

‘Vote Theft’ protests intensify in Delhi, AISA leader detained

NEW DELHI, Oct 4 (GNS): With protests refusing to subside, Opposition-backed student organisations and the Aam Aadmi Party hit the streets of Delhi for the third consecutive day on Sunday over “vote theft” allegations against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, with the detention of AISA national president Neha Bora triggering a fresh uproar. Bora’s whereabouts remained unknown to fellow protesters for nearly three hours after she was detained during a march demanding Kumar’s resignation, prompting I.N.D.I.A. bloc leaders, lawyers and civil society activists to seek information from the police.

She was eventually released from the Narela Industrial Area police station on the outskirts of Delhi in the evening. However, allegations that she had been



taken away in a private vehicle without a woman police officer became a fresh flash-point in the agitation.

AISA alleged that it was unable to contact Bora after she was taken away and claimed that no woman police officer was present in

the vehicle. It later said she was released without her phone and bag and that a team of lawyers was sent to the Narela police station.

Police sources rejected the allegations as baseless and claimed that some protesters had attacked and bitten

police personnel on duty. The detention sparked chaotic scenes as protesters tried to prevent police from taking detainees away. Some climbed onto the vehicle carrying Bora in an attempt to stop it from leaving. Another woman protester allegedly

ran away with the ignition key of a bus carrying detainees, forcing police personnel to push the vehicle away. Some protesters also tried to escape through broken window panes of buses as police cleared the area.

Around 5,000 police personnel, including members of the Rapid Action Force and other paramilitary forces, were deployed in the Capital ahead of two protest marches from India Gate to Jantar Mantar. Police detained around 120 protesters, including activist Yogendra Yadav and Latika Dikshit, daughter of former Delhi chief minister Sheila Dikshit. Bora was among hundreds of activists who assembled at Andhra Bhawan Circle and marched towards Jantar Mantar amid heavy barricading. A brief confrontation broke out when protesters attempted

to cross the police cordon, following which she was taken away separately.

Uncertainty over her whereabouts prompted AIDWA leaders Asha Sharma and Maimoona Mollah, RTI activist Anjali Bharadwaj and others to approach Parliament Street police station. They alleged that Bora and other women activists had been taken away in private vehicles. The detention also drew reactions from I.N.D.I.A. bloc leaders. TMC Rajya Sabha leader Derek O’Brien said he had been anxious after learning that Ms Bora had been taken away and welcomed her subsequent release.

CPI(ML) Liberation general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya earlier described the detention as an “abduction” and demanded that Delhi Police disclose her whereabouts.

India, US Advance Security, Maritime Cooperation



NEW DELHI, Oct 4 (GNS): External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar held a meeting with the Commander of the United States Pacific Command, Admiral Samuel J. Paparo, in New Delhi on Sunday, during which discussions were held on advancing the security partnership and maritime cooperation. US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor was present at the meeting. “Glad to meet Commander of the US Pacific Command, Admiral Samuel J. Paparo. Discussed advancing our security partnership and maritime cooperation in the Indo-Pacific,” EAM Jaishankar posted on X.

On Saturday, Admiral Samuel J. Paparo arrived in New Delhi for a six-day official visit to strengthen the defence partnership between the two nations. Sergio Gor extended a warm welcome to Admiral Samuel Paparo. During his visit, Admiral Paparo will hold talks with Indian counterparts on shared security priorities, including harnessing digital transformation and emerging technologies, maintaining regional strategic stability, strengthening defence energy resilience, and navigating an increasingly competitive technology landscape. “From emerging technology to maritime security, the United States and India are building a defence partnership equipped to meet the challenges of the future,” the US Embassy in

India said in a statement. “Admiral Paparo’s visit underscores the strength of the Major Defence Partnership and reaffirms the United States’ enduring presence and interests in the Indian Ocean region,” it added.

Earlier, on September 28, Chief of Army Staff (COAS) General Dhiraj Seth and Deputy Commanding General of United States Army Pacific Lieutenant General Joel B. Vowell held a meeting in New Delhi, where the two sides discussed the evolving security landscape in the Indo-Pacific and opportunities to advance bilateral engagement. “Lieutenant General Joel B Vowell, Deputy Commanding General, USARPAC, called on General Dhiraj Seth, COAS, on 28 September. The leaders discussed the evolving security landscape in the Indo-Pacific and explored opportunities to advance bilateral defence engagement across multiple domains,” the Indian Army’s Additional Directorate General of Public Information posted on X.

“The interaction also focussed on measures to enhance interoperability through joint training and military exercises. The successful outcome of Exercise Yudh Abhyas validated the seamless synergy of joint operations and reaffirmed the commitment of both Armies towards strengthening military-to-military cooperation,” it added.

INDIA bloc victory matters more than individual party wins, says Akhilesh Yadav

New Delhi, Oct 4 (GNS): Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Sunday stressed that the primary objective of the INDIA bloc should be victory rather than the number of seats won by individual parties, saying that a united effort is necessary to defeat communalism and protect democracy, the Constitution and reservations.

In a post on X, Yadav said that when the goal is clear and the focus remains fixed on the destination, the journey becomes easier.

“When the goal is clear, hand in hand we stand, When the gaze is fixed on the destination, the journey becomes easy!”

“The big thing isn’t how many seats the alliance gets or which seat goes to whom – the big thing is that we all must ensure that the victory belongs to the alliance. Let us repeat again: It’s not about the seats, it’s about the vic-



tory,” he added.

Yadav expressed confidence saying, “This victory will be greater than the parties in our alliance – it will be the victory of all of us, of that united effort that persists in struggle so that communalism may never raise its head again, so that BJP’s influence may not touch democracy, the Constitution, or reservations, and so that the country’s harmony may bloom once more, and the nation’s progress and prosperity may smile again.”

Yadav’s remarks came at a time when the Samajwadi Party and the

Congress are preparing to begin deliberations over seat-sharing for the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections. The formula for a pre-poll alliance between the two parties is yet to be finalised, with seat allocation emerging as a potential point of contention.

Meanwhile, Samajwadi Party MP Shiv Pal Singh Patel on Saturday questioned the Congress’ reported demand for 150 seats in the upcoming Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections. He said the Congress should seek seats in proportion to its electoral strength and organisational presence in the state. Speaking to , Patel said, “I think if they are given 50 seats, they should look at their actual position and status before seeking anything more than 50 seats. They should look at their past record. The six seats we got in Madhya Pradesh were because of the Samajwadi Party.

