

TIGER SHROFF FIRING

3 suspects arrested in Kota

Mumbai, Oct 19 (GNS): The three suspects arrested in connection with the firing incident involving Bollywood actor Tiger Shroff in Mumbai had arrived in the city nearly 20 days before the attack and allegedly conducted a recce of the same football ground a week before the shooting, police investigation has revealed.

The accused, including a minor, were apprehended by Kota City Police in Rajasthan at Kota railway station while travelling aboard the Pune-Jaipur Express. They have been identified as Phulsing Naresh, a Class 12 pass-out from Sonipat in Haryana; Rehan Rashiddin, a Class 9 pass-out from Sonipat; and Rithik, a Rapido driver who had been residing in Mumbai.

According to the investigation, Rithik was riding the motorcycle used in the crime, while Rehan and Phulsing allegedly fired the



shots. The suspects had reportedly visited the same football ground last Sunday to conduct a recce when actor Tiger Shroff was playing there. Investigators have also found that the accused purchased a motorcycle on September 11, allegedly as part of their preparation for the attack.

After the firing, the three allegedly executed a plan to mislead the police and escape using different modes of transport. They first travelled by motorcycle to Andheri railway station, from

where they boarded a local train to Kandivali. After getting down at Kandivali, they reportedly booked a cab and travelled to Surat. From Surat, they boarded a train heading towards Kota, where police intercepted and arrested them.

Kota Superintendent of Police Tejaswani Gautam said the police acted on intelligence inputs that the suspects were travelling aboard the Pune-Jaipur Express. A team surrounded and searched the train, completing the operation within

approximately 15 minutes. Preliminary questioning indicated that the accused initially planned to travel to Delhi before escaping to Nepal. Police are also investigating Rehan's alleged contact with Anil Pandit, who is reportedly linked to the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, to establish whether the connection had any role in the attack.

Police have seized a mobile phone from the accused. Phulsing has a previous case registered against him for motor vehicle theft, while Rehan faces a case under the Arms Act.

The weapon allegedly used in the firing has not yet been recovered. A Mumbai Police team has reached Kota to take custody of the accused. The incident took place around 7 p.m. on Sunday in Mumbai's Juhu area when shots were fired at a vehicle in which Tiger Shroff was travelling after returning from a football ground.

CJP leaders Saurav, Ashutosh sent to 2 more days of Judicial custody

New Delhi, Oct 19 (GNS): The judicial custody of Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka was extended by two days on Monday by the Special Executive Magistrate (SEM) in connection with the Jantar Mantar trespassing case.

Das and Ranka were produced before the SEM at Mandir Marg police station after their five-day judicial custody ended on Monday.

Delhi Police had sought an extension of their judicial custody, while CJP's legal affairs head, Ratna Singh, questioned the need for further detention, alleging that the prosecution had failed to present arguments on the law. "We are still at SEM court, waiting for the court to dictate order. There is no reason to extend judicial custody. Today also, no argument was presented by PP (Public



Prosecutor) on law. All his arguments were mere assumptions. Absolute waste of time of SEM court," Singh said in a post on X. Calling the proceedings a "waste of time", she demanded the release of the two leaders.

The two CJP leaders were sent to five-day judicial custody on October 14 after they were detained for allegedly trespassing at Jantar Mantar, which has been de-notified as the designated protest site. Das and Ranka, along with party mem-

ber Ajinkya Shinde, were among 14 people detained on October 13 after they allegedly entered the protest site through private premises and obstructed police personnel from discharging their official duties. Delhi Police had justified the custody order, citing their alleged repeated violations of law and apprehension that, if released, they would again violate the law and instigate others to do the same.

Shinde was released on a personal bond and directed

to maintain peace and good behaviour for six months.

The CJP members were protesting against the Election Commission of India (ECI) over alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and had raised slogans against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar.

Earlier, CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke, along with Das and Ranka, had been released in connection with the October 10 protest after furnishing a bond of Rs 50,000 and on the condition that they would not be involved in any breach-of-peace cases for a year.

Meanwhile, Delhi Police had said that Jantar Mantar was de-notified as a designated protest site on October 12 under new guidelines issued through Delhi Police Standing Order No. L&O/48/2026.

Owaisi questions Akhilesh Yadav over Dhanraj Nathwani's nomination for RS

Rampur, October 19 (GNS): AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi questioned Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav over the nomination of industrialist Dhanraj Parmal Nathwani to the Rajya Sabha, accusing the SP leadership of maintaining contradictory political ties.

Owaisi said, "Akhilesh gave his uncle a Rajya Sabha seat and nominated Nathwani as the second candidate." "Nathwani's father, Senior Nathwani, defeated the All India Alliance candidate in Jharkhand. Now, Akhilesh has nominated Junior Nathwani as his candidate. The father is with the BJP, and the son is with you. Tell me, what is this relationship called?" Owaisi asked. The AIMIM chief made these remarks during a public meeting at Manshab Ali Stadium in Tanda, Rampur, on Sunday night. He alleged that Nathwani had congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on completing 25 years in power, while AIMIM was



repeatedly accused of being the BJP's "B-team" whenever it contested elections.

Further attacking the SP leadership, he said, "Nathwani had congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on completing 25 years in power, while AIMIM was repeatedly accused of being the BJP's 'B-team' whenever it contested elections. 'Akhilesh, you made a deal with the BJP and gave a BJP man the SP ticket,' Owaisi said, launching a sharp attack on the SP leadership and its political positioning.

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Owaisi said, "I have given so many speeches. Name one sentence in any of my speeches in which I have said something against India or any of our Hindu brothers. I have certainly spoken against the BJP. I oppose the RSS ideology because I have studied it."

one sentence in any of my speeches in which I have said something against India or any of our Hindu brothers. I have certainly spoken against the BJP. I oppose the RSS ideology because I have studied it. I have read many books about the RSS and spoken to several experts. I know that the RSS's aim is to make India a Hindu nation." Owaisi said the Muslim community should develop its own political leadership rather than depend on established political families and parties from Nehru, Gandhi or Yadav families to represent it..

DELIMITATION TALKS: Rijiju writes to Kharge, hopes Congress won't obstruct bills

New Delhi, Oct 19 (GNS): Seeking cooperation on the Delimitation Amendment Bill, Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Monday wrote to Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, hoping that the principal Opposition party will play a constructive role and not obstruct important future legislation.

Writing to the Leader of the Opposition, Rajya Sabha, in response to his October 16 letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Rijiju said, "The government has consistently sought the Opposition's support and cooperation for the consideration and passage of the Delimitation Amendment Bill. The government has reached out to the Congress Party, being the principal Opposition party, on several occasions."

"However, after repeated requests, the Congress Party didn't give dates for discussion, after which the government's outreach had extended to other political parties,"



he said. "Consultations were held with representatives of parties including the DMK, SP, SYRCP, NCP, Shiv Sena (UBT), AIMIM and BJD with a view to facilitating dialogue and building a broader consensus in support of the proposed legislation," said Rijiju. He said, "In these circumstances, it is not clear why the demand for consultation is being made repeatedly, when the government has already made sustained efforts for dialogue."

