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India says China's Patrolling deviations disrupt Border peace



New Delhi, Oct 23 (GNS): A day after Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) Director General Shatrujeet Kapoor said that confrontations between Indian and Chinese troops continue to take place at multiple locations along the border in Arunachal Pradesh, India has said that the situation along the border areas gets disturbed periodically when Chinese forces deviate from established patrolling patterns.

Responding to a question on Kapoor's statement, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal on Friday said, "As we have noted in the past, the situation in the India-China border areas gets disturbed from time to time when Chinese forces deviate from established patrolling patterns." He said both sides continued to use existing diplomatic and military mechanisms to resolve outstanding issues and avoid misunderstandings and miscalculations along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). "The two sides have also agreed to discuss ways to improve their understanding of the LAC in appropriate areas for better border management. I would also like to emphasise that the maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the border areas is essential for the overall development of bilateral relations," the spokesperson said. On October 22, Kapoor addressed ITBP personnel — known as Himveers — in Alwar. During his speech, he praised the force's commando teams for doing a "tremendous job" and noted that a confrontation was still continuing in Arunachal Pradesh. Kapoor, who is set to retire on October 31, also pointed to China's heavy investment in the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and its military capabilities, saying Beijing had made advances in conventional warfare. However, he suggested that drones could act as an equaliser in the changing battlefield.

Citing the prolonged Russia-Ukraine war, Kapoor said the damage inflicted by a smaller country like Ukraine on Russia over the past four years showed how drone warfare was evolving. He also referred to Iran as another example of the changing nature of conflict. The ITBP chief also emphasised the need for developing drone and counter-drone technology, pointing out that it might not be possible to face China through traditional methods as it had invested a lot in the modernisation of its weapons and infrastructure.

"Through drones, even a small country can challenge a big country. We saw how Ukraine challenged a superpower like Russia, and how Iran used drones to challenge America," he said. Kapoor said, "The ITBP was raised as a mountain guerrilla force, and we were given border-guarding duty along China in 2004."

"We need not leave our original function, and a specialised high-altitude mountain fighting force is being set up, distinct from the Army. We will soon have one full battalion of Shaurya commandos, as high altitude is our strength," he said. Kapoor said the ITBP was aggressively altering its defensive footprint, adding that the strike training for the entire force across units would be completed by 2027 end, with essential equipment made available across all forward border outposts to handle Galwan-like situations effectively.

Army Unveils 2026 Doctrine Emphasising AI and Drones



New Delhi, Oct 23 (GNS): Indian Army's new doctrine released on Friday outlines a roadmap for preparing for future conflicts. It includes specialised training for officers in use of AI as a tool in decision-making and adopting 'drone operations' as a skill for the entire force of 1.2 million. The doctrine characterises the use of advanced technology, drones, artificial intelligence and precision-targeting, sources said. The Army is progressing training initiatives, including a five-year roadmap for multi-domain operations training. "It will be buttressed with a three-level AI skill development programme for officers and a new philosophy to make drone operations a secondary skill across the force," sources said.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh released the Army's Land Warfare Doctrine 2026 at the concluding day of the Army's premier decision-making forum, the biannual Army Commanders' Conference here.

Sources said the doctrine reflects the changing character of warfare, drawing lessons from contemporary conflicts, including Operation Sindoor, where unmanned systems, persistent surveillance, contested communications and information warfare have emerged as critical factors on the battlefield.

A doctrine isthe fundamental set of principles and guidelines which the armed forces use to guide their actions. The one released today is aligned with 'Defence Forces Vision 2047' and emphasises jointness among the armed forces, integration of capabilities across multiple domains and the continued centrality of land power in achieving decisive military and political outcomes. A key focus is on self-reliance that lays stress on recognising the importance of indigenous defence capabilities, national infrastructure and coordination with institutions beyond the military in future wars.

The doctrine says the Army will lay emphasis on empowering the soldiers and use a mix of manned-unmanned systems as enablers for future conflicts.

The doctrine also mentions the need for a resilient supply of logistics – arms and ammunition, and vehicles, food and water for the troops. The Army visualises the need to operate effectively even in technologically contested environments, meaning the systems need to operate even in areas where enemy can jam or tinker with communication links. Commanders on ground have been given freedom to be flexible in their operational approaches based on threats, terrain and mission requirements.

The revised doctrine signals the Army's efforts to transform into a future-ready, technology-enabled and adaptable force, capable of fighting and winning wars across the full spectrum of conflict. The three-day Army Commanders' conference chaired by Army chief General Dhiraj Seth opened on October 21.

Discussions at the conference covered cross-domain security issues, inter-service synergy, and digital transformation within defence infrastructure.

CJP leaders vow to continue movement after court hearing



New Delhi, Oct 23 (GNS): Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka on Friday said the movement will continue. They were speaking after a hearing at the SEC court at Mandir Marg police station here.

Speaking to The Tribune about the future course of action, Das said, "We will evolve with time. We are new, but we are effective, and people know this."

Sources said the CJP leaders were questioned in connection with two separate cases registered against them. During the questioning, the SEC asked them to verify their current addresses. The SEC judge asked, "Do you have affidavits confirming your current places of residence?" Das responded, "Yes, they may be with the owner or the agent. We can provide them."

The court said the investigating officer could verify their addresses and fixed November 17 as the date for the next hearing. No serious concerns regarding the CJP or its call for protests were raised in the court. The two leaders had sought additional time on Thursday to join the investigation, following which they appeared before the SEM, a source added.

Ratna Singh, Aafreen Nawaz, Ajinkya Shinde and Vijay Mallangi were also present during the hearing. The sureties for the two leaders, who had been summoned, were also present. The hearing focused on verifying the sureties. After the hearing, Ranka left for Delhi airport with his wife. Reacting to the recent developments, Aafreen Nawaz, national secretary of the CJP, said, "We are happy that we will all get to sit together and work further on our future strategy, and everyone will have time to celebrate Diwali too." The CJP leaders' appearance before the court comes amid ongoing scrutiny over their protest-related activities and the cases registered against them.

Kharge demands answers from Modi on China

New Delhi, Oct 23 (GNS): Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge has sharply questioned the Union government over its handling of relations with China, demanding that Prime Minister Narendra Modi take Parliament and the nation into confidence rather than targeting the Opposition. In a strongly worded post on his X handle, the Congress chief declared, "Enough clean chits to China. PM Modi must come clean before India!" and posed three pointed questions covering national security, economic security and diplomatic accountability.

On the issue of national security, Kharge expressed deep alarm over the confirmation by the Director General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police of continuing face-offs with the People's Liberation Army in Arunachal Pradesh.

Recalling the earlier confrontations at Doklam and Galwan, he asked whether another serious confrontation was unfolding. Kharge questioned whether India's patrolling access had been compromised and stressed that Arunachal remains an inseparable part of India. He asked why the nation was being kept in the dark on such a critical matter.

Turning to economic security, the Congress president highlighted that since the Galwan clash in which 20 Indian Army personnel made the supreme sacrifice in FY 2020–21, Chinese imports into India have surged by 102 per cent while the bilateral trade deficit has ballooned by 155 per cent to reach 112.16 billion dollars. He pointed out that even Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has admitted that China continues to obstruct Indian exports.

