

MP Govt must plug gaps in land rights, tribal welfare: LoP Rahul Gandhi during Balaghat visit

Bhopal, Oct 1 (GNS): Leader of Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Thursday put the spotlight on gaps in healthcare, education, welfare delivery and land rights in Madhya Pradesh's tribal belt during his visit to Balaghat, where he met families who lost their children amid reports of illness and malnutrition and urged the government to plug the leaks.

LoP Rahul Gandhi's visit to Jagla village in Birsia block came against the backdrop of a dispute over the number of deaths among tribal children. While the Madhya Pradesh administration has acknowledged 32 deaths, the Congress has claimed that the real figure is 43.

After meeting the Baiga families, LoP Gandhi said the issue was not limited to the deaths of the children but reflected wider problems concerning access to basic



services and implementation of government schemes in Madhya Pradesh.

"There are issues regarding land, rural employment scheme and land rights. Many children have died, yet their families have not even received proper compensation. Half of the people have not received compensation,"

LoP Gandhi told reporters.

He demanded that the Chief Minister Mohan Yadav government ensure that tribal families receive benefits guaranteed to them under existing laws and schemes, particularly land rights under the Forest Rights Act.

"At the very least, they should be granted their

rights under the Forest Rights Act and receive their land titles. Provide education and hospitals here," LoP Gandhi said. LoP Gandhi also questioned the condition of healthcare and educational infrastructure in the area, saying the claims of development needed to be matched by delivery of basic services

to people living in remote tribal villages. The Congress leader also raised the issue of welfare benefits, alleging that tribal beneficiaries receiving assistance under one government scheme were being denied benefits under the Ladli Behna Yojana.

He said such benefits were the entitlement of eligible beneficiaries and urged the government to ensure that welfare schemes were implemented without depriving people of their rights.

LoP Gandhi also criticised the renaming of MGNREGA, saying the government should focus on making the employment guarantee scheme functional rather than merely changing its name. "It appears as though they have been abandoned in the heart of India, with neither the Central government nor the Madhya Pradesh government seemingly present," he said.

Saudi-Led coalition says Houthis attacked power station in Medina

Riyadh, Oct 1 (GNS): The Saudi-led coalition fighting Yemen's Houthis said on Thursday the militant group had attacked a power distribution station in Medina this week, putting one transformer out of service but without affecting the electricity network. The coalition said an investigation and examination of drone wreckage confirmed Houthi involvement in planning and carrying out Tuesday's attack. It said the station supplies electricity to the Prophet's Mosque, one of Islam's holiest sites.

A Houthi military source, quoted by the Houthi-run Saba news agency, denied the accusation, calling it a "lie" and saying it was intended to cover up what he described as Saudi Arabia's failure to substantiate its earlier accusation that the Houthis targeted the Muslim holy city of Mecca.

Saudi Arabia said two weeks ago it had intercepted and destroyed a Houthi drone south



of Mecca before it entered restricted airspace over the city. The coalition described that incident as the second Houthi attempt to target Mecca since 2017, while the Houthis denied targeting Mecca or any other Islamic holy site.

The coalition said the Medina attack was part of what it described as repeated Houthi attempts to target the Two Holy Mosques and "provoke" Muslims worldwide. It said it would continue taking mea-

sures to protect the holy sites and pilgrims. The latest escalation is the most serious fighting between Saudi Arabia and the Iran-aligned Houthis since a UN-brokered truce largely halted cross-border attacks in 2022. Hostilities resumed this year after the Houthis declared a naval blockade on Saudi Arabia in July and began attacking Saudi territory and shipping, while Houthi forces also made major territorial gains along Yemen's Red Sea coast.

Election process in India has been Hijacked, centralised: Mamata Banerjee

New Delhi, Oct 1 (GNS): Former West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday lashed out at Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar amid a row over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, alleging that the election process in India has been "hijacked" and made "centralised" to "satisfy" the BJP-led Centre.

Addressing a press conference in Delhi, she referred to the CEC as 'Vanish Kumar', saying: "Someone who has tried to snatch away citizens' voting rights, who am I to forgive him? It has to be decided by the people of India."

Alleging voter deletions in West Bengal, she said areas won by the (undivided) Trinamool Congress saw higher deletions.

"We went to courts, even went to the EC office with a hundred 'victims' of the SIR...but they insulted us. Further, when our party MPs went to meet the EC regarding the party symbol, they



were asked to 'get lost', " she said. The former Bengal CM also questioned the immunity provision enacted in 2023 for the Chief Election Commissioner and election commissioners.

"The immunity bill was passed when 147 MPs were suspended from the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. Otherwise, it would not have been supported by the majority... it is similar to a poisonous snake bite. Law cannot be taken into one's own hands in the name of 'so-called' im-

munity," she remarked.

Referring to 'vote chori' allegations by the Congress and RJD preceding the Bihar Assembly polls, Banerjee said: "It was already late by then...they tried, but details had to be studied further."

Reading out what she said were 'facts', the former CM claimed: "EVM machines were burned in Bengal...the BJP masterminded the SIR."

"From 2021 to 2026 polls, almost 3.5 lakh voters were removed from the electoral rolls," she said.

CJP's Dipke dares Fadnavis Govt to arrest him ahead of Mumbai agitation

Mumbai, Oct 1 (GNS): Launching a direct and fiery broadside at Maharashtra Chief Minister and Home Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) founder Abhijeet Dipke on Thursday warned the state government against making tactical errors, daring the authorities to arrest him ahead of CJP's scheduled demonstrations from October 2 in Mumbai.

"Do not repeat the mistake committed on July 20. If you want to arrest us, do it right now," he declared during a press conference in Mumbai, setting a tense backdrop for his party's upcoming agitation against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar.

Calling Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar a "traitor to the nation," Dipke demanded his immediate resignation over allegations of widespread electoral roll manipulation.



He accused the ruling coalition of engaging in state-sponsored disenfranchisement and using the Election Commission of India (ECI) as a political tool. "Whoever sits as the Chief Election Commissioner must be transparent. The 13 crore voters whose names were deleted across the country will hit the streets, and when they do, the public will demand the resignation of Gyanesh Kumar's bosses," Dipke asserted.

He further demanded that the Election Commission freeze the recent Special Summary Revision

(SIR) lists and conduct upcoming elections strictly using the 2005 voter lists.

Addressing questions regarding police authorisation for the demonstrations, Dipke rejected the necessity of official approval, drawing a historical parallel to the Indian freedom struggle.

"Which of our protests was ever granted permission? We are protesting democratically against the ruling power — why would they permit it? Had Mahatma Gandhi asked the British for permission to protest, they would have refused him too. Permission or not, we will march," he said. Taking a direct swipe at CM Fadnavis over his recent remarks that protesters face a three-day jail term before securing bail, Dipke scoffed, "Keep me in jail for three months instead of three days... I will return to the streets again and again," echoing Fadnavis's famous political slogan.

