FALAKNUMA NEWS

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## Om Birla meets EU chair McAllister

New Delhi, Oct 27 (GNS): Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla met David McAllister, Chair of the European Parliament's Committee on Foreign Affairs, at Parliament House in New Delhi, highlighting the importance of engagement between India and the European Union.

The meeting provided an opportunity for the two leaders to engage on matters of mutual interest and underline the significance of continued dialogue between India and the European Union. India and the EU share a broad partnership covering trade, investment, technology, security, climate action and people-to-people exchanges.

Parliamentary exchanges play an important role in strengthening mutual understanding, promoting democratic values and building closer institutional ties. Engagement between Indian parliamentary leaders and representatives of European institutions also provides a platform to discuss regional and global developments and explore areas of cooperation. The interaction between Birla and McAllister comes amid the importance of deepening India-EU relations in an evolving international environment. Both sides have opportunities to expand cooperation in areas of strategic importance while strengthening dialogue on shared challenges.

The meeting at Parliament House reflected the continued engagement between Indian parliamentary representatives and European Union institutions, contributing to efforts to further strengthen bilateral and parliamentary relations.

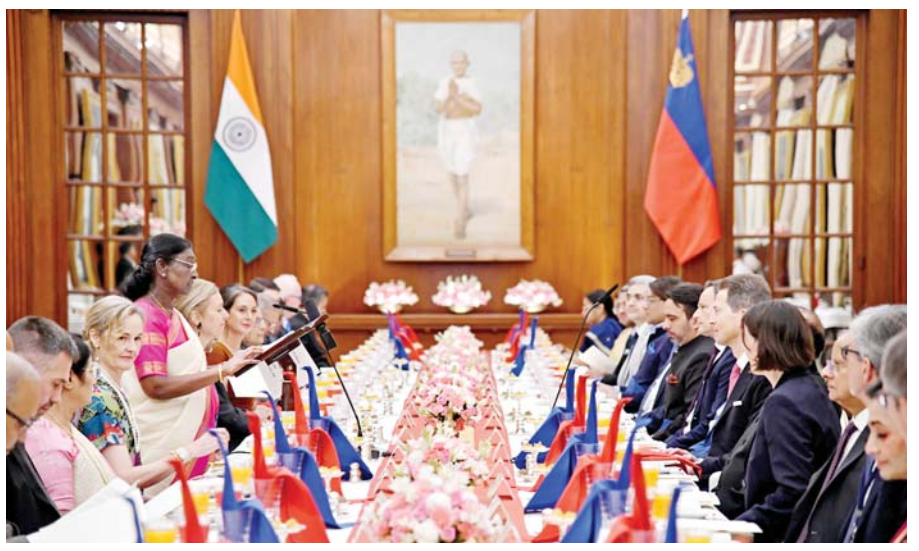


The Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Shri Om Birla, meeting with H.E. Mr. David McAllister, Chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the European Union, at Parliament House, in New Delhi.

## Murmu Says TEPA Can Boost India-Liechtenstein Ties

New Delhi, Oct 27 (GNS): President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday received Liechtenstein's Hereditary Prince Alois and Hereditary Princess Sophie at Rashtrapati Bhavan and hosted a banquet in their honour, saying the two countries could build a beneficial partnership under the India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA).

"President Droupadi Murmu received H.S.H. Hereditary Prince Alois and H.R.H. Hereditary Princess Sophie of Liechtenstein at Rashtrapati Bhavan and hosted a banquet in their honour," Rashtrapati Bhavan posted on X. "The President said that with the new opportunities created by the India-EFTA TEPA, we can develop a beneficial partnership by combining Liechtenstein's expertise in advanced manufacturing, innovation, and financial services with India's skilled workforce, manufacturing capacity, and rapidly growing market. The two leaders agreed that close bilateral cooperation can bring immense benefits to our people," it added. According to a Joint Statement issued during the visit, TEPA, signed in March 2024 and in force since October 2025, carries the shared objective of mobilising $100 billion in investments into India over 15 years and facilitating the creation of one million direct jobs in the country by EFTA countries. The two sides identified areas such as advanced manufacturing, machinery and machine tools, precision industry, medical technology, space-related industries, clean technologies, artificial intelligence and financial services for deeper collaboration, where Liechtenstein's specialised capabilities could complement India's scale and growth opportunities.



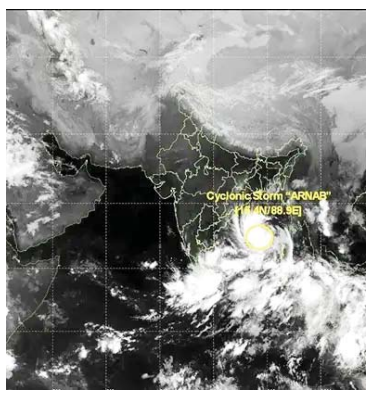
President of India, Droupadi Murmu hosted a banquet dinner in honour of H.S.H. Hereditary Prince Alois of Liechtenstein and H.R.H. Hereditary Princess Sophie at Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi.

This is Prince Alois's second visit to India this year, after he attended the AI Impact Summit in New Delhi in February, the statement noted. Earlier in the day, Prince Alois was accorded a ceremonial welcome at the forecourt of Rashtrapati Bhavan. President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi warmly welcomed Prince Alois upon his arrival.

## Cyclone 'Arnab' moves closer to Andhra Pradesh coast

Visakhapatnam, Oct 28 (UNI): The very severe cyclonic storm 'Arnab' in the Bay of Bengal moved closer to the Andhra Pradesh coast on Tuesday, triggering heavy rain accompanied by gusty winds and high tidal waves at a few places as the state administration went on high alert to prevent loss of life and property. India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued a red alert for Andhra Pradesh as the cyclone is likely to cross the coast between Bapatla and Visakhapatnam on Wednesday.

According to latest IMD bulletin 'Arnab' over Westcentral Bay of Bengal moved west-northwestwards with a speed of 18 kmph during past 6 hours, and lay centred at 0900 UTC (1430 IST) of October 27 over the same region, about 140 km southeast of Kakinada, 170 km south of Vishakhapatnam, 230 km east of Machilipatnam, 300 km east-northeast of Bapatla and 380 km south-southwest of Gopalpur (Odisha). It is very likely to move nearly west-northwestwards during the next few hours, then northwestwards and cross Andhra Pradesh & Yanam coasts between Bapatla and Visakhapatnam, close to south of Yanam as a very severe cyclonic storm with the maximum sustained wind speed of 125-135 kmph gusting to 150 kmph by 0600 UTC (1130 IST) of 28th October, 2026. Coastal Andhra began to experience the impact of the cyclone with rains and gusty winds lashing a few districts, including Visakhapatnam.



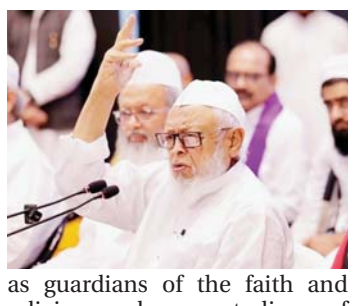

Trees and electric poles were uprooted at a few places in Visakhapatnam. A few cars were damaged after a tree fell at MVP Sector 3 in the port city. Old Gajuwaka area was inundated. Huge waves were crashing along the coast in Konaseema and Kakinada districts, with seawater breaching the sand barrier and flowing onto roads.

