

# Opposition parties to protest over voter list row

New Delhi, Oct 2 (GNS): Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders and workers, who were among the detainees, said: "Indians got the right to vote when millions of freedom fighters sacrificed their lives to win independence for the country. Babasaheb Ambedkar gave us the right to vote," while accusing the BJP-led Centre of attempting to take away the right to vote, "through Gyanesh Kumar". "No FIR is being registered against Gyanesh Kumar over vote theft, but those protesting to demand his resignation are being brutally picked



up and taken to police stations. But we are not afraid of the police. The fight for democracy will continue," she asserted. AAP spokesperson Anurag Dhanda, who was also detained, echoed a similar view.

"We are simply demanding that democracy should not be destroyed. We were saying that people should have the right to vote. Gyanesh Kumar took away the right to vote and commit-

ted vote theft, yet the vote thief is not being put in jail. Instead, they brought us here and made us sit at the police station. This is a complete dictatorship of the Modi government," he told.

Meanwhile, several other AAP leaders, including the party's Delhi chief Saurabh Bharadwaj and MLA Jarnail Singh, took part in a protest march in the national capital. Talking to Bharadwaj cited agitations across the coun-

try by all age groups, demanding the resignation of the CEC.

"Various political parties, social organisations, youth groups, student unions, and students from colleges and universities are protesting across the country to save the country — to protect the country's democracy. So, Gyanesh Kumar will have to be removed, reforms must be made in the Election Commission, and the irregularities in the SIR must

be rolled back. This is the only solution, and the government will have to accept it," he said.

Jarnail Singh added: "The two fellow Election Commissioners have exposed the CEC. As long as we were saying it, it could have been termed as allegations, but now their crime has been proven. Gyanesh Kumar should face a case of treason, be arrested, and be dismissed immediately for deleting votes to help the BJP"



"The country won't accept this kind of hooliganism," he told. AAP MLA Sanjeev Jha accused the BJP and Gyanesh Kumar of "conspiring to end democracy".

"A case of treason and betrayal against the country's democracy should be filed against Gyanesh Kumar, and he should be immediately locked up in jail," he added. New Delhi: Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leaders and workers, who were detained during a pro-

test at the national capital's Jantar Mantar on Friday and were brought to the Fatehpur Beri Police Station in south Delhi, asserted that they were "not afraid of the police" while demanding Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's resignation. The Opposition's "vote theft" allegations against Gyanesh Kumar gained momentum following a media report claiming differences within the poll panel.

## RS 734 CRORE GST SCAM

### Jharkhand businessman, son arrested by ED sent to judicial custody

Ranchi, Oct 2 (GNS): A Special PMLA Court sent a Jamshedpur businessman and his son to judicial custody after they were arrested by the ED in a case related to a GST fraud involving approximately Rs 734 crore, said an official on Friday.

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) arrested Gyanchand Jaiswal, alias Bablu Jaiswal, and his son, Raj Jaiswal, in connection with the GST fraud on September 30, an official said.

The ED interrogated the two arrested accused to gather information about the alleged fraudulent GST transactions and the associated money flow before producing them before the Special Court for custody proceedings on Thursday, an official said in a statement.

They were arrested after the ED raided several locations in Jamshedpur, Adityapur, Gamharia, and Kolkata. After conducting medical



examinations, the ED team brought them to Ranchi.

The ED said that this case involves the alleged use of fake invoices to obtain input tax credit (ITC) without any actual purchase or sale of goods. The agency is also investigating transactions made through shell companies and the associated money flow. During Wednesday's operation, the ED searched premises linked to Gyanchand Jaiswal, as well as the premises of his auditor, Sanjay Parekh, and other

individuals, officials said.

They further mentioned that the investigating team examined business documents, GST-related records, banking and financial transaction documents, and electronic devices.

This ED action was taken under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), officials said. The investigating agency suspects that large-scale misuse of ITC was allegedly carried out through shell companies and paper transactions.

### Pilot body writes to PMO seeking National bravery award for flydubai pilot Smit

New Delhi, Oct 2 (GNS): The Federation of Indian Pilots (FIP) has urged the Prime Minister's Office to consider Captain Smit Machchhar, the Indian pilot of Flydubai Flight FZ1073, for an appropriate national bravery award for his conduct during the mid-air emergency in which reportedly 182 people were on board. In a representation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday, FIP President Captain C.S. Randhawa said Machchhar demonstrated exceptional courage and professional conduct after being seriously injured during an altercation with the first officer pilot while the Dubai-Tel Aviv flight was in the air on September 30.

The federation said the Captain continued to perform his responsibilities as Pilot-in-Command despite the threat and his injuries, and that the aircraft was subsequently diverted to Tabuk in Saudi Arabia, where it made an emergency land-



ing. FIP described the incident as an "extraordinarily dangerous situation" in the flight deck and said Machchhar's actions should be considered for national recognition after verification by the competent authorities.

"Captain Smit's actions under circumstances of extreme personal danger contributed to bringing the aircraft safely to an alternate airport," the representation said. The FIP representation said Machchhar was reportedly attacked by the first officer pilot with a crash axe and sustained serious injuries. The aircraft, carrying 174 passengers and eight

crew members, experienced a sharp descent during the incident before the situation was brought under control.

Machchhar managed to open the cockpit door, allowing passengers and crew to intervene, after which the flight was diverted and landed safely in Tabuk. He was subsequently shifted to Abu Dhabi for continued medical treatment.

The FIP said the significance of Machchhar's conduct lay in the responsibility placed on the flight crew while the passengers and other crew members had no control over events unfolding in the cockpit.

### 28 lakh locations added to survey of India map

Leh, Oct 2 (GNS): In order to recognise their geographical significance and for awareness of the general public about their exact location, the Centre has identified 28 places/locations in Ladakh by standard place and feature names on the official map of the Survey of India. "Government of India, in consultation with the Union Territory of Ladakh, has identified a total of twenty-eight (28) places/features, located in the UT of Ladakh, by standard place and feature names on the official map of the Survey of India (SoI)," an official statement said. "Identifying them formally on the Survey of India map of UT of Ladakh is aimed at facilitating their accurate recognition and better awareness among the public at large."

These 28 places/features so identified on the Survey of India map of the Union Territory of Ladakh, are

Atisha Giri Peak, Brangsa Land area, Chapchinal, Kanishka Peak, Karun Pir Mountain, Kuksel Land area, Martand Gir Peak, Parpik Glacier, Skamri Glacier, Shachmirk Pass, Shkorga Valley, Zorawar Peak, Dehra Compass Land area, Drak Karpo Mountain, Gogra Land area, Jolmori Mountain, Kumarayana Point Land area, Panglung Land area, Rinchen Zangpo Peak, Sakyasri Giri Peak, Guru Rinpoche Lake, Shamal Lungpa Land area, River, Hot Spring Water body, Marpa Lotsava Ri Peak, Milarepa Kangri Peak, and Maheshvara Ri Peak.

Identifying and standardising places or geographical features on the official map of the Survey of India carries significant administrative, strategic, and legal value. It establishes an official, uniform name for peaks, passes, rivers, glaciers, and land areas.

### Two Pakistani intruders shot dead by BSF in Punjab

Chandigarh, Oct 2 (GNS): Two suspected Pakistani intruders were shot dead as Border Security Force (BSF) troops foiled an infiltration attempt along the India-Pakistan International Border in Punjab's Tarn Taran sector on Friday.