Kerala Govt orders fresh vigilance probe into 2006 case linked to CEC Gyanesh Kumar

Thiruvananthapuram, Oct 4 (GNS): Kerala Home Minister Ramesh Chennithala on Sunday ordered a fresh Vigilance inquiry into allegations involving Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar during his tenure as the state’s Public Works Department Secretary, following a petition submitted by Congress leader Malayinkeezhu Venugopal.

The case relates to Malayalam civil engineer Lee See Been, who died by suicide in Kuala Lumpur in November 2006 after returning from Kerala. He was associated with the PATI-BEL consortium engaged in upgrading MC Road under the Kerala State Transport Project (KSTP). The engineer’s purported suicide note reportedly named Kumar, who was serving as PWD Secretary at the time.

The case concerns alleged irregularities associated with the project and claims that external pressure derailed the pre-



liminary Vigilance inquiry conducted in 2006. Acting on the allegations, the state Home Department has sought all relevant files relating to the earlier inquiry by the Vigilance and Anti-Corruption Bureau (VACB).

The records will be examined to assess how the original proceedings were handled and whether outside influence affected their course. According to the state Home Minister’s Office, Chennithala has directed the Vigilance Director to conduct a thorough inquiry into the allegations of interference and take

appropriate action based on the findings.

The minister said the allegations of external influence were serious and warranted a detailed investigation. The renewed scrutiny will focus on the circumstances in which the preliminary inquiry was conducted and the handling of the allegations raised at the time. Lee worked with the consortium entrusted with upgrading MC Road, a major component of the Kerala State Transport Project. His death subsequently became linked to allegations surrounding the administration and execution of the road improvement works.

Venugopal’s petition forms the basis for the latest government intervention. The fresh inquiry follows allegations that the earlier examination was derailed by external pressure, prompting the state Home Department to seek the records for renewed scrutiny.

Gadkari Announces 500 cr for Bengal Highways

Kolkata, Oct 4 (GNS): Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari said on Saturday that the Centre has approved more than Rs 500 crore for strengthening and selective widening of NH-14 and NH-114 in Birbhum district of West Bengal. The Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways made this remark in his official X post.

“In West Bengal, we have approved Rs 508.66 crore for strengthening and selective widening of NH-14 and NH-114 in Birbhum district. The project covers 91.90 km of NH-14 from Bhimgarh to Nalhati via Mallarpur and 56.40 km of NH-114 from Surul Village to Mallarpur,” Gadkari said. According to the Union Minister, the upgraded corridors will improve road safety, ease congestion and travel time. Gadkari said, “The upgraded corridors will improve road safety, ease congestion, reduce travel time, facilitate smoother movement of people and goods,

and strengthen connectivity between villages, towns and key economic centres.”

He also added that the project will also support regional trade, local businesses and economic activity while providing safer and more efficient journeys for commuters and freight operators.

After the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government came to power in West Bengal following the recently held Assembly elections, the Centre has cleared several projects and funds for the state which were stalled due to the objection and non-cooperation of the previous Trinamool Congress government. Besides this, the Centre has been making financial allocations in many sectors to strengthen the infrastructure of West Bengal. Meanwhile, earlier in the day, Nitin Gadkari said infrastructure development was the key to making India a leading economy and called for the formulation of an international code of conduct for the infrastructure sector.

Military power concentrated around aerospace domain: IAF Chief

New Delhi, Oct 4 (GNS): Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh said on Saturday that military power is concentrated around the aerospace domain, adding that recent conflicts have shown that air power is the cutting edge on which any nation relies to meet its objectives.

At a press conference ahead of Air Force Day, Singh said, “As far as geopolitics is concerned, we all have seen the changes which are taking place in the world. From the conflicts which we see around, it is very clear that other elements of comprehensive national power of any nation rest on a strong military.” “Military power becomes the ultimate, and without adequate military power, any state remains vulnerable to coercion, and if we have to do things our way, if we have to follow the path that we want to follow, we have to have a strong military,” the IAF chief said.

“And when we talk about



a strong military, in the recent conflicts we have seen that it is the air power which has come to the fore, which has come out as the cutting edge of military power, and it is one instrument on which any nation relies to meet its objectives,” he said.

“Whether we look at defence transactions worldwide and strategic conversations that are taking place – whether it is advanced fighter aircraft, long-range precision weapons, integrated air command and control, or unmanned aerial systems – it is all very clear that they all reflect

that military power is concentrated around the aerospace domain,” said the Air Chief Marshal.

Earlier, the IAF chief said India is likely to finalise much awaited multi role fighter aircraft (MRFA) deal by the end of this financial year if plans materialise in time. Singh said price negotiations and other critical issues on the proposed acquisition estimated at about Rs 3.25 lakh crore are under way. India in Feb cleared the proposal to procure 114 Rafale fighter jets in the country’s largest-ever defence acquisition push.

Thackeray brothers lead garjana Morcha in Mumbai, challenge ECI over SIR row

Mumbai, Oct 4 (GNS): In a display of political unity, Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray and Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday spearheaded a high-decibel ‘Garjana Morcha’ in Mumbai. Marching from Metro Cinema to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) headquarters, the joint rally delivered a broadside against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and the Election Commission of India (ECI) over alleged voter roll manipulation.

The protest gained substantial momentum as key constituents of the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), including the Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) and the Congress party, joined forces on the streets. The Communist Parties, Peasants and Workers Party also partici-



pated in the march. Ditching party flags in favour of the Tricolour, thousands of demonstrators marched demanding strict accountability, the scrapping of the controversial Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process, and the immediate resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

Questioning the legitimacy of the recent election outcomes, Raj Thackeray pointed to the eerie silence across the state after the Assembly election results. He argued that a genuine democratic

mandate is marked by spontaneous public celebration, whereas the current post-election atmosphere across Maharashtra reflected widespread disillusionment and shock.

Highlighting a sharp statistical anomaly, Thackeray questioned how Maharashtra’s voter base swelled by an astonishing 40 to 60 lakh voters within a brief six-month window following the Lok Sabha elections. He termed the surge a deliberate attempt to compromise electoral integrity.

Reminding opposition

Why Parliament needs quiet conversations



Vivek Katju
THE disruption in the Lok Sabha that prevented a discussion on the Budget is over. A new chapter of bitterness, though, has begun, with the Opposition moving a no-confidence motion against Speaker Om Birla. All through this Lok Sabha session, the Opposition has targeted Birla for not giving sufficient time to it in the chamber's proceedings. Since the beginning of this Budget Session, the Congress has been particularly aggrieved that Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi has not been allowed to speak.