India, Italy Discuss Naval Exercises and Maritime Security



New Delhi, Oct 23 (GNS): Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Krishna Swaminathan held a meeting with the Italian Navy's Chief of Staff Admiral Giuseppe Berutti Bergotto in New Delhi on Friday, with discussions held on institutionalising navy-to-navy engagements, deepening operational cooperation, expanding multilateral cooperation on shared maritime security priorities and strengthening professional exchanges. The discussions were held after Admiral Giuseppe Berutti Bergotto was received by Admiral Krishna Swaminathan and accorded a ceremonial Guard of Honour at South Block Lawns in New Delhi.

"Adm Giuseppe Berutti Bergotto, Chief of Staff, Italian Navy, on an official visit to India, was received by Adm Krishna Swaminathan, CNS, and accorded a ceremonial Guard of Honour at South Block Lawns, New Delhi. Building on the momentum of the India–Italy Special Strategic Partnership, discussions focused on: Institutionalising Navy-to-Navy engagements, including bilateral naval exercises and Staff Talks," Indian Navy Spokesperson posted on X.

"Deepening operational cooperation through enhanced maritime interactions and interoperability. Expanding multilateral cooperation on shared maritime security priorities. Strengthening professional exchanges through training and sharing of best practices," the spokesperson added. Earlier on October 21, the Italian Navy's Multi-Purpose Combat Ship (MPCS) 'Giovanni delle Bande Nere' arrived in Mumbai, as part of the Italian Navy's operational deployment in the Indo-Pacific. Consul General of Italy in Mumbai, Walter Ferrara, welcomed the vessel in Mumbai.

In a statement shared on Instagram, Italy's Consulate General in Mumbai stated, "Consul General Walter Ferrara welcomed the Italian Navy's Multi-Purpose Combat Ship (MPCS) "Giovanni delle Bande Nere" during her port call in Mumbai. The vessel's visit is part of the Italian Navy's operational deployment in the Indo-Pacific, promoting naval diplomacy, international cooperation and Italy's excellence in defence technology and innovation."

"The visit also highlights Italy's commitment to strengthening cooperation with partner navies, protecting maritime communication lines and safeguarding freedom of navigation. A heartfelt thank you to the crew of the Giovanni delle Bande Nere for this opportunity to celebrate the enduring friendship and cooperation between Italy and India," it added.

Jaishankar seeks stronger India-Azerbaijan ties

Talks Focus on Energy, Trade, Connectivity and Security Cooperation Amid Regional Differences



New Delhi, Oct 23 (GNS): Seeking to rebuild ties with Azerbaijan amid differences over regional and security issues, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday called for expanding cooperation in energy, trade and connectivity, saying his visit to Baku had helped chart a "pathway forward" for bilateral relations. Jaishankar, who met Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev and Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov, said the two countries should deepen their existing energy partnership while exploring new areas of investment and economic cooperation.

He also called for closer coordination on the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) and stronger air connectivity. The visit, the first bilateral trip to Azerbaijan by an Indian external affairs minister in eight years, follows Prime Minister Narendra Modi's meeting with Aliyev on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit in Bishkek last month.

Describing his discussions with Aliyev as "focused" and "forward-looking", Jaishankar said the two leaders had reviewed the entire range of bilateral ties, including ongoing cooperation and areas where both sides could do more or adopt different approaches. "We are both independent-minded nations who make their own call on the important issues of the day," he said, referring to the exchange of views on regional and global developments.

Jaishankar said Indian companies had been present in Azerbaijan for several years, with energy remaining a particularly important area of engagement. The two sides had agreed to deepen cooperation in the sector and expand it into other areas. "Given our complementary economies, we believe that there is very good scope for further enhancement of our bilateral trade and investment," he said after meeting Bayramov. The ministers also agreed to exchange trade delegations and organise visits in other sectors. Jaishankar invited his Azerbaijani counterpart to visit India soon. Connectivity featured prominently in the discussions, with Jaishankar calling for closer coordination on the INSTC, a multimodal network linking India with Iran, the Caspian region and Russia.

He said both countries had a stake in the corridor and had agreed to work more closely on it. The two sides also discussed expanding air connectivity. Jaishankar noted that daily flights were already operating between the two countries but said stronger links would be important for deepening bilateral relations. People-to-people exchanges were another focus. Jaishankar thanked Azerbaijan for looking after Indian students in the country and specifically acknowledged its assistance in evacuating Indian nationals, particularly students, from Iran during the conflict earlier this year.

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Crypto Hacks, Tax Evasion Spur Regulation Calls

Geetha Ravichandran



The flex of the cryptocurrency market has recently increased with the US declaring its intention to be the global leader in the digital asset. Meanwhile, the Indian crypto market was valued at around $2.5 billion in 2024 and is expected to grow to $15 billion by 2035. An interesting aspect of the growth in India is the spike in trading in semi-urban and rural areas, with youngsters looking to supplement their income. In effect, the spread and acceptance of virtual digital assets in India is becoming broad. The RBI has remained a crypto-sceptic and has emphasised its potential to disturb macroeconomic stability. The challenge, therefore, is to adopt cryptocurrencies without undermining sovereign economic stability. This requires agile regulation, as innovation and change underline crypto markets. The global regulatory landscape is evolving, actively seeking inputs from various stakeholders. The regulations range from bespoke legislation to the modification of existing payment and security laws. In India, a formal discussion paper on digital assets is likely to be out soon. The expectation is that regulation must provide certainty and protection for investors. Besides transparency in dealings by crypto exchanges, fraud detection, compliance with tax laws and plugging leakages in the anti-money laundering law are also to be prioritised.

It has been recently reported that certain offshore crypto platforms dodge tax deduction at source, which users could be led to misinterpret as an advantage. However, enforcement action by tax authorities and the proposed OECD-led Crypto Asset Reporting Framework, to which 63 jurisdictions are committed, will ensure that the global tax net is tightened. Another important aspect is investor education and vigilance against fraudulent transactions. Recently, almost 4.2 million Indian investors faced losses of $230 million attributed to hacking of a crypto exchange. This flags the urgent need for regulatory controls on crypto exchanges and tighter cyber security in general. Many investors do not read the fine print that while crypto exchanges do business in India, there is no established grievance redress mechanism, unlike what exists for breaches by other financial institutions.

A robust listing system based on reliable metrics is required to sift the numerous cryptocurrencies available in the market. This is a developing arena, and well-defined protocols would promote transparency and keep out fly-by-night operators. There is need for oversight on the quality of tokens being offered, so that investors can do due diligence.

To ascertain whether a cryptocurrency is valuable, it is necessary to understand the origins and the narratives of the blockchain on which it is based. Certain currencies have, due to performance metrics and perceptions, moved to a blue-chip category, with bitcoin often being considered 'digital gold'. This is because bitcoin has been one of the best performing digital assets in the past decade. Even when its prices have crashed, its floor has been rising steadily. Among India's neighbours, Bhutan has been at the forefront of crypto mining, using its considerable hydropower. It also holds cryptocurrencies in a strategic reserve in its Gelephu Mindfulness City. According to reports, Bhutan owns $1.1 billion in such reserves. Pakistan has also announced its intention to legalise cryptocurrency to attract foreign investment. The US has announced the creation of a strategic reserve of cryptocurrencies that includes digital currencies seized by law enforcement agencies. It remains to be seen whether this would prove to be an alternative store of value like gold. However, the volatility inherent in cryptocurrencies would reduce its utility as an inflationary hedge.

In India, cryptocurrency worth about $37 million has been seized by law enforcement agencies due to illegal and criminal activities. The Finance Bill 2025 has amended the definition of undisclosed income to include digital assets. This could translate into more seizures.

