

VOWS TO CONTINUE 'VOTE THEFT' CAMPAIGN

INDIA Bloc takes ECI fight to Raj Ghat

New Delhi, Oct 8 (UNI) Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi was detained by the Delhi Police on Wednesday as the INDIA bloc's confrontation with the Election Commission spilled into a second successive day of street protests, turning central Delhi into a battleground of barricades, slogans and political defiance.

Gandhi, Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra and several other Opposition MPs were detained while attempting to march towards Jantar Mantar to demand the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities in electoral rolls and the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise. The dramatic confrontation followed a strategy lunch hosted by Congress president and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, after which hundreds of INDIA bloc MPs and leaders sought to move towards the designated protest venue. The march was halted by multiple layers of barricades and a heavy police



deployment, triggering a prolonged standoff before the police moved in to disperse and detain the protesters. Gandhi was eventually taken away in a police bus, while visuals of the

confrontation showed Opposition leaders resisting the attempt to clear the protest site. Gandhi, meanwhile, made clear that the Opposition had no intention of backing down.

CM Revanth: BJP Trying to Take Anti-BJP Votes



Hyderabad, Oct 8 (GNS): Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Thursday alleged that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was afraid of poor people who had turned against it and, therefore, wanted to deprive them of their right to vote. For a second consecutive day, the Chief Minister participated in the INDIA bloc's protest in New Delhi demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar.

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42 Ex-Judges Slam Opposition Attack on EC

New Delhi, Oct 8 (GNS): As the Election Commission came under persistent attack from the Opposition and civil society organisations over the alleged deletion of 13 crore voters, a group of 42 retired judges on Thursday defended the poll panel and backed its Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, terming it a lawful exercise.

In an open letter to the "people of India", the former Supreme Court judges and former chief justices and judges of various high courts said they held no brief for any political party but felt compelled to speak as "silence is no longer a neutral choice".

The signatories included former Supreme Court judges Justice Hemant Gupta and Justice Pankal Mithal, former Chief Justice of the Jammu and Kashmir



and Delhi High Court B.C. Patel, and former Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court Subhro Kamal Mukherjee, among others.

"We write because, in moments like these, silence is no longer a neutral choice. Our concern is grave. India's constitutional bodies are under sustained attack," the letter read.

"The Election Commission of India stands at the

centre of this assault. Even the higher judiciary, which we hold in high esteem, and statutory agencies have not been spared... This appears to be a calculated campaign driven by vested political interests, with little regard for the potentially devastating consequences of destabilising the world's largest democracy," they wrote.

The Opposition INDIA bloc has demanded the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, accusing him of revising the electoral rolls to benefit the BJP—an allegation denied by both the BJP and the poll panel.

"Criticism of institutions is a democratic right. Denigration is not. Constitutional authorities are now branded 'thieves', 'puppets' and 'compromised' from public platforms," they lamented.

GST council scraps arrest powers, raises prosecution limit



New Delhi, Oct 8 (GNS): The GST Council, led by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, on Thursday approved the removal of arrest powers from GST officers and increased the prosecution threshold to Rs 5 crore from Rs 1 crore.

The minimum penalty has been removed, and the penalty — be it a fine, jail, or both — is now subject to judicial discretion in each instance, according to the council's decision. The Ministry stated that the general penalty, applicable in the absence of a specific penalty, has been reduced

from Rs 25,000 to Rs 10,000. A taxpayer who submits late, commits an error, or postpones payment will face recovery, interest, and a corresponding penalty, but no more than that. Companies throughout India have expressed concerns regarding strict tax regulations and requested improved conditions for conducting business. The modifications sanctioned by the GST Council, which consists of Union and state finance ministers, will take effect on April 1, 2027.

Speaking to reporters post meeting, Sitharaman

mentioned that the council concentrated on reforms related to processes intended to enhance the ease of doing business and alleviate compliance burdens instead of modifying GST rates. "When we mention that arrest has been removed, it has been removed from the control of a tax officer," Sitharaman explained, clarifying the choice. She emphasised that criminal prosecution would still be an option under the GST law. "The law allows for the prosecution of individuals in cases of criminal activity," she stated.

CJP stages 'chappal protest' in Bengaluru in solidarity with women

Bengaluru, Oct 8 (GNS): Members of the CJP on Thursday staged a "Chappal protest" here condemning crimes against women and demanded safety and appropriate action. CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke, co-convenor Ashutosh Ranka and spokesperson Saurav Das joined the protest and expressed solidarity with women and the protesters raised slogans of "Azadi" (freedom), "Ek kachori, do samosa", and "Mahila mange Azadi." Demanding the right to live safely and exercise their rights without fear, women carried posters that read "Fight like a girl, they say, so we are here", and "Scrap SIR, Save Democracy."

While many waved the national flag, one of the protesters held a chappal and said women should use it against those who try to suppress them. The protesters said safety was not only a woman's right but also the government's responsibility. The protest-



ers expressed solidarity with women who were allegedly assaulted recently during an agitation in Delhi against alleged irregularities in the SIR exercise. Several women joined the protest after taking time off from their work and some brought their children too.

"This protest is in solidarity with all the women. This is about being treated as women and as human beings. We are human and deserve equal rights. We should neither be treated as second-class citizens nor

as goddesses. We stand in solidarity with child brides, women who have been murdered or raped, victims of dowry-related crimes and every other form of violence. We want equal rights for women," said Nivedita, a volunteer with CJP.

Sanah, a lawyer, said that as a woman, she has herself experienced the impact of a patriarchal society. "I believe it is time for us to stand up for what is right and work towards ending violence against women," she added.

Veteran Actor Nana Patekar dies at 75 after cardiac arrest in Goa

Mumbai, Oct 8 (GNS) National Film Awards winner and veteran actor Vishwanath Patekar, popularly known as Nana Patekar, died on Thursday at the age of 75 after suffering a cardiac arrest at his residence in Goa, his relatives in Mumbai confirmed. According to reports, Patekar was found unconscious at his residence and was immediately taken to a hospital. Doctors tried to revive him, but he could not be saved. Patekar was one of the most respected actors in Hindi and Marathi cinema and was known for his powerful performances and distinctive dialogue delivery. He had a long career spanning several decades and appeared in several critically acclaimed and commercially successful films.

Some of his best-known films include Parinda, Krantiveer, Ab Tak Chhappan, Natsamrat and Welcome. Patekar was a recipient of three National Film Awards and several other honours



for his contribution to Indian cinema. His death has left the film industry and his large number of fans in deep shock and mourning. Away from the limelight, Nana Patekar's personal life also saw its share of difficulties. He married Neelkanti Patekar in 1978, and the couple had two sons, Durvasa and Malhar. Their elder son, Durvasa, died at a young age following an illness. Nana and Neelkanti later lived separately for several years due to personal differences, although they continued to remain legally married.

SC seeks panel on pharma freebies to doctors

New Delhi, Oct 8 (GNS): The Supreme Court on Thursday asked the Centre to set up a committee to examine the issue of pharmaceutical companies giving freebies to doctors as incentive to prescribe their drugs. "The committee will consider the suggestions and representations and give its recommendations to the Union," a Bench of Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Sandeep Mehta said, posting the matter to be listed on January 29, 2027 for consideration of compliance by the Centre.