Gandhi wanted to focus on excerpts from the book 'Four Stars of Destiny' written by a former Army Chief, General Manoj Mukund Naravane. The book is not formally in the public domain. It is yet to be cleared by the Ministry of Defence (MoD). General Naravane has said that it was sent for clearance to the MoD by the publishers. Gandhi has shown a hard copy of the work in Parliament's premises. Soft copies of the book are circulating on the internet. The Delhi police have lodged an FIR to investigate how the book is available on the internet if it has not been approved for publication. The government has

taken the position in the Lok Sabha that Gandhi cannot refer to a book which has not been cleared for publication. This may be technically correct, but the government would be aware that what General Naravane has purportedly written in the book regarding India-China clashes in Eastern Ladakh in 2020 is circulating among the public. This would inevitably lead to many people making up their minds on the issue without having the benefit of the government viewpoint.

With regard to memoirs, a point may be made. Military and civilian officers who have held sensitive and senior positions have to eschew the temptation of treading into the territory of confidential information while penning their memoirs. They also have to be conscious that their interaction with the political leadership, while they were in service, was always based on trust. It is a matter of honour and obligation that this trust between the military and civilian officers and the political leadership is always maintained while in service or after retirement. The system will be greatly impaired if details of meetings of Cabinet committees or the decision-making processes, especially on matters of national

security, are revealed. Even if these officers feel that political leaders erred or that they were let down, they do not have the luxury or liberty to break that trust after their retirement.

Senior military and civilian officers have to be conscious of their remit. Thus, civilian officers need to be conscious that decisions given to them have to be interpreted by them within their area of responsibility. And, military officers have to refrain from decisions or advice of the political leadership strictly within the confines of their military responsibilities. They cannot view them from any other perspective. Thus, if a matter is left to their discretion, it is to be interpreted by them narrowly in the context of their military duties and not be extended to the diplomatic and political domains. That is the jurisdiction of other institutions of the state. Military leaders have to assume, in such situations, that the discretion given to them has been only after the political leadership has taken the nation's interest in the diplomatic and political spheres into account.

The recent impasse in the Lok Sabha and the motion against Birla once again highlights the absence of sufficient communication

between different elements of the political class. Yes, there is a degree of contact during Parliament's sessions so that it can function even if only to a minimal extent. However, the lack of communication on issues is obvious. This is in contrast to what prevailed in the past. Former civil servants can recall that leaders in the government and the Opposition kept in touch with each other on issues of national significance. I remember occasions during my diplomatic career when the government briefed leaders of the Opposition before embarking on a major diplomatic initiative or when the nation faced a sudden crisis. This was done not because such an outreach would prevent the ebb and flow of politics on the issues on which these briefings were done, but because they gave an understanding to all sections of the political class of the challenges and opportunities relating to these issues. In some instances, the leaders communicated directly with one another while in other cases, through trusted aides.

The bitterness, rancour and invective now witnessed almost daily among the leaders of the ruling dispensation and the Opposition indicates that the tradition of being in communication with one an-

other is either absent or not as much as it should be. This is particularly damaging to national interest because the country is facing grave strategic challenges.

The absence of dialogue between the ruling dispensation and the Opposition is visible in Gandhi's reference to Naravane's work. Once Gandhi had referred to it, the government could have told him that it could not agree to any discussion based on the work, but that it was willing to brief him on the reasons which have led it to not give clearance to the work. It could have briefed him in confidence about the important incidents in Eastern Ladakh, including those which have been purportedly mentioned in the work. After all, the members of the political class are all committed to the nation's interest. They all have a sense of what can be disclosed and what has to be kept secret.

I recall an incident which occurred in the Standing Committee on External Affairs chaired by former Prime Minister I K Gujral.

It illustrated that the political class knows what can be disclosed and what has to be held back. Foreign Secretary K Raghunath was being questioned about India's assistance to the Northern Alliance.

Understanding Budget 2026-27

Union Budget 2026-27 is not a Budget that grabs attention with big giveaways or dramatic announcements. At first glance, many businessmen, salaried Government employees, and private sector professionals may even wonder: "What really changed for me?" That question is understandable. This is not a Budget of surprises. It is a Budget of reassurance.

Globally, economic conditions remain uncertain. Interest rates across the world have stayed higher for longer. Inflation has eased but has not disappeared. Governments everywhere are being forced to choose carefully between spending more and borrowing responsibly. India is no exception. In this environment, the biggest risk is not doing too little, but doing too much too quickly.

Budget 2026-27 matters because it signals maturity. Instead of chasing headlines, the Government has chosen stability. It reinforces existing policies rather than replacing them. For ordinary taxpayers and business owners, this approach has a quiet but powerful benefit: you can plan your finances with greater confidence. For salaried individuals, stability means no sudden tax shocks. For business owners, it means policy predictability. For professionals and MSMEs, it means fewer disruptions and more clarity. The underlying message is simple: the Government wants the economy to grow steadily, without putting pressure on future taxes or inflation. This Budget is best understood not as a list of announcements, but as a continuation of a longer journey, one where credibility, discipline, and trust are given priority over short-term popularity. When we hear terms like fiscal deficit, government borrowing, or capital expenditure, they can sound distant from everyday life. But they affect everyone. Budget 2026-27 continues the Government's effort to reduce the fiscal deficit gradually. In simple terms, this means the Government is trying not to spend far more than it earns. Why does this matter? Because excessive borrowing today often leads to higher taxes or inflation tomorrow.

One positive trend that continues is the focus on capital expenditure: spending on roads, railways, ports, housing, and urban infrastructure. Unlike short-term freebies, this kind of spending creates jobs, improves connectivity, and supports businesses indirectly. A new highway helps transporters, manufacturers, traders, and even salaried workers by reducing travel time and costs. The Government has also been careful with its borrowing plans. By not flooding the market with excessive borrowing, it helps keep interest rates relatively stable. This matters for home loans, business loans, and working capital finance. Fiscal discipline is not about austerity. It is about balance. Budget 2026-27 sends a clear message: growth will be supported, but not at the cost of long-term stability. For households and businesses, this reduces the risk of sudden policy reversals later.

For most salaried employees and small business owners, the biggest relief in Budget 2026-27 is what did not change. Income tax slabs under both the old and new regimes have been continued. There are no surprises, no last-minute adjustments, and no complicated restructuring. This stability is important. Frequent changes in tax rules make financial planning difficult. When tax systems keep shifting, people delay investments, postpone purchases, and hesitate to commit capital. By maintaining the existing structure, the Government is encouraging confidence. For salaried government and private sector employees, this means you can continue planning your savings, investments, and insurance without rewriting your calculations. For business owners, it means predictability in cash flows and profit planning.