A strategic reserve of seized digital assets would counter-intuitively be seen as a positive signal for the cryptocurrency market, as it becomes part of the sovereign kitty. According to IMF's recently published manual on balance of payments, strategic reserves are to be treated in the same way as cross-border land acquisitions or spectrum licence purchase.

The RBI has introduced a central bank digital coin as an alternative to stablecoins. But with the maturing of the decentralised network, stablecoins have become a force to reckon with. That they are pegged to gold or a fiat currency has seen them surge.

Their global market value rose to nearly $200 billion in early 2025. Many governments that back stablecoins have sought to exercise control through licences given to issuers and have mandated full reserve backing, audits, statutory liquidity requirements and investor protection. Stablecoins also present an opportunity for India to streamline the vast remittance market and foster innovation.

They have the potential to facilitate multinationals bringing in investment to make local payments for products in the local currency. In the long run, it could help India obtain a significant market share on Web 3 platforms. A rupee-backed stablecoin would be a risk mitigation approach to dollarisation, maintaining monetary autonomy and limiting import of external stablecoins tied to foreign currencies. Recent IMF guidelines classify stablecoins as financial instruments. This is in contrast to treating cryptocurrencies as non-produced, non-financial rights. So the new developments signal that cryptocurrencies can no longer be dismissed as a fringe phenomenon. Financial markets are leveraging blockchain technology by introducing new interest-bearing products.

Judicial Accountability Debate Revived After Incident

Kaleeswaram Raj



The recovery of cash from Justice Yashwant Varma's outhouse poses many questions. The visuals of the recovery were shocking. Some at the bar, however, doubt the genuineness of the allegations and claim it was a planned entrapment. Justice Varma has alleged conspiracy, which too has not been established. The in-house enquiry ordered by the chief justice of India (CJI) has not reached any conclusion yet; the process lacks certainty and transparency. Meanwhile, Justice Varma has been transferred to the Allahabad High Court; no judicial work has been assigned to him.

It is not prudent to discuss the merit of the issue based on speculation or hearsay. It is definitely not the intention of this article either. The incident has, however, exposed some systemic deficits in ensuring judicial accountability in India. No wonder that following the episode, there has been a call from some corners to reintroduce the National Judicial Appointments Commission (NJAC), which was struck down by the Supreme Court in 2015. The issue of accountability is connected to the process of selecting judges.

Judicial appointment in India has always been a controversial topic. The introduction of the collegium system happened with the judgement in the Second Judges' case (1993). The idea was further elaborated in the Third Judges' case (1998). Justice V R Krishna Iyer later criticised the new device: "There is no structure to hear the public in the process of selection. No principle is laid down, no investigation is made, and a sort of anarchy prevails." The collegium holds many facets of power that are administrative rather than adjudicative. Such a danger was foreseen by the makers of the Constitution. While discussing the Supreme Court's financial autonomy in the Constituent Assembly on May 27, 1949, T T Krishnamachari apprehended the judiciary becoming imperium in imperio, a power within a power. The collegium, to an extent, becomes exactly that in certain matters.

Even B R Ambedkar opposed the suggestion to arm the CJI with the power to appoint judges. On May 24, 1949, he told the Constituent Assembly: "To allow the chief justice practically a veto upon the appointment of judges is really to transfer an authority to the chief justice that we are not prepared to vest in the president or the government of the day."

Curiously, a significant aspect the Supreme Court may not have properly appreciated in its decisions on the subject is the text of Articles 124 and 217 of the Constitution, which say that the president will appoint judges of the higher judiciary. The Constitution does not indicate that the president or even the executive will select the judges.

Thus, there is a constitutional silence on the method of selection of judges, which is distinct from their appointment. The body to select judges, according to the Constitution, is neither the executive nor the judiciary. Yet, both branches have competed to grab the power. The executive succeeded in the First Judges' case (1981) and the judiciary in the subsequent cases on the subject, the last being the one that struck down the NJAC (2015). In none of these cases, the top court tried to make a synthesis over the constitutional silence on judicial selection. Viewed so, these were adjudicative tragedies.

It is against this background that certain accusations against the judiciary are met with a plea for abolishing the collegium system. That the collegium ensures judicial independence is not proven. Even after decades of its installation, Indian judiciary is not totally free from executive leverage. This criticism, which prevailed during the Emergency of 1975-77, got revived with rigour post 2014. Though it was supposed to be independent from the political executive, the collegium system could not alleviate this huge credibility crisis. At the same time, installation of a commission with executive predominance is not the solution. The NJAC, introduced by the 99th constitutional amendment, suffered from the vice of executive dominance. As per the amended Article 124A of the Constitution (which does not exist any longer), the selection committee would include the CJI, two other senior judges of the Supreme Court, the Union law minister and two "eminent persons". A committee comprising the CJI, the prime minister and the leader of the opposition would select the two eminent persons. It was apprehended that the choice of these two eminent persons, where political persons would have a predominant role, might damage judicial independence. The NJAC amendment also did not provide for openness in the selection process. Thus, it contained the basic vices and deficits of the collegium. The NJAC did not guarantee opportunity to all eligible hands to apply for selection. It did not provide for a fair and transparent process for assessing the candidates' merit. It did not try to extend the concept of a national judicial service stipulated in Articles 236 and 312 of the Constitution, which even now remains on paper, to the higher judiciary.

The fragile line between healer and healed

Some voices stay with us for a lifetime. For me, one of them is the voice of a doctor saying, "We couldn't save him" referring to my father. It came without fanfare, without softness, without ceremony. Just four words-and the world changed for me. At that moment, I wanted to hold someone accountable for the unbearable loss I had just suffered. My father was in the doctor's care, and I had trusted him to guard my father's life. And yet, death had slipped through the cracks. I remember standing there, wordless, caught in a strange pause between fury and resignation. I didn't lash out. What would be the point now? The man was gone. To behave like a savage towards a doctor like many patients do in the face of a tragedy wasn't in my character. And yet, somewhere deep within, the question lingered: had someone failed? Could the doctor have saved my father? Or had he tried enough and this was simply the limit of human effort?

Years later, I would hear echoes of that question in an entirely different setting-this time, from the doctor's side. A casual conversation with a dear friend-herself a seasoned physician-turned unexpectedly poignant. "We can't retire because this is what are ordained to do in our lives," she said, "and we can't continue like this either because age is catching up and we are unable to balance work and life. Patients' expectations these days are too high to meet satisfactorily." She was referring not just to the long hours or the relentless pressure of life-and-death decisions, but to something more insidious: the growing distrust, the unrealistic expectations, and the Google-fed entitlement of patients who arrive armed with half-truths and full confidence. Another doctor friend chimed in at this point, only half in jest: "These days, people come to consult us not for answers, but to argue. And if things go wrong, we're the first to be crucified."

In their voices, I heard a quiet exhaustion. A fatigue that wasn't just physical, but existential. Medicine, once seen as a noble calling, is now burdened by demands that no human can fulfil. Patients seek quick cures, perfect answers, and unconditional availability. And when outcomes don't match expectations, it's not uncommon for doctors to face blame, abuse, and even violence as witnessed many times in our country. This is not to excuse negligence. Nor to overlook the occasional callousness that does exist. But in our collective haste to demand accountability, have we begun to forget that doctors, too, are human? That behind every prescription is a person who probably hasn't slept a full night in weeks. That beneath every white coat is a beating heart, anxious to save, terrified to fail.