The order came on a petition filed by Federation of Medical & Sales Representatives Association of India seeking statutory regulation of pharmaceutical marketing practices to curb unethical relations between pharmaceutical companies and medical practitioners.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes has accused the pharma company manufacturing popular Dolo-650



mg tablets of distributing Rs 1,000 crore freebies to doctors for prescribing the anti-inflammatory, fever reducer drug to patients, the petitioner had alleged in August 2022. The top court had earlier questioned if the Uniform Code for Pharmaceutical Marketing Practices (UCPMP), 2024, had sufficient enforcement mechanisms and had sought to know if the Government intended to give statutory backing to the Code, saying the absence of government control could make the purportedly mandatory regime almost voluntary.

Air India cancels Riyadh flights till October 10

New Delhi, Oct 8 (GNS): Air India Express and Air India have cancelled flights to Riyadh till October 10 amid disruptions due to attacks at the airport.

Saudi Arabia's two airports in Riyadh and Abha came under attack, reportedly by Houthi militants. Air India Express and Air India flights en route to Riyadh returned on Thursday, sources said.

"In view of the evolving situation in the region, we have cancelled flights to and from Riyadh until 10 October. Affected guests are being offered complimentary rescheduling or a full refund on cancellation. We continue to monitor the situation closely," Air India Express said in a statement on Thursday.

Air India Express operates 16 weekly flights to Riyadh from four Indian cities -- Bengaluru, Kochi, Kannur and Kozhikode.

Air India has also can-



celled its services to and from Riyadh till October 10. The airline operates 7 weekly flights to Riyadh from Delhi and Mumbai.

"The affected guests are being offered a full refund on cancellation. We are closely monitoring the situation," the airline said in a statement. On Thursday, Air India said AI2243 flight from Delhi to Riyadh returned to the national capital and the flight was subsequently cancelled. Full refunds have been offered to passengers.

In a post on X, Akasa Air said that in view of the evolving security situation in Riyadh, it has cancelled QP 523 Kochi - Riyadh and QP 524 Riyadh - Kochi flights on Thursday.

India, Greece discuss defence and strategic cooperation

New Delhi, Oct 8 (GNS): India and Greece on Thursday discussed defence and strategic cooperation with emphasis on maritime cooperation, coastal security and shipbuilding. The discussions were held during a meeting between Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh and Greece's Deputy Minister of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy, Stefanos Gkikas, in New Delhi on Thursday.

"Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh met Deputy Minister of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy of Greece Mr Stefanos Gkikas in New Delhi on October 08, 2026. The two sides discussed India Greece defence and strategic cooperation with emphasis on maritime cooperation, coastal security and shipbuilding," the Ministry of Defence stated. "As two prominent maritime nations, India and Greece have common interest and stakes in the maritime sector including the need to ensure safety and security of seafarers," it added.

Gkikas is on an official visit to India to attend Sagarmathan, the Great Oceans Dialogue 2026. Prior to departing for New Delhi, Gkikas said Greece remained committed to strengthening maritime cooperation with India. He made these remarks during his meeting with India's Ambassador to Greece, Ravi Shankar,



on October 1. "Ambassador Ravi Shankar called on Stefanos Gkikas, Deputy Minister for Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy, today," the Indian Embassy in Greece posted on X. "Hon'ble Dy Min said that Greece remained committed to strengthening maritime cooperation with India and that he was looking forward to his official visit next week to India to attend Sagarmathan, the Great Oceans Dialogue 2026," it added. In July, Ravi Shankar met Chief of the Hellenic Air Force General Staff Lieutenant General Demosthenes Grigoriadis and discussed ongoing cooperation initiatives between the air forces of the two nations.

US suspends Indian IT firms from green-card programme

Washington, Oct 8 (UNI): The Trump administration on Thursday suspended Microsoft, Adobe and six major IT companies, including Infosys, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Wipro and HCL, from a key US programme used by employers to sponsor skilled foreign workers for permanent residency. Labour Secretary Keith Sonderling said the companies had requested nearly three million foreign workers since 2009, arguing that the practice had shut Americans out of the job market. "Since 2009, just these companies alone have requested almost three million foreign workers. They've received over 230,000 H-1B visa approvals and over 100,000 permanent labour certifications... That's hundreds of thousands of jobs that were taken from American workers," Sonderling said.

India pays the price for migration

Dr Bushan Kumar

There is a simple truth we all accept in our personal lives: if our home is small, imperfect or filled with problems, we do not abandon it and go to live permanently in someone else's house. We try to fix it, improve it, strengthen it, and make it livable. Yet the same instinct disappears when it comes to our country. The moment our income rises and we become comfortable, we start looking for ways to leave the nation that raised us, educated us, and gave us the foundation on which our success stands. What is more surprising is that people often leave not when they are desperate or struggling, but when they finally reach a point where they could meaningfully give back. Over the last decade, India has been one of the world's fastest-growing major economies. Despite global slowdowns, India's GDP growth has been around 7% on average. The country is expanding highways at a record pace, building airports, adopting 5G faster than many Western nations, and creating one of the world's strongest digital ecosystems. Yet, even in this moment of growth, India is witnessing a silent but significant trend: those who have benefitted the most from the country's progress are increasingly choosing to settle abroad. According to the United Nations International Migration Report 2024, India has the world's largest diaspora – nearly 1.8 crore Indians are living outside the country. Every year, around 2 to 3 lakh highly skilled professionals permanently migrate to the US, Canada, Australia, Europe, and the Gulf. The World Bank estimates that India loses nearly \$17-20 billion every year in human capital due to the permanent migration of skilled, educated



workers. This includes doctors, engineers, scientists, researchers, and entrepreneurs – people who could contribute significantly to India's growth but end up strengthening foreign economies instead. The irony becomes even deeper when we examine who exactly is leaving. A large percentage of those who migrate studied in India's subsidized higher education system. Institutes like IITs, NITs, IIMs, and AIIMS spend lakhs of rupees per student, while students pay only a fraction of the real cost. The nation invests in their talent, but just when they become capable of giving something back, they pack their bags. It is like a family raising a child with love, discipline, and sacrifice, only to watch him use his abilities for someone else's home. And the reasons people give for leaving are often the same: better lifestyle, cleaner surroundings, safety, infrastructure, higher salaries. It is true that the salary gap is large – a software engineer in Silicon Valley may earn ₹1.2 crore a year, while the same job in India may pay ₹12-20 lakh. It is true that cities like Toronto, Sydney, and Amsterdam rank much higher on global

quality-of-life indexes. But the question is not whether these countries are better today. The deeper question is: how will India ever reach those levels if everyone who can improve India decides to leave? A study by Yale and Stanford researchers in 2023 pointed out an interesting psychological trend: migration from India is increasingly driven not by necessity, but by aspiration. As incomes rise, expectations rise even faster. Families want global exposure, branded lifestyles, and the social status that comes with saying "my son is in America." It is not poverty pushing people out; it is a mindset telling them that staying back is a sign of lower ambition. For many, leaving becomes an escape, not just a choice. But escape comes at a cost. Every time a skilled professional leaves, India loses more than just a worker. We lose innovation capacity. We lose future entrepreneurs. We lose future taxpayers. When a doctor trained in India serves in London or New York, it is the British or American taxpayer who benefits from our investment. When

Indian scientists file patents abroad, it strengthens foreign industries. When Indian startup founders migrate to Silicon Valley, the next big company, the next breakthrough, the next job-creating machine is lost not to the world, but specifically to India. Yet, the solution is not to stop people from going abroad. Migration itself is not the problem; migration without contribution is. Countries like China, Israel, South Korea, and Ireland have large diasporas too, but their overseas citizens remain deeply connected to their homeland. They invest, they mentor, they bring technology back, they spend time in their home country, and they help shape national policies. Their success abroad becomes an asset for their nation, not a loss. India's diaspora is talented, but the level of contribution is still far from its potential. Many Indians return only for weddings, festivals, or family visits. Few returns to work for even a year, start a business, mentor young people, fund research, or take part in policy dialogues. We expect India to grow, but we want it to grow

without our time, without our effort, and without our involvement. The truth is, no nation becomes great because its people leave.

