

PM Modi honours Police Martyrs

Leaders Honour Fallen Personnel on Police Commemoration Day

New Delhi, Oct 21 (GNS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday paid tribute to police personnel on Police Commemoration Day, expressing gratitude for their unwavering commitment to duty and their service under challenging circumstances.

In a post on social media platform X, PM Modi said, "Police Commemoration Day is an occasion to express our deepest gratitude to our police personnel, who serve with remarkable commitment, often in the most challenging circumstances. From maintaining law and order to combating crime, responding to emergencies and ensuring the safety of citizens, their contribution is invaluable."

"We pay our solemn tributes to the brave police personnel who laid down their lives in the line of duty. Their courage, unwavering dedication and supreme sacrifice will forever remain etched in



our nation's memory," he said.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis also paid homage to police personnel who lost their lives while performing their duties. He said their courage, sacrifice and unwavering commitment to protecting society would continue to inspire generations.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari also paid tribute to police personnel who lost their lives while safeguarding the country's internal security

and defence. In his post on X, Gadkari said: "Saluting the courage, dedication, and sacrifice of our brave police personnel who laid down their lives for the nation's internal security and defense, on 'Police Commemoration Day'.

Jai Hind!" Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta paid homage to police personnel who set an example of courage and dedication through their service to the nation. In her post on X, CM Gupta wrote: "A humble

tribute to all brave police personnel who set the highest example of national service and dedication on Police Commemoration Day."

"Their supreme sacrifice for the security of the nation and society will forever remain alive in our memories. The patience, courage, and sacrifice of these heroes' families are also worthy of reverence for the entire nation. The country will always remain indebted to them," she added. Police Commemoration Day is observed across India on October 21 every year to honour police personnel who have laid down their lives in the line of duty.

The observance dates back to October 21, 1959, when 10 Indian police personnel were killed in an ambush by heavily armed Chinese troops at Hot Springs in Ladakh. Their sacrifice became the foundation for the annual commemoration of police martyrs across the country.

Kharge slams BJP over Manipur

Seeks accountability from Modi and Shah

New Delhi, Oct 21 (GNS): Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on October 21 accused the BJP-led government of failing to restore peace in Manipur, questioning Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah over the continuing violence and demanding accountability for the loss of lives and prolonged displacement. "Manipur is bleeding again because of BJP's incompetence! The horrific killing of four innocent civilians in the latest spate of violence is deeply condemnable. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families," Kharge said in a post on X.

He said the continuing bloodshed in the strategically important border state reflected the government's failure to maintain law and order, protect constitutional rights and ensure national security. Kharge said more than 300



people had been killed since the ethnic conflict erupted in May 2023, while 24,530 people continued to live in relief camps under poor conditions. Women, children and other vulnerable groups remained among the worst affected by the prolonged crisis, he added. Questioning the BJP's handling of the situation, the Congress president said the imposition of President's Rule, the change of chief minister and the subsequent return of a BJP-

led government had failed to ensure lasting peace. He also criticised Modi for not visiting Manipur for nearly 29 months after the outbreak of violence, alleging that the Prime Minister had failed to fulfil his assurance of restoring normalcy.

Kharge raised questions about the Peace Committee constituted by Shah in June 2023, seeking details of the concrete steps taken to end the violence, protect residents and address secu-

urity concerns in the sensitive border state. He also sought details of the action taken on the recommendations of the Supreme Court-appointed committee headed by former Jammu and Kashmir High Court Chief Justice Gita Mittal. He questioned why thousands of people remained displaced and what measures had been taken to ensure their safety, dignity and rehabilitation. Referring to the Supreme Court's observations on 31 unnatural deaths in relief camps, Kharge sought accountability for the conditions in which displaced people continued to live.

"After more than three years, over 300 deaths, President's Rule and a change of Chief Minister, who will take responsibility for this monumental failure of governance? How many more innocent lives must be lost before the Prime Minister and Home Minister act?" he asked.

CJP leaders Saurav Das, Ashutosh Ranka walk out of Tihar Jail after 7 days

New Delhi, Oct 21 (GNS): Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka walked out of Tihar jail on Wednesday after seven days in judicial custody, following an order by a special executive magistrate (SEM) who accepted their written undertakings not to breach peace or call for protests at Jantar Mantar as long as it remains a de-notified protest site.

The release came after the two leaders furnished personal and surety bonds of 50,000 each, with the magistrate rejecting the Delhi Police's plea to extend their judicial custody by another three days. The police had argued that their release could lead to a breach of peace and disturbance of public tranquillity.

Assistant Commissioner of Police Ritu Raj, acting as the SEM, held that further detention was unnecessary in view of the assurances furnished by the two leaders. The magistrate directed



them to appear at every hearing and comply strictly with the conditions of their bonds and undertakings.

The next hearing has been scheduled for Friday at 3 pm, when the investigating officer must submit a surety verification report. The two leaders and their sureties have also been directed to remain present.

In their separate undertakings, Das and Ranka promised not to breach peace and expressed faith in the judiciary, including the SEM court. They also assured the magistrate that any future protests would be conducted within the

constitutional framework. Soon after the release order, Das declared that "truth has triumphed".

Welcoming the decision, CJP legal head Ratna Singh said the leaders should have been released much earlier. "We feel that one's liberty should not be curtailed just for a surety etc."

"... But it is not too late," she told reporters, adding that the CJP team was emotional and eager to meet the two leaders.

AAP convener Arvind Kejriwal congratulated them. "Heartiest congratulations to Ashutosh and Saurav on receiving bail.

Aadhaar failure won't block children's scholarships

New Delhi, Oct 21(UNI) Children cannot be denied benefits under the Pre-Matric Scholarships Scheme for Scheduled Castes and Others because Aadhaar authentication fails or they cannot furnish proof of possessing Aadhaar, the Centre has stipulated, subject to prescribed alternative identity verification. The Social Justice and Empowerment Ministry's notification, also protects children who produce an enrolment application while awaiting an Aadhaar number.

The notification requires beneficiaries to undergo Aadhaar authentication or furnish proof of possessing an Aadhaar number. Those without Aadhaar must apply for enrolment. For children, the application requires the consent of a parent or legal guardian. However, it expressly states that benefits "shall not be denied to any child" in the specified circumstances. Authorities must verify the child's identity and establish the relationship with a parent or legal guardian through the prescribed documentary procedure. Such cases must be recorded and periodically reviewed and audited.

Implemented through states and union territories, the scheme provides scholarships to Scheduled Caste students and children whose parents or guardians work in unclean and hazardous occupations.

Where biometric authentication fails, another biometric method or one-time password authentication must be offered wherever feasible and permissible. If these methods are unavailable, benefits may be provided after prescribed offline verification of Aadhaar's secure QR code or paperless offline identity document.

For genuine beneficiaries aged 18 or above, the department must follow the exception-handling mechanism specified by the Direct Benefit Transfer Mission to prevent deprivation of benefits. The notification takes effect

Akhilesh Yadav: BJP Is the Real Crisis, CM to Lose Chair

Lucknow, Oct 21 (GNS): Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday claimed that Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's chair was not safe, and that people, including farmers and younger generations, would bring about a change in the state.