India, Fiji Discuss Defence Cooperation

Free and open Indo-Pacific

New Delhi, Oct 1 (GNS): India and Fiji on Thursday discussed strengthening defence and maritime cooperation, defence industry engagement, capacity building and training, and enhancing collaboration towards a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific. The discussions took place during a meeting between Minister of State for Defence Sanjay Seth and Fiji's Permanent Secretary for Defence and Veterans Affairs, Mason Smith, in New Delhi on Thursday.

"Permanent Secretary for Defence and Veterans Affairs, Fiji, Mr Mason Smith, called on Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth in New Delhi on October 01, 2026. Discussions focused on strengthening India-Fiji defence and maritime cooperation, defence industry engagement, capacity building and training, and enhancing collaboration towards a free, open and



inclusive Indo-Pacific," the Ministry of Defence's Directorate of Public Relations posted on X. On Monday, Smith held a meeting with Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh, holding discussions on further strengthening defence and maritime cooperation between India and Fiji.

"Permanent Secretary for Defence and Veterans Affairs, Fiji, Mr Mason Smith met Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh in New Delhi on September 28, 2026. Discussions focused on strengthening bilateral defence and maritime cooperation, including greater defence industry collaboration.

India, Bulgaria Stress Early India-EU FTA Implementation

New Delhi, Oct 1 (GNS): India's Secretary (West) at the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Sibi George, and Bulgaria's Deputy Minister

of Foreign Affairs, Christo Polendakov, co-chaired the India-Bulgaria Foreign Office Consultations, with both sides emphasising the



early implementation of the India-European Union (EU) Free Trade Agreement (FTA), the MEA stated on X on Thursday. "Secretary (West) Sibi George co-chaired the India-Bulgaria Foreign Office Consultations with Mr Christo Polendakov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bulgaria," the Ministry stated.

"They reviewed all aspects of bilateral cooperation, including political engagements, trade and investment, science & technology, AI, space, defence and people-to-people ties," it added. The two sides

pitched for an early rollout of the trade pact between India and the 27-nation bloc. "Both sides emphasised the early implementation of the India-EU FTA, which would contribute to further strengthening of economic ties. They also exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest," said the ME. Last week, India and the EU discussed ways to strengthen further cooperation in the tourism, hospitality and transport sectors. The discussions took place during a meeting between Sibi George and EU Com-

missioner for Sustainable Transport and Tourism, Apostolos Tzitzikostas, on the sidelines of the 81st session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York on September 25.

"Secretary (West), Sibi George, met with Mr Apostolos Tzitzikostas, EU Commissioner for Sustainable Transport and Tourism, on the sidelines of UNGA81.

They discussed ways to further strengthen cooperation in the tourism, hospitality and transport sectors, as part of the broader India-EU partnership," the MEA stated on X. Earlier that day, Sibi George welcomed the adoption of the United Nations Declaration on Sea Level Rise and highlighted India's efforts on coastal resilience, mangrove conservation and disaster-resilient infrastructure. He made these statements while delivering India's statement at the High-Level Plenary Meeting on Addressing the Existential Threats Posed by Sea Level Rise at the 81st session of the UNGA.

K'taka CM meets CEO, seek action over alleged bid to delete voters through pre-filled form 7

Bengaluru, Oct 1 (GNS): Karnataka Chief Minister, D.K. Shivakumar, and his Cabinet colleagues on Thursday submitted a representation to State Chief Electoral Officer Anbukumar, urging him to register a case against those allegedly involved in a conspiracy to delete genuine voters belonging to minority communities, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes from the electoral rolls, through pre-filled Form 7 applications.

CM Shivakumar visited the office of the State Election Commission in Gandhinagar, Bengaluru, and submitted the representation to Anbukumar.

CM Shivakumar alleged that pre-filled details were being used through Form 7 to seek the deletion of names of legitimate voters belonging to minority communities, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward



Classes, from the electoral rolls. He urged the Chief Electoral Officer to initiate legal action and register cases against those involved in the alleged conspiracy.

KPCC President B.K. Hariprasad, Ministers Priyank Kharge, S.S. Mallikarjun, Eshwar Khandre and M.B. Patil, BDA chairman N.A. Haris, former Legislative Council Chairman V.R. Sudarshan and others were present on the occasion. CM Shivakumar in his

letter to CEO Anbukumar stated, "As the Chief Minister of Karnataka it is my bounden duty to protect the rights of every eligible voter in a state and to ensure that the electoral revision process is conducted in a free, fair transparent and legally compliant manner. No eligible citizen, irrespective of religion, caste, community or social background, should be deprived of the right to remain on the electoral roll.

ISLAMIA COLLEGE OF LAW
Affiliated to Osmania University, Approved by B.C.I., New Delhi,
Address : #18-13-8/IHC/15, Chandrayangutta, Bandlaguda, Hyd

Head Office: #17-3-1/5, SRT Colony, Yakuthpura, Hyd.
Ph. No: 9347683872, Website: www.islamiacollegeoflaw.co.in

SPOT ADMISSION NOTIFICATION 2026-2027

The Candidates, who have been allotted a seat in the College, have to report on or before 5th October 2026, otherwise his / her admission stands cancelled. The Left over seats details list available at our website www.islamiacollegeoflaw.co.in

SL.NO.	COURSE	VACANT SEATS
1	LL.B. (3 YDC)	53
2	LL.B. HONS (3 YDC)	65
3.	BA-LL.B. (5 YDC)	31
4.	BBA-LL.B (5 YDC)	17

The Interested candidates who have qualified in TGLAWCET-2025 may apply for Spot Admission through our college link:
<https://lawcetadm.tgche.ac.in/spot/info/?cc=islcl>
The Candidates must report to the College Head Office (Yakuthpura) between 10th to 12th October 2025 before 12:00 Noon and submit all original certificates along with 2 sets of Xerox.

Note: Spot Admission Candidates are not eligible for Scholarship Reimbursement.

PRINCIPAL

When Democracy Meant Patience: Patel and the Choice Not to Force Consensus

Gurpreet Mahajan

During times of peace, it is relatively easy to be democratic; the test arises when we are faced with social and political turmoil. By the end of 1948, rocked by the Partition and the ensuing communal violence, anxieties about social fragmentation and separatism were tangible within the Constituent Assembly and outside it. In this demanding situation, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel set a new benchmark for what a democracy is and should aspire to be.

As the chairman of the special sub-committee set up to re-examine political safeguards for religious minorities, he said: "I was anxious that the representatives of the minorities on the Committee should have adequate time both to gauge public opinion among their people, and to reflect fully on the amendments proposed, so that a change, if affected, would be one sought voluntarily by the minorities themselves", and "not imposed on them by the majority community".

