

2 killed in Dammam airport attack, including Indian national

Riyadh, Oct 22 (GNS): An Indian national was among two people killed, while two other Indian nationals were injured, in an attack on King Fahd International Airport in Dammam, Saudi Arabia, on Wednesday, the Indian Embassy said on Thursday. The Indian Embassy in Saudi Arabia said it was ascertaining further details and contacting the affected families.

"Saudi authorities have informed us that one Indian national was among two people who unfortunately lost their lives in the attack on Dammam airport on Wednesday night, and two Indian nationals were injured. We are ascertaining further details and contacting the affected families. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and loved ones of the deceased, and we wish the injured a speedy recovery," it said in



a post on X. Earlier in the day, Saudi Arabia's General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) said two people were killed in the attack on King Fahd International Airport on Wednesday, including one Indian resident and one Saudi citizen. It also said eight people were injured in the attack.

In a statement posted on X, the GACA said: "Further to its earlier statement regarding the attack that targeted King Fahd International Airport in Dammam on the evening of Wednesday, October 21, 2026, corresponding to 10 Jumada Al-Awwal 1448 AH, the General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA) clarifies that the number of fatalities has risen to two after an additional fatality was confirmed, involving one Saudi citizen and one Indian resident. The number of injured remains at eight, including one Saudi citizen and residents of the following nationalities: two Indian, two Yemeni, two Bangladeshi

and one Nepalese. Their injuries range from minor to critical, and they are receiving the necessary medical care at several hospitals."

Saudi Arabia's GACA said it was coordinating with the relevant authorities to complete the damage assessment, verify the safety of the facilities and take the necessary measures to ensure the safety of passengers and personnel and maintain the security of the country's civil aviation system. It also said airport operations had resumed and air traffic had returned to normal. On Sunday, the Indian Embassy advised its nationals in Saudi Arabia to take due precautions amid the prevailing situation, proceed to the nearest safe place in the event of an aerial attack, and refrain from filming, publishing or sharing information, photographs or videos related to the ongoing events.

New Delhi, Oct 22 (GNS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday that India and Poland agreed to deepen ties in defence, space and nuclear energy and invited Polish companies to engage with India in co-development and co-production in these sectors. While addressing a joint press meet with Polish PM Donald Tusk following their talks at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on Thursday, PM Modi recalled how India and Poland elevated ties to the status of Strategic Partnership during his visit to Warsaw in 2024 and noted that the bilateral partnership has gained new momentum over the past two years.

India, Poland eye defence and Nuclear Cooperation

"I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to the Prime Minister of Poland in India. During my visit to Poland in 2024, he had warmly welcomed me and my delegation. During that visit,



we elevated our relationship to the status of Strategic Partnership. Building on this strong foundation, our partnership has gained new momentum over the past two years. And today, in our meeting with the Prime Minister, we have taken several significant decisions to

further strengthen our strategic partnership," he said.

The Prime Minister said that India and Poland are emerging as important centres of growth, technology and innovation when the world is going through a period of uncertainty and change.

Around 3,000 stranded Umrah pilgrims return from Saudi Arabia, says MEA

New Delhi, Oct 22 (GNS): Indian diplomatic missions in Saudi Arabia are coordinating with airlines and tour operators to facilitate the early return of stranded Umrah pilgrims, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday, adding that around 3,000 affected pilgrims had returned to India over the past week.

The assurance comes after one Indian national was killed and two others injured in an attack at King Fahd International Airport in Dammam. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the Indian Embassy in Riyadh and the Consulate General in Jeddah were engaging with the concerned airlines and tour operators to arrange the return of the remaining pilgrims. "Our Embassy in Riyadh @IndianEmbRiyadh and the Consulate in Jeddah @CGJeddah are actively engaging with concerned airlines and tour operators to facilitate



the early return of affected pilgrims," Jaiswal said in a post on X. He said around 3,000 stranded Umrah pilgrims had travelled from Saudi Arabia to India on available flights over the past week. This was in addition to more than 10,000 other Umrah pilgrims who had been booked on available flights and returned to India during the same period. "Arrangements are being discussed to facilitate the return of other Umrah pilgrims at the earliest," he said.

The embassy and consulate, with support from

community volunteers, were extending welfare assistance to Indian nationals, Jaiswal said. Round-the-clock control rooms have also been established, and regular advisories are being issued.

Earlier, AIMIM president Asaduddin Owaisi said around 4,000 Indian pilgrims were stranded in Makkah and Madina after airlines suspended flights to Saudi Arabian cities amid the security situation in the region. He urged the Centre to intervene to ensure their return.

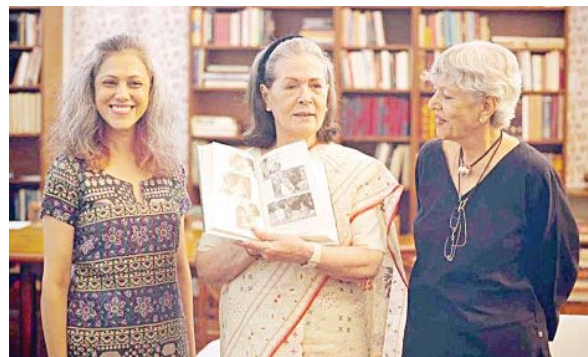
Sonia Gandhi makes Instagram debut, shares first look of her memoir 'Belonging'

New Delhi, Oct 22 (GNS): Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) Chairperson Sonia Gandhi made her social media debut on Thursday by joining Instagram and sharing a post on her upcoming book 'Belonging: A Journey of Love'.

Gandhi's memoir is set for a worldwide release on November 10. "Hello everyone, I'm truly grateful to share this moment with you all: the first look of Belonging: A Journey of Love. It is a story of love, duty, loss, and finding a place to belong. I look forward to sharing it with you," Sonia Gandhi wrote on her first Instagram post, sharing the first look of her memoir.

In the video shared on Instagram, Sonia Gandhi is seen receiving the first copies of her book and sharing sweets with her daughter and Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra. The two were also seen hugging.

The CPP Chairperson did not have a social media ac-



count until now. She has over 10,700 followers and follows her children, Rahul and Priyanka Gandhi, as well as the Indian National Congress. The book is set to launch on November 10, while pre-orders have been opened. The memoir is being published globally by Alfred A. Knopf, with HarperCollins India handling its release in the country.

In a post on X, HarperCollins India said that it will publish 'Belonging: A Journey of Love' by Sonia Gandhi. "The long-awaited memoir will be published

in India on 10 November 2026," it said.

The publishing house added, "One of the most anticipated political memoirs of our time, Belonging is a dramatic and deeply personal story of love, identity, duty and belonging, and offers a rare insider's view of India's journey."

Earlier, reports surfaced that Penguin India refused to publish the memoir of a senior Congress leader over alleged disagreement over editorial changes, which were later refuted by the publishing house.

Akhilesh Yadav Says Azam Khan Faced Injustice

Rampur, Oct 22 (GNS): Samajwadi Party supremo Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday met jailed senior party leader Azam Khan in the Rampur district jail and alleged that no political family had faced as much injustice as Khan's family.