The Union Minister reiterated the government's commitment to the basic principles of parliamentary democracy and to facilitat-



ing meaningful dialogue through the effective functioning of Parliament.

"We value the participation of all political parties in deliberations and discussions on all matters of national importance. I also hope that the Congress Party will play a constructive role and will not obstruct important future legislation," said Rijiju. The Minister told Kharge that he was writing to him in response to the latter's request to PM Modi seeking the convening of an all-party meeting before the Delimitation Constitutional Amendment is taken up for consideration in Parliament.

Centre launches mobile portal for farmers' schemes

New Delhi, Oct 19 (GNS): Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Monday launched the upgraded Agri Welfare Portal to provide farmers across the country with direct, easy access to government schemes, financial assistance and reliable agricultural information on their mobile phones.

Addressing the launch programme, Chouhan said that with the upgraded portal, farmers will no longer need to visit multiple government offices or navigate different websites to obtain information about schemes or submit applications. The platform will also bring together Farmer Producer Organisations, Primary Agricultural Credit Societies, agricultural scientists, researchers and startups, creating a common digital platform for the wider agricultural ecosystem.

The platform will serve as a single-window gateway to major government initiatives, including PM-KISAN, AgriStack and the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, making it easier for farmers to access relevant services and information through a common interface.

The minister said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi's clear vision is to ensure that the government remains accessible to citizens and farmers at all times through their mobile phones. Technology could fulfil its true purpose only when it reached farms and rural communities and made farmers' lives easier." Emphasising the importance of reliable information, Chouhan directed officials to ensure that the portal remained accurate and regularly updated.



India, Australia Begin AUSTAHIND 2026 Drills

New Delhi, Oct 19 (GNS): The 5th edition of the India-Australia Joint Military Exercise AUSTAHIND 2026 commenced on Monday at the Foreign Training Node, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, focusing on coordinated operations in coastal and island environments, surveillance and reconnaissance, said the Ministry of Defence. The exercise, being conducted from October 19 to November 1, will witness the participation of approximately 120 personnel each from the Indian Army and the Australian Army. The fourth edition was held at Irwin Barracks, Perth, Australia, from October 13 to 26, 2025.

The Indian Army contingent comprises troops from the Garhwal Rifles, along with personnel from other arms and services, while the Australian Army contingent comprises troops from 13 Brigade. According to a statement by the Ministry, the exercise will be conducted on the theme "Joint Sub-Conventional Operations in Island and Coastal Environment under Chapter VII of the UN Mandate".

"It is aimed at enhancing interoperability, jointmanship and operational coordination between the two armies while developing a common understanding of tactics, techniques and procedures for operations in island and coastal terrain," read the statement. During the exercise, troops of both armies will undertake joint planning, tactical drills and combat-oriented training in realistic operational conditions, including aerial and maritime dimensions.



Three killed, several injured, three missing in separate incidents in Manipur

Imphal, Oct 19 (GNS): Three people were killed, several others injured, and three reported missing in separate incidents in Manipur's Imphal East and Thoubal districts, police said on Monday. A police official said that two people were shot dead and two others were injured when unidentified militants reportedly opened fire on a group of firewood collectors in Imphal East on Monday.

According to the police official, around 10 people had gone to the hilly forested areas near Nongshum in the morning to collect firewood. While they were busy collecting the firewood, suspected militants ambushed them, killing two people on the spot and injuring two others. Three more people were missing after the incident. Efforts were underway to retrieve the bodies of the victims. Additional security forces have rushed to the areas and launched a massive



search operation to locate the missing people and nab the attackers.

In a separate incident, one person was killed and several others injured in clashes between members of two communities in Thoubal district, prompting the authorities to impose prohibitory orders in two affected areas. A police official in Imphal said that the violence erupted at Khangabok village, under Thoubal police station and around 25 km south of Imphal, on Sunday night when a group of people al-

legedly pelted stones at a ground where a music concert was being held.

The incident escalated into stone-pelting between members of the two communities in Khangabok and neighbouring Sangaiyumpham. A few houses and vehicles were also set on fire during the clashes. Amid the violence, unidentified miscreants opened fire, hitting a person in the head.

The injured man, identified as Laishram Rakesh, was rushed to a nearby hospital, where he later succumbed to

his injuries, police said. Several other people sustained minor cut injuries after being hit by stones and were admitted to a hospital for treatment. Additional state and central security forces were deployed in the affected villages to prevent further escalation. The situation was under control on Monday morning, police said.

Following the violence, the Thoubal District Magistrate issued prohibitory orders on Sunday night, directing residents of Khangabok and Sangaiyumpham not to leave their homes from 11 p.m. The order, issued under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), cited the likelihood of a breach of peace, disturbance of public tranquillity and an imminent threat to human life and property due to the alleged unlawful activities of anti-social elements. The order did not specify when the restrictions would be lifted.

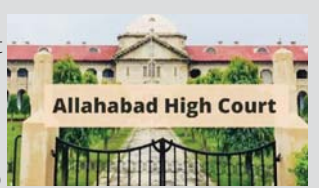
Allahabad HC stays ex-BJP worker's conviction for 2027 polls

Prayagraj, Oct 19 (GNS): The Allahabad High Court has stayed the conviction and sentence of Nandlal Rai alias Babloo Rai in a 2017 murder case, observing that the right to livelihood of a common man is no less important than a politician's right to contest elections. Rai, who claimed to have been an active worker of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) before his conviction, expressed his desire to contest the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections as an independent candidate or, if possible, on a BJP ticket.

A Bench of Justices Siddharth and Vinai Kumar Dwivedi passed the order on October 5 while hearing Rai's criminal appeal against the judgment of the trial court, which had convicted and sentenced him in the murder case. In its order, the High Court recorded that the appeal, filed in 2026, was not likely to be heard in the near future and held that the conviction and sentence deserved to be stayed during the pendency of the proceedings.

"Keeping in view the right to livelihood of a common man which is not less important than the right to contest election by a politician, conviction and sentence of appellant deserves to be stayed so that he may be able to survive for hearing the final verdict in his above noted appeal," the Justice Siddharth-led Bench observed.

It also referred to the Supreme Court's judgment in Afzal Ansari vs State of Uttar Pradesh (2024), which laid down the parameters for suspending a conviction, including whether failure to grant such relief would lead to injustice or irreversible consequences.



US officials know that New Delhi can't be coerced. India thinks it's an equal partner

Aparna Pande

US President Donald Trump's recent praise of his Indian counterpart and positive words for the US-India partnership notwithstanding, relations between the two countries remain on a downward trajectory. Indians seem hurt and upset, mainly because they did not see it coming. When Richard Nixon tilted toward Pakistan in the 1971 war, his anti-India views were well known. Trump, on the other hand, was viewed as favourably disposed to India and Indians. New Delhi appeared to be in a strong position when Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Trump within the first month after the inauguration of the US President's second term. India seemed to have a head start in trade negotiations, the two countries seemed strategically aligned on China, the Russia factor appeared manageable, and US-Pakistan relations were still on shaky ground.

