patiala municipal wards

New Delhi, Oct 18 (GNS): The Supreme Court on Saturday directed fresh elections in Ward numbers 15 and 58 of the Patiala Municipal Corporation in Punjab, while refusing to entertain a plea seeking similar directions for Ward numbers 10 and 11 of the Dharamkot Municipal Council as the two wards were not covered by the fact-finding report accepted by the apex court.

A bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi passed the order on Friday while dealing with applications seeking clarification and directions in connection with its September 28 order directing fresh elections in certain municipal wards across Punjab's municipal bodies. Modifying paragraphs 11 and 12 of its earlier order, the CJI Kant-led bench said: "Ward numbers 15 and 58 of Patiala Municipal Corporation

are also included for the purpose of conducting fresh election." "Consequently, fresh elections will be conducted in respect of Ward numbers 15 and 58 of the Patiala Municipal Corporation," the order added.

However, the apex court declined to entertain a separate application seeking fresh elections in Ward numbers 10 and 11 of the Dharamkot Municipal Council. "Since the directions for conducting fresh elections have been issued by accepting the report submitted by Justice Nirmaljit Kaur in entirety, we cannot entertain this application seeking inclusion of ward numbers 10 and 11 of Dharamkot Municipal Council," the CJI Kant-led bench said. "We say so for the reason that these wards are not included in the report of Justice Nirmaljit Kaur," it added. Both miscellaneous applications were accordingly disposed of.

SAY NO TO DRUGS – YES TO LIFE Campaign Poster Released by Medchal–Malkajgiri Police Commissioner B. Sumathi, IPS

Mohammed Najeeruddin Medchal–Malkajgiri: With the objective of creating awareness against drug abuse, the Protection of Legal and Human Rights Association released the campaign poster titled "SAY NO TO DRUGS – YES TO LIFE." The poster was officially unveiled by Ms. B. Sumathi, IPS, Police Commissioner and DIG of Medchal–Malkajgiri District.

The primary objective of this campaign is to educate the public, particularly young people, about the harmful effects of drug abuse and encourage them to stay away from drugs. The campaign aims to promote a healthy lifestyle and inspire youth to make positive choices for a better future. The programme was attended by Syed Abdul Kareem, Founder & CEO; Mohammed Najeeruddin, National Assistant



Director; Bhavani Prasad Thirunagiri, State Deputy Director (Women Cell); Kommara Bathoni Manjula, State Deputy President (Women Cell); and Baliah, District Secretary. On this occasion, the association highlighted the importance of conducting awareness campaigns to combat drug abuse, protect young

people from addiction, and guide the next generation towards a healthy, safe, and responsible future.

The association reaffirmed its commitment to promoting public awareness, protecting human rights, and encouraging a drug-free society through educational and awareness programmes.

Empower CAPFs with designated roles for a safer India

Lt Gen KJ Singh retcd.

The spurt in terrorist incidents in Rajouri-Doda-Kathua last year was blamed on gaps in the security grid caused due to pulling out of the army division for the more pressing task of beefing up deployment to combat the Chinese build-up on the northern border. Even after this much-belated rebalancing, described as RB-1.0, we have just around 30 per cent force level deployed against China, our main adversary on the northern borders. Out of the balance, 30-40 per cent is deployed to combat the proxy war in J&K.

Notwithstanding the recent agreement on the restoration of patrolling in Depsang and Demchok, it is imperative to maintain vigil and enhance the deployment levels. The army is reportedly working on RB-2.0. The critical determinant for such rebalancing is whether the designated forces — the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and police — would rise to the challenge and free the army for addressing the primary challenge. The CAPFs, with around 10,45,750 personnel, comprise seven formidable forces for maintaining law and order, internal security (IS) and counter-insurgency (CI) and protecting the borders. They can be broadly grouped as per their functions.

The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) is meant for industrial and airport security. The Ministry of Railways also has a 75,000-strong Railway Protection Force (RPF). The question is whether the overburdened Minis-



try of Home Affairs (MHA) should give control of the CISF to the designated ministries of aviation and industry, like the RPF.

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is mandated to beef up the state police forces for maintaining law and order and internal security. It was created as a reserve to the state police forces. Besides the regular constabulary, most states have around 10 armed police battalions, funded by the Central government, with a shared understanding on their deployment. These are also referred to as the Rapid Action Force (RAF).

Then, there are the Border Security Force (BSF), the Indo-Tibet Border Police (ITBP), the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and the Assam Rifles (AR). Their mandate is border management (BM). The Kargil Review Committee in 1991 had enunciated the prin-

ciple of 'one border, one force' for border management and it recommended that the CRPF be dedicated for internal security. Consequently, rationalisation was attempted: the BSF for Pakistan and Bangladesh, the ITBP for China, the SSB for Nepal and Bhutan and the AR for Myanmar.

Each border has its own challenges. There is the problem of narcotics delivery by drones in Punjab, cattle and human trafficking on the Bangladesh border and terrorist intrusions in J&K. The Pakistan border is properly fenced in the International Border (IB) sector and has a modified fencing along the Line of Control (LoC). The Bangladesh border is approximately 80 per cent fenced, but it has treacherous riverine and jungle stretches. Except for the 60-odd km out of 1,643 km, the border with Nepal, Bhutan, Tibet —

the Line of Actual Control (LAC) — and Myanmar is unfenced.

Border management has two categories: border guarding or patrolling on settled borders and border defence on active frontiers (LoC and LAC), where the BSF and ITBP work in supportive role with the army.