The message here is clear: compliance and trust are more important than short-term revenue. A stable tax environment encourages people to stay within the system rather than look for ways around it. What Changed in Taxes: Small Tweaks, Not Big Shocks While headline tax rates remain the same, Budget 2026-27 introduces some fine-tuning that affects specific groups.

Corporate tax provisions have been simplified in certain areas, reducing anomalies that caused confusion earlier. These changes help companies align tax payments more closely with real economic activity rather than technical structures.

There are also adjustments related to buy-backs and certain capital transactions. These changes aim to close loopholes and ensure fairness across different methods of distributing profits. Businesses may need to review their structures, but the intent is clarity, not increased burden.

For individuals and small businesses involved in foreign transactions, rationalisation of tax collection and remittance procedures reduces paperwork and confusion. Compliance timelines have also been adjusted to be more practical. In summary, these are course corrections. They require awareness and adaptation, but they do not alter the basic tax landscape. For most people, the impact will be manageable rather than disruptive. Businesses and MSMEs: Steady Support, Realistic Expectations MSMEs remain at the centre of India's employment story, and Budget 2026-27 continues to support them quietly but consistently. Credit access remains a major challenge for small businesses, especially outside large cities. The Budget strengthens credit support mechanisms and growth funds, aiming to improve working capital availability. However, money alone will not solve the problem. How banks assess risk and how quickly credit reaches genuine businesses will determine success.

Infrastructure spending has a strong indirect impact on MSMEs. Better roads reduce transport costs. Improved logistics help manufacturers reach new markets. Contractors, traders, and service providers benefit when public projects move faster. The Budget also acknowledges the importance of non-metro and aspirational regions. Growth cannot remain limited to a few urban centres. For businesses in smaller towns, this focus creates long-term opportunity-but patience will be required. Infrastructure and Manufacturing: Laying the Groundwork Infrastructure continues to be the backbone of India's growth strategy. Budget 2026-27 builds on existing momentum rather than launching new experiments. Manufacturing policy focuses on creating the right environment-reliable power, better logistics, skilled labour, and regulatory stability. Instead of short-term incentives, the emphasis is on ecosystem development.

This approach may feel slow, but it is more sustainable. For businesses, it means fewer policy reversals and a more predictable operating environment.

Despite its strengths, Budget 2026-27 does leave some issues unresolved. Tax laws remain complex, even if stable. The coexistence of two personal tax regimes continues to create confusion. Implementation remains the biggest risk. Good policies only work when executed efficiently. Capacity constraints at various levels of administration could slow progress. These gaps do not weaken the Budget's intent, but they highlight the importance of follow-through. A Professional's Perspective: Why Stability Helps Everyone For professionals, this Budget reinforces a shift away from firefighting toward planning. When rules are stable, advice becomes forward-looking rather than reactive. For taxpayers, stability builds trust. When people believe the rules will not change suddenly, compliance improves naturally. This trust is essential for a healthy tax system. Union Budget 2026-27 is not dramatic-and that is its strength. It chooses credibility over excitement, stability over spectacle. For businessmen, salaried government employees, and private sector professionals, it offers something increasingly rare: the ability to plan without fear of sudden shocks.

If executed well, this Budget will not be remembered for big announcements, but for creating an environment where growth feels steady, predictable, and believable.

Navigating growth, reform and inclusion

Mohammad Hanief

THE Economic Survey 2025-26 of Jammu and Kashmir marks an important milestone in the Union Territory's post-transition economic journey, presenting a data-driven account of recovery, resilience and reform. At a time when global economic uncertainty, geopolitical disruptions and inflationary pressures continue to test regional economies, Jammu and Kashmir has demonstrated a capacity to stabilise growth while gradually reshaping its development model. The survey reflects not just numerical progress but a broader transformation in governance, infrastructure creation and social investment.

The overall size of the economy has expanded steadily, with nominal Gross State Domestic Product estimated at approximately ₹2.86 lakh crore and real growth projected at 5.82 per cent during 2025-26. This performance is significant in a region that has navigated pandemic disruptions, security challenges and structural adjustments over the past decade. Over the medium term, the Union Territory has recorded a consistent compound annual growth rate, underscoring economic resilience rather than volatility. Rising per capita income, now estimated at Rs 1.68 lakh, signals gradual improvement in household earnings and purchasing power, while also pointing to a narrowing gap with the national average. The sectoral composition of the economy highlights a clear structural shift underway. Agriculture and allied activities continue to play a vital role in sustaining livelihoods, particularly in rural areas, but their relative share has de-



clined as the services sector expands. Services now account for the largest contribution to Gross State Value Added, driven by tourism, transport, trade, financial services and public administration. The secondary sector, led by construction and manufacturing-linked activities, has gained momentum through sustained public investment in infrastructure and industrial estates. This evolving structure suggests a gradual movement away from subsistence-led growth towards a more diversified economic base.

Fiscal management has emerged as a critical enabler of this transition. Improved revenue mobilisation through enhanced tax compliance and growth in non-tax revenues has strengthened the government's fiscal position. Power tariffs, GST and excise collections have contributed significantly to revenue growth, while digital financial management systems have improved transparency and expenditure control. Capital expenditure has remained a priority, reflecting a strategic focus on asset creation, infrastructure development and long-term economic capacity rather

than short-term consumption-led spending.

Agriculture, despite its declining share in output, remains central to employment and social stability. The survey highlights a deliberate policy shift towards modernisation, diversification and market integration. Programmes aimed at improving land productivity, irrigation coverage and crop diversification have begun to yield results. Food grain production has increased modestly, while vegetable cultivation has moved the region closer to self-reliance. High-value crops, organic farming practices and value-added processing are gradually reshaping rural incomes and reducing vulnerability to price fluctuations.

Horticulture continues to be a cornerstone of the rural economy, generating substantial income and employment. Expansion of orchard areas, adoption of high-density plantations and improvements in post-harvest infrastructure have enhanced productivity and market competitiveness. Integration with national digital trading platforms has improved price discovery and farmer participation in wider markets. Export per-

formance, particularly in almonds, walnuts and other niche products, underscores the sector's potential as a driver of agri-based trade and rural prosperity. Floriculture has added a complementary dimension, linking agriculture with tourism and creating new seasonal employment opportunities.

