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China calls border patrols 'normal' amid India's charge of deviations



New Delhi, Oct 26 (GNS): China on Monday defended its border patrols as "normal" activities to safeguard its territorial sovereignty, urging India to work with it to maintain peace along the disputed boundary amid differences over patrolling patterns. "China strictly abides by the relevant agreements and common understandings reached between the two countries and conducts normal border patrol and control activities to safeguard its territorial sovereignty and stability in the border areas," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Guo Jiakun said at a regular press conference.

Responding to a question citing India's assertion that the border situation is disturbed when Chinese forces deviate from established patrolling patterns, Guo said the two countries maintained communication through diplomatic and military channels. "We hope that India will work with China in the same direction by jointly implementing the common understandings reached between the two sides and maintaining peace and tranquillity in the border areas through concrete actions," he said.

The remarks came days after the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the situation along the India-China border was disturbed from time to time when Chinese forces deviated from established patrolling patterns.

MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal made the statement on Friday in response to Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) Director General Shatrujeet Kapoor, who said face-offs between Indian and Chinese forces continued at several locations in Arunachal Pradesh.

"As we have noted in the past, the situation in the India-China border areas gets disturbed from time to time when Chinese forces diverge from established patrolling patterns," Jaiswal had said.

Asked about the specific locations mentioned by the ITBP chief, Jaiswal referred the query to the Ministry of Defence. India has maintained that peace and tranquillity along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) are essential for the overall development of bilateral relations. Both countries continue to use diplomatic and military-level mechanisms to address outstanding issues and prevent misunderstandings along the disputed boundary.

The India-China boundary dispute spans several sectors, including the western sector in Ladakh, the middle sector and the eastern sector covering Arunachal Pradesh. Both countries have deployed troops and strengthened infrastructure along the frontier, making regular communication and coordination important to avoid confrontations. Differences over the interpretation of the Line of Actual Control remain a key challenge in managing the border situation.

India has consistently maintained that respect for existing agreements and the restoration of peace along the LAC are necessary for normalising bilateral relations. New Delhi has also stressed that border tensions affect the broader relationship between the two countries, including trade, diplomatic engagement and people-to-people exchanges. The two sides have held several rounds of military and diplomatic discussions in recent years to resolve friction points and prevent escalation.



Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, along with senior defence officials and military officers, releases a publication during an event highlighting India's naval heritage and maritime security.

Rajnath Singh Calls for Greater Self-Reliance in Defence

Releases Naval Technology Documents

New Delhi, Oct 25 (GNS): Describing the January 12, 2018, press conference by four seniormost judges of the Supreme Court as "an earthquake", former Supreme Court judge Sanjay Kishan Kaul has said it did not serve any purpose, exposed fault lines in the judiciary and led to "loss of collegiality" among judges.

"That day, the four seniormost puisne judges of the court Justices Ranjan Gogoi, Jasti Chelameswar, Madan Lokur and Kurian Joseph did the unthinkable. They went public. In an extraordinary press conference, they openly criticised the Chief Justice's use of his powers as 'master of the roster' to assign certain cases," Justice Kaul recounted in his upcoming memoir, "Without Fear or Favour", to be published by Juggernaut.

"It did not ultimately serve a purpose, except to bring a difference of perception into the public domain… Though the judges certainly had a right to express their grievances, which I cannot say were entirely illegitimate, I remained unconvinced as to the wisdom of holding a press conference," read the manuscript available with The Tribune.

"But the damage was done. The fault lines had been publicly exposed. The whole affair marked something of a turning point. No longer could we expect to remain above the fray of energetic public discourse," he wrote.

Maintaining that the CJI was "only the first among equals — nothing more and nothing less", they contended that the roster he settled was a convention for the disciplined transaction of the court's business and not a recognition of any superior authority, legal or factual, over his colleagues. They alleged that cases of far-reaching consequence for the nation, including those relating to the death of Judge Brijgopal Harkishan Loya and the institution, had been assigned selectively to benches of their preference, particularly Justice Arun Mishra's court, without rational basis.

"The press conference was an earthquake. Nothing quite like this had happened before in the Indian judiciary. In 1973, when Prime Minister Indira Gandhi had broken the convention of appointing the seniormost judge as the Chief Justice of India and skipped three senior judges — Justices JM Shelat.

12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum Begins in New Delhi



New Delhi, Oct 26 (GNS): The 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum commenced in New Delhi on Monday, bringing together parliamentary leaders and delegations from BRICS member and partner countries to discuss strengthening parliamentary cooperation and promoting people-centric development.

The two-day forum, being held at the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan, the old Parliament building, on October 26 and 27, is hosted by the Parliament of India under the country's BRICS chairship. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla is chairing the forum, which aims to strengthen parliamentary diplomacy and encourage dialogue on shared global challenges.

The discussions are centred on the theme "Strengthening Parliaments for People-Centric Development" and will cover four key areas: resilience, innovation, cooperation and sustainability. The sessions are expected to explore ways to make parliamentary institutions more effective, transparent, accountable and responsive to people's aspirations.

Key issues on the agenda include institutional resilience, ethical use of artificial intelligence, digital transformation, reform of global governance and sustainable development. Parliamentary leaders will also exchange views on strengthening democratic institutions and addressing emerging international challenges through dialogue and cooperation.

The forum brings together presiding officers and parliamentary representatives from BRICS member and partner countries, Union Ministers, Members of Parliament and other dignitaries. Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman Harivansh is also participating in the deliberations.

UP Court Acquits Rahul in Defamation Case



Sultanpur, Oct. 26 (GNS): A special MP-MLA court in Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh, on Monday acquitted Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi in a criminal defamation case over his 2018 remarks against Union Home Minister Amit Shah, who was then the president of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate Shubham Verma pronounced the verdict in the presence of Gandhi, ruling that the remarks did not constitute defamation. The court also found that the complainant, BJP leader Vijay Mishra, was not an aggrieved person entitled to maintain the complaint. The case originated from remarks Gandhi made in Bengaluru during the 2018 Karnataka Assembly election campaign. Referring to Shah, he had said that the BJP president was an accused in a murder case while the party spoke about honesty and decency. The remarks were linked to the Sohrabuddin Sheikh encounter case, in which Shah was discharged by a special Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) court in 2014. Mishra, a local BJP leader and former chairman of the Sultanpur District Cooperative Bank, filed the criminal defamation complaint on August 4, 2018, under Sections 499 and 500 of the Indian Penal Code. He alleged that Gandhi's remarks were objectionable and had damaged Shah's reputation, as well as hurt the sentiments of BJP workers.



Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh, along with officials, at a display showcasing the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare's Digital Life Certificate initiative.