## UP Court Acquits Rahul in Defamation Case

New Delhi, Oct 28 (UNI): Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind president Maulana Arshad Madani has strongly asserted that mosques facing destruction or threats today will, God willing, flourish once more, and the call of "Allahu Akbar" will again resound within them.

In a recent post on X, he said those currently in power will not remain forever, emphasising that governments come and go but no power on earth has ever succeeded in erasing Islam, nor will any be able to do so in the future. Madani observed that while previous governments had targeted Muslims, the present administration is targeting not only the community but Islam itself, along with the religious identity and institutions of Muslims. He advised communal forces to learn a lesson from the fate of the Soviet Union, noting that those who once dreamt of eradicating Islam have themselves been reduced to mere footnotes in history, while Islam continues to live and thrive.

Highlighting the critical role of Islamic seminaries, Madani said "Madaris-e-Islamia" serve as guardians of the faith and religion and as custodians of religious identity. However, he stressed that protecting the faith, beliefs and morality of the new generation is not the sole responsibility of these institutions. Parents must also fulfil their own obligations in this regard, he added.



In a message of resilience, the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind president urged Muslims not to despair in the face of current circumstances. Instead, he called upon them to remain steadfast in their faith and religion, exercising patience, unity, wisdom and perseverance. Madani's remarks come against the backdrop of growing concerns among Muslim organisations over threats to historic places of worship.

## True success of science lies in taking innovation from lab to land: PM Modi

New Delhi, Oct 27 (GNS): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that the true success of science is achieved when innovations move beyond laboratories and create a tangible impact in people's lives, asserting that India views science and technology as tools for serving humanity rather than instruments of power or conflict.

Addressing the Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC) 2026 in the national capital, the Prime Minister said that while the requirements of various technology-driven sectors differ, they all reflect a common message that India is rapidly building its technological strength and self-reliance.

"There has been a persistent challenge in how science and technology are viewed, often seen merely as tools of power or conflict. However, India firmly believes that science and technology are instruments for serving humanity," PM Modi noted.

"The true success of science is realised when it moves from the lab to the land, directly improving the lives of ordinary citizens," the Prime Minister stated.



Emphasising the societal role of innovation, PM Modi said science and technology should be judged not merely by their sophistication but by their ability to solve real-world problems and improve people's lives.

The Prime Minister noted that science and technology have often been viewed globally through the lens of power and conflict, but India believes they should be harnessed for the welfare of humanity.

"The success of a technology is not determined solely by how advanced it is. Its true strength lies in how effectively it solves major problems and how many people's lives it transforms," PM Modi noted.

Highlighting India's long scientific tradition, the Prime Minister said the country's culture has been rooted in knowledge and discovery, citing contributions ranging from the discovery of zero and the development of the number system to advances in astronomy.

"India is moving forward by evaluating itself against this very benchmark. We all know that a country's technology and its ability to create technology depend on its research. Research is the force that enables a country to find solutions to its problems and become self-reliant in critical technologies," PM Modi mentioned.

## Rahul Gandhi vows to continue SIR protests until CEC resigns

New Delhi, Oct 28 (UNI): Lok Sabha Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday asserted that the Opposition would not stop its protests against the SIR exercise until Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar resigned or Prime Minister Narendra Modi removed him. Congress general secretary K.C. Venugopal accused the Prime Minister and Union home minister Amit Shah of pressuring the Delhi police to obstruct the Opposition's October 30 "public impeachment of the CEC" ahead of the November 1 rally.

Speaking at a "Jan Sunwai" event in Trilokpuri in the national capital, Gandhi claimed that names of 416 voters were "illegally" removed under the SIR in the area. "We have seen here that in four booths 416 voters have been illegally removed. We have raised questions with the Chief Election Commissioner, but he refuses to answer and hides. But we will not stop," he said.

"The Opposition will continue its fight until Gyanesh Kumar resigns or Prime Minister Narendra Modi removes him. Crores of people across India are being deprived of their right to vote," Gandhi said during the "public hearing" of grievances over the electoral process. He was accompanied by CPI(ML) leader Dipankar Bhattacharya and Swaraj India's Yogendra Yadav. The Lok Sabha Leader of the Opposition claimed that the party has been raising this issue for a long time, but now the entire country is beginning to understand that "votes are being stolen at the highest level".



"Poor people are being removed from the electoral rolls, and their rights are being snatched," he alleged. "Why is this happening? An attempt is being made to create a new India belonging to a select group of billionaires, where citizens have no rights and the poor are denied their rights, leaving a country that serves only the interests of billionaires," Mr Gandhi alleged, adding, "Modi is hellbent on creating a Hindustan only for the rich." The Congress leader said voting is the right of every Indian citizen, but today, the rights of millions of people are being snatched away.

## *No Change Made To Form 6 Under SIR Orders, Election Commission of India Tells Supreme Court*

New Delhi, Oct 27 (GNS): The Election Commission of India (ECI) has told the Supreme Court that there has been no change to Form 6, the statutory form prescribed for inclusion of names in electoral rolls, rejecting a contention that the poll panel amended it through its orders for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise. In a counter-affidavit filed before the apex court, the ECI said the allegation that it had amended Form 6 through its SIR orders dated June 24, 2025, October 27, 2025, and May 14, 2026, was misleading. The poll body clarified that the declaration required under the SIR orders is a separate document and does not form part of Form 6, which can be amended only by the Central Government.

"The Answering Respondent unequivocally rejects the misleading contention of the Petitioner that Form 6 — as has been provided in the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, has been amended by the Election Commission," the affidavit stated. The ECI explained that the declaration accompanying Form 6 had been revised to introduce a mapping mechanism through which applicants could provide details of themselves or their parents or grandparents as recorded in earlier electoral rolls. The facility was intended to help applicants establish their eligibility and avoid submitting additional supporting documents during the claims and objections stage, provided the relevant details could be furnished. "Thus, there is no change in Form 6 vide the 3 SIR Orders, as sought to be alleged," the poll body said, adding that the declaration had been rationalised and mapping was merely a facilitative alternative. It further submitted that the declaration had initially been provided as Annexure D to the SIR order dated June 24, 2025, and was subsequently replaced by Annexure IV in the orders issued on October 27, 2025, and May 14, 2026.



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# Irfan Jamiawala Raises the Voice of Extremely Backward Muslims in Bihar

## *Why Have Major Political Parties Continued to Neglect Their Political Representation for Decades?*

**By Irfan Jamiawala**



Introduction

The representation of Extremely Backward Classes (EBCs), social justice, and equitable political participation have remained important issues in Bihar's political landscape. Among the communities facing social and economic challenges are several Muslim communities whose concerns regarding education, employment, economic development, and political representation deserve serious attention. Irfan Jamiawala, a social activist and political thinker associated with Mahua in Vaishali district of Bihar, has raised an important question: Why have major political parties, including the Indian National Congress, the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), failed to ensure adequate political representation for extremely backward Muslim communities? At a time when caste-based surveys, reservations, social justice, and political representation dominate political discussions in Bihar, this question has become increasingly relevant.