According to preliminary reports, the suspected intruders were attempting to cross into Indian territory when BSF personnel sought to warn them. The troops reportedly challenged them before opening fire. Both suspects were killed in the firing, officials said.

Further details regarding the identities of the deceased, the circumstances leading to the firing and any material recovered from the site were not immediately available. The incident comes amid continued security concerns along Punjab's 553-km-long international border with Pakistan, which has witnessed several infiltration and cross-border smuggling attempts in recent

years. Meanwhile, Punjab Police dismantled two illegal arms and narcotics supply networks and apprehended four accused and recovered 10 kg of heroin and 10 pistols.

Preliminary investigation revealed that the accused are allegedly linked to foreign-based smugglers and are involved in procuring illegal weapons and narcotics, Director General of Police Gaurav Yadav said.

Two first information reports (FIRs) were registered in Amritsar. Further investigation is underway to uncover the complete network and establish the backward and forward linkages, he added. In a related earlier development, Amritsar Rural Police had dismantled an illegal arms and narcotics supply network with the arrest of three people, comprising a woman, her husband and her brother. The police had recovered 10,030 kg of heroin, two sophisticated assault rifles.

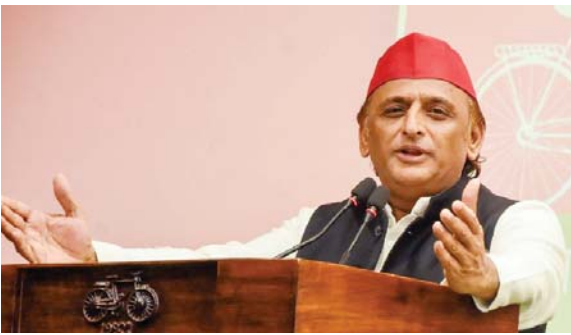
## 'OPPORTUNITY TO FORGET PAST MISTAKES'

### SP chief welcomes those willing to defeat BJP

Lucknow, Oct 2 (GNS): Samajwadi Party (SP) President Akhilesh Yadav on Friday said he would welcome leaders from rival camps, willing to join the opposition's efforts to defeat the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), into his party, saying that elections are a time to "forget past mistakes".

Interacting with reporters here, the SP chief said: "This is the time for Rajya Sabha elections, and elections are a time for coming together. It offers an opportunity to forget past mistakes, stand with others, and stand up for principles."

"If anyone feels that our democracy, our Constitution, and our country's economy are under attack, due to rising inflation, E20 being blended into petrol — if they believe these are wrong decisions (by the Centre), then...it is a time to come together before the Rajya Sabha and



(Assembly) elections. That is why we should forget all bitterness during this time," he added.

"Those who have been deviated from their path, those of our friends who want to join us...we will forget everything that took place in the past."

Akhilesh Yadav also came out in support of the INDIA bloc's proposed 'Save Democracy' march even as the BJP-led NDA continues to criticise him for skipping the opposition alliance's recent meeting in New Delhi.

"Everyone should unite

to 'Save Democracy'. Together, we must come forward to save this beautiful country, its rich history of democracy, and our Constitution," he said.

He also launched an attack on Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath-led government over flooding issues being faced by those residing in areas near the Gomti River.

"I am saddened by the fact that many families living along the banks of the Gomti River are facing a crisis. There has been waterlogging in the area for months.

### India emerged as trusted voice for global peace under PM Modi, says Amit Shah

New Delhi, Oct 2 (GNS): Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Friday said India has emerged as a "trusted voice for global peace" under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, citing Russian President Vladimir Putin's appreciation of the Indian leader's efforts to help end the Ukraine conflict.

HM Shah, in a post on X, said Putin's appreciation of PM Modi's persistent efforts towards global peace was a matter of pride for every Indian. He noted that Putin's remarks came on the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, who, he said, gave the world the message of peace and non-violence. "The Russian President Shri Vladimir Putin's appreciation of PM Shri @narendramodi Ji's tireless efforts towards global peace brings immense pride to every Indian," Shah said.

He added that Putin's statement, coinciding with



Gandhi Jayanti, demonstrated that India, under PM Modi's leadership, has emerged as a trusted voice for global peace.

HM Shah said that during periods marked by wars, conflicts and turbulence, PM Modi has consistently conveyed the message that solutions do not emerge from battlefields but through dialogue and diplomacy.

"During periods marked by wars, conflicts and turbulence, Modi Ji has conveyed the message that solutions do not emerge from battlefields but through

dialogue and diplomacy. India, under the leadership of Modi Ji, has always stepped forward with help and assistance, whether in situations of war or calamity, giving a new recognition to our timeless tradition of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam'," he said.

Putin had praised PM Modi's persistent efforts to help bring an end to the Ukraine conflict, saying that the Indian Prime Minister has consistently raised the issue during their meetings and offered ideas aimed at finding a mutually acceptable solution.

# Tightrope walk for India on Chabahar

**P Stobdan**

INDIA's Chabahar initiative has finally faltered after US President Donald Trump's recent warning of additional tariffs on countries doing trade with Iran. The US annulled the 2018 sanctions waiver for the Chabahar port in September last year, but granted exemption to India till April 26, 2026, putting New Delhi's long-term agreement for the Shahid Beheshti terminal at risk.

Post-Soviet efforts by India to access Afghanistan and Central Asia included the Sarakhs railway project in 1996-97 and the Chabahar project, which was first proposed by New Delhi and Tehran in 2002. The initiative, however, lacked feasibility and relied solely on Chabahar's proximity to the Indian Ocean, Afghanistan and Central Asia.

Despite the sanctions on Iran, then Prime Minister Manmohan Singh expedited the project, aimed at establishing India's foothold in Afghanistan, reducing Kabul's reliance on Pakistan and supporting the Ashraf Ghani government against the Taliban with \$2 billion invested since 2001. Chabahar was set to lower shipping costs and times, and boost trade with Iran, Afghanistan and Central Asia, while connecting to the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) and countering China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) as well as the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

In 2016, amid improved US-Iran relations post-JCPOA (Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action), Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Tehran; he secured a transit agreement and committed \$500 million to the Chabahar port to enhance Eurasian ties. India's decision again emphasised geopolitical benefits with Eurasia over a realistic assessment of US and Iran



strategies.

In 2017, Iran opened the Shahid Beheshti terminal, funded by an \$85-million Indian investment, enabling India's shipments to Afghanistan. In 2018, despite limited regional support due to US sanctions, India received a waiver under the Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act, allowing port work without penalties; this emphasised shared US-India interests in stabilising Afghanistan and countering China.

In 2018, India sought to join the TIR (Transports Internationaux Routiers) Convention and the Ashgabat Agreement, but faced limited regional support due to concerns over US sanctions. These developments led to India Ports Global Ltd (IPGL) signing a 10-year \$370-million deal with Iran to manage the Shahid Beheshti terminal and enhance the regional trade route to Central Asia, linking to Afghan cities through the India-built Zaranj road and facilitating access to Turkmenistan and Kazakhstan by developing a rail line from Chabahar to Zahedan.