Last year in November, Khan was convicted along with his son, Abdullah Azam Khan, by a Rampur court in dual/fraudulent PAN card cases related to mismatched dates of birth and sentenced to seven years in prison.

Yadav, who arrived in Rampur by helicopter, was received at the Jauhar University helipad by Khan's family members and party workers before proceeding to the district jail to meet the veteran leader.

Addressing media after the one-hour-long meeting, Yadav accused the BJP government of pursuing a political vendetta against Khan and alleged that false cases had been lodged



against him. "No political family has faced as much injustice as Azam Khan's family," Yadav said. On whether he had discussed the Rampur Assembly seat with Khan, Yadav said he had held a lengthy conversation with Khan on all 403 seats and also discussed a list of suggestions received from the party's alliance partners regarding the elections. Replying to a question, Yadav said that Khan had not sought any Assembly seat but had offered suggestions, which had been noted.

Om Birla defers comment on CEC impeachment motion

New Delhi, Oct 22 (GNS): Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Thursday declined to comment on the proposed impeachment motion against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, saying the matter would be examined when it formally came before him. Separately, he indicated that members of the Nationalist Citizens Party of India (NCPI) would not be granted any further extension after having sought additional time on four occasions.

Asked about the proposed motion against Kumar, Birla said, "We will see when it comes," leaving open the question of how the Lok Sabha would proceed if the motion were formally submitted and taken up under the applicable parliamentary rules. The issue comes amid an ongoing confrontation between the Opposition and the Election Commission of India over electoral processes, the revision of elec-

toral rolls and allegations concerning the poll body's functioning and impartiality.

Opposition parties have raised concerns over the conduct of electoral exercises and pressed for greater accountability and electoral reforms, with demands from sections of the Opposition for action against the Chief Election Commissioner. The removal of the Chief Election Commissioner is governed by stringent constitutional safeguards. Under Article 324(5) of the Constitution, the CEC can be removed from office in the same manner and on the same grounds as a judge of the Supreme Court. The process requires parliamentary consideration under the prescribed procedure and the requisite special majority in both Houses. Any proposed motion would therefore have to clear the applicable procedural requirements before the question of removal could be taken up.

Graduates must register as voters, question Congress: BRSV Leader Mir Qurram Ali

Hyderabad, Oct 22 (GNS): Advocate Mir Qurram Ali, BRS Student wing (BRSV) Greater Hyderabad Coordinator, has called upon eligible graduates to register as voters for the Hyderabad-Mahabubnagar-Rangareddy Graduates' MLC election and actively participate in the democratic process, urging them to hold the Congress government accountable for its promises. Emphasising the importance of graduate participation, Qurram Ali said educated citizens must exercise their constitutional right to vote rather than remain indifferent to political developments. He urged eligible graduates to submit Form 18 and ensure their names are included in the graduate electoral roll. "Voting is a powerful democratic right. Graduates must use their votes responsibly, question those in power and demand accountability for the promises made to them," he said.

Targeting the Congress government over alleged unfulfilled promises, Qurram Ali raised concerns over delays in scholarship and fee-reimbursement payments, claiming that the situation



Qurram Ali said educated citizens must exercise their constitutional right to vote rather than remain indifferent to political developments. He urged eligible graduates to submit Form 18 and ensure their names are included in the graduate electoral roll.

had caused difficulties for students and educational institutions. He also questioned the government's

progress on its promise to provide two lakh jobs, highlighting concerns among unemployed youth.

The BRSV leader further raised issues relating to financial assistance, loans of up to 5 lakh, power cuts, drinking water shortages and irrigation difficulties. He also expressed concern about preparedness for potential El Niño-related challenges and their possible impact on agriculture and water availability.

Calling for greater awareness ahead of the MLC election, Qurram Ali urged graduates to carefully examine the government's performance, assess political parties' commitments and make informed electoral choices. He appealed to voters to consider the BRS candidate. He also called upon BRS student activists to intensify voter-registration awareness campaigns and encourage every eligible graduate to enrol. "Every eligible graduate must register, participate and make their voice count," Qurram Ali said, stressing that informed voting and active public participation were essential to strengthening democratic accountability.

Telangana Open School Society (TOSS)
Education for All • Opportunity for a Better Tomorrow

ENROLLMENT DATE EXTENDED!

Enrol by **10 November 2026**

WITH LATE FEES!

TOSS SSC & Intermediate Courses

Contact Mohammed Anas Uddin
9948046623

Quality Education
Learn Today Lead Tomorrow

Flexible Learning
Study at Your Own Pace

Experienced Faculty
Guidance for a Brighter Future

Better Opportunities
Build Your Dreams

To grow, you must learn!

- Recognized & Reliable
- Open School System
- For SSC & Intermediate
- Support for Every Learner

Education Creates Equal Opportunities

www.telanganaopenschool.org

SCAN TO KNOW MORE

Targeting armed forces personnel

Harsha Kakar
Recent floods and cloudbursts in J and K, Himachal, Punjab and Uttarakhand saw the army out as first responders. They were there assisting and supporting the population even before the SDRF and NDRF could reach, largely because of their proximity. It is not that their camps were not affected by the disaster, but priority was to their national brethren, a sign of dedication.

Army helicopters were rescuing those trapped in collapsing building while troops, apart from rescue, were accommodating and feeding those who were stranded on roads or had lost their homes. Every rescue operation carries risks; but since it involves saving our own, these must be taken. When the nation is humiliated as in Pahalgam or Pulwama, it is the armed forces which regain national prestige. It is in these times that those in power look towards the forces. Once trouble has passed and normalcy restored, the forces are ignored and treated as second class citizens, its members attacked when alone and vulnerable.

Incidents targeting soldiers have been on the rise in recent years. The case of Spice Jet in Srinagar, where the officer has been placed on a five-year flying ban by the airline, with no action against the staff which initiated the assault is a case in point. Neither has DGCA taken the airline to task.

Other instances include those of manhandling of a soldier at a Meerut toll plaza, an officer and his friend in Bhubaneswar, police inspector slapping an officer in Lucknow and the Col Bath case in Patiala. While the toll plaza company has been banned from further



bidding, six arrested, in most other cases there has been hardly any movement in the investigation, especially when police personnel are involved. In the Col Bath case, the officer had to approach the Supreme Court to get the case handed over to the CBI, which the Punjab Government was unwilling to do, in spite of a High Court order.

The Supreme Court, rightly refused to intervene. In its observation, it stated, ‘When war is going on, you glorify these Army officers... Your SSP says, I am not able to arrest them (police personnel) in spite of rejection of anticipatory bail because they are police officers... Eight days delay in lodging FIR?! Have respect for Army people.

You are sleeping peacefully in your house because that man is serving the border at -40 degrees.’ Nothing could be truer. But such statements fall on deaf ears. What message did the Punjab Police action convey. Most importantly it sent the message that

police protect their own, despite them being in the wrong. Secondly, they can delay action till the case loses media limelight and then quietly reinstate those they supposedly suspended. It would also provide them time to possibly manipulate witnesses to change statements.