The 'Extremely Backward Justice Resolution': A Welcome Initiative, but Is It Enough?

The Mahagathbandhan's Extremely Backward Justice Resolution has brought attention to the concerns of extremely backward communities. Point 5 of the document reportedly proposes the formation of a committee to review the EBC list.

However, establishing a committee alone cannot resolve longstanding problems. The important questions concern its mandate, the timeline for completing its work, the transparency of its findings, and the implementation of its recommendations. Without a clear policy framework and measurable outcomes, such initiatives risk remaining political promises rather than instruments of meaningful social change.

The Mungeri Lal Commission's Recommendations Deserve Renewed Attention

The recommendations of the Mungeri Lal Commission remain an important historical reference in discussions concerning backward and extremely backward communities in Bihar.

Issues relating to economic assistance, cooperative institutions, financial support, employment opportunities, pending vacancies, and land distribution are relevant to understanding the broader challenges faced by disadvantaged communities.

A comprehensive review of the commission's recommendations is necessary to establish which measures were implemented, which remained incomplete, and which require reconsideration in light of present-day realities. The objective should be to develop policies based on reliable evidence and the actual social and economic circumstances of different communities.

Why Is a Scientific Review of the EBC List Necessary?

The social, educational, and economic conditions of communities included in the EBC category should be assessed periodically. A transparent review could help determine whether the benefits of government schemes and reservation policies are reaching the most disadvantaged communities. Three measures deserve particular consideration: Transparent revision of the list: Assess the current social and economic circumstances of the communities concerned.

Examination of inequalities within the category: Determine which communities are benefiting from public policies and which continue to face substantial disadvantages. Consideration of sub-classification: Examine whether additional safeguards are necessary for the most disadvantaged groups, subject to constitutional provisions, applicable laws, and judicial decisions.

The purpose of such a process should be to strengthen social justice rather than create divisions between communities. Where Is the Commitment to Political Representation?

The discussion on extremely backward communities must extend beyond welfare schemes. Political representation is also an essential component of social justice. When communities remain underrepresented in legislative bodies, political party organisations, and decision-making institutions, their concerns may struggle to receive adequate attention. Political parties must therefore explain how they intend to improve the representation of extremely backward communities, including economically and socially disadvantaged Muslim communities.

A clear roadmap should address candidate selection, organisational positions, local government, and participation in policy-making.

If a demand is raised for allocating 25 per cent of election tickets to extremely backward communities, political parties should publicly clarify their positions. The issue deserves a transparent and substantive response rather than silence.

The Political Representation of Extremely Backward Muslims in Bihar

The success of social justice policies in Bihar should be assessed through measurable outcomes rather than electoral promises alone. Extremely backward Muslim communities may face challenges relating to education, employment, economic resources, and political participation. Understanding the extent of these disadvantages requires reliable, community-specific data.

Claims concerning population shares, legislative representation, and participation in government employment must be examined against official records, with the relevant year, source, and methodology clearly identified.

The Bihar government and political parties should make available the relevant data so that the actual position of disadvantaged communities can be evaluated objectively.

Social justice is not merely about counting people. It is also about ensuring fair opportunities in education, employment, economic development, and political decision-making.

Nitish Kumar and the Rights of Extremely Backward Communities

Nitish Kumar has made the political participation of extremely backward communities an important part of Bihar's political discourse. Reservation in local government institutions and policies concerning social justice have contributed to this discussion. However, the impact of these policies must be evaluated through concrete results.

Has political participation increased? Are children from disadvantaged communities receiving quality education? Are employment and economic opportunities becoming more accessible? Are representatives of these communities participating effectively in policy-making?

These questions require evidence, public data, and an assessment of policy implementation.

Article 341(3) and the Question of Dalit Muslims

Irfan Jamiawala has also highlighted the question of reservation for Dalit Muslims as an important issue in the broader debate on social justice. Article 341 of the Constitution of India provides the framework for specifying Scheduled Castes. Paragraph 3 of the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, contains a religion-related restriction under which, under the current framework, persons professing religions other than Hinduism, Sikhism, or Buddhism are not recognised as members of Scheduled Castes.

The question of changing this provision has remained the subject of legal, constitutional, and social debate.

A fair assessment of the historical disadvantages and present-day circumstances of Dalit Muslims is necessary. Any change to the existing framework would have to follow the applicable constitutional and legislative procedures.

Irfan Jamiawala's Question: Why Are Muslims Treated Merely as a Vote Bank? The central question raised by Irfan Jamiawala is straightforward: Why do political parties speak about the rights and problems of disadvantaged communities during elections but fail to demonstrate the same level of commitment to their meaningful representation after elections?

His position is that extremely backward Muslim communities should not be viewed merely as a source of electoral support. They should have genuine opportunities to participate in political organisations, legislative institutions, and government decision-making.

Social justice cannot be complete without a meaningful balance between educational opportunities, employment, economic development, and political representation.

The Congress, RJD, BJP, and other political parties should respond to these concerns through their policies, organisational decisions, and candidate selection. Announcments alone are insufficient. What is needed is a practical framework that enables disadvantaged communities to develop leadership, obtain political positions, and participate effectively in democratic institutions.

The Way Forward for Bihar Political parties should consider the following measures to strengthen the rights and opportunities of extremely backward communities and disadvantaged Muslim communities:

Conduct regular assessments of their social, economic, and educational circumstances.

Publish reliable data concerning government employment, education, and political representation.

Establish a transparent and time-bound process for reviewing the EBC list.

Examine sub-classification in accordance with constitutional provisions and judicial decisions.

Develop clear policies to improve the representation of disadvantaged communities in candidate selection and party organisations.

Encourage an evidence-based and impartial discussion on the constitutional questions concerning reservation for Dalit Muslims.

Publish regular reports evaluating the implementation and outcomes of announced policies.

Conclusion: Social Justice Requires Results, Not Just Promises

Initiatives such as the Extremely Backward Justice Resolution can become meaningful instruments of change only when supported by clear timelines, accountability, and practical implementation plans.

A review of the Mungeri Lal Commission's recommendations, scientific revision of the EBC list, improved educational and employment opportunities, and meaningful political representation should form part of a comprehensive approach to social justice in Bihar.

The credibility of social justice politics will ultimately depend on how effectively political parties ensure the participation of disadvantaged communities in institutions of power.

Social activist and political thinker Irfan Jamiawala, associated with Mahua in Vaishali district, has raised a fundamental question:

If the population, concerns, and rights of extremely backward Muslim communities are repeatedly discussed, why are they not given adequate opportunities to participate in political representation and decision-making?

This question is not directed at any single political party. It is a challenge to Bihar's entire political establishment.

Social justice becomes meaningful only when every disadvantaged individual has a genuine opportunity to access education, employment, dignity, and political participation.