Patel's words echoed the framers' commitment to democracy. A high-powered committee, with Jawaharlal Nehru, Rajendra Prasad, KM Munshi and BR Ambedkar as its members, had recommended the withdrawal of separate representation for religious minorities. The Sikh representatives were reluctant to accept this recommendation and wanted more time to consult and reflect on the proposed changes. The political stature of the members of the sub-committee



should itself have elicited compliance. But this did not happen. There was political urgency to settle the issue. Yet, Patel, along with the committee members, did not force a consensus. They heard and respected the wishes of even this small group of representatives. To give Sikhs more time, he adjourned the meeting.

The majority of the representatives, including members of other minorities, had accepted the recommendations of the special sub-committee. Even most of the Muslim representatives agreed that separate representation for religious minorities be abandoned. It was the need of the hour. Under these conditions, the sub-committee could easily have ignored a few Sikh voices. After all, numbers were on their side.

They could also have appealed to national interest. But this did not happen. Despite the extenuating circumstances and the

weight of the numerical majority with them, Patel offered a political reasoning that defined what it means to be democratic. He did not want a major decision to be imposed upon a community.

This was a spectacular lesson in what democracy entails. Today, democracy is associated with elections and rule by elected representatives. For analysts, leaders and students of political science, elections are the peg around which democracies are anchored. A few other elements — separation of powers, rule of law, respect for human rights — are thrown in for good measure, but it is winning or losing elections that matters the most. Probably because we believe that winners decide the course of things to come: they determine the policies that will be formulated. The future rests in their hands.

Against this myopic vision of what democracy is, Patel and the leader-

ship of the sub-committee presented a grand alternative. They did not simply espouse an ideal of deliberation, they stood by it and acted upon it; showed us that democracy requires the willingness to trust and walk the mile to meet those who disagree. The moral power of this gesture compelled the other side (the dissenting voices) also to take the committee's reasoning seriously, and they too agreed to accept the recommendations. Eventually, the sub-committee on minorities voluntarily accepted the decision to withdraw separate representation for religious minorities.

The members of the Constituent Assembly functioned with exemplary patience in a situation of extreme political urgency. They listened to each other, to similar, and at times, the same arguments, being presented again and again, in a sub-committee, then in the larger body, when spe-

cific provisions were being discussed, and again when the entire draft of the Constitution was discussed. In doing so, they taught the world what it means to live in a democracy and live by the idea of democracy.

The issue before the special sub-committee was political safeguards for minorities. Hence, in his statement, Patel alluded to religious minorities. However, his reasoning addressed all of us: future generations of leaders, assemblies of representatives and each of us in our individual capacity and places of work and collective existence. Differences and disagreements are unavoidable, and if we stand committed to a democratic way of life, we need to make space for them, listen to them and work to build a consensus.

The Constituent Assembly left us with this thinking at a time when theories of deliberative democracy were not on the scene and ideas of a well-functioning democracy few and far between. America was seen at best as a polyarchy, and Carl Schmitt's advice that real politics requires a distinction between friends and foes resounded in Europe.

In this environment, the political leaders who shaped our republic and framed the Constitution stood alone and stood tall. They may have toured various countries and read their constitutions and laws closely, but they shaped the process of deliberation and decision-making in accordance with their convictions about the value of democracy.

Death Penalty in India: From Judicial Process to Executive Discretion

Sanjay Hegde

Justice Frankfurter of the US Supreme Court once wrote: "A phrase begins life as a literary expression; its felicity leads to its lazy repetition; and repetition soon establishes it as a legal formula, indiscriminately used to express different and sometimes contradictory ideas." The phrase, rarest of the rare, when applied to capital punishment cases, has suffered the same fate.

On the day a court in Kerala ordered the death penalty for Greeshma, who had poisoned her boyfriend, a court in Kolkata ensured that Sanjay Roy, who was convicted of the rape and murder of a young doctor at Kolkata's RG Kar Medical College and Hospital, escaped the noose.

This brings us to the question of what exactly is a "rarest of the rare" case that warrants the death sentence. The phrase comes from the 1982 judgment of the Supreme Court in Bachan Singh vs Punjab, which upheld the constitutionality of death sentences. Justice RS Sarkaria, writing for the majority, concluded: "A real and abiding concern for the dignity of human life postulates resistance to taking a life through law's instrumentality. That ought not to be done save in the rarest of rare cases when the alternative option is unquestionably foreclosed."

In the 40-odd years since the Bachan Singh judgment, the rarest of the rare formula has resulted in what judges have called a lethal lottery in execu-



tions. It is a rare sessions judge who resists the local outcry in cases that have attracted media attention. But a sessions judge's verdict of the imposition of the death penalty is subject to confirmation by a high court. Any death sentence so confirmed is invariably appealed to the Supreme Court. Even if such appeal is dismissed by the Supreme Court, the court has, by a judgment in the Mohammed Arif case, bound itself to orally hear for at least half an hour a review petition in open court. It is only after every court option is closed that executive powers of remission and pardon are invoked. The presidential power of pardon has often been coloured by the incumbent of the office. Presidents APJ Abdul Kalam and Pratibha Patil

were not inclined to reject pleas for mercy and simply refused to clear such files. President Pranab Mukherjee, however, went by ministerial advice and routinely signed clemency files without exercising any personal discretion. The decadal delay in disposing of clemency applications resulted in the Supreme Court interdicting several executions in the Shatrughan Chauhan case of 2014.

Thus, from a sessions judge's pen to the hangman's noose, there are a multiplicity of files and procedures that may delay or divert the ultimate execution of a death sentence.

Faced with these vagaries, the Supreme Court came out with a third way in a case that I had argued for the prosecution. In the 2009 case of Swamy Shrad-

dananda, Justice Aftab Alam, writing for a three-judge Bench, took note of the fact that many life sentences were commuted after 14 years of imprisonment. While a death sentence may not be warranted, 14 years was simply inadequate in particularly heinous murders.

The judgment records: "A far more just, reasonable and proper course would be to expand the options and to take over what, as a matter of fact, lawfully belongs to the Court, ie the vast hiatus between 14 years' imprisonment and death. It needs to be emphasised that the Court would take recourse to the expanded option primarily because in the facts of the case, the sentence of 14 years' imprisonment would amount to no punishment

at all." It is in the above background of Supreme Court judgments that one must read and applaud Judge Anirban Das, who ruled, "Given these considerations, it would be inappropriate to accede to the prosecution's request for the death penalty. While acknowledging the immense grief and suffering of the victim's parents, for which no sentence can provide complete solace, the court's duty is to pass a sentence that is proportionate, just and in accordance with established legal principles. In conclusion, this case calls for a carefully considered and appropriate sentence that balances the gravity of the crime with the principles of justice, rehabilitation and the preservation of human dignity. The court must resist the temptation to bow to public pressure or emotional appeals and instead focus on delivering a verdict that upholds the integrity of the legal system and serves the broader interests of justice."

Following an announcement by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, the West Bengal government has approached the Calcutta High Court, seeking imposition of the death sentence to Sanjay Roy. In the Kerala case, the death sentence awarded to Greeshma will be subject to a reference to the high court. I would be surprised if the life of either accused ultimately ended on the hangman's noose.