CEC Can be removed only like SC Judge

New Delhi, Oct 26 (GNS): The Election Commission of India (ECI) has told the Supreme Court that a plea seeking to restrain Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar from functioning is not maintainable, asserting that the CEC can be removed only in the same manner and on the same grounds as a judge of the apex court.

In a counter-affidavit filed before the apex court, the poll body also defended its decision-making procedure and the conduct of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

The ECI said the petition, which questions whether CEC Gyanesh Kumar could individually exercise or represent powers vested in the multi-member poll panel, was based entirely on a single newspaper report and sought extraordinary reliefs without establishing the factual basis for its allegations.

"The averments in the Writ Petition are admittedly based solely on a single newspaper report," the affidavit stated, adding that the petitioner had neither attempted to ascertain the factual position from the poll panel nor made any representation to it.

The ECI said the petitioner had himself described the material relied upon as an "investigative reportage" requiring verification, and argued that a newspaper report could not be treated as evidence of the facts it narrated.

"A public interest petition built on such material calls for its conclusions to be examined with circumspection," the affidavit stated.

The ECI further submitted that the petition did not dispute that the constitution of the Commission was in accordance with law and that the petitioner had accepted that the CEC was duly appointed.

Ex-DMK minister Anbil Mahesh arrested in Rs 100-crore private schools scam



Chennai, Oct 26 (GNS): Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi, former Tamil Nadu minister, was arrested by the Central Crime Branch (CCB) on Monday in connection with a Rs 100-crore scam involving the issuance of recognition certificates and other statutory clearances to private schools. The arrest came hours after the Madras High Court dismissed his anticipatory bail petition in the case. Mahesh was reportedly arrested from an apartment in Aminjikarai, Chennai.

The development follows an investigation into allegations that money was collected from private educational institutions on the promise of securing government approvals. Investigators have identified 177 schools that they believe were affected by the alleged scheme.

Mahesh, a senior DMK leader, was named as an accused after investigators said evidence gathered during the inquiry, including material obtained from digital devices and statements recorded during questioning, pointed to his alleged involvement in corruption and criminal breach of trust. The police subsequently invoked provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act against the former minister, who has denied the allegations and challenged the case against him.

According to the police, around 177 private schools were linked to the alleged collection of more than Rs 100 crore. The money was allegedly collected in the name of a "party fund", with assurances that pending applications for government approvals would be cleared. The CCB has booked Mahesh under provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act and named him as an accused in the case.

Digital life certificate campaign to reach pensioners across India

New Delhi, Oct. 26 (GNS): The Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) is gearing up for the nationwide Digital Life Certificate (DLC) Campaign 5, scheduled to be conducted from November 1 to 30, 2026, to make life-certificate submission easier for pensioners through digital technology.

The initiative aims to expand the use of face-authentication technology, enabling pensioners to submit their annual life certificates conveniently using smartphones without having to visit banks or pension-disbursing offices in person. The campaign will focus particularly on elderly pensioners and those facing mobility difficulties.

The campaign is being organised in collaboration with pension-disbursing banks, India Post Payments Bank, government departments, pensioners' welfare associations and other stakeholders. These institutions will help pensioners complete the process, provide technical assistance and improve awareness of digital services. Special arrangements are also envisaged to assist super-senior citizens, persons with disabilities and those who are unable to travel to service centres.

The initiative forms part of the Centre's broader efforts to modernise pension administration and improve ease of living for retired government employees. By combining digital verification with doorstep assistance and awareness programmes, the department aims to make pension-related services more accessible, secure and convenient.

The campaign is expected to involve special awareness drives and outreach programmes to familiarise pensioners with the Digital Life Certificate process. Officials and participating institutions will guide beneficiaries through the steps required to generate and submit certificates digitally, helping them overcome technical difficulties and access the service with greater confidence.

Face-authentication technology enables pensioners to verify their identity through a smartphone camera, reducing dependence on biometric devices and physical visits to service centres. The process is intended to simplify annual verification, particularly for elderly beneficiaries who may find conventional procedures inconvenient or difficult.

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Ten years of India's digital revolution

Rao Inderjit Singh



Over the past decade, India has undergone a digital revolution that is nothing short of extraordinary. What began as a series of targeted technological interventions has now evolved into a sweeping transformation, touching nearly every aspect of Indian life — economy, governance, education, healthcare, commerce, and even the lives of farmers and small entrepreneurs in the remotest corners of the country. This journey has not been accidental.

It has been carefully stewarded by the Government of India through a combination of bold policymaking, cross-ministerial collaboration, and a commitment to inclusive growth. While the line ministries — such as the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), the Ministry of Finance (MoF), the Ministry of Agriculture, and others — have executed large-scale projects on the ground, NITI Aayog has served as the policy engine, fostering convergence, driving thought leadership, and nudging the system toward scalable, citizen-first innovations.

A major inflection point came with the rollout of the Jan Dhan–Aadhaar–Mobile (JAM) trinity. With over 55 crore bank accounts opened, millions who were previously excluded from the financial system suddenly gained access to banking and direct benefit transfers. In a small village in Odisha, a single mother was able to receive welfare benefits directly into her bank account, bypassing middlemen for the first time. Her story is echoed by millions across India. This massive financial inclusion movement, supported by the Ministry of Finance and enabled by Aadhaar and mobile penetration, laid the groundwork for what came next: A fintech explosion.

The Unified Payments Interface (UPI), developed by the National Payments Corporation of India under the guidance of the RBI, revolutionised the way Indians transacted. What began as a novel way to send money to a friend quickly became the lifeline of small businesses, vegetable vendors, and gig workers. Today, India records over 17 billion UPI transactions each month, and even roadside vegetable sellers accept digital payments with a simple QR code. At the same time, the backbone of India's digital infrastructure was being built — quietly and persistently — under MeitY. Projects like BharatNet brought broadband to over two lakh gram panchayats, while India Stack created the architecture for paperless, presenceless, and cashless services. DigiLocker allowed students to access their certificates digitally, and e-Sign enabled remote authentication for important documents. DigiYatra is a pioneering initiative that enables seamless, paperless, and contactless air travel using facial recognition technology. It ensures faster check-ins, enhanced passenger experience, and improved airport efficiency, all while safeguarding data privacy through decentralised identity management. This marks a major step in making Indian aviation future-ready and passenger-centric. These were not just apps they were building blocks of a digital republic.

Digital governance also took a leap forward with the launch of the Government e-Marketplace (GeM). Designed to bring transparency and efficiency into public procurement, GeM has connected over 1.6 lakh Government buyers with more than 22 lakh sellers — including a growing number of women entrepreneurs and MSMEs. For a small handicraft seller from Rajasthan, this meant access to Government contracts that were previously unimaginable. The agriculture sector, often seen as resistant to change, too began embracing digital tools.