Today, in the same Punjab, the army is out rescuing those trapped in floods, possibly including family members of the same state police. Simultaneously, the army is expected to behave with decorum. If it employs force to target concerned police officials, as has happened in the past, it is accused of high-handedness and unlawful action. This also does not bode well for a disciplined force. If it does not support its own, it is considered weak, and targeted by its own veterans.

In most cases senior officers are blamed for being meek and not acting, whereas they have been pushing for action. It has also been seen that interacting with concerned

police authorities has been fruitless, as the Bath case has proved. The police will promise the moon, do nothing, while expecting army officials to maintain a neutral stance.

Simultaneously, soldiers are compelled to approach courts for redressal of their pension cases arising out of disability compensations, cut short by an inconsiderate bureaucracy at the MoD. In Feb this year the Delhi High Court expressed ‘dismay’ at the way medical board proceedings were being conducted by the MoD and legitimate claims denied at the ‘whims and fancies’ of certain officials.

In Jul this year the Delhi High Court dismissed nearly 300 writ petitions filed by the MoD, challenging disability pension awards granted to retired armed forces personnel by the Armed Forces Tribunal (AFT). It even rebuked the MoD for objecting to every decision of the AFT.

The High Court observed that disability benefits are not generosity, but

recognition of ‘hardships endured during military service and it is the Government’s responsibility toward those who have served the nation.’

Has the MoD learnt its lessons. Unlikely. It is a matter of days before the same exercise is repeated again. If this be the case, then why did the Government even set up AFTs. AFTs were established for speedily managing grievances concerning the armed forces, most of which are linked to pay and pensions. The MoD appoints members of the tribunal. Currently most of the tribunals remain understaffed for reasons best known to the MoD. Yet the MoD is the body which objects to most of their decisions. At the end of the day, the MoD loses most of its appeals, yet continues wasting government funds to challenge them at the next higher level. It is an example of pushing good money after bad, but then it is Government funds and no one is accountable.

Farmers as India’s silent warriors

Kham Khan Suan Hausing
PRIME Minister Narendra Modi is expected to visit Manipur on Saturday, just over a week after the Centre claimed to have cleared two roadblocks to restore peace in the state that has been roiled by violence for over two years. The first development pertains to the extension of the Suspension of Operations (SoO) agreement with two Kuki-Zomi-Hmar armed conglomerates the Kuki National Organisation and United Progressive Front after the matter was stalled for one-and-a-half years due to opposition from the then N Biren Singh-led BJP government. The second is about affirming the primary role of the Central forces in providing security on the National Highway-2 and securing the commitment of the Kuki-Zo Council to open it in ways that allow free movement of commuters and goods. That the Centre chose a tight balancing act is evident as the tripartite pact it forged with the state government and these armed groups on September 4 reiterates ‘the territorial integrity of Manipur’ on the one hand and the ‘need for a negotiated solution’ on the other.

On the face of it, the lexical priority accorded to the question of ‘territorial integrity’ in a note issued by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs is significant in two senses. First, it seeks to instil confidence in the minds of the dominant Meitei community about their longstanding concerns about the state’s ‘territorial integrity’.

Second, prefixing the qualifier ‘reiterate’ and not ‘protect/uphold’ to ‘territorial integrity’ although the original text commits the armed groups to ‘abide by’ comes through as a deliberate



and ingenious contrivance to lend flexibility to the agreement. This ensures that future negotiation on the political demands of the Kuki-Zomi-Hmar armed groups, including a ‘separate administration’, remains open-ended. A deeper probe into the pact, however, suggests that the imprimatur of the old political chessboard of a counter-insurgency approach by the Centre is apparent. Driven by the Kautilyan statecraft of saam (persuasion), daam (incentive), dand (stick) and bhed (ethnic fractionalisation), this approach seeks to contain and control armed insurgent groups within a disparate set of nested territorial space. The return of arms to the nearest CRPF/BSF camps, the relocation — albeit a reduced number — of designated camps away from ‘areas vulnerable to conflicts’ and the promise of ‘negotiated solution’ represent saam. The renewal of monthly stipends and the financial incentives that come along with the relocation of designated camps constitute

daam of this agreement. The saam and daam components are, however, contingent on dand, namely ‘stringent verifications... to delist foreign nationals’ and close monitoring on the ‘enforcement of ground rules’ by the Joint Monitoring Group (JMG).

The containment of armed factions within their designated camps, which would be closely monitored and sternly dealt with in case of any ‘violation of ground rules’, implies that ethnic fractionalisation (bhed) within the Kuki-Zomi-Hmar groups gets institutionalised. While this may be amenable to leveraging interlocking balance within and across armed groups, it privileges the unrivalled power/control of the Centre. Blunting the bargaining power of these groups is the immediate consequence. As rival armed factions get preoccupied with zealously guarding their operational areas under the close watch of the Army/Central paramilitary forces and the JMG around their designated camps, it is likely to dent, if not permanently forestall, the prospect of the emer-

gence of a larger framework of unity and solidarity across armed groups.

If previous experience of ceasefire agreements with armed groups in Manipur or elsewhere in Northeast India is any guide, political patronage under the SoO may normalise and leverage the outsourcing of law and order to non-state actors in the long run. Putting the onus on armed groups to maintain peace by enforcing the ‘ground rules’ through the Army/Central paramilitary forces, especially under the overarching ambit of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, has fostered a precarious regime of human rights and citizenship in the past. It also serves as a convenient excuse to justify the abdication of the State’s primary responsibility to maintain law and order.

This problem is accentuated in a deeply fractured state like Manipur, where the police forces conspicuously lack professionalism and are now deeply communalised in the aftermath of over two years of violence. As the State failed to ensure security

of lives and properties to citizens across the divide, communities have resorted to ‘self-help’ to guarantee security to themselves. Given that Manipur sits on the cusp of the Golden Triangle, the easy availability of arms and ammunition across the India-Myanmar border is not likely to help augment their security but may exacerbate ethnic security dilemma as more groups arm themselves to the teeth.

It is in this sense that despite its inherent limitations, involving SoO groups in negotiations is necessary but not sufficient to foster durable peace and normalcy in the strife-torn state.

Howsoever much frontal organisations in the valley areas and oppositional groups in the hills want to discredit them, the considerable hold of SoO groups on society means that they cannot be wished away anytime soon. Yet, involving them cannot be a substitute for an inclusive space of political dialogue where important stakeholders are given effective participatory rights and voice.

Theatrisation Debate Re-Ignited

The long smouldering ember of theatrisation burst into a ball of fire at a fireside chat at the Army War College recently. Chief of Air Staff (CAS) questioned the need for a joint structure, putting the clock back by a few years. In the same conversation, he acknowledged the smooth conduct of Operation (Op) SINDOOR, with four of them planning together. This was a welcome change from 1999, when the Indian Army and Indian Air Force conducted two distinct operations, namely Op VIJAY and Op SAFED SAGAR, respectively. So credible was the integration in Op SINDOOR that until the Air Chief himself revealed it in a speech, most Indians did not know that five of the seven targets hit on 7th May were by the Army and only two by the Air Force. That subsequent retaliation by Pakistan and coup de grâce on 10th May could be handled equally smoothly is reason enough to believe that the current structures did deliver.