My friend spoke of missing family gatherings. Of being unable to remember the last time she read a book for pleasure. Of watching the profession she once idolised become a crucible of stress and fear. "Sometimes," she said, "I feel like I'm drowning in expectations I can't meet." It made me think-how did a role rooted in healing and service become one of the most unforgiving? When did the caregiver become the scapegoat? Perhaps we, as a society, have elevated doctors to a pedestal so high that we have forgotten the toll it takes to stay up there. We forget that not all battles can be won. That despite the best of efforts, some outcomes lie beyond control.

We demand empathy from doctors, and rightly so. But empathy, like every virtue, must flow both ways. Maybe it's time we paused to ask: what are we giving back to those we expect so much from? In an age where algorithms offer diagnoses and chatbots provide remedies, the human connection in medicine remains irreplaceable. A doctor's touch, their voice, their presence-these are things no machine can replicate. But even these need nourishment, need rest, need understanding.

Maybe the next time we visit a doctor, we could remember they too have burdens. That their mistakes are not always malice. That their fatigue is not indifference. That their silence might just be sorrow. And perhaps, with that awareness, we might begin to heal not just our own ailments, but the fractured bond between the healer and the healed. Because ultimately, both stand on the same side of a fragile line-one fighting to preserve life, the other desperate to hold on to it. And in that shared fragility lies our common humanity.

Trump tariffs: World economy on the edge

US President Donald Trump is facing backlash both globally and domestically, but at this point, he appears in no mood to withdraw his reciprocal tariffs. The world economy is already showing signs of wilting. The high drama began last week when Trump announced a sweeping range of tariffs between 10 per cent and 50 per cent targeting multiple trading partners, including China, the European Union, and Taiwan. China, the main target of Trump's ire, was hit with a 34 per cent tariff on imports to the US, in addition to a previous 20 per cent duty. Beijing wasted no time in retaliating, slapping a reciprocal 34 per cent tariff on American goods, escalating the tariff war even further. In a scathing response, China's commerce ministry accused the US of "blackmail" and said it would "fight to the end" if Washington insisted on continuing "down the wrong path." A blistering editorial in Xinhua called the Trump administration's approach "naked extortion," accusing it of turning diplomacy into blunt coercion. Chinese officials have also strategically leaned into public diplomacy, circulating a 1987 speech by then-President Ronald Reagan warning against the dangers of tariffs. Experts see the current situation as a dangerous game of brinkmanship. Markets across the globe have reflected the uncertainty. On Monday, US indices touched their lowest point in over a year, with volatility gripping investors worldwide. The Nikkei in Japan rebounded 6 per cent Tuesday after plummeting to an 18-month low. Hong Kong's Hang Seng, reeling from its worst day since 1997, bounced back 2 per cent. Even Chinese blue-chip stocks recouped some losses, gaining 0.7 per cent after a bruising 7 per cent fall the previous day. However, this rebound is seen by many as temporary optimism amid broader fears. Billionaire investor Bill Ackman — once a vocal Trump supporter — has called for a temporary halt to the tariff war to stabilise markets. The ripple effects of Trump's tariffs extend beyond China. The EU, also targeted by the Trump tariffs, has proposed retaliatory measures of its own, including a 25 per cent tariff on US exports such as soybeans and sausages. Similarly, Taiwan, facing a punishing 32 per cent reciprocal tariff, has already expressed its willingness to negotiate. President Lai Ching-te proposed a "zero-tariffs" pact and deeper investment ties with the US, while noting that Taiwan's trade surplus is primarily driven by US demand for tech. Amid the rising global tensions, India is playing the role of mediator and strategic partner. External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and his US counterpart held high-level talks on Tuesday, advocating for an "early trade deal" to safeguard economic stability between the two democracies. New Delhi is also pushing for tariff exemptions on critical Indian exports while laying the groundwork for long-term supply chain cooperation with the US. India's proactive diplomacy signals its desire to maintain a balanced relationship with both Washington and Beijing. By positioning itself as a pragmatic partner, India hopes to shield its economy from the worst effects of the trade war and emerge as a stabilising force in the Indo-Pacific. As the clock ticks toward Trump's Wednesday deadline for more tariffs, the world braces for what could be a new chapter in economic conflict. While the US and China hunker down in a war of words and tariffs, other nations like India are racing to keep the doors of diplomacy open. Whether cooler heads will prevail remains to be seen.

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Lucknow CAT Bench Gets Permanent Office After Decades

LUCKNOW, Oct 23 (GNS): The Lucknow CAT (Central Administrative Tribunal) bench was established way back in 1987, but it got its own office building only now after 38 years under Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This observation was made by Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh, who is also the Minister Incharge DoPT (Department of Personnel & Training) which is the administrative Ministry of CAT. In a thoughtful move to mark the Ambedkar Jayanti commemorating the memory of the father of Indian constitution, Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath today jointly inaugurated the Lucknow CAT (Central Administrative Tribunal) building in the Gomti Nagar area of the city.



The entire project at the cost of about Rs 25 crore was accomplished through Central funds by DoPT (Department of Personnel & Training) of which the Minister Incharge is Dr Jitendra Singh. The new CAT premises in the capital city of Lucknow marks a significant milestone for the administrative justice system. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Jitendra Singh noted that the Tribunal had been functioning from rented premises since its inception in 1987 and that the new facility reflects the rapid progress achieved under the double-engine government model led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Centre and Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Uttar Pradesh. "This inauguration is one of the many examples of how far we've come under this collaborative governance approach," the Minister said.

Highlighting CAT's mission of ensuring justice that is affordable, accessible, and efficient, Dr. Jitendra Singh said the Tribunal has disposed of over 8.88 lakh cases out of nearly 9.6 lakh filed since its inception in 1985, achieving a disposal rate of about 93%.

The Minister emphasised that with a filing fee of just 50 and provisions allowing litigants to appear without a lawyer, CAT embodies the principle of justice at the doorstep. The Minister also underlined the Tribunal's consistent track record of judicial excellence, with many of its decisions upheld by High Courts and the Supreme Court. Describing the new building as more than just a structure, Dr. Jitendra Singh said it symbolises the Tribunal's enduring commitment to reform, justice, and transparency. The space is designed to foster a conducive atmosphere for judicial work, reflecting the evolution of CAT from a challenging early phase to a respected institution in the country's administrative justice system. As judicial work commences from this new location, the development stands as yet another testament to the Centre-State synergy in Uttar Pradesh, and the sustained efforts to strengthen institutional infrastructure across the country.

The new building is expected to provide improved facilities for judicial officers, tribunal staff, government departments and litigants, while ensuring a more organised environment for hearings and administrative work. The modern infrastructure is aimed at improving the overall functioning of the Lucknow Bench and making the process of seeking administrative justice more convenient for citizens and government employees.

The Central Administrative Tribunal plays a vital role in adjudicating service-related disputes involving Central Government employees and other eligible personnel. Its responsibilities include addressing matters relating to recruitment, promotion, seniority, transfers, and other service conditions.

Chouhan to hold bilateral talks with Brazilian Agri Min

New Delhi, Oct 23 (GNS): Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, is leading the Indian delegation to the 15th BRICS Agriculture Ministers' Meeting (AMM), scheduled to be held on 17th April, 2025 in Brasilia, Brazil. The theme of 15th BRICS AMM is "Promoting Inclusive and Sustainable Agriculture through Cooperation, Innovation, and Equitable Trade among BRICS Countries". Agriculture Ministers and senior officials from BRICS member countries, including Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, United Arab Emirates, Ethiopia, Indonesia, and Iran are expected to attend the Meeting.