But then, the lethal lottery of life and law has its own way of surprising practitioners and petitioners alike.

'One Border, One Force': India's Approach to Border Management

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 Ministry 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 principle 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 components. 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 short-sighted. 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.

The first and foremost requirement is empowerment of the CAPFs for their designated roles. It is predicated on the implementation of the police reforms recommended by the Prakash Singh Committee. They have been duly reiterated by the Supreme Court.

While the states have not implemented the suggested reforms, the Union government can set the pace for empowering the CAPFs and police in states ruled by NDA governments.

Next, the CAPFs have roles that require specialisation and force ethos. The use of the CAPFs as a cadre management avenue for senior ranks in the IPS needs to be reviewed. Para-dropping in CAPFs at apex ranks and shifting of DGs degrade cadre cohesion.

The CAPFs must have their own integral cadres, like the Coast Guard. The army, too, should yield control of the Assam Rifles. Regarding the border defence role, the BSF on the LoC and the ITBP on the LAC should operate under the undiluted operational control of the army.

Additionally, the large-scale deployment of the CAPFs for elections has impacted their availability for other mandated tasks. The electoral process should be made less dependent on the CAPFs, with the police and Home Guards shouldering the challenge. The influx of infiltrators as an electoral issue has resulted in the counter-accusation that border management is ineffective and porous.

The BSF, except in West Bengal, has been allowed to operate up to 50 km in the hinterland along the borders, enhancing its effectiveness. Viksit Bharat can only happen in a 'surakshit Bharat'. For that, the CAPFs need to take up the challenge and become accountable. The army is observing 2025 as the 'Year of Reforms'. The CAPFs could consider making it the 'Year of Empowerment and Accountability'.

Garments Anchor Bangladesh's Export Recovery

Bangladesh has seen a sharp decline in projected economic growth after the recent upheavals stemming from the "Monsoon Revolution", leading to the replacement of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government with an interim administration led by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus. But the country has not plunged into an economic crisis, which may have surprised some people. Yet, those who have followed Bangladesh's development trajectory know better. Unlike Pakistan or Sri Lanka, which have struggled to maintain economic stability, Bangladesh has some solid sources of economic resilience — garments, remittances and decent social sector delivery mechanisms. The political protests in July and August 2024 and their aftermath have certainly had an impact. The uprising led to repression and violence, internet shutdowns and transport disruptions, among other issues. Communications with buyers were cut off for a while.

All this affected the economic activity, with official estimates of the GDP showing a growth of only 1.8 per cent during the quarter July-September 2024. The World Bank, in its latest Bangladesh Economic Update, has reduced its base case GDP growth forecast for FY25 (Bangladesh's fiscal year is July to June) to 4 per cent, down from an annual average of about 6 per cent during the previous three years. The IMF forecast, at 3.8 per cent, is in the same range. While there is much uncertainty about the future, there are also positive sentiments around the firm action taken to repair the financial sector and expectations about other reforms related to governance and the investment climate. Thus, the FY26 growth is expected to bounce back to 5.5 per cent while the IMF projects an even higher 6.7 per cent.

Notably, the recent White Paper on the State of the Bangladesh Economy has questioned, among other things, the reported growth rate of the economy in the last 15 years. However, the core arguments of this essay will remain largely unaffected by any resultant corrections that the current or future governments of Bangladesh may undertake. Steady export growth over the last two decades — driven by the garment industry — has been one pillar of the Bangladesh economy. This stands in contrast to Pakistan and Sri Lanka and has helped Bangladesh to preserve macroeconomic stability and lower its vulnerability to external shocks. Within exports, the readymade garments sector stands out, accounting for about 85 per cent of goods exports. Bangladesh remains the world's second largest exporter of garments, with exports valued at \$38 billion in 2023. While the factory closures and communication disruptions did impact exports, the industry seems to be recovering quickly.

In fact, over the period July to December 2024, garment exports rose by 13.3 per cent compared to July-December 2023, a number that does not suggest an industry in trouble! Bangladesh has strong fundamentals that enable it to dominate the low-cost apparel segment, including cost competitiveness.

Space Technology Powers Governance, Security, and India’s Growth Story

New Delhi, Oct 1 (GNS): India's space budget almost tripled in the last 10 years -- from Rs 5,615 crore in 2013-14 to Rs 13,416 crore in 2025-26 -- the government said.

According to Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, India's space technology is no longer confined only to the launch of rockets, but is also playing a major role in revolutionising governance by supplementing transparency, grievance redressal and citizen participation.

"In the process, there is reduced scope of corrupt practices, more discipline in observing timelines and less of so called red-tapism," he said while addressing the 'Space-Tech for Good Governance' Conclave here. The number of space startups has grown from one to more than 300, positioning India as a key revenue generator in the global space market. India has launched 433 foreign satellites, with 396 of them launched since 2014, generating \$192 million and 272 million euros in revenue. Emphasizing Prime Minister Naren-



dra Modi's leadership, Dr Singh explained how space technology is playing a pivotal role in bringing ease of living for common citizens through good governance. The space technology has now become integral to every Indian household, powering various governance services enabled by satellites from the Department of Space, said the minister. Dr Singh also pointed out that space technology also plays a critical role in national defence, border surveillance, and geopolitical intelligence, contributing signifi-

cantly to India's security. The minister underscored the growing significance of India's space sector as an attractive avenue -- not only for startups and livelihood generation but also for transforming the governance practices. The minister also emphasised space technology's role in India's agricultural sector — one of the major pillars of the economy — stating that it has become an invaluable force multiplier in improving decision-making, weather forecasting, communication, disaster pre-

paredness, early warning systems, urban planning, and security. Dr Singh noted that India's neighbouring countries increasingly depend on India's satellite systems, further strengthening India's position as a regional space leader. "Gone are the days when we used to take the lead from others. Now, India sets the cue for others to follow, said the minister, citing the successful Chandrayaan-3 mission, which made India the first nation to reach the southern pole of the Moon.

Startup Funding Surges: \$1.65 bn Raised in February, InsuranceDekho Leads Big Deals

New Delhi, Oct 1 (GNS): At least 30 startups secured more than \$355 million this week, which included three growth-stage and 20 early-stage deals. This is stupendous growth of at least 355 per cent from the previous week, when the domestic startup ecosystem witnessed \$105.87 million in fund-raising by 21 startups.

HR tech platform DarwinBox topped the chart with \$140 million in Series D round led by Partners Group and KKR. The round also saw participation from Gravity Holdings. Edtech platform Leap Finance secured \$100 million debt facility from London headquartered-HSBC Bank under its ASEAN Growth Fund. This follows Leap's \$65 million Series E equity round led by Apis Partners last month, taking it total fundraise to over \$400 million. Insurtech startup InsuranceDekho secured \$70 million, which was co-led by private equity fund Beams Fintech Fund, Japan's Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group (MUFG)



and insurer BNP Paribas Cardif, via its insurtech fund managed by European investment major Eurazeo. Meanwhile, 20 early-stage startups secured funding worth \$45.02 million, led by revenue AI platform MaxiQ and enterprise tech startup Beacon.li, among others. Bengaluru-based startups led with 12 deals followed by Delhi-NCR, Mumbai and others.