Speaking to reporters, Akhilesh Yadav said the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) would face growing public opposition and asserted that the government was attempting to retain power amid mounting challenges. "Even the Chief Minister's chair is not safe, because the people are going to take it away from him this time. It is not just the people; farmers are also going to take his chair away. Gen Z is keeping a close watch, and Gen Alpha has also arrived. So, this time, his chair is not going to be safe. They can say anything to save it," he said. The Samajwadi Party leader further said the BJP itself was



responsible for the problems facing the state and that removing the party from power was the only way to resolve the crisis. "The BJP must be removed. The BJP itself is the real crisis. The crisis will end only when the BJP is removed. There is only one crisis, and that is the Bharatiya Janata Party," he said. Akhilesh Yadav also accused the ruling party of exploiting people's religious faith and devotion to protect its government.

Referring to the 2020 incident involving gangster Vikas Dubey, whose vehicle overturned while he was be-

ing transported by police, he alleged that the incident had helped the government avert a political crisis.

"Look, have faith. You can have faith and devotion, but the BJP members are known for playing with people's faith and devotion. You all know how people's faith has been exploited. First, it was people's faith in temples, and now their faith is being exploited in this matter... This government is trying to save itself from falling. Remember, Vikas Dubey's vehicle did not overturn; they saved the government from collapsing.

Sitharaman Meets Scotland First Minister to Boost Cooperation

New Delhi, Oct 21 (GNS): Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Wednesday met Scotland's First Minister John Swinney here and discussed areas of mutual interest and opportunities for strengthening cooperation in the financial services sector, among others. They also discussed cooperation in areas like renewable energy, establishment of higher educational institutions, and enhancing bilateral tourism, according to a Finance Ministry post on X. About three months after the India UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) entered into force, the pact is already reshaping commercial ties and could deliver substantial long term gains for their economies.

India gains immediate export competitiveness in labour-intensive goods, deeper services integration, professional mobility relief, and a template for

ambitious FTAs with other advanced economies. The deal's early commercial impact was visible on the first day of implementation, when Indian exporters shipped over 50 consignments worth about \$140 million under zero duty terms. In August, bilateral goods trade rose nearly 15 per cent year on year to nearly \$2 billion, with Indian exports up about 10 per cent and UK imports into India rising faster by 24 per cent. Bakkafrost Scotland completed the first significant shipment of Scottish salmon to India since the removal of a 33 per cent. import tariff under the countries' new free trade agreement with the UK. The salmon was flown through Heathrow Airport to Seashimi Foods in Bengaluru.

The free trade agreement (FTA) between the United Kingdom and India entered into force on July 15.

Trump says India-US trade deal is 'Pretty Close' to finalisation soon

New Delhi, Oct 21 (GNS): US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that India and the United States were close to finalising a trade agreement, describing the proposed pact as "going to be a much different kind of deal than we've done". Speaking to reporters at the Oval Office in Washington, Trump said, "They (India) want to make a deal. We're going to make a deal. Pretty close, yeah." His remarks came during US Secretary of State Marco Rubio's visit to India, where trade negotiations and energy cooperation figured prominently in discussions. Rubio had said on Tuesday that both countries were close to finalising the agreement, but stressed the importance of settling every detail before making an announcement.

"And with these deals, it's always important that it be totally agreed to every detail of it, before it's announced, because you can't afford for a relationship of this magnitude to be threatened by announcing a deal and then it turning out



the deal wasn't finalized. But it's incredibly close." Rubio said the remaining differences concerned technical details, including the precise language of the agreement.

"I think we're down to some technical details that have to be worked out. Technical details matter because there has to be agreement. Both sides have to agree that the language means the same thing. So it's down to that level. I'm not personally negotiating it because it's done through our Trade Representative. But I know – and have been very involved in watching it happen – that it is something we anticipate seeing in a matter of weeks, not months." He

added, "I would say we're about as close as you can be without having an executed agreement. I think there's a small number of items left to wrap up."

On energy supplies and sanctions against Russia, Rubio acknowledged the need to balance pressure on Moscow with the economic consequences for other countries.

"People don't realise that sanctions come at a consequence, because sanctions aren't just on Russia. They are on anyone who does business with Russia. So there's a balancing act there – there always is – between on the one hand trying to pressure the countries involved in this war to enter into an agreement, and on the other hand recognizing that when you do that pressure, sometimes it spills over and has a negative impact on other countries." He said Trump had used a national security waiver to avoid immediately implementing additional tariffs and sanctions under legislation passed by the US Congress.

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Power tussle in Karnataka Congress

Kalyani Shankar

The Karnataka Congress is facing challenges due to a power struggle between Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar. Many in the party predict a potential change of guard. The growing speculation about Shivakumar replacing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has created an atmosphere of uncertainty. The ruling Congress is struggling with internal conflicts, a lack of discipline, and factionalism among its members, adding to the intrigue.

Rumours are gaining momentum, primarily as senior leaders, such as G Parameshwara, have publicly acknowledged significant discontent within the party. While Siddaramaiah attempts to do some damage control, the Shivakumar camp is openly lobbying for a leadership change, claiming it could occur within the next three months. The reason for the next three-month time limit is intriguing. Insiders claim that the power struggle is now in the open. Additionally, Congress MLA Iqbal Hussain, a staunch supporter of DK, has claimed that around 100 MLAs are in favour of a leadership change. DK, as the state party president, has issued disciplinary action against him.

The Congress had deputed and said there was no change in leadership last week. Although a temporary ceasefire may be in place, the potential for change remains. The Congress came to power in the 2023 Assembly polls. There was a buzz that both leaders were contenders for the top post.

The High Command floated a two-and-a-half-year rotational formula,



which was acceptable. Accordingly, Siddaramaiah will complete two and a half years as Chief Minister of Karnataka by November this year. He will also celebrate his 25 years of leadership. Siddaramaiah is recognised for his extensive experience in administration and his strong support from the OBC community.

With the Bihar elections approaching at the end of the year, the Congress leadership is keen to maintain stability by not disturbing Siddaramaiah, an important OBC leader. His administration is known for offering freebies, appeasing Muslims, and dividing the Hindu community. On the other hand, Shivakumar is known as ‘Mr Fixit’.

DK is the ‘go-to’ man, and the Congress leadership has used him in dealing with dissidents in other Congress-ruled states as well. DK is valued for his able leadership and organisational skills, as well as his financial resources and ability to manage internal dissent. Both leaders have

their contributions to the Congress. The party needs them in times of crisis. Besides DK, other candidates are also vying for the post. The Lingayat community's minister, MB Patil, also aspires for the top job. Shivakumar represents the Vokkaliga community, while Siddaramaiah, from the Kuruba community, is a significant OBC figure.

Alarmed at the dissident activity, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has warned his ministers to maintain confidentiality regarding internal party matters in a recent cabinet meeting, warning of stern action. Shivakumar, resigned to his fate, publicly said, “Whatever the party and High Command want will happen,” adding, “What option do I have? I have to stand by him and support him.” However, his camp continues to chant “D K for CM”. Meanwhile, the BJP, eyeing an opportunity to come back to power, is predicting a mid-term poll, asserting that the Congress Government is likely to collapse soon. Siddaramaiah has dismissed any

suggestions of a leadership change, and the Congress High Command has also ruled out such a possibility.