Eight months later, the picture has drastically changed. India is the target of the highest tariffs imposed on an American partner. Four years after being forced to withdraw from Afghanistan because of Pakistani betrayal, the US is improving ties with Pakistan. India's ties with Russia, which were deemed a minor irritant, have become a central issue. And the Quad and Indo-Pacific strategy, which were supposed to make India America's 'partner for the twenty-first century', appear now to be in doldrums. Trump is an unconventional president and is neither known for consistency nor well-thought-out plans. He could easily take



a U-turn and go back to his previous stance of seeing India as an indispensable global partner. But Indian policymaking is far more structured. Once exposed to the vagaries of a mercurial President's temperament, India is likely to be careful in deciding how far it wishes to go in being a US partner moving forward. Although public rhetoric and the media blame the downward spiral on trade issues and some stress in personal relations between the current Indian and American leaders, ties between the two countries have some inbuilt stress points. The two countries have differing histories and geographies, as well as divergent interests. The evolution of relations over the last three and a half decades defied this divergence and should never have been taken for granted. The policies of the previous five successive US administrations were driven by the strategic as-

sumption that India's rise was in America's interests. India was expected to act as a counterweight to China's rise as the alternative Asian power. But India did little to fulfil that expectation, falling behind in modernising its military and maintaining control or even pre-eminence in its region. Indians saw the partnership with the US as written in stone and assumed that an expanding economy automatically conferred on India great power status that would make it America's partner of choice. For all the various formats of bilateral dialogue, the India-US relationship never developed an institutional framework that could have prevented a free fall under circumstances like the current ones. The closer US-India ties of the last three decades have rested upon three broad pegs. First among these are the people-to-people relationship and the notion of shared values, especially a

shared belief in democracy. The second is the commercial dimension, reflected in enhanced bilateral trade. The third relates to defense and strategic cooperation. Before Indians assume that Trump's temperament is the only reason for the current crisis in relations, they should pause to consider that each peg of the relationship has faced challenges in recent years. They are just coming to a head now. The value-based dimension sustained the relationship during the worst years of the Cold War. But liberal Americans have been concerned about India's democratic backsliding, while conservative Americans have taken offense at what they see as restrictions on religious freedom manifested in actions against Christian missionaries. Incidents, such as allegations of Indian security services being involved in murder for hire on US soil of dissidents deemed terrorism

supporters, have also not helped. Moreover, the assumption that the large Indian diaspora in the US could make up for any deficiencies in relations at the government-to-government level has also not panned out. Indian-Americans may be one of the wealthiest and best educated minorities in the US, but they have yet to build concomitant clout within the broader system. Considering the size and potential of the Indian economy, the weakest leg of this relationship has always been the commercial one. US-India commercial ties have grown from \$ 6 billion in 1990 to \$190 billion in 2024. But to Americans, India remains a protectionist, inward-oriented, trade skeptic economy. Unlike China did in the 1980s and 1990s, India rarely woos foreign companies and expects them to work within the heavily regulated system.

Crude at \$80 means serious trouble

Mannat Marwah

The Nepalese government's recent attempt to clamp down on social media became the final straw that broke the incumbent regime's back. The KP Oli government banned 26 social media platforms, citing their failure to meet a deadline to comply with local registration requirements. This move aligned with the State's repeated attempts to place controls on social media and silence online critics. It also points to a larger trend—of governments across the globe attempting stringent social media regulations, without consulting the most important stakeholders—the users. Unlike traditional media, social media is participatory. Users create most of the content on social media websites and apps, and the virality of a post is largely driven by them. In contrast, a radio channel's listeners do not influence how widely a programme spreads the same way users on social media do for a piece of content. This basic facet necessitates a novel approach toward new media regulation.

The fact that users drive virality and annotate content as it evolves complicates social media regulation in two ways. First, it becomes difficult to pin down precisely who is responsible for each piece of content and its popularity. Second, new regulations may not have the intended downstream effects because users may respond to the changes in unexpected ways. But social media also retains age-old problems of traditional media, like misinformation, and governments worldwide rely on the same regulatory toolkit used to manage legacy media. Nepal is not the first country to crack down on



social media to control the flow of information, curb dissent, or reinforce political and cultural agendas. China blocks access to social media companies like Facebook and X, running domestic alternatives that are heavily monitored. Iran and Saudi Arabia censor online content based on its impact on culture and religion. Australia's ban on all social media for users under 16 adds another dimension to this trend – prioritising users' safety over their autonomy. All of these approaches betray the absence of a nuanced understanding of new media and its users among governments today.

New media is relatively untouched by heavy-handed regulation in India, outside of a non-transparent content takedown regime. But signs of change are visible: The Madras High Court recently directed the government to develop steps to combat the spread of non-consensual intimate images online. The government also aims to combat

deepfakes via advisories, court guidelines, and expert committee reports. In India's Got Latent case, the Supreme Court issued a directive to the government to create an 'influencer code' for the sensitive portrayal of vulnerable groups online. These guidelines, once notified, will add to the baseline of information technology regulation that applies to new media.

India's 800 million-strong internet user base depends on new media to gain economic freedom and create civic, cultural, and political spaces. The country is now home to a democratised content creator economy. Over two million users make monetised content. Annually, Indians create 45 million hours of content on YouTube alone, presenting an opportunity to further the economy and export Indian culture to the world. This large creator and user base also presents a complex challenge for the many state agencies meant to be guarding and upholding a sometimes amorphous no-

tion of public interest. New media's potential for good as well as for harm befuddles policymakers, regulators, and jurists alike.

Recent regulatory interventions in India targeted at digital services are both harsh and sudden, such as the ban on real-money games without notice to gamers themselves. The formation of the proposed 'influencer code' will also likely not involve social media users in a wide and transparent two-way consultation. Such exclusion can have far-reaching implications, as the Nepal example has shown. Nobody can say if India can ever be subject to the same kind of Hobbesian nightmare that was seen on the streets of Kathmandu, but the fact is that new media is an indispensable creative and informational outlet. It deserves much more than closed-door regulatory consultations.

India's Pre-legislative Consultation Policy 2014 requires the publication of draft rules with explana-

tory notes and the collection and release of stakeholder comments. Some regulators, like the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, follow this process, maintaining a basic modicum of transparency in their functioning. However, most other State agencies often miss this step. New media demands that they go beyond.

India can learn from global best practices in public consultations, like Canada, which requires open consultations for any regulation affecting the economy or citizen safety. The UK's media regulator, the Office of Communications (OfCom), sets out guidelines that encourage early stakeholder engagement, realistic deadlines for any policy proposal, and regular publication of inputs received. OfCom must also provide reasons for why a decision was taken, once consultation is over. India can emulate this practice, rather than merely publishing consultation responses in bulk.