Platforms like PM-Kisan ensured that income support reached farmers directly. e-NAM connected agricultural mandis across states, enabling farmers to get better prices for their produce. The digital Soil Health Card helped them understand what crops to grow and what nutrients to add to their land. In rural Jharkhand, CSCs (Common Service Centres) run by local entrepreneurs became digital lifelines — offering everything from telemedicine to banking and skilling programmes. The pandemic was a stress test for India's digital public infrastructure — and it passed with flying colours. With schools shut, platforms like DIKSHA and SWAYAM ensured that learning did not stop. Children in Ladakh and Kerala could access the same content, curated by teachers across India. Simultaneously, the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission took shape, allowing citizens to access their health records through a digital ID and creating a seamless experience across hospitals and states. Commerce, too, witnessed a quiet revolution.

When protests became stepping stones for BJP

Radhika Ramaseshan



THE BJP government at the Centre has been fortunate that barring two significant protests — one by the farmers of Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh and the other by Haryana's wrestlers — it has not had to grapple with challenges on the ground. Even these protests did not have far-reaching electoral implications for the BJP, except in Punjab. This is why a statement reportedly made by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on wanting to study all post-Independence protests, especially since 1974, to analyse the reasons, the "financial aspects and final outcomes" and the covert players has aroused curiosity. The statement was said to have been made at a 'National Security Strategies' conference organised by the Intelligence Bureau in July, but reported just last week. Was Shah's intent spurred by the welter of popular uprisings in the neighbourhood that either voted out a ruling party (Sri Lanka) or unseated an incumbent dispensation mid-stream, as in Bangladesh? (Nepal had not witnessed turmoil in July; it came later).

Sri Lanka and Bangladesh might have provided an immediate context for the Home Ministry's agenda, but the history of mass movements in India — which often began as localised demonstrations against specific issues before conflating with a larger mood of discontent against the existing political order and morphing into open confrontations with the government of the day — shows that ample precedents exist within India itself.

The supreme irony is that the BJP and its earlier incarnation, the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS), and the RSS either spearheaded the epochal movements or surreptitiously instigated and helped the aboveground initiators, if they felt the movements had garnered popular support and had the potential to change the political trajectory. Of all the quasi-political agents, the Sangh, with its extensive cadre network and propaganda tools, has the greatest capacity to mobilise support for a movement that is broadly in sync with its professed beliefs.

The Sangh's corps fit in perfectly with the distinction Prime Minister Narendra Modi made between an 'andolan jeevi' (a professional protester) and an 'andolan kaari' (a genuine protester) while speaking on the farmers' agitation in February 2021. The 'pracharaks' and 'swayamsevaks' will qualify as 'andolan kaari'. So, this fig leaf of a difference will presumably leave them out of the ambit of protests as and when Shah commissions the study or at least paint them as bona fide catalysts for a better life. India's first historic post-1947 movement, the Navnirman agitation, lasted only three months (January-March 1974) in Gujarat but left an imprint on the political landscape.

It classically illustrates the RSS-BJP's outlook on protests. The BJP existed as the BJS and was a peripheral political player. But the RSS' students' wing, the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), sought to maximise its presence through a protest that started against rising mess bills at Ahmedabad's LD Engineering College before snowballing into a statewide agitation.

The government of the day, led by Chimanbhai Patel, a member of Indira Gandhi's Congress Requisition or Congress (R), was accused of inflation, artificially engineering groundnut oil (Gujarat's staple cooking medium) price, food scarcity and corruption. The RSS chose the BJS and the ABVP as vehicles to participate in the 'andolan' whose putative leader was the Navnirman Yuvak Samiti (NYS). The NYS's one-point agenda was Patel's resignation and dissolution of the Assembly. Patel eventually resigned, but the NYS, bereft of a mass organisational structure, membership, a constitution and a programme, disintegrated. The BJS stepped in to fill in the vacuum, but because the 'andolan' was marked by its share of violence, the BJS distanced itself from the NYS and entered electoral politics with the Opposition, that banded itself together as the Janata Morcha and recorded a modest win in the election that followed. The BJS (that became BJP) gained a foothold in Gujarat through a mass movement. 'Andolan jeevi' or 'andolan kaari'?

The Navnirman agitation in the west became a template for Jayaprakash Narayan's 'Sampoorna Kranti Andolan' in the east and was one of the reasons for the imposition of the Emergency. JP's crusade was a low-hanging fruit for the Sangh to pluck and savour the first taste of power on a larger scale because the 'andolan' had national resonances, unlike the Gujarat protests. No wonder the BJP describes the movement as the 'second freedom struggle' helmed by the Sangh. In an article.

, Arvind Rajagopal, media studies professor at New York University, writes, "The Emergency, in fact, rendered the Jana Sangh...respectable, and paved the way for it to enter mainstream politics. In LK Advani's words, it changed what he called the 'untouchable' status of the Jana Sangh in politics." According to Rajagopal, the Emergency's importance to the RSS "needs to be emphasised because it helps place Hindutva in a wider historical place rather than in a timeless world of fanaticism."

So, while Opposition leaders were jailed, the Sangh, among other activities, played a major role in the production and distribution of underground literature. The RSS realised that popular mobilisation was a shortcut to getting political power and acquiring the legitimacy it badly needed after suffering the taint of Gandhi's assassination. JP was the perfect icon to imbue the RSS/BJP wit that respectability. The other standout mass movement is the countrywide mobilisation in support of demolishing the Babri mosque and "restoring" the Ram temple on the site that made a place in history. Twin objectives were achieved at a price that tore apart the fabric of communal amity, which had survived despite the Partition and the India Against Corruption (IAC) campaign. The Ram temple "movement" was owned wholly by the RSS, BJP and their cohorts and embraced by practically the entire political spectrum as the BJP strode rapidly to power.

Though it appeared that the IAC movement was authored by Aam Aadmi Party chief Arvind Kejriwal and a motley group of his non-political associates,

Delay in MSME Purchase Policy

One year ago, the J&K Trade Promotion Organisation drafted what was touted as a breakthrough-the J&K Procurement Preference Policy for Micro and Small Enterprises (MSMEs), 2024. It promised to reshape the industrial landscape of the Union Territory, finally providing local entrepreneurs a level playing field against outside competitors. On paper, it was bold and ambitious: 30% mandatory procurement from J&K-based units, removal of barriers like Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) and tender fees, preference margins for pricing, and targeted support for SC/ST and women-owned enterprises. Yet, twelve months later, the draft remains buried in files, awaiting approval from the Industries and Commerce Department. This delay is not just administrative-it is existential. For J&K's MSMEs, survival has always been a fragile equation, balanced between geography, security challenges, and lack of access to central markets. The absence of a notified policy means that every passing day is another lost opportunity, another contract bagged by suppliers from outside the region, and another blow to struggling enterprises that are already operating on the margins.