Domestic startups raised a total of nearly Rs 13,800 crore (\$1.65 billion) in February this year, a 19.5 per cent increase from nearly Rs 11,460 crore (\$1.38 billion) in January. The median valuation of these startups in February 2025 stood at Rs 61,216 crore (\$83.2 billion). Over the course of the 2024-25 financial year, Indian startups collectively raised Rs 21,062 crore

(\$25.4 billion) across 2,200 funding rounds. Meanwhile, the Indian tech startup ecosystem now ranks second, after the US, in terms of all-time funding raised by companies with women founders, with a total of \$26 billion in this space to date. India is home to over 7,000 active women-led startups, accounting for 7.5 per cent of all active startups in the country.

Platform Workers Urged to Register on e-Shram as Enrolment Crosses 30.58 cr

New Delhi, Oct 1 (GNS): The Labour Ministry on Saturday urged the platform workers to self-register themselves on e-Shram portal, so that they may be considered for the benefits under the scheme at the earliest. The gig and platform economy is expanding, offering new jobs in sectors like ride-sharing, delivery, logistics, and professional services. NITI Aayog has projected that the gig economy in India will employ over 1 crore workers in 2024-25, subsequently reaching 2.35 crore by 2029-30. Recognizing the contribution of the gig and platform workers to the nation's economy, Union Budget 2025-26 announcement has provisions for registration of online platform workers on e-Shram portal, issue of identity cards, and healthcare coverage under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY). The AB-PMJAY health scheme provides a cover of Rs 5 lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalisation across over 31,000 public and private empanelled hospitals in India. For early imple-

mentation of these Budget provisions, the Ministry of Labour and Employment is soon launching the scheme, and has asked platform workers to register on e-Shram Portal for formal recognition and access to AB-PMJAY benefits. "As a first step, Ministry requests the Platform Workers to self-register themselves on e-Shram portal, so that they may be considered for the benefits under the scheme at the earliest," it added. The platform aggregators are also requested to disseminate this information among the platform workers engaged with them and facilitate them to register on e-Shram portal. Meanwhile, over 30.58 crore unorganised workers have been registered on the e-Shram Portal for receiving benefits under various social welfare schemes of the government. The e-Shram portal has registered over 1.23 crore workers in 2024, averaging 33,700 enrolments per day. The e-Shram portal is meant to register and support the unorganised workers by providing them with a Universal Account Number (UAN) on a self-declaration basis.

The e-Shram portal has been integrated with the National Career Service (NCS) Portal. An unorganised worker can register on NCS using his or her Universal Account Number (UAN) and search for suitable job opportunities. A link has also been provided to the workers registered on the e-Shram portal to seamlessly register on the NCS. The Ministry said the registration would help create a verified database of platform workers and enable them to access social security and welfare measures. Workers can register on the e-Shram portal through self-declaration and obtain a Universal Account Number (UAN), which can be used to access various government services. The Ministry also called upon gig economy companies and other platform aggregators to actively inform their workers about the registration process and assist them in completing e-Shram enrolment. It said wider registration would help ensure that eligible workers are brought under the proposed social security and healthcare coverage at the earliest.

Green Push for Ports: Tug Tenders, Shipping Corridor, and Sagarmala Boost

New Delhi, Oct 1 (GNS): India is poised to be among the top 5 ship-building countries in the world by 2047, with additional shipbuilding capacity of 4 million gross registered tonnage (GRT), Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, said. At the two-day 'Chintan Shivir 2025' in Srinagar, the minister directed the formulation of suitable policies and skill development initiatives, while encouraging collaboration with the state governments. He reviewed ongoing projects of the ministry worth Rs 2 lakh crore, and drew up a goal, after consultative deliberation with the experts of completing at least 150 projects by September this year. The event focused on strengthening India's shipbuilding and repair capabilities, improving financial and digital solutions for maritime infrastructure and pushing for a greener, more sustainable shipping industry. Emphasis was laid on achieving targets set out in Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision (MAKV) 2047. Among the major announcements made at the Chintan Shivir was establishing the Bharat

Container Shipping Line under the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI). "All major ports to tender for at least 1 Green Tug within the next 3 months. The Harbour Craft Green Transition Programme will be launched to accelerate the adoption of clean energy solutions across Indian ports," said the minister. A Coastal Green Shipping Corridor will be established, with the Kandla-Tuticorin corridor, being the first to be developed in partnership with SCI, Deendayal Port Authority (DPA) and V.O. Chidambaram Port Authority (VoC-PA). Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) will invest Rs 100 crore in 3 National Waterways in Jammu & Kashmir, boosting inland water transport and connectivity in the region. The Decade of Sagarmala Vision will be celebrated in March 2025. A Sagarmala Startup and Innovation Initiative (S2I2) will be launched, accompanied by the establishment of Maritime Innovation Hubs (MHs). India Ports Services Limited (IPSL) will be set up as a national platform for all major ports, providing end-

to-end services to enhance efficiency and competitiveness. The Mumbai International Cruise Terminal to commence commercial operations by April 2025, it was announced. The Sagarmala Digital Centre of Excellence (CoE), in collaboration with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), will be established to drive the digital transformation of the maritime sector. These initiatives aim to enhance port competitiveness, attract foreign investment, and drive economic growth. "Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India's maritime sector has witnessed remarkable growth. Our commitment to transforming ports and waterways remains unwavering," said Sonowal. The minister also stressed the need to modernise ship repair facilities and develop a skilled workforce to support the expansion of the maritime sector. The government plans to encourage public-private partnerships and greater participation of state governments to strengthen shipbuilding, repair, and related mari-

India-EU Set to Accelerate Talks on FTA

New Delhi, Oct 1 (GNS): India and the European Union are scheduled to begin the next round of talks for a proposed free trade agreement (FTA) from Monday in Brussels with the aim of concluding the talks by the end of this year, a senior official said. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen had agreed to expedite the conclusion of the India-EU free trade agreement (FTA) by the end of the year at their meeting in Delhi last month. "A free trade agreement between the EU and India would be the largest deal of this kind anywhere in the world. I am well aware it will not be easy. But I also know that timing and determination count and that this partnership comes at the right moment for both of us," Von der Leyen, said during her two-day visit to India. Her statement came in the backdrop of massive tariff hikes proposed against all countries by US President Donald Trump under his 'America First' policy which is threatening to disrupt global trade and heighten uncertainty

in the global economy. PM Modi and the European Commission President committed to task their respective negotiating teams to pursue negotiations for a balanced, ambitious, and mutually beneficial FTA. Officials were asked to work as trusted partners to enhance market access and remove trade barriers. They were also tasked to advance negotiations on an Agreement on Investment Protection and an Agreement on Geographical Indications. Reaching a deal will be complex, however, with significant concessions wanted on both sides in areas ranging from cars and whisky to pharmaceuticals and textiles. The EU wants India to lower tariffs on cars, wine, and whisky as well as some agricultural products. India, on the other hand, wants greater market access and lower tariffs for key exports, including pharmaceuticals, textiles, and apparel. The EU is India's largest trading partner, accounting for 124 billion euros of trade in goods in 2023, or 12.2 per cent of total Indian trade.

