FALAKNUMA NEWS

Editor in Chief: MOHD ATHER RAHEEM

FALAKNUMA NEWS

ENGLISH DAILY

www.falaknumanews.in

PRGI Reg NO.TGENG/26/A3255

VOL: 1 | Issue No: 158 | FRIDAY 30 OCTOBER 2026 | PUBLISHED FROM HYDERABAD | PAGES: 4 | RS.1/-

UPSC Chief Presents 76th Annual Report To President Droupadi Murmu



New Delhi, Oct 29 (GNS): Union Public Service Commission Chairman Ajay Kumar, along with members of the Commission, called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan and presented the 76th annual report of the Commission, an official said on Thursday. During the meeting, the UPSC Chairman also presented commemorative coins and a postage stamp issued on the occasion of the Centenary Year of the Commission.

Other members of the Commission, accompanying the Chairman, included Lt. Gen. Raj Shukla (Retd.), Suman Sharma, Bidyut Behari Swain, Dinesh Dasa, Sheel Vardhan Singh, Sanjay Verma, Sujata Chaturvedi and Anuradha Prasad, the official said.

The Rashtrapati Bhavan said on its social media account that during the day Murmu also met governors of Odisha and Karnataka. "Governor of Odisha, Shri Braj Mohan Ram called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan," said the President's Secretariat. In another message, it said, "Governor of Karnataka, Dr Sudha Yadav called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan." Meanwhile, the Vice President's Secretariat said on Thursday that C.P. Radhakrishnan will visit Tamil Nadu on Friday.

"During his visit, the Vice-President will pay his respects and offer floral tributes at Pasumpon, Ramanathapuram, on the occasion of Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar Jayanthi," it said. "He will also attend the Golden Jubilee Celebrations and the 39th Convocation Ceremony of Gandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed to be University) in Dindigul," he said. Earlier this week, Radhakrishnan visited Vijayawada to attend an event at a University of Health Sciences. He called for greater investment in medical research and innovation to address pressing healthcare challenges, highlighting the role of emerging technologies in transforming healthcare.

Addressing the Ruby Jubilee celebrations of Dr NTR University of Health Sciences, the Vice President emphasised that technology must serve humanity and compassion should remain at the heart of healthcare.

Ex-speaker Meira Kumar to chair CEC's 'public impeachment'

Kharge to move motion, Rahul to conclude



New Delhi, Oct 29 (GNS): Former Lok Sabha speaker Meira Kumar will chair the INDIA bloc's "public impeachment" of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) on October 30, with Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge initiating the proceedings and former party chief Rahul Gandhi making the concluding remarks before the 'motion' is adopted, sources said on Thursday. INDIA bloc leaders met at Kharge's residence here to give the final shape to the "public impeachment" proceedings that they intend to carry out against CEC Gyanesh Kumar as a symbolic protest over the "vote chori" issue.

Congress general secretaries Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Jairam Ramesh and KC Venugopal, senior Congress leader Meira Kumar, TMC's Derek O'Brien, Samajwadi Party's Harendra Malik, JMM's Mahua Maji and CPI(M)'s John Brittas, among others, participated in the meeting. Sources said Meira Kumar will chair the INDIA bloc's "public impeachment" of Gyanesh Kumar. While Kharge will move the 'motion' to impeach Gyanesh Kumar, Gandhi will make the concluding remarks before the 'motion' is passed. Speaking with the media in Bengaluru, Kharge said the opposition's protest is continuing because of the "vote theft and the mischief" carried out by the CEC.

"We are protesting against that and will continue to do so. All parties are supporting us. Even tomorrow, there is mock Parliament and on November 1, we are having this rally and people from across the country are coming. We will fight. In a democracy, if you don't fight, people will not be awakened," the Congress president said.

After attending the meeting, Congress's media and publicity department head Pawan Khera said the details of how to proceed with the "public impeachment" of the CEC were deliberated on. "Most of the INDIA bloc leaders were present and we went through all the points on how to proceed with the public impeachment," he said. Congress's deputy leader in the Lok Sabha Gaurav Gogoi said, "We want every important issue related to SIR and vote theft to be discussed. The pain of the people and the attack on democracy should be brought to light through discussion, and people should be encouraged that we are all united in saving democracy. A message of unity will go out tomorrow."

SP's Harendra Malik said only one person from each party will speak at the "public impeachment" of the CEC. "It has been decided that either the party leader himself will speak tomorrow or nominate someone to speak on his behalf," he added. On Wednesday, Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh said that having been denied other locations, the "INDIA janbandhan" will be holding the public impeachment of Kumar at Kharge's 10, Rajaji Marg residence at 3.30 pm on October 30.

"The CEC has demonstrably violated the letter and spirit of the Constitution. He has systematically subverted the very foundations of our electoral democracy. He has, to put it bluntly, lied to the Supreme Court," Ramesh said on X.

"He has been the willing executioner on behalf of the Diabolical Duo whose turn will come next," he said, in an apparent attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah.

The Congress on Tuesday claimed it was denied permission to hold the "public impeachment" of the CEC and accused the government of trying to silence the voice of common people after "destroying" the electoral system.

The Congress and other opposition parties have been demanding the resignation of Kumar over alleged irregularities in the SIR of electoral rolls.

India-US trade deal safeguards sensitive interests of farmers

Other stakeholders: Piyush Goyal



New Delhi, Oct 29 (GNS): Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Thursday that when the details of the India-US trade deal negotiations are released, the people of India will recognise that the sensitive interests of farmers and other stakeholders have not been compromised and that India will be placed at a strong comparative advantage.

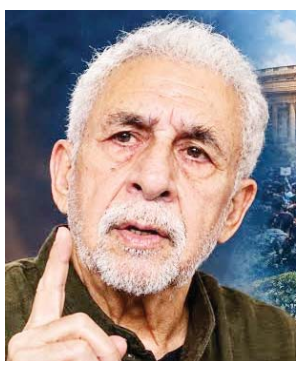
Goyal explained that trade was fundamentally about comparative advantage and competitiveness, rather than absolute numbers alone. He observed that many developed countries had structured their tariff schedules to impose high duties on labour-intensive goods, using them as negotiating instruments. Goyal made the comments while addressing the Fourth National Conference on India's Industrial Transformation, organised by the Institute for Studies in Industrial Development (ISID) and the Industrial Development Research Association (IDRA).

On India's trade policy, Goyal said that the country's trade agreements were not limited to reducing tariffs, framing rules of origin or securing market access. "They were comprehensive partnerships that considered India's competitive strengths, identified opportunities for exports, protected sensitive sectors and facilitated access to high-technology products, graphics processing units (GPUs), memory technology, medical technology and other goods required for India's development," according to an official statement. He said that India's trade negotiations also encompassed services, investments, education, skill development, technology partnerships and cooperation towards climate goals and countries' intended nationally determined contributions. These comprehensive agreements were laying the foundation for India's integration with the global economy while protecting its sensitivities and defensive interests through extensive stakeholder consultations before an agreement was concluded.

He said that India's trade agreements covered 38 developed and relatively prosperous countries, creating complementary trade opportunities for both sides, with India exporting products they needed and importing products required for its development.

'ENCOURAGING ANARCHIC IDEAS

NDA attacks Naseeruddin Shah over 'Dimagi Naxal' remark



New Delhi, Oct 29 (GNS): The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) on Thursday came down heavily on Bollywood actor Naseeruddin Shah over his 'Dimagi Naxal' remark, accusing him of "encouraging ideas" that seek to create anarchy in the country. This comes after the actor launched a scathing attack on the government, sharing a video of himself talking to the camera as he flaunted his badge of 'Dimagi Naxal' and called himself 'proud Dimagi Naxal', a term coined by Prime Minister Modi in his Independence Day address in August. Speaking, BJP National Spokesperson RP Singh said: "The kind of language Naseeruddin Shah has used recently, along with his past statements that have been anti-national and supportive of Pakistan, and the way he has spoken about West Bengal this time, shows how his thinking is encouraging ideas that seek to create anarchy in the country."