The Assam Rifles is dual-tasked for the Myanmar border and the counter-insurgency role in the NE. It is paramilitary in nature as the officer cadre is from the army on a deputation basis. The challenges of managing internal security and counter-insurgency are such that battalions of the CRPF, BSE, ITBP, SSB and AR are deployed in Manipur, reflecting the fire-brigade response of mustering whatever and whoever is available. The force mix in J&K is similar, though the Rashtriya Rifles (RR), CRPF and J&K Police have become the main compo-

nents. However, the recent induction of Assam Rifles units in J&K is indicative of the fire-fighting approach. The reputation of the AR — the original mainstay of North-East — has been tarnished in Manipur. It is not only unfortunate but also shortsighted. If there are black sheep in a force, fix them by all accounts, but why trash the 189-year-old legacy? The National Security Guard (NSG) or Black Cat Commandos are on the other end of the spectrum. They do specialised counter-terrorism work, including hostage rescue.

The combined strength of the CAPFs and the armed police battalions matches that of the army in numbers. They also enjoy similar benefits in pay and perks and wear a similar uniform. They have recently even created similar sounding HQs, like the Command HQ, further adding to confusion.

Naya Bihar emerges after Nitish era

Once upon a time, we laughed without offence or guilt. We laughed at power, at politics, at bureaucracy, and most of all, at ourselves. It was a laughter steeped not in mockery but in a shared understanding of the absurdities of life. Remember R. K. Laxman's Common Man? The bespectacled, bewildered figure who stood silently witnessing the nation's daily dramas was our collective conscience drawn in ink. His was the lens through which middle-class India smiled at its foibles. No one was spared, and yet no one was wounded. His cartoons, which ran for decades under the banner You Said It, didn't merely capture the socio-political temperature — they made us laugh through the chaos, without cynicism, without rage, and it inspired us to gauge ourselves on the scale of changing times. How far we've come — and not for the better! Just the other day, The Times of India reported that Western Railway in Mumbai asked for the removal of a hoarding that humorously depicted Mumbai's famously crowded local trains.

Everyone who knows the city even remotely will vouch that the depiction wasn't far from reality. But even reality now seems too irreverent to tolerate. Our thresholds have shrunk. Satire is suspect. Irony is an offence. And humour — a great salve to wounded hearts — has become a minefield. It is as though we have forgotten how to laugh without hurting, or how to be the subject of a joke without taking it personally. The public frame has grown brittle. Everything is either an insult or an agenda. Our collective skin has thinned, and with it, our ability to process humour as a mirror rather than a missile. We have become sensitive to our peril, for laughter now is no more a medicine but an action to be indulged in stealth. We now laugh at our own risk, for not all out there are amused. But let us pause here. What does it mean to laugh at oneself? And why is it so crucial to the health of a society, and to the sanity of the individual? To laugh at oneself is acknowledging one's imperfections without shame or embarrassment. It is to accept the human comedy in which we are all actors, fumbling, contradicting, faltering and having great falls like Humpty-Dumpty.

It is an act of humility. And humility, unlike humiliation, does not diminish. It enlarges us. It softens the ego, smoothenes the sharp edges of pride, and allows us to be more forgiving — towards others, yes, but especially towards ourselves. We are not meant to take ourselves too seriously. The capacity to see one's absurdity, to smile at it, and even to share it with others, is a mark of inner strength. In that laughter is a quiet wisdom — the wisdom to know that life is far too unpredictable to be lived in perpetual indignation. And as creatures, we are too tiny and insignificant in the canvas of the cosmos. Philosophers from every tradition have hinted at this. In Zen, the enlightened monk is often depicted laughing. In ancient Greece, Socrates was known for his irony, and his capacity to deflate pomposity through humour. Closer home, the Bhakti poets gently mocked dogma and orthodoxy. Their irreverence was rooted in love, not spite. They knew that humour could illuminate truth in ways solemnity never could, and it was taken in its true spirit. But today, we confuse being offended with being right. And so, we silence the comedian, the cartoonist, the satirist, and slowly, we silence ourselves. We build fortresses around our fragility and call it righteousness. We seek apology where we should seek perspective.

This is not a defence for vulgarity or cruelty masquerading as humour, which too has become abundant in these indiscreet times. We know the difference between crassness and coolness. And we must always be vigilant against humour that punches down, that mocks the marginalised, that cloaks prejudice in punchlines or masks depravity in insensitivity. But the answer to bad humour is not humourlessness. It is better humour. Finer irony. Truer satire. And most of all, a thicker skin. As a society, we need to grow up. We need to rediscover the art of laughing together and at ourselves.

The Common Man did not need to speak because the society around him understood the language of the silent chuckle. That silent chuckle is now endangered. Let us then re-learn the ability to look at ourselves with a smile, not a scowl. Let us not fear humour; let us fear the day when we lose our humour. When people can no longer laugh at themselves, they are no longer free.

Lives, not machines: Human cost of overwork

While Infosys founder Narayana Murthy keeps advising the young generation—the bunch of software engineers and other techno-managers— to work for 70 hours a week, Larsen and Toubro chairperson SN Subrahmanyam has begun to plead for a 90-hour workweek, including Sundays, to promote competitiveness and efficiency. Never mind that, as far as the findings of the International Labour Organisation are concerned, India ranks 13th among the world's most overworked countries! Furthermore, 62 per cent of the Indian employees experience severe burnout—three times the global average. And this is one of the top occupational risk factors contributing significantly to disease and early death.

