

BJP leaders Hail Modi's 25 Years In Governance

HYDERABAD: BJP MPs, MLAs and MLCs from Telangana on Sunday congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on completing 25 years in public governance, first as Chief Minister and later as Prime Minister.

At a meeting led by state president N. Ramchander Rao at the party office, they praised Modi's guiding principle Nagarik Devo Bhava (Citizen is God) and said Telangana had benefited from Central development and welfare schemes. They noted that the Centre had sanctioned over



₹13 lakh crore for projects in the state. The meeting also appreciated social service activities under the Seva Sankalp Abhiyan, being carried out since September 17. Union minister G. Kishan Reddy, BJP Parliamentary Board member and Rajya Sabha MP Dr K. Laxman, MPs D.K. Aruna and Etala Rajender, BJPLP leader Aleti Maheshwar Reddy, Council leader A.V.N. Reddy, organisational general secretary Madhukar, state co-incharge Abhay Patil and other representatives attended.

Ponguleti Asks Farmers Not to Invite Troubles by Taking Second Crop Cultivation

Nalgonda: Revenue minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy on Sunday advised farmers against taking up a second crop this year in view of adverse weather conditions attributed to El Nino and declining water levels in irrigation projects and reservoirs.

The minister said water levels in irrigation projects and reservoirs had reached a critical stage and urged farmers and the public to remain cautious.

Speaking after distributing Kalyana Lakshmi cheques to beneficiaries at his camp office in Kusumanchi, Khammam district, Srinivas Reddy said the state government was making every effort to protect the first crop, for which farmers had undertaken cultivation.

He advised farmers to



follow government advisories and avoid sowing a second crop, warning that inadequate water availability could lead to crop failure and financial losses.

Expressing concern over the shortage of electricity, the minister said power, which was earlier available at ₹7 to ₹8 per unit, was now difficult to procure even at ₹15 per unit across the country.

He directed officials to take immediate measures to prevent drinking water shortages in the coming months in view of declining groundwater levels and reduced storage in reservoirs.

The minister said a Cabinet delegation led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy would visit New Delhi to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union ministers to explain the prevailing situation in Telangana. The delegation would seek a special financial assistance package from the Centre and an

increase in the number of workdays for job cardholders under the Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission Gramin (VB-G RAM G).

Later, Srinivas Reddy laid the foundation stone for the Mangali Thanda-Dubba Thanda blacktop road, to be constructed at a cost of ₹63 crore from Integrated Tribal Development Agency (ITDA) funds.

He also launched works on an overhead water tank and pipeline project at Jujul Ravupeta, estimated to cost ₹45 lakh, and inaugurated a new gram panchayat office building at Mangali Thanda, constructed at a cost of ₹20 lakh.

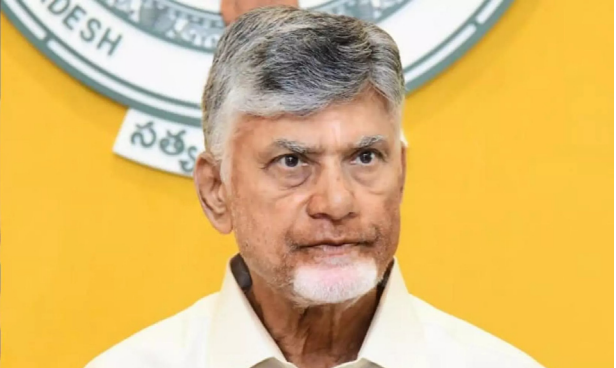
District collector Diwakar T.S., Congress leaders and elected representatives of local bodies attended the programmes.

CM Asks MLAs To Keep People Informed On Development Works

VIJAYAWADA: Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has stressed that elected representatives should not only ensure the execution of development works but also regularly inform the public about the projects and the progress achieved in their constituencies.

He suggested that MLAs prepare and make available development reports and progress cards to help people track government initiatives.

Naidu made these observations when finance minister and Uravakonda MLA Payyavula Keshav submitted a booklet detailing development works undertaken in his constituency over the past two years.



The booklet provides a consolidated account of development initiatives across various departments, highlighting changes brought about at the village level. It covers improvements in drinking water supply, benefits from the widening of the Handri-Neeva canal, approval of lift irrigation projects, construction of cement roads in villages and sanction of new government buildings.

Finance minister Keshav explained that the publication had been designed as a constituency

progress card, offering a concise overview of development works undertaken in different sectors during the past two years.

The CM said such reports should also help people understand the differences between the previous government's record and the development initiatives being implemented by the present dispensation. He emphasised the need for MLAs to make information on development works accessible to the public rather than limiting their efforts to project execution.

Payyavula Keshav thanked Naidu for sanctioning several development works and lift irrigation projects that have contributed to the development of Uravakonda constituency.

Revanth Reddy to Participate in Congress's Goa Yatra

Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy will join the Congress's ongoing 'Goy Rakhon Yatra' (Save Goa campaign) in Goa on Sunday, a party leader said. The Goa Congress, on its official Facebook page, posted a message welcoming Reddy to the coastal state, where the assembly polls are due early next year.

Reddy would reach Goa in the afternoon to participate in the yatra, which will be held in Cuncolim and Quepem assembly constituencies in the evening, state Congress president Girish Chodankar told PTI.

Both the constituencies are represented by Congress - Leader of the Opposition in the assembly Yuri Alemao and MLA Alton D'Costa.