Nations become great because their people stay, build, contribute, and believe. Japan rebuilt itself after war because its young generation refused to leave. South Korea transformed from a poor agricultural country in the 1960s to a global tech powerhouse because its educated youth chose to stay and create. China's rise in manufacturing and technology was powered by the return of thousands of overseas Chinese professionals.

Countries do not become strong because foreigners help; they become strong because their own people take responsibility. India today stands at a unique moment. The country is growing, changing, transforming – but the pace depends on us. If our best minds keep leaving, India will keep moving two steps forward and one step back. But if our best minds stay or at least stay connected with purpose, India's growth can accelerate in a way the world has rarely seen. Contribution does not always mean spending money or making huge sacrifices. It can begin with something as simple as sharing knowledge with Indian students, mentoring startups, investing even a small amount in Indian enterprises, supporting research, participating in policy discussions, promoting local innovations, or returning for short-term work. Every bit matters. A nation is built not by one giant act of patriotism, but by millions of small acts of responsibility.

In the end, it comes down to one question: do we want to be beneficiaries of strong India, or do we want to be the architects of it?

China-Japan Tensions Escalate Over Taiwan Dispute

Harsha Kakar

China reacted angrily after the Japanese PM, Sanae Takaichi, mentioned in response to a question in their parliament that a Chinese assault on Taiwan could constitute a 'survival-threatening situation' for Japan, which could lead to it exercising 'it's right of self-defence.' She even invoked the US-Japan defence treaty. All this, despite Japan accepting the 'One China' policy in 1972, when it normalized relations with Beijing.

In 2011, former Japanese PM, Shinzo Abe, had also mentioned, 'A Taiwan contingency is a contingency for Japan. In other words, it is also a contingency for the Japan-US alliance. People in Beijing, particularly President Xi Jinping, should not misjudge that.' Japan has been conveying that occupation of Taiwan would only be the start of Chinese offensive actions in the region. Takaichi is a conservative who regularly visits the Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo. This shrine honours Japan's war dead, including convicted war criminals, hence disliked in China. Since becoming PM, she has avoided doing so. China, responding to her Taiwan comments, issued travel and education advisories for Japan, stopped imports of Japanese sea food as also despatched coastguard and naval vessels close to Japanese islands as a show of force. It began falsely highlighting targeting of Chinese citizens in Japan, ignoring the reverse in China.

Beijing prevented its premier from meeting Takaichi on the sidelines of the G20 summit. The Chinese also summoned the Japanese ambassador and demand-



ed that the statement be retracted. Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi stated that 'Japan crossed the red line.' China's concern was evident when it raised the dispute in the UN. In a letter to the UN Secretary General, the Chinese permanent representative wrote, 'If Japan dares to attempt an armed intervention in the cross-strait situation, it would be an act of aggression.' The Chinese Counsel General in Osaka tweeted on social media seeking the 'head' of the Japanese PM, only to retract it later. China was countering with every means at its disposal, led by its 'wolf warrior' diplomats. The Chinese President, Xi Jinping, requested for a tele conversation with Trump on the subject. This is possibly the first time in years that China requested for a call, normally it being the US. While Trump commented on the conversation in his Truth Social post, avoiding any mention of Taiwan, the Chinese read out specifically mentioned Taiwan. It said Taiwan's return to China was an 'integral part of the

postwar international order,' highlighting its historical dispute with Japan.

Trump also spoke with Takaichi soon after his conversation with Xi Jinping. This call was initiated by Trump. Takaichi mentioned, 'We confirmed the close coordination between Japan and the US.' Neither side confirmed whether Taiwan was discussed, though Trump is likely to have asked her to tone down her comments, as he seeks to enhance US ties with China. Such reaction from China would not have happened unless Takaichi hit a raw nerve. There is no doubt that an independent Taiwan is a concern for China, which has threatened to integrate it by force. Xi has repeatedly tasked his PLA to prepare for occupation of the island and has regularly conducted threatening exercises in its vicinity. China had presumed that the world would watch, possibly criticize in global forums, while it occupied Taiwan by force, but Takaichi's comments implied possible global intervention. Till now it was

expected that Japan would militarily only intervene in Taiwan, provided the US did, though it has no legal obligation to do so. Thus far, US policies on supporting Taiwan militarily have been vague. However, this statement meant that it could be Japan leading the way, with the US forced to be involved, based on the US-Japan defence pact.

A similar scenario could emerge with the Philippines, where it may also join the US in countering the invasion. This could draw in other nations. Takaichi's statement also conveys that nations would intervene, despite accepting the 'One China' policy. This goes against the Chinese perception. Takaichi had her reasons for making the statement. For Japan, the loss of Taiwan would impact its maritime and economic security, hence is essential that the nation continues to survive. Taiwan is located barely a hundred Kms from Yonaguni Island, Japan's westernmost inhabited territory. This implies that any Chinese activity would vio-

late Japanese air and EEZ, which it already does during exercises threatening Taiwan. It would also open doors for China to demand possession of the disputed Senkaku islands from Japan. Most of Japan's oil imports move through the Taiwan straits. Loss of these straits to China would have far reaching impact on Japan's economy, as the straits would become China's inland waterway, which it could block at any time. Taiwan is Japan's fourth largest trading partner as also plays a major role in its IT sector, which would be impacted.

Takaichi did signal a turn down when she stated that she would restore ties with China through dialogue. For India, which has steered away from the controversy, the Chinese message is clear. If it is threatening Japan today, it would do the same with India, when it comes to its claim lines. Any nation coming in support of India could face the same set of pressures as Japan is facing. China has not budged on its claims on Ladakh as also Arunachal. India must be prepared to defend its territories on its own. Taiwan, realizing the same, has enhanced its defence budget by USD 40 Billion to counter growing Chinese threat.

China recently re-ignited the Arunachal dispute with the incident of Pema Thongdok, an Indian national, born in Arunachal, settled in the UK, while transiting through Beijing. She was held up for more than 18 hours, on grounds of her passport mentioning Arunachal, before being permitted to proceed. India issued a 'demarche' to China on the subject but that would have little meaning.

Bhartiya Sanskriti & Sanskrit

Sanskrit means 'perfectly made'. It is a language of extraordinary precision. Sanskrit is one of the oldest recorded languages. It developed a most comprehensive linguistic system very early in history so that it could easily be committed to memory. The earliest Sanskrit writings, the Rig Vedic hymns, are in the form of poetry.