Industrial development has gained traction, supported by policy reforms, improved ease of doing business and targeted incentives. The operationalisation of new industrial units and rising investment commitments reflect increasing investor confidence. Micro, small and medium enterprises have received particular attention, given their capacity to generate employment and anchor economic activity locally. Employment generation schemes and entrepreneurship missions have expanded self-employment opportunities, especially among youth, helping address one of the region's most pressing socio-economic challenges.

Tourism remains a key pillar of the services sector and a vital source of income for thousands of households. Tourist arrivals cross-

ing 1.78 crore during the year signal a strong revival after recent setbacks. While episodic disruptions continue to affect sentiment, the broader trend points towards recovery and diversification. Investments in infrastructure, connectivity and destination development are gradually expanding tourism beyond traditional hotspots, promoting year-round activity and spreading benefits to lesser-known regions.

Social sector outcomes presented in the survey represent one of its most compelling narratives. Health indicators have improved markedly, with sharp reductions in infant and neonatal mortality rates and near-universal institutional deliveries. Expansion of healthcare infrastructure, medical education and digital health platforms has improved both access and quality.

Life expectancy in the Union Territory now ranks among the highest in the country, reflecting sustained public investment in preventive and curative healthcare systems.

Education outcomes mirror this progress. High enrolment rates across schooling levels, declining dropout ratios and improved transition rates indicate strengthening foundational education systems. Expansion and accreditation of higher education institutions have enhanced academic capacity and quality. Improved national rankings of universities reflect growing institutional credibility, while parallel investments in sports and youth engagement point to a holistic approach to human capital development.

Social welfare initiatives have expanded in both coverage and depth.

CBC trains over 10 lakh officials under Jan Seva porogram

New Delhi, Oct 4 (GNS): The Capacity Building Commission (CBC) launched the Rashtriya Karmayogi Large Scale Jan Seva Program, a national behavioural transformation initiative for civil servants, on 12th September, 2024. Phase-II of the program concluded today with a closing session chaired by Dr. R. Balasubramaniam, Member (HR), Capacity Building Commission. Around 10.5 lakh government servants have been trained under this interactive behavioural training program across the country. The closing session was attended virtually by around 300 participants from various Ministries and Departments.

Dr. R. Balasubramaniam, Member (HR), Capacity Building Commission (CBC), lauded all participating Ministries, Departments, and organizations (MDOs) for their enthusiastic involvement in



the entire program. He emphasized that the initiative's core aim was to realign inner purpose with outward service, fostering empathetic, efficient, and citizen-centric service delivery, with "Seva Bhav" as the driving force. Dr. Balasubramaniam stressed that this is merely

the beginning of a long-term transformation, urging the institutionalization of these efforts to cultivate a responsive, resilient, and future-ready administrative culture for a "Viksit Bharat." Shri Jagdeep Gupta, Secretary of CBC extended gratitude to the MDOs, highlighting the

unprecedented scale of over 500 organizations participating and the overwhelmingly positive feedback. Shri Srinivas V, the CEO of Illumine Knowledge Resources, the knowledge partner of CBC for the programme, acknowledged the vital role of around 17,000 master trainers

trained under this program as change catalysts. Participants, including Lead and Master Trainers, described the program as a transformative experience that helped them and end-participants of the program to shift their focus from routine task completion to connecting their duties to larger national goal. The training enabled them to adopt citizen-first mindset driving efficiency and empathy in their daily work.

Rashtriya Karmayogi Jan Seva Program was designed to emphasize upon the deeper sense of Seva Bhav (spirit of service) and Svadharma (duty aligned with personal purpose) among Government servants, with the objective of strengthening citizen-centric governance. The initiative focused on improving quality of service delivery, enhancing responsiveness and collaboration across governance struc-

tures, and fostering greater engagement and satisfaction among officers.

The program was implemented in a phased manner. Phase-I, launched in January 2025, aimed to train officers and officials of Central Government Ministries and Departments located in the Delhi NCR region. Over 17,400 officers and officials across the headquarters of 86 Ministries, Departments and Organizations (MDOs) were trained under Phase I of the program. Phase-I adopted a cascade train-the-trainer model, wherein Director and Deputy Secretary-level officers were nominated as Master Trainers. These officers underwent intensive training conducted by the Capacity Building Commission and subsequently delivered training sessions to officials across various levels within their respective Ministries and Departments.

Smart agro-food systems and sustainable production practices

New Delhi, Oct 4 (GNS): Government has identified key agronomic priorities including climate-resilient, carbon-neutral and regenerative agriculture to address the challenges of climate change, resource degradation and sustainable food security. Several schemes have been initiated under National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture, to promote sustainable agriculture practices. Per Drop More Crop scheme increases water use efficiency at the farm level through micro irrigation technologies i.e. drip and sprinkler irrigation. Rainfed Area Development focuses on Integrated Farming System for enhancing productivity and minimizing risks associated with climatic variability. The Soil Health & Fertility scheme promotes integrated nutrient management through judicious use of chemical fertilizers. Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture, Agroforestry & National Bamboo Mission also promote climate resilience. Pradhan Mantri Fasa Bima Yojana along with weather index based Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme provides a comprehensive insurance cover against crop failure to farmers suffering crop loss/damage due to natural calamities.

Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is implementing a project-National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) that studies the impact of climate change on agriculture, conducts district level risk & vulnerability assessment due to climate change. Under NICRA, 310 districts were

identified as climatically vulnerable out of which 109 districts have been categorized as 'very high' and 201 districts as 'highly' vulnerable. For enhancing the resilience and adaptive capacity of farmers, location-specific climate resilient technologies (such as system of rice intensification, aerobic rice, direct seeding of rice, zero till wheat sowing etc) have been demonstrated under the project through Krishi Vigyan Kendras in 151 districts.

covering 448 Climate Resilient Villages. Capacity building for village level seed banks and community nurseries is undertaken under NICRA to enable availability of seed. Drought and flood tolerant climate-resilient varieties of rice, wheat, soybean, mustard, chickpea, sorghum, gram, and foxtail millet were demonstrated in several NICRA villages. Besides, training programmes are conducted under Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) on various issues of agricultural practices. ICAR has released 2900 varieties during last 10 years (2014-2024) of which 2661 varieties are tolerant to one or more biotic and/or abiotic stresses.

Government is progressively aligning and converging existing agricultural schemes with broader agronomic priorities, including digital transformation, soil health, water use efficiency, organic/natural farming and other sustainable farming practices. Such merger will ensure a more integrated and outcome-oriented approach, improve convergence, reduce duplication of efforts, optimize resource utilization, and strengthen implementation efficiency.