Indian Army's Counter Strategy in Kashmir

It has been nearly two and a half decades since insurgency first gave way to full-fledged terrorism in Kashmir, born out of Pakistan's infamous "policy of a thousand cuts" and ever since then Pakistan deliberately fuelling unrest and turning a peaceful valley into one stained with blood and creating hurdles for prosperity and growth of people of Kashmir to a large extent. I consider myself both a witness and participant, having seen the Kashmir of harmony gradually descend into turmoil and re stabilised.

From the very beginning, the Pakistan Army perfected a system of manufacturing terrorists – arming them, providing training and radicalising vulnerable youth as well as hardened elements of society. In truth, very little has changed since militancy erupted in 1989. Pakistan's "terror factory" has never stopped producing misguided and radicalised terrorists. A closer examination of the profiles of Pakistani nationals infiltrating into Kashmir reveals a stark reality: many are not driven by ideology or freedom, but are instead petty criminals and convicts serving sentences in Pakistan. These men are radicalised, armed and dispatched across the border on temporary assignments lasting two to three years, enticed by promises of hefty rewards. Disturbingly, there are well-established instances of such terrorists exploiting and preying upon innocent Kashmiri girls. Initially, Kashmiri youth too were taken across the border, trained in camps, and sent back to join various Tanzeems. Over time, the model shifted. Instead of exfiltrating locals, active terrorists within Kashmir began identifying susceptible young men, indoctrinating them and arming them locally – thus sustaining the cycle of terrorism from within.

Let's have a crisp, field-oriented overview of how militant/terrorist modus operandi in JandK has evolved over roughly the last 27 years – and why. This will automatically get connected with the changing strategy and tactics of Security Forces to beat back their nefarious designs. In the early years of militancy, around 1989-90, I personally witnessed Kashmir's tragic transformation from a serene paradise into a land of turmoil. At that time, infiltrating groups often consisted of hundreds of Kashmiri youth, taken across to Pakistan either voluntarily or under coercion. There, they were given training in weapons and explosives before being pushed back through the thinly held Line of Control (LC). Local guides, well-versed with the terrain and routes, facilitated their movement. Large caravans of mules laden with arms, ammunition, and other war-like stores would often accompany them. Owing to the wide gaps and sparse deployment along the LC, many of these groups managed to slip through undetected and reach the hinterland with relative ease. However, the Security Forces soon adapted, establishing effective counter-militancy grids and operations, which helped bring the situation firmly under control. And then in early-mid 2000s, there were infiltration of fidayeen cross-border with much heavier weapons to include AKs Rifles / Universal Machine Guns, Remote Controlled Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) etc. It worked out due to larger safe areas, weaker border fence/surveillance on the LC and deeper Pakistan-side facilitation. They adopted newer tactics of fidayeen (suicide-style) raids on camps and enjoyed well entrenched hideouts in the Valley. The Security Forces adopted a stronger Counter Terrorism (CT) grid and strengthened the fence with physical occupation and surveillance devices. The leadership decapitation to compel smaller signatures and small team operations. The terrorists encashed on the tools of Social Media during the Burhan Wani's era (2015-16) with rapid narrative projection and online outreach often seen having selfies with weapons. This definitely had catalysed the recruitment of local youth with short life-cycles for cadres. This phase also experienced increased hit-and-run shootings, grenades lobbying in crowded areas. Another new tactic of crowd mobilisation around encounter sites to hinder the operation of Security Forces and enabling terrorists and Over Ground Workers (OGWs) to escape. The Security Forces undertook Counter-adaptation with specific targeted operations and enhanced technical surveillance thereby bringing in precision resulting in shortened militant survival time and pushing groups toward deniability and dispersion.

Post-2019 there came a phase of proxy fronts, "Hybrid" shooters, and selective terror. And then it witnessed the emergence of faceless labels The Resistance Front (TRF) to mask LeT/JuD fingerprints and evade FATF scrutiny. Of course there were increased telegram/online claims and non-religious iconography to project "indigenous resistance". Part time "Hybrid terrorists" generally having clean records otherwise started getting quickly tasked with pistol-borne shootings of off-duty policemen, Political/ Panchayat workers, minority civilians and migrant labourers. They started melting back into daily life making the task of Security Forces and JKP more tougher and challenging. The aims were towards disrupting grassroots governance, increased low-signature targeted killings with an intention to spread fear. There is a dilemma with the enemy on the attempted infiltration along the LC. The two dreaded organs of Pakistan i.e., ISI and Military have likely diverse views post the adoption of CFU in 2021 in which Pak military had suffered tremendously due to the poor morale, infrastructure, and capabilities. ISI in the meantime found other easier routes along the International Borders (IB) to infiltrate terrorists in small numbers.

These terrorists were moved to the hinterland with assistance from OGWs. Indian Army reviewed focus on hinterland after initial setbacks made the operational situation difficult for the terrorists' and their sympathizer forcing them to go the higher reaches of Pir Panjal. Civil Administration along with police also played a crucial role in breaking the financial network of narco and hawala with booking of OGWs / terrorists' sympathizers. Pre and post Op Sindoor, ISI have been trying to make certain attempts along the LC which has not achieved success due to stronger technological strengthened counter infiltration grid of India's Northern Army. This forced them to change the modus operandi by use of smaller terrorists' groups of two – three including the guide. While terrorist organisations have tried to remain ahead of the technological curve in communications and weaponry, it is becoming seemingly difficult to breach the LC facing maximum attrition. Consequently, their overall focus remains on the IB sector with new avenues like tunnels, drones and narco sympathizers in areas where police and border guarding forces are involved in routine policing duties and presence is minimal. Security Forces on the other hand are buoyant by the reenergized coordination at the top level which is fructifying with results on the ground.

The multiprong approach of targeting narco and hawala operators, engaging youth, confiscating assets of terrorists/ OGWs and a technologically stronger grid at the LC has paid off. There has been an immersive push towards the absorption of technology by the Indian Army. Each soldier is being skilled in one or the other force multiplier skills from AI, autonomous detections systems, microwave radar coverage for bad weather, all weather drones from surveillance to strike options, new weapons (AK 203), combined with improved Anti Infiltration Obstacle System (AIOS) which has been smartised with day and night cameras for 24x7 surveillance autonomous detection and engagement options. The combined effect of all these individual vectors has resulted in a net vector that has given disproportionate results to Security Forces. Technology has enabled Security Forces to deploy more troops in a dynamic grid thus generating and radiating their presence in more numbers for covering large swathe of ground along the LC making AIOS impregnable.