While there is no formal confirma-



tion about the schedule, party sources said Reddy would pay tributes at the Chieftain's Memorial in Cuncolim. The memorial has been built to remember the first revolt against foreign powers during Portuguese rule in the state.

On Saturday, Congress leaders said party MP Rahul Gandhi was also scheduled to participate in the yatra on Sunday.

However, a senior party leader on Sunday said that Gandhi's visit has been cancelled due to ongoing agitation demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar in New Delhi.

The Congress recently said its doors were open to like-minded political outfits ahead of the Goa polls. It has already announced an alliance with the Revolutionary Goans Party (RGP), a regional outfit which won one seat in the 2022 assembly elections in the BJP-ruled coastal state.

Last month, the Goa Forward Party, another regional outfit, an-

Entries invited for Telangana International Story Awards 2026



Nizamabad: Harida Writers' Association president Ghanapuram Devender said the competition aimed to highlight Telangana's cultural identity, lifestyle and linguistic heritage. Entries must be original, unpublished stories written in the Telangana dialect, reflecting the region's spirit and traditions. Translations, adaptations and stories previously shared on social media or submitted to other competitions will not be accepted.

The first prize carries Rs 10,000, while nine other selected stories will receive Rs 1,000 each, along with recognition. The awards will be presented at the association's annual conference at Navya Bharathi Global School in Nizamabad on December 4.

Interested writers must email their stories and a signed declaration to haridaasaraswathiraj@gmail.com by October 30.

Entries must be typed in Unicode font, size 14, on A4 pages and must not exceed eight pages. Authors should not mention their names on the story pages; personal details must be provided separately in the declaration. For details, contact 9030033331, Devender said.

Meanwhile, Telangana Jagruthi founder and Telangana Rakshana Sena chief Kalvakuntla Kavitha has described Telangana as a living language whose literature appeals equally to scholars and ordinary readers. She praised the Harida Writers' Association for its efforts to preserve the richness, idioms, expressions and proverbs of Telangana for future generations.

Kavitha unveiled the wall poster for the 'Saraswathiraj-Harida International Best Telangana Story Award-2026' at the Jagruthi office in Banjara Hills. She said the international-level competition offered a valuable opportunity for writers to showcase their talent in the Telangana dialect and urged eligible authors to participate.

Actress Ananya Nagalla said stories were an effective medium to preserve a region's language and culture for future generations. She appreciated the association's initiative to identify and encourage talented writers.



Monday 12, October, 2026

GST 2.0, A WELCOME COURSE CORRECTION

Though the overall report card of the GST regime has been satisfactory, there are areas that need course correction to make the system more effective and responsive. Sweeping arrest powers were one of the provisions that drew criticism, and rightly so. It was widely seen by businesses as an instrument of harassment. The second phase of GST reforms proposes to take away arrest powers from tax officials and make a court order a prerequisite for any arrest. The 57th GST Council meeting, to be held in Delhi, is set to deliberate on the proposed reforms in the enforcement and compliance areas. This is a welcome development as it could become the next major pillar of the government's next-generation GST reforms, the GST 2.0. The key objective is to distinguish between deliberate tax evasion and genuine compliance-related issues. The prosecution threshold for tax evasion is also being raised from Rs 1 crore to Rs 5 crore. This must be seen as a move towards a more mature system — one that does not paint everybody with the same brush. Under the existing framework, authorised officers can invoke Section 69 of the CGST Act and arrest individuals suspected of specified offences, including issuing fake invoices, fraudulent input tax credit claims and collecting tax without depositing it with the government. While these powers are intended for serious violations, the prospect of arrest by tax authorities has long raised concerns about harassment of taxpayers. The proposed reforms take a more balanced approach. Ordinary disputes should primarily be settled through assessment, recovery of tax, interest and penalties. Criminal prosecution should be reserved for substantial fraud, with arrests requiring judicial scrutiny. Such a framework would strengthen due process without weakening the State's ability to penalise tax evaders. The proposals also narrow the scope of prosecution provisions so that they do not apply to routine cases. Small e-commerce sellers could use platform warehouses for GST registration. The registration system would also show applicants only the relevant sections and give them a tailored document list. The wider GST 2.0 agenda has some encouraging features. These include faster, risk-based refunds, simpler registration, protection of genuine buyers' input tax credit, and fewer low-value notices that can substantially reduce compliance costs. Allowing businesses to apply for registration in multiple States through a common process could further improve ease of doing business. The reforms must spell out a clear roadmap: trust compliant taxpayers, let technology conduct thorough risk checks, and pursue fraudsters aggressively. Overcoming the initial scepticism, technical glitches and political differences, the GST regime, an audacious indirect tax reform rolled out in 2017, has come a long way and proved largely beneficial for the country. The taxpayer base grew from 66.5 lakh at the time of launch to 1.6 crore in 2026. Steady double-digit growth, despite rate cuts, indicates base-widening and improved compliance.