More than a year after India finalised the Chabahar port contract in May 2024, the US revoked the sanctions waiver, cautioning nations about dealing with Iran. India ignored the warnings, with External Af-

fairs Minister S Jaishankar promoting the regional benefits of Chabahar and leveraging US narratives on democracy and anti-China sentiment while appealing to Iran's cultural ties with India.

Things didn't go as planned. India overlooked shifting US views on Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan, missing implications beyond the India-US partnership. New Delhi also didn't realise that Tehran's Chabahar plan aimed to counter American sanctions and stabilise Sistan-Baluchestan. Indian policymakers did not fully appreciate Iran's capacity for disruption; they laid too much emphasis on cultural connections and ignored Tehran's strategic balancing that complicated India's position. After the terminal's inauguration, then Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif travelled to Islamabad and suggested collaboration on Chabahar and the CPEC with Pakistan and China, alarming India, which aimed to bypass Pakistan.

America's crippling of India's Persian Gulf investments was expected, but it's puzzling that India transferred \$120 million to Iran despite warnings about the revival of US sanctions. Opposition leaders in India are accusing the government of yield-

ing to US pressure. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) claims that it is engaging with the US to protect India's interests. India may consider using local Iranian workers or forming an independent entity to manage the port and limit government liability. In the light of the interim trade agreement that lowers tariffs to 18%, India may reassess its involvement in the Chabahar port. The 2026-27 Union Budget has not earmarked funds for the port, in stark contrast to last year's Rs 400-crore allocation.

However, India has committed \$120 million to the Chabahar project without direct budgetary allocations, signalling a shift away from direct investment to avoid US sanctions. Iran is ready to collaborate and is watching how India addresses geopolitical challenges. Has the port project in Iran been concluded or just suspended due to geopolitical factors? India aims to maintain access to Afghanistan while navigating secondary US sanctions. The MEA's further negotiations with the US now depend on Iran's regime stability and nuclear stance. India's move is not a concession to Trump; the project was flawed from the start, with past governments overselling

its benefits and ignoring geopolitical realities.

Engaging with any Islamic regime poses risks as Central Asian nations don't view India as a viable energy partner. Since the Chabahar operation, India's trade with Eurasia remains stagnant; Central Asian countries prefer sea routes through Turkey, China or Russia. It's also a misconception that they want access to the Indian Ocean through Iran; they prefer land routes through China or traditional Russian ports.

Concerns about the BRI and the CPEC causing disruptions in the Gulf are exaggerated; Iran is wary of Chinese dominance.

However, India's delays in Chabahar led Iran to ally with China, which has invested significantly there. Frustrated by India's limited contributions and compliance with US sanctions, Iran fears China may control Chabahar near the Gwadar port.

The belief that Chabahar is the only western corridor should be re-evaluated as India's rationale for accessing Afghanistan and Central Asia through it is weak. While direct maritime access to Afghanistan and Central Asia would always remain an option, depending on the geopolitical barriers, India should explore more viable and reliable connectivity routes to the region. An example is the rise in trade between India and Russia through the INSTC, which shows the benefits of stable trade routes.

The Ukraine crisis is driving Eurasian states to seek Asian connectivity. Kazakhstan has already developed the Mundra port for access to the Indian Ocean. India should propose linking the Kandla port to Almaty and Kashgar, bypassing Pakistan. Improved connectivity via China can enhance India's access to Afghanistan and

# The wasted school tablets of Haryana

**V**JAYA Mulay, who died in 2019 at the age of 98, had greater faith in the potential of educational technology than I had, but she also had far more knowledge and technical experience, so I never questioned her faith. She was a celebrated producer and director of educational films for children. She was also a venerated administrator with hands-on experience of using different technologies.

When I requested her to chair the national focus group on educational technology in 2004, she produced a document of long-lasting value for the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT). She described India's schools as graveyards of technological equipment.

Her observation continues to find evidence in schools and colleges where unusable computers and tablets lie dumped with old radio and television sets waiting to receive official permission for disposal.

Mulay had seen several waves of enthusiasm for induction of communication technology in the school curriculum. From radio to satellite television, tape recorders and VCRs, they enjoyed seasonal popularity, guzzling scarce resources and giving uncertain results. If good things happened in a few schools, the official policy always insisted on upscaling, mostly leading to quick collapse and movement towards the next 'latest' toy. The emphasis was always on 'catching up' rather than consolidating the gains, with teacher confidence and autonomy.

Had Mulay been around today, The Tribune report (February 4) about thousands of unusable tablets in Kaithal and Karnal wouldn't have surprised her. These tablets, with pre-downloaded lessons, were distributed just four years ago across Haryana. For various reasons, they are now unusable and beyond repair. The report says that teachers are reverting to chalk and blackboard.

Even in the old days, when a school radio or TV developed a problem, the principal had to wait for months to get it repaired. Contingency money for minor work was always limited, and principals were never trusted to get anything done themselves. So, a leaky tap, a blocked toilet, a broken windowpane must wait.

It is not a pleasant afterthought that the humungous effort to equip schools with gadgets was all wasteful. It is still going on — in just as erratic a manner in which it had started — and a balanced approach shows no signs of emerging. Like all other polarities prevailing in our society, the polarity between techno-romantics and techno-sceptics has proved unbridgeable.

A modest effort to create a bridge was made at a conference organised by Panjab University a year ago. In the current state of blocked dialogue, policies swing from side to side. The Himachal government has realised that smartphones in children's hands disturb the school day, so an order has been issued to stop them from bringing their phones to school. How this order will be implemented is anybody's guess. Teachers receive orders all the time and they are expected to comply quickly. In Uttar Pradesh, an order was recently circulated through WhatsApp, asking headmasters to initiate newspaper reading on a daily basis. Where the headmaster will find funds for this otherwise laudable initiative is not yet clear. Also, the order conveys that both Hindi and English newspapers should be subscribed to. Given the state of English teaching in UP, teachers are rightly confused.

In private schools affiliated to the CBSE, uploading of school events is a regular activity, and principals continuously receive orders from the Board. As a teacher put it, teaching has become impossible. Mandatory use of digital technology now pervades all aspects of teachers' daily life. The news that Sweden, Denmark and France have recognised the folly of giving digital technology so big a space in school life and are now reverting to older ways will take a while to filter down to our decision-makers.

Mulay had seen it all, but she was not cynical in the least. She continued to believe that availability of good equipment could give children enjoyable opportunities to be creative. No one can argue that our schools offer plenty of such opportunities. I could never figure out the source of Mulay's undying hope that educational technology would one day find its proper use. She created one of the biggest collections of audio-visual material for classroom use. I can't think of a single school which uses it. Mulay was familiar with the systemic conditions which discourage long-term vision and effort for pedagogic change. Rushed action for immediate outcomes sucks all the energy of school-level staff. Their role is to obey and show subservience. A long-term vision for better use of educational technology should start with the basic needs and low-tech devices required to bring life into classroom teaching. A dozen pairs of binoculars, for example, would enable children to watch and study birds around the campus. A class of 40 children needs that many pairs of scissors to make cross-sections of stems and leaves to be studied under a magnifying glass. Official policy does not recognise binoculars and magnifying glasses as part of educational technology. The cost of such simple equipment would be a fraction of what a tablet costs.