Before the development of script, India relied on oral transmission to preserve and disseminate knowledge, including scriptures and philosophical teachings. The Vedas, Brahmanas, Aranyakas, Upanishads and early Puranas were passed on orally from teacher to disciple, the 'Guru-Shishya parampara', over generations. This knowledge was considered Shruti, that which is heard, emphasising its oral origins. The oral transmission of knowledge in Sanskrit was a highly disciplined and precise process. The emphasis was not only on memorisation, but also on accurate pronunciation and intonation. Even after the introduction of scripts, the oral tradition of learning and reciting Sanskrit texts continued to be an integral part of the Indian educational system.

The Sanskrit texts were set into two categories: Shruti and Smriti. Shruti literally meant 'heard' or 'revealed'. The authority of these texts was of the highest order. They were considered eternal and unchangeable. The most important and foundational Shruti texts are the Vedas. Smriti, on the other hand, meant "remembered". These texts were human compositions. Unlike Shruti texts, Smriti texts were regarded as secondary to the Vedas in terms of authority. The Smriti texts include the Epics, the Puranas, the Dharmashastras and other scriptures dealing with customs, moral codes etc al. Smriti literature also provides practical guidelines and interpretations of the principles found in the Shruti texts. As has been said, one of the oldest and most important Shruti scriptures, the Rig Veda, is a collection of hymns dedicated to deities and natural forces. It was composed not less than four thousand years ago. It is in Sanskrit. The hymns are highly poetic and profound. Shruti and Smriti have played a crucial role in shaping the Indian ethos. The Vedas have survived over millennia. The reason for it is the language of it. The Vedic Sanskrit was simpler than the classical Sanskrit. The use of phonetic patterns, meter and rhythm made memorisation and recitation easier. The use of metrical versus made them more rhythmic and melodious, aiding memorisation. The Vedic tradition included a detailed study of phonetics, which helped in preserving the correct pronunciation and accentuation of the Vedic texts. The fact that these texts were highly revered also helped them remain relevant.

Panini, the famous grammarian, created, in about 40 pages, a most complete linguistic system in history. His masterwork, 'Ashtadhyayi' (eight chapters), made Sanskrit the lingua franca of the Asian continent for more than a thousand years. His work was one of the most astonishing intellectual achievements of the human mind. Panini lived around the 5th-4th century BCE in a town near Taxila. Ashtadhyayi is quite clearly the work of a single individual, fascinated with reconstructing things to understand how they worked. What Panini took apart and reconstructed as per the rules he created was Sanskrit, the language of the Vedas. The sacred hymns and the language itself was analysed by him. It was nothing less than grasping the nature of the Cosmos. Just as in yoga, wherein we are mindful of our breath, so was the case with Panini, who became mindful of what we spoke.

What made Sanskrit perfect? Why was it a language of extraordinary precision? In English, the noun can usually be understood from the context. But in Sanskrit, eight different suffixes are used to embed meanings into the forms of the words. From a single Sanskrit noun in isolation, one can tell its syntactical function. The features of Sanskrit are an expression of subtlety. Panini set out to capture in exacting detail how Sanskrit worked. To do this, he needed a meta-language. His meta-language had to be concise, to be committed to memory, and to be passed on orally. The Sutras that Panini created describe Sanskrit's chronology, morphology and syntax. The word used to describe Panini's work is "Vyakaran". Vyakaran is seen as the paradigm for other major themes of enquiry in ancient India, such as astronomy and philosophy. Sanskrit gradually took wings. It became a language in which great works were composed. Sanskrit helped give India a cultural and social position that no political entity would be able to establish. It made India an exporter of cultural capital. From the start of the common era, and for well over a millennium thereafter, Sanskrit bound together a huge civilisational territory, continental in scale. At its peak, a quarter of the world's population lived within it. Sanskrit became the sign across this vast space of a particular style of polity, civility and beauty, from Afghanistan to Java. It lasted for a thousand years because it was beautiful. It afforded participation in a big world where an Indian was not local. Living in India, one could be quoted in Cambodia. Cambodian princes wrote a Sanskrit no different from the poets in Tamil Nadu and Gujarat.

It was not that Panini and his system froze Sanskrit. Despite the normative influence that the Ashtadhyayi exerted, Sanskrit continued to evolve, just as it had in Panini's days. From its origins as a language of power, it became the language in which people sought to disrupt power and to explore the literary imagination. Unlike other global languages, Sanskrit spread not through conquest or colonisation, but because it served a purpose. Sanskrit was the language of science. Most Sanskrit texts in science and other subjects were in poetic form, aiding easy memorisation. It is a pity, though, that few scholars of Kharoshthi, Brahmi and Grantha script exist who can translate our rich Sanskrit heritage for a lay reader. It is also a tragedy that India remains largely unaware of the treasure trove of civilisational knowledge these ancient Sanskrit manuscripts contain.

Creating human resources familiar with old Sanskrit scripts is equally the need of the hour. Interpreting this heritage is as important as energising our efforts at archaeological exploration, for who knows what more we may discover while delving into the Sanskrit treasure trove. The preservation of Sanskrit knowledge is not merely a matter of protecting an ancient language; it is also about understanding the intellectual methods through which generations of Indians organised, questioned and transmitted knowledge. Texts on mathematics, astronomy, medicine, philosophy, grammar, architecture and statecraft reveal a civilisation deeply engaged with systematic enquiry. Many of these works remain accessible only to specialists because their language, terminology and manuscripts require advanced training to interpret.

Modern technology can play an important role in making this heritage accessible to a wider audience. Digitising manuscripts, creating searchable Sanskrit corpora, developing reliable translations and using artificial intelligence to assist scholars in comparing different manuscript traditions could significantly expand research. Such efforts, however, would need to be guided by philological expertise so that digitisation does not come at the cost of accuracy or historical context.

There is also a need to strengthen the teaching of ancient Indian scripts such as Brahmi, Kharoshthi and Grantha alongside Sanskrit. A new generation trained in languages, epigraphy, palaeography, archaeology and digital humanities could bridge the gap between specialists and the general public. Universities and research institutions can collaborate to create interdisciplinary programmes that bring together traditional Sanskrit scholarship and modern methods of historical research. Ultimately, the real value of Sanskrit lies not only in its antiquity but in the vast body of knowledge and literary creativity preserved through it. Making that heritage accessible does not mean viewing the past uncritically; rather, it means studying it carefully, placing it in its historical context and allowing new generations to engage with it. India's civilisational inheritance can become a living source of scholarship when manuscripts are preserved, texts are accurately interpreted and their ideas are made available to the wider world.

MeitY's C2S Programme Offers Compute, IP Cores, and SCL Fabrication Support

New Delhi, Oct 8 (GNS): India must build capabilities of such scale and strength that, within the next few years, the nation establishes itself as a major global semiconductor power, according to Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

He mentioned that the aim is to ensure that we do not depend on anyone else for our strategic needs and become self-reliant in our strategic sectors and to use indigenous chips.

He handed over 28 chips fabricated at Semiconductor Laboratory (SCL) Mohali (including 600 bare dies and 600 packaged chips) by students from 17 academic institutions under the Chips to Start-up (C2S) Programme.

The minister stated that India is rapidly emerging as a distinctive leader in the global semiconductor landscape. “Today, institutions across the country have access to some of the world’s most advanced design technologies, creating a large-scale semiconductor development ecosystem that is unique to India,” Vaishnaw noted.