Eastern Coastal Region a prominent part of the current Budget's Nuclear and Marine roadmap: Dr Jitendra Singh

New Delhi, Oct 4 (GNS): Eastern Coastal Region figures as a prominent part of the current Budget's Nuclear and Marine roadmap, with the State of Odisha getting one of the four Rare Earth Corridors announced across the country, while the enabling provisions for deep sea fishing are also going to be a game-changer.

This observation was made by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh, when he was called on by Odisha's Science & Technology Minister Krushna Chandra Patra.



During the meeting, Dr. Jitendra Singh laid out a comprehensive roadmap centred on the Eastern Coastal region, Deep Ocean Mission, rare earth and nuclear resource expansion, fisheries reforms in the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), and the proposed Bio-E3 Cell and

DBT centre for Odisha.

Dr Jitendra Singh conveyed that Odisha will occupy a central place in the evolving eastern coastal strategy, which integrates marine resources, mineral corridors, nuclear and space infrastructure, and life sciences research into a unified development frame-

work. He stated that for the first time, ocean resources are being systematically harnessed through coordinated institutional efforts, with central institutes working closely with the State government to execute ocean-related programmes. The discussion covered implementation of the Deep Ocean Mission and enabling policy support for deep sea fishing.

The Minister highlighted that the Eastern Coastal Region has significant potential to contribute to India's energy security, strategic minerals and blue economy. He said the Rare Earth Corridor in Odisha would support value addition and technological development, while reforms in deep-sea fishing would benefit coastal communities and strengthen the fisheries sector.

Department of Posts and National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE) Sign MoU to Expand Mutual Fund Access Through India Post Network

New Delhi, Oct 4 (GNS): The Department of Posts (DoP), Ministry of Communications, Government of India, today announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Stock Exchange of India Limited (NSE), India's leading stock exchange, to enable the distribution of mutual fund products through India Post's extensive postal network.

The Department of Posts, using its vast network of over 1.64 lakh post offices across the country, will work with NSE, which has a strong online system for handling mutual fund transactions that covers everything from placing orders to settling them, all while following SEBI rules. This collaboration aims to significantly enhance last-mile access to mutual fund products, particularly in rural and semi-urban areas. This strategic partnership aligns with the Government of India's vision of deepening financial inclusion by combining the trust, accessibility, and wide outreach of India Post with NSE's market infrastructure and technological expertise.



The initiative is expected to promote investor awareness, transparency, and participation in capital market-linked financial products.

The MoU was signed in New Delhi by Ms. Manisha Bansal Badal, General Manager (Citizen Centric Services & Rural Business),

Department of Posts, and Shri Sriram Krishnan, Chief Business Development Officer, NSE, in the presence of senior officials from the Department of Posts and NSE.

Under the MoU, selected employees of the Department of Posts will be identified, trained, and onboarded

as certified mutual fund distributors. These officials will be enabled to offer mutual fund products and related investor services through NSE's mutual fund platform, subject to mandatory certifications and regulatory compliance, including NISM certification and EUIN registration. The MoU shall remain valid for a period of three years from the date of execution, with provisions for renewal by mutual consent.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Manisha Bansal Badal, General Manager (CCS & RB), Department of Posts, said, "The Department of Posts has always played a pivotal role in advancing financial inclusion and delivering citizen-centric services. This partnership with NSE will enable India Post to offer modern in-

Nadda Stresses Community Engagement to Tackle Last-Mile Challenges in LF Elimination

New Delhi, Oct 4 (GNS): Union Health Minister Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda today launched the Annual Nationwide Mass Drug Administration (MDA) Campaign for the Elimination of Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) through a video conference with State Health Ministers and senior officials from 12 identified LF-endemic States, marking a significant step towards achieving the national goal of eliminating LF as a public health problem. The nationwide campaign seeks to accelerate efforts to interrupt disease transmission, reduce morbidity, and ensure equitable access to preventive healthcare interventions for vulnerable populations across the country.

Lymphatic filariasis (LF), commonly known as elephantiasis (Haatipaon), is a vector-borne disease transmitted by the female Culex mosquito, which breeds in polluted and stagnant water. The infection damages the lymphatic system and can lead to chronic morbidity, disability and social stigma. The Government of India has accorded high priority to eliminating LF as a public health problem by end-2027, ahead of the global Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of 2030. Currently, LF is endemic in 348 districts across 20 States and Union Territories. Of these, 41 per cent (143 districts) have successfully stopped Mass Drug Administration (MDA) after clearing Transmission Assessment Survey (TAS-1), while 50 per cent (174 districts across 14 States) continue to implement annual MDA due to microfilaria rates above 1 per cent. The remaining 9 per cent (31 districts) are at various stages of trans-

mission assessments. As of 2024, over 6.20 lakh cases of lymphoedema and 1.21 lakh cases of hydrocele have been reported from endemic districts, underscoring the need for sustained and intensified efforts.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda reaffirmed the Government of India's unwavering commitment to eliminate Lymphatic Filariasis (LF) by 2027, well ahead of the global Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of 2030. He highlighted that LF not only affects the health and quality of life of patients, but also severely impacts their livelihood, economic productivity, and social well-being, often leading to social stigma and long-term hardship for entire families. He emphasized that eliminating LF is therefore not merely a health objective, but a critical social and economic imperative.

The Union Health Minister also underscored the significant progress achieved through mission-mode implementation of the Mass Drug Administration (MDA) campaign, particularly through directly observed treatment, which has yielded encouraging on-ground results. He stressed the need to strengthen the ecosystem for vector control, alongside sustained MDA, to effectively interrupt disease transmission. Highlighting last-mile challenges, Shri Nadda pointed out that ensuring direct observation of drug consumption and addressing public hesitancy towards medication remain key concerns, which must be tackled through intensive awareness, community engagement, grievance redressal, and trust-building measures.

All India Institute of Ayurveda Signs MoU with General Insurance Council to Provide Cashless Treatment Facility under 32 Insurance Companies

New Delhi, Oct 4 (GNS): In a significant milestone towards integrating Ayurveda with the mainstream health insurance ecosystem, the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), New Delhi, an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Ayush, has signed a Common Empanelment Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the General Insurance Council (GIC) on 10 February 2026.

With this agreement, AIIA has been empanelled with all 32 general insurance companies under the General Insurance Council, enabling patients to avail cashless treatment facilities for eligible Ayurveda-based healthcare services.

The MoU was formally signed by Prof. (Vaidya) P. K. Prajapati, Director, AIIA, and Shri Segar Sampathkumar,

Director (Health), General Insurance Council, in the august presence of Prof. Bejon Kumar Misra, Chairman, Core Group of Experts on Ayush Health Insurance.