While acknowledging Shah's craft, BJP MLA Ram Kadam said: "We fully respect his art. However, we cannot forget how he praised Pakistan during the release of a book in 2015. How can we forget that Naseeruddin Shah supports Mughal invaders who came to this country, persecuted people, and destroyed temples? You live in India, earn your livelihood and respect here, yet praise Pakistan."

"He is not 'Dimagi Naxal', rather, he is 'Dimagi Pakistani'," Kadam remarked while speaking.

Union Minister and RPI-A chief Ramdas Athawale also acknowledged that Naseeruddin Shah is a good film actor who possesses a social conscience, while adding: "He should not have a Naxalite mindset.

Race Course mosque demolition put on hold for four weeks

Delhi HC declines nod for namaz



New Delhi, Oct 29 (GNS): The proposed demolition of the Race Course Masjid near the Prime Minister's residence has been put on hold for four weeks after the Centre assured the Delhi High Court that no coercive action would be taken against the mosque until a decision is taken on a representation submitted by the Delhi Waqf Board. The assurance came on Thursday during the hearing of a petition filed by Syed Ahmed Saud. Appearing for the Centre, advocate Ashish Dixit told a bench of Justice Anish Dayal that the government would decide on the Waqf Board's representation within four weeks and that no action would be taken against the mosque in the meantime.

The development provides temporary relief to the mosque, which is a Waqf notified and heritage property, amid apprehension over its possible demolition as the Centre reclaims land in the surrounding area.

The mosque stands inside the Delhi Race Club, spread over around 53 acres, close to 7, Lok Kalyan Marg, the Prime Minister's residence. The wider area includes the Delhi Race Club and Jaipur Polo Ground. It also had slum dwellings occupied by nearly 700 families, which have already been demolished as part of the land reclamation process. The land is being repossessed by the Land and Development Office under the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. While the immediate question of demolition was addressed through the Centre's undertaking, the hearing did not result in permission for prayers at the mosque.

A request was made before the court to allow namaz to be offered at the site. The High Court, however, declined to pass any order permitting prayers.

Former Air Force Officer Who Filmed Hasina's Escape Found Dead

New Delhi, Oct 29 (GNS): Bangladesh Police on Thursday said they have recovered the body of former Air Force Flight Lieutenant KM Tahsif Souri from the Turag River in the capital, a day after he went missing. Souri, who was in his late 20s, reportedly filmed a video showing deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina leaving Bangladesh in an Air Force aircraft on August 5, 2024, according to local media. The body was later sent to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital for an autopsy, he said.

Cyclone Arnab claimed 7 lives in Andhra, losses estimated at Rs 4,600 crore

Amaravati, Oct 29 (GNS): Cyclone Arnab claimed seven lives in Andhra Pradesh and caused losses of 4,600 crore as per preliminary estimates, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu said on Thursday. After an aerial survey of cyclone-hit areas, he said the losses caused by the cyclone are estimated at 4,600 crore, but this figure could increase after a detailed assessment.

The Chief Minister said that he spoke to Union Home Minister Amit Shah about the damage caused by Cyclone Arnab, briefed him on the situation and the measures taken by the government and also submitted a preliminary report on the damage to the Centre. He announced that Central teams will visit the state on Friday to assess the damage caused by the cyclone, which crossed the coast on Wednesday.

The Chief Minister made an aerial survey of cyclone-affected areas of B.R. Ambedkar Konaseema district, inspected the relief centres at Gachakayalapora



village and interacted with cyclone victims to know their problems. Later, addressing media persons, he explained the relief and restoration measures being undertaken by the government. He said that he visited the affected areas personally to know the actual position.

He said compensation of 1,500 will be provided for each damaged coconut tree and each damaged oil palm tree. Families returning from relief camps will be given 25 kg of rice, a packet of essential commodities and financial assistance for their immediate expenses. CM Naidu said farmers are already covered by the crop insurance scheme.

They will receive compensation if their yields decline due to the cyclone. After assessing the damage, compensation for agricultural and horticultural crops will be credited to the beneficiaries' accounts at the earliest, he added. The Chief Minister said Andhra Pradesh has faced several cyclones in the past. Thirty years ago, on November 6, a severe cyclone, Hurricane, devastated this region. Hudhud, Titli, Montha and Arnab have also caused damage to the State. Around 70 years ago, the Diviseema cyclone claimed thousands of lives.

FALAKNUMA NEWS
ENGLISH DAILY
HYDERABAD, TELANGANA

Middle East conflict in eyes of Commonman

Dr Sudershan Kumar



The modern global economy is deeply interconnected, and no region illustrates this reality dramatically better than Middle East. For decades, the region has been the energy heart of the world supplying oil and natural gas that fuel industries, transportation systems, and everyday life across continents.
The ongoing Middle East war involving the United States, Israel, and Iran has therefore created a crisis that extends far beyond the battlefield. What began as a geopolitical confrontation has now evolved into a global economic shock sending shock waves across billions of ordinary citizens around the world.
A major turning point in the crisis occurred when Iran effectively shutdown the Strait of Hormuz one of the world's most important maritime chocking point for energy trade. Nearly 20 percent global oil supply and large volumes of liquefied natural gas pass through this narrow passage, making it a vital artery for the global economy. With tanker traffic collapsing and shipping companies suspending operations due to security risks, the world suddenly faced one of the largest energy supply disruptions in modern history. While geopolitical conflicts in the middle east are not new, the current war has gained global attention due to its scale and the perceived role of U.S leadership under President Donald Trump. Hence the true victims of this geopolitical confrontation are not only the nations involved in the war but also the ordinary citizens across the World. Therefore, it is utmost important to understand the real cause of Iran-USA-Israel war, its impact on common man especially after the closure of the Strait of Hormuz and challenges for Government of India is clearly with this precarious situation arising out of Middle East war.

The real cause of Iran-Israel-United State war lies in combination of long standing geopolitical tensions, Iran's nuclear ambitions, and the sudden escalation triggered by an impulsive strategic decision taken by the U.S President Donald Trump. If one turns the pages of history one finds that the relation between the United State and Iran have been hostile since 1979. Iranian Revolutions and tensions intensified over Iran's nuclear program and its growing influence in Middle East. Israel has long viewed Iran as an existential threat because of the missile capabilities and support for anti-Israel militants groups. However, the immediate spark of the war came, when United States and Israel launched large air strikes at Iranian military and nuclear capabilities on 28 February 2026. Many analysts believe that the decision to initiate such massive strikes was taken hastily by Donald Trump without clearly defined long term strategy for regional stability.The strikes targeted key Iran infrastructure and even resulted in the death of Iran's Supreme leader Ayatollah Khamene'i dramatically escalating the conflict and triggering retaliation across the Middle East. Critics argue that Donald Trump expected a quick collapse of Iranian resistance and even encouraged Iranian public to rise against their Government, but this assumption proved unrealistic. Instead of ending quickly,the conflict expanded into a larger regional war involving missile attacks, cyber warfare and the closure of strategic shipping routes such as Strait of Hormuz.

Thus what began as a preventive military strike driven by strategic and political calculations, soon transformed into a prolonged geopolitical crisis with serious global economic and energy consequences. Needless to mention here that one of the most immediate impacts due to closure of trade routes through the Strait of Hormuz has been the sharp rise in oil prices which surged around $100 per barrel. The experts predict, if the Middle East war is prolonged up to one month then the impact on global economy will be around 1.56% but unfortunately if it gets extended for more then three months than the impact on global economy due to oil disruption may be around 3 to 5 %. In worse case scenario, it may rise further. In that case the prices of crude oil per barrel may touch sky high. For common man, rising oil prices translate directly into higher living costs. Fuel becomes more expensive, which increases the transportation cost and raises the prices of everyday goods such as food, electricity and essential commodities. Since energy is used in almost every sector, therefore high fuel prices quickly lead to inflation across the entire economy. Studies show that even a small increase in oil prices can push consumer prices upward and reduce purchasing power for households worldwide. Therefore, it is utmost important to address the precarious situation arsing out of energy crisis due to disruption of trade routes after the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. Needless to mention here that the Government of India has taken proactive steps to protect country's economy and ensure the availability of essential fuels.