ChipIN Centre, one of the largest facilities established at C-DAC Bangalore, offers



an extensive range of semiconductor design workflows and solutions, striving to bring national chip design infrastructure directly to the semiconductor design community across the country. It is a centralised facility which hosts the most advanced design tools for the entire chip design cycle. It also offers compute and hardware infrastructure, IP cores, and mentorship to provide comprehensive services for design fabrication at the SCL foundry and packaging to academic institutions under C2S (Chips to Start-up) Programme of Ministry of

Electronics and Information Technology. The ChipIN Centre collects chip designs created by students from C2S Programme institutions. Every three months, these designs are grouped together and sent to SCL Mohali for fabrication using 180 nm technology.

Once approved, the designs are combined onto a single mask (MPW reticle) by ChipIN Centre, which saves both time and cost by manufacturing multiple designs in a single run.

SCL Mohali then fabricates, packages, and delivers the chips back to the stu-

dents. In the past year, ChipIN Centre organised 5 such MPW shuttle runs for fabrication of designs at SCL under the C2S programme. A total of 122 designs were submitted by 46 institutions across India. Out of these, SCL has successfully fabricated 56 student-designed chips and delivered them to the respective institutions, according to the ministry.

The minister said the government was creating an ecosystem that would enable students, start-ups and research institutions to move from chip design to fabrication and packaging within India. He said such an integrated approach would strengthen domestic capabilities and create a larger pool of skilled semiconductor professionals.

Vaishnaw emphasised that the participation of academic institutions in semiconductor development was critical to building a sustainable talent pipeline. He said programmes such as C2S were giving students practical exposure to advanced chip-design tools, fabrication processes and industry-oriented technologies.

India Emerging as Self-Reliant Aerospace Hub

Bengaluru, Oct 8 (GNS): India is witnessing an unprecedented transformation in its aerospace and aviation ecosystem, powered by indigenous technologies, strong industry partnerships, and a whole-of-government approach, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh, said on Saturday. Dr. Singh said that the achievements unveiled today reflect Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision that “Hawai chappal wala bhi Hawai jahaj mein chalega,” and mark India’s steady rise as a global aviation hub and a self-reliant aerospace manufacturing nation.

During his visit to CSIR–National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL) here, he also emphasised that India’s middle-class growth and expanding economy are pushing the country towards becoming one of the top three nations in domestic and international passenger traffic.

“India will require nearly 30,000 pilots in the next 15–20 years, and Hansa-3(NG) represents a critical step towards fulfilling this domestic requirement through fully indigenous technology, reducing dependence on foreign trainer aircraft,



and creating new avenues of livelihood and entrepreneurship in aviation,” Singh mentioned. The Minister launched the production version of Hansa-3(NG), India’s first all-composite two-seater trainer aircraft designed to meet the rising demand for pilot training.

The aircraft is expected to play a major role in meeting India’s need for nearly 30,000 pilots over the next two decades. He expressed satisfaction that industry partner M/s Pioneer Clean Amps is already setting up a Rs 150 crore facility in Kuppam, Andhra Pradesh, that will manufacture up to 100 aircraft every year. Dr. Singh also highlighted CSIR-NAL’s

ongoing work on the 19-seater SARAS Mk-2 aircraft, which will support regional connectivity under schemes like UDAN. Equipped with modern avionics, a pressurised cabin, and advanced flight controls, SARAS Mk-2 is expected to fill the gap in India’s short-haul aircraft segment for both civilian and military use. He said this aircraft is only the beginning, and India must work towards even larger aircraft in the coming years.

During his visit, the Minister inaugurated the Iron Bird Facility for SARAS Mk-2, calling it a crucial platform for system integration, ground testing, and early detection of design and software is-

sues. He also launched a dedicated manufacturing facility for High Altitude Platforms (HAPs), marking India’s entry into a select group of nations developing solar-powered unmanned aircraft capable of flying above 20 km for long durations. The Minister further inaugurated the NaviMet system at HAL Airport, which will support aviation safety through real-time visibility and weather updates. The minister said the development of indigenous trainer aircraft would strengthen India’s aviation ecosystem while reducing dependence on imported platforms. He noted that greater domestic manufacturing would also create opportunities for private industry, start-ups, skilled employment and ancillary industries linked to aerospace production.

Dr. Singh said SARAS Mk-2 would be an important addition to India’s regional aviation capabilities, particularly as air connectivity expands to smaller cities and towns. The aircraft’s development, he said, reflects the growing ability of Indian institutions and industry to undertake complex aerospace programmes using domestic technologies.

Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited Faces 187.71 cr GST Demand, Penalty Notices

Mumbai, Oct 8 (GNS): Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited (DCBL), a subsidiary of Dalmia Bharat, has received two show-cause notices from the Sales Tax Office in Tamil Nadu amounting to a total of Rs 266.3 crore.

The notices were issued under Section 74 of the Central GST and Tamil Nadu GST Act for the assessment years 2019–20 and 2022–23.

According to the company’s regulatory filing, the Sales Tax Officer in Lalgudi, Tiruchirappalli, has raised demands based on differences found in taxable turnover and input tax credit (ITC) claims during the two assessment years.

“We wish to inform that in an adjudication proceedings against Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited (“DCBL”), wholly owned subsidiary of the Company, related to two show cause notices issued under section 74 of the Central GST/Tamil Nadu GST Act 2017 for AY 2019-20 and AY 2022-23,” the firm said in its exchange filing. For 2019-20, authorities have demanded Rs 128.39 crore in tax along with a penalty of Rs 19.25 crore. For 2022-23, the notice seeks Rs 59.32 crore in tax and an equal amount

as penalty. The orders were received by the company on November 28, 2025.

“The Orders were received on November 28, 2025 at 07:30 PM,” the firm stated. Dalmia Cement has clarified that these notices will not have any financial impact on the company. It did not elaborate on how the matter will be addressed but indicated that it expects no monetary burden as a result of the notices.

“Accordingly, there will be no financial impact on DCBL,” the firm added in its filing. Dalmia Bharat, established in 1939, is India’s fourth-largest cement producer with an installed capacity of 49.5 million tonnes per annum. According to information available on the website, the company is headquartered in New Delhi and operates 15 cement plants across 10 states.

The notices relate to alleged differences identified by the tax authorities between the taxable turnover reported by DCBL and the figures available in the department’s records. The authorities have also questioned certain input tax credit claims made by the company during the rele-

vant assessment periods.

For the 2019–20 assessment year, the tax demand of Rs 128.39 crore has been accompanied by a penalty of Rs 19.25 crore. For 2022–23, the authorities have raised a tax demand of Rs 59.32 crore and proposed a penalty of the same amount.

The proceedings have been initiated under Section 74 of the Central GST and Tamil Nadu GST Acts, which covers cases involving tax not paid or short-paid, or input tax credit allegedly wrongly availed or utilised, in circumstances involving fraud, wilful misstatement or suppression of facts.

The notices were issued by the Sales Tax Officer in Lalgudi, Tiruchirappalli, and cover transactions and tax positions reported by DCBL during the two assessment years. The company disclosed the matter through a regulatory filing as required under applicable disclosure norms.

The combined amount involved in the tax and penalty demands is Rs 266.3 crore. However, Dalmia Cement has maintained that the proceedings will not result in any financial impact on the company.

Mumbai property registrations mark best Nov since 2013, revenue up 12 pc

Mumbai, Oct 8 (GNS): The real estate market in Mumbai recorded its strongest November since 2013, supported by rising demand for residential properties and steady market confidence, a new report said on Sunday.