FM Sitharaman Flags Global Uncertainty, Pushes Higher Public Shareholding in PSBs

New Delhi, Oct 1 (GNS): Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has said that Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates will be reduced further as the process of rationalising tax slabs is nearing completion. FM Sitharaman mentioned that the revenue neutral rate (RNR), which was 15.8 per cent when GST was introduced in July 2017, has now come down to 11.4 per cent in 2023 and will decrease further. Speaking at a media event in the national capital, FM Sitharaman said that the work on simplifying GST slabs is almost finished. The GST Council, which is led by the finance minister and includes state finance ministers, is expected to take a final decision soon. "Now, at this stage, there is one more look that I would (take) the groups (GoM) have done excellent work, but I still have taken it upon myself to, once more, completely review each of the groups' works, and then probably take it to take it to the Council to see if we can come to a final conclusion on this," the Finance Minister stated. The GoM was set up in September 2021 to suggest changes in GST rates and slabs. This committee consists of finance ministers from six states and has been working on making the tax system more efficient. The rationalisation process includes reducing the number of tax slabs, streamlining rates, and addressing key concerns raised by different industries. The Union Minister emphasised that a final review is underway before presenting the proposal at the next GST Council meeting. "We'll take it to the next council (meeting). We are very close to coming to a final call on some of the very critical issues, reduction, rationalisation of rates, looking at the number of slabs and so on," FM Sitharaman said. When asked about stock market volatility, the finance minister attributed it to global uncertainties, including wars, disruptions in the Red Sea, and piracy threats. FM Sitharaman said that predicting absolute stability in the markets is difficult

due to these unpredictable global factors. On the government's plans for public sector banks, the Union Minister added that the efforts are being made to increase public shareholding. The goal is to have more retail investors in public sector banks, which will enhance public participation in the banking sector. Regarding the India-US trade deal, the Finance Minister mentioned that both countries are working towards a mutually beneficial agreement. FM Sitharaman also highlighted that India is actively engaged in negotiations with the European Union and the United Kingdom, ensuring that national interests remain a priority. The Finance Minister said the proposed changes are aimed at making the GST structure simpler and easier for taxpayers to understand. The rationalisation exercise is expected to examine the existing slabs and determine whether further consolidation is possible. The revenue neutral rate has steadily declined since the introduction of GST

in 2017. Sitharaman said the RNR, which stood at 15.8 per cent at the time of GST rollout, fell to 11.4 per cent in 2023 and is expected to decline further after the proposed changes. The Group of Ministers (GoM) constituted to examine GST rate rationalisation has already submitted its recommendations. The panel comprises finance ministers from six states and has been examining various aspects of the tax structure, including the number of slabs and rates applicable to different goods and services. Sitharaman said she was undertaking another comprehensive review of the recommendations before placing the matter before the GST Council. The final decision on any changes will be taken by the Council, which comprises the Union Finance Minister and finance ministers of the states. On financial markets, Sitharaman said volatility was likely to continue amid uncertainties in the global economy. She referred to geopolitical conflicts, disruptions.

The domestic production of 'chana' was falling short. This relaxation was extended from time to time till the end of February. India's yellow peas imports stood at 30 lakh tonnes out of 67 lakh tonnes of overall pulses imported during 2024. The Centre has also been procuring pulses at MSP from domestic farmers after approval for the continuation of the integrated Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan (PM-AA-SHA) Scheme during the 15th Finance Commission cycle up to 2025-26. The scheme is aimed to help farmers get higher prices for their produce. The Government is committed to purchasing 100 per cent of Tur produced by farmers through central nodal agencies namely NAFED and NCCF according to the official statement. In order to incentivise the farmers to contribute to the enhancement of the domestic production of pulses and to reduce the dependence on imports,

Centre Approves 100% Pulses Procurement to Boost Domestic Production

New Delhi, Oct 1 (GNS): The Government has extended the duty-free import of yellow peas by three months till the end of May and clamped a duty of 10 per cent duty on imports of lentils (masur) with immediate effect, according to an official notification. The government has imposed a 10 per cent import duty on lentils (mosur) and extended the duty-free import of yellow peas by three months till May 31 this year to increase domestic availability of the pulses and keep prices in check. The government has levied a 5 per cent basic customs duty and 5 per cent Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess (AIDC) on lentils with effect from Saturday. The government has been tuning its tariff policy on pulses to keep inflation in check in the case of shortfalls and at the same encouraging domestic production. The government had allowed the duty-free import of yellow peas in December 2023 to control local prices as

the Government has allowed the procurement of Tur, Urad and Masur under PSS equivalent to 100 per cent of the production of the State for the procurement year 2024-25. The Government has also announced in Budget 2025 that procurement of Tur (Arhar), Urad and Masur up to 100 per cent of the production of the State will be continued for another four years through Central Nodal Agencies to achieve self-sufficiency in pulses in the country. Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shivraj Singh Chouhan recently said the Centre has approved the procurement of Tur (Arhar) in Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana and Uttar Pradesh under Price Support Scheme for the Kharif 2024-25 Season for a total quantity consolidating to 13.22 LMT. The government said the latest tariff measures were aimed at balancing

consumer interests with the need to encourage domestic pulse production. The duty-free import window for yellow peas has been extended to ensure adequate supplies in the domestic market and help contain prices. Under the revised arrangement, lentil imports will attract a combined 10 per cent levy, comprising 5 per cent basic customs duty and 5 per cent Agriculture Infrastructure and Development Cess. The measure took effect immediately following the government notification. India remains dependent on imports to meet part of its pulse requirements. Yellow peas accounted for about 30 lakh tonnes of the country's total 67 lakh tonnes of pulse imports during 2024, making it an important component of domestic pulse availability. The Centre is simultaneously strengthening procurement from domestic farmers through the Price Support Scheme (PSS) under PM-AASHA.

Tummala directs officials to identify drought-hit mandals, seek 100% MSP procurement

Hyderabad, Oct 1 (GNS): Telangana Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao has directed officials to coordinate with revenue authorities and provide all necessary data for identifying and proposing drought-affected mandals in areas facing deficient rainfall.

The minister said drought conditions should be assessed based on multiple indicators as prescribed in the Centre's drought management guidelines, rather than rainfall deficiency alone. These include rainfall variation, Standardised Precipitation Index (SPI), dry spells, sown area, NDVI/NDWI, Vegetation Condition Index (VCI), soil moisture, reservoir storage,

groundwater levels, surface water availability, fodder, drinking water, employment and migration. He directed officials to provide the required reports collected by the Agriculture Department to revenue authorities.