During the visit, Shri Chouhan will hold bilateral meetings with key Brazilian counterparts, including Mr. Carlos Henrique Baqueta Fávaro, Minister of Agriculture and Livestock, and Mr. Luiz Paulo Teixeira, Minister of Agrarian Development and Family Farming (MDA). These meetings will focus on enhancing collaboration between India and Brazil in various areas of agriculture, agri-technology, rural development, and food security.

The Minister will interact with leaders of major Brazilian agribusiness companies and representatives of the Brazilian Association of Vegetable Oil Industries in São Paulo, exploring avenues for partnership and investment in the agriculture value chain. As part of his visit, the Minister will also participate in a tree plantation drive at the Embassy of India in Brasilia, under the noble initiative "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam", aimed at raising environmental consciousness and honouring motherhood. In addition, the Minister will interact with the vibrant Indian diaspora in São Paulo, acknowledging their role as cultural ambassadors and contributors to bilateral ties.

This visit reaffirms India's commitment to deepen cooperation with BRICS nations and to advance South-South cooperation in agricultural innovation, resilience, and sustainability.

The visit is expected to strengthen India-Brazil agricultural cooperation, with a focus on sharing expertise in modern farming techniques, agricultural research, and technology-driven solutions. Both countries have opportunities to collaborate in improving crop productivity, promoting sustainable farming practices, and developing innovative approaches to address emerging agricultural challenges.

Discussions are also expected to explore ways to enhance trade in agricultural commodities and strengthen cooperation between farmers, research institutions, and private-sector enterprises. Greater engagement between Indian and Brazilian agricultural industries could help create new investment opportunities, improve supply chains, and support the development of value-added agricultural products.

Food security and rural development are likely to remain important areas of cooperation during the ministerial engagement. Both countries have extensive agricultural sectors and large farming communities, making the exchange of knowledge on farmer welfare, efficient resource utilisation, and climate-resilient agriculture particularly significant.

India Reinforces Commitment to Energy Security and Exploration Growth: Hardeep Singh Puri

New Delhi, Oct 23 (GNS): "The Indian hydrocarbon sector is entering a new era of accelerated exploration and development," said Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, while addressing the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) Round-IX and Special Discovered Small Field (DSF) Signing Ceremony held here tonight. He highlighted that through investor-friendly reforms, swift approvals, scientific exploration, and a strong emphasis on sustainability, India is steadily building a resilient and future-ready energy ecosystem aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat. Addressing the esteemed gathering of dignitaries, industry stakeholders, and investors, Shri Puri noted that today's signing ceremony signifies much more than the completion of a procedural formality—it is a powerful testament to India's unwavering commitment to reducing its import dependence and securing its energy future.

With India currently reliant on imports for 88% of its crude oil and 50% of its natural gas needs, the urgency for domestic exploration and production has never been greater. As the Minister pointed out, "In the next two decades, 25% of the world's incremental energy demand growth will come from India." Reflecting on the past, Shri Puri acknowledged the challenges the Indian upstream sector faced between 2006 and 2016—a "dull decade" marred by policy paralysis and procedural delays, leading to the exit of global energy giants like BP, ENI, and Santos. However, the tide has turned. "We were determined to unlock India's untapped energy potential, estimated at approximately 42 billion tonnes of oil and oil equivalent of gas," he said.

To that end, the Government has implemented a series of transformative reforms over the past decade. A key achievement has been the expansion of exploration activity, with the explored area of India's sedimentary basins increasing from 6% in 2014 to 10% today, with a target of reaching 15%. The Minister reiterated the commitment to increasing exploration acreage to 1 million sq. km by 2030, highlighting the dramatic 99% reduction in "No-Go" areas within India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Scientific, data-driven exploration has been a cornerstone of this strategy, backed by a 7,500 crore investment into new seismic data acquisition, aerial surveys in remote terrains, and stratigraphic wells. Importantly, geo-scientific data is now available for major basins on both coasts, with the National Data Repository being upgraded to a cloud-based platform to ensure faster, transparent access to seismic, production, and well data.

The Minister proudly noted that 76% of the total area currently under exploration has been brought under active exploration only since 2014. Under OALP Round-IX alone, 28 blocks across eight sedimentary basins have been awarded, covering 1.36 lakh square kilometers—38% of which fall in areas previously designated as "No-Go." Additionally, two blocks were awarded under the Special DSF Round, with a total of 60 bids received. "Congratulations to all the awardees. Your success will play a pivotal role in meeting our increasing energy demands as India continues its ascent as one of the world's largest energy consumers," Shri Puri said.

Looking ahead, the Minister announced that OALP Round-X has already been launched at the India Energy Week 2025, offering 25 blocks across 13 sedimentary basins—covering the largest-ever acreage of 1.92 lakh square kilometers, with 51% falling in previously restricted zones.

Furthermore, DSF Round-IV is being launched tonight, comprising 55 discoveries across nine contract areas with estimated reserves of 258.59 million metric tonnes of oil equivalent (MMTOE). All blocks have undergone rigorous technical vetting by global experts, and critically, all relevant data is being made freely available to potential investors.

He also shared that under previous DSF Bid Rounds (I, II, and III), a total of 85 Revenue Sharing Contracts covering 175 fields have been awarded.

Highlighting the potential in unconventional hydrocarbon sources, Shri Puri elaborated on India's Coal Bed Methane (CBM) assets, currently estimated at 2,600 BCM. With 15 active CBM blocks—five already under production—the Government is preparing to launch a Special CBM 2025 Round to offer three new blocks (two in West Bengal and one in Gujarat), further diversifying India's energy portfolio.

In a major legislative update, the Minister announced that the amended Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948 (ORDA), will come into effect in April 15, 2025. This "landmark reform" modernizes India's upstream regulatory framework and aligns it with international best practices.

The Government has also been responsive to industry concerns through the establishment of a Joint Working Group (JWG) comprising private E&P operators, National Oil Companies, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, and the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons. "The JWG has submitted its report, and we are formally launching it this evening," Shri Puri announced.

In a move towards inclusive governance and legal clarity, the Minister also launched the draft PNG Rules Public Consultation Portal, encouraging industry and public stakeholders to share feedback. These rules will help shape future Model Revenue Sharing Contracts and streamline sectoral regulations.

The Minister emphasized that the government is working to create a stable and predictable policy environment to attract greater domestic and international investment in oil and gas exploration. Simplified procedures, transparent bidding mechanisms and improved access to geological data are expected to encourage participation by private companies and global energy players.

He said expanding domestic production would help strengthen India's energy security, reduce vulnerability to fluctuations in international crude oil prices and support the country's long-term economic growth. With energy demand expected to rise significantly in the coming decades, the government is prioritizing the development of conventional and unconventional hydrocarbon resources.

Puri also stressed the importance of adopting advanced technologies, scientific exploration methods and environmentally responsible practices.

MoU to Enhance Gig and Logistics Employment Opportunities on NCS and Create Over 12 Lakh Job Opportunities in 2–3 years

New Delhi, Oct 23 (GNS): Ministry of Labour & Employment and Swiggy signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in New Delhi today, marking a significant step toward strengthening employment linkages in the gig and logistics sector through the National Career Service (NCS) portal. The MoU was signed in the presence of Union Minister of Labour & Employment, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya and Union Minister of State for Labour & Employment, Sushri Shobha Karandlaje.