A day after Congress leader Randeep Surjewala stated that there would be no moves for leadership change following meetings with legislators and leaders, the Chief Minister asserted, “There will be no change in the Chief Minister in Karnataka.” Currently, Siddaramaiah remains confident that he will serve the full five-year term. His strong declaration and warning were intended not only to silence dissent but also to convey a message of stability to the public, party workers, and the Congress leadership. Replacing Siddaramaiah is not easy for the Congress leadership, as he could split the party. The Congress leadership must be careful in handling the situation in Karnataka. If Sonia Gandhi or Rahul Gandhi had promised D K a rotational Chief Minister role, it would be hard to refuse him now. The High Command must fulfil the promises made after the

elections to resolve the Chief Minister issue. If they don't, Karnataka could face the same problems as Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh. In both states, the claim was between two influential state leaders, and the High Command had promised a rotational Chief Minister; however, when the time came, they were unable to fulfil this promise. Shivakumar, a major candidate for the Chief Minister position, agreed to serve as Deputy Chief Minister under Mr Siddaramaiah in 2023.

He was also appointed the head of the party's state unit to calm him down, a post he does not want to relinquish. Indiscipline, factionalism, and revolts have been ongoing challenges in Karnataka, and the Congress party has consistently sought viable solutions to address these issues. The party is unable to decide on aspirants from various castes. The party's leadership faces a dilemma in effectively tackling the recurring political crises that often emerge.

Humanity must prevail over power games

The world today stands at a dangerous crossroad. Every day, headlines scream of war, destruction and hatred – and the latest tension between Iran and Israel is one such dangerous example. Both countries are speaking in the language of fire and revenge. If they do not step back the entire world will be pulled into a storm of sorrow and suffering. This is not just a fight between two nations. It is a fight that has the potential to destroy humanity itself. The damage would not be limited to the warring sides. The tremors of destruction, the economic aftershocks and the emotional trauma would spread far and wide, consuming the innocent and helpless. Let us ask ourselves honestly: What will war give us? What will nuclear weapons achieve? Will a mother who loses her child feel satisfied because her country won? Will a soldier's widow find peace in the name of patriotism? Will a destroyed city ever rise again with the same soul it once had? We live in an age where leadership demands wisdom, not arrogance. Unfortunately we see arrogance glorified as strength and warmongering paraded as nationalism. Religions which were once sacred paths to peace have been turned into tools of manipulation. Faith which should be a force of healing, has been twisted into a reason for killing. What we see around the globe is deeply disturbing from religious extremists to political profiteers and military-industrial complexes – all joining hands in the name of power. They exploit sentiments, spread fear and keep the world divided so they can rule from above untouched by the fires they ignite.

Among the worst offenders is Pakistan. It loudly speaks in the name of Islam but its own people continue to live in darkness economically shattered, socially unstable and politically misled. The country is no longer governed by statesmen or visionaries. Instead it is controlled by a nexus of corrupt individuals both in uniform and in civil attire who have no concern for the well being of their own citizens. They have mastered the dark art of weaponising religion not to uplift the soul but to suppress minds. Instead of empowering their citizens with education and opportunities they feed them hate and false heroism. While the poor in Pakistan suffer from poverty, unemployment and inflation their rulers dine in Western capitals, celebrate fake diplomatic wins and betray even those allies who once stood by them.

The recent behavior of Pakistan's Army Chief, General Asim Munir is a clear reflection of this hypocrisy. While his country bleeds economically and socially he was seen enjoying biryani in the White House and smiling for cameras even as he diplomatically betrayed Iran a fellow Islamic country with whom they often claim to share deep religious bonds. This is not diplomacy, this is pure opportunism.

This is the same leadership that once killed innocent civilians in Pahalgam for not knowing the Kalima and now it betrays those who do recite it in Iran. What kind of religion are these power hungry men propagating, where both kalima knowing & non kalima knowing are killed & backstabbed on the altar of their greed?

Their double standards don't stop there. We all remember the India-Pakistan conflict be it the Kargil war, the Pulwama attack or the Uri assault in every instance the world saw Pakistan's role as an aggressor and India's response as measured but firm. When India carried out surgical strikes and air strikes against terror camps across the border it was not an act of war, it was an act of defense. A message that India will not tolerate terrorism exported by a rogue neighbor. Pakistan has long waged a proxy war in Jammu & Kashmir not with the goal of so called (Azadi) liberating people but to destabilize peace. Terror outfits nurtured on its soil, trained and funded by its intelligence have been the root cause of bloodshed in the valley. Thousands of innocent Kashmiri Pandits, Sikhs & many others were forced into exile, turned into refugees in their own country. Villages along the border in Jammu and Kashmir, once full of life, now echo with the sound of shelling and sorrow. Let the world not forget that over seven lakh people were displaced from Kashmir due to terrorism engineered by Pakistan. And yet it shamelessly continues to present itself as a victim before global platforms masking its crimes with lies and diplomatic gimmicks. These power games are not limited to South Asia. The Russia-Ukraine war is another horrifying example of what happens when ambition becomes blind to human life. What started as a geopolitical conflict has now become one of the bloodiest wars in recent memory. Cities flattened, children orphaned, millions displaced and still no end in sight.

What is even more shocking is the passivity of the global powers. Some benefit through arms trade, others through energy deals. The same powers that preach peace often fund wars silently. This two faced diplomacy has eroded trust in international institutions. The United Nations passes resolutions but those in power bypass them with military action. Words like “human rights” and “global responsibility” are thrown around but their meaning is lost in practice.

The same pattern repeats everywhere. The powerful become more mighty while the common people pay the price. Whether it is Afghanistan, Syria, Sudan, Yemen or Gaza blood flows, while global leaders give statements. The grief of a mother in Jammu & Kashmir is no different from that of a mother in other troubled part of the world yet their pain is used as a political tool. In such a world humanity itself is under threat. The conscience of mankind is being suppressed by weapons, propaganda and power politics. The world must awaken before it is too late.

I appeal to global leaders with folded hands and a heavy heart: Stop this madness. Step back from the edge. Think not as kings or commanders but as fathers, mothers, sons and daughters. Choose peace over pride. Choose dialogue over destruction. If this fire is not extinguished now it will become a wildfire that spares none. The time has come for the common people of the world – from east to west, from North to South to raise their voice. Let us demand accountability from those who govern. Let us stand for peace, not politics. Let us expose the exploiters, reject the warmongers and unite under the banner of truth and humanity. Whether Muslim, Hindu, Christian, Jew or atheist we are humans first. And in the eyes of suffering all blood is red and every tear is the same.

Peace cannot be achieved through threats, military aggression or an endless race to acquire more destructive weapons. True security comes from mutual respect, responsible leadership and a genuine willingness to resolve differences through dialogue. The international community must encourage all nations involved in conflicts to return to diplomatic negotiations and respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other countries. Every effort must be made to prevent regional disputes from turning into a global catastrophe.

The international community must also recognise that ordinary citizens are the greatest victims of prolonged conflicts. Children lose their education, families lose their homes, workers lose their livelihoods and entire generations grow up surrounded by fear and uncertainty. Governments must prioritise humanitarian assistance, protect civilians and ensure that essential supplies, including food, medicines and drinking water, reach people trapped in conflict zones. No political objective can justify the deliberate suffering of innocent people.

Equally important is the responsibility of the media and social media platforms in shaping public opinion during times of conflict. Unverified information, inflammatory speeches and propaganda can deepen divisions and encourage hatred between communities. Journalists, intellectuals and responsible citizens must distinguish facts from misinformation and resist attempts to portray entire religious or national communities as enemies. Criticism should be directed at specific actions and those responsible for them, rather than used to spread collective blame or hostility.