First and foremost step taken by Government was to closely monitor fuel supply and prices through the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. High level meetings were conducted with oil companies and energy experts to address the availability of crude oil, LPG and other petroleum products and ensure their affordability for the public. Besides, the Government has also invoked emergency regulatory measures under the Essential Commodities Act to manage the distribution of natural gas and petroleum products. A four tier priority system was introduced to ensure that essential sectors such as domestic cooking gas, transportation fuel, and fertilizer plants receive priority supply, while restricting non-essential industrial consumption. The second important step was the strengthening of India's strategic petroleum reserves and fuel inventories. India currently maintains crude oil stocks and commercial reserves that can support consumption for certain period in case of supply disruptions.

The Government has also accelerated the plans to expand these reserves to create a larger energy buffer against geopolitical shocks. Third, the most crucial is to diversify oil imports and secure alternative energy resources. The Government has also explored importing crude oil from countries such as Russia, and other non Gulf suppliers to reduce dependence on middle-eastern routes affected by the conflict. In addition, the Government initiated oil diplomatic efforts to ensure the safe passage far Indian oil tankers stranded near the Gulf region. Indian officials held discussions with Iranian authorities to allow safe movement of tankers carrying oil and liquefied natural gas destined for India. Lastly, the citizens have been advised to avoid hoarding LPG cylinders and to shift to piped natural gas whereever available. Refineries have also been instructed to increase domestic production of LPG and ensure priority supply to households, hospitals, educational institutions and many other as per requirement.

However, while the Government has been making efforts to manage the crisis, some political leaders within the country have adopted a negative and irresponsible approach by attempting to exploit the situation for their own benefits. Instead of supporting national efforts to safeguard energy security and economic reliability, certain leaders have used the crisis to spread misinformation and criticized diplomatic decisions without offering constructive alternatives. Such irresponsible political behavior can weaken national unity during the times of international crisis and create unnecessary panic among the public. The author is of the opinion that the prolonged Middle East War has unveiled the fragile nature of the global economic system.

A regional conflict has rapidly evolved into a worldwide economic crisis due to the central role of energy markets and maritime trade routes. The closure of the Strait of Hormuz has demonstrated how geopolitical tensions can disrupt global supply chains and threaten economic stability. The crisis also highlights the risks associated with unilateral military decisions taken without fully considering their global economic consequences. While the strategic calculations behind the conflict may have been driven by the security concerns, the resulting economic shocks has placed a heavy burden on ordinary citizens worldwide. For India, the crisis serves as a reminder of the urgent need to strengthen energy security, diversify supply sources and accelerate the transition towards renewable energy. By adopting proactive policies and strategic diplomacy, India can reduce its vulnerability to global energy disruptions and safeguard its economic stability.

Iran's Underground Missile Fortress

Apparently, Persian Gulf's largest island – Qeshm has transformed from a tourist spot to its new sobriquet – the Missiles city of Iran. Qeshm with its labyrinthine salt caves and emerald mangrove forests in the Strait of Hormuz, offered tourists to have a peek at its "open-air geological museum" to wonder at its surreal rock formations, but at present the world's gaze is fixed on what lies beneath the coral – Iran's "underground missile cities". Qeshm occupying an area of 1,445sq km (558sq miles) approximately – is considered to be the entrance point from the Gulf, acting as a cork in the world's most vital energy transit passage. It is considered to be one of the most ecologically diverse locations in the Middle East. It is home to the Hara mangrove forest, a vital breeding ground for migratory birds, and the Qeshm Geopark – the first of its kind in the region to be recognised by UNESCO, in 2006.

Further, it is home to a complex network of canyons and rock pillars carved by millennia of erosion. Local legends claim the valley was formed by a falling star that shattered the earth, and is known as The Valley of Stars. The island is also home to one of the world's longest salt caves, popularly known as Namakdan Salt Cave, stretching for more than 6 km (3.7 miles). Its crystalline formations are hundreds of millions of years old, containing some of the purest salt in the Gulf. In addition, Chahkooh Canyon is a deep, narrow corridor of limestone and salt, where vertical walls create a natural cathedral of stone, on the island.

However, the island's modern industrial facade, bolstered by its status as a free trade-industrial zone since 1989, is overshadowed by its role as Iran's "unsinkable aircraft carrier", as the island acts as the primary platform for Iran's "asymmetric" naval power, say analysts.

Reportedly, Iran has stationed a vast number of naval drones, missiles and other armaments under the soil of the popular tourist island, ostensible presuming that it will afford its stockpile a safe haven, as no country would target this UNESCO heritage island. However, that has not stopped the US and Israeli war planes and armed drones from dropping bombs on the sites, apparently entombing the Iranian weapons below ground in some locations. Satellite imagery taken in recent days shows the smouldering remains of several Iranian missiles and launchers destroyed in US and Israeli airstrikes near entrances to the "missile cities," as Iranian officials call the subterranean sites.

Additionally, on March 7 – one week into the war – US air strikes targeted a critical desalination plant on the island. The strike, which Tehran branded a "flagrant crime" against civilians, cut off freshwater supplies to 30 surrounding villages on the island. While exact figures regarding the number of Iranian fast-attack boats and coastal batteries hidden within the island's subterranean labyrinths remain heavily classified, their strategic intent is clear. As reported by Al Jazeera, Qeshm houses "striking Iranian capabilities" within what is described as an underground "missile city". Apparently, this is designed for one primary purpose: to effectively control or close the Strait of Hormuz.

This, they have successfully done. Shipping traffic through the strait was effectively halted last week when Iran threatened to strike ships attempting to pass. Interestingly, Qeshm's strategic importance was revealed to the world by the Iranian authorities themselves. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) has used newly released footage from its underground Iran 'missile city' to claim it holds an 'enormous' stockpile of naval suicide drones and other weapons, which commanders say could be deployed to shut the Strait of Hormuz and hit targets across the region. The video, broadcast on Iranian state media and attributed to the IRGC Navy, was released on Thursday (March 12), although officials did not say when it was filmed. 0The purported video shows long underground tunnels packed with unmanned surface vessels, anti-ship missiles and naval mines, some of which are shown being readied and fired. Iran's naval suicide drones, also known as unmanned surface vehicles or USVs, have already been blamed for attacks on commercial shipping. It is reported they were responsible for strikes on two oil tankers in the Persian Gulf. USVs operate either on or just below the surface of the water and are packed with explosives for what are effectively kamikaze missions. They are particularly difficult to defend against, especially after dark, because many of the tools developed to detect and stop aerial drones do not transfer neatly to waterborne threats. Iranian-made USVs are also said to have been used by Yemen's Houthi rebels against trade vessels in the Red Sea, and unmanned boats have been used by Ukraine against Russian forces.

A recent report cites a study by UK-based security and defence analysts Westland Advisory, which argues that USVs are a particularly awkward problem for navies because existing radio-frequency detection, geolocation and jamming techniques for aerial drones are not always effective at sea level.

The same study suggests possible countermeasures such as more advanced radar and sonar to spot small surface targets, improved capabilities to intercept or jam USV communications, and the deployment of autonomous underwater vehicles tasked with neutralising the drones before they reach their targets. Alongside the suicide boats, the Iran missile city footage reportedly flaunts a wider arsenal. Experts identified various systems as Abadil-2 and Abadil-3 'kamikaze' drones on rail launchers; Shahed-136 drones adapted for naval use; Zolfaqar explosive-laden boats designed to swarm larger vessels. Moreover, other identified in the arsenal are Ghadir, Nasr-1 and Khalij Fars anti-ship cruise and quasi-ballistic missiles; and multiple types of sea mines such as Maham and Sadaf-02, some of which can be laid from ordinary-looking dhows or fast boats. Iranian officials framed the Iran missile city arsenal as a tool to inflict severe economic and military damage if Western strikes continue.

AI and Journalism Catalyst for Press Freedom or Threat in Disguise?