While ISI and terrorist organizations are likely to innovate and change their modus operandi for infiltration, technology combined with "Men behind the Gun/Equipment" is proving to be their nemesis on the LC. They are likely to explore the areas where it is easier to infiltrate men and weapons separately and safely like combinations of tunnels and drones. Dominance of Security Forces at LC and hinterland restricted their space and safe opportunities even in their traditional areas. This has been the winning factor for the Security Forces. In addition, with the ever progressing Atma nirbharta in the defence sector, we are likely to remain ahead in the counter terrorism curve, with a stable and secure LC. In order to bring in the newer technology and improve logistics, the handlers from Pakistan started increasingly use drones to drop weapons, hand/sticky grenades, IEDs and even cash and drugs – mainly into Jammu/ Kathua/Punjab belts – thereby reducing infiltration risk and resupply time and boost up narco-finance. TRF's birth announcement somehow was made via encrypted platforms through wider adoption of encrypted apps/closed channels for tasking/propaganda. Narco-terror pipelines (primarily heroin) and Hawala were addressed and increased punitive actions rolled out linking cross-border handlers, OGWs and local distributors. There was a spatial shift : with the Kashmir Valley's CT grid hardened, terrorists exploited Rajouri – Poonch forests and folds, staging woodland ambushes and IED attacks against patrols and convoys and then exfiltrating through complex and challenging terrain. 2023-24 saw more attacks in Jammu division than earlier years.

India marks three years of national logistics policy: transforming india's supply chain ecosystem

New Delhi, Oct 19 (GNS): The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry, commemorates the third anniversary of the National Logistics Policy (NLP), launched by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 17th September 2022. Over the past three years, NLP has catalysed reforms across the logistics ecosystem, driving improvements in digital integration, skill development, policy alignment, and infrastructure planning. These initiatives have contributed significantly to enhancing efficiency and reducing logistics costs across domestic and international supply chains.

Aligned with the PM GatiShakti National Master Plan, the National Logistics Policy focuses on strengthening soft infrastructure, advancing digitization, fostering human resource development, and enabling regulatory reforms. Its key objectives are to reduce logistics costs to global benchmarks, improve India's ranking in the Logistics Performance Index (LPI) to the top 25 by 2030, and es-



tablish a robust, data-driven decision support system to ensure an efficient and integrated logistics ecosystem. Key achievements under the National Logistics Policy (2022-2025) includes the Unified Logistics Interface Platform (ULIP) which has facilitated secure API integration across more than 30 digital systems, enabling over 160 crore digital transactions as of August 2025. The Logistics Data Bank has tracked over 75 million EXIM containers across 101 Inland Container Depots (ICDs), providing real-time visibility and streamlining logistics operations. The Logistics Ease Across

Different States (LEADS) index assesses logistics performance across States and Union Territories. The 2024 edition introduced new parameters such as corridor access and terminal speed, while the 2025 edition expanded to include digital logistics and sustainability metrics. LEADS has played a crucial role in supporting India's rise to the 38th position in the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index.

The Logistics Excellence, Advancement, and Performance Shield (LEAPS) initiative recognizes innovation in logistics by MSMEs, startups, and academia, while promoting green logistics

and Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) practices. Additionally, DPIIT is conducting a logistics cost assessment in partnership with the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) to develop actionable strategies for cost reduction. DPIIT's collaboration with NCAER, initiated in 2024, has led to a systematic, data-driven assessment of logistics costs. Now in its final stages, this study is expected to provide actionable insights to inform policy planning and optimize logistics expenditures.

Large-scale Multi-Modal Logistics Parks (MMLPs) are being developed to enhance

multimodal transport by integrating services such as customs clearance, cold storage, and packaging. Efforts are underway to harmonize planning and implementation under a unified framework involving multiple agencies. To improve digital integration and ease of doing business, an institutional mechanism called the Service Improvement Group (SIG) was established to address policy and regulatory issues. The E-Logs portal has onboarded more than 35 logistics and industry associations, and has successfully resolved 100 out of 140 issues submitted by stakeholders. In pursuit of green and sus-

tainable logistics, the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore developed the Transportation Emissions Measurement Tool (TEMT), a cloud-based platform aligned with ISO 14083 standards.

The National Logistics Policy also encourages logistics service providers to adopt green practices and renewable energy solutions.

Skill development and capacity building have received significant focus, with over 100 universities and institutes now offering logistics-related courses. The Centre of Excellence for City Logistics at SPA Bhopal has trained more than 100 officials, while over 65,000 professionals have been trained between 2023 and 2025 with new qualification packs approved. Furthermore, a Memorandum of Understanding with GatiShakti Vishwavidyalaya has facilitated the launch of undergraduate and postgraduate logistics programs. Over 250 workshops have been conducted for government officials, complemented by digital courses available on the iGoT platform.

Most advanced chips used in AI servers, drones, mobile phones chips of 2 nm will be designed here: Ashwini Vaishnaw



New Delhi, Oct 19 (GNS): Hon. Minister of Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw inaugurated the new office of ARM, a company that is involved in semiconductor design, in Bengaluru today. The minister said that the "most advanced chips used in AI servers, drones, mobile phones chips of 2 nm will be designed here".

Speaking after the inauguration, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw said that the new Bengaluru unit of ARM will design chips including 2 nm chips for various electronic products, including mobile phones. He called this a significant milestone in India's semiconductor journey.

The minister said, "Our objective is to design and manufacture semiconductors, along with the equipment and materials required for them." This is a very long visionary process and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has provided clear guidance on this. With a vision for the next 20 years in the semiconductor sector, our youth and talented engineers will get the best opportunities in the world."

The minister added that the growth in electronics manufacturing is doubling the demand for semiconductor chips. Highlighting India's achievements in the semiconductor sector, the minister stated that electronics manufacturing has increased six-fold in the last 11 years. It is currently an industry worth of 11.5 lakh crore. Exports have increased eight-fold. Electronics are becoming major export products for India.

This journey, which began with the assembly of mobile phones and laptops, is now moving towards the production of their models,

components, and finished products. He said that we are moving forward in this journey in a very systematic way. The semiconductor sector is growing into a trillion-dollar industry and the need for talent is equally important. This is an opportune time. For this, 278 institutions and universities are working and their students are engaged in the design and innovation of semiconductor chips. Currently, 28 chips designed by students from 25 institutions have been taped out. We have practically completed the first version of India's Semiconductor Mission and are now heading towards the second version.

This will focus on the production of equipment and materials required for semiconductor chips. Earlier during the day, the minister held a discussion on the manufacturing of high precision components used in semiconductor manufacturing equipment. Carborundum Universal Ltd (CUMI) showcased some of the materials which go into the making of equipment for manufacturing the semiconductors.

The minister said ARM's Bengaluru facility would strengthen India's semiconductor design ecosystem and create new opportunities for engineers, researchers and technology professionals. He highlighted the importance of collaboration between industry, academic institutions and the government in developing advanced chip technologies and building domestic expertise. The focus on cutting-edge semiconductor design is expected to support innovation across artificial intelligence, telecommunications, automotive electronics and other emerging sectors.