# Nepal's digital uprising and a familiar fall

Former Nepalese prime minister K.P. Sharma Oli now finds himself in a position once occupied by Bangladesh's Sheikh Hasina — a leader who underestimated the fury of a connected generation. Both believed that choking social media could muzzle dissent. Both assumed that cutting digital lifelines would contain anger. Instead, both triggered leaderless uprisings that rattled the foundations of their rule. What began as simmering frustration over corruption, inflation, and an unfulfilled post-pandemic recovery erupted after Oli's administration banned 26 major digital platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, YouTube, and X. For millions of Nepalis, this blackout struck at the heart of daily life. The reaction was immediate and fierce: at least 22 people have died in subsequent violence, mobs torched the houses of ministers, MPs, and even former prime ministers, and terrified leaders fled their neighbourhoods. The rage did not spare state institutions. Protesters stormed and set fire to the Supreme Court building. Ram Chandra Poudel, the veteran Nepali Congress leader and the country's third President, resigned after his residence was attacked.

With police forces overwhelmed, the army appealed for restraint. Yet even senior leaders faced mob fury: an ex-prime minister from the Nepali Congress was injured, and cadres from both Oli's Communist UML and the Congress party became targets. The protests' defining characteristic is their lack of central leadership. Gen Z activists, students, and anarchist groups dominate the streets, but no figure exists to negotiate with the government. What started as resistance to a social media ban has quickly broadened into a revolt demanding jobs, accountability, and an end to systemic corruption. Analysts argue that democracy itself is not at risk of collapsing into military rule.

Nepal's political history is steeped in protest. The 1990 People's Movement dismantled absolute monarchy. The Jana Andolan of 2006 forced King Gyanendra to retreat. On 8 September 2025, that legacy returned with a digital edge. This time, the spark was not monarchy or constitutional deadlock but the attempt to cut off what young Nepalis see as their lifeline — social media. Authorities defended the blackout by citing the 2023 Social Media Directives and a Supreme Court ruling requiring global platforms to register locally, appoint representatives, and curb harmful content. TikTok and Viber complied; Meta and Google did not. Oli insisted extremists had hijacked the protests, while officials argued they were merely enforcing rules. But citizens saw censorship, not regulation. In a country where over 90 per cent of internet users rely on these platforms for news, tourism, remittances, and business, the ban felt like suffocation. Already disillusioned by corruption scandals, many viewed this as the final straw. Nepal has endured 14 governments in 16 years. Inflation is eating away at wages. Dynastic privilege dominates politics.

For the young, social media was the only credible public square — and its shutdown silenced their voice. Royalist forces, meanwhile, have resurfaced. A massive pro-monarchy rally earlier this year demonstrated that nostalgia for the crown has not disappeared. Analysts suggest royalist groups infiltrated the current protests, lending them additional force. The blackout has also worsened economic fragility. Telecom companies lost revenue, tourism recovery stalled, and families dependent on remittances faced fresh uncertainty. India reinforced border security but avoided becoming a scapegoat, unlike in past uprisings. China, enjoying stable ties, also kept its distance. For once, neither neighbour was at the centre of the storm. In this turbulence, a new figure has captured the imagination of young Nepalis: Balendra Shah, or Balen. Elected as Kathmandu's mayor in 2022, Shah is no ordinary politician — he is a rapper with a master's degree in structural engineering, admired for his mix of cultural appeal and technocratic efficiency.

For disillusioned urban youth, he symbolises an alternative to the old party system. Whether he can rise as a national force remains uncertain, but his popularity reflects the hunger for fresh, non-partisan leadership. Nepal's turmoil offers a 21st-century lesson: shutting down digital spaces is as combustible as curbing the ballot box. For the country's youth, digital rights are democratic rights. Ending the blackout may calm the streets temporarily, but the real challenge is deeper — rebuilding trust, restoring accountability, and balancing regulation with freedom. Unless leaders rise to this challenge, Nepal risks repeating its cycle of protest and repression. this time with battles fought not only in Kathmandu's streets but also across cyberspace.

## India's Drone Doctrine

Modern warfare is no longer decided solely by the size of a nation's fleet of fighter jets or the sophistication of its missiles. Increasingly, it is decided by who can field the greatest number of cheap, expendable, precise machines and who can defend against them. The Indian Army's decision to begin procuring three distinct classes of drones, announced after a hard look at the lessons of recent conflicts, reflects a sober understanding of this shift.

The evidence from abroad is hard to ignore. The wars of Ukraine-Russia and Iran-USA have repeatedly shown how lethal unmanned systems have become. A drone costing perhaps a thousand dollars can wreck an oil refinery, as Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states have learned to their cost. Warships, including aircraft carriers, once considered the untouchable symbols of naval supremacy, can no longer assume safety from swarms of small, low-flying attackers. When a weapon that costs almost nothing can compel a defender to use interceptors worth many times more, the economics of war are fundamentally altered. India has experienced this firsthand. During Operation Sindoor in May last year, Pakistan launched hundreds of drones, with estimates ranging from 300 to more than 500, across a front stretching from Ladakh to Sir Creek, targeting dozens of locations. Those intrusions achieved little, chiefly because the armed forces' anti-drone systems performed effectively. Yet complacency would be foolish. The Army has noted that Türkiye and China supplied Pakistan with some of their best drone technology. Next time, the numbers may be larger and the machines more capable.

The Army's response is therefore both defensive and offensive. Its plan covers small tactical drones for surveillance and strikes within 10 to 15 kilometres, one-way attack drones with a reach of around 150 kilometres, and high-altitude, long-endurance platforms for surveillance and pinpoint long-range attack. The technology roadmap released in April identifies some 30 types of UAVs and loitering munitions across strike, surveillance, air defence, special roles and logistics. The Army is also building capacity to operate thousands of drones. The newly raised 'Baaz' battalion, under 11 Corps, is dedicated to drone operations on the western front. Every one of the 380 infantry battalions now has a 25-man drone platoon, while artillery and armoured units run their own drones for target location. Drones have ceased to be a niche accessory and have become part of the Army's structure. The geography makes the case compelling. India's borders with Pakistan and China run for thousands of kilometres across mountains, rivers, ravines, deserts and glaciers. Patrolling such terrain on foot is exhausting, hazardous and, in many places, practically impossible. Drones can watch what soldiers cannot reach, day and night, without risking a single life. They can track enemy movements, guide artillery and, if hostilities begin, strike with precision. Long-range variants can threaten airfields, armour and other vital installations deep in hostile territory.

# H-1B visa crisis, a perfect storm for Indian IT industry

**Sushma Ramachandran**

AMERICA remains the Mecca for highly skilled technology professionals seeking to carve a space in the cutting-edge sunrise sectors. One route to this prized destination has been through Big Tech or Indian software firms which provide the requisite visas. The most sought-after work visa is the H-1B which is valid for about six years. Its limitations are the cap on the numbers and the lottery system used to select the recipients. The advantage is that it often leads to a green card and even citizenship in the long run.