Biju Dharmapalan

A quiet transformation is unfolding within the esteemed corridors of newsrooms across the globe. Artificial intelligence, once relegated to the realm of science fiction, has subtly woven itself into the fabric of journalism. At this pivotal moment in early 2025, we are compelled to consider a pressing question: Is AI ushering in a new era for journalism, or is it eroding the essential principles of press freedom that are vital to democratic societies? The strongest case for the integration of AI in the field of journalism lies in its ability to democratise access to information. Historically challenged by limited resources, news organisations can now utilise AI technologies to manage everyday reporting duties-from transcribing interviews to producing straightforward news summaries. This technological advancement may allow human journalists to focus on the investigative reporting that those in power often dread. Smaller, independent establishments are poised to gain significantly. The advent of AI in data analysis and content creation has levelled the playing field, enabling smaller media organisations to stand toe-to-toe with their larger counterparts. Local journalism may be on the verge of a resurgence as financial obstacles begin to diminish, paving the way for a broader array of perspectives in a media environment that large corporations have largely controlled.
Furthermore, AI's pattern recognition abilities provide reporters with an unparalleled opportunity to navigate extensive datasets. Investigations akin to the Panama Papers can now be executed with enhanced efficiency and accuracy. Narratives that once required months to develop can now emerge in just weeks, reflecting the rapid pace of our evolving society.
However, hidden beneath this hopeful facade is a more concerning truth. The AI systems transforming the landscape of journalism are not impartial instruments; rather, they are influenced by corporate agendas and training datasets that inherently carry biases. The reliance on algorithms for editorial decision-making in newsrooms poses a significant threat to their autonomy, as they may inadvertently cede control to the unseen forces of technology. However, hidden beneath this hopeful facade is a more concerning truth. The AI systems transforming the landscape of journalism are not impartial instruments; rather, they are influenced by corporate agendas and training datasets that inherently carry biases. The reliance on algorithms for editorial decision-making in newsrooms poses a significant threat to their autonomy, as they may inadvertently cede control to the unseen forces of technology.



The emergence of synthetic media stands out as one of the most unsettling advancements in recent times. The rise of content generated by artificial intelligence, now often resembling that created by humans, presents a significant challenge to our information landscapes. This influx of material, while seemingly journalistic, lacks the ethical foundations essential to true journalism. The trust of the public, already hanging by a thread, faces the risk of further decline as readers struggle to distinguish between authentic journalism and cleverly crafted replicas.
The connection between artificial intelligence and journalism is characterised by a complex interplay of various factors, rather than a simple dichotomy. The technology in question does not inherently serve as a hero or a villain; its effects are wholly contingent upon our decisions regarding its application.
Effective integration necessitates the establishment of clear boundaries. While AI demonstrates remarkable capabilities in information processing, it struggles with the essential human elements of journalism, such as moral judgement, contextual understanding, and the courage to speak truth to power. The most promising models prioritise human involvement, utilising AI to enhance journalistic abilities instead of serving as a substitute. Transparency stands out as a fundamental principle of utmost importance. Media outlets utilising artificial intelligence need to be transparent regarding integrating automation within their processes. It is essential for audiences to be aware when they are interacting with content that has been generated or assisted by artificial intelligence, as this transparency is crucial for upholding the trust that forms the foundation of the relationship between journalists and their readers. The adoption of artificial intelligence within journalism remains an open question, with no definitive conclusions reached as of now. Various stakeholders, including newsrooms, technical enterprises, government entities, and private citizens, are instrumental in shaping the outcome of the current situation. Independent oversight mechanisms for artificial intelligence systems aimed at news could play a crucial role in ensuring that these technologies serve the interests of public journalism rather than undermine them. This represents a significant advancement for the media landscape. By establishing industry standards through cooperative initiatives, it is possible to prevent a scenario where automation prioritises speed and volume over quality, thus avoiding a detrimental race to the bottom.
Educational institutions and media organisations must implement necessary changes to effectively equip the upcoming generation of journalists who will undoubtedly collaborate with these technologies. These transformations are essential for progress. Future journalists will need to possess a blend of classic skills and technological know-how, enabling them to harness the potential of artificial intelligence while remaining cognisant of its constraints. While traditional skills remain essential, proficiency in technology is equally important. The debate is no longer centred on whether artificial intelligence will transform journalism; instead, we are witnessing that transformation unfold.

FALAKNUMA NEWS
ENGLISH DAILY
HYDERABAD, TELANGANA

Develop Crop Varieties Suited to Weather Conditions: Chouhan

New Delhi, Oct 29 (GNS): There is a need for proper coordination of improved seeds, organic fertilizers, weather-adaptive methods, modern technology, smart irrigation, and market linkages to sustain farmers. This was stated by Union Agriculture, Farmers' Welfare, and Rural Development Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan during a review meeting of agricultural and rural development schemes in Maharashtra, held today in Nagpur. The review meeting was organized at the auditorium of the National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning (NBSS & LUP) on Amravati Road, with the prominent presence of Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Chief Minister Shri Devendra Fadnavis.

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan directed the agriculture department to develop crop varieties suited to the weather conditions of different regions across the country. He also instructed to make special arrangements to provide each farmer with a Farmer ID and ensure that, in the future, benefits of agricultural schemes are not extended to farmers without an ID.

Chouhan further stated that Maharashtra will receive full support from the Center for various schemes and initiatives in the coming times. He emphasized the need to develop more cotton varieties, especially in the state, suited to climate change and rainfall patterns. There is also a need to develop high-yielding varieties for low-rainfall areas. He directed the development of a 'Best Cropping Model' for the state during the meeting.

Present at the occasion were State Agriculture Minister Shri Manikrao Kokate, Rural Development Minister Shri Jaykumar Gore, Minister of State for Finance Adv. Ashish Jaiswal, Principal Secretary of Agriculture Vikas Rastogi, Principal Secretary of Rural Development Eknath Dawale, and senior officials from the central and state governments.

Principal Secretary of Agriculture Vikas Rastogi provided information through a presentation on Maharashtra's weather, rainfall, agricultural challenges, Kharif season 2025, availability of fertilizers and seeds, Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan, AgriStack campaign, and plans for the next year. Appreciation for Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis During the meeting, Union Minister Shri Chouhan praised Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis for various innovative initiatives under the state's agriculture and rural development departments. He specifically commended the Chief Minister for initiatives under the Prime Minister Awas Yojana (Rural) and sandbank projects.

During the presentation, information was shared about innovative initiatives undertaken by farmers from various parts of the state. Union Minister Chouhan called for spreading the success stories of farmers like Raosaheb Mohite from Tapargaon in Sambhajinagar district, Eknath Talekar from Rui (Dhanora) in Beed district engaged in sericulture, and Vandana Rathod from Jawla in Yavatmal district involved in orchid farming, across the country through various platforms.

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis reviewed various centrally sponsored schemes under the Rural Development Department. Principal Secretary of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Eknath Dawale provided details on initiatives under the Prime Minister Awas Yojana, PM Janman Yojana, Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana, and self-help group programs. The review of MGNREGA was also conducted, with Union Minister Chouhan appreciating the achievement of MGNREGA targets.

Target of One Crore Lakhpati Didi's – Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis informed during the meeting that the Majhi Ladki Bahin Yojana, providing 1500 to women, has offered them significant support. Women have utilized this amount to start various businesses and meet essential expenses. Additionally, the Lakhpati Didi scheme is being implemented to make women financially self-reliant. The state aims to create one crore Lakhpati Didi's in the coming times, he added.

India's neighbourhood needed a firm message

New Delhi, Oct 29 (GNS): India's neighbourhood is anything but stable. Internal turmoil in Bangladesh, increasing since the ouster of Sheikh Hasina, alongside rise of extremism with Islamist forces gaining ground, remains a matter of concern. Its growing proximity to Pakistan and China as also attacks on its Hindu minority have raised shackles in Delhi. Nepal's current PM, Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli, continues playing the China card, regularly reraises the border issue while accusing India for its ongoing pro-monarchy protests. India's frustration on their approach was evident when it turned down requests for visits by their heads of state. Neither Yunus nor Oli have visited India since assuming their current appointments. Simultaneously, India has slowed down its assistance and support to these countries.

India, till the last minute, refused to confirm bilateral meetings with both nations on the sidelines of the BIMSTEC summit in Bangkok. These were requested by them. The meetings were scheduled at the last minute with a clear message that India is unhappy and would not accept actions which impact its security.