Have these corporate bosses forgotten so early the tragic tales of the death of Anna Sebastian Perayil—a 26-year-old Ernst and Young employee in Pune — because of work-related stress? No, it is not an aberration. As the 'Healthy Work Survey' conducted by the US-based Centre for Social Epidemiology reveals, there are more than 1,20,000 deaths caused by work stress every year in the world. There are three reasons why we must resist this sort of insensitivity, or the act of reducing a human being into a mere 'resource' for enhancing the mythical 'productivity'. First, as the kind of work most of us are compelled to do for survival or economic mobility, far from being inherently fulfilling and creative, causes alienation, estrangement and existential anguish.

Converse with a software engineer sitting in front of the laptop in a tiny cubicle, fulfilling the ever-expanding 'targets' and, thereby, spending sleepless nights; engage with an employee in a crowded bank, counting cash from 9 am to 5 pm without a breathing space; or, for that matter, talk to a delivery boy running like a horse to supply — quickly and instantly — what the affluent classes from their gated societies order. It is quite unlikely that they will say that they are happy with what they do. They do it because they have to survive, pay the house rent, give their medical insurance premium or send their kids to schools. In fact, asking them to work more.

Crude at \$80 means serious trouble

Jabin T Jacob

As the US engages in its second major military action in a matter of a few weeks, moving from the alleged abduction of the President of Venezuela in January to aerial and maritime strikes against Iran, it is worth asking what the implications are for China's military ambitions and preparations.

For one, the Chinese have long learned from American military actions around the world, adapting their military modernisation and strategies accordingly. The first Gulf War, led by the US against the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, is now considered something of an eye-opener for Chinese leaders, who saw their military as considerably backward and incapable in comparison to Western forces. Decades later, the Chinese military is considerably more advanced and has even overtaken the American navy in size. The gap between the two militaries in terms of actual capacity and reach, however, remains substantial. Two, however, this has not prevented the Chinese from exercising their military power where possible. Indeed, China's growing economic power and rising global ambitions have demanded action even when gaps remain. It has bridged the gap and exercised military power with the help of diplomatic and other non-military tools. In the South China Sea, for example, China has long engaged in diplomatic parleys over disputed features, dragging its feet on making any concrete commitments.

In the meantime, however, it supported its civilian fishing fleets in expanding their range of operations, gradually began reclamation work and even promised the Americans that it would not militarise any



features in the region. By never allowing matters to escalate to firefights even as it exercised physical muscle through its ship-to-ship confrontations and blockades and by only using the maritime militias and the coast guard, Chinese actions remained below a threshold that could have provoked US military action in aid of its allies.

In another instance, the Chinese used then US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan in August 2022 to accuse the US of infringing upon "China's sovereignty" and to launch military exercises around Taiwan that have now become a regular feature. In effect, the Chinese have gradually pushed the envelope and undercut American military advantages in the region.

Three, China's immediate response to the attacks against Iran - limited to verbal condemnation of the violation of international law and the "fundamental norms of international relations" - should not draw

attention away from how Chinese military support to Iran over the years has hastened the current moment. Consider Chinese support for Iran's ballistic missile programme, which is what would have actually allowed the delivery of Iran's nuclear weapons — if any were actually produced. China has provided the Iranians with everything, from rocket fuel to satellite navigation systems. In between, it has also exercised with Iranian military forces— in March 2025, in fact, it did so together with Russian naval forces in the Gulf of Oman in what was the fifth iteration of the tri-lateral exercise. And if the Americans have claimed Iran's suppression of its own people also explains their intervention, then it is China that has bolstered the Iranian regime's capabilities to do this over the years with technological support for the latter's surveillance measures against its own people, including facial recognition and internet censorship, among other things. It is probably

one of the reasons why the Iranian regime will persist in its broad structure even if there are personnel changes and why there is a high likelihood that the conflict might be prolonged.

In other words, China has created conditions that keep the US from focusing its full attention on the Indo-Pacific and on China. As a result, the Chinese military leadership might assess that it has still greater leeway for provocations and initiative on territorial disputes with its neighbours. Finally, do American actions from Venezuela to Iran encourage or speed up the timeline for a potential Chinese invasion of Taiwan? The answer has to be in the negative for the short term. While external factors do play a role, the fact is that "reunification" is primarily a domestic political issue for Beijing. This means that the military option is not China's primary approach, but winning the island and its people over politically.

At the same time, it is also important for Beijing

to be able to convey credibility to Chinese threats to take over the island militarily if Taipei were to declare independence or external (read US) support for the island encouraged such a move. And it is this concern that is heightened when Chinese leaders observe American military prowess in action in Venezuela and Iran. Given such American willingness to fight and dominance in military weaponry and technology, is the Chinese People's Liberation Army truly capable of taking the island?

The military implications, if any, of the American actions might, therefore, be evident not in overt threats to Taiwan but in the repeated purges within the Chinese military. The fact that the anti-corruption campaign within the Chinese military has run for so long suggests that the problems extend beyond those of financial corruption and issues of political loyalty or factionalism. Over time, the only problem that can persist and which justifies the mass culling of China's top military leadership has to be one of professional competence in delivering the goal of taking Taiwan by force. If in most political systems, military incompetence or failure can lead to firings and even the fall of governments, the consequences for the ruling Communist Party of China are naturally more severe, given that its hold on power is tied to its ability to deliver on the "reunification" of Taiwan.

In short, the military purges in China are probably not as big a sign of weakness as they are made out to be but a sign that the system is correcting itself to achieve professional military goals. Recent American military actions will only push the Chinese to reform faster.