Modi Lauds Naidu Govt. For Vijayawada Utsav

VIJAYAWADA: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has congratulated the Andhra Pradesh government and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on organising the second edition of Vijayawada Utsav, saying the festival would boost tourism, create opportunities for entrepreneurs and strengthen the city's cultural heritage. In a message, Modi expressed happiness over the celebrations and extended his greetings to the people of Vijayawada and everyone associated with the initiative. "Vijayawada holds a special place in Andhra Pradesh's economic, cultural and spiritual life," he said, highlighting the city's rich heritage, shaped by the sacred Krishna river and the revered Kanaka Durga temple. The Prime Minister said the festival would help preserve the city's traditions and pass them on to the next generation while creating new opportunities for regional artists and entrepreneurs. He expressed confidence that the event would



give a fresh impetus to tourism and welcomed its focus on skill development. Modi noted that cities must preserve their distinct cultural identities even as India advances towards the vision of a developed nation. Initiatives such as Vijayawada Utsav were important in this regard, he said. He wished the festival success and expressed hope that it would strengthen the bond between Vijayawada's people and their rich cultural heritage.

Navaratri Celebrations Begin Across Hyderabad

Navaratri celebrations began across Hyderabad on Sunday, with temples and community pandals organising special pujas and devotional programmes for the nine-day festival dedicated to Goddess Durga. One of the major attractions is an 81-foot idol of Goddess Durga installed by the Navadurga Navaratri Utsava Samiti at Esamia Bazar in Koti. According to organiser G. Srinivas, the committee had been organising the celebrations for the past 26 years. The festival began in 2000 with a five-foot idol, with its height gradually increasing to 81 feet over the years. Srinivas said the organisers expected between 50,000 and one lakh devotees to visit the pandal over the weekend. At the Sri Ujjaini Mahakali Temple in Secunderabad, the presiding deity was adorned in Bala Tripura Sundari alankaram on the first day of Navaratri. Devotees visited the temple to offer special prayers. At the Sri Annapurna Sametha Kashi Vishweshwara Temple in Seetharam Nagar Colony, Neredmet, devotees participated in special prayers and recitation of hymns. Anitha, a devotee from Secunderabad, said the programme



was conducted under the guidance of Perepi Vishalakshi and her disciples. Women devotees recited Soundarya Lahari, Lalitha Sahasranamam, Kalabhairava Ashtakam and other hymns dedicated to Goddess Durga. As part of the rituals, Vishalakshi performed Bala Puja, worshipping a young girl as a representation of Goddess Bala Tripura Sundari. She also distributed tamboolam to her disciples as a traditional blessing. Temples and community pandals across the city have scheduled special rituals, devotional programmes and cultural activities during the nine-day celebrations. Idols of Goddess Durga will be adorned in different alankarams as part of the festivities, which culminate on Vijayadashami on October 20.

Balakrishna, Other Owners Agree To Surrender Land For Jubilee Hills Road-Widening

Actor and politician Nandamuri Balakrishna, the owners of Shabdalaya Studios and Bhavya Constructions have agreed to surrender portions of their properties to the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) for road-widening works for facilitating one-way traffic movement around KBR Park. According to GHMC officials, Balakrishna has agreed to part with 862.77 square yards of land at his residence near the Road No. 45 junction in Jubilee Hills. The proposed widening will affect more than half of one of the buildings on the property. As a result, the actor will have to relocate from the house, where he has been staying for decades. The property was built in 1982 by Telugu Desam founder and former chief minister of undivided Andhra Pradesh N.T. Rama Rao. Officials said Balakrishna had agreed to accept Transferable Development Rights (TDR) certificates instead of monetary compensation for the land. The Road No. 45 junction is being widened to ease traffic congestion on routes connecting Banjara Hills and Jubilee Hills with the Durgam Cheruvu Cable Bridge, Knowledge City and other



parts of Hitec City. The GHMC also secured the cooperation of the owners of Shabdalaya Studios and Bhavya Constructions, whose properties are located near the junction at the KBR Park entrance. The junction serves as an entry point for the proposed one-way traffic system and handles vehicles travelling from Panjagutta and NFCL towards Jubilee Hills Check Post. Land was required from the two properties to provide an unobstructed free-left turn and reduce congestion caused by vehicles turning towards different routes. According to GHMC officials, land prices in the area range between `4 lakh and `5 lakh per square yard, making acquisition of properties along the proposed road-widening stretches a significant component of the project. GHMC redesigns KBR Park junctions to improve one-way traffic flow Hyderabad: The GHMC is taking up modifications at junctions

Kishan Reddy Calls MSMEs Key To Building Developed India By 2047



Hyderabad: Union coal minister G. Kishan Reddy on Saturday said micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) were not just small industries but also strong pillars of the country's industrial sector. He said they would play a key role in job creation and in building a developed India by 2047. Speaking at the 'Laghu Udyog Bharati-South India Conclave' here, Kishan Reddy said the country's development was possible only when MSMEs grew in villages, towns and industrial areas. He said MSMEs contributed 32 per cent to the country's GDP, 36 per cent to manufacturing output and 49 per cent to exports. Nearly 9.80 crore MSMEs were registered on the Udyam platform till recently. They provided employment to more than 40 crore people. Women owned 37 per cent of these enterprises. He said access to timely finance remained a major challenge for MSMEs. He said the Centre was working to provide long-term equity capital to units with strong growth potential. This would help them improve technology, expand production and increase exports. Kishan Reddy said the Centre, under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, was supporting MSMEs and start-ups through faster approvals, financial assistance, tax relief and ease of doing business. He said schemes such as the Credit Guarantee Fund, PM Vishwakarma, MUDRA and PM Employment Guarantee Scheme were helping small businesses access loans and markets. He said India had become a major mobile phone manufacturing hub, with even iPhones being produced in the country. He said the country was recording strong GDP growth despite global economic challenges. He alleged that some Opposition leaders were damaging the country's image abroad by calling the Indian economy "dead." He said such statements could discourage investors and affect employment opportunities for youth. Kishan Reddy said the Centre would continue to extend all necessary support for the growth of MSMEs. He urged entrepreneurs to adopt new technologies and compete globally. Kishan Reddy said South India was a major centre for manufacturing and innovation. He said sectors such as automobiles, textiles, electronics, aerospace, engineering, pharma, defence and marine products would strengthen the country's industrial value chain. Reddy stated that the MSMEs were engaged in engineering, pharmaceuticals, textiles, food processing, handicrafts, digital services and electronics. He said they also helped reduce dependence on imports by strengthening local supply chains.