According to Knight Frank India, the city -- covering areas under the BMC -- registered 12,219 properties in November 2025, marking a 20 per cent increase compared to the same month last year. Stamp duty collections also rose 12 per cent year-on-year to Rs 1,038 crore -- reflecting sustained buying momentum. On a month-on-month basis, registrations increased by 5 per cent, while stamp duty collections remained stable.

From January to November 2025, Mumbai recorded 1,35,807 property registrations, contributing more than Rs 12,224 crore to the state government.

During this period, registrations grew 5 per cent year-on-year and revenue increased 11 per cent, showing the city’s solid real estate activity throughout the year.

Knight Frank India Chairman and Managing Director Shishir Bajjal said that Mumbai’s residential market

has maintained its strong momentum. He noted that the 20 per cent annual rise in registrations and 12 per cent growth in revenue reflect steady demand across segments and a clear shift toward higher-value homes.

With over 1.35 lakh registrations in eleven months, Bajjal said the market now operates at a structurally higher level with consistent monthly activity.

He added that the stability in both sales volumes and revenue indicates a mature demand cycle and continued buyer confidence. Demand for higher-priced homes continued to rise in November. Properties priced above Rs 5 crore made up 7 per cent of total registrations, compared with 5 per cent a year ago. Meanwhile, the share of homes priced below Rs 1 crore declined due to affordability pressures. The mid-range segment of Rs 2–5 crore held steady, while homes priced between Rs 1 crore and Rs 2 crore saw their share increase from 31 per cent in 2024 to 33 per cent in 2025.

The report noted that the increase in registrations was supported by sustained demand across different resi-

dential segments, despite affordability pressures in the lower-priced category. The growth indicates that buyers continued to participate actively in the market during the month.

The premium segment recorded a notable improvement, with properties priced above Rs 5 crore accounting for 7 per cent of total registrations in November, up from 5 per cent during the corresponding period last year. This points to stronger activity in the high-value housing market.

At the same time, homes priced below Rs 1 crore witnessed a decline in their share of registrations. Rising property prices and affordability constraints appear to have influenced the composition of demand, with buyers increasingly moving towards higher-value categories where purchasing capacity permits.

The Rs 1–2 crore segment also strengthened during the month, increasing its share of total registrations from 31 per cent in November 2024 to 33 per cent in November 2025. The Rs 2–5 crore segment, meanwhile, maintained a broadly stable share.

MeitY, C-DAC Hold Convocation for Electronic Toys Project

New Delhi, Oct 8 (GNS): India is a growing market of electronic toys and to build the Indian toys industry ecosystem, electronics and IT can play a crucial role, a senior government official has said. Amitesh Kumar Sinha, Additional Secretary, MeitY, said that he is very happy that the building blocks for it are getting created and the next generation of engineers are working towards it.

India’s toy industry, once heavily dependent on imports, is now manufacturing domestically and exporting to 153 countries.

To give the industry a boost, MeitY, C-DAC, Indian Toy Industries and LEGO Group celebrated the Convocation Ceremony of the 2nd batch of engineering graduates who have spent a year training under the project ‘Development of Electronics and IT-based Control and Automation Solutions for Consumer Electronic Goods (Toy Industry)’. The project is a tailor-made initiative of R&D group of the Ministry to foster the growth of the Indian electronic toys industry by developing prototypes and

equipping young engineers, including from under-represented communities, with the skills needed to design such toys. Sinha, who inaugurated the ‘Electronic Toys Lab’ set-up at the C-DAC, Noida, said this programme can be formalised in a bigger way to cater more students and more impact.

In overall promotion of the Toy industries.

“The CoE setup at CDAC-Noida for e-Toys will onboard NIELIT and MSH and other institutes with electronic Toys in focus. It will help in creating the entrepreneurship/startup,” Sinha added. Under the MeitY initiative, young engineers were selected from across India from SC/ST and NER background and engaged in R&D activities for a year, gaining hands-on...experience in designing and developing electronic toys for first six months working and learning in the e-toys lab at C-DAC-Noida, followed by a six-month training in the industry to create toys prototype based on industry needs. The participants were provided with a monthly stipend of Rs. 25,000 for one year.

GRSE fined by NSE, BSE for board-level non-compliance

Mumbai, Oct 8 (GNS): Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Limited (GRSE) on Saturday said that it received notices from both the National Stock Exchange (NSE) and the BSE for not meeting certain corporate governance rules during the quarter ending September 30. In a regulatory filing, the defence public sector company said the exchanges pointed out violations related to independent directors.

These include the requirement to have enough independent directors on the board, the need for a woman independent director, and proper formation of the audit committee and the nomination and remuneration committee. For these shortcomings, each exchange has imposed a fine of Rs 9,77,040, including GST.

“We hereby inform you that the company has received notices dated November 28 from National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) and BSE Limited (BSE) regarding non-compliance with the provisions of Reg 17 (1), 18 (1) and 19(1)/19(2) of the SEBI LODR, 2015 pertaining to non-availability of required

Independent Directors including Woman Independent Director on the Board of the Company, non-constitution of Audit Committee and Nomination and Remuneration Committee during the quarter ended September 30,” the company said.

“In view of the said non-compliances, a fine of Rs 9,77,040/- (incl. GST) has been imposed by each of the Stock Exchanges i.e. NSE & BSE,” it added. GRSE said it has replied to the notices, explaining that as a central public sector enterprise under the Ministry of Defence, appointments to its board -- including independent and woman independent directors -- are made by the Government of India through Presidential Orders.

The company said the non-compliance happened only because the government had not appointed the required directors on time, and that this situation was beyond its control. GRSE has requested the exchanges to waive the penalties.

It also said that it is actively following up with the Ministry of Defence, its promoter, to fast-track the appointment

Sensex, Nifty End Flat; RBI MPC Meet in Focus

Mumbai, Oct 8 (GNS): The Indian stock market is preparing for an important week ahead as it enters the final month of 2025, with investors closely watching the Reserve Bank of India’s monetary policy meeting, monthly auto sales data, and key US economic indicators. Strong domestic macroeconomic fundamentals and steady global cues are expected to support the market, but uncertainty around interest rates and global inflation trends may keep investors cautious. On Friday, November 28, benchmark indices ended almost flat as traders booked profits and waited for the release of India’s Q2 GDP numbers.

The Sensex slipped 14 points to close at 85,706.67, while the Nifty fell 13 points to end at 26,202.95. “The index continues to make fresh highs, and the bias remains positive. The next upside levels are placed at 26,500, followed by 27,000,” experts said. “On the downside, the 20-DEMA around 25,900 serves as initial support, with the next key level at 25,700,” they added. The biggest event for the mar-

kets next week will be the RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meeting scheduled from December 3 to 5. Investors will be looking for any signals on inflation, liquidity conditions, and growth outlook as the year draws to a close.

Another important factor will be the announcement of November automobile sales on December 1. Strong sales across passenger vehicles, two-wheelers, and commercial vehicles could boost confidence in a sustained demand recovery. Global cues will also play a major role. It is a full trading week on Wall Street, although the flow of US economic data will be lighter as federal agencies resume reporting. Markets will finally receive the delayed September reading of the Federal Reserve’s preferred inflation gauge--the PCE and Core PCE index -- on Friday. Before that, the ADP private payrolls report for November will be released on Wednesday, and investors will track whether it matches the strong September jobs data. Meanwhile, India’s trade negotiations with the United States

continue to draw attention. The government expects to finalise a trade deal by year-end as most disagreements have been resolved. Talks gained momentum after US President Donald Trump acknowledged progress in discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Market participants will also assess the latest corporate earnings outlook and domestic economic indicators for signs of sustained growth. Any improvement in consumption, investment and credit activity could reinforce expectations of continued resilience in the Indian economy.