With Bangladesh there were three separate dialogues, one between the two foreign ministers, the second between the Indian NSA, Ajit Doval and their PM's high representative, Khalilur Rahman, at a social event, and finally between the two Prime Ministers. In every meeting India firmly conveyed that any action, viewed by New Delhi as anti-India, would invite countermeasures. The intent was to clarify that if Bangladesh desires friendly ties, then it must change the way it does business. Especially raised was the growing proximity between Bangladesh and India's perennial adversaries, Pakistan and China. It was a stark warning that if Bangladesh joined Pakistan in fermenting anti-India activities, Delhi would react. It was also advised to curb illegal immigration as any such attempt would be met with violence from India's security agencies. It was reported that Jaishankar also conveyed New Delhi's displeasure on Yunus's remarks on India's North East in China, which Bangladesh clarified was misinterpreted. While covered in diplomatic niceties, PM Modi conveyed.

Foundation Laid for 42.4 Cr Integrated Aquapark in Tripura; State to Be Developed as Organic Fish Cluster: Union Minister

Agartala, 29 Oct (GNS): Foundation Stone was laid for an Integrated Aquapark under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), worth 42.4 crores in Kailashahar, Tripura by Union Minister Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh alias Lalan Singh, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and Panchayati Raj in an event held in Agartala, Tripura today. In addition, the event featured an exhibition and inauguration of the Fish Festival highlighting the rich culture and diverse fishes of the state. The event was also graced by Shri George Kurian, Minister of State, MoFAH&D and Ministry of Minority Affairs along with Shri Sudhangshu Das, Minister of Fisheries, Govt. of Tripura and Shri Tinku Roy, Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs, Govt. of Tripura.

In his address, Union Minister, Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh shed light on the vital role, the sector plays in boosting India's economy, noting that the fisheries sector has exhibited growth at 9.08% since 2014-15, highest amongst Agri and Allied sectors, in India. Recognising the vast potential that Tripura has in the fisheries sector, he stressed upon the need to bridge the gap between demand and supply through use of modern technology, integrated farming and innovation. Shri Rajiv Ranjan highlighted that out of 11 Integrated Aqua Parks in the country, 4 are being set up in the Northeast region, including one in Tripura. The Union Minister urged the stakeholders to work diligently towards transforming Tripura into a "fish surplus state" capable of exporting fish, and to strive for a production target of 2 lakh tonnes, significantly exceeding the state's requirement of 1.5 lakh tonnes. He stated that soon Tripura would also be developed into an Organic Fish Cluster like Sikkim. While laying emphasis on the need to complete the Integrated Aquapark in a time bound manner, the Union Minister emphasized upon the importance of imparting institutional training to fish farmers. Encouraging fishers to utilize government schemes like Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastucture Development Fund (FIDF) and PMMSY, he reiterated the central government's commitment towards supporting training and capacity building through NFDB. Shri Rajiv Ranjan Singh also addressed issues like need to boost scampi production, develop ornamental fisheries, improve infrastructure, ensure easier market access and promote innovation and sustainability in the sector. On this occasion, the Union Minister distributed certificates and sanction orders to various beneficiaries.

George Kurian, Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying and Ministry of Minority Affairs, emphasized the need to enhance fish productivity in Tripura, noting that nearly 98% of the state's population consumes fish. He acknowledged the significant role fisheries plays in the state's food security and economy.

Sudhangshu Das, Minister of Fisheries, ARDD and SC Welfare, Government of Tripura, emphasized the state's commitment to uplifting fishers and fish farmers through targeted interventions. The Minister also shared that under the Matsya Sahayata Yojana, identified fishers and fish farmers are receiving annual financial assistance of 6,000 to support their livelihood. Encouraging the youth to take up fisheries as a viable means of employment, he noted that Tripura holds significant untapped potential in the sector. While Shri Tinku Roy, Minister of Sports and Youth Affairs, Govt. of Tripura further encouraged continued collaboration and collective action to uplift the fisheries sector and enhance livelihoods of fishers in Tripura.

Dr Abhilaksh Likhi, Union Secretary, MoFAH&D, highlighted the Department's key schemes and initiatives, including PMMSY, FIDF, and the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Kisan Samridhi Sah-Yojana (PMMKSSY), with a combined investment outlay of approximately 38,000 crores. It was noted that projects worth 2,114 crores have been approved for the Northeastern region, including 319 crore specifically for Tripura. Shri Likhi urged fishers and fish farmers to embrace modern technologies such as Recirculatory Aquaculture Systems (RAS), Biofloc, and drone-based applications, while fully leveraging advancements in research and development. Emphasizing the significance of livelihood security, he also highlighted the advantages of providing insurance coverage for fishers. Additionally, special emphasis was placed on species diversification, particularly the promotion of high-value indigenous species like Pabda and Singhi.

The event was also attended by Shri Sagar Mehra, Joint Secretary, Department of Fisheries, MoFAH&D, Dr Bijay Kumar Behera, Chief Executive, NFDB along with other senior officials from the centre and state fisheries department.

Tripura, with its high fish consumption rate of over 29 kg per capita per year, has made significant progress in recent years. Under PMMSY, the state has received an investment of Rs. 178 crore. Over the last five years, Tripura has implemented 69 approved projects with a cumulative value of Rs. 258.61 crores in the sector.

Tier 2 & 3 Towns Power India's Startup Surge: Agri Innovation and Deep-Tech Lead the Way

New Delhi, Oct 29 (GNS): Union minister for Science & Technology has hailed the IIT Ropar, which is relatively new compared to other IITs having been established only in 2008, for promoting Agri StartUps in smaller towns and expressed satisfaction at the fact that nearly 50% of India's StartUps are now from Tier 2 and Tier 3 towns. Addressing the Pragati Founder Forum, hosted by IIT Ropar and supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Dr Jitendra Singh observed that India's StartUp revolution is no longer confined to metro cities.

In a compelling and forward-looking address, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, and Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh debunked the myth that only IT ventures can be StartUps and hailed IIT Ropar for promoting high-potential Agri-StartUps through transformation of traditional sectors. "This shift is a healthy sign of deep-rooted innovation," he said, crediting Prime Minister Narendra Modi for democratizing entrepreneurship across India through the clarion call "StandUp India, StartUp India" from the ramparts of Red Fort

Dr. Jitendra Singh underlined the role of StartUps as "enablers" propelling India from the 'Fragile Five' to a future among the world's top five economies by 2047. Highlighting India's meteoric rise from 81st to 39th in the Global Innovation Index, he pointed to the role of S&T startups, Agri-innovation, and deep tech in contributing to India's economic growth. The S&T minister also emphasized that 70% of resource allocation under the upcoming Anusandhan NRF (National Research Foundation) will come from non-government sectors, boosting public-private synergy.Dr. Jitendra Singh showcased the Purple Revolution as a hallmark of grassroots innovation — lavender cultivation that began in hilly towns of Jammu & Kashmir, now flourishing in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, with over 3,000+ startups profiting in this niche."30% of these entrepreneurs are not even graduates," the Minister noted, highlighting how government technical and financial support — coupled with market linkages to perfumeries in Mumbai — is transforming rural India into an enterprise hub.

Dr. Jitendra Singh awarded under the Investment category shortlisted after an exhaustive process. These StartUps were namely the Blu Cocoon Digital Pvt. Ltd. ;Rezovate Constructions Pvt. Ltd.; Wawe Technologies; Biofield Power Pvt. Ltd. ; Karmath Engineering Pvt. Ltd.Dr. Jitendra Singh also launched the 'SPRINT' – Haryana and Telangana Editions: Regional deep-tech innovation programs to support early-stage startups. The Minister unveiled the PRAGATI Report: A strategic blueprint for inclusive innovation and public-private partnership. The Minister launched the "Farming on the Edge" Thematic Report: An in-depth study of challenges faced by small and marginal farmers.

Dr.Singh virtually inaugurated Office of Intellectual Property & Technology Commercialisation (OITC): A step forward in IP creation and commercialization for Indian startups.