New Executive Committee of Andhra Pradesh Football Association Elected Unanimously

Kotagiri Sridhar as President; M. Daniel Pradeep as General Secretary

Kamavarapukota, October 11: Elections for the new executive committee of the Andhra Pradesh Football Association (Regd. No. 963/2019) were held on Sunday at the Sri Sitaramachandra Swamy Kalyana Mandapam in East Edavalli, Kamavarapukota Mandal, Eluru district. The executive committee was elected unanimously in this process, which was conducted in accordance with the notification issued on the 14th of last month.

Returning Officer and retired judge Justice G. Shyam Prasad announced the results. Kotagiri Sridhar was elected as President; Tanguturu Radhika Reddy as Vice-President 1; Guthikonda Vamsi Kiran as Vice-President 2; J.V. Anil Kumar as Vice-President 3; and Eleswarapu Neeladri Venkata Kumar as Treasurer.

K. Kranthi Kumar, G.S.S. Pavan Kumar, M. Achyutamba, G. Saritha, M.V.S. Sai Kumar, Bapanapalli Uma Shankar, A. Reddappa, M. Anjali Devi, B. Chakravarthy, and D. Mounika were elected as executive committee members. Sven Harendra (representing the All India Football Federation - AIFF) and Badeti Venkatramayya (representing the Andhra Pradesh State Olympic Association) attended as observers to oversee the election process.



M. Daniel Pradeep Elected General Secretary

M. Daniel Pradeep was elected General Secretary during the General Body meeting held after the elections. The meeting included discussions on the development of football in the state, creating better opportunities for players, and identifying talented individuals.

Goal: Developing Football in the State – Kotagiri Sridhar

Speaking at a media conference, President Kotagiri Sridhar stated that the new executive committee's primary objective is the development of football in the state. He affirmed their commitment to unearthing hidden talent in every town and providing adequate opportunities for young players.

He mentioned that they would work systematically to develop the sport from the grassroots level and attract more youth to football. He also stated that special focus would be placed on providing the necessary encouragement to help state players excel at higher levels.

'National SARAS Aajivika Mela-2026' to be held grandly in Vijayawada

- Begins on October 13 at Punnami Ghat

- Mela serves as a platform for rural women's empowerment alongside the festive spirit of Navaratri

- Magnificent arrangements featuring 576 stalls

- A golden opportunity for sales under the 'Swayam AP' brand

- Minister Kondapalli Srinivas

Amaravati, October 11: Kondapalli Srinivas, the State Minister for MSMEs, Rural Poverty Alleviation, and Non-Resident Telugu Empowerment, stated on Sunday that the 'National SARAS Aajivika Mela-2026' serves as a premier national-level marketing platform for the exceptional products created by women Self-Help Group (SHG) members, rural artisans, and entrepreneurs from across the country. The Minister lauded the event—scheduled to take place with great grandeur at Punnami Ghat in Vijayawada from October 13 to 31—noting that it is being organized through the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu and with the cooperation of Union Minister of State Dr. Pemmasani Chandra Sekhar. Kondapalli



stated that 576 stalls have been specially set up at this fair for women entrepreneurs from across the country, alongside members of the state's self-help groups (SHGs). While the state accounts for the highest number of stalls (208), others are being set up by participants from Rajasthan (24), Madhya Pradesh (23), Uttar Pradesh (22), Maharashtra (21), West Bengal (19), Kerala (17), and Punjab (17).

The Minister hailed this as a golden opportunity for women from Andhra Pradesh SHGs and rural entrepreneurs to showcase and sell their products at the national level under the 'Swayam AP' brand. He commended the dedicated efforts of SERP and MEPMA in working towards the goal of nurturing 5 lakh women entrepreneurs in the state under the leadership of Chandrababu Naidu.

Saras Mela Adds to the Splendor of Navaratri Celebrations:

The Minister noted that the simultaneous hosting of the National Saras Aajeevika Mela alongside the famous Navaratri celebrations of Goddess Kanaka Durga and the 'Vijayawada Utsav' offers a wonderful opportunity for devo-



tees and the general public. He urged those visiting the temple for the Goddess's darshan to also visit the fair and enjoy a variety of products and culinary delights from across the country. It was announced that the fair would showcase handloom products—such as Uppada and Venkatagiri sarees, silk sarees, Kalamkari fabrics, Khadi garments, and home décor items—alongside handicrafts like wood carvings, terracotta pottery, jute bags, natural soaps, and herbal products.

The Minister also mentioned the availability of millets, traditional sweets, cold-pressed oils, quality pickles, honey, and natural forest produce, as well as live food stalls featuring famous delicacies from various states. Minister Kondapalli stated that all necessary amenities—including ample parking, drinking water, security, and medical camps—are being provided to ensure a hassle-free experience for visitors. He urged the people of Vijayawada and surrounding areas, as well as devotees, to participate in large numbers and support the empowerment of rural women.