Tummala said drought severity should be assessed using multiple indicators and crop losses should be verified through field-level inspections wherever necessary. According to the drought management guidelines, a rainfall deficiency of 20 to 59 per cent is considered deficient rainfall, 60 to 99 per cent as severe deficiency, and complete absence of rainfall as an extremely severe



situation. Similarly, a sown area below 85 per cent of normal is considered an indicator of drought, while 75 per cent or below indicates severe drought conditions.

Tummala also urged the Centre to procure 100 per

cent of all crops for which Minimum Support Prices (MSP) have been announced. He said merely announcing MSP does not fulfil the Centre's responsibility and that the government must ensure every farmer gets the declared price for their produce. The Union Cabinet recently increased MSPs for the Rabi Marketing Season 2027-28. The increases include 675 per quintal for safflower, 413 for rapeseed and mustard, 390 for lentil (masur), 136 for barley, 83 for gram and 25 for wheat.

The minister said that under the Price Support Scheme (PSS), the Centre currently procures only up to 25 per cent of the total production of pulses and oilseeds grown in the respective states through NAFED. In view of the prevailing El Niño conditions and climate-related challenges, he urged the Centre to procure 100 per cent of the crops covered by MSP at the announced support prices.

Tummala said farmers should not merely be informed about MSP but must also be provided an opportunity to sell their produce at the announced price. He urged the Centre to take effective measures to ensure that the MSP reaches every eligible farmer and said full procurement at MSP would provide meaningful support to the farming community.

Agriculture Department Secretary Surendra Mohan, Marketing Department MD Rahul Raj and Horticulture Department MD Yasmin Basha attended the meeting.

PCPNDT monitoring to be strengthened

Falaknuma News State Bureau Nizamabad Oct 1 District Medical and Health Officer Dr. Rajasree has directed officials to intensify monitoring of ultrasound scanning centres and ensure strict implementation of the PCPNDT Act and Rules. Chairing a District Advisory Committee meeting, Dr. Rajasree reviewed the compliance status of registered scanning centres and instructed officials to conduct inspections at least once every three months. The inspections will focus on ensuring that ultrasound machines are operated only by registered and authorised doctors and that individual registers are maintained for every machine. Officials will also verify referral slips, patient records, mobile numbers and other mandatory entries.

The committee reiterated that prenatal sex determination and disclosure of the sex of the foetus are strictly prohibited. Any violation will attract action under the relevant provisions of the PCPNDT Act and Rules.



Centres were also advised not to entertain referrals from unqualified or unauthorised persons.

The committee decided to organise awareness campaigns in mandals with low sex ratios, involving Self-Help Groups, Mahila Mandals and community organisations. The programmes will focus on preventing sex selection and promoting the importance of the girl child. Renewal of ultrasound scanning centre registrations was

approved for Anupama Hospital, Nizamabad, Nithya Scanning Centre, Armoor, and Area Hospital, Bodhan, subject to fulfilment of all statutory requirements.

Medical officers, health department officials, NGO representative Smt. Padma Singh and other concerned officials participated in the meeting. The DM&HO directed officials to ensure effective enforcement and continuous monitoring across the district.

Telangana Govt Assures Welfare and Protection of Senior Citizens

Hyderabad, Oct 1 (GNS): The Telangana government organised the International Day of Older Persons-2026 programme at Ravindra Bharathi under the Department of Welfare of Persons with Disabilities, Senior Citizens and Transgender Persons. Ministers Adhuri Laxman Kumar and Ponnam Prabhakar, along with SC Welfare Secretary Vijayendra Bhoi, IAS, and other officials attended the event.

The ministers presented awards to several organisations working for the welfare of senior citizens.

Speaking at the programme, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said senior citizens should not be viewed merely as elderly people, but as "builders of a new society". He said their experience and ideas are highly valuable for the development of society and called for senior citizens to be respected as guides and "brand ambassadors" for the community. Ponnam Prabhakar said serving and caring for parents is a privi-



lege and urged families to take responsibility for their elderly members. He said complaints were being received from rural areas about children neglecting their elderly parents. The government, he said, would stand by senior citizens to ensure their protection, dignity and welfare.

The minister said the government was prepared to make necessary changes in legal provisions, if required, to strengthen protection for senior citizens. He said the Praja Palana government under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy was giving priority to welfare and social justice.

On the demand for "Senior Citizen Bus Passes", Ponnam Prabhakar said the government was examining the proposal. He also said steps were being taken to bring the Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) back on track. The minister said retired RTC employees had pending dues of more than * 1,000 crore*, including amounts related to CCS and PF. He said the government was already taking steps to clear various pending payments and that the issue of retired employees' dues had been discussed with Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.

TELANGANA HC ADVOCATES PROTEST DEMAND FOR RESIGNATION OF CEC GYANESH KUMAR

Hyderabad, Oct 1 (GNS) A group of advocates staged a peaceful protest at Gate No. 6 of the High Court of Telangana, Hyderabad, raising concerns over the functioning of the Election Commission of India and demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Shri Gyanesh Kumar.

The advocates raised concerns relating to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, allegations concerning "Vote Chori", and issues relating to the inclusion and deletion of voters' names. They called for greater transparency, accountability and protection of the integrity of the electoral process. Momin Roshan Zameer, Advocate, State General Secretary and Incharge Social



Media, Legal Cell (Law, Human Rights and RTI Department), Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC), and Member, Hyderabad Waqf Protection and

Co-ordination Committee, Government of Telangana, participated in the protest and addressed the gathering and the media.

Speaking on the occasion, Mo-

min Roshan Zameer demanded the immediate resignation of CEC Gyanesh Kumar, stating that public confidence in the electoral process must be protected through transparency, accountability and adherence to constitutional and legal principles.

He stated that electoral-roll revision is a matter of significant public importance and that concerns raised by voters, political parties and other stakeholders should be addressed transparently through appropriate legal and constitutional mechanisms. He also emphasised the important role of advocates in protecting the Constitution, democracy, fundamental rights and the rule of law. The protesters urged the Election Commission to provide

clear explanations on concerns relating to electoral rolls and the SIR process and to ensure that every eligible voter's rights are protected in accordance with law.

The protest was attended by PONNAM ASHOK GOUD GARU, CHAIRMAN, LEGAL CELL-TPCC, K. Pardhasaradhi, Venkateshwar Reddy, Momin Roshan Zameer, C. Ramchander Reddy, Ali Hyder, Ali Jaan, Md. Amair, Omer, Sravani, Nashra, Farhan, Hamza and other advocates.

The advocates reiterated that their protest was peaceful and intended to highlight concerns regarding the electoral process and to demand greater transparency, accountability and public confidence in constitutional institutions.