And that may be the reason why there are no lobbyists for the availability of this kind of machinery. Tech companies and suppliers are actively involved in a decision to distribute tens of thousands of pre-loaded tablets. Bureaucrats and politicians play an active role in such a decision. The only person not involved is the teacher and the headmaster. They were not involved when radio sets were distributed in the 1960s, TV sets in the 1970s, VCRs in the 1980s. That equipment can still be found in the school graveyards in different parts of the country. Tablets will join them soon.

The real challenge, therefore, is not whether technology belongs in education, but whether its introduction is guided by educational purpose. A device becomes meaningful only when teachers know why it is being used, how it can improve learning and what alternatives are available when it fails. Procurement without such clarity merely shifts attention from teaching to equipment.

Technology also needs a maintenance system that matches the scale of investment. Schools cannot be expected to depend on distant departments for every broken charger, damaged screen or software problem. If teachers and principals are given modest funds and the authority to address routine repairs, expensive equipment is less likely to become obsolete while waiting for administrative approval.

There is also a need to distinguish between access to technology and meaningful use of technology. Giving every child a tablet may look like a dramatic achievement in an official report, but the number of devices distributed says little about what children actually learn from them. A functioning library, laboratory, playground and classroom may contribute more to learning than another digital device.

Teacher participation should be central to every technology programme. Teachers understand the pace of a classroom, the difficulties faced by individual children and the resources that are realistically usable. Policies designed without their participation often create additional paperwork and compliance requirements rather than improving classroom practice.

Another neglected issue is the sustainability of educational technology. Devices have short life cycles, batteries deteriorate, software becomes outdated and replacement parts become difficult to obtain. A school system that repeatedly buys new equipment without planning for repair, replacement and responsible disposal is effectively creating a recurring waste problem.

The emphasis should therefore shift from spectacular distribution drives to careful experimentation and evaluation. A few schools could test different technologies over several years, document their educational value and identify the conditions necessary for success. Only after such evidence is available should programmes be expanded on a large scale. Mulay's faith in technology need not be interpreted as a justification for endlessly buying gadgets. Her larger lesson may be that technology works best when it serves curiosity, creativity and good teaching. The future of educational technology will depend less on how many devices schools receive and more on whether teachers are given the freedom, resources

# Technology, power and China's strategic ambitions

**G Venkat Raman**

**I**N January 2026, China announced plans that appeared futuristic but are increasingly grounded in near-term feasibility. Its state-run space agency revealed proposals to build solar-powered data centres in space to support advanced artificial intelligence systems, alongside continued investments in space tourism and deep-space exploration. The announcement signalled intent rather than novelty: China aims to shape the next phase of technological development rather than merely narrowing existing gaps. These initiatives align with China's long-term objective of becoming a "world-leading space power" by 2045. They also reflect the broader elevation of aerospace and frontier technologies within Beijing's pursuit of technological self-reliance. Such announcements are no longer isolated. Instead, they point to a sustained pattern of China setting ambitious targets across emerging sectors and aligning state capacity to meet them.

China's technological acceleration should therefore be understood as strategic rather than incidental. Slowing economic growth, rising exposure to external pressure, and persistent concerns over dependence on foreign technologies have collectively pushed innovation to the centre of national policy. For India — pursuing atmanirbharta alongside manufacturing expansion and innovation-led growth — understanding the scale and coherence of China's approach has become increasingly important.



At its foundation, China's emphasis on indigenous innovation is driven by economic considerations. Avoiding the middle-income trap has become a central policy concern, reinforced by the belief that long-term growth cannot rely indefinitely on access to Western technologies or export markets. In response, China has prioritised movement up the value chain, focusing on advanced manufacturing, artificial intelligence, clean energy, and high-end industrial systems. Demographic trends reinforce this shift. As China's working-age population declines, productivity gains driven by technology gains driving have become essential for sustaining growth. Innovation, in this context, is less a market outcome and more a deliberate response to structural domestic constraints. This repositioning has important external implications. While India continues to expand its manufacturing base, China is moving towards more advanced

technological segments, widening differences in productivity and technological depth. At the same time, China's entry into frontier industries increasingly overlaps with India's own ambitions for technological self-reliance, intensifying competition in sectors such as semiconductors, electric-vehicle batteries and renewable energy technologies.

Economic motivations alone do not fully explain the intensity of China's technology push. Geopolitical considerations play a critical role. Heightened US-China strategic rivalry has underscored the national security risks associated with technological dependence, particularly in critical supply chains. Export controls on advanced semiconductors and policy initiatives such as the US CHIPS and Science Act have reinforced Beijing's perception of vulnerability.

Within this environment, innovation functions as strategic insurance. By indigenising key technologies and embed-

ding them within domestic ecosystems, China seeks to reduce exposure to external pressure and enhance resilience against potential disruption. Technological self-reliance is thus framed as both an economic and strategic necessity.

For India, these developments create a complex policy landscape. An era of technology decoupling and politicised interdependence between China and the US demands careful navigation. Access to platforms, standards and components is no longer governed solely by market dynamics, and overreliance on any single technological ecosystem carries long-term risks.

Preserving strategic autonomy will, therefore, require more than diversification; it will depend on building credible domestic technological capabilities.

China's technology strategy increasingly seeks to shape the structure of competition. Rather than competing only within existing markets, it aims to

influence how these markets evolve. By consolidating control over upstream capabilities — ranging from battery chemistry and power electronics to industrial machinery, data ecosystems, and software-hardware integration — China raises entry barriers for others. Manufacturing may be geographically dispersed, but control over critical technologies remains concentrated.

For India, the challenge is less about immediate dependence and more about the risk of long-term lock-in. Access to low-cost Chinese technologies can deliver short-term efficiencies but may also create vulnerabilities through standards dependence, supply-chain concentration, and reduced strategic flexibility. In this context, caution reflects pragmatic risk assessment rather than ideology. China's innovation strategy also extends into the security domain. As its innovation ecosystem deepens, Beijing has expanded the integration of civilian technological advances with defence applications.

Developments in artificial intelligence, unmanned systems, communications and data analytics serve commercial markets while simultaneously enhancing military capabilities. Institutional coordination enables rapid diffusion of dual-use technologies.

China's trajectory sharpens the focus on India's own innovation choices. India possesses significant strengths: a large STEM workforce, globally recognised digital public infrastructure, a dynamic start-up ecosystem and a competitive IT services sector.

# Ocean Science Event Held at NIOT's Atal Centre in Port Blair

New Delhi, Oct 2 (GNS): Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, and MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said this today while on a visit to the Atal Centre for Ocean Science and Technology for Islands (ACOSTI) to launch and review key marine technology initiatives aimed at strengthening the Blue Economy and livelihoods in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands. Addressing scientists, officials and stakeholders on the occasion, the Minister said India's future economic value addition will increasingly come from untapped marine resources as the country moves rapidly towards becoming one of the world's top economies. He highlighted that Government's strong focus on the Blue



Economy reflects Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision that India cannot develop in isolation by focusing only on the mainland while leaving behind island territories and coastal regions.

The event was held at Atal Centre for Ocean Science and Technology for Islands, a unit of National Institute of Ocean Technology, under

the Ministry of Earth Sciences, at Dollygunj, Sri Vijaya Puram (Port Blair). The programme was attended by Shri Bishnu Pada Ray, Hon'ble Member of Parliament from Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Dr. M. Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, senior officials of the Andaman & Nicobar Administration, sci-

entists from NIOT and other research institutions, and representatives from local departments and Self-Help Groups.