The list of tech leaders who have started their careers on H-1B visas is long and illustrious. It includes Tesla chief Elon Musk, Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, Google CEO Sundar Pichai and the founders of Nvidia and Zoom Jensen Huang and Eric Yuan, respectively. The role of these visas as the entry point for the best and the brightest to reach the US has come under threat with the Trump administration's levy of a one-time charge of $1,00,000. The flurry of speculation on the fallout may become outdated soon as clarity emerges on the fine print of the decision. The initial plan for it to be an annual fee was quickly transformed into a one-time charge on companies. Other aspects may also alter soon as Big Tech leans on the White House to soften the blow.

Make no mistake, the biggest impact is going to be on American technology companies. The top 10 firms sponsoring H-1B visas include only one Indian company — TCS. Amazon tops the list with over 10,000 visas in 2025 while TCS is far behind with 5,500. Other tech giants like Microsoft, Meta, Google and Apple are much lower down in the ranks. This does not mean that the Indian software sector will not be hurt by this development. But the financial ramifications will be bigger for US-based tech majors. It is a huge dampener, however, for young entrants to the technology sector in this country. With as many as 71 per cent of H-1B visas being held by Indians, this is bound to hurt those who seek to reach the global hub of technological innovation. In the new scenario, only the most outstanding will now have a chance.

The question is whether more jobs would be offshored and it would actually create a bonanza of more global capability centres (GCCs) in this country. The answer to this is not straightforward. First, tech majors have already been assiduous in setting up GCCs in this country. Hiring for these centres has been going on at a frenetic pace in the last few years. In fact, there have been reports that Big Tech has actually expanded jobs in India over the past year as part of a cost-cutting exercise. Ultimately, it is cheaper to hire skilled talent in this country than in an advanced economy like the US. Besides, the availability of skill sets in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) field is far greater here. India and China are reported to lead in terms of STEM graduates, with the US lagging behind in this regard.

Second, those being given H-1B visas are already considered to be in the high achiever bracket and capable of thriving in the US ecosystem. Others with lesser skill sets are sought to be absorbed in the GCCs already set up here. Tech majors, thus, prefer to bring high achievers to Silicon Valley where their contributions can be far more valuable and effective.

Similarly, for Indian companies, the on-site requirements of clients for IT services will continue to be at a relatively high level. The consequence of the high fee will thus either make such services more expensive or reduce profitability. In the long run, it could affect services exports that have been a major contributor to the economy. Thus, for both US-based tech majors and Indian companies.

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ENGLISH DAILY
HYDERABAD, TELANGANA



# "India Targets No. 1 Position in Global Automobile Manufacturing": Gadkari

Nwew Delhi, Oct 27 (GNS): Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari unveiled an ambitious roadmap to position India as the world's leading hub for automobile manufacturing, green mobility, and infrastructure innovation at the International Value Summit 2025, held in New Delhi today.




India has now surpassed Japan to become the third-largest automobile market globally, and the government is targeting the No. 1 position within the next five years. "All major global automobile brands are now present in India. Their focus has shifted from merely assembling to exporting vehicles from India to the world," said Shri Gadkari. He further emphasized that India's two-wheeler sector alone exports over 50% of its production, showcasing the country's growing global footprint.

On clean mobility, the Minister highlighted India's leadership in electric vehicles, hydrogen fuel, and alternative fuels. "We have already launched hydrogen trucks, and pilot projects are underway across ten routes. Our aim is to lead the world in green mobility," he stated. With support from companies such as Tata Motors, Ashok Leyland, Reliance, and Indian Oil, the government has provided 600 crore in grants to fast-track hydrogen infrastructure. He also noted advancements in new fuel options like isobutanol and bio-bitumen, which are currently under active trials.

India's road infrastructure has also seen transformative progress. "India now has the second-largest road network in the world. We've brought travel times down drastically—Panipat to Delhi Airport now takes just 35 minutes instead of three hours," he remarked. Key projects such as the Chennai-Bengaluru expressway and the 23,000 crore Bengaluru Ring Road are set to redefine connectivity and ease urban congestion. Sustainability remained a central theme of the address. "We are converting waste into wealth. Over 80 lakh tonnes of waste from Ghazipur landfill have been used in road construction. We've reduced the height of the mountain by seven metres already," said the Minister. He pointed to successful trials of bio-bitumen made from rice straw, which has shown better performance than petroleum-based bitumen and helps reduce stubble burning.

Gadkari Ji also called for global partnerships in key innovation areas including precast road construction, tunnel engineering, hydrogen transport systems, and circular economy solutions. "We do not have a resource problem. Our roads are monetized, and our revenue is strong. What we need is your innovation, your technology, and your cooperation," he urged international delegates.

Gadkari also stressed the importance of research, innovation and collaboration between industry and academic institutions to accelerate India's transition towards sustainable transportation. He highlighted the need to adopt cost-effective technologies, improve road safety, reduce construction costs and promote environmentally friendly materials in infrastructure projects.

# UP to Get Biotechnology Park and Science Museum, Says Union Minister

Nwew Delhi, Oct 27 (GNS): In addition, Dr. Jitendra Singh today inaugurated India's first Swastik-shaped "Lotus Garden" at the Bota CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute (NBRI), Lucknow, while also addressing the CSIR Startup Conclave 2025 in the presence of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

The newly developed Swastik Lotus Garden, spread across 930 sq. m, is the first of its kind in the country. It houses 60 varieties of lotus sourced from across the world and 50 taxa of water lily, with conservation ensured through advanced genetic methods, light exposure regulation, and scientific treatments. Among its highlights is the NBRI-Namoh 108, the world's first 108-petal lotus developed at Lucknow.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said, the garden would act as a hub for biodiversity conservation and entrepreneurship, while also emerging as a new tourism destination.

"This is not only a unique conservation effort, it is also a platform for creating new opportunities in floriculture, wellness, and agri-based industries," Dr. Jitendra Singh remarked. He added that the facility symbolises the government's vision of linking science with livelihoods.

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, addressing the conclave, lauded CSIR's initiatives in Uttar Pradesh and assured full support from the state government. He said that with its large pool of institutions and skilled manpower, the state was well positioned to play a leading role in India's science and startup journey.

Dr. Jitendra Singh explained that the decision to host the Startup Conclave in Lucknow was part of the government's effort to decentralise science and innovation events. "We have consciously taken national-level programmes out of Delhi to cities like Jammu, Hyderabad, Mumbai, Bhubaneswar, and now Lucknow. This ensures science reaches aspirational towns where potential is immense," he said.

The Minister highlighted that nearly 50 percent of India's startups now come from tier-2 and tier-3 cities. Referring to Startup India launched in 2015, he said, "From just 350 startups, India today has over 2 lakhs, nearly 60 percent of them led by women. This marks a transformation in how we view employment and entrepreneurship."

Pointing to the achievements of CSIR institutions in Lucknow, Dr. Jitendra Singh cited the development of the Namoh 108 lotus, pest-resistant cotton, and innovative work in floriculture under the Floriculture Mission, which offers new livelihood options to farmers and entrepreneurs. He also recalled the city's contribution to pharmaceutical research, with 13 new drug candidates developed locally, including for cancer and fatty liver disease.