Uttam unveils major initiative to accelerate works on Palamuru irrigation projects on priority

Minister pledges to make Palamuru-Rangareddy fully operational in 30 months

Kalwakurthy, Nettempadu, Bhima, and Koilsagar works to be completed in mission mode

Hyderabad, March 8 (Patriotic Views) The Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies, N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, announced a special drive to fast-track works on the key irrigation projects intended to benefit erstwhile Mahbubnagar by extending the required fund support and other South Telangana districts by extending the required resource support, while pledging to make the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme fully operational in the next 30 months. He also vowed to complete the Kalwakurthy, Nettempadu, Bhima, and Koilsagar projects by March 2027. Reviewing the status of the works on the projects in the region, he asserted that the state will make full utilisation of its entitlement to river waters without losing a drop.

He stated that the government is firm on stepping up the pace of the works in progress with specific allocations of Rs 909 crore for Kalwakurthy, Rs 252 crore for Nettempadu, Rs 200 crores for Bhima, and Rs 185 crores for Koilsagar over the next one year. Facilitating the imple-



All actions will be legal and transparent. The Minister has reassured farmers in Krishna basin regions of reliable water access, higher yields, and direct financial support, calling the Congress administration farmer-centric compared to the prior regime.

He accused the BRS of indulging in false propaganda on the irrigation projects, comparing their repeated claims to Goebbels-style falsehoods. For the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme (PRLIS), he noted that the BRS secured administrative approval for Rs 35,200 crores but spent only about Rs 27,000 crore by the time of their exit, with a dismal outcome. Only one pump of the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Scheme was put to operation for hardly one hour in September 2023 without irrigating even one acre effectively. Costs have since escalated, with the revised estimates putting it around Rs 55,000 crores, excluding

the cost of the construction of the network of distributaries.

The project is now expected to cost up to Rs 80,000 crores. He vowed to complete it regardless of expense. The Congress government had spent Rs 7161 crore on the Palamuru Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme from Dec 7, 2023, to date. It has spent Rs 6718 crores on the implementation of the project works, Rs 284.71 crores on land acquisition, Rs 63.65 crores on Rehabilitation and Re-settlement (R&R), and Rs 94 crores on other project-related heads.

The minister wanted the irrigation officials to take up desilting of the Jurala (Priyadarshini Jurala) project to be taken up immediately so as to ensure that its designed gross storage capacity was restored. The Jurala Project was originally designed with a gross storage capacity of about 11.94 TMC, but due to siltation and operational constraints, its present effective capacity has reduced to around 9 TMC. This decline reflects natural sedimentation over three decades since its commissioning in 1995. He suggested that they explore the possibility of putting to use the sand extracted from the project in any Godavari basin projects.

The Minister asserted that the Congress government would be fully utilizing Telangana's rightful share of Krishna River waters without conceding even a drop. He claimed record agricultural achievements in the Krishna basin under the current regime, including the highest cropped area, paddy production, and procurement compared to the 10-year BRS rule and even in the undivided Andhra Pradesh. Referring to the recent Kharif season, he cited 148.5 lakh metric tonnes of paddy production (highest in India among states) and around 72 lakh metric tonnes of procurement under the minimum support operations, injecting approximately 20,000 crores directly into farmers' accounts. The Minister for Prohibition and Tourism, Jupally Krishna Rao, and Minister for Animal Husbandry, fisheries, and Sports, Vakiti Srihari, MPs and MLA from the erstwhile Mahbubnagar district were among those who attended. Advisor to the government (Irrigation) Adityanath Das and Secretary (Irrigation) E. Sridhar also took part in the review. (EOM) The Minister directed officials to ensure close coordination among irrigation, revenue and other departments to resolve pending issues and avoid delays in project execution. He stressed that regular monitoring, timely release of funds and faster completion of land acquisition and rehabilitation works would be essential to meeting the stipulated deadlines. He also called for clear timelines and accountability at every stage of implementation. Uttam Kumar Reddy emphasised that the Palamuru-Rangareddy Lift Irrigation Scheme would play a crucial role in strengthening agricultural activity across the drought-prone areas of South Telangana.

HPV vaccination at Shadnagar Government Community Hospital

Hyderabad, March 8 (Patriotic Views) Shadnagar MLA "Veerlapalli Shankar" said that the HPV vaccination undertaken by the government as part of the preventive measures against cervical cancer, which is rapidly spreading among women, will benefit women greatly. Local MLA Veerlapalli Shankar inaugurated the HPV vaccination program under the auspices of the government at the Government Community Hospital in Shadnagar town of Rangareddy district to distribute it to 14-year-old girls. The first dose of HPV vaccine was given to the girl at a program held at the hospital under the auspices of Deputy DM&HO Dr. Vijayalakshmi, Hospital Dr. Vishnuvardhan and others. Speaking on the occasion, the MLA said that the cancer epidemic is currently increasing in the society and the central and state governments are making great efforts to eradicate it.

The girl should come to the health center along with her parents along with her Aadhaar card to get vaccinated. After filling the details in the prescribed form, they will register them in the UVIN portal



with the phone number linked to the Aadhaar card and give her an Ayushman Bharat (Abha) ID. Based on this, the girl's photo will be confirmed and the vaccine will be administered, and a certificate will be issued to the girl on the UVIN portal immediately as if she has been vaccinated, the MLA said. Municipal Chairman Agganur Basvam, Vice Chairman Ande Mohan

Mudiraj, Market Committee Vice Chairman Babar Ali Khan, Deputy DMHO Vijayalakshmi, former Municipal Chairman Agganur Vishwam, former ZPTC Vishala Shravan Reddy, Councillors Murali Mohan (Appi), Dilip, Bachali Nareish Mubarak Ali Khan, Gangamanisattaiah, Srinivas, Madhavulu, Qadir, Sadhik and others participated in this program.