Unlike MSMEs in other parts of India, J&K entrepreneurs operate under compounded constraints. The region lies at the farthest end of the country, physically distant from large consumer hubs. Add to this the fragile logistics caused by frequent road closures, power outages, and disruptions from natural disasters such as floods and landslides. Even in stable times, transporting goods in and out of J&K is far costlier than in mainland states. Security issues further reduce predictability for investors and buyers alike. While the central and UT Governments have rolled out industrial schemes, the harsh reality remains that very few large industries have set up units in J&K. Local enterprises find themselves as late entrants to national markets, with limited penetration and negligible brand visibility. In an economy where bulk production ensures competitive pricing, J&K industries face a double handicap: small production runs coupled with limited buyers. Without institutional support, their cost structures can never compete with large suppliers from outside the region.

It was against this backdrop that the Procurement Preference Policy was conceived. The Trade Promotion Organisation (TPO) understood that unless local units were given a preferential space in Government procurement, their survival would remain in question. The draft policy offered not charity, but a structured framework rooted in competitiveness and fairness-relaxations in EMD, assured procurement quotas, transparent bidding, and an emphasis on inclusivity. Had it been notified last year, many struggling units could have sustained themselves through assured orders from Government departments, aided institutions, and PSUs. Instead, the file continues to gather dust despite the fact that similar preferential policies exist in almost every other state.

The Government's silence is proving costlier than inaction. Drafting a policy, putting it in the public domain for stakeholder comments, and then failing to act undermines the credibility of governance itself. Entrepreneurs were led to believe that support was around the corner, only to discover that promises remained confined to press notes. This lingering inaction also perpetuates the cycle of industrial underdevelopment in the UT. Moreover, the timing of this delay is especially damaging. The second half of the financial year-when Government departments typically undertake maximum procurement-is about to begin. If MSMEs are not integrated into this procurement cycle, another year will be lost.

Transparency in industrial policy must be the first principle of governance. If the Government cannot finalise a policy even after a year of consultations, it owes entrepreneurs an explanation. Local MSMEs are asking for an enabling framework to survive their infancy and compete on merit. Every delay pushes them with more constraints, leaving behind unemployed youth and wasted investments. At this tough juncture, bureaucratic indecision is the last thing they can afford. The Government must recognise that MSMEs are not just businesses-they are employment generators, value creators, and stabilisers of the local economy. Once operational, it will signal to the business community that the Government values and supports local enterprises. J&K cannot afford to let this policy become another case study in broken promises. The stakes are high, and the timing is critical.Travel insurance for Jammu and Kashmir

Guarding Every Frontier

The Army Commanders' Conference in New Delhi arrives at a moment of profound change in the nature of war, as Defence Minister Rajnath Singh urged the top brass to plan for the next 20-30 years while staying alert to immediate threats. The old picture of armies grinding across a frontier, tank against tank and boot against boot, belongs increasingly to history books. Missiles and drones have rewritten the rules. A low-cost unmanned aircraft, launched from a safe distance, can cause damage that far exceeds its cost. Putting soldiers on enemy soil is no longer the first, or even the most efficient, option. For India, this transformation carries unusual weight. Few nations face a more demanding strategic neighbourhood. Pakistan and China, both nuclear-armed, share long and contested borders with India, and relations with each remain wary at best. The frontiers themselves are among the hardest in the world to guard: deserts, rivers, jungles and high mountains, with places such as Siachen where sentries endure temperatures far below freezing throughout. That the Indian Army manages it and does so with distinction speaks to its quality. It is battle-hardened, with a record few forces can match, and the valour of its soldiers is recognised well beyond the subcontinent. Every challenge to the country's sovereignty has drawn a fitting response, and Operation Sindoor was the most recent reminder. As Rajnath Singh noted, the combination of innovative thinking, closer coordination, and advanced weaponry led to success. Adaptability and indigenisation have long been the twin pillars of India's defence doctrine, and both have served the nation well.

India's advantages are real. Its missile arsenal spans short, medium and long ranges, giving commanders options across the spectrum of conflict. Defence production reached a record Rs 1.78 lakh crore in 2025-26, with exports at a historic high of roughly Rs 38,000 crore. These figures suggest an industrial base that is maturing, reducing dependence on foreign suppliers whose deliveries can be delayed or withheld at critical moments. The Army's "Boots to Bytes" initiative, with its indigenous digital and AI applications, tethered counter-drone systems and secure data platforms, shows a force willing to change its culture as well as its equipment. Experience in Operation Sindoor, where surveillance, electronic warfare and counter-drone measures blunted hostile drone swarms, offers practical proof that preparation pays.

Yet candour demands a look at the other side of the ledger. The scale of drone warfare has altered beyond recognition. The question is no longer whether a force can field three or four hundred drones, but whether it can produce, deploy and replace thousands every day. Ukraine's battlefields have shown that attrition in the air is relentless and that industrial capacity, not just technology, decides the outcome. India is still building toward that level of mass production. The same urgency applies to fighter aircraft. Air power remains decisive worldwide, and a shortfall in squadron strength, or delays in inducting new platforms, would be a serious vulnerability when two adversaries could, in theory, act in concert.

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India-US tariff stalemate likely to be resolved in 8-10 weeks: Chief Economic Advisor



Kolkata, Oct 26 (GNS): In a ray of optimism for Indian exporters, Chief Economic Advisor (CEA) V. Anantha Nageswaran on Thursday said a solution to the India-US tariff issues is likely to be arrived in the next 8-10 weeks. Addressing a session organised by the Bharat Chamber of Commerce here, Nageswaran said that conversations are already going on between the two governments to end the deadlock. "My hunch is that in the next eight to 10 weeks, we will likely see a solution to the penal tariff imposed by the US on Indian goods," he told the gathering.

Nageswaran indicated that the India-US talks are underway to also reduce the reciprocal tariffs from 25 per cent to about 15 per cent. The additional 25 per cent tariff on Indian imports came into effect from August 27 owing to New Delhi purchasing Russian oil -- taking the total tariffs on the Indian goods entering the US to 50 per cent. On a question regarding the call between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump on PM Modi's 75th birthday, Nageswaran said he hoped the trade stalemate would be resolved soon.

"I think the conversations are going on, and as I said earlier, I hope that this will be resolved soon," he told IANS on the sidelines of the event. Meanwhile, India and the US have decided to intensify efforts to achieve an early conclusion of a mutually beneficial trade agreement (BTA). A team of officials from the office of the United States Trade Representative, led by Chief Negotiator, India-US Bilateral Trade Agreement negotiations, Brendan Lynch, arrived in India this week. They held discussions on India-US trade ties, including the India-US Bilateral Trade Agreement, with a team of Indian officials, led by Special Secretary, Commerce, Rajesh Agrawal.