Readers should know that the appointment of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) was opposed by the IAF equally, if not more, vehemently. This author had a ringside view of all discussions while recording minutes of each meeting of the “Task Force on Management of Defence (TFMD),” headed by Shri Arun Singh, whose recommendations were entirely accepted and subsumed into the Report by the GoM on Security headed by Shri LK Advani and comprising other members of CCS. The task force comprised 11 members — one scientist, four serving bureaucrats, four serving military officers (including the Director General, Defence Planning Staff as the member secretary) and one retired service officer, besides the chairman. All serving officers were additional secretary or of equivalent status. There was complete consensus on every recommendation except the CDS. The final recommendation on CDS was decided through a vote, with numbers mentioned in the report. However, despite the GoM recommendations, CDS appointment took two decades to fructify, perhaps stymied by the objections of not just bureaucrats but also the IAF. In the absence of the CDS, the remaining structure did not quite evolve the way it should have. A common lament in Service HQ is that the Integrated Defence Staff (IDS) just added another layer in decision-making between Service HQ and MoD.

CAS, from what is available in the public domain, has flagged two concerns — additional layers in decision-making and lack of resources for dedicated allocation to theatres. As it stands, resources within the Indian Air Force (IAF) are distributed among commands. That does not inhibit concentrated force application when required. The fears regarding decision-making layers perhaps arise not only from the IDS experience, but also from the undefined equation among theatre commanders, service chiefs and CDS. CDS, as the permanent chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC) and the principal military adviser to Raksha Mantri (RM), does enjoy the status of the primus inter pares.

However, he does not have an operational mandate over Service HQ. The role of CDS, as envisaged in GoM recommendations, was to integrate planning and budgeting functions for credible perspective planning and necessary force development through optimal utilisation of defence budget. Less than expected results in these objectives does generate apprehensions about unsettling the operational structure. Any discussion on theatre commands must be based on credible operational logic. Agni-Veer is a case in point, where the narrative of saving in pension smothered the logic of a youthful, skilled and motivated force that the Agni-Veer scheme begets.

Jointmanship has a logic, just as three different services for land, sea and air do. New domains of space and cyberspace have since evolved, but without a separate service being raised for them. Back in 1941, Panzer divisions were halted short of Dunkirk for air campaign to progress the war in Western Europe. Fifty years later, air and land battles merged seamlessly in Op DESERT STORM. Five weeks of air campaign were as crucial to victory as 100 hours of land campaign. But the most critical was their joint orchestration. We’re three decades down the road from Op DESERT STORM. Jointmanship exists more in words than in thoughts and deeds.

Where is a modern war fought? What does it target? Where is the victory achieved? It is necessary to discuss such questions to bring out the nuances of physical, informational, perceptual and metaphysical dimensions of modern war, and to appreciate the need for joint orchestration of every military asset. War is but an instrument for prevailing of one national will over another, where every element of national power, whether military, economic, informational or diplomatic, is brought to bear its impact. Military acts exclusively in the physical dimension of war. Higher dimensions, where the whole of the nation gets involved, only count impact, oblivious of domain boundaries. Further, tactical impacts are fleeting and waning and, hence, need synergy in time and space. Individual service characteristics, such as speed, lethality, accuracy, knowledge of target, logistic footprint, survivability and resilience, particularly in face of retaliation, fuse into spatio-temporal orchestration. This is the logic of the unitary command structure of the military that most militaries follow. This logic has no geographical basis and, thus, there is no reason for India to be an exception.

Back in 2000, when the CDS was recommended, the fear was that the concentration of command in one individual would render the military vulnerable to politicisation. This legitimate fear, expressed by experienced bureaucrats, imposed caution. Civil control over the military and an apolitical military are the hallmarks of a healthy democracy. CDS without an operational role was, however, not a compromise solution, but an effort to address the priorities in defence management. The military had been far more successful in operations than in perspective planning and force development. Although inadequacies were blamed on bureaucracy, many of the problems lay within and among Service HQs. CDS was to lead integrated planning and detailed budgeting to simplify bureaucratic practices. The Kargil Review Report, authored by the redoubtable Shri K Subrahmanyam, had been scathing in its comments on the functioning of Service Headquarters.

TFMD addressed both the weaknesses and fears by recommending a CDS with a planning, rather than operational role. Theatre commands were also discussed. Andaman & Nicobar Command (ANC) and Strategic Forces Command (SFC) were, thus, recommended to be under the CDS for incubation as joint services command. In the absence of CDS for two decades, the structure, however, could not mature. CAS remarks against “joint structure” indicate that the structure of the theatre command being presented is less than agreeable. There is no gainsaying that an integrated grid for fire support, mobility support, information support, logistic support and protection/survivability of men and machines would render exercise of operational art in a theatre far more effective. Observe-Orient-Decide-Act (OODA) is as much about decisions as about actions. Initiative and momentum go hand in hand. Loss of one results in loss of the other. Moreover, since wrong moves lead to loss of initiative, decisions ought to be as correct as speedy. Right decisions are based on timely and comprehensive information for which a joint services theatre is immensely more suitable.

CAS also brought up the need for experience in certain skill sets for higher leadership. This argument is specious. IAF has had a Chief who was not a fighter pilot. Higher leadership is about comprehension, perspectives and visualisation. Perspectives are gained more by exposure than experience. While intellect and exposure build upon each other to develop perspectives, mere experience may result in biases. An Air Force officer can make as good a theatre commander as an Army or a Navy officer. A structure evolved through consensus not only gets implemented more credibly, but is also far more sustaining. No written document on reforms is comprehensive. However, when the logic of change is understood and accepted, the gaps are credibly filled and coherence in reforms is maintained. It is, therefore, essential that the structure of joint services theatre and relationship among theatre commanders, service chiefs and CDS be thoroughly discussed and arrived at with willing consensus. As in humans, so in organisations, health at birth is critical to a healthy life ahead. Theatrisation is a much-needed organisational reform to ensure that

military-economy-technology develops as a triad to render a powerful nation. The need to discuss till consensus cannot be overemphasised. The long smouldering ember of the at-isation burst into a ball of fire at a fireside chat at the Army War College recently. Chief of Air Staff (CAS) questioned the need for a joint structure, putting the clock back by a few years. In the same conversation, he acknowledged the smooth conduct of Operation (Op) SINDOOR, with four of them planning together. This was a welcome change from 1999, when the Indian Army and Indian Air Force conducted two distinct operations, namely Op VIJAY and Op SAFED SAGAR, respectively. So credible was the integration in Op SINDOOR that until the Air Chief himself revealed it in a speech, most Indians did not know that five of the seven targets hit on 7th May were by the Army and only two by the Air Force. That subsequent retaliation by Pakistan and coup de grâce on 10th May could be handled equally smoothly is reason enough to believe that the current structures did deliver.

GST reforms have reduced tax burden on people: Nirmala Sitharaman

Chennai, Oct 22 (GNS): Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Sunday said that the Goods and Services Tax (GST) reforms have reduced the tax burden on people. Addressing the Joint Conclave of Trade and Industries Association - 'Tax Reforms for Rising Bharat' in Chennai, she explained that the four-tier GST structure has now been simplified to just two slabs. "Earlier, GST had four categories. Now, we have simplified it into two slabs - 5 per cent and 18 per cent. Items that were taxed at 12 per cent and 18 per cent have largely been moved to the lower 5 per cent bracket. For certain essentials, tax has been reduced to zero. This reform will significantly benefit all 1.4 billion Indians," FM Sitharaman said.