The United Nations and other international organisations must move beyond expressions of concern and pursue meaningful initiatives to prevent escalation. Dialogue between rival nations, confidence-building measures, arms-control agreements and stronger mechanisms for peaceful dispute resolution are essential to restoring global stability. Major powers must demonstrate consistency in applying international law, regardless of their strategic alliances or economic interests. A credible international order cannot survive if rules are enforced selectively and human suffering is ignored whenever it becomes politically inconvenient.

Ultimately, the future of humanity depends on the choices made by today's leaders and citizens. History will not remember greatness merely by the number of weapons a country possesses or the territory it controls, but by how wisely it protects life, resolves disputes and safeguards the dignity of people. We must reject hatred, extremism and the glorification of violence, while encouraging education, compassion and cooperation among nations. The world does not need another arms race or another generation scarred by war; it needs leaders with the courage to choose peace and people with the determination to defend humanity above all divisions.

Farmers as India's silent warriors

Prof B N Tripathi

In a world fraught with rising geopolitical tensions such as the recent escalations involving Iran and Israel questions around national security have once again taken centre stage. While armed conflicts may dominate headlines, they underscore a deeper truth: a nation's strength lies not just in its military capabilities, but in its ability to ensure stability and sustenance for its people. India, too, must reflect on its silent yet steadfast contributors to national resilience i.e. to our farmers.

Wars are never desirable. They bring with them destruction, dislocation, and distress. Peace is always the preferred path. However, history reminds us that there are times when nations are compelled to defend their sovereignty, integrity, and dignity. In such times, while the armed forces are lauded and rightly so for their valour and commitment at the borders, it is equally important to recognize another silent and steadfast force behind the strength of a nation: the Indian farmer.

As the current geopolitical tensions with Pakistan simmer, one significant and often overlooked truth emerges: India's resilience does not merely stem from its military prowess, but from its robust agricultural backbone. The dual foundation of defence and food security ensures that India remains fed, fearless, and firm in the face of adversity. While the Indian soldier guards the frontiers, it is the Indian farmer who ensures the country's granaries remain full and its citizens nourished.

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan rightly stated, “India has sufficient food stocks to feed every citizen even in



challenging times.” This statement is not just a declaration, it is a testament to the strength of India's agricultural framework, built on the shoulders of millions of farmers across the length and breadth of the country. The comparison between a soldier and a farmer is not merely rhetorical. The soldier protects the nation from external threats, while the farmer ensures internal stability through food production. During every crisis; be it war, natural calamity, or the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic, the Indian farmer has continued to work relentlessly. Even during the harshest lockdowns, when much of the economy was brought to a standstill, farmers toiled in the fields, ensuring uninterrupted food supply to every household.

This silent service deserves recognition. India's defense preparedness is not only about tanks and missiles, but also about tractors and seeds. Granaries are as important as armories. And the furrows

ploughed by farmers are as vital as the trenches guarded by soldiers. A hungry nation cannot fight wars. A well-fed nation is better prepared to face any challenge. The 2020-21 COVID-19 pandemic underscored the critical role of agriculture in ensuring national stability. While most sectors experienced contraction, agriculture was among the few that recorded growth. Farmers worked day and night, risking their health and with limited mobility to harvest crops and sustain food supply chains. In doing so, they ensured food availability even in the remotest corners of the country, upholding India's commitment to food for all.

India's agricultural journey is one of perseverance, innovation, and transformation. In the 1950s, the country was grappling with food shortages, producing merely 50 million tonnes (Mt) of food grains. Today, that figure has surged to over 330 Mt, making India not only self-sufficient in food production but also a

significant exporter. What makes India's agricultural journey truly remarkable is not just the growth in food production but also the diversification across multiple sectors through various agricultural revolutions, namely; Green, White, Blue, Golden, Yellow, Pink, Silver, Purple etc.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's addition to the iconic slogan originally given by former PM Lal Bahadur Shastri “Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan”, now includes “Jai Vigyan” (Victory to Science) and “Jai Anusandhan” (Victory to Innovation). This reflects the changing dynamics of national strength in the 21st century. A nation is not only secure through its military and food reserves, but also through its scientific temper and capacity for innovation. Indian agriculture today is not just about traditional farming. It is about research-driven productivity, climate-resilient practices, digitization, precision agriculture, biotechnology, and sustainable growth. With the increasing impact of climate change, India has

adopted measures to ensure that farming becomes more adaptive and efficient. Technologies like satellite mapping, drip irrigation, organic farming, integrated pest management, and genetic improvements have empowered farmers with new tools to secure the nation's food needs.

In our pursuit of development and security, farmers must not be relegated to the background. They must be seen as key stakeholders in national planning and defence preparedness. Policies must continue to focus on enhancing agricultural productivity, ensuring fair prices, strengthening value chains, providing access to technology and credit, and building climate resilience. It is also important to promote a culture of respect and pride in farming. While urbanization and modernization are vital, neglecting the rural and agrarian backbone would be a costly mistake. The dream of a self-reliant India (Atmanirbhar Bharat) rests firmly on the shoulders of its food producers.

49 MSMEs, 27 large-scale projects and 4 non-MSMEs allotted plots in Bidkin Industrial Area

New Delhi, Oct 21 (GNS): Bidkin has rapidly emerged as an engine of growth in the Marathwada region. The area has attracted marquee investments worth 76,219 crore, including Ather Energy (EVs), Lubrizol (chemicals), Toyota Kirloskar (automobiles), and JSW Green Mobility, with an employment potential of 35,000+ jobs.

CEO & MD, National Industrial Corridor Development Corporation (NICDC) Shri Rajat Kumar Saini added, "The journey of AURIC reflects the larger vision of NICDC Smart Cities - to create future-ready hubs of manufacturing, sustainability, and inclusive growth. In just six years, AURIC has become a magnet for global and domestic investors, setting benchmarks for how industrial townships can empower MSMEs, create jobs, and transform regions. As we look ahead, our focus remains to ensure that smart cities like AURIC continue to drive India's growth story for decades to come."

AURIC provides investors with world-class, plug-and-play infrastructure includ-

ing wide roads, assured water and power supply, as well as advanced sewage and effluent treatment facilities. The city integrates technology-driven solutions such as e-governance, single-window clearances, online land and building plan approvals, and a central command and control system. With a power distribution licence and underground networks, AURIC ensures uninterrupted, high-quality, and competitively priced electricity. The industrial city is being developed on a sectoral cluster-based model covering automobiles, electric vehicles, electronics, pharmaceuticals, textiles, food processing, IT/ITes, and chemicals, thereby offering a conducive environment for businesses to grow.

The region is supported by multi-modal connectivity, including the Samrudhi Mahamarg, proposed Sambhajnagar-Pune Greenfield Expressway, Jalna Dry Port, and proximity to Aurangabad Airport and major rail links. These connectivity initiatives, aligned with PM GatiShakti, en-

hance logistics efficiency and make AURIC a competitive investment hub.