According to a statement issued by the Commerce and Industry Ministry, "Acknowledging the enduring importance of bilateral trade between India and the US, the discussions were positive and forward looking covering various aspects of the trade deal. It was decided to intensify efforts to achieve an early conclusion of a mutually beneficial Trade Agreement".

According to Commerce Ministry sources, trade discussions are going on at several levels. There is a positive frame of mind on both sides while approaching trade issues. Lynch's visit came as expectations of a trade deal were boosted by positive messages from Trump and PM Modi.

India's contribution to global GDP growth to reach 9 pc by 2035: Govt official



Mumbai, Oct 26 (GNS): India's dominance in the global economy is rapidly increasing, and the country's share in global GDP growth will increase to 9 per cent by 2035, up from 6.5 per cent in 2024, M Nagaraju, Secretary, Department of Financial Services, Ministry of Finance, said on Thursday.

Addressing the gathering at the annual infrastructure conclave 2025 organised by the National Bank for Financial Infrastructure and Development (NABFID) here, M Nagaraju said that even in an environment of global uncertainty, the country's economy is progressing rapidly and remains the fastest-growing economy in the world.

He further said that the country's economy has been growing at an average annual growth rate of 8 per cent for the past four years, and the most recent quarterly GDP growth was 7.8 per cent, the highest in the last five quarters. According to the Secretary, India's external sector is also performing well, and the current account deficit in the last quarter was only 0.5 per cent of the GDP. The country's net services exports are also growing rapidly, and due to all these strong factors, the country can become a developed nation by 2047, the 100th anniversary of Independence. "This macroeconomic success story sets a solid foundation for our infrastructure ambitions. It tells the world that India's growth is not only resilient but also driven by reforms and prudent policies, making us a key engine of global growth and a potential leader in shaping the post-pandemic global economic order," he noted. Complementing the economy's strength, Indian banking and the financial sector have emerged as pillars of resilience. In fiscal year 2024-25, public sector banks have outpaced private sector banks in credit growth. This has never happened before in more than a decade.

Additionally, Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) have fallen below one per cent, and the capital adequacy ratio is also above regulatory standards, indicating that India's banking sector is in strong shape Overall, these trends point to a strong, adequately capitalised financial system that is well-positioned to meet the aspirations of a developed India. Nagaraju emphasised that sustained infrastructure investment, improved access to long-term financing and stronger public-private partnerships would be crucial to maintaining India's growth momentum. He said institutions such as NABFID play a vital role in mobilising funds for large-scale infrastructure projects, supporting economic expansion and creating employment opportunities.

Millionaire Indian Households Surge 90% to 8.7 Lakh

New Delhi, Oct 26 (GNS): India's millionaire households with net worth over Rs 8.5 crore surged 90 per cent in number to 8.71 lakh in 2025, up from 4.58 lakh in 2021, a report said. Mumbai is the country's "millionaire capital" with 1.42 lakh wealthy households, followed by Delhi with 68,200 and Bengaluru with 31,600, said a report jointly authored by Mercedes-Benz and Hurun India. Maharashtra leads states with 1.78 lakh millionaire families, backed by a 55 per cent jump in Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). The MBHX, a composite measure of Mercedes-Benz sales, new billionaire entrants, Sensex performance, and GDP, has surged nearly 200 per cent, signalling resilient wealth creation despite global uncertainties, the report noted. The survey revealed that millionaire Indians prefer digital payments, with 35 per cent using UPI apps, and view stocks, real estate, and gold as their main investment options.

A recent survey showed that India's high-net-worth (HNW) families can help the country become a $5 trillion economy by utilising their capital for social impact using impact investing and blended financing techniques.

Many HNW families continue to operate in silos and exhibit low retention in impact investing, the report from wealth advisory firm Waterfield Advisors and NPO organisation Impact Investors Council (IIC) said.

Of the 316 HNW families who entered impact investing in 2021, just 64 remain active in 2024, the report said. Recent surveys showed that the top 1 per cent of India's wealthiest citizens have parked 60 per cent of their money in real estate and gold

This segment holds $11.6 trillion in total wealth and 70 per cent of India's financial assets, the report said. India's total household wealth is estimated at $19.6 trillion, out of which $11.6 trillion, or 59 per cent, is held by this wealthy segment of the population.

The country's economy continued its strong momentum in the first quarter of 2025-26 (Q1 FY26), with GDP growing 7.8 per cent compared to 6.5 per cent in the same period last year.

GST reforms to lower rates on 11 out of 30 top consumption items



New Delhi, Oct 26 (GNS): The new Goods and Services Tax (GST) rates will benefit 11 of the top 30 consumption items and a third of an average consumer's monthly expenditure, a report said.These 11 items include essential milk products, discretionary products (automobiles, beauty services) and goods, seeing a surge in demand over the past few years (processed food).

"Rough calculations indicate the simple average GST rate based on these top 30 consumption items falls from 11 per cent to 9 per cent under the new regime," Crisil Ratings said in its report. The move is likely to improve purchasing power, especially for low-middle income segments, as the consumption-weighted average GST rate is lower in majority of food and household items and will attract either 0 per cent or a 5 tax rate. Additionally, for some categories, the GST rates have been pared for only lower-value items (clothing, footwear, two-wheelers). This complements the Income-Tax relief announced in the budget for this segment and will support demand. According to the report, the change in consumption will depend on the degree to which producers pass the rate cuts to consumers.

Global evidence confirms that the pass-through of tax changes varies significantly across countries.

"Furthermore, the adjustment can take time. For India, we expect the impact of GST cuts on consumption to play out over this fiscal and the next," the report stated. The recent GST rationalisation is expected to deliver two major gains: A simplified rate structure that eases compliance and delivers a stronger push to formalisation, and an impetus to consumption as prices of mass consumption items decline.

The GST has been reduced across all categories of cars. The tax rate for entry-level small cars has been lowered from 29 per cent to 18 per cent, even as there was an effective reduction for premium cars (40 per cent from 50 per cent), with the compensation cess being removed.

The report estimated an 8-9 per cent fall in the average prices of entry-level car segments, a 3.5 per cent fall in mid-sized Sports Utility Vehicles (SUVs) and a 6.7 per cent fall in premium SUVs.

Stock market rises for 3rd consecutive day on US Fed rate cut, buying in IT sector



Mumbai, Oct 26 (GNS): The Indian equity indices extended the gaining momentum for the third consecutive session on Thursday amid buying in IT stocks after the US Fed announced a rate cut. Sensex closed at 83,013.96, up 320.25 points or 0.39 per cent. The 30-share index opened with a decent gap-up at 83,108.92 against the last session's closing of 82,693.71 after the US Fed announced a rate cut. However, the index remained range-bound throughout the session amid a mixed approach across sectors except IT.