Touching upon India's recent military-technological advancements, Dr. Jitendra Singh referred to Operation Sindoor, a showcase of India's leadership in tech-enabled warfare, underlining the indigenous development, technology transfer, and joint efforts of private and government sectors — with hubs in Hyderabad and Bengaluru.

"Early industry linkage is the key to StartUp success," Dr. Jitendra Singh advised, calling for awareness among students and parents alike. "Let us introspect — how many of those who joined expensive coaching centers over 25 years made it to the civil services?" he asked.

Dr. Jitendra Singh concluded by saying that "As India accelerates towards its vision for 2047, the message is clear: Innovation, inclusion and intent are the pillars of India's ascent to global leadership."

Smt. Rekha Sharma, MP Rajya Sabha and former NCW Chairperson, who was also present for the programme emphasized the critical need for inclusive innovation and increased participation of women in startups. Prof. Abhay Karnadikar, Secretary, DST, highlighted India's rapid momentum in AI, Cyber-Physical Systems, and emerging technologies, reiterating the strategic role of the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS). The event also highlighted the importance of strengthening collaboration among academic institutions, industry and government agencies to accelerate the commercialisation of indigenous technologies. Speakers stressed that providing mentorship, funding opportunities and access to markets would help young entrepreneurs transform research into viable businesses, generate employment and develop innovative solutions to challenges in agriculture and other critical sectors.

Sarbananda Sonowal unveils 'Sagar Mein Samman' to boost women participation in Maritime Sector

New Delhi, Oct 29 (GNS): Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW), Shri Sarbananda Sonowal unveiled the 'Sagar Mein Samman' (SMS), a policy initiative of the Government of India to create a future ready gender equitable maritime workforce with the ultimate aim to increase participation of women in the maritime sector. The initiative was launched at the inaugural International Day for Women in Maritime celebrations in Mumbai today, with a clear message of inclusivity, transformation and sustainability of the maritime sector.

The SMS policy aims to build a future where women's participation is integral to all maritime operations; i.e., from the docks to decision making boards. In order to bridge the gender gap in both seafaring and shore based roles, this policy provides a structured road map for enhanced participation by women while addressing safety, leadership and retention of women in the Indian maritime sector. This programme is also aligned with Government's DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) objective. Major scope of the policy would entail planning & strategy, training & development, research & development, governance & compliance, communications, and community outreach. It aims to secure objectives like empowerment & leadership, inclusivity & equal opportunity, safety & well-being, and skill development & training for women in maritime sector.

As the Chief Guest at the event, Union Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal underscored the importance of empowering women to drive growth and resilience across the maritime ecosystem. Sonowal also interacted with a group of almost 100 women seafarers at the event. Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said, "This day is essential to celebrate women through their recruitment, retention, and sustained employment in the maritime sector. This year IMO is celebrating on a theme that 'An Ocean of Opportunities for Women,' which aligns with the 2025 World Maritime Day theme: Our Ocean, Our Obligation, Our Opportunity. We must introspect and work towards raising the profile of women in maritime and strengthening their presence. The development of women in various fields is also a top priority for our Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi ji. The Maritime India Vision 2030 document envisages the launch of the 'Women in Seafarer' program, which includes encouraging onshore jobs, awareness and marketing campaigns, incentivising shipping companies, and leveraging scholarships to improve women's participation. We have made significant efforts to bring this vision to reality."

Highlighting on the focus of the government since 2014, Union Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal also said how the India's maritime sector has witnessed a surge of women seafarers from 341 in 2014 to 2557 in 2024, recording a whopping growth of 649%. Since 2014, about 2,989 women seafarers have received financial assistance. Due to government's sustained effort to encourage women to explore maritime sector for a fruitful career, the number of women seeking financial assistance has increased from a mere 45 in 2014-15 to 732 in 2024-25. The engagement of Indian female seafarers on Indian and foreign-flagged ships is continuously increasing.

Citing data, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal said, "Empowering women in maritime is not just about equity—it's a strategic necessity. Their leadership brings innovation, strength, and a more sustainable future for the sector. Our Nari Shakti is a fundamental pillar of the new Bharat, for their incredible contribution in the nation building cause. Under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, our task is cut out. Sagar Mein Samman is one such initiative to create a conducive environment for more and more women to join the maritime sector. India witnessed a remarkable 739% surge in registered women seafarers — from 1,699 in 2015 to 14,255 in 2024, marking a decade of steady progress in Maritime Gender Inclusion, a key idea of PM Narendra Modi towards honing our impeccable talent pool with Nari Shakti."

During the celebrations of the 'International Day for Women in Maritime,' Union Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal also honoured and felicitated 10 outstanding women of the Indian maritime sector. They are Sumita Banerji, Bharati Bhandarkar, Kalpana Desai, Poonam Nagpal, Yen Pinto, Archana Saxena Sangal, Rupali Raj Joshi, Capt Deepti Singh and Amarjeet Rewari.

Sarbananda Sonowal further added, "The launch of the "Sagar Mein Samman" policy framework shows our commitment to the mental, physical, and professional well-being of women seafarers. This comprehensive policy addresses empowerment, leadership, inclusivity, safety, skill development, and the dismantling of gender-based barriers in the maritime profession. We have ambitious target of 12% female representation in technical maritime roles by 2030, aligning directly with national objectives.

Markets end higher due to selective buying supports

Mumbai, Oct 29 (GNS): Equity benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty ended higher in a volatile trade on Wednesday due to selective buying support amid easing inflation and positive global cues. Besides, heavy rush on metal and industrial counters and unabated foreign capital inflows supported the positive trend in the equity markets, traders said.

The 30-share BSE benchmark Sensex climbed 182.34 points or 0.22 per cent to settle at 81,330.56. The gauge hit a high of 81,691.87 and a low of 80,910.03. As many as 2,857 stocks advanced while 1,121 declined and 147 remained unchanged on the BSE. The NSE Nifty rose 88.55 points or 0.36 per cent to 24,666.90.

"Markets were choppy in intra-day trade but managed to end in the green on selective buying support as investors don't want to rush into equities after Monday's strong optimism. While foreign fund flows in the domestic market will be critical going ahead, investors are worried that the US-China settling tariff disputes could revive foreign investors' interest in Chinese markets again," Prashanth Tapse, Senior VP (Research), Mehta Equities Ltd, said.

Tata Steel emerged as the biggest winner in the Sensex pack, rising 3.88 per cent, followed by Eternal, Tech Mahindra, Maruti, Mahindra and Mahindra, Infosys, IndusInd Bank, HCL Tech, Tata Consultancy Services and Bharti Airtel were the major gainers. Telecom operator Bharti Airtel climbed nearly 1 per cent after it posted about a five-fold jump in consolidated net profit to `11,022 crore in the March 2025 quarter, mainly due to the tariff hike impact and one-time gain on tax benefits. However, Asian Paints, Tata Motors, Kotak Mahindra Bank, NTPC and Power Grid were among the laggards.

Tata Motors dipped over one per cent after the firm reported a 51 per cent decline in consolidated net profit to `8,556 crore for the March quarter, hit by lower volumes and operating leverage. "The session began on a positive note, supported by encouraging factors, such as easing retail inflation and stable global cues. However, the absence of sustained buying interest and a mixed performance among heavyweight stocks limited further gains as the day progressed," Ajit Mishra - SVP, Research, Religare Broking Ltd, said.

The BSE smallcap gauge jumped 1.63 per cent and the midcap index climbed 1.19 per cent. Among sectoral indices, metal surged 2.46 per cent, industrials (1.73 per cent), realty (1.71 per cent), commodities (1.49 per cent), oil and gas (1.46 per cent), BSE Focused IT (1.38 per cent) and IT (1.37 per cent).

"Nifty Metal was the top gainer, up 2.5 per cent, as easing trade tensions between the US and China lifted sentiment across metal stocks. Nifty IT also saw a 1.3 per cent uptick, rebounding after profit booking in the previous session. Defence stocks continued to witness momentum, backed by strong domestic demand and export optimism," Siddhartha Khemka, Head - Research, Wealth Management, Motilal Oswal Financial Services, said.

Special plan for SC/ST development

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka reviews department-wise expenditure under Special Development Funds.