The Minister further noted that Lucknow was the birthplace of globally consumed Menthol products and the popular Mint tablet. "The mint lozenge that the world knows was developed here. Today, our scientists are working on new value-added products such as herbal mouth fresheners, creating strong markets," he said. Linking these scientific contributions with the city's cultural identity, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, "Lucknow is not only about its monuments like the Imam bara. It is also about innovations like the 108-petal lotus and mint-based products. This is the face of New India."

The Minister also underlined the government's long-term initiatives in Uttar Pradesh, including the establishment of the first National Quantum Mission centre in Noida, revival of Central Electronics Limited into a profit-making entity, and plans for a new biotechnology industrial park and a science museum in Lucknow.

On the role of youth, Dr. Jitendra Singh stressed that a PhD degree was not necessary to become an entrepreneur. "Many of our successful startups are founded by young people who may not have advanced degrees but had the skill and focus. The ecosystem created by Prime Minister Modi ensures training, funding, and mentoring for anyone with talent," he said.

# India to serve as Global Secretariat for Standardisation in Low Voltage Direct Current

Nwew Delhi, Oct 27 (GNS): The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) announced that India will host the 89th General Meeting (GM) of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) from 15 to 19 September 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The event will bring together over 2,000 experts from more than 100 countries, who will deliberate on setting international electrotechnical standards that will foster a sustainable, all-electric and connected world. This is the fourth time India is hosting the prestigious IEC General Meeting, after 1960, 1997 and 2013.

The Opening Ceremony will be inaugurated by Shri Pralhad Joshi, Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Minister of New & Renewable Energy, while Shri Piyush Goyal, Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, will inaugurate the IEC GM Exhibition at Bharat Mandapam. The exhibition will be the largest of its kind in the electrotechnical segment in India, showcasing innovations in electric mobility, smart lighting, electronics and IT manufacturing, and will provide a global networking platform for Indian start-ups.

India will also serve as the Global Secretariat for Standardisation in the field of Low Voltage Direct Current (LVDC), a critical domain for clean and pollution-free energy solutions. Mr. Vimal Mahendru, Vice President of IEC, highlighted that IEC membership includes around 170 countries representing 99% of the world's population and impacts nearly 20% of global trade in value, adding that India's leadership in LVDC standardisation will strengthen global efforts to develop clean technology standards.

Shri Pramod Kumar Tiwari, Director General of BIS, emphasised the Bureau's efforts to integrate quality and standardisation with academia through student chapters and a structured six-month internship programme that exposes young professionals to industries and the standards development process.

Under the IEC Young Professionals Programme, 93 young professionals from across the globe will take part in workshops.

# Initiatives launched under Frontier Tech Hub towards Accelerating India's Transformation to Viksit Bharat by 2047

Nwew Delhi, Oct 27 (GNS): NITI Aayog today launched two transformative initiatives, AI for Viksit Bharat Roadmap: Opportunity for Accelerated Economic Growth and NITI Frontier Tech Repository under its Frontier Tech Hub. The Roadmap was launched by Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Suman Bery, Vice Chairperson, NITI Aayog, Shri B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, CEO, NITI Aayog and Shri S. Krishnan, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology.



Addressing the launch, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Finance Minister, said that AI-assisted technologies should be adopted in all districts of India to bring development and highlighted the importance of collaborative ecosystems in tech innovation. She also added that NITI Aayog's Frontier Tech Hub is like a honeycomb, bringing together government, industry, and innovators into one ecosystem, catalysing ideas into impact. India cannot afford to be behind in the arena of frontier technologies; India must aim for its leadership.

Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology stated that AI is going to fundamentally change the way we work and live. He observed that the biggest change today is the confidence instilled in our youth that we can dream of Viksit Bharat. Growth today is robust, inclusive and driven by technology.

The roadmap lays out a practical action plan to translate AI's promise into outcomes, highlighting two major levers: (i) Accelerating adoption of AI across industries to enhance productivity and efficiency; (ii) Transforming R&D with generative AI to help India leapfrog into innovation-driven opportunities. The Roadmap can be accessed here: https://niti.gov.in/sites/default/files/2025-09/AI-for-Viksit-Bharat-the-opportunity-for-accelerated-economic-growth.pdf

Complementing the roadmap, the Frontier Tech Repository showcases 200+ impact stories from across India in four sectors – Agriculture, Healthcare, Education, and National Security. It brings to life how states and startups are deploying technology with purpose to transform livelihoods. It can be accessed at https://frontiertech.niti.gov.in/

Shri B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, CEO, NITI Aayog, stated that India's 8% growth ambition demands a seismic shift in productivity and innovation. AI is the key to unlock this potential. The AI for Viksit Bharat Roadmap delivers a clear, sector-specific action plan, while the Frontier Tech Repository inspires states and districts to scale technology for real-world impact. He also announced two initiatives to amplify grassroots adoption of technology and scale impact creation. It included:

Frontier 50 Initiative wherein NITI Aayog will support 50 Aspirational Districts / Blocks to pick use cases from the Repository and deploy those frontier technologies that have potential to accelerate saturation of services across ADP/ABP themes.

NITI Frontier Tech Impact Awards for States recognizing three states excelling in use of tech to improve governance, education, healthcare, livelihood etc., and supporting them to scale measurable, transformative outcomes. Ms. Debjani Ghosh, Distinguished Fellow, NITI Aayog and Chief Architect of the Frontier Tech Hub, observed that the next wave of mega tech shifts will be even more disruptive than AI.

For India to lead, it is imperative that trends are anticipated early and craft hardwired roadmaps to strengthen supply chains, define global standards, and forge strong alliances.

The event saw participation of impact creators like start-up founders and District Magistrates who have brought revolution through adoption of frontier technologies at the grassroot level, industry leaders along with district functionaries and government officials connecting virtually from all across India. The initiatives are expected to strengthen cooperation between the Centre, state governments, startups and industry leaders to accelerate the adoption of emerging technologies across the country. By encouraging district-level implementation, sharing successful models and recognising states that deliver measurable results, NITI Aayog aims to bridge the gap between technological innovation and public service delivery.

# Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog's Mega Tinkering Day Creates History with Record Participation, Recognised by India Book and Asia Book of Records

Nwew Delhi, Oct 27 (GNS): The Hon'ble Prime Minister had launched the Atal Innovation Mission with the objective of inculcating a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship across India. Today, Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, is rated amongst the world's largest grassroots innovation movements and has achieved a historic milestone as its flagship initiative, Mega Tinkering Day 2025, entered the prestigious India Book of Records and Asia Book of Records. This is a new record for the maximum number of students participating in a tinkering activity in a single day. On August 12, 2025, 4,73,350 students from 9,467 Atal Tinkering Lab (ATL) schools came together to design a solution for Swachh Bharat and built their own DIY vacuum cleaners through a live, step-by-step instructional session streamed online.



The record was officially confirmed and formally announced on September 15, 2025, by both the India Book of Records and Asia Book of Records. This recognition stands as a testament to AIM's mission of fostering innovation and scientific temperament among India's youth at an unprecedented scale.