Construction Begins, Fulfilling a Decades-Old Dream of a Bridge

- Foundation stone laid amidst cheers from the people of Sasanapalli and Pedavemali

- Joy over the fulfillment of an election promise

- Bridge construction at a cost of ₹6.12 crore

- Inauguration of 'Gokulam' sheds and CC roads

- Minister Kondapalli Srinivas

Gajapathinagaram, October 11: State Minister for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Rural Poverty Alleviation, and Non-Resident Andhra (NRA) Empowerment Relations, Kondapalli Srinivas, expressed happiness at initiating the construction of a bridge—realizing a decades-old dream for the people of Sasanapalli and Pedavemali in Jami Mandal.

Amidst the cheers of the local residents, Minister Kondapalli Srinivas laid the foundation stone on Sunday for the bridge, which is being built at a cost of ₹6.12 crore to reduce the distance between the villages of Sasanapalli and Pedavemali. Villagers accorded a grand welcome to the Minister, accompanied by traditional music and firecrackers; they greeted him with a Purna Kumbham (traditional ceremonial welcome), while children presented him with a bouquet made of paddy stalks. Following the foundation-laying ceremony, the Minister joined children and elders in expressing gratitude by chanting, "Thank you, CM Sir... Thank you, Deputy CM Sir... Thank you, Minister Sir." Speaking on the occasion, Minister Kondapalli Srinivas expressed happiness at laying the foundation stone for the bridge—a long-standing public aspiration—thereby fulfilling a promise made during the election campaign. He recalled that when Chief Minister Chandrababu visited Datthi in the constituency, a request was



made for funds to construct the Sarvagadda Reservoir and bridges at Marivalasa and Sasanapalli, and the Chief Minister immediately announced the necessary allocations. He noted that, thanks to the special attention paid by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan, funds from the SASKI project were sanctioned with the Central Government's cooperation to complete the pending bridge construction. Minister Srinivas stated that he is moving forward with the goal of developing the constituency, taking his grandfather, Paidithalli Naidu, as his role model. He mentioned that the construction of this bridge would reduce the distance between Gantyada and Bhimasingi and improve travel convenience, while also facilitating easier commuting for farmers and laborers engaged in agricultural work. He highlighted that the alliance government is committed to delivering welfare and development programs for all sections of society and urged the public to take note of this. The Minister also called upon the community to ensure that all children in the village receive an education, emphasizing that education paves the way for a bright future and can transform a family's standard of living. Minister Kondapalli expressed happiness at laying the foundation stone for the bridge construction after overcoming numerous obstacles. He urged the public to elect the alliance leaders—who are working for their welfare—in the upcoming local elections, emphasizing that development is possible only through such leadership. Speaking on the occasion, villagers expressed their joy—some even with tears—stating that they could hardly believe it was real; they had long feared the bridge would remain merely a dream. They noted that the bridge would not only transform their children's futures but also facilitate faster transportation for education and healthcare needs.

It was highlighted that the bridge would greatly benefit residents of Pedavemali, Murapaka, Siripuram, Lucky Dam, Sasanapalli, Somayajulapalem, and Venkatrajupalem by providing a route to Visakhapatnam via Kothavalasa. The bridge is expected to save over ten kilometers of travel distance. The villagers praised Minister Kondapalli, likening him to a deity who had fulfilled their long-cherished wish. Alliance leaders, officials, public representatives, and villagers participated in the event.

The Life of Sri Mandava Venkatramayya is a Guiding Light for Future Generations

Former Vice President of India, Sri Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu

Former Vice President Unveils the Book 'Bhuvi Nunchi Bhuvanam Varaku'

Praised for a Life Journey Defined by Simplicity and a Commitment to Farmers' Welfare



Nuzvid, October 11: Sri Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu, the esteemed former Vice President of India, stated that the life journey of Sri Mandava Venkatramayya—an embodiment of a noble personality and an unblemished way of life—serves as a great guide for future generations. Paying tribute to the late Sri Mandava Venkatramayya, he unveiled the book 'Bhuvi Nunchi Bhuvanam Varaku' (From Earth to the World), which chronicles the significant events of his life, during a memorial event held at Tukkuluru in Nuzvid Mandal.

Before commencing the event, Sri Venkaiah Naidu paid rich tributes to the great public leader Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan on the occasion of his birth anniversary. He lauded 'JP'—who inspired the Navnirman movement in Gujarat and the Total Revolution in Bihar—for providing direction to youth movements such as the Chhatra Yuva Sangharsh Vahini. He recalled Jayaprakash Narayan as a fearless revolutionary warrior who, even during the dark days of the Emergency, prioritized the people's right to freedom and the protection of democracy over power and office, fighting tirelessly without regard for his own health.

Speaking subsequently, Venkaiah Naidu stated that the gathering was held to commemorate a magnificent life—a truthful way of living that stood as a testament to an entire generation. A large number of people, including Sri Mandava Prabhakar (son of the late Sri Mandava Venkatramayya), along with other family members, friends, and staff, participated in the event.