The RBI’s policy stance will remain a key determinant of investor sentiment. While expectations around interest rates will influence financial stocks and rate-sensitive sectors, investors will also examine the central bank’s assessment of inflation and economic growth.

Automobile stocks are likely to remain in focus with the release of November sales figures. Higher volumes in passenger vehicles, two-wheelers and commercial vehicles.

IndiGo completes Airbus software update on all 200 aircraft; Air India resets 90 pc A320 fleet

New Delhi, Oct 8 (GNS): As global flight operations disrupted due to a software issue in the Airbus A320 family of aircraft, IndiGo said it has completed the update on the mandatory Airbus system enhancement across its A320-family fleet. All 200 aircraft have now been fully updated and compliant as required, said the Indian carrier.

“This programme involved a carefully coordinated sequence of work, with our engineering and operations teams ensuring each aircraft was updated with mandated system upgrade while maintaining stable operations across the network. Their effort helped us carry out a fleet-wide upgrade with minimal impact on customers’ journeys and zero cancellations,” said the airline in its latest statement.

With the completion of this technical requirement, every aircraft now operates with the latest approved configuration, and “we continue to monitor performance closely as part of our routine safety procedures”.

The issue emerged after the European Union Avia-

tion Safety Agency (EASA) ordered a global software upgrade for all Airbus A320 aircraft. Air India said it has successfully completed the reset on over 90 per cent of its operating A320 family aircraft that were impacted by EASA and Airbus’ requirement for a software realignment.

“We expect to cover the entire fleet within the timeline prescribed by EASA, with safety remaining our top priority. Rising to the occasion, our engineering and ground colleagues worked round the clock to ensure there were no cancellations and that the impact on our schedule integrity across the network was minimal,” said Air India in a statement. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) earlier said a total of 338 flights in India have been affected by the problem. The update is needed in the Elevator and Aileron Computer (ELAC), a crucial part of the aircraft’s flight control system.

EASA identified the “ELAC B L104” units as the source of the vulnerability, leading to the worldwide directive

that impacted nearly 6,000 flights. The DGCA said it was closely monitoring the situation to ensure smooth operations across the country’s airports. The software-related issue prompted airlines worldwide to carry out the required technical intervention on affected A320-family aircraft. The directive was issued as a precautionary measure to ensure that the flight-control systems continue to operate within approved safety parameters.

The ELAC system plays a critical role in processing inputs for the aircraft’s elevator and aileron controls. Any vulnerability in the system therefore requires timely corrective action, making compliance with the EASA directive essential for airlines operating the affected aircraft.

IndiGo said its engineering and operations teams coordinated the fleet-wide update while continuing regular flight operations. The airline added that aircraft performance would continue to be monitored as part of its established safety and maintenance procedures.

BJP trying to take away votes of those who turned against it: Revanth Reddy

FROM PAGE 1

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy alleged that the BJP had tried to divide Indians based on religion, caste, region and language. "They have also misused Central agencies as a threat to weaken the Opposition and stifle institutions. Now that defeat is imminent, the country is being divided into two major camps: those who have the right to vote and those whose votes they want to steal," a statement from the Chief Minister's Office (CMO) quoted him as saying.

"The BJP is afraid of the poor people who have turned against it, including Dalits, tribals, OBCs and minorities. Hence, they want to take away their votes," said Revanth Reddy, who joined Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and other Congress and INDIA bloc leaders in the sit-in protest at Raj Ghat. The Chief Minister stated that if the votes of 13 crore or more citizens were taken away, it would amount to the single largest disenfranchisement exercise on the planet. He said this figure was greater than the population of many countries.

"We are setting up a strange situation



where, after the number of voters increased in every election in India since 1952, including the last three General Elections in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power, the total number of voters in India will decline in the next polls," he said. However, he asserted that the people of India would not allow this. He remarked that the issue was not a fight of the Congress alone or even the INDIA alliance, but one concerning the future of the country. CM Revanth Reddy alleged that PM

Modi had always sought to capture power through divisive tactics drawn from what he described as the imperialist British playbook. "Our party was formed to secure Independence for India, not to gain power. We ensured India became free and that every Indian got a vote. Today, if the government can illegally take away people's votes, tomorrow all their rights, including reservations and fundamental rights, will also be taken away," he said.

"India will stand for the right of every citizen to vote. No force on earth can stop that. Either the BJP removes CEC Gyanesh Kumar, reverses the SIR exercise and restores the vote of every citizen, or it will be consigned to the dustbin of Indian political history," Revanth Reddy added. He further urged the Election Commission to ensure transparency in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and protect the voting rights of every eligible citizen. Revanth Reddy said the Congress and INDIA bloc would continue to raise the issue through democratic means and oppose any move that could exclude genuine voters from the electoral rolls.

Over 24,000 Form-7 applications received in Telangana; 12,204 voters deleted

Hyderabad, Oct 8 (GNS): Election authorities in Telangana received 24,323 Form-7 applications seeking deletion of voters from the electoral rolls during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), and acting on these claims, deleted 12,204 voters. During the claims and objections period under the SIR of electoral rolls in Telangana, from June 15 to October 7, a total of 4,88,417 applications were received for new voter enrolment through Form-6. As per the status of receipt and disposal of Form-6 applications released by Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) C. Sudharsan Reddy on Thursday, 51,821 applicants have been added to the electoral rolls.

The CEO released a district-wise and constituency-wise status report on the receipt and disposal of Forms 6, 6A, 7 and 8. Allegations



regarding false Form-7 applications recently triggered a row in the state, prompting the CEO to direct District Election Officers (DEOs) to take action against those submitting false claims. The data show that the maximum number of Form-7 applications (6,335) was received in Hyderabad district. Acting on these claims, the election authorities deleted 2,066 voters.

In Musheerabad constituency of Hyderabad, where a Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Booth Level Agent (BLA) was booked by the police two days ago for allegedly submitting 30 false Form-7 applications, a total of 151 applications were received and, acting on these applications, 87 voters were removed from the rolls. In Goshamahall constituency, where similar complaints

were received, the Election Commission received 222 Form-7 applications, of which 87 were accepted.

In Bahadurpura constituency, where pre-printed Form-7 applications had surfaced, a total of 842 applications were received, of which 242 were accepted. Rangareddy district, adjoining Hyderabad, recorded the second-highest number of applications.

Anand Asks Cops to Improve Investigation Standards



Hyderabad, Oct 8 (GNS): Director-General of Police (DGP) C.V. Anand on Thursday directed senior police officers to strengthen the implementation of the new criminal laws, improve investigation standards and take measures to improve the state's national ranking. At a high-level review meeting, Anand assessed the implementation of the new laws and the performance of police units lagging behind in the state's crime rankings.

He said Telangana had a score of 60.15 in the national-level assessment of the implementation of the new criminal laws. The assessment was based on four parameters — administrative reforms (20 per cent), operational efficiency (45 per cent), ICT application (25 per cent) and integration (10 per cent). The DGP said there was considerable scope to improve the state's ranking through effective implementation of Zero FIR, online charge sheets, e-Sakshya, e-Summons and Nyaya Shruti.