Speaking on the occasion, Deepak Bagla, Mission Director, Atal Innovation Mission, said: "This initiative is in line with the Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision of Viksit Bharat, where innovation and youth power form the bedrock of India's growth story. The future of India is being built in our classrooms, and through Atal Tinkering Labs, we are equipping students not only with technical skills but also with the mindset to dream big, think differently, and solve real-world challenges." He added that "Mega Tinkering Day is not just a record—it is a movement. It represents the collective energy of our young innovators who, from the remotest corners of the country to its bustling cities, came together to learn, create, and collaborate. No other country in the world has mobilised innovation at this scale within its school ecosystem. This record demonstrates that when you provide the right tools, mentorship, inspiration and leadership, India's children are capable of reshaping the world of tomorrow."

Mega Tinkering Day 2025 reached schools in every corner of India, including frontier regions of Leh, Ladakh, Kargil, and Kashmir, aspirational districts such as Virudhunagar, the North-Eastern states of Manipur, Mizoram, and Arunachal Pradesh, and distant geographies like Kanniyakumari in the South and Bhuj in the West. The scale of participation underscored AIM's ability to transcend geographic and infrastructural barriers, uniting students in a shared journey of discovery and innovation.

Since its inception, Atal Innovation Mission has established over 10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs across India, creating a nation-wide network of spaces where students get hands-on exposure to technologies such as 3D printing, robotics, Internet of Things (IoT), and electronics. These labs are designed to nurture problem-solving, design thinking, and entrepreneurial spirit among students, preparing them to be the innovators of tomorrow.

AIM officials said the achievement highlights the growing role of experiential learning in India's education system, encouraging students to move beyond classroom theory and apply scientific concepts to practical challenges. Through initiatives such as Mega Tinkering Day, students are introduced to teamwork, creativity and hands-on problem-solving from an early age. The mission aims to further expand access to innovation facilities, mentorship and emerging technologies, enabling young learners from diverse backgrounds to develop solutions that address community needs and contribute to the country's innovation-driven growth.

# 'National Agriculture Conference Rabi Abhiyan 2025' begins

Nwew Delhi, Oct 27 (GNS): The two-day 'National Agriculture Conference – Rabi Abhiyan 2025', organised by the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare began today at Pusa, New Delhi. The theme of the conference — 'One Nation – One Agriculture – One Team' — is a significant step towards promoting coordinated efforts and partnerships in the agricultural sector. The Rabi Conference is being organised as a two-day event for the first time on the initiative of Union Agriculture Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan. Addressing the conference on the first day, Shri Shivraj Singh said that there will be no shortage of food grains, fruits, or vegetables in the country and that India will be made the food basket of the world. The Union Minister offered guidance in his interaction with senior agriculture officials from across the country.

Chouhan said that agriculture in the country is growing at 3.7 percent, the highest in the world, thanks to the hard work of our farmers and scientists, and the government's farmer-friendly policies. Shivraj Singh emphasised that the Centre and the states are united, and for our nation, our people, and our farmers, we will continue working together with full strength as their welfare is paramount. "We are fortunate to have the responsibility of transforming India's agricultural landscape. We are not ordinary people; we are those who shape the destiny of half of the nation's population. We must work with great diligence. Our true concern is the farmer and their upliftment," he said.

Speaking on the issue of spurious fertilisers, seeds, and pesticides, Shivraj Singh said that strict action will be taken against the culprits and added that that only bio stimulants (plant growth enhancers) that meet all standards and benchmarks will now be allowed for sale. "We will not allow farmers to be exploited. Agricultural extension work is extremely important; together with the Central Government, all state agriculture departments, agricultural universities, Krishi Vigyan Kendras.

# Telangana, Maharashtra to form joint panel on Tummidihatti barrage



Hyderabad, Oct 27 (GNS): A Telangana delegation led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy met Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis at Sahyadri State Guest House in Mumbai. Telangana Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, the Chief Secretaries of both states and senior officials of the Irrigation Departments participated in the meeting.

The two sides held detailed discussions on the construction of the Tummidihatti Barrage across the Pranahita River on the Telangana–Maharashtra border, including the proposed enhancement of the barrage height, water availability, submergence implications and other technical aspects. Presentation by Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy At the beginning of the meeting, Telangana Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy made a detailed presentation highlighting the historical significance, cultural heritage, social conditions and economic backwardness of the erstwhile Adilabad district.

He explained that the region, despite its rich history and cultural heritage, had remained economically backward for decades.

He highlighted how the tribal and Adivasi communities had been deprived of development opportunities and how the resulting socio-economic conditions contributed to several challenges, including the emergence of Naxalism in the region. The Minister recalled that efforts to provide irrigation facilities to the region had been continuing since October 6, 1975. Despite several initiatives, proposals and discussions over the past five decades, the long-standing aspirations of the people had remained largely unfulfilled. He explained why the 2016 agreement, which provided for a barrage height of 148 metres, would not adequately address the irrigation requirements of the region. The Minister emphasised that the present challenges relating to energy requirements, power costs, environmental concerns, climate change and long-term operational sustainability made it necessary to explore solutions that maximise the use of gravity for water conveyance. Against this background, he presented the technical and operational advantages of constructing the Tummidihatti Barrage at a height of 152 metres, describing it as the most viable solution for meeting the region's water requirements.

The Minister further conveyed that the Government of Telangana was willing to compensate farmers in Maharashtra for agricultural land affected by submergence, in accordance with the land acquisition guidelines and compensation policies applicable in Maharashtra. Chief Minister Revanth Reddy Highlights the Region's Historical and Strategic Importance Following the presentation, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy highlighted the historical, cultural and social bonds between Telangana and Maharashtra, including their shared heritage connected with the erstwhile Hyderabad State.

He drew attention to the long-standing problems faced by tribal and Adivasi communities in the forested and economically backward Adilabad region.

Referring to the historic Jal, Jangal, Zameen struggle led by tribal leader Komaram Bheem, the Chief Minister explained the decades-long aspirations of the people for access to irrigation and drinking water.

## Congress holds preparatory meeting in Secunderabad for 'Vote Bachao, Desh Bachao' Protest in Delhi



Hyderabad, Oct 27 (GNS): The Secunderabad District Congress Committee (DCC) organised a preparatory meeting in the Cantonment constituency ahead of the massive "Vote Bachao, Desh Bachao" protest scheduled to be held in Delhi on November 1. The meeting was attended by Hyderabad Incharge Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, AICC General Secretary Avinash Pandey, AICC In-charge Secretary Sachin Sawant, Rajya Sabha MP Anil Kumar Yadav, Cantonment MLA Sri Ganesh, Secunderabad DCC President Deepak John and constituency in-charges from across the Secunderabad district. Addressing the gathering, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar thanked Avinash Pandey for supporting the Telangana State Formation Bill in the Rajya Sabha. He said the Congress party had played a key role in securing India's independence and safeguarding the Constitution and democracy.

The minister alleged that the BJP was attempting to undermine the Constitution and claimed that irregularities were taking place in the electoral roll revision process. He alleged that votes belonging to SCs, STs, BCs and minority communities were being removed unlawfully. He also accused the Election Commission of acting in favour of the BJP. These allegations were made by the minister during the meeting.