Venkaiah Naidu described Venkatramayya as a representative of a generation that was born before independence and witnessed firsthand every turning point in India's growth. He recalled that although Venkatramayya obtained an M.Sc. degree from Banaras Hindu University (BHU)—an institution renowned for high academic standards—he chose not to limit himself to urban centers; instead, he returned to his native village and established a seed industry. He hailed him as a visionary who prioritized public welfare alongside business, noting his remarkable resilience in viewing business setbacks not as defeats, but as life lessons. He also praised him for providing employment to many young people and supporting them in becoming self-reliant throughout his life. Venkaiah Naidu recalled that Sri Venkatramayya moved forward with the conviction that business is not merely about earning money. He noted that in a business linked to farmers, Venkatramayya believed the farmer's welfare was paramount; he viewed the farmer not just as a customer, but as an inseparable partner in the agricultural production process. He described him as a true "agricultural sage" who believed that society would prosper only if quality seeds reached farmers at affordable prices. He also praised the significant contributions made by his daughter-in-law, Smt. Asha Priya, to the Swarna Bharat Trust and lauded her deep commitment to culture.

Venkaiah Naidu advised today's youth never to forget the values, culture, and family roots imparted by their elders. "Instead of shedding tears before a photograph later, one should sit with elders and spend time with them while they are alive, learning from their experiences," he urged the youth. He emphasized that loving and respecting parents and grandparents lies at the very core of our identity.

The event was presided over by Medasani Mohan, Director of the TTD Annamayya Project. Musical renditions of compositions by Annamayya and Tyagaraja by Gauri Shankar greatly delighted the audience. State Legislative Assembly Deputy Speaker Kanumuri Raghu Rama Krishna Raju, Denduluru MLA Chintamaneni Prabhakar, prominent figures Karanam Balarama Krishna Murthy, Lok Satta Party founder Jayaprakash Narayan.

CJP Calls For Nationwide Stir As Delhi Police Crackdown Continues

New Delhi: The agitation demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar intensified on Sunday, with over 200 protesters reportedly detained and several people injured as Delhi Police continued their crackdown for the second consecutive day, despite Supreme Court directions against illegal detentions and harassment of journalists.

Angered by the alleged police excesses, the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) announced plans to expand its agitation nationwide, declaring that "Jantar Mantar 2.0 is on."

"We are on the streets, we will stay on the streets. We will abide by the Constitution," Students' Federation of India (SFI) leader Aishe Ghosh said while announcing the next phase of the agitation at a press conference.

With Jantar Mantar remaining out of bounds, protesters shifted their focus to Connaught Place, where streets and bylanes witnessed demonstrations, barricading, confrontations and detentions. Unlike Saturday's scattered flash protests, demonstrators gathered in larger numbers in the area on Sunday.

Raising slogans demanding Kumar's resignation, protesters attempted to march towards Jantar Mantar but were stopped by security personnel and bundled into police buses. Protesters alleged that police used excessive force and that members of right-wing groups joined in assaulting demonstrators.

Among those detained were CPM MP John Brittas, All India Students' Association (AISA) president Neha Bora, students, activists and journalists. Brittas was subsequently taken to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital after allegedly being assaulted during his detention. Brittas said he has written to the President, the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha and the Chief Justice of India seeking urgent intervention and fixing accountability for the police personnel, and action on the question of parliamentary privilege.

Delhi Police registered 20 FIRs in connection with the protests over two days, including cases involving alleged assaults on police personnel. Heavy security arrangements remained in place across central Delhi.

Meanwhile, CJP leaders Abhijeet Dipke, Ashutosh Ranka and Saurav Das, who were released from preventive detention on Sunday morning, vowed to continue their campaign against the CEC and take it nationwide.

They appealed to political parties to unite against the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, arguing that concerns over voting rights extended beyond party affiliations.

The Congress has already announced a nationwide agitation for Monday, while Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi announced a march to the Supreme Court.

The three CJP leaders were released after being produced before an executive magistrate, subject to a condition that they maintain peace



for one year. Dipke subsequently left for Nagpur to attend the last rites of his grandmother, who died on Saturday.

Reacting to the conditions imposed on their release, Das said, "They have said there should be no breach of peace for a year. The breach of peace has been caused by (Prime Minister) Narendra Modi, (home minister) Amit Shah and Gyanesh Kumar."

Ranka compared the developments of the past 72 hours to the Emergency. "Even in 1975, trains were not shut," he said, accusing the Prime Minister and home minister of turning a protest against the Election Commission into a confrontation with the Opposition.

YouTube Dhruv Rathee alleged that around 20 plainclothes personnel entered his residence on Saturday morning and took him to different police stations, denying him access to a telephone and legal assistance for nearly 23 hours.

At a press conference, Das accused the government of creating an "Emergency-like situation" through train cancellations, restrictions on demonstrations and mass detentions. He said the government could have invited a delegation for talks instead of preventing protesters from gathering at a designated protest site.

Several incidents of alleged police brutality were reported during Sunday's demonstrations. AISA president Neha Bora was seen clinging to a barricade as security personnel dragged her away.

The SFI alleged that male police personnel assaulted women protesters, including Ghosh. It also claimed that Father Biju Xavier, vicar of Sacred Heart Church, was detained while recording the alleged police action.

Brittas was physically lifted by police personnel during his detention and reportedly collapsed on the steps of a police bus. He was later taken to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital, where CPM general secretary M.A. Baby and RJD MP Manoj Jha visited him.

In a post on X, the CPM alleged that Brittas had been "brutally attacked" and left by the roadside in an injured and distressed condition.

"Delhi Police has crossed all limits," the party said.

Brittas also accused the police of using excessive force. "Modi and Shah will pay a heavy price for this. The Delhi Police have become mad dogs," he wrote on X.