Over 2,000 Arrested During Protests Across France

Paris: More than 2,000 people have been arrested during violent protests across France on Saturday, French Interior Minister Laurent Nunez said Sunday. In a post on social media platform X, Nunez said that protests in some cities continued late into Saturday night, adding that investigations were underway to identify the perpetrators of the violent acts and bring them to justice. More than 600 police officers, gendarmes and firefighters have been injured in the violence so far, he said, citing provisional figures, Xinhua News Agency reported.

Material damage was considerable, affecting several hundred businesses, he said. "Demonstrating is a fundamental right. Causing disorder through coordinated violence is

not," Nunez said. Around 550,000 people took part in protests across France on Saturday. Numerous attacks on public buildings, police stations and businesses were reported during the demonstrations.

Violent clashes erupted between police and protesters in Paris and other parts of France on Saturday on the sidelines of the nationwide marches against rising inflation, with protesters setting fire to many places and looters breaking into dozens of shops to strip them bare. The unrest comes after weeks of student protests. Tens of thousands marched across the east and north of Paris in one major march on Saturday. Protesters shouted slogans like "Everyone hates the police" and "Macron, hey vandalised the premises before leaving, France 24 reported. Dozens of shops were looted, including 300 in Marseille. Over 300 protesters tried to move up towards Paris's Champs-Elysees, which has several flagship luxury stores. Protesters

Hockey Festival.. World Cup Qualifiers Begin in Gachibowli

Hyderabad, March 8 (Patriotic Views) Bhagyanagar witnessed another international sports venue. The 'Women's Hockey World Cup Qualifiers-2026' began with great pomp at the Gachibowli Hockey Stadium on Sunday. Teams from eight countries are competing in this mega event jointly organized by the International Hockey Federation (FIH) and the Telangana government. Under the guidance of Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, all the arrangements have been completed under the auspices of the Sports Department with international standards.

Cyberabad CP as Chief Guest

Cyberabad Police Commissioner Dr. M. Ramesh attended the first day's matches as the chief guest. Speaking on the occasion, he said that organizing international level competitions in the city will be a



great inspiration for young sportsmen. He said that tight security has been arranged for the matches. Telangana Sports Authority (SATG) Vice Chairman & MD Dr. A. Sonibala Devi

also participated. Clash on the field..

A total of eight teams are divided into two pools and are competing in the league stage. The tournament began with the first match between England and Italy at 12:45 pm on Sunday. After that, Korea and Austria and Scotland and Wales competed. The attention of the fans is focused on the India and Uruguay match at 7:30

pm. Fans are hoping that the Indian women's team will beat the odds on home soil. Tournament schedule is as follows. Pool-A: England, Korea, Italy, Austria

Pool-B: India, Scotland, Uruguay, Wales

League matches: March 8, 9 and 11. Knockout matches: Semi-finals on March 13, final match on March 14 at 7:30 pm. Rest: Rest for the teams on March 10 and 12.

Telangana hospitality for the guests The stadium has state-of-the-art Astro Turf, high-profile security and special arrangements for foreign players. Heritage tours have also been included in the schedule to introduce the players to the culture of Telangana.

The teams that excel in this tournament, which is being held with the aim of qualifying for the 2026 Women's Hockey World Cup, will directly qualify for the World Cup. Hyderabad is once again shining on the world sports map.

Lives, not machines: Human cost of overwork

Avijit Pathak

While Infosys founder Narayana Murthy keeps advising the young generation—the bunch of software engineers and other technomanagers—to work for 70 hours a week, Larsen and Toubro chairperson SN Subrahmanyam has begun to plead for a 90-hour workweek, including Sundays, to promote competitiveness and efficiency. Never mind that, as far as the findings of the International Labour Organisation are concerned, India ranks 13th among the world's most overworked countries! Furthermore, 62 per cent of the Indian employees experience severe burnout—three times the global average. And this is one of the top occupational risk factors contributing significantly to disease and early death.

Have these corporate bosses forgotten so early the tragic tales of the death of Anna Sebastian Perayil—a 26-year-old Ernst and Young employee in Pune — because of work-related stress? No, it is not an aberration. As the 'Healthy Work Survey' conducted by the US-based Centre for Social Epidemiology reveals, there are more than 1,20,000 deaths caused by work stress every year in the world. There are three reasons why we must resist this sort of insensitivity, or the act of reducing a human being into a mere 'resource' for enhancing the mythical 'pro-

ductivity'. First, as the kind of work most of us are compelled to do for survival or economic mobility, far from being inherently fulfilling and creative, causes alienation, estrangement and existential anguish.

Converse with a software engineer sitting in front of the laptop in a tiny cubicle, fulfilling the ever-expanding 'targets' and, thereby, spending sleepless nights; engage with an employee in a crowded bank, counting cash from 9 am to 5 pm without a breathing space; or, for that matter, talk to a delivery boy running like a horse to supply — quickly and instantly — what the affluent classes from their gated societies order.

It is quite unlikely that they will say that they are happy with what they do. They do it because they have to survive, pay the house rent, give their medical insurance premium or send their kids to schools. In fact, asking them to work more, or to teach them the lessons of 'hard work' is the worst form of psychic violence the insensitive corporate elites can inflict on them. The fact is that most of us are psychologically wounded and feel extreme form of alienation and boredom in our workplaces. However, for these business tycoons, it seems, we are nothing but mere 'resources', to be extracted continually till we break down. Second, when these corporate elites lecture on long

working hours for India's economic prosperity, they safely forget to mention that without distributive justice, the nation's prosperity will mean essentially the prosperity of the select billionaires, or a tiny section of the upwardly mobile professional class, like technomanagers, doctors in private hospitals, and real estate entrepreneurs.