In his address, Dr. Mandaviya stated, "The National Career Service portal is a dynamic platform connecting job seekers and employers across India. With over 1.25 crore active job seekers and 40 lakh registered employers as of January 31, 2025, it is playing a crucial role in workforce mobilization. This partnership with Swiggy will further extend the portal's reach into the fast-growing gig and platform economy, enabling access to flexible and location-based opportunities for millions of youth." Dr. Mandaviya welcomed the collaboration and appreciated Swiggy's commitment to potentially mobilize over 12 lakh job opportunities in the next 2–3 years through the NCS portal. "This collaboration represents a win-win model, while Swiggy will gain access to a diverse, skilled, and job-ready talent pool, lakhs of job seekers across the country will benefit from enhanced visibility and access to employment opportunities," Union Minister said.

Highlighting the platform's accessibility and reach, Union Minister reiterated the government's vision of making NCS a one-stop solution for employment, skilling, and counselling, and at the same time capable of hyperlocal job matching and supporting both domestic and international placements.

Under this MoU, Swiggy will integrate its gig opportunities—including delivery, logistics, and support roles—onto the NCS portal. This real-time integration will enhance visibility of gig jobs for NCS users, who will benefit from timely and verified work opportunities across urban and semi-urban areas. Mr. Dinker Vashisht, Chief of Corporate Affairs, Swiggy, welcomed the collaboration and emphasized the importance of partnerships between Gig platform and government platforms to scale employment. "Swiggy's journey showcases how digital entrepreneurship can transform livelihoods. This MoU will empower job seekers and align with our commitment to inclusive growth in the new-age economy."

It is one of the steps, in the series of signing MoUs with the private employers/ portals, other leading employment/ Gig platforms etc. to bridge the gap between jobseekers and private sector employment, enabling a holistic approach to public-private coordination in job facilitation. Swiggy will regularly post verified gig and delivery job opportunities on the NCS portal and conduct hiring through it.

API-based integration will ensure real-time job postings and seamless application tracking for users.

Focus on inclusive hiring, particularly promoting employment opportunities for youth, women, and those seeking flexible work.

The partnership is expected to support structured onboarding, digital empowerment, and awareness of worker welfare schemes.

The Ministry of Labour & Employment remains committed to improving employment outcomes across sectors through the NCS portal and will continue engaging with the private sector to foster an enabling ecosystem for India's diverse workforce. The partnership is expected to strengthen the connection between job seekers and employers by bringing gig and platform-based employment opportunities onto a government-supported digital platform. By integrating Swiggy's vacancies into the NCS portal, candidates will be able to explore available roles and apply through a centralized system, making the job-search process more accessible and organized.

The initiative will particularly benefit young people seeking entry-level employment, as well as individuals looking for flexible working arrangements. Delivery, logistics and support roles are expected to provide opportunities for candidates with diverse educational backgrounds and skill levels across urban and semi-urban locations.

The proposed API-based integration will enable Swiggy to publish job openings in real time and support seamless application tracking. Regular posting of verified vacancies is expected to improve transparency and help applicants access updated information about available positions through the NCS platform. The collaboration also aims to promote inclusive recruitment by encouraging greater participation of women and other job seekers who require flexible employment options. Structured onboarding and improved awareness of worker welfare schemes are expected to form part of the broader effort to support individuals entering the gig economy. The Ministry of Labour and Employment said it would continue expanding partnerships with private employers, recruitment portals and digital platforms to improve employment access nationwide. Through such collaborations, the government aims to strengthen public-private coordination, facilitate job matching.

NITI Aayog launches Report on 'Unlocking $25+ Billion Export Potential - India's Hand & Power Tools Sector'

New Delhi, Oct 23 (GNS): NITI Aayog launched a report on Hand and Power tools sectors – 'Unlocking $25+ Billion Export Potential - India's Hand & Power Tools Sector'. The report underscores the transformative potential of hand and power tools industry for India's economic growth, delving into the challenges, policy headwinds, and necessary interventions vital for strengthening the Indian hand and power tool ecosystem. It outlines a strategic path for the sector to enhance its global competitiveness and capture a significantly larger share of the international market. The report was launched by Shri Suman Bery, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog in the presence of Dr. V.K. Saraswat, Member, Dr. Arvind Virmani, Member, and Shri BVR Subrahmanyam, CEO, NITI Aayog.

The report suggests that the global trade market for power and hand tools, currently valued at approximately $ 100 billion, is projected to grow significantly, reaching around $ 190 billion by 2035. Within this market, hand tools account for $ 34 billion and are expected to expand to $ 60 billion by 2035, while power tools, including tool accessories, represent $ 63 billion and are anticipated to surge to $ 134 billion, with electrical tools comprising the majority. China dominates global exports, holding about 50% of the hand tools market with $ 13 billion and 40% of the power tools market with $ 22 billion, whereas India has a smaller presence, exporting $ 600 million in hand tools (1.8% market share) and $ 470 million in power tools (0.7% market share).

One important finding of the report is that India has the potential to capture a larger share of the global market, targeting $ 25 billion in exports over the next decade, which could create approximately 35 lakh jobs by achieving a 10% market share in power tools and 25% in hand tools. Through fostering innovation, empowering our MSMEs, strengthening India's industrial ecosystem, we can solidify the nation's position as a reliable, high-quality global manufacturing hub. The potential rewards for Indian economy and its people are immense. The report also analyses the challenges which India may face, including a 14-17% cost disadvantage compared to China, driven by higher structural costs and smaller operational scale. This disadvantage stems from elevated raw material costs, such as steel, plastic, and motors, as well as lower labour productivity due to higher overtime wages and restrictions on overtime hours.

Furthermore, higher interest rates and logistics costs for transporting goods from inland states to ports further hinder India's competitiveness in the global market.

To achieve India's potential of $ 25 billion in power and hand tool exports over the next decade, the report delves into the issues impacting hand and power tools sectors and recommends three key categories of interventions which are essential. These include:

Developing world-class hand tool clusters with advanced infrastructure is critical, requiring 3-4 clusters aggregating around 4,000 acres. These clusters operating under a public-private partnership (PPP) model would feature plug-and-play infrastructure, worker housing, and facilities like connectivity and convention centers to streamline operations.

Addressing structural cost disadvantages through market reforms is necessary, including rationalizing Quality Control Order (QCO) restrictions and import duties on essential raw materials like steel and machinery, simplifying the Export Promotion Capital Goods (EPCG) scheme by easing Authorized Economic Operator (AEO) requirements, and reducing penal provisions like interest on defaults. Additionally, reforms to building regulations and labour laws are needed to enhance competitiveness.

Providing bridge cost support to offset cost disadvantages is crucial, though no additional support beyond existing schemes like Remission of Duties and Taxes on Exported Products (RoDTEP) and duty drawbacks is required if factor market interventions are effectively implemented. However, the report estimates that in the absence of these reforms, an additional RS. 8,000 crores in bridge support will be necessary, which should be viewed as an investment rather than a subsidy, as it is expected to generate 2-3 times its value in tax revenue over the next five years.

The report observes that the tools industry serves as a foundational pillar of the global manufacturing ecosystem. The Hand and Power Tools sector represents a significant opportunity to realise India's ambition of becoming a 'global manufacturing hub'.