Most importantly, AURIC is an integral part of the DMIC (Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor), further boosting its connectivity with national and international markets, thus promoting Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar as a central manufacturing and investment hub. AURIC benefits from regular high-level engagement to ensure investor facilitation. Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, and Secretary, DPIIT, Shri Amardeep Singh Bhatia, have undertaken visits to interact with investors and review on-ground progress, ensuring timely resolution of issues and continuous improvement in the business environment.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated AURIC City on 7 September 2019. On the same occasion, he inaugurated AURIC Hall, a six-storey building serving as the administrative and monitoring nerve centre of the smart city, symbolising its commitment to technol-

ogy-enabled governance and ease of doing business.

AURIC plays a pivotal role in Maharashtra's aspiration of becoming a \$1 trillion economy by 2030. With its robust infrastructure, marquee investors, and employment generation, AURIC is also contributing to the national vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047. The city continues to bring forth opportunities for the Marathwada region, creating a vibrant ecosystem for manufacturing, exports, and innovation. In just six years, AURIC has transformed into a benchmark for industrial smart cities.

AURIC is a Greenfield Industrial Smart City developed under the Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor (DMIC). It is managed by the Maharashtra Industrial Township Limited (MITL), a Special Purpose Vehicle formed through a joint venture between the Government of India and Government of Maharashtra.

Shendra and Bidkin (AURIC) offers world-class infrastructure, large contiguous land parcels, plug-and-play facilities, and single-window

clearances to attract domestic and global investors. It focuses on sectors such as automobile, engineering, defense, electronics, textiles, food processing, etc. AURIC stands out as a model for sustainable and inclusive industrial development, offering opportunities for MSMEs, large-scale industries, and entrepreneurs while ensuring balanced growth with residential and social amenities. AURIC's development is also strengthening the industrial ecosystem of Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar by encouraging ancillary industries, supplier networks and service providers to establish operations near major manufacturing units. This is expected to create fresh opportunities for local entrepreneurs and MSMEs while supporting technology transfer, skill development and long-term economic growth across Marathwada.

The industrial smart city's focus on sustainability and modern urban planning is another key feature. Integrated infrastructure, efficient resource management and advanced utility systems are designed.

AI, technology & innovation to drive India's growth story: Goyal

New Delhi, Oct 21 (GNS): Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Wednesday that Artificial Intelligence, technology, and innovation will be the driving forces of India's growth story. Addressing the 58th convocation ceremony of the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade (IIFT) here, the minister congratulated the graduating class of 2025 and called upon them to harness their skills, agility, and vision to lead the country towards Viksit Bharat 2047.

Goyal underlined the role of technology and artificial intelligence in driving India's growth story, pointing out the transformative potential of AI, robotics, machine learning, quantum computing, and innovation across key sectors such as manufacturing, agriculture, healthcare, and education. Coupled with India's large pool of 2.3 million STEM graduates every year, he said, these advancements can reduce dependence on foreign technology and empower industries and services while uplifting those at the bottom of the pyramid.

Recounting his experience of running a skill development centre in Mumbai with the CII, the NSDC, Kyndryl, and IBM, the minister shared how students from modest backgrounds quickly adapted to new-age technologies such as cybersecurity, reflecting India's innate ability to embrace knowledge and innovation. He emphasised that India's youthful population with an average age of 28.4 years — is its greatest strength in the journey from a \$4 trillion economy to one worth \$30-35 trillion.

Goyal cited Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of self-reliance in technology — from operating systems to cybersecurity and deep tech to artificial intelligence. He said India must secure primacy in technology globally and make the nation proud. Highlighting the economic vision of the government under Prime Minister Modi, the Minister said it is rooted in building a developed nation a Viksit Bharat ensuring prosperity for every child born in the country.

The focus, he said, is on

resilience, sustainability, inclusiveness, and innovation-driven growth, with an aim to improve quality of life, bridge the rural-urban divide, reduce poverty, and promote ease of doing business and ease of living.

Citing India's strong macroeconomic fundamentals, low inflation, and fastest-growing large economy status, Goyal highlighted the increasing global interest in India, with over 2,500 international companies already present in the country. He said this unprecedented opportunity places the destiny of the nation in the capable hands of the youth.

Chancellor, IIFT and Secretary, Department of Commerce, Sunil Barthwal, in his address, emphasised that resilience, adaptability, and ethical leadership will be the defining qualities that shape India's continued success on the international stage. About the opportunities ahead, he urged students to align their aspirations with the nation's larger goals, reminding them that every step forward they take in their careers adds to the progress of the country.

NTH: Safety, Quality & Compliance via Advanced Chemical Testing

New Delhi, Oct 21 (GNS): Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution and New & Renewable Energy, Shri Pralhad Joshi will inaugurate newly constructed state-of-the-art Chemical Laboratory at National Test House (NTH), Ghaziabad during an event on 10th September, 2025 in New Delhi. The lab will provide testing of packaged drinking water and natural mineral water, food packaging materials, enamelled and insulated wires made of aluminium and copper, coal, petroleum coke, bitumen, enamel paints, anti-skid products, filtration media such as sand and gravel, as well as white and coloured chalk.

The Chemical Laboratory will play a central role in testing a wide range of materials, including building construction materials, cement, water, metals, alloys, paper, plastics, organic products, and fertilizers. The laboratory is accredited by NABL under ISO/IEC 17025:2017 and holds approvals under the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) Outside Laboratory Scheme, the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI),

and the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985. The laboratory is equipped with state-of-the-art instruments, including Atomic Absorption Spectrometry (AAS), Inductively Coupled Plasma – Atomic Emission Spectroscopy (ICP-AES), Optical Emission Spectrometer (OES), Gas Chromatography – Mass Spectrometry (GC-MS), High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC), and Ion Chromatograph. These advanced facilities enable the laboratory to carry out sophisticated and highly accurate analyses across diverse domains. The laboratory also offers training, research, and testing support to universities, engineering colleges, and industries, thereby strengthening the scientific and industrial ecosystem.

Furthermore, the Laboratory aims to further expand its scope of testing. Some key plans include facilities for testing fortified food products such as fortified wheat flour, refined flour (maida), nuts, edible oils, and salt enriched with vitamins A and D so as to serve the industry as well as public at large. The laboratory also plans to introduce testing

of various spices and conduct micronutrient analysis in food products, thereby widening its contribution to public health, food safety, and quality assurance.

The National Test House (NTH), Ghaziabad, established in 1977, has been a trusted institution for high-quality testing and calibration services across various engineering fields.

The new facility is expected to strengthen quality assurance by enabling industries and manufacturers to verify that their products meet prescribed safety and performance standards. Its advanced analytical capabilities will support regulatory compliance, improve product reliability and help identify potential quality issues across multiple sectors.

The laboratory's testing and calibration services will also benefit small and medium enterprises by providing access to reliable scientific evaluation facilities. Its collaboration with educational institutions and industries through training and research initiatives is expected to promote technical expertise, encourage innovation and build capacity in specialised testing methods.

NEP-2020 unlocking potential of young minds by unshackling them from conventional subject barriers: Dr. Jitendra Singh

New Delhi, Oct 21 (GNS): Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, Minister of State for Prime Minister's Office, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh felicitated the student winners comprising the Indian team at the 18th "International Earth Science Olympiad" (IESO-2025) held at Jinjing, China from 8-16 August 2025. Team India put up a stellar performance by securing a total of seven medals – 1 Gold, 4 Silver and 2 Bronze – along with a 3rd Prize in the International Geoscience Youth Movement (I-GYM) Reporter category.