Congress Flags 41% Vacancies in NTA, Demands Reforms

New Delhi: The Congress on Sunday accused the National Testing Agency (NTA) and the Union education ministry of serious administrative failures, citing a parliamentary committee report that highlighted staff shortages, dependence on private contractors and inadequate safeguards against examination irregularities.

Congress general secretary Jairam Ramesh urged the Narendra Modi government to act on the findings of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, chaired by Rajya Sabha MP Mukul Wasnik.

Ramesh alleged that the ministry had made a false claim before the committee that no paper leak had occurred in an NTA-conducted examination since the agency's establishment in 2017.

He claimed that nine instances of paper leaks and examination irregularities had been reported between 2017 and 2025.

The Congress leader said the NTA, registered as a society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, lacked adequate statutory accountability and parliamentary oversight.

Citing the report, he said only 23 of the agency's 39 sanctioned posts were occupied, leaving 41 per cent vacant. He said the NTA depended heavily on private contractors for examination-related work.

Ramesh pointed out that permanent positions were filled through deputation, with officers serving for two to three years, affecting the development of institutional expertise.

He also criticised the absence of a nationwide blacklist of companies involved in examination-related irregularities, alleging that firms blacklisted in one state could secure contracts elsewhere.

The Congress leader raised concerns over the lack of publicly accessible NEET-UG results and examination centre-wise data, saying these shortcomings made it difficult to identify suspicious performance patterns.



He criticised the practice of giving additional charge of the NTA director general's post to officers holding other responsibilities, particularly during the period of examination controversies.

Ramesh also questioned the agency's financial priorities, pointing to a cumulative revenue surplus of Rs 590 crore, which had been invested in fixed deposits.

The parliamentary committee has recommended a legislative framework to make the NTA accountable to both Houses of Parliament. It also called for strengthening examination infrastructure, reducing dependence on private contractors and improving transparency.

The report noted that the cancellation of NEET-UG 2026 following allegations of a question paper leak underscored the need for stronger safeguards.

Ramesh urged the government to act on the recommendations without political considerations, saying the credibility of national entrance examinations was at stake

I.N.D.I.A. Bloc To March To SC Today, Seek CJI's Intervention

New Delhi: Leaders of the Opposition I.N.D.I.A. bloc will march to the Supreme Court on Monday to demand the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and an end to the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, intensifying their protests against alleged "vote theft".

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said he and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi had sought an appointment with Chief Justice of India Surya Kant between 4 pm and 5 pm on Monday to apprise him of the situation.

Opposition leaders, including Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and Trinamul Congress chief Mamata Banerjee, are expected to participate in the march. The leaders are scheduled to assemble at a common point after 2 pm and reach the Supreme Court around 4 pm to submit a memorandum.



Gandhi, in a post on X, condemned Saturday's police action against young protesters, alleging that they were assaulted by police personnel and BJP supporters despite demonstrating peacefully.

He called upon young people, Opposition parties and civil society organisations to join Monday's march.

"We will march to the Supreme Court as Indians, united beyond party, gender, caste, community and state," he said.

Gandhi said the memorandum would demand an end to alleged vote theft, the suspension of the SIR exercise and Kumar's resignation.

Speaking in Bengaluru, Kharge accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah of creating chaos across the country through restrictions and detentions during the protests.

He alleged that an undeclared Emergency had been imposed in the country.

Kharge said he and Gandhi had written separately to the CJI seeking his intervention.

"We have sought a time between 4 and 5 pm. We will also apprise him, as we cannot demand. Only with folded hands, we can request him," he said.

Congress workers and leaders from neighbouring states have begun arriving in the national capital ahead of the proposed march.

The Opposition's mobilisation follows two days of protests in Delhi over the SIR exercise and demands for the resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner. The BJP and the Election Commission have rejected allegations of electoral manipulation

Opposition Stir Today, CJI No To Cong. Meeta

NEW DELHI: Chief Justice of India Surya Kant has not agreed to meet Leaders of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi and Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday over allegations of "vote theft", sources said on Sunday night, even as the I.N.D.I.A. bloc prepared to march to the Supreme Court demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and an end to the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

Gandhi and Kharge, Leaders of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha respectively, had separately written to the CJI seeking an appointment between 4 pm and 5 pm on Monday to submit a memorandum demanding an end to alleged electoral manipulation, suspension of the SIR exercise, Kumar's resignation and a return to paper ballots.

"Response of Hon'ble CJI to the letter received from Leaders of Opposition has been sent in their official mail," a source said. Sources maintained that the CJI had not agreed to the meeting but did not elaborate on the reasons.

The Congress, however, is going ahead with its "Chalo Delhi — March for Democracy" protest, with Opposition leaders scheduled to assemble at the Connaught Place-Barakhamba Road junction at 1.30 pm before marching towards the Supreme Court.

Samajwadi Party chief



Akhilesh Yadav, Trinamul Congress chief Mamata Banerjee and other Opposition leaders are expected to participate in the march.

In a post on X, Gandhi condemned Saturday's police crackdown on young protesters in Delhi, alleging that they were assaulted by police personnel and BJP supporters despite demonstrating peacefully.

"Yesterday, the nation's young came out in Delhi to peacefully protest. They came with love in their hearts, not hatred or anger. They were beaten, both by cops and BJP goons. This is not the India we want," he said.