The event was also attended by Prof. (Dr.) Mahesh Vyas, Dean (Ph.D.), Prof. (Dr.) R. K. Yadav, Dean (PG), Dr. Alka Kapoor, Director Medical Services (DMS), and other senior faculty members of AIIA.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. (Vaidya) P. K. Prajapati, Director, AIIA, said that with the signing of this MoU, AIIA has become eligible to provide cashless treatment services under all 32 insurance companies associated with the General Insurance Council. He expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Ayush and the entire AIIA team for their sustained efforts and stated



that this initiative would significantly benefit patients by improving access, affordability, and trust in Ayurveda-based healthcare.

Congratulating the AIIA team, Prof. Bejon Kumar Misra, Chairman, Core Group of Experts on Ayush Health Insurance, stated that this was the first time in the

country that an Ayush institution has entered into a formal empanelment agreement with the General Insurance Council. He added that the availability of cashless treatment facilities at AIIA is expected to enhance patient confidence, expand outreach to a wider population, strengthen institutional

credibility, and contribute to increased patient inflow and sustainable growth of Ayush healthcare services.

On the occasion, Prof. Misra also highlighted a key initiative of the Ministry of Ayush aimed at facilitating insurance-related support for Ayush treatments. For the first time, the Ministry has

launched a dedicated Ayush Health Insurance Helpline to assist beneficiaries in resolving insurance-related queries and improving awareness about Ayush insurance coverage.

The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), established under the Ministry of Ayush, Government of India, is

envisioned as an apex institute for Ayurveda, fostering synergy between traditional Ayurvedic knowledge and modern scientific advancements. The Institute offers postgraduate and doctoral programmes across multiple disciplines and is actively engaged in research, drug development, standardization, quality control, safety evaluation, and scientific validation of Ayurvedic medicines.

AIIA houses a 200-bed referral hospital equipped with state-of-the-art diagnostic facilities and comprises 25 specialty departments, 12 clinical units, and 8 interdisciplinary research laboratories, supporting advanced patient care, teaching, and research. The Institute also hosts an International Collaborative Centre dedicated to global promotion and research in Ayurveda.

The signing of this MoU marks a transformative step in advancing inclusive, integrative, and insurance-supported Ayurvedic healthcare in India, reinforcing the Government's commitment to strengthening Ayush systems within the national healthcare framework.

Uttam orders fast-track land acquisition for Gouravelli

Hyderabad, Oct 4 (GNS): Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy directed officials to accelerate land acquisition and rehabilitation works for the Gouravelli project on a war footing. He said the State government was giving special focus to resolving pending issues affecting the project and displaced families.

Uttam Kumar Reddy held a special review meeting at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Secretariat on Saturday, attended by Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnampalapati Prabhakar and Mahabubnagar MP Balaram Naik. Officials reviewed land acquisition and rehabilitation issues in Siddipet, Hanamkonda and Karimnagar districts. The Minister said funds required for land acquisition had already been released to the respective District Collec-



tors and instructed them to expedite the process. The Minister also directed officials to complete the forest notification process at the earliest and immediately bring any hurdles to the gov-

ernment's notice. Proposals and estimates for the Left and Right canals, distribution canal tenders, water filling and release, environmental clearances and issues related to the NGT case

were also reviewed.

The meeting further examined proposals under MMR Package-3 and other pending works. Uttam Kumar Reddy stressed the need for close coordination among depart-

ments to resolve land acquisition and rehabilitation issues and ensure speedy progress of the Gouravelli project. The Minister directed officials to ensure that rehabilitation measures for families displaced by the project are completed without delay. He asked the authorities to address pending grievances at the field level and maintain regular coordination with the affected families to avoid further delays.

Officials were instructed to closely monitor the progress of land acquisition in the three districts and submit regular updates on the status of pending cases. Uttam Kumar Reddy said any administrative or technical issues affecting the project should be brought to the government's attention immediately for prompt resolution.

Tummala Urges Low-Water Crops

Hyderabad, Oct 4 (GNS) State Agriculture Minister Sri Tummala Nageswara Rao stated that water scarcity conditions have arisen globally—and specifically in South India and Telangana—due to the impact of El Niño, resulting in insufficient water inflow into irrigation projects. Against this backdrop, he advised farmers to shift towards cultivating pulses and oilseeds during the *Yasangi* season; these crops require less time, water, and investment, yet command high market demand.

The Minister participated in the 109th episode of the 'Rythu Nestham' program, which aired on Saturday morning. He formally inaugurated the distribution of oilseed and pulse seeds for the Rabi 2026-27 season under the National Food Security Mission (NFSM) and the



National Mission on Edible Oils (NMEO-OS) schemes.

The Agriculture Department and allied departments must work in complete coordination to prepare farmers to cultivate crops that require less time, water, and expenditure during the *Yasangi* season. - Cultivation of pulses and oilseeds should be encouraged by raising awareness about ground-level realities. Irrigation plans

must be formulated and effectively implemented under the supervision of District Collectors to safeguard farmers' crops based on available water reserves in projects.

- Scientists should develop new groundnut seed varieties tailored to farmers' needs and market demand, thereby helping to increase farmers' income.

Farmers should choose alternative crops based on the irrigation facilities available to them.

We will take measures to provide subsidized sprinklers for other crops, in response to requests from farmers in the erstwhile Mahabubnagar districts. We are implementing measures to ensure the rapid transport of oil palm bunches to factories after harvesting and will ensure that payments to farmers are made promptly.

Momin Roshan Zameer, Advocate, attends special electoral meeting of All India Milli Council- Telangana



Hyderabad, Oct 4 (GNS): Momin Roshan Zameer, Advocate, State General Secretary and Incharge Social Media, Legal Cell (Law, Human Rights and RTI Department), Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC), and Member, Hyderabad Waqf Protection and Co-ordination Committee, Government of Telangana, attended the Special Electoral Meeting of All India Milli Council-Telangana, held in Hyderabad on 03 October 2026.

Addressing the gathering, Momin Roshan Zameer emphasised the importance of strengthening the activities and organisational work of the All India Milli Council and encouraged members and well-wishers to actively associate themselves with the various wings and initiatives of the organisation.