Praising the consistent and energetic representation of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands in Parliament, the Minister said that sustained advocacy has ensured that national attention and

resources are directed towards island development. He recalled that since 2014, the Prime Minister has given the highest priority to the North Eastern region and island territories, a shift that is now clearly visible in the scale of scientific, administrative, and ministerial engagement in the region.

Referring to the Deep Ocean Mission, Dr. Jitendra Singh said it was a matter of pride that the Prime Minister announced the mission not once but twice from the ramparts of the Red Fort, underscoring India's commitment to the Blue Economy. He highlighted that marine resources, long under-explored, will play a decisive role in sustaining India's growth trajectory as conventional resources get exhausted. The Blue Economy, he said, will significantly contribute to employment generation, exports, en-

vironmental sustainability, and overall economic resilience. The Minister highlighted key initiatives launched and demonstrated during the programme, including the pilot-scale open sea cage culture of marine fish and large-scale seaweed cultivation.

What schools need is not another race to acquire the newest technology, but a dependable system that connects equipment with curriculum, teacher training and maintenance. Before any device is purchased, officials should ask how it will be used, who will maintain it and what educational problem it is expected to solve. The experience of discarded gadgets offers a simple lesson: educational technology should be judged by its usefulness in the classroom, not by the number of devices distributed. Giving teachers greater autonomy.

# ICGS Sankalp Visits Port Louis, Mauritius



New Delhi, Oct 2 (GNS): Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Sankalp, an Offshore Patrol Vessel, arrived at Port Louis, Mauritius on January 17, 2026 as part of its ongoing Overseas Deployment to Friendly Foreign Countries in the Indian Ocean Region. The visit reflects India's continued commitment to strengthening maritime cooperation, enhancing interoperability and further deepening bilateral ties with Mauritius.

The deployment is in line with India's maritime vision of SAGAR - Security and Growth for All in the Region- which seeks to promote regional maritime safety, security and environmental protection. In keeping with the Indian Coast Guard's emphasis on gender inclusivity in maritime operations, two women officers are embarked onboard ICGS Sankalp, underscoring their expanding role in the service and India's commitment to women empowerment in the maritime domain.

During its stay at Port Louis, the ship will undertake a series of professional interactions with the National Coast Guard of Mauritius and other maritime agencies of Mauritius. These interactions

are aimed at sharing best practices and strengthening cooperation in key operational domains.

A comprehensive training programme has been planned, including sea and harbour drills, oil pollution response exercises, damage control (NBCD) exercises, as well as firefighting drills. The training activities will also include Visit, Board, Search and Seizure (VBCC) joint training, navigation bridge and Machinery Control Room (MCR) integration drills to enhance operational coordination and readiness. In addition to operational engagements, the port call will feature friendly sports fixtures and cultural exchanges to promote camaraderie and people-to-people connect.

The crew will also participate in community service activities, reflecting India's approach of constructive outreach and goodwill. The visit will further provide an opportunity to showcase India's indigenous ship-building capabilities, supporting the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat. The visit of ICGS Sankalp reinforces India's role as a reliable maritime partner in the Indian Ocean Region and highlights the Indian Coast Guard's.

# India has world's lowest data costs, highest data usage: Scindia

New Delhi, Oct 2 (GNS): Union Communications Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia on Saturday said that India now has world's lowest data costs and highest data usage, driven by robust digital infrastructure. There are more than 120 crore mobile users in the country and the 4G network is expected to reach every village by June this year.

"World's lowest data costs, world's leading data usage India's digital revolution led by PM Narendra Modi is truly built for its people," the minister posted on X social media platform. BSNL has installed a total of 97,068 4G sites, and 93,511 sites are 'On-Air' (till October 31, 2025). The state-run telecom operation aims to upgrade all 4G towers to 5G within the next few months. Meanwhile, the 5G services have been rolled out in all states and union territories (UTs) across the country and presently, these are available in 99.9 per cent of the districts. As on October 31, telecom service providers (TSPs) have installed 5.08 lakh 5G Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) across rural and urban area of the country.

More than 31 lakh Base Transceiver Stations (BTSs) have been installed across the country. To reduce call drops and improve internet connectivity in underserved areas, the government has taken several initiatives, like Bharat-Net project for providing broadband connectivity in Gram Panchayats (GPs) and villages , scheme for providing mobile services in Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas and in Aspirational Districts, 4G Saturation scheme to provide 4G mobile coverage in all uncovered villages and launch of GatiShakti.

# GRAP Stage-IV Curbs: BS-IV Diesel HGVs Banned in Delhi, C&D Works Halted

New Delhi, Oct 2 (GNS): Today, Delhi's daily average AQI clocked 400 at 4PM, as per the Daily AQI Bulletin by Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), which further rose to 428 today at 8PM. In view of the rising trend in AQI owing to Western Disturbance, calm winds and highly unfavourable weather/ meteorological conditions in the region, the Sub-Committee on Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) of the Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) called on an urgent meeting today in the evening.

Keeping in view the prevailing trend of air quality and in an effort to prevent further deterioration of air quality in the region, the Sub-Committee on GRAP today has taken the call to proactively invoke all ac-



tions as envisaged under Stage-IV of extant GRAP - 'Severe+' Air Quality (Delhi's AQI > 450), with immediate effect in the entire NCR. This is in addition to the preventive/ restrictive actions mentioned under Stage-I, II and III of extant GRAP already in-force. Various agencies responsible for implementing measures under GRAP and Pollution Control Boards (PCBs) of

NCR and DPCC have also been advised to ensure strict implementation of actions under Stage-IV of extant schedule of GRAP in addition to all actions under Stage-I, II, III of extant GRAP already in force, during this period.

A 5-point action plan as per Stage-IV of extant GRAP is applicable with immediate effect in the entire NCR. This 5-point action plan

includes steps to be implemented/ ensured by different agencies and Pollution Control Boards of NCR and DPCC. These steps are: Stop entry of BS-IV truck traffic into Delhi (except for trucks carrying essential commodities/ providing essential services.)

All LNG/ CNG / Electric/ BS-VI Diesel trucks shall however be permitted to enter Delhi. Enforce strict ban on plying of Delhi - registered diesel operated BS-IV and below Heavy Goods Vehicles (HGVs) in Delhi, except those carrying essential commodities / providing essential services. Ban C&D activities, as in the GRAP Stage-III, also for linear public projects such as highways, roads, flyovers, overbridges, power transmission, pipelines, tele-communication etc. State Govts. in the NCR and

the GNCTD to mandatorily conduct classes in schools for children even for higher classes i.e.

from class VI to IX and XI in a "Hybrid" mode i.e., both in physical and online mode (wherever online mode is feasible) in the territorial jurisdiction of the NCT of Delhi and in the districts of Gurugram, Faridabad, Ghaziabad and Gautam Buddha Nagar. The NCR State Government.s may also consider conducting classes for students as above in a "Hybrid" mode in other areas in NCR. Note: The option to exercise the online mode of education, wherever available, shall vest with the students and their guardians.

State Governments may consider additional emergency measures like closure of colleges/ educational institutions and closure.