Hyderabad, Oct 29 (GNS): Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka has directed officials to ensure the effective utilisation of SC/ST Sub-Plan funds to accelerate the economic and social development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. He emphasised the need to maximise the benefits of government welfare schemes for these communities and speed up fund utilisation to improve their living standards.

He called for coordinated efforts to ensure that every eligible family receives the benefits of government schemes, with priority given to key sectors such as agriculture, power, housing, healthcare and social infrastructure.

On Thursday, the Deputy Chief Minister conducted a review meeting with senior officials at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat on the utilisation of SC/ST Sub-Plan funds by the Agriculture, Energy, Medical and Health, Panchayat Raj, Rural Development and Municipal Administration departments. Minister for Social Welfare Development Adluri Laxman attended the meeting.

During the review, Bhatti Vikramarka examined expenditure incurred during the first two quarters of the current financial year, the implementation of welfare schemes and the benefits extended to beneficiaries. He offered several key suggestions to ensure that funds are utilised effectively in accordance with the needs of the people.

During the review of schemes such as Rythu Bharosa, distribution of subsidised seeds and agricultural mechanisation, the Deputy Chief Minister directed officials to comprehensively assess the benefits reaching SC/ST farmers who own agricultural land.

He asked officials to identify variations in the utilisation of Special Development Funds arising from the eligibility criteria of schemes linked to land ownership. He also called for reports supported by clear statistical data comparing the assistance provided to SC/ST farmers under agricultural schemes with expenditure under general schemes.

> ***The Deputy Chief Minister suggested alternatives wherever guidelines prevented full utilisation of Special Development Funds. He directed officials to prepare proposals for special schemes to benefit eligible SC farmers.***

The Deputy Chief Minister suggested exploring alternative approaches wherever existing scheme guidelines were preventing the full utilisation of Special Development Funds. He directed officials to prepare proposals for special schemes wherever necessary to extend greater benefits to eligible SC farmers.

He further instructed the Agriculture Department and other departments to verify beneficiary details at the field level. Comprehensive lists containing the names of beneficiaries, villages, social categories and details of assistance provided under schemes such as subsidised seed distribution and agricultural machinery should be prepared. Every department should clearly report the extent of benefits delivered to SC/ST communities under the schemes within its jurisdiction. He also called for digitising these details and establishing a continuous monitoring mechanism to track fund utilisation.

Officials informed the meeting that, according to information received from district collectors, approximately 1,300 acres of vacant land were available across the state.

The Deputy Chief Minister directed officials to examine the possibilities of utilising this land according to local requirements and expedite the necessary approvals and further action to make the identified sites available to eligible families. He also asked officials to examine proposals for land acquisition to purchase house sites for eligible families who do not own residential plots.

Emphasising the importance of social infrastructure, Bhatti Vikramarka directed officials to identify the requirements for community halls, cremation grounds and other essential facilities for SC/ST communities in every constituency.

He called for preparing proposals based on local needs and implementing development works on a priority basis through coordination among the concerned departments.

Telangana Governor Urges Students to Explore India's Cultural Heritage



Hyderabad, Oct 29 (GNS): Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla has called upon students to use educational tours as an opportunity to understand India's rich history, cultural diversity and regional traditions, rather than limiting their visits to sightseeing, shopping and entertainment. He encouraged them to explore the distinctive features of each region and share their experiences to promote mutual understanding and national integration.

The Governor interacted with a 72-member student contingent from the

Assam Contingent (including Coordinators from University of Hyderabad)

at the Durbar Hall of Lok Bhavan here on Thursday, as part of the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat – Yuva Sangam Phase VII programme.

Emphasising the importance of experiential learning, Mr. Shukla urged the students to understand the historical significance of landmarks such as the Charminar, the architectural and technological features of Golconda Fort, and the unique aspects of Telangana's language, cuisine, festivals and traditions. He described the Yuva Sangam initiative, being conducted from October 23 to 29 by the Union Ministry of Education in association with the University of Hyderabad, as an opportunity to gain knowledge through direct exposure to different regions and their cultural heritage.

The Governor said that Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat seeks to foster an appreciation of India's diverse cultures, traditions, art forms and lifestyles. He stressed the importance of strengthening cultural ties between Assam and Telangana and called upon the students to act as cultural ambassadors, sharing the heritage and traditions of the Northeast with people in Telangana and taking the cultural richness of Telangana back to their home State.

He observed that such interactions among young people from different parts of the country would promote mutual respect, national unity and a deeper appreciation of India's diversity.

The students shared their experiences of their visit to Telangana with the Governor and expressed appreciation for the State's hospitality and Hyderabad's technological development.

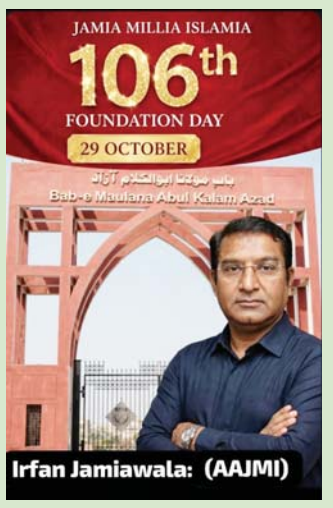
Governor's Special Chief Secretary M. Dana Kishore, Joint Secretary Komanduri Shashi Kiran, University of Hyderabad nodal officer Dr. S. Arulmozi, officials and faculty members attended the interaction.

DK Aruna launches minority girls' school in Mahabubnagar

Mahabubnagar, Oct 29 (GNS): BJP MP DK Aruna on Thursday laid the foundation stone for a Minority Girls' Residential School at Veerannapet in Mahabubnagar district under the Central Government's Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK). Speaking at the programme, DK Aruna alleged that the previous government had sanctioned residential schools in a hurry but failed to construct permanent buildings. As a result, several schools were operating in rented private buildings without adequate facilities. She said the funds released by the Centre during the previous government's tenure were not properly utilised.

Aruna stated that the Central Government provides funds to Telangana without discrimination. She said 200 crore had been allocated to the municipal corporation for underground drainage works, while 400 cr had earlier been sanctioned for development works.

Jamia Millia Islamia 106th Foundation Day



Written by:
Irfan Jamiawala,
AAJMI Mumbai

Jamia - A History, A Movement, An Emotion

29th October 1920. India was under British rule. On the soil of Aligarh, some visionaries dreamt a dream. Maulana Mohammad Ali Jauhar, Hakim Ajmal Khan, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed Ansari, Maulana Mahmood Hasan, Abdul Majeed Khwaja said - We need a University which is not dependent on the government, but is the Nation's own University. The slogan was given - "This is Jamia, not the Government's, but the Nation's University."

The caravan that started from Aligarh, settled in Karol Bagh in 1925 and then finally found its permanent home in Jamia Nagar, Okhla, on the banks of Yamuna. Mahatma Gandhi had said, "It is my responsibility to keep Jamia alive."

Today, after 106 years, when we enter through Gate No. 7 - Bab-e Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, it feels like we are not just entering a University, but entering a civilization.

The 106 Years Journey - 3 Key Lessons:

1. Education with Values: Jamia did not just produce Doctors, Engineers, Lawyers - it produced Human Beings. From Jamia School to Mass Communication, Law, Engineering, one thing is taught - Speak the truth, Stand for justice.

2. Jamia is the Constitution of India: People say Jamia is for Muslims. Wrong! Jamia is the best example of the Indian Constitution. Here every religion is respected. That is its beauty.

3. Why Celebrate Foundation Day? Because this day reminds us that education does not come from begging, it comes from sacrifice. Our ancestors sold their jewellery and mortgaged their houses to build this Jamia.

Message to all Jamiawalas: Wherever we go in the world, we proudly say - "I am a Jamiawala."

This relation is not of blood, but it is deeper than blood. Happy 106th Foundation Day to all Jamiawalas! Long Live Jamia! Jamia Zindabad!

CEO orders strict scrutiny of MLC voter applications



Hyderabad, Oct 29 (GNS): State Chief Electoral Officer C. Sudarshan Reddy, accompanied by District Election Officer and Collector C. Narayana Reddy, visited the Rajendranagar Tahsildar office and the Shamshabad municipal office. As part of the voter registration process for the Mahabubnagar–Ranga Reddy–Hyderabad Graduates' MLC constituency, they examined the Form-18 applications, degree certificates, and other educational qualification documents submitted by applicants, and provided specific instructions to the concerned officials.