Thanks to an Oxfam report, we know that the top 10 per cent of Indian population holds 77 per cent of national wealth. Is it, therefore, surprising that India has 185 billionaires — the third largest in the world after the US and China? Keep your eyes open and see the manifestations of this gross inequality. For instance, while Narayana Murthy's net worth is not less than \$520 crore, the estimated total package for a fresher at Infosys is Rs 3-to-5 lakh per annum. While the Ambanis can spend Rs 5,000 crore for their son's lavish wedding, it is exceedingly difficult for a construction worker to earn more than Rs 700 per day, or a delivery boy Rs 13,000 per month. Is it because they are lazy? Or, is it because the system that the corporate elites seek to hide is inherently violent and exploitative?

In this context, I must say that it is equally important for people like us — I mean middle class, university-educated professionals who are complaining against this kind of long working hours — to look at ourselves critically, accept

our hypocrisy and admit that we, too, do not necessarily behave nicely, eg with the entire brigade of domestic helps. Quite often, we pressure them to work even on holidays or in festive seasons.

Or, think of the way in many gated societies, delivery boys or other service providers are not allowed to use the same lift that the 'owners' use. Is it that we, too, tend to internalise the same logic of oppression through which our bosses subjugate us?

And, finally, these corporate bosses ought to be reminded of a basic fact: that there is more to life than what they value as 'productive' work. It is sad that they fail to realise that some of us see the world beyond our office chambers and love to unfold our humane and creative potential primarily in what these neoliberal bosses would otherwise ridicule as 'non-productive idleness'.

There are numerous such instances. For example, when we enjoy the warmth of the sun on a winter morning and recite the poems of Walt Whitman and William Blake in front of our children; or, when with our friends and family members, we watch the films of Charlie Chaplin and Satyajit Ray; or, for that matter, when we spend hours with our old parents, forgetting the technicalities of deadlines, promotions and salary packages and assure them that none can break this bond.

Education Key to Social and Economic Progress: Bhatti Vikramarka

Hyderabad, Oct 18 (GNS): Education is the key to overcoming social and economic inequalities and achieving progress across all sectors, Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka said. He stated that the state government was according the highest priority to education by allocating substantial funds and introducing transformative reforms. The government was moving forward with the objective of preparing Telangana's students to compete at the global level, he added.

The Deputy Chief Minister was speaking at the Guru Vandanam – Education Conclave and Teachers Awards 2026, organised by Zee Telugu News at the Hyderabad Police Command and Control Centre. He emphasised that teachers play a crucial

role in the development of society and called upon them to take a more active part in shaping students into a highly skilled and capable human resource.

Scientific studies have established that the more a society advances in education, the greater its progress across various sectors, he said. The state government's Socio-Economic, Political and Educational Survey had also highlighted the importance of education, he noted. The survey findings indicated that education was a crucial pathway for disadvantaged communities and economically weaker families to achieve progress.

Against this backdrop, the Telangana government had placed special emphasis on education to elevate

the state's society to a level where it could compete with the rest of the world, Bhatti Vikramarka said. He noted that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had retained the Education portfolio and was directly monitoring initiatives aimed at developing the sector. Bhatti Vikramarka said the government had undertaken large-scale teacher recruitment through the District Selection Committee (DSC) and had also completed the recruitment of junior lecturers in junior colleges.

Along with improving the quality of teaching in government educational institutions, the government was implementing several measures to strengthen student welfare, he said.

He revealed that diet

charges for students in government Gurukul and residential schools had been increased by 40 per cent, while cosmetic charges had been enhanced by 200 per cent. The government was providing breakfast to approximately 27 lakh students studying in government schools across the state. In addition, the programme to provide milk or ragi malt three days a week was also being expanded, he said.

105 Young India Residential Schools

The Deputy Chief Minister said the government had sanctioned approximately 105 Young India Integrated Residential Schools across Telangana and was expediting construction to provide education in English medium in line with international

standards. Each school was being designed to accommodate between 2,000 and 2,500 students, he said. In addition to quality education, the institutions would provide facilities for sports, playgrounds and other extracurricular activities. Residential facilities would also be established for teachers within the school campuses, he added. The government was strengthening existing government schools while also sanctioning one Telangana Public School for every Assembly constituency, Bhatti Vikramarka said.

He emphasised that the government's focus extended beyond school education to the development of higher education. Necessary recruitment was being undertaken in universities, he said.

District Legal Services Authority, Sangareddy, Telangana State

Sangareddy, Oct 18 (GNS) District Legal Services Authority Secretary and Senior Civil Judge B. Sowjanya visited The Nest Old Age Home at Srivani Nagar in Ameempur today and interacted with the elderly residents to enquire about their well-being. During the visit, she reviewed the accommodation, food, drinking water, medical facilities, sanitation and other basic amenities provided at the home. She stressed the need to ensure nutritious food, adequate medical care and a clean environment, while giving special attention to the health and safety of the elderly. Interacting warmly with the residents, Sowjanya enquired about their problems, needs and day-to-day living conditions. She emphasised that, besides physical care, senior citizens require men-

tal peace, affection, dignity and emotional support.