# Experts Highlight IPR and Funding Support at Startup Awareness Session

New Delhi, Oct 2 (GNS): On the occasion of National Startup Day 2026, the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), through its startup incubation centre Incubation Centre for Ayurveda Innovation and Entrepreneurship (AIIA-iCAINE), successfully organized an Awareness Programme on MSME Opportunities for Ayurveda-based Startups at its New Delhi campus. The programme was conducted in collaboration with the MSME-Development & Facilitation Office, Government of India.

The programme brought together policymakers, academic leaders, startup enablers, and aspiring entrepreneurs to deliberate on strengthening the MSME and startup ecosystem, with a special focus on Ayurveda and integrative health innovations. The sessions highlighted government support schemes, institutional

mechanisms for innovation, intellectual property protection, certification and standardization requirements, and financial mechanisms essential for early-stage startups. The programme commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Arun Kumar, setting the context for innovation-driven entrepreneurship in Ayurveda. Shri Sunil Kumar, Deputy Director, MSME, provided an overview of MSME initiatives and government schemes relevant to Ayurveda-based enterprises. Prof. Manjusha Rajagopala shared the academic and institutional perspective on fostering innovation and entrepreneurship within Ayurveda institutions.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. R. K. Bharti, Joint Director, MSME, who emphasized the need for a strong policy-supported ecosystem to promote startups and MSMEs, particularly in traditional medicine and wellness sectors. The technical sessions featured expert talks by Ms. Sangeeta Nagar, former Senior Scientist, DPIIT, on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) and their importance for startups, and Ms. Jyoti Neeraj, Senior Manager, SIDBI, who elaborated on financial support mechanisms and funding opportunities available for startups and MSMEs. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Shri Sujith Eranvezhath, CEO, AIIA-iCAINE, and Shri Naveen Kumar, Assistant Director, MSME.

The event reaffirmed AIIA-iCAINE's commitment to nurturing a robust, innovation-driven startup ecosystem rooted in Ayurveda, aligned with national priorities for entrepreneurship, MSME

growth, and sustainable healthcare solutions. Recognized as a Host Institute by the Ministry of MSME, Government of India, AIIA-iCAINE continues to empower innovators by providing a structured platform to transform ideas into impactful enterprises.

On this National Startup Day, AIIA reiterates its dedication to fostering entrepreneurship and innovation in Ayurveda through AIIA-iCAINE, supporting new-age ventures that contribute to evidence-based, sustainable, and inclusive health solutions.

The programme also provided a platform for aspiring entrepreneurs to understand the practical requirements involved in establishing Ayurveda-based enterprises under the MSME framework. Participants were introduced to the institutional

support available at different stages of the startup journey, from idea development and validation to commercialization.

Speakers highlighted the growing scope for innovation in Ayurveda, particularly in areas where traditional knowledge can be combined with modern research, technology and entrepreneurial models. Such integration was described as important for developing products and services that meet contemporary healthcare needs.

The discussions also underlined the importance of intellectual property protection for startups working with innovative formulations, technologies and processes. Participants were encouraged to understand the available mechanisms for protecting and commercializing their innovations while complying with applicable

regulations. Financial access emerged as another key area of discussion. Experts explained various funding and credit-support mechanisms available to startups and MSMEs, noting that timely access to finance can help young enterprises move from the development stage to commercial operations.

The programme stressed that certification and standardization are essential for building consumer confidence and enabling Ayurveda-based products to reach wider markets. Compliance with quality and regulatory requirements was highlighted as an important part of building sustainable enterprises.

Academic institutions were also encouraged to play a stronger role in promoting entrepreneurship among students, researchers and practitioners.

# Maruti Suzuki India to invest Rs 35,000 cr to develop new plant in Gujarat

New Delhi, Oct 2 (GNS): Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL) will invest Rs 35,000 crore to develop a new plant in Khoraj, Gujarat which will have a total annual production capacity of 10 lakh vehicles, it was announced here on Saturday.

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel said in a post on X that the project will generate employment opportunities for over 12,000 people and catalyse the growth of ancillary units and MSMEs in the state -- creating a robust auto manufacturing cluster.

Maruti Suzuki MD Shriyut Hitachi Takeuchi handed over the investment letter to Chief Minister during a ceremony held in Gandhinagar.

# International Aviation Conference to Host 13 Thematic Sessions with Global Participation

New Delhi, Oct 2 (GNS): Wings India 2026, Asia's largest civil aviation event, will be formally launched with a grand inaugural ceremony led by Minister of Civil Aviation Shri Ram-mohan Naidu, in the presence of high-level dignitaries from India and abroad. The launch will mark the beginning of a landmark four-day global aviation gathering scheduled to be held from 28 to 31 January 2026 at Begumpet Airport, Hyderabad. Anchored around the theme "Indian Aviation: Paving the Future - From Design to Deployment, Manufacturing to Maintenance, Inclusivity to Innovation and Safety to Sustainability", Wings India 2026 will highlight India's rapidly expanding aviation landscape, its growing global footprint, and its vision to emerge as a key hub for manufacturing, services, innovation



and sustainable aviation solutions.

Wings India 2026 will feature an expansive international exhibition, static aircraft displays, flying and aerobatic shows, a high-level international conference, CEO roundtables, B2B and B2G meetings, an aviation job fair, awards ceremony, and vibrant cultural programmes. Delegates and participants from across the world are expected, reinforcing the event's stature as a premier global aviation fo-

rum. Prominent domestic and international stakeholders from across the aviation value chain will participate, including airlines, aircraft and engine manufacturers, MROs, airport developers, OEMs, technology providers, training institutions and service partners. The event will serve as a convergence point for policymakers, industry leaders, innovators and investors to deliberate on emerging trends, opportunities and collaborative pathways shaping the

future of civil aviation in India and worldwide.

The international conference will feature 13 thematic sessions, in addition to the Global CEOs Forum and Ministerial Plenary, covering key areas such as Airports, Aircraft Leasing, Helicopters, Airlines, Women in Aviation, MRO, Air Cargo Transportation, Business Aviation and Small Aircraft, Aircraft Component Manufacturing, Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF), Flying Training and Skilling, Advanced

Air Mobility and Drones. Strong International and State Participation

Wings India 2026 will witness ministerial-level foreign delegations and senior government officials from several countries, along with official delegations from more than 20 countries, reinforcing international cooperation and collaboration in the aviation sector. Active participation from Indian states will showcase aviation-led growth, investment opportunities and

infrastructure development across the country. Spectacular Air Shows and Aircraft Displays

Wings India 2026 will feature impressive static aircraft displays, flying displays and aerobatic air shows, showcasing a wide range of aircraft. Highlight attractions include aerial performances by the Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team.

of the Indian Air Force.

The event will provide dedicated platforms for exhibitions, chalets, and B2B/B2G meetings, enabling business networking, partnerships and investment discussions. An Aviation Job Fair will connect industry leaders with young professionals and skilled talent across the aviation ecosystem.