The changes, the biggest overhaul since GST was introduced in 2017, will see the current 5 per cent, 12 per cent, 18 per cent and 28 per cent structure replaced with just two rates - 5 per cent and 18 per cent.

Additionally, a special 40 per cent tax bracket has been introduced for goods considered harmful or ex-



cessively luxurious, including cigarettes, tobacco, pan masala, soft drinks and high-end luxury cars.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had hinted at the shift during his Independence Day address from the Red Fort, underlining the government's intent to ease the common man's burden before the festive season.

The revised rates will

come into effect on September 22, just ahead of Diwali. Government officials pointed out that the timing of the announcement was deliberate, keeping in mind the major festivals across regions. While Diwali drives consumer demand for clothing and household goods in the south, Navratri and Durga Puja boost purchases in the north. The GST Council,

with representatives from all states and Union Territories, unanimously approved the reform. The Centre expects the simplified structure to immediately bring down prices of essential goods, spur consumption and boost economic activity. Calling it a collective achievement, she said, "This is not just a tax cut - it is a victory for every citizen."

New polypropylene plant to boost jobs, economic growth in Assam: Hardeep Puri

Guwahati, Oct 22 (GNS): Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri highlighted on Sunday that the polypropylene plant with 360 KTPA capacity, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Numaligarh refinery in Assam, would add a crucial link to the country's petrochemical sector and also create employment opportunities and boost overall socio-economic development of the region. This polypropylene unit, to be built at a cost of Rs 7,231 crore, will serve as a strong foundation for the growth of India's petrochemical sector, the minister said.

Petrochemicals play a very significant role in making various items, including glucose bottles, medical syringes, plastic pipes, and car dashboards. This plant, shaping the future of Northeast India, will give a new direction to India's future, he added.

The Prime Minister on Sunday announced that projects worth approximately Rs 18,000 crore have been allocated to Assam. He noted that earlier in the day, he was in

Darrang, where he laid the foundation stones for connectivity and health-related projects. He further added that in the current location, he has inaugurated and laid the foundation for energy security-related projects, which will further strengthen Assam's path to development.

Highlighting that Assam is a land that strengthens India's energy capabilities, the Prime Minister remarked that the petroleum products originating from Assam contribute significantly to the nation's development. He emphasised that these projects will boost industrial growth in Assam, accelerate the state's development, and create new opportunities for farmers and youth and extended his congratulations to the people of the state for these initiatives. The Prime Minister said that India has long been dependent on foreign sources for these energy needs, importing large quantities of crude oil and gas.

As a result, the nation has had to pay lakhs of crores of rupees annually to other countries, which

in turn boosts employment and income abroad. He emphasised that this situation needed to be changed as he affirmed that India has now embarked on the path of becoming self-reliant in meeting its energy requirements.

The polypropylene plant is expected to strengthen domestic production capacity and reduce dependence on imported petrochemical products. The facility will supply raw materials to industries manufacturing medical equipment, packaging materials, automobile components, pipes and other essential products, supporting the growth of downstream industries.

The project is also expected to generate direct and indirect employment opportunities during construction and operations, benefiting local communities and skilled workers. Officials believe the expansion of petrochemical infrastructure will attract further industrial investment to Assam and create opportunities for small and medium enterprises across the Northeast.

'My brain is worth Rs 200 crore a month, I don't stoop low': Gadkari's sharp retort to E20 fuel detractors

Nagpur, Oct 22 (GNS): Dismissing criticism against the government's ethanol-blended petrol programme as politically motivated, Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said that his brain "is worth Rs 200 crore a month" and he is not short of money. In his address at an event organised by Agricos Welfare Society in Nagpur, he said: "My brain is worth Rs 200 crore a month. I am not at all short of money, and I don't stoop low." His comments came amid the criticism of the government's push for ethanol-blended petrol. The government has highlighted that petrol blended with 20 per cent ethanol E20 is a cleaner fuel and has enabled farmers to get higher prices for their crops, such as sugarcane and maize.

Critics have alleged that the programme will lead to water shortage and damage vehicles. In an attack on the minister, they have also alleged that two leading ethanol companies are run by Gadkari's sons. Gadkari, without directly mentioning the contro-

versy, said: "I give ideas to my sons, but I do not resort to fraud." "Recently, my son imported 800 containers of apples from Iran and exported 1,000 containers of bananas from India to Iran. There are no monetary dealings with Iran. My son is engaged in import and export. I also own a sugar factory, a distillery, and a power plant. I am not experimenting with agriculture for personal gain," the minister said. Gadkari also highlighted his efforts to encourage local vegetable vendors to establish fruit malls across Nagpur. Such initiatives empower traders and farmers by enabling direct sales at prime locations in the city, he added. "I am not doing all this for my own earnings. My income is ample. My brain is worth Rs 200 crore per month. I have no shortage of money," Gadkari said, adding that his business suggestions are driven by development, not profit. Gadkari on Thursday hit back at critics, accusing them of carrying out a "paid politically motivated social media campaign:

against the government's ethanol-blended petrol programme, which actually succeeded in increasing the incomes of farmers and reducing pollution in the country.

At the annual convention of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) in Delhi, Gadkari said all tests had confirmed there were no issues with the rollout of 20 per cent ethanol-blended (E20) petrol. The minister said that production of ethanol from sugarcane, maize and rice had led to an increase in the prices of these crops, which in turn had resulted in higher incomes for farmers.

He pointed out that in the case of maize alone, farmers had earned Rs 45,000 crore due to the higher demand and increase in price of the crop after it was allowed to be used as input for the production of ethanol.

He also highlighted that ethanol-blending had led to a reduction in pollution, and the issue had figured at the G20 conference as well, which shows that the awareness of the success

has been acknowledged worldwide. Gadkari further stated that the Supreme Court has also rejected petitions challenging the legality and safety of the E20 fuel. The Supreme Court recently dismissed a public interest litigation (PIL) against E20 blending. The petition had claimed that most vehicles on Indian roads were not compatible with E20 fuel, raising risks of material degradation, safety hazards, mileage loss, and denial of insurance claims.

Rejecting the plea, the apex court backed the government's stand, highlighting the benefits for sugarcane farmers, and reduction in the country's oil imports which had resulted from the E20 programme. The minister also mentioned studies that showed high pollution levels were leading to a reduction in the life expectancy of people. He noted that recent fears over engine damage and warranty issues had been proven false. "All testing agencies have confirmed there is no problem with implementation," he said.

Over 6 crore ITRs filed so far for AY 2025-26: Income Tax Department

New Delhi, Oct 22 (GNS): The Income Tax Department has announced that more than 6 crore income tax returns (ITRs) have been filed for Assessment Year 2025-26 so far. The department shared the update on social media platform X, thanking taxpayers and tax professionals for helping achieve this milestone. "Thank you taxpayers & tax professionals for helping us reach the milestone of 6 crore Income Tax Returns (ITRs) as of now and still counting," Income Tax India posted on X.