The Growing Impact of Artificial Intelligence on the World and Employment

“Machines are changing the world; now human skills must change too.”



Irfan Jamiawala It is often said that every few decades bring a major transformation to the world. But the speed at which Artificial Intelligence (AI) has entered our lives is something few could have imagined.

Over the past 125 years, the world has moved from radio to television, from telephones to computers, and from the internet to smartphones. Every technological revolution has changed human life, but Artificial Intelligence is different in one important way: it is changing not only what we use, but also how we work, learn, create, communicate and make decisions.

Today, AI is being rapidly adopted across education, banking, healthcare, media, films, advertising, manufacturing, software, customer service and business.

The Impact on Employment One of the biggest questions surrounding the growth of AI is its impact on employment.

According to Challenger, Gray & Christmas, U.S. employers announced more than 1.2 million job cuts in 2025. Of these, 54,836 job cuts were attributed by employers to Artificial Intelligence. This figure needs to be understood carefully. It does not mean that 54,836 jobs disappeared worldwide solely because of AI. It represents announced job cuts in the United States where employers identified AI as a contributing reason.

The trend continued into 2026. By August 2026, U.S. employers had attributed 116,175 announced job cuts to AI. During the same period, the technology sector recorded 155,126 announced job cuts.

These figures show that companies are increasingly changing the way they organize their workforce and use technology. Will AI Replace Human Jobs?

This is perhaps the biggest question in the minds of employees, students and young people today.

There is no simple answer. According to the International Labour Organization, approximately one in four workers globally is in an occupation with some level of exposure to generative AI. However, the organization has also indicated that most jobs are more likely to be transformed than completely eliminated.

This means that AI may not necessarily take over an entire profession. Instead, it may perform some parts of a job while humans continue to perform tasks requiring judgment, responsibility, communication and creativity.

For example, AI can handle routine customer-service questions, while complex cases may still require human intervention.

In software development, AI can assist with writing and testing code, while human developers may continue to be responsible for reviewing the work, making decisions and solving complex problems.

AI Will Also Create New Opportunities Looking only at job losses would give us an incomplete picture.

The World Economic Forum's Future of Jobs Report 2025 estimates that by 2030, technological and economic changes could create approximately 170 million new jobs, while around 92 million jobs could be displaced.

This suggests that the future of employment will not simply be about jobs disappearing. It will also be about jobs changing and new skills becoming valuable.

People who learn how to work alongside AI may find new opportunities in areas such as AI development, data analysis, digital production, cybersecurity, technology management and creative industries.

The biggest requirement of the future may therefore be not simply protecting existing jobs, but developing new skills for a changing workplace. The Media and Film Industry Is Changing Too

The impact of AI is already becoming visible in the media and entertainment industry.

AI can assist with script research, translation, subtitles, editing, visual effects, production planning, digital marketing and content distribution.

But filmmaking is not only technology.

Behind every story is human experience. Behind acting is human emotion. A director needs to understand people, situations and relationships. A writer observes society and transforms human experiences into stories. AI can process information extremely quickly, but human beings experience life. That distinction will remain important in creative industries.

Irfan Jamiawala on the AI Revolution Media professional, filmmaker, writer and theatre practitioner Irfan Jamiawala says that the entire world is now watching the rapid development of Artificial Intelligence.

According to him, AI is likely to become an increasingly important part of everyday life and professional work. Therefore, young people, artists, media professionals and film students should not simply fear the technology. They should learn how to understand it and use it responsibly. He believes that India should not remain merely a consumer of AI technology. It should also explore its creative, educational and social applications.

With this changing digital environment in mind, Mediacafts is working towards new possibilities in digital media and entertainment. Small Screen TV is being developed as a digital platform with a focus on films, web series, short films, music videos and other forms of digital content.

What Will the Future Look Like?



ISLAMIA

GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS



QUALITY

EDUCATION



SRT Colony, Yakutpura, Hyderabad - 500023



COURSES OFFERED



JUNIOR: C.E.C | B.I.P.C | M.P.C | M.E.C | A.C.E



DEGREE: B.A | B.Com (Computers) | B.Com (General) | B.Sc | BBA | BCA



P.G:

M.Sc (Applied Nutrition) | M.Sc (Clinical Nutrition) | M.Sc (Nutrition & Dietetics) | M.Sc (Botany) | M.Sc (Maths)

M.A (English) | M.Com



LAW:

BA,LLB(5YDC) | BBA,LLB(5YDC)

LLB(3YDC) | LLB(Honors 3YDC)

 | LLM



EXPERIENCED FACULTY



MODERN INFRASTRUCTURE



SKILL BASED EDUCATION



100% FOCUS ON YOUR SUCCESS



Contact No. : **9347683872**

Rs 205 Crore Sanctioned for Power Infrastructure in Palair: Ponguleti

Khammam/Edulapuram, Oct 1 (GNS): Telangana Revenue, Housing and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said 205 crore has been sanctioned over the past 34 months for strengthening power infrastructure in the Palair Assembly constituency.

The minister made the statement after inaugurating the Divisional ERO office at Taruni Haat in Edulapuram Municipality on Thursday, along with District Collector T.S. Divakar and Commissioner of Police Sunil Dutt.

Ponguleti said the funds were allocated for the construction of power substations, replacement of high-tension wires, installation of new electricity lines, poles and transformers. Around 70 per cent of the works have already been completed, while

the remaining works are progressing at a fast pace, he said. The minister said providing free power to people is a key feature of the Congress government. He noted that the late Chief Minister Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy had initiated the free power scheme for farmers and said the Congress government was continuing the programme by considering the needs of the farming community.

He said domestic consumers are currently receiving free electricity for consumption of up to 200 units per month. The government is allocating additional funds to the power sector to meet farmers' requirements and strengthen infrastructure, he added. Ponguleti accused opposition leaders of spreading misinformation about the power sector. He said the Bhadradi and Yadadi power projects, which

were not completed during the previous government, were completed by the present government and power generation was subsequently started. He said the government was undertaking reforms to address issues related to the high cost of power generation in the previous administration. The state government is working to place Telangana's power sector among the leading power sectors in the country, he added.

Ponguleti said the government is focusing on green power generation keeping future electricity requirements in mind. Measures are being taken to ensure uninterrupted and quality power supply, strengthen power infrastructure, increase generation capacity and promote renewable energy across Telangana. Officials and public representatives.

EDITOR, PRINTER, PUBLISHER & OWNER by MOHD ATHER RAHEEM PUBLISHED From FALAKNUMA NEWS English Daily 19-4-276/5/A, Flat No.502. 5th Floor, Lake view Residency, Baquar Nagar, BNK Colony, Miralam Tank, Hyderabad 500 064. Printed at RIYAZ PRINTING PRESS. #22-8-161 Behind Nayaab Hotel Chatta Bazar, Hyderabad- 500002 Telangana. Head Office Contact No.0404537318, falaknumanews@gmail.com www.falaknumanews.in