Liability of utilities ultimate liability of State Government

New Delhi, Oct 19 (GNS): Union Minister of Power and Housing & Urban Affairs, Shri Manohar Lal, chaired the 5th meeting with Group of Ministers constituted for addressing the issues related to viability of electricity distribution utilities in New Delhi today. Shripad Yesso Naik, Union Minister of State for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Shri Atul Save, Renewable Energy Minister, Maharashtra, Shri A. K. Sharma, Energy Minister, Uttar Pradesh, Shri S. S. Siv- asankar, Energy & Transport Minister, Tamil Nadu and Shri Hiralal Nagar, Minister of State for Energy, Rajasthan attended the meeting. Shri Gottipati Ravi Kumar, Energy Minister, Andhra Pradesh and Shri Pradyuman Singh Tomar, Energy Minister, Madhya Pradesh attended the meeting through video-conference. The meeting was also attended by Secretary Power, Govt. Of India, Chairperson, CEA, senior officials from Central Government, State Governments, State Power Utilities of Member States and Power Finance Corporation (PFC) Ltd.

Secretary (Power), GoI, in his opening remarks welcomed all dignitaries and highlighted the need for taking reforms measures to restore the financial viability of distribution utilities and also simultaneously ensuring that these reforms are so structured that the improvements made as a result are irreversible and the situation of debt trap doesn't arise again. He mentioned that the GoM has been constituted for this purpose and aims to identify requisite reform measures.

Union Minister of State in his opening address welcomed Union Minister of Power and Energy Ministers from the member States.

While mentioning the deliberations held during the first four meetings of GoM, he emphasised upon the need for regulatory reforms. He also mentioned about the proposed interventions based on the discussions held till now which need to be taken by the Central and the State Governments for reducing the debt of distribution utilities thereby improving their efficiency to provide quality and reliable

Culture Ministry discusses UNESCO nomination of Chhath Mahaparva

New Delhi, Oct 19 (GNS): The Ministry of Culture organized a meeting at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi, with senior diplomatic representatives of the United Arab Emirates, Suriname, and the Netherlands to seek their cooperation for the multinational nomination of Chhath Mahaparva for inscription on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity under the 2003 Convention. The meeting was chaired by Shri Vivek Aggarwal, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, and attended by officials from the Ministry of Culture, Ministry of External Affairs, Sangeet Natak Akademi, and IGNCA.

The representatives welcomed the initiative, acknowledging the festival's importance among the Indian Diaspora in their countries and assured support for the nomination. Later in the evening, Secretary (Culture) also held a virtual interaction with Indian Ambassadors and High Commissioners to Mauritius, Fiji, Suriname, UAE, and the Netherlands, who expressed full cooperation in



identifying communities and facilitating data for the nomination process. Chhath Mahaparva, dedicated to the Sun God and Goddess Chhathi Maiya, is one of India's oldest festivals, celebrated widely in Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and across Diaspora communities in Mauritius, Fiji, Suriname, UAE, and the Netherlands. Known for its ecological and egalitarian ethos, the festival promotes reverence for nature, sustainability, inclusivity, and community spirit. Participation transcends caste, creed, and religion, with rituals emphasizing simplicity, devotion, and self-discipline.

The proposed multinational nomination of Chhath Mahaparva holds immense significance for India. Its recognition by UNESCO would showcase India's living cultural traditions and universal values on the global stage while strengthening cultural pride among diaspora communities worldwide. It reflects India's leadership in promoting shared heritage and international cultural cooperation under the UNESCO framework. It will also enhance India's soft power by deepening goodwill with partner nations and reaffirming India's role as a custodian of living traditions. Most importantly,

such recognition will ensure systematic documentation, transmission, and preservation of this age-old festival, safeguarding its practices for future generations. With 15 elements already inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List, India is among the leading countries in safeguarding intangible cultural heritage. The multinational nomination of Chhath Mahaparva for the 2026-27 cycle is another milestone in India's cultural diplomacy and commitment to safeguarding living traditions. The Ministry of Culture said the nomination process will involve documenting Chhath Mahaparva's rituals, traditions, community participation and cultural significance across India and the participating countries. Coordination with diaspora organisations and local communities will help gather the necessary information and highlight how the festival has preserved its traditional practices across generations. The initiative is also expected to strengthen cultural exchanges and encourage wider international appreciation of India's diverse intangible heritage.

3,297 Cr Revenue, 696 Lakh Sq. Ft. Freed via Office Waste Disposal in 5 Years

New Delhi, Oct 19 (GNS): Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology; Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh, today launched the dedicated Web Portal for Special Campaign 5.0, aimed at further institutionalizing Swachhata and reducing pendency across Government offices.

Highlighting the achievements of the campaign over the last five years, Dr. Singh informed that a cumulative revenue of 3,296.71 crore has been generated through the disposal of office waste, which also resulted in the freeing of 696.27 lakh sq. ft. of office space across Ministries and Departments. In addition, 12.04 lakh cleanliness sites were identified and 137.86 lakh files were closed or weeded out, thereby creating both financial and administrative efficiency. Calling it a "hallmark of the Government that foundational issues have been brought into focus," Dr. Jitendra Singh said the Special Campaign reflects Prime Minister Shri Naren-



dra Modi's vision of not only promoting cleanliness but also enhancing administrative productivity.

The Minister informed that the campaign will be conducted in two phases this year: the Preparatory Phase from 16th-30th September 2025, followed by the Implementation Phase from 2nd-31st October 2025. A third-party evaluation will be undertaken from 15th-30th November 2025 to assess the qualitative impact and sustainability of the measures adopted. Weekly reviews will be carried out by all Secretaries and Nodal

Officers, and consolidated reports will be submitted to the Cabinet Secretariat and the PMO by DARPG. Shri V. Srinivas, Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), underlined the scale of achievements under the campaign, noting the freeing of 696.27 lakh sq. ft. of office space and identification of 12.04 lakh cleanliness sites, while stressing the institutionalization of Swachhata as a governance priority. The campaign's thrust areas will be closely monitored through a single digital platform and will include

systematic e-waste disposal—covering unserviceable computers, laptops, printers, LEDs, and e-display boards; timely disposal of pending matters such as MPs' References, Parliamentary Assurances, PMO and IMC References.

, as well as State Government References; effective resolution of Public Grievances and improvement in Record Management practices; and comprehensive office cleanliness drives coupled with space optimization to ensure efficiency and sustainability in government functioning.

"Cochin Port, Cochin international Cruise Terminal for More Expansion:" Sarbananda Sonowal

New Delhi, Oct 19 (GNS): India's maritime sector is undergoing a transformative shift, positioning the nation as a future global maritime superpower. With ambitious investments, modern infrastructure, and sustainable reforms, the government is harnessing the power of its coasts and waterways to build a stronger and greener economy, aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047. Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) Shri Sarbananda Sonowal highlighted that under the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, India is set to attract investments worth 80 lakh crore, generate over 1.5 crore jobs, and accelerate green shipping practices.

"India's maritime growth story is about prosperity, sustainability, and pride in our heritage," Shri Sarbananda Sonowal said. "From efficient ports to digital shipping, every initiative reflects Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji's vision of combining economic strength with environmental responsibility. Under his leadership, we have already



set course as India's Blue Economy aims to gain 80 Lakh Crore boost, 1.5 Crore jobs under Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision."