Speaking on the occasion, State Chief Electoral Officer C. Sudarshan Reddy emphasized that the details provided in every Form-18 submitted for MLC voter registration, along with the attached documents, must be thoroughly scrutinized to verify their authenticity. The Rajendranagar RDO, the Tahsildars of Rajendranagar and Shamshabad, and the Deputy Municipal Commissioner of Shamshabad have been directed to conduct a thorough scrutiny of the educational qualifications, degree certificates, and other relevant documents submitted by applicants.

It has been explicitly stated that every application must be examined in accordance with the prescribed rules to ensure there is no scope for irregularities in the voter registration process. Officials must verify the authenticity of the submitted certificates and confirm that they indeed belong to the respective applicants. If any discrepancies are found between the details provided in the applications and the supporting educational certificates, these must be identified and subjected to necessary verification. Officials have been instructed to act responsibly to ensure that the voter registration process remains transparent, impartial, and fully compliant with electoral regulations.

The State Chief Electoral Officer has directed that if any applicant is found attempting to register as a voter by submitting fake degree certificates, bogus documents, or other fraudulent papers, criminal cases must be registered against them immediately. Officials have been clearly instructed to take legal action against those who violate electoral rules and to ensure that every aspect is meticulously verified, with no room for negligence during the scrutiny of applications.

KTR Slams Revanth Reddy Over Drought, Questions Rs 1.5 Lakh Crore Musi Project



Hyderabad, Oct 29 (GNS): BRS working president KT Rama Rao has strongly criticised Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's government, accusing it of prioritising real estate interests and the Musi riverfront project over farmers' welfare, irrigation and drinking water needs amid a severe drought in Telangana. Addressing the issues on Thursday, Rama Rao questioned the government's proposed 1.5 lakh crore Musi riverfront development project, arguing that drought-hit farmers and water shortages should receive priority over beautification works.

"Who asked for beautification when crops are drying up? Did Rahul Gandhi or Sonia Gandhi ask for it?" he asked. Rama Rao claimed that nearly 1,000 TMC feet of Godavari and Krishna river water had flowed out of Telangana without adequate utilisation. He alleged that the government had failed to conserve water despite 365 mandals being declared drought-hit, worsening the agricultural crisis.

Comparing Telangana with neighbouring Andhra Pradesh, he alleged that the latter had taken steps to divert river water to address drought conditions, while the Telangana government had failed to act on Opposition suggestions.

The BRS leader said farmers were struggling to save their crops and were being forced to depend on generators and water tankers. He also expressed concern over reports of farmers burning standing crops due to mounting expenses and referred to four farmer suicides reportedly recorded in Adilabad during the preceding week. Criticising the government over its handling of various sectors, Rama Rao said farmers were facing crop losses, industries were experiencing power-related difficulties, government employees were awaiting pay revision and retirement benefits, and unemployed youth were still waiting for jobs.

He also questioned the proposed diversion of 10 TMC feet of water from Mallanna Sagar to the Musi project. Pointing to Hyderabad's reported demand for around 7,000 water tankers daily, he asked how the government could justify the proposed expenditure while farmers and residents faced water shortages. Rama Rao raised questions about transparency in the Musi project, alleging that the public hearing on land acquisition had not ensured meaningful public participation and that the Detailed Project Report (DPR) had not been made public despite claims regarding Asian Development Bank financing.

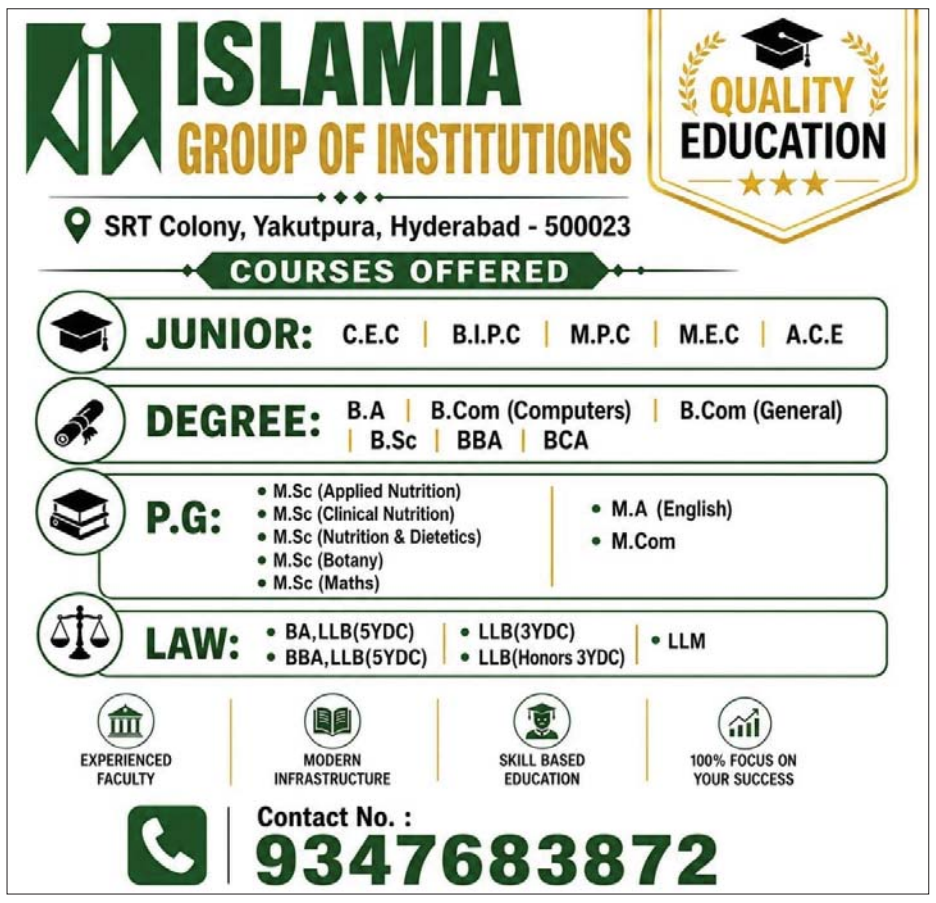
Suraksha' AIMS to bring police services closer to the public

Hyderabad, Oct 29 (GNS): In an era of rapidly evolving communication systems, there is a pressing need to effectively convey the sacrifices, services, and welfare initiatives of the police to the public, stated Telangana DGP and Editor-in-Chief of the daily newspaper 'Suraksha', C.V. Anand. He emphasized that 'Suraksha' should play a pivotal role in clarifying facts when false information about the police circulates, while also raising awareness about public issues, police services, and crime-related matters.

The first anniversary celebration of 'Suraksha'—a daily newspaper published under the aegis of the Telangana Police Department—was held on Thursday at the City Police College in Petlaburuju, Hyderabad. DGP C.V. Anand attended the event in his capacity as Editor-in-Chief. He was welcomed by Cyberabad Police Commissioner and Executive Editor of 'Suraksha', Ramesh. Prominent journalist Pamidikalva Madhusudhan, Mamidi Harikrishna, the Director of the BC Study Circle, and Public Relations Officers (PROs) from various districts and police units across the state participated in this meeting.

The Evolving Information System Driven by Technology Speaking on the occasion, the DGP explained that the methods of disseminating information have undergone significant changes over time. He recalled that in the past, news reached the public through Urdu, English, and Telugu newspapers, followed by television broadcasts, which were limited to specific time slots. With the advancement of technology, live broadcasts and social media have become widespread.

He noted that today, with almost everyone carrying a mobile phone, information reaches the public in an instant, allowing people to stay updated on global developments in real-time. However, he pointed out that the rapid spread of information makes it challenging to verify the truth. He mentioned that, at times, false stories about the police are published—sometimes driven by personal motives—and facts are distorted. The DGP emphasized the need for the public to be aware of the challenges police officers face while on duty and the sacrifices they make for society.



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