The last date to file ITRs without penalty is September 15. To make the process easier, the department has kept its helpdesk active 24x7. Taxpayers are being assisted through calls, live chats, WebEx sessions, and social media support.

"To assist taxpayers for ITR filing, tax payment and other related services, our helpdesk is functioning on a 24x7 basis, and we are providing support through calls, live chats, WebEx sessions & Twitter/X," it added. The department has urged those who are yet to file their returns to



do so quickly to avoid last-minute rush. "We urge all those who haven't filed ITR for AY 2025-26, to file at the earliest to avoid last minute rush. Let's continue this momentum!" the IT Department mentioned.

Earlier in May, the government had extended the filing deadline for individuals, Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs), and entities not requiring audits. The date was pushed from July

31 to September 15 due to major changes in the ITR forms.

These revisions, made in late April and early May, required updates in the filing utilities and back-end systems. The consistent rise in ITR filings over the years highlights both growing compliance and the expansion of India's tax base.

For AY 2024-25, a record 7.28 crore returns were filed by July 31, 2024, compared

to 6.77 crore the previous year, marking a 7.5 per cent increase. In the current filing season, the Income Tax Department has also rolled out new online utilities.

ITR-1 and ITR-4, meant for small and medium taxpayers, were enabled in June. In July, the department also activated ITR-2, which is for individuals and HUFs with capital gains income but no business or professional income.

E-commerce platform Flipkart's losses widen to Rs 5,189 crore in FY25

Mumbai, Oct 22 (GNS): Walmart-owned e-commerce major Flipkart India Private Limited has reported a wider consolidated loss of Rs 5,189 crore loss in the financial year ending March 2025 (FY25). According to data shared by business intelligence platform Tofler, the company posted Rs 4,248.3 crore net loss in the previous financial year (FY24).

Flipkart's consolidated revenue from operations rose 17.3 per cent to Rs 82,787.3 crore in FY25, up from Rs 70,541.9 crore in FY24. However, the company's expenses also grew at almost the same pace. Total expenses jumped 17.4 per cent to Rs 88,121.4 crore during the year. The biggest cost driver was the purchase of stock-in-trade, which surged to Rs 87,737.8 crore in FY25 from Rs 74,271.2 crore a year earlier. Finance costs also rose sharply by about 57 per cent, reaching Rs 454 crore, as per its financials. Flipkart Internet Private Limited, which operates the e-commerce marketplace, managed to narrow its losses during the year. The company reported

a net loss of Rs 1,494.2 crore in FY25, lower than the Rs 2,358.7 crore loss in FY24. On a standalone basis, its losses stood at Rs 1,568.6 crore, improving from Rs 2,296.2 crore a year earlier.

Flipkart Internet reported revenues of Rs 20,746 crore in FY25, a 14 per cent increase from Rs 18,187.7 crore in FY24, as per the financial data. Its total expenses were reported at Rs 22,315 crore. On a consolidated basis, the company's revenues increased to Rs 20,807.4 crore in FY25, compared to Rs 18,241.6 crore in the preceding year.

Flipkart was founded in 2007 by Sachin Bansal and Binny Bansal. Flipkart sells products across many categories like electronics, fashion, and groceries.

It provides a vast online marketplace for millions of customers, with services like Cash on Delivery, No Cost EMI, and easy returns.

The increase in consolidated losses came despite strong growth in operating revenue, highlighting the pressure on Flipkart's profitability amid rising business costs. Higher inventory procurement expenses, logistics operations,

Centre reopens application window for PLI scheme for white goods till Oct 14

New Delhi, Oct 22 (GNS): The government on Sunday said it has reopened the application window for the production-linked incentive (PLI) Scheme for White Goods (ACs and LED lights) based on the appetite of the industry to invest more under the scheme. The application window for the scheme will remain open for the period from September 15, 2025 to October 14, 2025 (both dates inclusive) on the same online portal. No application will be accepted after the closure of the application window, according to the commerce Ministry. The decision was taken due to the growing market and confidence generated owing to manufacturing of key components of ACs and LED Lights in India under the scheme.

So far, 83 applicants with committed investment of Rs 10,406 crore have been selected as beneficiaries under the PLI scheme. The scheme is to be implemented over a seven-year period from FY 2021-22 to FY 2028-29 and has an outlay of Rs 6,238 crore. "In order to avoid any

discrimination, both new applicants as well as existing beneficiaries of PLIWG who propose to invest more by way of switching over to higher target segment or their group companies applying under different target segment would be eligible to apply subject to fulfilling the eligibility conditions as mentioned in the Para 5.6 of the Scheme Guidelines and adhering to investment schedule as mentioned in Appendix-1 or Appendix-1A of the Scheme Guidelines, as applicable," the ministry statement read.

Applicants will only be eligible for incentives for the remainder of the Scheme's tenure. The applicant approved in the proposed fourth round would be eligible for PLI for maximum two years only in the case of new applicants and beneficiaries opting for GP-2 (upto March 2023) seeking to move to higher investment category. For beneficiaries opting for GP-1 (upto March 2022) seeking to move to higher investment category in the proposed fourth round would be eligible for PLI for one year only.

'Israel must pave way to speed up India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor'

New Delhi, Oct 22 (GNS): The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) initiative has the potential to change the face of global trade and transportation, as well as digital and energy connectivity, but has received a setback due to the ongoing conflict in Gaza between Israel and Hamas.

The IMEC initiative offers benefits to all the participating countries, possessing a great potential to leverage the economic growth of Europe, India and the Gulf. And it also grants Israel an opportunity to enhance its significance and role in the international arena on strategic, economic and geographic levels. The government of Israel should prioritize taking steps to implement the IMEC project once its war against Hamas is over, according to an article by Uzay Bulut published in JNS. India, the European Union, UAE, France, Germany, Italy, Saudi Arabia and the United States signed a Memorandum

of Understanding to build an economic system by creating a multi-modal network of railways, ports and highways to boost trade efficiency and regional collaboration. These will become a vital artery of global commerce and a potential alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative.

The corridor is expected to connect India, the Middle East and Europe, with the support of Washington. When completed, it will likely include three major Mediterranean Sea ports: Haifa in Israel, Piraeus in Greece and Trieste in Italy, the article points out. For Israel, the IMEC represents more than an economic opportunity; it is a pathway to redefine its strategic regional status and geopolitical alignments, according to Mordechai Chaziza of the University of Haifa. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has framed the corridor as a transformative platform for Israeli integration into Arab economies and global supply chains.

The escalating regional instability, particularly from Iran's regional proxies, has effectively led to the halting of this significant initiative, as well as a Saudi-Israeli normalization deal, the article states. "While normalization would certainly ease political and logistical hurdles, it's not an absolute requirement, and the project could still move forward with careful diplomatic management," wrote Rachel Rizzo and Nicholas Shafer for the Atlantic Council.

Hence, it appears that the quicker Israel manages to stabilize the Gaza situation, the sooner it will be able to focus on doing its part to make this project a reality.