The government's flagship 'Sagarmala' programme is driving this change with 840 projects worth 5.8 lakh crore under implementation by 2035. Already, 272 projects worth 1.41 lakh crore have been completed. The upcoming 76,000-crore VadHAVAN Port in Maharashtra — envisioned among the top 10 container ports globally

— is projected to create 12 lakh jobs. Meanwhile, India's major ports have reduced turnaround time to 0.9 days, faster than global benchmarks in the U.S., Germany and Singapore. Nine Indian ports are now ranked among the world's top 100.

Highlighting the government's idea of implementing a conducive policy environment for swift implementation of PM Shri Narendra Modi's vision, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal said, "Our policy reforms are

shaping an investor-friendly environment. With this spirit, after extensive stakeholder consultations in the spirit of cooperative federalism, we recently enacted 5 landmark legislations forever altering the maritime landscape of the nation, establishing a strong, business and environment-friendly, globally aligned legislative framework. With the 25,000 crore Maritime Development Fund (MDF), our government has incentivised shipbuilding, infrastructure status to large vessels, and tonnage tax benefits for inland vessels. Together, these are boosting competitiveness and global alignment. From "No Vision" of the UPA regime, our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji has given us two "Grand Visions" - The Maritime India Vision 2030 and the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047. These vision documents have shaped our strategy and planning to spruce up the sector and empower it to become a force multiplier towards propelling the Indian economy to become Viksit Bharat."

Revanth Reddy Inaugurates Future City Police Commissionerate in Ibrahimpatnam

Hyderabad, Oct 19 (GNS): Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy Inaugurates 'Future City' Police Commissionerate in Ibrahimpatnam A significant step forward in Telangana's development – prioritizing modern technology, public safety, and enhanced police services

Chief Minister receives a ceremonial guard of honour from the police; participates in a special prayer ceremony and inspects the Commissionerate office. Police Commissioner Dr. Tarun Joshi, IPS, welcomes the Chief Minister and provides a tour of the Commissionerate premises The inauguration was attended by DGP C.V. Anand, DG Abhilasha Bisht, DGP Mahesh Bhagwat, MLAs Malreddy Ranga Reddy, Veerlapalli Shankaraya, and Prakash Goud, along with senior police officials Future City / Ibrahimpatnam | 19 October 2026:

In a major move to strengthen the police infrastructure within the 'Future City'—a prestigious development project by the Government of Telangana—a new Police Commissionerate has been established. On Monday, the Honourable Chief Minister, Shri A. Revanth Reddy, inaugurated the 'Future City' Police Commissionerate, which is set up across an expansive campus in Ibrahimpatnam, Ranga Reddy district.

This Commissionerate will play a pivotal role in maintaining law and order, ensuring public safety, facilitating rapid police response, and further advancing a policing system integrated with modern technology. Upon his arrival at the Commissionerate, the Chief Minister was presented with a ceremonial Guard of Honour by the police forces. Following this, the Chief Minister participated in a special prayer ceremony (puja).



Future City Police Commissioner Dr. Tarun Joshi, IPS, welcomed the Chief Minister. He then accompanied the Chief Minister on a tour of the Commissionerate premises, personally showing him the office facilities. The inauguration ceremony was attended by

Telangana Director General of Police (DGP) Mr. C.V. Anand, IPS; Director of the RBVRR Telangana State Police Academy, DGP Ms. Abhilasha Bisht, IPS; DGP (Law

and Order) Mr. Mahesh M. Bhagwat, IPS; Future City Police Commissioner Dr. Tarun Joshi, IPS; and Joint Commissioner of Police Ms. G. Chandana Deepti, IPS.

Ibrahimpatnam MLA Mr. Malreddy Ranga Reddy, Shadnagar MLA Mr. Veerlapalli Shankaraya, and Rajendranagar MLA Mr. T. Prakash Goud were also present at the inauguration. Additionally, Deputy Commissioners of Police (DCPs) from all zones, along with other senior police officers and police personnel, attended the event. A More Robust Police System for the 'Future City' Region In December 2025, the Government of Telangana established the 'Future City Police Commissionerate' by reorganizing certain areas previously falling under the jurisdiction of the Cyberabad and Rachakonda Police Commissionerates.

The primary objectives of this Commissionerate are to bring police services closer to the public, ensure the effective maintenance of law and order, control crime, improve police oversight, and facilitate rapid response during emergencies.

The jurisdiction of this Commissionerate encompasses Ibrahimpatnam, Maheshwaram, Shadnagar, Chevella, Shankarpalli, Moinabad, and their surrounding areas. In line with the expansion of the 'Future City,' the government has recently reorganized the police structure. Measures have been taken to establish additional police zones and divisions, as well as dedicated police stations for women and traffic management. This initiative is set to enhance the quality of police services provided to the public. Policing the 'Future City' with Modern Technology Under the leadership of Police Commissioner Dr. Tarun Joshi, IPS, the 'Future City' police force is placing a special emphasis on the integration of modern technology.

Speaker prays at Durga Mata mandaps in Vikarabad

Vikarabad, Oct 19 (GNS): Telangana Legislative Assembly Speaker and Vikarabad MLA Gaddam Prasad Kumar visited several Durga Mata mandaps across Vikarabad town as part of the Sri Devi Sharannavaratri celebrations and performed special prayers. At the invitation of Vishwam Pantulu, the Speaker participated in the Akhanda Harathi puja at the Durga Mata mandap in Shivaji Nagar Colony. Priests offered him theertha prasadam and blessings. He also performed special prayers at the Durga Mata mandap established by representatives of Trishul Youth Association in Telephone Exchange Colony under the leadership of local councillor Mallikarjun Goud.

Speaking on the occasion, Prasad Kumar said he prayed for the happiness, peace and prosperity of the people of Telangana and sought the blessings of the Goddess for everyone in the state. He said he had prayed to the Goddess to give the state government and Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy the strength to face the challenges posed by El Niño and related natural conditions.

The Speaker also assured that he would work towards the further development of Vikarabad town and the Vikarabad Assembly constituency in the coming days. Several Congress leaders, municipal representatives, police officials, local residents and Youth Congress leaders participated in the religious programmes. He urged devotees to uphold the values of unity, devotion and service to society during the Navaratri festivities. Local organisers thanked the Speaker for participating in the celebrations and joining devotees in offering prayers to Durga Mata.

Silent revolution sweeping country under Rahul Gandhi's leadership: Uttam Kumar Reddy

Hyderabad, Oct 19 (GNS): A "silent revolution" is sweeping the country under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi, with people increasingly looking for an alternative to the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Telangana Minister for Irrigation and Civil Supplies Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy asserted on Monday.

Addressing the annual Rajiv Gandhi Sadbhavana Yatra Commemoration Day and Rajiv Sadbhavana Award function at the historic Charminar, Uttam Kumar Reddy who presided over the event, expressed confidence that growing public support for Rahul Gandhi and the Congress reflected a wider desire for political change at the national level. He called upon Congress workers to stand firmly behind Rahul Gandhi in the struggle to defeat the BJP and strengthen the forces of secularism, democracy and national unity.