Nifty ended the session at 25,423.60, up 93.35 points or 0.37 per cent. "Global equities traded in the green after the U.S. Federal Reserve cut rates by 25 bps to 4–4.25 per cent and signalled two more reductions this year to cushion rising job market risks. Mirroring the upbeat global sentiment, Indian markets opened with a positive gap-up and maintained a sideways trajectory through the first half of the session," Ashika Institutional Equities said in a note. Eternal, Sun Pharma, Infosys, HDFC Bank, PowerGrid, HCL Tech, ITC, Hindustan Unilever, Tata Steel, Axis Bank and Bajaj FinServ settled high amid the Sensex stocks. Bajaj Finance, Tata Motors, Trent, Ultratech Cement, and Asian Paints ended the session in negative territory.

The majority of sectoral indices remained in green amid value buying. Nifty Fin Services jumped 135 points or 0.51 per cent, Nifty Bank rose 234 points or 0.42 per cent, Nifty Auto moved up 34 points or 0.13 per cent, Nifty FMCG jumped up 201 points or 0.36 per cent, and Nifty IT surged 303 points or 0.83 per cent. Broader indices continued their bullish run amid buying in midcap and small-cap stocks. Nifty Small Cap 100 jumped 53 points or 0.29 per cent, Nifty Midcap 100 increased 224 points or 0.38 per cent, and Nifty 100 ended the session 91 points or 0.35 per cent high.

"Rupee closed weaker by 0.26 at 88.09 despite the dollar index staying soft post-Fed policy, where a rate cut was announced but forward guidance remained mixed as the roadmap for further cuts was unclear and data-dependent on jobs," said Jateen Trivedi of LKP Securities.

The rupee failed to gain as FII sentiment remained cautious, while ongoing India-US trade talks will be the next key trigger. Support for the rupee lies near 87.75, while resistance is seen at 88.25, he added.

EPFO rolls out 'Passbook Lite' for easy access to all PF details via single login

New Delhi, Oct 26 (GNS): Union Minister for Labour and Employment, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, announced on Thursday that EPFO has introduced a new facility called 'Passbook Lite' which will enable members to easily check their passbook and related summarised view of their contributions, withdrawals and balance in a simple and convenient format through the member portal itself -- without having to go to the passbook portal.

The new 'Passbook Lite' facility has been introduced within the EPFO's member portal as part of the reforms that have been undertaken to ensure provision of efficient, transparent and user-friendly services to members. This initiative is expected to improve user experience by providing all key services, including passbook access through one login. However, for a comprehensive view of passbook details including graphical display, members can continue to access the existing 'Passbook Portal' as well. This approach ensures greater ease of access for members while simultaneously enhancing the operational efficiency by reducing the load on the existing Passbook Portal and simplifying the architecture through integration of existing APIs within the member portal. The focus of this reform is on providing all key services through a single login for greater ease of access. The initiative is expected to reduce grievances, improve transparency, and enhance member satisfaction. At present, when employees change jobs, their PF accounts are transferred to the new employer's PF office through Form 13 online. After transfer, a Transfer Certificate (Annexure K) is generated by the previous PF office and sent to the new PF office. Until now, Annexure K was only shared between PF offices and was made available to members only on their request.

"A reform has been introduced that now enables members to directly download Annexure K in PDF format from the Member Portal itself. This will enable members to track status of transfer applications online, ensuring full transparency and allowing members to easily verify their PF transfers. It will enable them to confirm that the PF balance and service period are correctly updated in the new account, promoting ease of living, transparency, and trust in EPFO processes," according to the government. The is facility will also allow members to maintain a permanent digital record for future reference which is especially important for calculating EPS benefits.

At present, any EPFO services such as PF transfers, settlements, advances, and refunds require approvals from higher-level officers (RPFC/Officer-in-Charge). This multi-layered approval process often led to delays and longer processing times for members' claims.

The scope of this reform will include PF transfers and settlements, advances and past accumulations, refunds, cheque/ECS/NEFT returns, and interest adjustments.

Online Gaming Act's rules to come into effect from Oct 1: Minister

New Delhi, Oct 26 (GNS): Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Thursday said that the rules under the Promotion and Regulation of Online Games Act, 2025, will take effect on October 1. After the bill was passed by the Parliament, the government resumed talks with stakeholders, such as banks, gaming companies, and other organisations, the minister said. Vaishnaw said that the government had been in talks with industry stakeholders for almost three years. He emphasised that the government is willing to give additional time if the industry requests it and mentioned that a final round of consultations will take place before implementation starts.

"For almost everything we do, our government believes in a highly consultative process," he stated. The act, which was notified on August 22, outlaws online real-money games in India, whether they are categorised as skill or chance games. It is now illegal to offer or take part in such games, and there is no bail. A major change from previous regulations, which were primarily influenced by state laws and court rulings that distinguished skill-based games from gambling, the legislation was introduced in the Lok Sabha on August 20 and passed in two days.

Earlier on Thursday, the Minister, at a pre-event of the AI Impact Summit 2026, announced that the government will establish over 500 data labs nationwide as part of the 'India AI Mission' to increase artificial intelligence (AI) talent and infrastructure. He said the initiative is part of the larger IndiaAI mission, and eight new companies, including Tech Mahindra, Fractal Analytics and IIT Bombay consortium Bharatgen, have been selected to build large language models (LLMs). Under the IndiaAI mission, the government has allocated Rs 988.6 crore to an IIT Bombay-led consortium to build a 1 trillion parameter LLM.

In LLMs that extract linguistic relations and patterns from training data, internal variables are called parameters. The IndiaAI Mission is the Centre's initiative to develop autonomous AI capabilities through sector-specific AI applications, sovereign LLMs, GPUs and capacity projects. 10,300 crore was approved earlier this year.

Vaishnaw said the government's approach to regulating online gaming aims to protect citizens from the financial and social risks associated with real-money gaming while ensuring adequate consultation with the industry. The upcoming consultations are expected to provide stakeholders an opportunity to raise implementation-related concerns before the rules come into force. On artificial intelligence, the minister said the establishment of more than 500 data labs would help strengthen India's AI ecosystem by providing access to infrastructure, training and practical learning opportunities. The selection of additional organisations to develop large language models is also expected to boost domestic innovation, reduce dependence on foreign AI technologies and support the development of secure, India-focused AI solutions across sectors.

iPhone 17 pre-bookings in India surpass iPhone 16 levels

New Delhi, Oct 26 (GNS): Pre-bookings for Apple's iPhone 17 series in India have surpassed those of the iPhone 16 during the launch period, with the new series projected to account for 15–20 per cent of sales, as per industry sources. The pre-booking numbers for iPhone 17 indicate a potentially strong Diwali quarter for Apple, according to analysts, despite supply constraints of iPhone 17 Pro models.