He directed officers to ensure time-bound investigations and make effective use of the Interoperable Crimi-

nal Justice System (ICJS). He also stressed the need to improve the disposal of cases under investigation, conviction rates and the overall quality of investigations.

Referring to the performance of ERAGLE Force and the Cyber Security Bureau, Anand said periodic reviews and corrective measures had helped both wings achieve significant results at the national level.

He said the EAGLE Force had emerged as the top-performing unit in the country, while Telangana's efforts to combat cyber-crime had also received national recognition. Similar reviews should be conducted in other police units to identify deficiencies and take corrective measures at the field level, he said.

The meeting reviewed six major areas, including disposal of cases under investigation, the tracking system for sexual offences, disposal of pending trial cases, registration of FIRs at crime scenes and effective use of e-Sakshya.

Anand sought details of the difficulties faced by officers in these areas and discussed corrective measures. He also directed of-

ficers to make effective use of data generated through the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS) to analyse crime patterns and formulate preventive measures.

Police units were asked to focus particularly on cybercrime, NDPS cases and lists of criminals, and take measures to prevent repeat offences. Officers also brought technical difficulties encountered at the unit level in implementing the new criminal laws to the DGP's notice.

Mulugu district ranked first in the state in implementing the new criminal laws, followed by Jayashankar Bhupalpally district and Ramagundam commissionerate. Their performance was assessed particularly in areas such as e-Sakshya, completion of investigations within the prescribed 60- and 90-day periods and registration of Zero FIRs. Officers from Suryapet, Wanaparthy, Nirmal, Yadadri-Bhuvanagiri, Mahbubnagar and GRP Secunderabad, besides Hyderabad, Nizamabad, Malkajigiri, Cyberabad and Karimnagar commissionerates, participated in the review.

Raksha expo, air show to form part of Telangana Global Summit

Hyderabad, Oct 8 (GNS): Telangana Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju said on Thursday that Raksha Expo and an air show will be organized as part of the Telangana Global Summit-2026 scheduled to be held in Hyderabad from December 7 to 9. He added that the Raksha Expo would provide a major platform to promote the growth of the defence and aerospace industries and attract investments to Telangana. The Chief Secretary chaired a meeting at the B.R. Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat to review the arrangements for the Raksha Expo.

He discussed the participation of defence and aerospace companies, infrastructure, security arrangements, publicity and other related issues. Sanjay Jaju noted that that around 30



per cent of the defence and aerospace industries are based in Hyderabad, making the city an important hub for these sectors.

The Chief Secretary directed officials to invite leading national and international defence, aerospace and arms manufacturing companies to participate in the Raksha Expo.

He told that roadshows will be organised in Hyder-

abad on October 24 and in New Delhi on October 29 as part of the promotional campaign for the Expo.

He said the state government is according priority to the development of the defence and aerospace sectors and recalled that an airfield strip is being developed in Adilabad district.

The Chief Secretary directed officials to ensure participation of industry bodies

such as FICCI, ASSOCHAM, SIDM and MSMEs, along with public and private sector organisations in the defence and aerospace sectors. Leading organisations such as HAL, BEL and BDL are expected to showcase their products at the Expo. The event will also provide opportunities for business interactions, buyer-seller meetings, marketing, MoUs, startup collaborations and

seminars. In view of the ongoing modernisation of police and paramilitary forces across the country, he directed officials to invite Director Generals of Police (DGPs) of all states to participate in the Expo.

The Chief Secretary directed officials to undertake extensive publicity for the Raksha Expo through standees at prominent locations in Hyderabad, short films, brochures and social media platforms. He stressed the need for effective coordination among all departments and agencies to ensure the successful conduct of the Expo. Home Department Principal Secretary Shikha Goel, Panchayat Raj and SERP Commissioner Divya, Invest Telangana CEO Ajit Reddy, and other senior officials attended the meeting.

Cong leaders detained during rally to Lok Bhavan demanding CEC's resignation

Hyderabad, Oct 8 (GNS): Several ruling Congress leaders in Telangana, including ministers, besides leaders of other INDIA bloc parties were on Thursday detained by police as they marched towards the Lok Bhavan here during a 'Save Democracy' rally, demanding the resignation of CEC Gyanesh Kumar over alleged irregularities in the SIR of electoral rolls.

Ministers Ponnampallabhi Prabhakar, Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, Jupally Krishna Rao, Vakati Srihari, state Congress president B Mahesh Kumar Goud and other leaders and workers were taken into preventive custody and shifted to the Punjagutta police station here after they were



stopped near the Lok Bhavan. Prabhakar tried to go ahead by crossing the rope and other barricades erected by police near the Lok Bhavan. The ministers and other leaders continued their protest in the Punjagutta police station, rais-

ing slogans against Prime Minister Narendra Modi and in support of Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

The rally, organised as part of the INDIA bloc's 'Save Democracy' campaign, was held from the Indira Gandhi statue in

Necklace Road here to the Lok Bhavan.

The protesting leaders and workers were later released from the police station, a police official said.

Earlier, ministers, including Prabhakar and state Congress president Goud led a rally of INDIA bloc parties from the Indira Gandhi statue in the Necklace Road to the Lok Bhavan. The police stopped the protesters near the Lok Bhavan by installing barricades. The leaders and workers of CPI, CPI(M), MCPI(U), Telangana Jana Samiti and other parties also took part in the rally. Holding placards and party flags, they raised slogans against PM Modi, the Chief Election Commissioner and others.

Gutka stains at pheni units, TG SAFE suspends 5 licences

Hyderabad, Oct 8 (GNS): Ahead of Dasara, Telangana Standards Authority for Food and Essential Drugs (TG SAFE) on Thursday, October 8, conducted raids at 12 manufacturing and retail outlets selling pheni and khara and suspended Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) licenses of five establishments. Inspections were conducted at Attapur, Jiyaguda, Charminar, Begum Bazar, Moosarambagh and Badangpet.

Around 1,950 kg of pheni worth Rs 2.3 lakh was seized over labelling violations and suspicion of quality. Twelve samples were lifted for testing for adulteration.



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Revanth Reddy, Pawan Kalyan condole Nana Patekar's demise

Hyderabad, Oct 8 (GNS): Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan have expressed deep grief over the demise of renowned actor Nana Patekar. Telangana Chief Minister condoled the death of the leading actor, director and theatre artist. He said Nana Patekar's powerful performances and natural acting left an indelible mark on Hindi and Marathi cinema. His passing is a great loss to the Indian film fraternity.

The Chief Minister conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and admirers, and prayed for the departed soul to rest in peace. Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan condoled the passing of Nana Patekar. "I convey my deepest con-

dolences on the passing of renowned actor Shri Nana Patekar Ji. I pray to the Almighty for his soul to rest in peace and convey my heartfelt sympathies to his family and loved ones," the actor-politician said in a post on X. The Jana Sena leader stated that Nana Patekar was an exceptional actor who brought remarkable depth and authenticity to every character he portrayed.

"His unforgettable performance in Krantiveer remains etched in the memories of cinema lovers. Parinda, Khamoshi, Tirangaa, Agni Sakshi, Natsamrat, Ab Tak Chhappan and Apaharan are among the many memorable works in his illustrious career. His association with the Indian Army and his service to the nation further reflected his deep sense of patriotism and commitment.



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