He appealed to the participants to contribute their time, knowledge and capabilities for the welfare of the community and to work sincerely for the objectives of the Milli

Council. He stated that the organisation has several wings and areas of activity, and called upon people to come forward and participate in whichever field they can contribute to. Speaking particularly on education and legal education, Momin Roshan Zameer stressed that, considering the present circumstances, awareness of law and legal education are increasingly important. He appealed to the community, especially the younger generation, to pursue legal education and encouraged students to aspire to become judges and advocates.

He further emphasised that those entering the legal profession should discharge their responsibilities with honesty, integrity and commitment, and use their knowledge of law in the service of the people. He said that legal education can play an important role in creating greater awareness of rights, duties and access to justice.

Momin Roshan Za-

meer also called upon the participants to work collectively, maintain unity and strengthen constructive activities in the fields of education, legal awareness, social welfare and community service.

The meeting was attended by Moulana Jaffer Pasha Hussami, Iqbal Ahmed, Dr. Mohammed Nizamuddin, President, All India Milli Council (AIMC), Telangana, Zafar Masood, (Working President,) Moulana Mufti Umar Abideen Qasmi Madani, General Secretary, All India Milli Council-Telangana, Afser Jahan, Secretary, Legal Aid, AIMC-Telangana, Mir Mahmood, Shahbaz, Ibrahim, Kauser, Shazia, Fayaz, Nashra, Farhan, Hamza, Zoha, Razi, along with a large number of members, activists and well-wishers. The gathering discussed organisational activities and the importance of strengthening community-oriented initiatives through collective participation and service.

Gurukul student scales mount tarang 2



Hyderabad, Oct 4 (GNS) Islavath Bunny, a student from the Telangana Tribal Welfare Residential Educational Institutions Society, has demonstrated that with determination, discipline, and perseverance, one can reach even the loftiest goals. He achieved a historic milestone by scaling Mount Tarang-2 in Himachal Pradesh, which stands at an altitude of 6,027 meters (19,774 feet). Bunny, a final-year B.Com student at the Telangana Tribal Welfare Residential Degree College (TGTWRDC) in Kamareddy, completed the climb on the 22nd of this month and returned safely on September

30. On this occasion, Welfare Minister Adhuri Laxman Kumar felicitated Bunny with a shawl and congratulated him at the Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat on Saturday. The Minister praised the student for his remarkable achievement. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister said, "The success achieved by Bunny is not merely the victory of a single student; it is an accomplishment that inspires every student in the Gurukul institutions across Telangana. Students should showcase their talent not only in academics but also in sports, adventure sports, and other fields.

Ponguleti Announces Relief for Patta Land Registration Issues

Hyderabad, Oct 4 (GNS) State Revenue, Housing, and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy stated that the people's government, led by Honorable Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, has taken another significant step aimed at providing a permanent solution to complex land issues that have plagued the public for decades.

He announced that a memo was issued on Saturday to resolve the issue regarding 'patta' lands—originally classified as agricultural—that had transitioned to residential use but faced registration hurdles due to the incomplete NALA process. He noted that clear guidelines were issued to District Collectors regarding this matter via Memo No. 48062/ULC/A1/2026.

Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy stated that the government has recognized the difficulties faced by the public concerning residential 'patta' lands—



listed under the '22-A' category—which remained classified as agricultural land in revenue records because the NALA process had not been completed. It was stated that clear instructions have been issued to District Collectors to thoroughly examine the respective applications—considering revenue records, land rights, and ground-level realities—collect 'Nala' (land conversion) fees and other government charges in accordance with regulations, and take the necessary steps to complete the registration process.

Collectors were directed to ensure the process is completed transparently and within a set timeframe, sparing the public the trouble of making repeated rounds of government offices; they were also instructed to swiftly resolve eligible applications and submit reports on the implementation progress to the government. The Minister emphasized that this decision would bring relief to common and middle-class families who have faced difficulties for years, unable to sell their own plots or secure loans against them.

Grand Bathukamma Celebrations in Hyderabad from Oct 10 to 18

Hyderabad, Oct 4 (GNS): Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju stated that elaborate arrangements are being made to celebrate Bathukamma, the unique floral festival of Telangana culture, in a grand manner from October 10 to 18. A high-level review meeting was held on Saturday at the Secretariat to review arrangements for the Bathukamma celebrations to be held from October 10 to 18. Secretaries of various departments and senior police officials attended the meeting.

During the meeting the Chief Secretary said that Sadula Bathukamma celebration would be organized on Tank Bund on October 18 on



a grand scale with the participation of thousands of women. He said that from 4:00 PM on October 18, thousands of women carrying Bathukammas would arrive in a procession from the Amaraveerula Smaraka Kendram (Martyrs' Memorial) opposite the Sec-

retariat and proceed towards Tank Bund. Hundreds of artists would also participate in the procession, showcasing various traditional art forms.

Public representatives would attend the Bathukamma celebrations at the special stage being set up on

Tank Bund, he said.

In view of the Bathukamma festivities, the Chief Secretary directed officials to install Bathukamma displays at major junctions across the city to create a festive atmosphere. He also instructed the concerned departments

to decorate all major government offices in the city. As large numbers of women from nearby localities, colonies and settlements are expected to gather on Tank Bund to participate in

Bathukamma celebrations, officials were directed to make necessary arrangements to ensure that they face no inconvenience.

he Chief Secretary also instructed HMDA and GHMC officials to make special arrangements for Bathukamma immersion at the Bathukamma Ghat located in the Tank Bund Children's Park and at Necklace Road.

As Bathukamma celebrations will take place on Tank

Revanth directs speedy hospital works, field inspections

Hyderabad, Oct 4: Chief Minister Revanth Reddy issued several key directives to officials regarding the ground-level situation of education and healthcare in the state. On Saturday, the CM held a review meeting with CMO officials. He inquired about the status and progress of major hospital construction projects currently underway in the state. He instructed officials to accelerate construction work on hospitals in LB Nagar, Alwal, Warangal, and Osmania. The CM directed the Chief Secretary to identify staffing requirements—including doctors and support staff—and initiate the recruitment process to ensure there is no staff shortage by the time construction is completed. He also ordered the procurement of state-of-the-art medical equip-

ment so that comprehensive medical services would be available immediately upon the completion of the hospitals.

Chief Minister Revanth Reddy instructed officials to ensure that District Collectors conduct field visits. He emphasized that District Collectors and other officials must visit government schools, social welfare hostels, and hospitals at the ground level. He directed that weekly reviews regarding these facilities be conducted at the district level. He advised officials to remain vigilant regarding seasonal diseases and to undertake necessary repairs in schools. The meeting also included discussions on the arrangements for the 'Telangana Global Summit-2026,' scheduled to be held at 'Bharat Future City' in December.

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