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Revanth Warns of 8–10 Months of Drought, Urges Farmers to Shift to Dry Crops

CM Calls for Water Conservation, Drinking Water Monitoring and Employment Support; Slams BRS Over Drought and Yadadri Power Project



Hyderabad, Oct 23 (GNS): Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy appealed to the farmers to cultivate only dry crops and vegetables in view of the depletion of the water resources in all projects in the Telangana State. The Chief Minister warned that the drought conditions would continue for the next 8 to 10 months in the state.

Speaking at a meeting with Congress leaders, MLAs, MPS and MLC at Praja Bhavan on Friday, the CM said that out of 30 lakh pump sets, 15 lakh have already dried up and seven a single drop of water would not be available in the coming days. Water storage in the projects was already reduced to less than 20 percent of their capacity. And the available water is also not more than 200 TMC of water . Some of the projects reached the dead storage levels. In the present circumstances, availability of water for irrigation is ruled out except to provide drinking water.

Emphasizing that special attention should be paid to the provision of drinking water, the CM instructed the Cabinet sub-committee, along with officials at all levels, to ensure continuous monitoring of the supply of drinking water. A toll-free number would be provided to address the grievances.

The chief minister announced that a Special scheme will be introduced after Sankranti for four months until May to provide daily employment to the workers. In addition to funds received from the Central government, the State government will also spend a significant amount into this scheme. The CM ordered every public representative to visit the villages . We will monitor this by installing a special app on everyone's phones. This initiative should be utilized to restore access paths to agricultural fields, as well as canals, ponds, and small water bodies. We must provide work for every individual and ensure that everyone has food to eat. This scheme must be meticulously designed and implemented. 'Kalajathas' (cultural troupes) should be organized to motivate the farmers. A help desk should be set up at Gandhi Bhavan under the leadership of MP Chamala Kiran.

CM Revanth Reddy maintained that the government has the responsibility of disclosing the ground reality to ensure no one will suffer during the crisis time. The leaders should also take up a campaign to educate the farmers about the drought conditions through Rythu Vedikas. To give relief to the cattle, special centers would be established in villages to provide fodder and drinking water. More job days would be created under the employment guarantee scheme.

The Chief Minister said that the government was already alerting all sections of the people about the prevailing conditions. Many countries across the world were also facing drought. The intense heat and water scarcity was leading to a sharp increase in electricity consumption. In some parts of Maharashtra, drinking water is now being rationed and regulations have been introduced to reduce water consumption by 20 percent by each person.

The CM warned that the scarcity of drinking water will prove to be an even greater challenge than the shortage of water for irrigation. A situation may arise where people are unable to even step out of their homes. " We cannot tackle this drought without alerting the public and making them partners in our efforts", CM Revanth Reddy said that the government has already constituted a cabinet sub-committee headed by Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka and also appointed K Ramakrishna Rao as a special officer to address issues related to 'El Niño' and counter misinformation.

'El Niño' is a crisis created by nature, the Chief minister said that the government managed the completion of the Kharif crop season without an irrigation crisis. We will also ensure the protection of the Kharif crops and facilitate their procurement. Last season, we announced a bonus for the cultivation of seven specific varieties of fine paddy varieties.

96-Year-Old Woman Awaits KCR Meeting



Khammam, Oct 22 (GNS): BRS Parliamentary Party leader and Rajya Sabha member Vaddiraju Ravichandra has taken steps to fulfil the long-cherished wish of 96-year-old Duggidevara Samrajyam of Mallavaram village in Tallada mandal of Khammam district to meet former Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) and take a photograph with him. Samrajyam, who served twice as the sarpanch of Mallavaram village, twice as an MPTC member and as a director of the Single Window Cooperative Society, has earned the respect and affection of people across communities through her public service. A devoted admirer of KCR, she holds him in high regard for leading the movement for a separate Telangana state through non-violent means and subsequently overseeing the state's development as its first Chief Minister. Meeting KCR and taking a photograph with him has been her long-standing aspiration.

Her elder son, Venkatalal, a BRS leader, brought her wish to the attention of MP Ravichandra, who responded positively. On Friday, Ravichandra accompanied Samrajyam, her sons Venkatalal and Ajay Kumar, and her grandsons Yudhishter and Sriraghunandan to Telangana Bhavan, where they met BRS working president K. T. Rama Rao (KTR).

KTR warmly greeted Samrajyam and felicitated her with a shawl in recognition of her presence. He also assured her that he would arrange a meeting with KCR soon, helping her realise her long-cherished dream. During the meeting, KTR and Ravichandra also appreciated Samrajyam's grandson Sriraghunandan, son of Ajay Kumar, for his commitment to social service and environmental cleanliness from an early age. Sriraghunandan is currently pursuing a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) in Bengaluru. On February 17, 2016, coinciding with KCR's birthday, he adopted the government primary school in his native village of Mallavaram. He was just nine years old and studying in Class V at the time.

Following the adoption, he helped provide the school with essential infrastructure and worked to improve greenery and cleanliness on the school premises and in the surrounding areas. His early efforts in community service earned him recognition.

Homeless Families to Get Priority in Indiramma Housing: Ponnam Prabhakar



Hyderabad, Oct 23 (GNS): Telangana Transport and BC Welfare Minister and Husnabad MLA Ponnam Prabhakar has announced that homeless poor families and those living in huts will be given the highest priority in the allotment of houses under the Indiramma Housing Scheme in the Husnabad Assembly constituency.

The Minister said there was significant demand for Indiramma houses in the constituency. Considering the difficult living conditions of many poor families, the government was following a priority-based approach to ensure that those in the greatest need receive housing assistance first.

He further announced that eligible families displaced by the construction of the Gouravelli–Gandipalli project, who have not yet received a house, would also be considered for Indiramma housing, provided they meet the prescribed government eligibility criteria and other applicable conditions. The government would also take steps to provide Indiramma houses to eligible families who lost their homes during the expansion of the four-lane road from Kothapalli to Husnabad, including in Chigurumamidi, Sundaragiri and other areas, he said.

Similarly, eligible families who lost their houses due to road expansion and related development works along the route from Mallechettu Junction in Husnabad town towards Jangaon via Akkannapet would also be considered for housing assistance.

The Minister added that eligible land donors who gave their land for the establishment of the industrial park at Choutapalli in Husnabad and do not own a house would also be considered for allotment under the scheme.

Ponnam Prabhakar said the government's objective was to help poor families realise their dream of owning a house and to ensure justice for those who have lost their homes due to development projects and road-widening works. He acknowledged that the number of eligible applicants was high but assured that families facing the most difficult circumstances would receive priority.

Bhatti Vikramarka Hails TGSPF on 35th Formation Day



Hyderabad, Oct 23 (GNS): Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka extended his greetings to the officers and personnel of the Telangana Special Protection Force (TGSPF) on its 35th Formation Day, highlighting the force's vital role in safeguarding key institutions and supporting the state's development.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that security is the foundation of development and described the TGSPF's motto, "Protection for Progress," as highly meaningful. He noted that the force provides security to 67 key institutions across Telangana, with nearly 2,000 personnel deployed to protect vital establishments.

Bhatti Vikramarka praised the TGSPF for its significant contribution to safeguarding power generation facilities, particularly the Yadadri, Kothagudem and Bhadradri power plants. He said the dedication of security personnel in protecting power infrastructure and ensuring uninterrupted operations was invaluable.