The winning students included: • Rayansh Gupta (Sat Paul Mittal School, Ludhiana, Punjab) – Gold, Silver & I-GYM 3rd Prize • Charuvrat Bains (M.G.N. Public School, Kapurthala, Punjab) – 2 Silver, 1 Bronze • Apam Nidhi Pandey (PM Shri K.V. No.1, Jaipur, Rajasthan) – 1 Silver • Priyanshi Ghanghas (MD Indraprastha Sr. Sec. Public School, Delhi) – 1 Bronze

The students were guided by mentors Prof. Devesh Walia and Prof. Hema Achyuthan,

with Dr. Jagvir Singh, Scientist-G, as observer. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Jitendra Singh lauded the young achievers for bringing glory to the nation and said the results reflect the new aspirational spirit among youth, particularly from Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, after India's startup revolution in the last decade.

The Minister underlined that the National Education Policy (NEP-2020) has unleashed the creative potential of young minds by freeing them from the limitations of rigid subject streams and enabling them to explore diverse disciplines. This, he said, is encouraging a paradigm shift from conventional courses towards cutting-edge fields such as Earth Sciences, Biotechnology, Space Technology and Start-up led self-employment.

Dr. Jitendra Singh appealed to students to actively leverage opportunities being provided by the Government through initiatives such as Vigyan Jyoti, scholarships, fellowships and research grants, to scale their ideas and make them beneficial for society.

Secretary, Ministry of

Earth Sciences, Dr. M. Ravichandran highlighted that the Ministry supports students for IESO every year by conducting the Indian National Earth Science Olympiad (INESO) across 300 centres in India. From nearly 30 shortlisted students, four are selected to represent India at the international level. He noted that in recent years, India's performance at IESO has been highly encouraging.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also urged the students not to limit their pursuit to winning competitions, but to broaden their horizons and apply their innovations to solve real-life problems for the larger good of citizens.

The International Earth Science Olympiad (IESO), established in 2003 by the International Geoscience Education Organization (IGEO), is an annual competition for secondary school students (Class IX-XII) worldwide. India has been participating since 2007 and hosted the 10th edition at Mysore in 2013.

The students' achievement highlights the growing interest among Indian schoolchildren in Earth Sciences and related scientific

disciplines. Their performance at the international competition reflects the importance of early exposure to scientific research, analytical thinking and practical problem-solving. It also demonstrates the potential of young talent from different regions of the country to compete successfully on the global stage.

The Indian National Earth Science Olympiad serves as an important platform for identifying and nurturing students with an aptitude for geosciences. Through nationwide participation and a structured selection process, the initiative provides promising students with opportunities to deepen their understanding of the Earth, its natural systems and the environmental challenges facing the world.

Earth Sciences have become increasingly important in addressing issues such as climate change, natural disasters, water scarcity, mineral resource management and environmental conservation. Encouraging students to pursue these subjects can help build a skilled workforce capable of developing sci-

entific solutions to complex challenges and supporting sustainable development.

The government's emphasis on science education, scholarships and research opportunities is intended to encourage students to move beyond classroom learning and explore innovation. Initiatives such as Vigyan Jyoti aim to expand access to scientific education and motivate young learners to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

The mentors and institutions supporting the Indian team also played an important role in preparing the students for the international competition. Their guidance, combined with the students' dedication and academic preparation, contributed to India's medal-winning performance. Such achievements can inspire other school students to participate in Olympiads and explore specialised scientific fields. India's performance at IESO-2025 further underlines the importance of investing in young scientific talent as the country advances towards its broader research and innovation goals.

Sensex, Nifty surge on India-US trade talk progress

Mumbai, Oct 21 (GNS): The Indian benchmark indices opened higher on Wednesday, on the back of promising developments in the US-India trade discussions along with strong overnight global cues. US President Donald Trump's initiative to improve India-US relations and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's positive response to the same is a positive cue for the Indian market. The Sensex was up 334 points or 0.41 per cent at 81,435 in the early morning trade, and the Nifty was up 106 points or 0.43 per cent at 24,975.

The broadcast indices made strong gains, as Nifty Midcap 100 inched up by 0.73 per cent, and the Nifty Small cap 100 moved up 0.71 per cent. In the Nifty pack, Larsen and Toubro, Kotak Mahindra, Dr Reddys Labs and TCS were the major gainers. The major losers were Hero Motocorp, Maruti Suzuki, Tata Steel and Hindalco. Among sectoral indices, Nifty IT, the top gainer, jumped 1.88 per cent. Nifty PSU bank and Nifty Realty were the other major gainers. Only Nifty

Auto (down 0.33 per cent) and Nifty Consumer durables were in the red.

Nifty on Tuesday faced resistance near the 24,900 level for the second consecutive session. The index formed a small green candle with a long lower shadow on the daily chart, reflecting ongoing consolidation and intraday volatility. "Nifty continued its upward journey yesterday, rising for the fifth consecutive session and closing at a two-week high. By closing above 24,791, Nifty managed to reclaim its level above 50 DEMA. The index has now decisively surpassed its 5, 10, 20, and 50-day DMAs, which is a bullish signal on short-term charts," said Devarsh Vakil, Head of Prime Research at HDFC Securities. According to market analysts, buying interest is visible at lower levels, and the 24,900-25,000 zone continues to act as a stiff hurdle.

Immediate support is placed at 24,620, and as long as the index trades below 25,000, some consolidation or mild weakness may persist, they said.

Apple ramps up India manufacturing with iPhone 17, eyes record festive season growth

New Delhi, Oct 21 (GNS): Apple, which is stepping up its manufacturing push in India, has spread iPhone 17 production across five local factories, which will be available in the country from September 19. According to analysts on Wednesday, the festive season is set to herald new sales records for the US-based giant. Apple is also expected to manufacture fewer units of the 'Pro' models in India, according to industry sources. Foxconn has started rolling out iPhone 17 units at its new \$2.8 billion facility in Devanahalli, near Bengaluru. The plant, which is Foxconn's second-largest iPhone factory outside China, is now running alongside its Chennai unit. Experts view the Bengaluru factory's launch and the broader manufacturing shift as a major milestone in Apple's diversification strategy.

Moreover, despite inflationary and tariff pressures affecting global supply chains, Apple has largely maintained stable US dollar pricing, supported by expanded local manufac-

turing in India, which mitigates geopolitical risks.

Tarun Pathak, Research Director at Counterpoint Research, told IANS that Apple now has a widest range of iPhone portfolio and is set to garner a major share in the upcoming festive season.

"Around 60-65 per cent of iPhones in India are being purchased on EMIs which would also work well for the new iPhone 17 series. From the form factor point of view, iPhone 17 Air looks stunning and will surely catch more eyeballs in the domestic market, especially with its Pro performance and best of the silicon," he noted. "I think the camera remains the best for iPhones in this new lineup, especially on the 17 Pro Series," Pathak added. While iPhone 17 (256 GB) starts at Rs 82,900, iPhone 17 Air (256 GB) begins from Rs 119,900; iPhone 17 Pro (256 GB) starts from Rs 134,900 and iPhone 17 Pro Max (256 GB) from Rs 149,900.

iPhone Air features a breakthrough titanium design that is elegant and light yet strong.