An article by Nir Levitan, and professors Arie Reich and Jonathan Rynhold, notes some suggestions to realize the economic potential of IMEC: "To make the agreement a reality and attract private and governmental investment, several initial steps are required, including the creation of

a multilateral agreement to establish an institutional framework for a structured and systematic dialogue between the participating countries. A dedicated body should be established to attract private investment and promote infrastructure development among the participating countries."

Via this corridor, the United States and European Union seek to bolster their connectivity with South Asia and the Gulf, aiming to align their strategic objectives and counter China's growing regional influence.

Several European countries have since appointed special envoys to the IMEC, including France and Italy. Under its framework, Israel and Cyprus announced new energy development projects in May, calling to relaunch the Israel-Cyprus-Greece trilateral forum. It is now important for Europe, the United States and Israel to double down on their support so that more progress for this initiative can be achieved, the article added.

Revanth Reddy Announces BC-A Review for Mudiraj Community

CM pledges political empowerment for BCs, says Sayanna and Doddi Komuraiah statues to be installed on Tank Bund

Hyderabad, Oct 22 (GNS): Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy warned that the next general elections are crucial for the country and the people's full support to Rahul Gandhi is the need of the hour for all. Participating in the Pandaga Sayanna Mudiraj birth anniversary celebrations in Hyderabad today, the Chief Minister stressed that we all must stand in support of Rahul Gandhi in the crucial time. The CM expressed confidence that the majority Bahujans' would be empowered only when Rahul Gandhi became Prime Minister of the country.

Stating that the People's Government is according top priority to the political empowerment of all BC communities, CM Revanth Reddy announced that a cabinet Sub

Committee would be constituted to study the inclusion of the Mudiraj community in BC - A category. Due to lack of accurate data, the Mudiraj community could not be reclassified from the 'BC-D' category to 'BC-A'. We will discuss this issue in the next cabinet meeting and form a cabinet sub-committee to conduct a comprehensive study on this issue.

"Mudiraj community constitutes the largest population in my Kodangal constituency and the community are known for their trustworthiness", the CM said that upon becoming the PCC (Pradesh Congress Committee) President, he appointed Srihari Mudiraj as the DCC (District Congress Committee) President, gave ticket and also made made him as minister



in his cabinet. Neelam Madhu was also given a party ticket to contest in Lok Sabha elections, CM Revanth Reddy suggested minister Ponnam Prabha-

kar to bring to the attention of TPCC President Mahesh Goud to provide an MLC ticket to the Mudiraj community. " It is my responsibility to ensure the Mudiraj

community is made a partner in the government."

and doubts raised by other castes regarding Mudiraj in BC - A category also needs to be addressed. The

CM highlighted the BC Census conducted by his government. The census data helped every community to raise their voice with greater strength. All the communi-

ties have been requested to furnish full details to rectify the errors if their population count is not correctly mentioned in the census report. The first caste census was conducted during British rule. Now, We undertook the caste census successfully after 100 years.

The CM listed out welfare schemes launched for all communities and poorer sections. While NTR launched Rice distribution at two rupees per kilogram, we are now providing fine-quality rice to 3.48 crore people. We are already doubling the welfare initiatives undertaken by the previous government and building 'Indiramma' houses in every village. The welfare schemes launched by NTR, Chandrababu Naidu, YS Rajasekhara Reddy and KCR are being

continued. Following the formation of Telangana, we also officially adopted a state song for Telangana.

CM Revanth Reddy remembered the services of popular Telangana fighters - Chakali Ailamma, Doddi Komuraiah, and Pandaga Sayanna. The statues of Sayanna and Doddi Komuraiah would be installed on the Tank Bund soon. The CM also recalled Gaddar, and Ande Sri's dedication to the service of society. The Chief Minister praised Sayanna's fighting spirit who stood against landlords when they attempted to seize his land. During the Nizam's rule, feudal lords (Doras) encroached upon the lands of the poor. It was Sayanna who stood in support of the marginalized and also formed a group against the feudals.

MBT condemns attack on 2 Muslim youths in Shamshabad



Hyderabad, Oct 22 (GNS): Amjed Ullah Khan, Spokesman of Majlis Bachao Tehreek (MBT), strongly condemned the alleged attack on two Muslim youths from Hyderabad's Old City at Rallagadda Doddi in Shamshabad and said that the continued failure of the police to prevent communal attacks and protect minorities reflects a dangerous trend in Telangana.

Amjed Ullah Khan said that the alleged attack on Mohammed Wahed Ahmed, 25, S/o Mohammed Irshad Ahmed, and Mohammed Hyder Khan, 26, S/o Mohammed Feroze Khan, who had gone to Rallagadda Doddi, Shamshabad, to work as electricians, is extremely disturbing. The two youths were allegedly attacked by a group of around 20-25 anti-social elements and sustained serious injuries. They are presently undergoing treatment at Osmania General Hospital.

Mr. Khan said it is even more alarming that after escaping from the alleged attackers, the injured youths reportedly approached the local police station seeking assistance but were alleg-

edly denied proper help. He demanded that senior police officials investigate not only the attack but also the alleged failure of the local police to provide immediate protection and assistance to the victims. Amjed Ullah Khan alleged that "soft Hindutva" is being played by the Telangana Police under the political direction of Chief Minister Anumula Revanth Reddy, and warned that such a policy is extremely dangerous for the peace, communal harmony and social fabric of Telangana. He said the Chief Minister also holds the Home portfolio, making him directly accountable for the functioning of the police and the overall law-and-order situation in the State.

Mr. Khan said that since Revanth Reddy became Chief Minister, there have been, according to MBT's compilation of complaints and representations, more than 50 incidents involving alleged communal attacks against Muslims and Muslim institutions. He said MBT has repeatedly brought such incidents to the attention of the State Government and senior Congress leadership.

Asaduddin Owaisi seeks centre's help for 4,000 stranded Indian pilgrims in Saudi Arabia

Hyderabad, Oct 22 (GNS): Around 4,000 pilgrims from India are stranded in Makkah and Madina after the airlines they flew with cancelled their flights home, Asaduddin Owaisi said, urging the Union government to step in at once. In a post, Owaisi said the pilgrims had travelled on IndiGo, Akasa Air and Air India, but have been stuck since the airlines cancelled their flights. "DGCA must give these airlines permission to run flights in larger aircraft so that these stranded pilgrims can return to India. If not, at least special flights must be arranged to bring them back," he wrote.

Owaisi said the pilgrims had also been abandoned by their travel agents. "This



needs your urgent intervention. In the meanwhile, necessary support must be provided to the stranded pilgrims," he said. His post mentioned ministers S Jaishankar, Kiren Rijiju and Ram Mohan Naidu, and Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri. The crisis comes as Saudi Arabia's conflict with the Houthis, an armed group in Yemen also known

as Ansar Allah (Arabic for "Supporters of God"), escalates. Repeated flight cancellations and temporary suspensions of services to and from Saudi Arabia have disrupted the travel plans of many pilgrims. Amid the rising regional tensions, they remain unsure about departures, return journeys and alternative bookings.

Air India and Air India Express temporarily suspended flights to and from Riyadh, Jeddah and Dammam until October 24, Manorama Online reported on October 17. IndiGo also suspended services to Riyadh, Jeddah, Dammam and Medina until October 24, while its Jeddah services were reported suspended until October 21. The disruptions have deepened the uncertainty for passengers travelling between India and Saudi Arabia.