The programme, organised annually since 1990 to commemorate former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's message of communal harmony and national integration, also highlighted his contributions to technological advancement, democratic decentralisation, youth empowerment and peace-building. Uttam Kumar Reddy said Rahul Gandhi had provided effective leadership to the Congress through challenging political

circumstances as well as favourable periods. The growing participation of people in Congress programmes across the country, he said, indicated that a silent political transformation was gathering momentum.

Emphasising the importance of party organisation, the Minister said the Congress government must give greater recognition to grassroots workers who had endured years of hardship during the previous BRS regime. Their perseverance, sacrifices and sustained efforts had played a crucial role in the Congress returning to power in Telangana, and their contributions should not be forgotten. He urged ministers, MPs, MLCs and MLAs to accord greater priority to important party programmes and demonstrate their commitment to the organisation and its cadre. He emphasised the importance of maintaining close coordination between the government and the party, stating that greater participation by ministers and elected representatives in party programmes would help recognise grassroots workers and strengthen the organisation.

Recalling Rajiv Gandhi's association with Hyderabad through the Sadbhavana Yatra, Uttam Kumar Reddy congratulated former PCC president V. Hanumantha Rao and the Rajiv Sadbhavana Award Committee for maintaining the tradition for more than three decades. He said he had regularly attended the programme irrespective of the position he held.

The event also served as a reminder of Rajiv Gandhi's enduring message of communal harmony, peace and national integration. Congress leaders and workers who attended the programme reaffirmed their commitment to upholding these values and strengthening unity among people from different communities. The organisers said the annual commemoration at Charminar continued to inspire younger generations to promote mutual respect, democratic values and peaceful coexistence.

Ponnam Prabhakar extends Vijayadashami greetings to Telangana people

Hyderabad, Oct 19 (GNS): Minister for Transport and BC Welfare, Ponnam Prabhakar, has extended his Vijayadashami greetings to the people of Telangana.

The Minister noted that the festival of Vijayadashami is celebrated as a symbol of the victory of good over evil and righteousness over unrighteousness. He expressed his wish that, with the blessings of the Goddess, the lives of all the people in the state may be filled with happiness, prosperity, good health, peace, and well-being. He hoped that the people of Telangana would celebrate the festival of Dussehra with joy and unity,

and wished for happiness in every home, progress for every family, and success in the lives of every individual.

Minister Ponnam Prabhakar further expressed his aspiration that, with the blessings of Goddess Durga, the state may achieve progress across all sectors and that the aspirations of its people may be fulfilled. He said festivals such as Vijayadashami strengthen the bonds of unity, brotherhood and mutual respect among people. He called upon citizens to celebrate the occasion in a spirit of harmony and togetherness, setting aside differences and promoting peace and goodwill in society. The

Minister stated that Dussehra symbolises the triumph of truth, courage and justice, inspiring people to overcome challenges and work towards a better future. He expressed hope that the festival would bring renewed confidence and positive energy to families across Telangana.

Ponnam Prabhakar also emphasised the importance of preserving Telangana's rich cultural traditions and passing them on to future generations. He said that festivals play a significant role in keeping cultural values alive while bringing communities together through shared celebrations and devotion.

Bhatti Vikramarka Orders Speedy Spending of SC/ST Welfare Funds

Hyderabad, Oct 19 (GNS): Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka has directed officials to accelerate the utilisation of Sub-Plan funds allocated in the state budget for the welfare and development of Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). He stressed the need to expedite expenditure in accordance with budgetary allocations and pay special attention to departments lagging behind in fund utilisation.

He also instructed officials to formulate a comprehensive action plan covering financial reforms, resource mobilisation and debt restructuring to further strengthen the state's financial position.



During a review meeting with senior Finance Department officials at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat on Monday, Bhatti Vikramarka reviewed the implementation of the SC and ST Progress Sub-Plan, department-wise bud-

get allocations, expenditure incurred so far and various aspects of the state's financial management.

He emphasised that the concerned departments must act responsibly to ensure that allocated funds are spent in accordance with

the intended objectives.

The Deputy Chief Minister made it clear that there should be no delay in utilising funds earmarked for the welfare, social advancement and economic empowerment of SC and ST communities. He directed the departments to effectively implement their expenditure plans to ensure that Sub-Plan funds allocated on a population basis are utilised efficiently for the welfare and development of these communities.

He further instructed officials to ensure full utilisation of funds earmarked under the special SC and ST budget heads, in accordance with statutory provisions and budgetary allocations, just as funds under general budget heads are utilised. He called for identifying gaps in expenditure and taking immediate corrective measures to address them. Bhatti Vikramarka asked Finance Department officials to conduct special reviews with departments that were lagging in fund utilisation and accelerate expenditure. He directed officials to convene meetings shortly with the secretaries of departments that have significant gaps in expenditure, beginning with the departments requiring priority attention. The review will cover departments including Agriculture, Medical and Health, Energy, Municipal Administration.

Kavitha Inspects Withered Crops in Karimnagar, Demands Pranahita Water for Farmers

Karimnagar, Oct 19 (GNS): Telangana Rakshana Sena president Kalvakuntla Kavitha on Monday inspected crops that had withered due to a lack of irrigation water in Mogdumpur village of Karimnagar Rural mandal. She interacted with farmers, enquired about the reasons for crop damage and assured them of her support.

Addressing the issue, Kavitha criticised the Congress government for asking farmers not to cultivate crops due to water shortages. She said no previous government had asked farmers to stop farming and questioned Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy over the government's approach to the agricultural crisis. Kavitha said water could be lifted from the Pranahita river to protect standing crops. She suggested constructing a small check dam near Pranahita, stating that it could help stabilise



irrigation for 35 to 40 lakh acres. She urged the Chief Minister to set aside political differences and take immediate steps to provide water to farmers.

She also questioned why no officials had visited Mogdumpur to assess the damage despite the village being located close to Karimnagar.

Kavitha said the district collector should visit the affected areas and estimate the extent of crop loss. She further questioned how the government could seek assistance from the Centre without first calculating the actual damage.

Alleging that farmers were suffering losses because of

the Congress government's negligence, Kavitha claimed that each farmer was facing losses of around 50,000. She also expressed concern over forecasts of inadequate rainfall in the coming season and stressed the need to utilise Pranahita water to safeguard agriculture.

On behalf of her party, Kavitha put forward three demands: 24-hour electricity supply to farmers, immediate lifting of water for irrigation, and a comprehensive assessment of crop damage. She said the existing crops could be saved only if the government ensured an adequate supply of electricity and water without delay.

Kavitha also questioned whether the Chief Minister, ministers, MLAs and other political leaders would stop receiving salaries if farmers were being asked to stop agricultural activities. She alleged that political considerations over the Kaleshwaram project should not come at the expense of farmers' livelihoods.

Her visit focused on the urgent need for irrigation, crop-loss assessment and government intervention to protect farmers affected by water shortages in the Karimnagar region.



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