The back of iPhone Air is now protected with Ceramic Shield, and the front cover uses Ceramic Shield 2, delivering 3x better scratch resistance, making iPhone Air more durable than any previous iPhone. iPhone Air also features a stunning 6.5-inch Super Retina XDR display with ProMotion up to 120Hz.

According to Prabhu Ram, VP-Industry Research Group (IRG), CMR, with the all-new iPhone 17 series introducing a refreshed design language, Apple is well-positioned for a strong festive season in India. "The iPhone 17 Air brings notable design innovation, likely driving upgrades from loyalists of older models, while the iPhone 17 Pro lineup features a functional, performance-focused design reminiscent of the Apple Watch Ultra, the largest battery ever in an iPhone, and a major camera leap with an 8x telephoto lens and up to 40x digital zoom. Durability enhancements, including improved drop and scratch resistance, align with growing consumer demand for longer device lifecycles.

Moody's: GST Reforms to Boost Consumption, Protect Fiscal Path

New Delhi, Oct 21 (GNS): Goods and Services tax (GST) reforms are expected to boost domestic consumption without disrupting the trend of fiscal consolidation, a new report has said. The Centre may reduce government spending in the next two quarters to maintain fiscal consolidation trends, according to a report from ratings agency Moody's. The government estimates a net foregone revenue of Rs 48,000 crore (\$5.4 billion) for this year, based on FY24 data calculations. The GST reform may impact the government's efforts to reduce debt, the report said.

"India continues to have the weakest debt affordability among investment-grade sovereigns, with interest payments amounting to about 23 per cent of general government revenue in fiscal 2024-25," the note said. The rating agency reported that the revenue loss from the rate adjustment is expected to exceed government estimates, with a more pronounced strain in coming years. "Given the government's use of reve-

nue-eroding measures to support growth over the past year, we do not expect significant revenue-enhancing measures over the remainder of its term. This, in turn, pre-emptly material gains in debt reduction or improvements in debt affordability," Moody's highlighted. The decrease in effective GST rates, however, could enhance private consumption and support economic growth, it said. The GST reform serves as additional fiscal policy support for households, complementing the higher income tax thresholds introduced in February, which exempted many middle-income households from paying income taxes and lowered income tax payments for others.

Moody's noted that both measures aim to boost household consumption, which represents approximately 61 per cent of GDP.

The GST Council last week revised the tax structure to a two-slab rate of 5 per cent and 18 per cent, introducing a new 40 per cent GST rate on 'sin goods', effective September 22.

A report from SBI Re-

search had earlier said that the overall headline revenue loss to the government is likely to be contained with a concomitant shift in sin goods from 28 per cent slab to 40 per cent slab.

The GST 2.0 regime, while also involving an average revenue loss of Rs 85,000 crore, is estimated to have boosted consumption by Rs 1.98 lakh crore, it noted.

The report said the impact of GST reforms on government finances will depend on the extent to which lower tax rates stimulate consumer demand and generate additional economic activity. Higher household spending could support businesses, improve production and strengthen revenue collections from other sources, partly offsetting the immediate loss in GST receipts. However, managing the fiscal deficit while sustaining economic growth remains a key challenge for the Centre. Any reduction in public expenditure in the coming quarters could help maintain fiscal targets, but it may also affect government-funded infrastructure projects and other development.

Telangana Govt Raises Ex-Gratia for Police Martyrs' Families

Revanth Reddy Announces 5,000 Police Jobs, Higher Compensation and Welfare Measures on Police Commemoration Day

Hyderabad, Oct 21 (GNS): Today is a deeply emotional day for all of us—a day to remember our police martyrs. I pay tribute to the police martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the sake of society. Across the country, officers like Dev Singh, Pramod Kumar, and Gajula Soumya laid down their lives while in the line of duty. We can never forget their sacrifices in upholding law and order.

The families of these martyrs are not alone; the government stands firmly by their side. Maintaining law and order is crucial for the state's development. That is why our government places the highest priority on the Police Department. We have initiated steps to fill another 5,000 vacancies within the Police Department. All existing vacancies in the Police Department



will be filled by 2027. We have appointed 112 DSPs—a number unprecedented in the past. By appointing transgender individuals as traffic assistants, we have bolstered their self-respect and dignity.

For constables who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty, we have increased the ex-gratia payment from 40 lakh to 1 crore. For Head Constables and ASIs, the compensation has

been raised from 45 lakh to 1 crore. For Sub-Inspectors and Inspectors—whose compensation was previously 45 lakh and 50 lakh, respectively—the amount has now been increased to 1.25 crore. For officers at the DSP and Additional



SP ranks, we have increased the compensation amount by Rs. 1.50 crore, bringing the total to Rs. 2 crore. For SPs and IPS officers, we have raised the compensation from Rs. 1

crore to Rs. 2 crore. This is not merely financial assistance; it is a gesture of respect from the government toward the families of police martyrs. We have established the 'Young India Police School,' providing

educational opportunities for the children of police personnel—from Home Guards to the DGP rank.

We currently provide an ex-gratia of Rs. 5 lakh to the families of Home Guards who lose

their lives in the line of duty. I am directing the DGP to increase this ex-gratia amount to Rs. 10 lakh. The nature of crime is evolving with time. We have decided to modernize the police department to effectively address new challenges. We have resolved to leverage modern technology.

Regardless of how advanced technology becomes, the human-centric approach of the police force must remain unchanged. The spread of drugs and cannabis (ganja) is extremely dangerous. We must ensure that our youth do not fall victim to substance abuse. I commend the DGP and the 'Eagle Force' for their performance in controlling the drug menace. We have introduced 'TG-SAFE' to take an iron-fisted approach against the issue of food adulteration.

Amit Shah Targets Drug-Free India by 2029



Hyderabad, Oct 21 (GNS): Union Home Minister Amit Shah spoke at the Police Commemoration Day event in Delhi. He called for a collective fight over the next three years to eradicate the menace of drugs from the country. Union Home Minister Amit Shah stated clearly that it is his government's objective to make India a drug-free nation by December 31, 2029. He urged for a joint effort over the next three years to drive the drug epidemic out of the country. He noted that drugs not only destroy future generations but also damage the nation's economy. Furthermore, he pointed out that the illegal drug trade provides financial support to organizations involved in anti-national activities. He made these remarks during the Police Commemoration Day event held in Delhi on Wednesday.

The Union Ministry of Home Affairs has taken a decision. Over the remaining part of 2026, and throughout 2027, 2028, and 2029—a period of three and a half years—we will wage a collective battle against drugs, with the goal of freeing the nation from the drug menace by December 31, 2029. This is our most critical objective—even more significant than addressing the three identified

hotspots—because the drug problem hollows out our future generations and imposes an unnecessary burden on the economy. "Financial support for organizations engaged in anti-national activities is also being provided through this drug trade."

Amit Shah stated that the problem of narcotics is not limited to individuals alone; it also impacts the future of the nation. Therefore, he emphasized that curbing the illicit trafficking of drugs is crucial for national security. On this occasion, Amit Shah flagged off a massive motorcycle rally themed 'Fight Against Drugs.' The rally included approximately 90 riders—police personnel from nine states and union territories. The objective of this initiative is to raise awareness against drug abuse across the country. According to an official statement, the participants of this rally will take part in the 'Ekta Parade' (Unity Parade) to be held on October 31st at Ekta Nagar in Gujarat.

Personnel from Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh, and Delhi, as well as members of various Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) and other central police organizations, participated in this event.