On the occasion, she created awareness among the residents about their rights, welfare and legal protection. She explained the legal provisions relating to the maintenance and welfare of parents and senior citizens, stating that legal assistance could be sought in cases of neglect or violation of their rights. She informed them that the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) provides free legal aid to eligible persons and advised them to approach the authority whenever they face legal problems. She stated that creating awareness about the rights of senior citizens and guiding them towards appropriate solutions to their problems are among the key objectives of the DLSA. She also urged family members to treat senior

citizens with love, respect and affection and to provide proper care by understanding their needs. Recognising the valuable contributions of the elderly to society, she said it was everyone's responsibility to ensure that they lead a dignified life.

The DLSA Secretary further stressed that old age homes must prioritise cleanliness, safety, medical services and the personal dignity of their residents. She advised the management to listen to the concerns of the elderly with compassion and take appropriate measures to ensure that they live in a safe and supportive environment. She said the District Legal Services Authority was working to extend legal awareness and make available legal aid services accessible to vulnerable sections of society.

Streets as sites of learning

AS a teacher, I have often asked myself: What do I expect from my students? Of course, I feel happy when I see them evolving as good scholars. I feel good when I see them doing well in life. And I congratulate them when they go abroad, do research in top ranking Euro-American universities and become immensely famous. But then, as we find ourselves in these turbulent times characterised by the tyranny of power and associated mass psychology of fear, I begin to expect something more from our students. Think of the steady erosion of the democratic spirit in our country-the way it compels millions of ordinary citizens to accept the dictates of potentially authoritarian political masters and their chosen bureaucrats without any question, live with terrible fear and existential uncertainty as they find their names deleted from

the electoral roll and begin to worry about the validity o their citizenship. Under these circumstances, I begin to ask myself: Where are those students who can see beyond their own career pursuits and acquire the courage to raise their voices against the degeneration of democracy into some sort of electoral autocracy, and the resultant normalisation of constant humiliation and harassment of ordinary people? And then, the other day, while listening to a speech delivered by a young student, I entered an altogether different realm of consciousness. In fact, it enchanted me. It was almost like finding a fountain in a desert. With absolute clarity, she reveals how the present political regime has created a 'spectacle of fear'.

For instance, today most of us - and, particularly those who belong to the minority community -- are afraid that at any time the

state can question the validity of our citizenship or the Election Commission of India can deprive us of the right to vote. We are afraid that if our ways of seeing the world differ from what the Establishment regards as 'normal' and 'desirable', we might be continually observed and monitored by the surveillance machineries of the state for our 'anti-national' behaviour. We are afraid that like Umar Khalid, we too can be kept in the dark cell of a prison without trial if we dare to cross the boundary.

As students and teachers, we are afraid that if what we teach, study and write is not in tune with what the Establishment regards as the "Indian Knowledge System", we might be punished.

But then, what arouses my hope is that this promising young girl - a student of a public university in the national capital, has acquired the courage.

Can Urdu's Past Illuminate Tomorrow's Digital World?

An archive preserves what time threatens to erase. A radio studio carries a voice beyond the walls that contain it. An animation lab gives movement to imagination. Yet, when these spaces come together within a university, their significance extends far beyond equipment and infrastructure. They raise a more fundamental question: what intellectual traditions should guide the storytellers of tomorrow, and what responsibilities must accompany their growing technological power?

This question lends particular significance to the recent developments at Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU). On 9 October 2026, the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism inaugurated a Professor Syed Ainal Hasan Media Archival Display Unit, Animation Lab, Radio Studio, Cafeteria and

Visual Gallery. The facilities were inaugurated by Vice-Chancellor Professor Syed Ainal Hasan in the presence of faculty members, research scholars and students. Beyond their immediate contribution to practical training, they offer the department an opportunity to articulate a larger vision, one that brings Urdu's intellectual and cultural heritage into dialogue with the demands of contemporary media.

The real achievement will not lie simply in possessing the means to produce media, but in developing the intellectual capacity to decide what deserves to be produced, how it should be represented and why it matters. The Distinctive Possibility of MANUU

Every media institution teaches its students to work with the tools of communication. MANUU has the opportunity to go a step

further: to connect technical competence with the cultural memory, linguistic resources and critical traditions that can give media production a distinctive intellectual character and to project what is not seen, heard and felt.

Urdu's contribution to journalism, literature, poetry, public debate, performance and popular expression constitutes a rich field of inquiry. Its history offers material not only for preservation but also for investigation: how public opinion has evolved, how social experiences have been narrated, how ideas have travelled between communities, and how language has shaped the relationship between institutions and citizens.

This inheritance should not be confined to commemorative occasions or treated as a collection of literary artefacts. It can be-

come a living resource for documentary film-making, audio journalism, animation, digital exhibitions and historical research.

Here lies an important opportunity for MANUU. Its Urdu-centred identity need not limit its media ambitions; it can inform an approach that connects linguistic heritage with multilingual communication, historical research with contemporary production, and creative expression with professional responsibility. The proposition is not that Urdu's past possesses ready-made answers to every challenge of digital communication. Rather, it contains histories, forms of expression and intellectual resources through which those challenges can be examined with greater depth. Heritage becomes relevant not when it is merely preserved, but when it enables

us to ask better questions about the present.

An Archive Must Do More Than Remember

An archive is never simply a room containing old objects. It is an organized encounter with memory, evidence and historical interpretation. Every preserved instrument, photograph, document or recording offers clues to the circumstances in which people communicated. Every gap in the record raises another question: whose voices were preserved, whose experiences were overlooked, and what remains to be recovered? The Media Archival Display Unit at MANUU offers a valuable starting point for this inquiry. Its historical musical and media instruments can help students trace changing technologies of communication and explore the relationship between sound, performance.