A specially curated Civil Aviation innovation Challenge for students will be organised to promote innovation, problem-solving

# PM-SETU initiative aims to modernise 1,000 govt ITIs

New Delhi, Oct 2 (GNS): The PM-SETU (Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs) initiative seeks to modernise 1,000 government ITIs across the country through a hub-and-spoke approach, with 200 hub ITIs supported for advanced infrastructure and modern training facilities, and 800 spoke ITIs extending training reach across districts, it was announced on Saturday. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), in partnership with the Maharashtra government, is set to hold a major industry consultation in Pune as part of the rollout of PM-SETU. The initiative was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently in line with

the vision of Viksit Bharat, aimed at building a future-ready, globally competitive workforce. The event is intended to mobilise industry participation and build awareness about the scheme's industry-led implementation framework. According to the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, over 50 eligible companies will participate, representing sectors such as construction, textiles, automotive, FMCG, electronics, oil and gas, and renewable energy. The scheme positions ITIs as government-owned but industry-managed institutions, enabling demand-driven training.

, apprenticeships, and stronger placement linkages through cluster-based partnerships with anchor industry.

# Infra works worth Rs 52,000 crore under progress in Hyderabad, says DyCM Vikramarka

Hyderabad, Oct 2 (GNS): Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said on Friday that infrastructure works worth Rs 52,000 crore are progressing rapidly for Hyderabad's development.

Massive projects have been undertaken in sectors such as roads, flyovers, bridges, underpasses, and drinking water facilities, Vikramarka said, adding that the government is moving forward with a comprehensive plan to further develop Hyderabad while keeping future needs in mind.

Speaking at the launch of Telangana RTC-Metro Rail Common Pass, he said that the current government is moving forward with a policy of executing works and demonstrating results to the people, rather than limiting itself to mere publicity.

He noted that massive infrastructure projects, including roads, flyovers, and bridges, worth Rs 35,000 crore have been undertaken within the HMDA limits.

Highlighting the role of previous Congress governments in Hyderabad's development, he pointed out that it was the Congress administrations that brought water from the Krishna, Godavari, and Manjira rivers to meet the city's drinking water needs. He criticised the BRS government that held power for 10 years following the formation of the separate state of Telangana for failing to bring even a single additional drop of drinking water to the city.

The Deputy CM pointed out that the Outer Ring Road (ORR) and the International Airport, which serve as jewels in Hyderabad's crown,



were developed during the tenure of Congress governments. Educational institutions like the University of Hyderabad and IIIT, along with numerous public sector undertakings such as BHEL, ECIL, DRDO, BDL, Midhani, and IDPL, were also set up during the Congress rule. These initiatives provided employment opportunities to thousands of people.

He said plans were pre-

pared to expand the Metro Rail network by 122 kilometres to further improve public transport in Hyderabad. Phase II, estimated at approximately Rs 38,000 crore, will be undertaken to provide Metro connectivity to areas including the Old City, the Airport, Patancheru, and Hayathnagar.

The Regional Ring Road (RRR) project is initiated with the aim of extending

Hyderabad's development beyond the city limits to the rest of the state. This project, spanning 362 kilometres and connecting all districts, is estimated to cost Rs 30,627 crore. Additionally, 21 radial roads are being developed to connect the ORR and RRR; approvals for the alignment of 10 roads have already been granted, and work on two of them has commenced.

Vikramarka stated that the government has also taken measures to rejuvenate the Musi River, a vital lifeline for Hyderabad. He stated that the government's objective is to rejuvenate the Musi River, which flows for approximately 55-56 kilometres, to provide a better environmental atmosphere for the city. He commended the launch of the RTC-Metro common pass system, noting that it would alleviate the difficulties faced by commuters in the city. He congratulated Transport Minister Ponnampalapati Prabhakar for introducing this facility --ranging from one-day passes to one-month passes -- that allows for travel across both transport systems.

He mentioned that he and other state ministers had purchased one-day passes for Rs 500. He is set to personally inspect the common pass facility on Saturday morning by travelling on the Metro from Begumpet Metro Station and subsequently taking an RTC bus.

Ministers Prabhakar, Vivek Venkataswamy, and Azharuddin; Government Whip and MLC Addanki Dayakar, Mahender Reddy; Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju; Special Chief Secretary, Transport, Vikas Raj; and others participated in this event.

## Telangana govt to launch central kitchens for school breakfast scheme on Dec 9

Hyderabad, Oct 2 (GNS): Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Friday announced that all central kitchens established to serve nutritious breakfasts to students in government schools will be inaugurated across the state on December 9. He directed officials to complete work on all central kitchens by November 30. The Chief Minister also instructed that arrangements be made to facilitate student visits to the central kitchens. All kitchens will be linked to the Integrated Command and Control Centre in Hyderabad for regular monitoring.

Representatives of the Hare Krishna Foundation met Chief Minister Revanth Reddy at his Jubilee Hills residence on Friday.

During the meeting, Junna Solar Systems Private Limited and Chain Labs India Private Limited signed agreements with the Hare Krishna Foundation, in the presence of the Chief Minister, to support the breakfast scheme for government



school students. The two companies collaborated to establish modern centralised community kitchens in Nagarkurnool and Vikarabad. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy emphasised that quality food should be served to students.

He said the primary objective of providing breakfast was to ensure nutritious food and encourage students to attend school regularly. The Chief Minister

suggested maintaining a comprehensive record of students studying in government schools.

He said such records would help monitor students' physical growth and academic progress on a regular basis.

He also called for the development of an application to calculate the calorie content of food items served to students.

The Chief Minister enquired about the breakfast

menu and recommended that meals be prepared in accordance with regional dietary habits. He said the breakfast scheme was a long-term programme and therefore required utmost care and attention.

Junna Solar Systems Private Limited CMD Shekhar Reddy and CEO Anil Babu handed over a cheque for Rs 5.17 crore to the Hare Krishna Foundation for the centralised community kitchen in Nagarkurnool.

## Passenger tries to open plane's emergency exit at Hyderabad airport

Hyderabad, Oct 2 (GNS): An alleged attempt by a passenger to open the emergency door of an aircraft while it was preparing to take off created a scare at Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Shamshabad in Telangana.

The incident occurred in the early hours of Friday when passengers were boarding the IndiGo flight to Kadapa, Andhra Pradesh.

After the airline staff alerted the authorities, the passenger was deboarded. He was later handed over to the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) Police.

According to police, during the boarding process, the passenger was shifted from the 9th row to the 2nd row, which is an emergency exit seating area. While settling in, he touched the emergency exit handle, triggering a security sensor alarm.

A case has been registered at the RGIA Police Station. The passenger told the police that he unintentionally touched the emergency exit



handle. Further investigations were ongoing.

On August 6, a traveller allegedly damaged an emergency exit window panel and attempted to tamper with the emergency exit door while the aircraft was preparing to land at Kochi airport.

The incident occurred aboard Kuala Lumpur-Kochi Batik Air flight OD231. Police arrested the passenger, identified as Jamsheer Athanikkal.

He was booked under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Section 351 (criminal intimidation), the Aircraft Act Section 11A (failure to comply with any direc-

tion issued) and the Kerala Police Act Section 118(e) (knowingly does any act which causes danger to the public or failure in public safety).

The latest incident at RGIA came just a couple of days after the attack on the flydubai flight Captain by a co-pilot in an alleged attempt to hijack the Dubai-Tel Aviv flight.

The co-pilot was overpowered by some passengers who entered the cockpit after the pilot, Captain Smit Machchhar, raised an alarm. Two flydubai pilots travelling as passengers helped land the aircraft.

According to reports, the

plane dropped 17,400 feet in just under two minutes. The flight was diverted to Tabuk airport in northern Saudi Arabia.