Jupally releases Narlapur water to yellur, targets irrigation for one lakh additional acres

Narlapur, Oct 21 (GNS): Telangana Tourism, Culture and Excise Minister Jupally Krishna Rao on Wednesday released water from Narlapur Reservoir into Yellur Reservoir, stating that an additional one lakh acres would receive irrigation facilities under the Mahatma Gandhi Kalwakurthy Lift Irrigation Scheme. The minister criticised the previous BRS government for allegedly neglecting irrigation projects in the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district during its 10-year rule. He said it was ironic that BRS leaders were now demanding the release of water despite leaving several irrigation works incomplete.

Speaking after releasing the water, Jupally said that water would be supplied at a rate of 1,000 cusecs from Nar-



lapur to Yellur Reservoir. The additional irrigation facility would benefit the Kalwakurthy, Achampet, Nagarkurnool, Kollapur and Wanaparthy Assembly constituencies. He added that the government was also taking necessary steps through Mission Bhagiratha to prevent drinking water shortages alongside meeting irrigation require-

ments. The minister said that canal excavation and bridge construction works between Narlapur and Edula were still underway. Excavation at three locations and construction of bridges remained pending, while rocky terrain in certain areas had slowed progress.

"Releasing water before completing the necessary

canal works could prevent it from reaching its intended destination," he said, adding that the remaining works were expected to take another three months. Jupally alleged that the previous BRS government had left important works under the third package of the Kalwakurthy Lift Irrigation Scheme incomplete. He said the present government was working to complete the pending canal excavation and bridge construction.

Responding to criticism from BRS leaders, including former minister Singireddy Niranjan Reddy and BRS working president K. T. Rama Rao (KTR), Jupally said they should understand the ground realities before making statements about the project.

Etela Seeks Jawaharnagar Dump Yard Solution

Hyderabad, Oct 21 (GNS): BJP MP Etela Rajender has announced plans to organise a round-table meeting against the Jawaharnagar dump yard, calling for direct action to resolve the long-pending issue. Rajender said Jawaharnagar, home to economically weaker sections, had been turned into a dumping ground for waste generated by nearly two crore people. He alleged that residents were unable to live comfortably due to the foul smell, while contaminated leachate was polluting lakes and groundwater and damaging the ecological balance.

He further claimed that residents were facing serious health problems, including kidney diseases and cancer, and alleged that groundwater pollution was affecting

human and animal health. According to him, poor families were spending a major portion of their earnings on medical treatment.

Rajender said local residents had formed a Joint Action Committee (JAC) and were protesting, demanding the relocation of the dump yard to protect their children's future. He alleged that Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, who had previously protested against the dump yard as an MP and filed cases in the Supreme Court, had failed to resolve the issue despite being in office for over two and a half years. Rajender said several leaders had met the Chief Minister and requested a permanent solution, but the situation remained unchanged, with waste continuing.

Seethakka steps up water conservation measures amid El Niño threat

Mulugu, Oct 21 (GNS): Telangana Panchayat Raj, Rural Development and Rural Water Supply Minister Seethakka has said the state government is taking precautionary measures to prevent water shortages in view of rising temperatures and declining rainfall due to the El Niño effect. She said regular review meetings have been held with officials from various departments over the past six months under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka to strengthen water conservation measures and ensure an uninterrupted drinking water supply.

Minister Seethakka inspected Ramappa Lake and the defluoridation project in the Venkatapuram mandal



region of Mulugu district. Speaking on the occasion, she said Ramappa Lake currently has 29 feet of water available. The government is exploring possibilities of pumping water from the Godavari River to improve water availability in lakes and surrounding areas.

She said officials have been asked to explore the release of water within the next two

days, keeping in view the annual interval provided for increasing water storage.

The minister explained that water from Ramappa Lake would be treated through the defluoridation project and supplied for drinking purposes to Mulugu, Venkatapuram, Govindaraopet, Mallampalli and surrounding areas, as well as certain parts of Bhupalpally district.

Kings Family Restaurant & Banquet Hall Inaugurated in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Special Report
Shams Bhungiri
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
A grand inauguration ceremony of Kings Family Restaurant & Banquet Hall was held in the Hara area of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The event witnessed the presence of distinguished guests, prominent business personalities, and a large gathering of friends and well-wishers.

The chief guest at the ceremony was Engineer Zaigham Khan, Convener of the All India Steering Committee, Riyadh. The guests of honour included Mr. Mohammed Rafiq, Chairman of Mumtaz Group of Restaurants, and Mr. Ahmed Al-Ghamdi, the sponsor (Kafeel).

On this special occasion, the owners, Mr. Owais, Captain of Team Challengers in the WPL League, and Mr. Asad, associated with Unique Group, Riyadh, warmly welcomed all the guests and expressed their heartfelt gratitude for their presence and support.

The inauguration was attended by a large number of the owners' friends, well-wishers, and prominent personalities from



Riyadh's business and social communities. Mr. Arif Khan and his associates also travelled from Jubail to attend the event.

To congratulate the owners on their new business venture, guests presented them with flower bouquets and shawls, extending their warm wishes and prayers for their future success.

More than 300 people attended the grand opening ceremony, reflecting the owners' extensive social network and the strong relationships they have built within the community.



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Advocate Momin Roshan Zameer felicitated ffter client's acquittal in POCSO case

Hyderabad, Oct 21 (GNS): Advocate Momin Roshan Zameer, State General Secretary and In-Charge 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, was felicitated by the family members of his client, Mohammed Osman, following his acquittal in a POCSO case. The felicitation ceremony was held at Advocate Momin Roshan Zameer's office at D.D. Colony, Bagh Amberpet, Hyderabad, on 21 October 2026.

On the occasion, the family members presented him with a shawl and flowers as a token of their gratitude and appreciation for his legal representation and dedicated efforts in defending the case. Background of the

Case In 2021, Mirchowk Police registered a case against Mohammed Osman under Section 354-A of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and Section 7 read with Section 8 of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012.

Advocate Momin Roshan Zameer represented Mohammed Osman and defended him throughout the legal proceedings. After hearing the matter, the Hon'ble Special Court For

legal representation and efforts in defending their family member. In recognition of his services and the outcome of the case, they felicitated him with a shawl and flowers and conveyed their sincere appreciation.

Advocate Momin Roshan Zameer's Message

Speaking on the occasion, Advocate Momin Roshan Zameer stated that throughout his approximately 20 years of legal practice, he had consistently sought to uphold honesty, integrity and commitment to the truth in his professional work. He emphasised that an advocate must approach every case with sincerity, prepare the defence diligently and uphold the principles of justice. He further stated that he firmly believed that truth ultimately prevails and that, with faith in Allah and sincere efforts, one should continue

to stand by the truth. He stressed that the legal profession carries a significant responsibility, requiring advocates to act with integrity, dedication and respect for the judicial process. Advice to Junior Advocates

On the occasion, Advocate Momin Roshan Zameer also advised his junior colleagues, Nashra and Farhan, working at his office, to maintain the highest standards of honesty and professional ethics in their legal careers. He urged them to carefully assess cases, remain committed to truth and integrity, and discharge their professional responsibilities sincerely. He further emphasised that once an advocate accepts a case, they must represent the client with full responsibility, thorough preparation, dedication and honesty, while respecting the law and the judicial process.

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