The data indicated that total iPhone shipments in India are expected to surpass 5 million units in the July–September period in 2025. Apple shipped approximately 4 million iPhones in Q3 2024, with new models accounting for 10 per cent of sales. Analysts said that demand for the iPhone 17 Pro and Pro Max is particularly high, creating the possibility of supply shortages in the early weeks of launch. Base-model pre-orders for the upgraded 256 GB storage have surged, with 'Cosmic Orange' being the most sought-after colour.

The base variant has been upgraded to 256GB, making it a better value proposition compared to last year's launch, they said.

iPhone 17 series will be available for purchase in India starting today. Apple's latest lineup starts at Rs 82,900 for the iPhone 17 (256GB). The new iPhone Air, a slimmer model, begins at Rs 1,19,900, while the iPhone 17 Pro (256GB) is priced at Rs 1,34,900. At the top end, the iPhone 17 Pro Max (256GB) comes in at Rs 1,49,900. Retailers indicate that base models will be widely available, while Pro and Pro Max allocations are significantly limited, comprising only about 10 per cent of typical deliveries. This scarcity is leading to black-market premiums of 10–20 per cent.

Analysts noted that the iPhone 16 was India's highest-selling model in H1 2025, driving 96.50 per cent growth in the premium smartphone segment. Apple has recently opened two new stores in Bengaluru and Pune as part of its retail expansion in India, anticipating it to be the next key market. In Apple's largest overseas market, China, sales grew by only 4.4 per cent in the June quarter following two years of declines.

Uttam Kumar Reddy Lambasts BRS for 'Historic Blunder' in Irrigation



Hyderabad, Oct 26 (GNS): Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt. N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Saturday launched a sharp attack on the previous BRS regime, accusing it of committing a "historic blunder" by abandoning the original Pranahita-Chevella irrigation project and redesigning it around Medigadda as part of the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Scheme (KLIS).

He announced the final time-bound roadmap for rehabilitation of KLIS barrages at a press conference at the Secretariat Media Centre while outlining the technical assessments, design approvals and execution milestones for Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages.

Minister Vivek Venkataswamy, Colonel Parikshit Mehra, a tunnel engineering expert associated with the rehabilitation mission, Engineer-in-Chief (General), Ramesh Babu and several elected representatives were present at the media conference.

Uttam Kumar Reddy asserted that Telangana would have been far better equipped to withstand the prevailing El Niño-induced drought conditions had the original Pranahita-Chevella project been completed without modifications.

He alleged that the diversion from the original project design was driven by considerations other than the long-term interests of farmers. He claimed that a project originally envisaged at a cost of around Rs. 38,000 crore had eventually contributed to an enormous financial burden on the State, without delivering the promised irrigation benefits. The Minister argued that completing Pranahita-Chevella as originally planned would have strengthened irrigation infrastructure across north Telangana, reduced vulnerability to rainfall deficits and helped farmers cope with recurring droughts.

Ponnam assures housing for poor, expands welfare measures in Hyd



Hyderabad, Oct 26 (GNS): Ponnam Prabhakar, the State Minister for Transport and BC Welfare and the Minister-in-charge for Hyderabad District, stated that two-bedroom (2BHK) houses would be provided to eligible poor and destitute families. On Saturday, at an event held in the conference hall of the Hyderabad District Collectorate, the Minister—alongside Karwan MLA Kausar Mohiuddin, Bahadurpura MLA Mohammad Mubeen, and District Collector Dr. Priyanka Ala—distributed housing allotment letters to the beneficiaries.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister noted that the current administration—formed with the blessings of the people of Telangana—is working with the goal of ensuring that every poor family owns a home. He further stated that the government has initiated an action plan to construct 'Indiramma' houses for eligible poor individuals in every village across the state.

He added that a plan has been formulated to construct a total of 5,500 houses—comprising 3,500 houses per assembly constituency in the first phase, and an additional 2,000 houses per constituency in the second phase. The government is moving forward with the goal of constructing and providing homes for the poor over the next two years. The Minister clarified that, with the objective of creating a 'hut-free' Telangana, the government has initiated a program to allocate 500 houses to each constituency. Beneficiaries are being selected based solely on their eligibility, without any regard for politics, caste, or religion.

The Minister noted that the poor in Hyderabad often face significant hardships because their places of employment are far from their residences. Addressing this, the government has taken a major decision to construct homes closer to where people work.

* It was pointed out that, in the past, houses built far from the city—and distant from employment hubs—remained unoccupied by the intended beneficiaries, eventually falling into disrepair. Taking this into account, the government is now taking steps to build homes for the poor wherever necessary, even in areas where the land value ranges from 100 crore to 150 crore per acre. The Minister revealed that the government has expedited the decision to construct 'Indiramma Apartments,' ensuring that beneficiaries can live within their own constituencies, close to their employment opportunities.

TG CID busts rice diversion racket, 14 millers held

Hyderabad, Oct 26 (GNS): The Telangana Crime Investigation Department (CID) has registered three criminal cases into alleged irregularities in the delivery of Sanna Rakam rice to the Food Corporation of India (FCI) during the Kharif 2025–26 season, with 14 rice millers arrested so far. According to the CID, the investigation followed a complaint lodged by the General Manager (Procurement) of the Telangana State Civil Supplies Corporation on Saturday, October 24. The alleged irregularities involve the diversion of Sanna Rakam paddy allotted to rice mills to the open market and its substitution with cheaper coarse rice, including rice allegedly sourced from outside Telangana.

Ponguleti urges Congress cadre to Join 'Vote Bachao' Protest



Hyderabad, Oct 26 (GNS): Telangana Revenue, Housing and Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy has called upon Congress leaders and workers to participate in large numbers in the 'Vote Bachao – Desh Bachao' protest scheduled to be held in New Delhi on November 1, urging them to raise their voice against the BJP-led Central Government.

The Minister also advised people to remain alert to the possible impact of El Niño in the coming months and urged Congress leaders and workers to counter what he described as false propaganda by BRS leaders with facts. He stressed the need for special attention to voter registration for the upcoming Graduate MLC elections. Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy was speaking at a district Congress party meeting held at Vidyanagar in Chunchupalli mandal of Bhadradri Kothagudem district under the chairpersonship of DCC president Devi Prasanna. The meeting discussed preparedness for El Niño, the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, the 'Vote Bachao – Desh Bachao' campaign and the upcoming Graduate MLC elections.

The Minister said people have confidence that the state will prosper and agriculture will flourish under a Congress government. However, he cautioned that the possible impact of El Niño could lead to severe weather conditions and water shortages during April and May next year. He urged people to conserve water and use electricity responsibly. He also called for coordination between government departments and the public to implement precautionary measures in advance, depending on the evolving weather conditions.

Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy urged Congress leaders and workers to respond promptly to what he termed false claims by BRS leaders, presenting facts before the public. He said the party should ensure that repeated allegations do not create a misleading impression among people. He called upon the cadre to widely publicise the government's development and welfare initiatives and explain the benefits of various schemes to people in every village.

Hyderabad water board declares emergency over acute shortage



Hyderabad, Oct 26 (GNS): Data released by the state irrigation department indicates that over half of Telangana's 600-plus mandals are currently affected by drought, with water remaining in approximately 500 out of more than 6,000 lakes statewide, according to a report.. In Hyderabad, its 1.5 crore population is suffering from an acute drinking water shortage due to irregular water availability, challenging agricultural and industrial demand, and an El Niño-resulted monsoon deficit.

Data shows that with only three of Hyderabad's 16 mandals receiving adequate rainfall, residents are forced to rely on paid water tankers. Around 6000 to 8,000 tankers are being booked a day in Hyderabad, and the city Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) Managing Director has instructed officials to start additional tanker operations and launch the registration process.

Multiple areas, including the Secunderabad Cantonment and the outskirts of the capital city, have reported major water shortages, with drinking water supplied only once every three or four days. "With water in the Singur Dam and Nagarjuna Sagar Dam dropping to precarious levels due to sparse rainfall, the HMWSSB is actively shifting its standard alternate-day supply schedule to a restricted routine of once every three days for major parts of the city to conserve what remains," water board managing director Ashok Reddy said during a review meeting.

Water for Hyderabad's core urban area covering 2,053 sq km inside the Outer Ring Road (ORR) comes from four main sources.

Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar Secures 2.5 Lakh CMRF Aid for Girl's Treatment



Hyderabad, Oct 26 (GNS): Telangana Legislative Assembly Speaker and Vikarabad MLA Gaddam Prasad Kumar has facilitated the sanction of 2.5 lakh under a Letter of Credit (LOC) from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund for the medical treatment of Ramavath Maheshwari, daughter of Mohan Naik, a resident of Mailaram Thanda in Dharur mandal of Vikarabad district.

Upon learning that Maheshwari was undergoing treatment in a hospital, Speaker Prasad Kumar expressed concern over her condition and took immediate steps to extend financial assistance to the family. Responding on humanitarian grounds, he took special initiative to ensure that the LOC was sanctioned to help meet her medical expenses. Prasad Kumar said he was praying for Maheshwari's speedy recovery and assured the family of his support. He stated that he had already requested the doctors to provide her with the best possible medical care. "I will stand by anyone in my constituency who faces difficulties. The people's government will extend its support to Mohan Naik's family," he said.

Mohan Naik and his wife expressed their heartfelt gratitude to Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar and Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy for extending timely assistance and facilitating the sanction of 2.5 lakh for their daughter's medical treatment.

Minister Vakiti Srihari Launches Village-Wise Development Plan for Makthal Constituency Development Works



Hyderabad, Oct 26 (GNS): Telangana Minister Vakiti Srihari has launched a special action plan to address local issues and accelerate development across the Makthal Assembly constituency. As part of this initiative, he held a detailed review meeting with sarpanches, deputy sarpanches and key leaders from 14 villages in Amarchinta mandal.

The minister allotted 20 to 30 minutes to each village to discuss existing problems, urgent needs and pending development works. He personally prepared notes on the issues identified in each village and decided to formulate a comprehensive action plan with clear deadlines to ensure the timely completion of development works. Speaking on the occasion, Srihari said the initiative aims to address problems faced by residents of remote villages, which often receive less attention than towns and mandal headquarters. He emphasised that every village would be given equal priority and that development works would be undertaken according to local needs. The minister said special focus would be placed on roads, drinking water, electricity, sanitation and basic infrastructure. He stressed that the objective was not merely to identify problems but also to set deadlines and ensure their resolution. He added that village-wise reviews would help speed up development and achieve comprehensive progress across the Makthal constituency.

Nizamabad Police Organise Cycle and Bike Rally to Honour Martyrs

Nizamabad, Oct 26 (GNS): The Telangana Police Department organised a cycle and bike rally in Nizamabad as part of Police Martyrs' Commemoration Week, marking Police Flag Day on October 21. The rally was conducted under the directions of Nizamabad Police Commissioner P. Sai Chaitanya, IPS, and led by Additional DCP (Administration) N. Shubham Prakash. The rally began at 8 AM from Phoolang Chowrasta, where Additional DCP N. Shubham Prakash flagged it off. It proceeded through Pragathi Hospital, LIC Chowrasta, Court Chowrasta and NTR Chowrasta before concluding at the Police Headquarters. Addressing the participants, Shubham Prakash paid tribute to police personnel.

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BJP MP D.K. Aruna criticises congress, raises Kodangal development issues



Vikarabad, Oct 26 (GNS): Mahabubnagar BJP MP D.K. Aruna watched Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 139th episode of Mann Ki Baat along with local residents, party leaders and workers at Gokafasal Wada village in Doulatabad mandal of Kodangal constituency.

BJP state executive committee members Dokur Pavan Kumar Reddy, Ratang Pandu Reddy and Pagadakula Srinivas, Vikarabad district president Ramesh Kumar, Pratap Reddy, Poonam Chand Lahoti, corporator Kiran Kumar Reddy, Vijay Bhaskar Reddy and several mandal-level leaders and party workers attended the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, D.K. Aruna said Prime Minister Narendra Modi was working towards the goal of a developed India and had enhanced the country's global standing. She said Mann Ki Baat highlights the products, textiles and achievements of different states, bringing their significance to people across the country. She also said India had faced major challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, and claimed that Modi's leadership had strengthened the country's economy. Aruna alleged that the Congress party was unable to accept India's growing international recognition.

Criticising Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, she alleged that his statements on international platforms were undermining India's image. She also referred to Operation Sindoor and said it had sent a strong message to adversarial countries. On the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, she said the process was not new and had been conducted eight times previously. She challenged Rahul Gandhi to explain allegations of vote theft in Telangana and urged people to remain alert to what she described as false propaganda by the Congress.

Aruna Raises Issues in Kodangal and Telangana

The BJP MP criticised Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, alleging that he was staging protests in Delhi instead of addressing people's problems in Telangana. She raised concerns over the demolition of houses in Kodangal constituency in the name of road widening, stating that demolitions without adequate compensation were unjust. She also claimed that contractors were reluctant to participate in road construction tenders. Aruna stressed that development should extend beyond roads to all basic infrastructure and called for the development of all 14 constituencies in the erstwhile Mahabubnagar district. She alleged that welfare schemes were not reaching all eligible poor beneficiaries equally and claimed that the Congress government was favouring its own party members.

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