Emphasising the need to strengthen security systems with modern technology, the Deputy Chief Minister pointed out that drones, artificial intelligence and cyber technologies are creating new challenges for the security sector. He stressed that security personnel must possess technical knowledge alongside physical fitness to effectively address emerging threats. He expressed satisfaction over the presence of a specialised training academy at Ameenpur and underlined the importance of continuous training to prepare personnel for evolving security challenges. The Deputy Chief Minister said that discipline, integrity and a sense of responsibility were more important than weapons alone. He added that the primary objective of an effective security system should be to instil confidence among the public rather than create fear.

Bhatti Vikramarka also acknowledged the sacrifices made by the families of security personnel, stating that their contribution behind the force's dedicated service should never be forgotten. He assured that the government was giving special attention to the welfare and professional development of security personnel. He observed that the TGSPF protects not only buildings and institutions but also public trust and Telangana's progress. The force, he said, plays a crucial role in helping transform Telangana into a safe and prosperous state. Established on October 23, 1991, the Telangana Special Protection Force has been providing security to key institutions for 35 years. The Deputy Chief Minister conveyed his best wishes to all TGSPF officers and personnel on the occasion.

Telangana Prepares for Khelo India Games

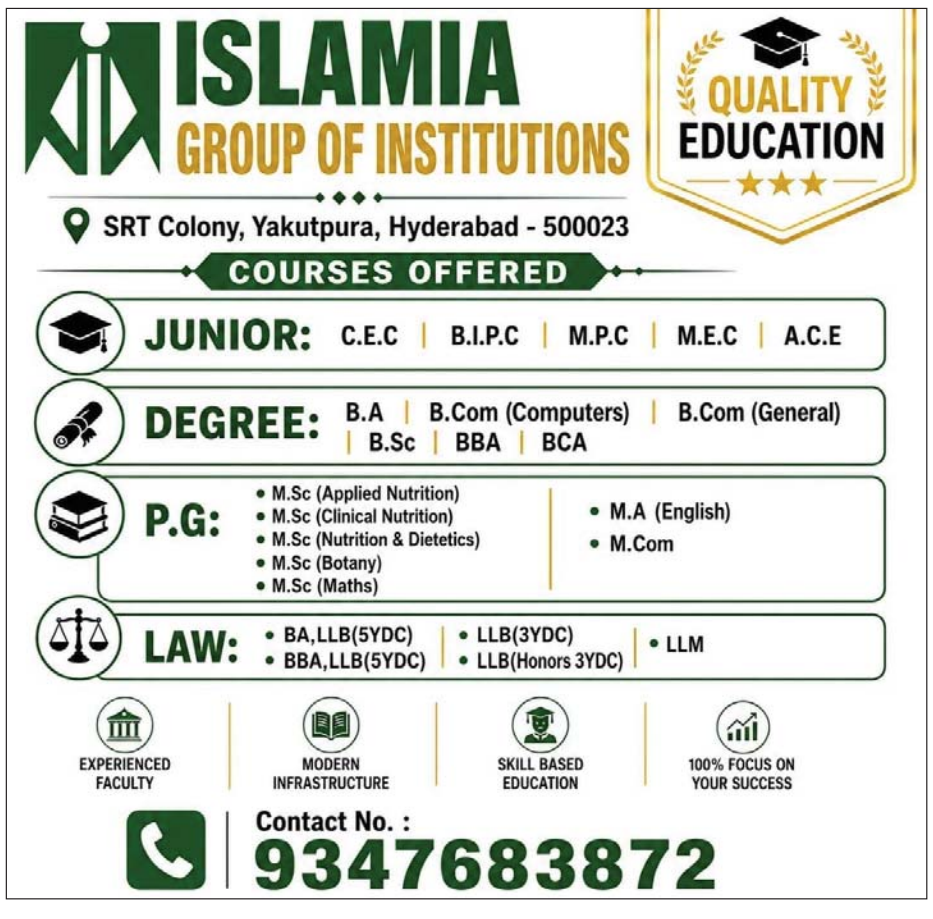


Hyderabad, Oct 23 (GNS): The Telangana government is taking comprehensive measures to ensure the successful conduct of the Khelo India Games in the state from December 11 to 22, Minister for Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development, Fisheries, Youth Services and Sports Vakiti Srihari said on Friday. The minister conducted a review meeting at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat to assess preparations for the event, including athlete selection, stadium readiness, training facilities and other arrangements.

He directed officials from various departments to work in coordination and ensure that all necessary arrangements are completed well in advance. He also stressed that athletes, coaches and delegates arriving from across the country should not face any inconvenience during the competitions. Focus on Identifying Sporting Talent at the Grassroots Level Minister Srihari said the government aims to identify hidden sporting talent in rural areas and nurture athletes to compete successfully at the national level.

He instructed officials to identify talented athletes across 27 sporting disciplines through a phased selection process based on 1:4, 1:2 and 1:1 ratios, eventually selecting the most promising candidates for the Khelo India competitions. Emphasising transparency in the selection process, the minister said opportunities must be provided strictly on the basis of merit. He added that the government's objective should extend beyond organising the event to developing a long-term strategy that enables Telangana athletes to win medals at the national level. Readiness, Training and Nutrition The minister directed officials to identify suitable sporting venues and stadiums and complete the required infrastructure, equipment and other facilities within the stipulated time. He emphasised the importance of providing athletes with quality coaching and nutritious food to improve their physical fitness and performance. Officials were also instructed to focus on medical assistance, accommodation and transportation facilities for participating athletes. Telangana Aims to Set an Example in Organising the Games Srihari expressed the hope that Telangana would set a national benchmark in organising the Khelo India Games. He called for meticulous advance planning and the provision of world-class facilities to ensure that the competitions are conducted without shortcomings.

He said the event should give fresh momentum to the state's sporting sector and encourage greater interest in sports among Telangana's youth.





Narayanpet IDOC to Be Ready for Inauguration in 10 Days

Narayanpet, Oct 23 (GNS) District Collector Priyanka on Friday directed officials to expedite the construction and finishing works of the New Integrated District Offices Complex (IDOC) near Singaram Junction on the outskirts of Narayanpet town and make it ready for inauguration within the next seven to ten days. During her inspection of the new Collectorate complex, the Collector reviewed the progress of various ongoing works and issued instructions to the officials concerned to ensure their timely completion without compromising on quality.

Priyanka inspected the furniture and interior works in the chambers earmarked for the Minister, Collector and Additional Collector, as well as the video conferencing hall and the NIC video conferencing hall. She instructed Roads and Buildings (R&B) officials to complete all pending works at the earliest and ensure that the interiors of the chambers were aesthetically designed. She also suggested necessary modifications to improve the overall appearance and functionality of the offices.

The Collector enquired about the quality and specifications of the furniture and sound system being installed in the video conferencing hall and stressed the importance of ensuring that all facilities met the required standards. She subsequently inspected the halls and rooms allotted to various government departments within the complex. She sought details from Additional Collector Srinu and Administrative Officer Anil Kumar regarding the rooms earmarked for different departments on the upper floor. She directed officials to take appropriate measures to accommodate the remaining departments according to their requirements.

Emphasising the need for an uninterrupted drinking water supply to the new Collectorate, Priyanka spoke over the phone with the Executive Engineer of Mission Bhagiratha and instructed him to complete the necessary water supply arrangements within the stipulated time.

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