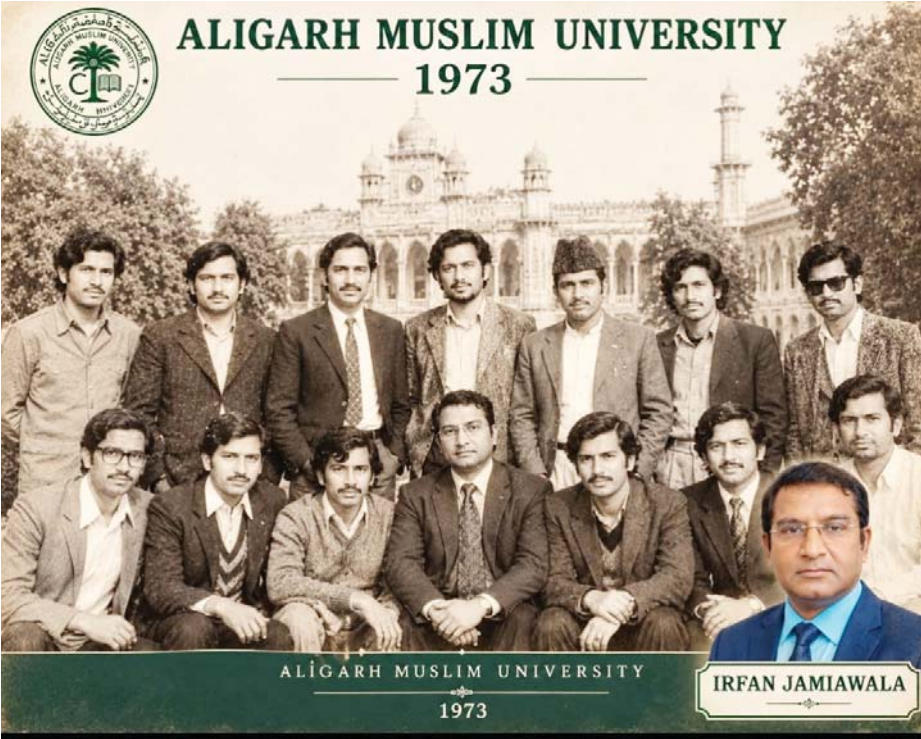
Where Do AMU's Women Alumni Stand? Irfan Jamiawala raises questions for AMU, its alumni and the wider Muslim community

Irfan Jamiawala
Social Worker | Writer | Journalist | Advocate for Students' Rights

Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) occupies an important place in the educational, intellectual and social history of India. It has produced generations of scholars, scientists, writers, journalists, artists, administrators and social workers. Women who have studied at the university have also contributed to society in numerous fields.

Yet an important question deserves serious public discussion.

If both male and female students study at Aligarh Muslim University, why is the alumni identity associated with an "Old Boys Association"? Where do its women graduates stand in terms of identity, membership, representation and leadership?



tion Must Lead to Equal Opportunities for Leadership

Women's empowerment cannot end with access to education. It must also include equal opportunities to participate in institutional governance, leadership, decision-making and public life.

Encouraging daughters to attend universities is important. Recognising their achievements and giving them an equal voice in the institutions they graduate from is equally important.

This principle applies not only to AMU but also to educational institutions and alumni organisations across India.

Irfan Jamiawala's Message

Irfan Jamiawala poses a straightforward question: "If women graduates are also part of Aligarh Muslim University's academic legacy, why should they not enjoy equal recognition, membership, representation and leadership opportunities? Is appreciating the achievements of women graduates enough, or does genuine equality also require giving them an equal place in our institutions?"

This is not merely a question about the name of an association. It is an invitation to examine whether institutional identity reflects the contributions of all those who have studied there. AMU, its alumni organisations and members of the wider Muslim community should address this issue through an open, evidence-based and constructive dialogue. An institution's legacy becomes stronger when all its graduates—women and men alike—receive equal respect and meaningful opportunities to contribute.

Early detection key to curing leprosy, says Warangal DMHO

Warangal, Oct 18 (GNS): Warangal District Medical and Health Officer Dr B. Raja Reddy has stressed the importance of identifying leprosy symptoms at an early stage, urging people to seek medical examination without delay to prevent complications and disability. As part of the National Leprosy Eradication Programme, a refresher training programme on the Leprosy Case Detection Campaign (LCDC) was conducted at the conference hall of the District Medical and Health Officer's office in Warangal on Friday under his supervision. Dr. Raja Reddy said ASHA workers and healthcare personnel

would conduct house-to-house visits from October 22 to November 4, 2026, to create awareness about leprosy and screen people for symptoms of the disease. The campaign aims to examine every individual in every household and identify suspected cases for further medical evaluation. He advised people who notice copper-coloured or brown patches on their bodies accompanied by a loss of sensation to avoid neglecting the symptoms. They should immediately inform the ASHA workers or healthcare personnel visiting their homes or undergo a medical examination at the nearest health centre.

The DMHO said leprosy could be completely cured if detected early and treated fully under medical supervision. However, ignoring the symptoms could lead to nerve damage and disability, he warned.

He urged people to overcome misconceptions and stigma surrounding leprosy and come forward for screening if they notice any symptoms. Deputy DMHO/ District Immunisation Officer Dr. I. Prakash, programme officers Dr. Iktidar Ahmad and Dr. Arun Joshi, Leprosy Medical Officer Dr. Manasa, Deputy Paramedical Officer Venkanna, Deputy District Extension and Media Officer .



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