Last week, the Consulate General of India in Jeddah issued an advisory for Indian nationals travelling between the two countries. It urged passengers, particularly Umrah pilgrims, to check flight updates and stay in touch with airlines and travel providers.

Seethakka Unveils Komaram Bheem Statue in Dummugudem

Dummugudem, Oct 22 (GNS): Telangana Minister Seethakka said that Komaram Bheem was a great tribal leader who fought against the autocratic rule of the Nizam and sacrificed his life for the rights of Adivasis under the slogan "Jal, Jangal, Zameen" (Water, Forest, Land). She was speaking as the chief guest at the unveiling ceremony of Komaram Bheem's statue held at Dummugudem in Bhadradi Kothagudem district on Thursday. MLAs Tellam Venkat Rao and Payam Venkateswarlu, along with a large number of tribal organisation representatives and local residents, attended the programme.

Seethakka described Komaram Bheem as a guiding force for the Adivasi community, stating that his fighting spirit would continue to inspire generations.



She stressed that the sacrifices of great leaders who fought for tribal rights, dignity and identity must never be forgotten. The minister said that great personalities such as Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Komaram Bheem, Birs Munda and Jyotirao Phule paved the way for social transformation through their struggles. She noted

that their sacrifices helped secure rights, reservations and legal protections for disadvantaged communities. She called upon people to honour these leaders and put their ideals into practice.

Seethakka said that Adivasis live alongside other social communities and contribute to the development of society. She highlighted the

importance of tribal struggles in the country's history, noting that their resistance against oppression paved the way for the protection of fundamental rights. The minister emphasised that safeguarding the constitutional rights and reservations provided to Adivasis was a collective responsibility. She urged tribal communities to bring their problems to the government's attention and work together to find solutions. She added that unity and mutual co-operation were essential for the further progress and development of the Adivasi community. Expressing happiness over the large turnout at the statue unveiling ceremony, Seethakka called upon people to follow Komaram Bheem's path and protect tribal rights, dignity and identity.

Dy CM Bhatti targets higher thermal power generation



Hyderabad, Oct 22 (GNS): Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka has directed officials to take robust measures to prevent any power shortage in Telangana, considering the possibility of reduced hydel power generation due to the El Niño effect and the expected rise in electricity demand in the coming months. He emphasised the need for a comprehensive action plan to increase daily thermal power generation to 140 million units to effectively meet agricultural and domestic electricity requirements during the upcoming Rabi and summer seasons.

On Thursday, the Deputy Chief Minister held a review meeting with senior Energy Department officials at the Dr B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat to discuss power generation, supply and pending electricity dues.

Officials informed him that the average daily thermal power generation had reached approximately 91 million units, while production had touched 118 million units on a single day recently. Bhatti Vikramarka directed the officials to further increase generation and work towards achieving the daily target of 140 million units.

To ensure an uninterrupted coal supply to two units

at the Yadadri Thermal Power Plant, an alternative coal supply arrangement has been established with Coal India Limited. The Deputy Chief Minister stated that coal supplies through this arrangement would commence in November.

He also called for special attention to Yadadri Thermal Power Plant to enhance overall power generation. Officials informed him that four units, each with a capacity of 800 MW, were already generating electricity. The fifth unit was synchronised with the grid on October 20, and the remaining technical and operational issues were being addressed on a war footing to bring it into full-fledged commercial operation.

According to officials, the average daily thermal power generation from TGGENCO power plants stood at 65.90 million units in 2024-25 and approximately 76.46 million units in 2025-26. During the current financial year, the average daily generation increased to 90.97 million units as of October 21.

Compared with the previous financial year, daily generation has increased by 14.51 million units, registering a growth of approximately 19 per cent. Officials also reported that thermal power generation had reached 118 million units on October 16.



ISLAMIA

GROUP OF INSTITUTIONS



QUALITY

EDUCATION



SRT Colony, Yakutpura, Hyderabad - 500023



COURSES OFFERED



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



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



P.G: M.Sc (Applied Nutrition) | M.Sc (Clinical Nutrition) | M.Sc (Nutrition & Dietetics) | M.Sc (Botany) | M.Sc (Maths) | M.A (English) | M.Com



LAW: BA,LLB(5YDC) | LLB(3YDC) | BBA,LLB(5YDC) | LLB(Honors 3YDC) | LLM



EXPERIENCED FACULTY



MODERN INFRASTRUCTURE



SKILL BASED EDUCATION



100% FOCUS ON YOUR SUCCESS



Contact No. : 9347683872

Govt committed to honouring Panduga Sayanna: Minister

Hyderabad, Oct 22 (GNS): Telangana Minister Vakati Srihari said the Congress government was committed to honouring the legacy of Panduga Sayanna and safeguarding the social and political self-respect of the Mudiraj community. He made these remarks while participating in the 174th birth anniversary celebrations of Panduga Sayanna at Ravindra Bharathi in Hyderabad.

The minister said the government was organising official birth anniversary celebrations to recognise Sayanna's contributions and bring his history to future generations. He criticised the previous government for not conducting such programmes and said the Congress government was committed to recognising the contributions of great

personalities from disadvantaged communities.

Srihari said the government was determined to address the demands and concerns of the Mudiraj community. He stated that the Congress government had conducted a caste census in line with Rahul Gandhi's vision of social justice, fair representation and equal opportunities for all communities.

On the demand to shift the Mudiraj community from BC-D to BC-A, the minister said the government was sincere about finding a solution. However, he stressed that the interests of fishing communities already included in BC-A must also be protected, ensuring that justice for one community would not cause difficulties for another.

BRS will continue fight to protect Singareni and workers' rights: KTR

Hyderabad, Oct 22 (GNS): Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has reiterated that the party will continue its fight to protect Singareni Collieries Company Limited and safeguard the rights and welfare of coal mine workers. He asserted that the BRS would oppose any attempts to weaken or privatise the organisation and would not remain silent if workers were treated unfairly.

KTR held a meeting at Telangana Bhavan on Thursday with BRS MLAs, former MLAs, senior party leaders from the Singareni region and representatives of the Telangana Boggu Ghani Karmika Sangham (TBGKS). The meeting reviewed the current situation at Singareni, workers' problems, the company's future and mea-

sures to strengthen the workers' union, besides discussing the party's future course of action following the successful Singareni Karmika Garjana meeting held recently in Godavarikhani.

During the meeting, KTR congratulated party leaders, workers and union representatives for making the Godavarikhani gathering a success. He appreciated their coordinated efforts in organ-

ising the event within a short period. The leaders attending the meeting also extended Dasara greetings to KTR.

KTR called on party leaders to question the Congress government over alleged irregularities, tender-related issues and attempts that could threaten Singareni's interests. He directed them to take the concerns raised at the Godavarikhani meeting to the public, including issues relating to the company's financial affairs, declining coal production, alleged tender irregularities and pending funds due to the organisation.

He also stressed the need to question the policies of both the Congress government in Telangana and the BJP-led Central government wherever decisions affect Singareni's interests.

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