The Indian pilot, who was injured in the attack, is being hailed as a hero for thwarting the suspected hijacking attempt.

Airport authorities and security agencies are expected to examine the circumstances surrounding the incident, including the passenger's seating change and the activation of the emergency-exit alarm. Such systems are designed to alert crew members to any unauthorised or accidental interference with aircraft emergency equipment.

The incident also highlights the importance of passenger awareness regarding emergency exits and other safety mechanisms. Passengers seated near emergency exits are required to follow crew instructions and avoid handling emergency equipment unless directed to do so during an actual emergency.

## Telangana BJP Minority Morcha Team Recognised by National Unit

Hyderabad, Oct 2 (GNS): The dedication, collective hard work and consistent effort of our Telangana BJP Morcha team, under the able guidance and leadership of our respected state president Shri Jagmohan Singh ji, have been recognized on the official National BJP Minority Morcha. This recognition is not just an appreciation of our efforts, but a proud and motivating moment. It further strengthens our resolve to work with greater dedication, discipline and enthusiasm to strengthen the organization and take its activities to every corner of Telangana. Heartfelt gratitude to Jagohan Singh ji for his constant guidance, encouragement and leadership. Such appreciation inspires us to raise our standards and work even harder for the growth and success of the organization.



## HAL Hands Twin-Seater Tejas Fighter Jet Trainers, HTT-40 Basic Trainers To IAF

Hyderabad, Oct 2 (GNS): Government-owned aerospace giant Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) handed over two Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas final operational clearance twin-seater trainers and three HTT-40 basic trainer aircraft to the Indian Air Force (IAF), along with four Dhruv next-generation helicopters to Pawan Hans Limited, on Friday.

The platforms were displayed, and a pooja was performed in the presence of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Minister of Civil Aviation K. Rammohan Naidu at the handover ceremony. Singh also sat in-

side the Dhruv next-generation (NG) chopper, which was displayed at the venue. The helicopter is a HAL-designed and manufactured 5.5-tonne, light twin-engine, multi-role helicopter.

The handover marks an important milestone in the country's self-reliance journey, as the event highlighted the role HAL and its industry partners play in strengthening the domestic aerospace ecosystem.

The Defence Minister said combat effectiveness can be ensured only through a combination of well-trained personnel, advanced technology, integrated systems, and rapid decision-making.

He said the LCA trainer will play a crucial role in preparing pilots for this demanding operational environment.

He added that while the Dhruv-NG exemplifies indigenous civil aerospace prowess, the LCA trainer stands as a symbol of indigenous military aerospace capability and the maturity of its fighter aircraft ecosystem.

Singh said India had relied for years on imported aircraft to meet its basic training requirements, but HAL is now manufacturing the HTT-40 indigenously to meet the IAF's needs. Highlighting the aircraft's export potential, he said the HTT-40 would find demand in inter-

national markets and fulfil its intended role in strengthening India's aerospace capabilities.

The Defence Minister highlighted HAL's expertise across aircraft manufacturing, helicopter development, overhaul, repair, maintenance, and aerospace engineering, calling it a pillar in India's endeavour to build indigenous aerospace capabilities. He exhorted HAL to further expand its capabilities across the entire aerospace value chain, including design, development, manufacturing, certification, lifecycle support, and global marketing.

Singh called for realistic

project timelines to address delays in ongoing technical projects. He noted that delays can create gaps in meeting critical defence requirements, lead to cost escalations, and increase the risk of technology obsolescence.

Terming R&D a crucial priority area, the Defence Minister urged young scientists, engineers, designers, test pilots, and technicians to take it as a challenge to create technologies that do not exist today. He urged them to develop capabilities that secure India's leading position in the global aerospace technology landscape over the coming decade.



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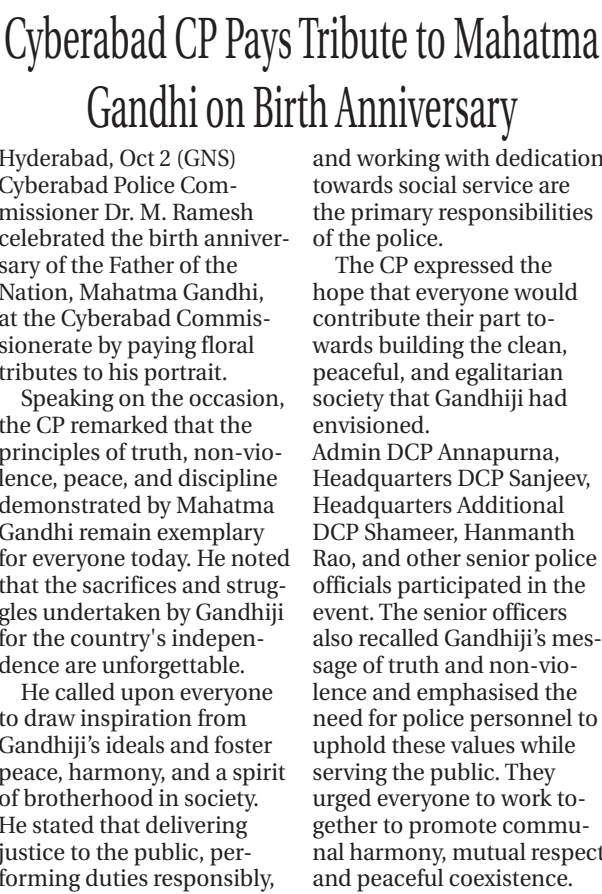


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Cyberabad CP Pays Tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on Birth Anniversary



Hyderabad, Oct 2 (GNS) Cyberabad Police Commissioner Dr. M. Ramesh celebrated the birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, at the Cyberabad Commissionerate by paying floral tributes to his portrait.

Speaking on the occasion, the CP remarked that the principles of truth, non-violence, peace, and discipline demonstrated by Mahatma Gandhi remain exemplary for everyone today. He noted that the sacrifices and struggles undertaken by Gandhiji for the country's independence are unforgettable.

He called upon everyone to draw inspiration from Gandhiji's ideals and foster peace, harmony, and a spirit of brotherhood in society. He stated that delivering justice to the public, performing duties responsibly,

and working with dedication towards social service are the primary responsibilities of the police.

The CP expressed the hope that everyone would contribute their part towards building the clean, peaceful, and egalitarian society that Gandhiji had envisioned.

Admin DCP Annapurana, Headquarters DCP Sanjeev, Headquarters Additional DCP Shameer, Hanmanth Rao, and other senior police officials participated in the event. The senior officers also recalled Gandhiji's message of truth and non-violence and emphasised the need for police personnel to uphold these values while serving the public. They urged everyone to work together to promote communal harmony, mutual respect and peaceful coexistence.



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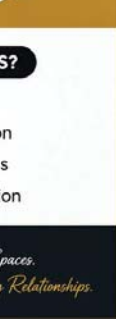
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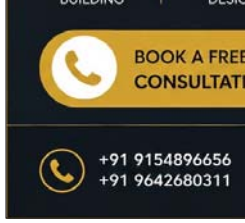
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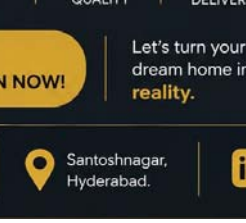
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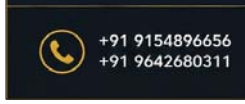
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