Ponnam Prabhakar called on Congress leaders and workers across Telangana to strengthen the campaign under the slogans "Vote Bachao, Desh Bachao" and "Vote Chori, Gaddi Chhodo." He urged party workers to take the movement to every locality in Secunderabad and mobilise public support.

## Minister Ponguleti Assures House Sites for Eligible Sangareddy Journalists



Hyderabad, Oct 27 (GNS): Telangana Union of Working Journalists (TUWJ-IJ U) Sangareddy district unit has urged Revenue, Housing and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy to allot house sites to all eligible journalists in the district, issue health cards to journalists and their families, and provide accreditation cards to those who are still waiting. The union leaders submitted a representation to the minister on Tuesday following a review meeting of the erstwhile undivided district held at the Zilla Parishad in Sangareddy under his leadership.

TUWJ-IJ U Sangareddy district president Bandaru Yadagiri said that despite the Congress government nearing three years in office, several long-pending issues concerning journalists remained unresolved. He urged the government to identify all eligible journalists and allot house sites without further delay.

Yadagiri also highlighted the difficulties faced by poor journalists and their families due to the non-issuance of health cards. He said the cards were essential to ensure access to cashless medical treatment and appealed to the government to fulfil its promise of providing healthcare benefits to journalists and their families. The union further requested the immediate issuance of accreditation cards to all eligible journalists who had not yet received them. Responding positively to the representation, Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy assured the delegation that house sites would be provided to eligible journalists in Sangareddy district.

## CS Reviews Preparations for Invest Telangana Roadshow in New Delhi



Hyderabad, Oct 27 (GNS): Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju on Tuesday reviewed arrangements for the Invest Telangana Curtain-Raiser and Roadshow scheduled to be held in New Delhi on October 29, as part of the Telangana Rising Global Summit 2026. During a meeting with senior officials at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat, the Chief Secretary assessed the preparations and emphasised the importance of presenting Telangana as a leading destination for domestic and international investments.

The roadshow aims to highlight the state's competitive advantages, investment-ready opportunities and industrial potential. It is expected to facilitate strategic partnerships, attract major investments, generate employment and accelerate economic growth.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, state ministers, ambassadors, heads of leading companies and other distinguished dignitaries are expected to attend the programme.

## Cyberabad CP directs hassle-free road works at Khajaguda Junction



Hyderabad, Oct 27 (GNS): Cyberabad Police Commissioner Dr. M. Ramesh visited Khajaguda junction under Raidurgam Police Station limits and reviewed the progress of the ongoing road works at the ground level.

In view of the ongoing flyover construction works in the Raidurgam area, discussions were held with Police officers, GHMC, and Electricity Department officials on the measures to be taken to avoid any traffic disruption. The officers reviewed the laying of pipelines related to the underpass construction, shifting of power lines, and other technical aspects.

Along with senior officers, the CP inspected the manikonda GHMC Committee Hall, which has been identified as a suitable location for temporarily setting up the Raidurgam Police Station. Discussions were held with the concerned officials on where setting up the temporary police station would be convenient for the public and police personnel.

## Ranga Reddy JAC Seeks 24% HRA

Ranga Reddy, Oct 27 (GNS): Ranga Reddy District Employees' JAC Chairman Utu Yashwanth and Convener Dr. K. Rama Rao have requested the District Collector to submit proposals to the government for the sanction of 24% House Rent Allowance (HRA) for employees working in offices located within an 8 km radius of the GHMC limits. The Employees' Joint Action Committee (JAC) has appealed to the Ranga Reddy District Collector and District Magistrate to examine the matter of granting a 24% House Rent Allowance (HRA) to employees working within an 8 km radius of the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) limits and to submit proposals to the government seeking approval from the Finance Department.

It is noted in relevant official records that the District Collector and District Magistrate had previously granted permission to extend the 24% HRA to employees working within an 8 km radius of the GHMC. However, subsequent government directives have instructed the Director of Treasuries and Accounts, the Director of State Audit, and Pay and Accounts Officers that no increases or revisions to House Rent Allowance (HRA), City Compensatory Allowance (CCA), or other allowances are permitted without specific government orders.

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India's Leading Education Programme For Youth & Underprivileged
At: MREI Campus, Faridabad

In Association with pnb BSE
Venue Partner MANAV RACHNA EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, FARIDABAD CAMPUS

Friday, October 30th 2026 at 10.00 am

About the Programme

10:00 am to 12:30 pm
The audience will be assembled and seated in the auditorium.
The program will commence with the national anthem and felicitation of all the guests on the stage.
Welcome speech by the **Dr. N.C. Wadhwa.**
Inaugural address by **Mr. Zafar Sareshwala.**
Words of wisdom by **Dr. Faruk Patel.**
Each distinguished Guests on stage will address the audience.
Keynote address by **Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar.**
Vote of thanks by **Dr. Swati Singh** to the all the guests & audience.

Workshops

12:30 pm to 02:00 pm
**Workshop on Entrepreneurship** by Ms. Sujatha Kshirsagar, President CL Educate / CEO TalEvate, with over 30 years of Experience in Technology and Entrepreneurship.
**Workshop on Entrepreneurship and Validation of Ideas** by Mr. Viren Rana, CEO Nimbus Pay Technologies Inc Freemont California, (California based Serial Entrepreneur Technology Veteran & Passionate Investor).

02:15 pm to 02:45 pm
Lunch Break

02:45 pm to 06:30 pm
**Workshop on Capital Markets and Raising Capital** by Ms. Riya Kathuria, Company Secretary over 15 years of Experience in Capital Market Education at the BSE.
**Workshop on Financial Literacy & Banking** by Ms. Preeti Jha, Chief Learning Officer, Punjab National Bank .

End of Programme

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Women's Workshop on
MACRAMÉ WORK & SOAP MAKING
By Asiya Sareshwala
Learn to Make Macramé Products & Soaps from Scratch



Venue
MREI Campus, Plot-B, Surajkund Road,
Gadakhor Basti Village, Sector-43, Faridabad, Haryana-121010.

Date & Time
Friday, October 30th 2026 From 12:30 to 05:00 pm

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Chief Guest
Shri Krishan Pal Gurjar
Hon'ble Minister of State Co-Operation, Government of India.

Special Guest
Dr. Faruk Patel
CMD, K.P. Group of Companies.

Guest of Honour
Dr. K.P. Mahadevaswamy
CMD, National Building Construction Company Ltd. (NBCC)

Mr. Rajnish Kumar
Former CMD State Bank of India.

Dr. N.C. Wadhwa
Director General, Manav Rachna Educational Institutions.

Guest of Honour
Mr. Viren Rana
CEO, Nimbus Pay Technologies, San Francisco.

Ms. Shivangi Thakur
Deputy News Editor, Republic Network.

Presided by
Mr. Zafar Sareshwala
Former Chancellor, Maulana Azad Urdu University

Venue
MREI Campus, Plot-B, Surajkund Road,
Gadakhor Basti Village, Sector-43, Faridabad, Haryana-121010.

Date & Time
Friday, October 30th 2026 at 10.00 am

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