Calling upon young people, Opposition parties and civil society organisations to join the march, Mr Gandhi said, "Tomorrow, we will march to the Supreme Court as Indians, united beyond party, gender, caste, community and state."

Speaking in Bengaluru earlier on Sunday, Kharge accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union home minister Amit Shah of creating chaos across the country through heavy police deployment, restrictions and mass detentions during the protests.

Alleging that an undeclared Emergency had been imposed, Kharge said he and Gandhi had sought the CJI's intervention.

"We have sought a time between 4 and 5 pm. We will also apprise him, as we cannot demand. Only with folded hands, we can request him," he said.

"With folded hands we will apprise him of the situation. Chaos is being created in the country by the home minister and the prime minister, and everywhere an undeclared emergency is imposed," Kharge added.

The proposed march follows two days of protests in Delhi against the SIR exercise and the Chief Election Commissioner. On Friday, I.N.D.I.A. bloc leaders marched from Parliament to Vijay Chowk and later submitted a memorandum to President Droupadi Murmu.

The BJP and the Election Commission have rejected the Opposition's allegations of electoral manipulation.

AP NDA Coalition Promises 28.18% Average Quota For BCs In Local Body Elections

Vijayawada: Andhra Pradesh coalition government on Saturday proposed an average reservation of 28.18 per cent for Backward Classes (BCs) in local body elections. The coalition partners in the government promised more than 34 per cent party-level opportunities wherever statutory quotas fall short.

Briefing reporters after the cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu at the State Secretariat, Agriculture minister K. Atchannaidu said the proposed reservation for BCs is based on the report of Rajiv Ranjan Mishra Commission and in accordance with Supreme Court guidelines.

Atchannaidu recalled that N.T. Rama Rao introduced 20 per cent reservations for BCs in 1987. The Chandrababu Naidu government increased the quota to 34 per cent in 1995 through amendments to the Panchayat Raj Act. The minister charged that the YSRC government reduced the



quota for BCs to 24 per cent in 2019, costing BCs around 17,000 political positions at various levels.

The agriculture minister said when NDA coalition government sought to restore the 34 per cent quota recently, it faced legal objections. It thus constituted a special commission under senior IAS officer Rajiv Ranjan Mishra through GO No. 3 dated February 19, 2026.

The commission collected data across districts and social groups and recommended reservations based on the BC population in individual

local body units. The cabinet has approved the recommendations and forwarded them to the State Election Commission.

The proposed BC reservations are 26.73 per cent for gram panchayat ward members, 27.95 per cent for sarpanches, 25.55 per cent for mandal parishad territorial constituencies (MPTCs), 24.60 per cent for mandal parishad presidents (MPPs), 24.60 per cent for zilla parishad territorial constituencies (ZPTCs) and 23.08 per cent for zilla parishad chairpersons.

In urban local bodies,

the proposed quota is 32.78 per cent for ward members, 33.02 per cent for municipal chairpersons, and 35.29 per cent for mayors. The overall average across local bodies is 28.18 per cent, Atchannaidu underlined.

The agriculture minister underlined that coalition partners would provide more than 34 per cent party-level opportunities wherever statutory reservations are lower.

Social welfare minister Dola Bala Veeranjanya Swamy said reservations have been calculated using population data for indi-

vidual local units. Scheduled tribe (ST) reservations had been considered first, followed by scheduled caste (SC) reservations, before determining the legally permissible BC share. SC and ST allocations have been based on the 2011 Census, he pointed out.

Health minister Satya Kumar Yadav said the NDA government at the centre and the coalition government in AP are committed to BC empowerment. He questioned the YSRC government's decision to reduce reservations and said the government had followed Supreme Court guidelines to ensure legally sustainable allocations.

The ministers said the government is ready to conduct local body elections on time. The notification for the polls will be issued by the State Election Commission.

Other ministers present at the briefing included Kolusu Parthasarathy, S. Savitha, Gummidi Sandhya Rani and Vangalapudi Anitha.

Gadkari Gives In-Principle Approval To Four-Lane NH 42

ANANTAPUR : Union Road Transport and Highways minister Nitin Gadkari has given in-principle approval to widen into four lanes the 71.25-km stretch of National Highway 42 connecting Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

AP Finance minister Payyavula Keshav met Gadkari in New Delhi on Saturday and submitted a letter seeking upgrading of the highway. The road passes through the Uravakonda assembly constituency in Anantapur district.

According to an official press release, Gadkari responded positively to the proposal and agreed in principle to the widening.

Keshav said the existing two-lane highway has several sharp curves and inadequate horizontal and vertical alignments, particularly along stretches



passing through villages and residential areas. Ten accident black spots have been identified along the route.

The proposed four laning is expected to improve road safety, ease traffic movement, and strengthen connectivity to towns and villages in the district.

The stretch, from kilometre 4/350 to 75/600, passes through Anantapur district headquarters and mandals of Uravakonda, Kuderu, and Vidapanakallu, besides several villages and densely populated settlements. The route had been upgraded from a State Highway to National Highway in 2010.

NH 42 begins at Joldarasi on NH 67 in Karnataka and passes through Uravakonda, Anantapur, Raptadu, Kadiri, Palamaner, and Kuppam before terminating at Krishnagiri on NH 48 in Tamil Nadu.

The Anantapur stretch had been widened into a two-lane road with paved shoulders in 2015-16. However, major geometric improvements and bypasses had not been undertaken, leaving hazardous curves and sections passing through habitations.

Minister Keshav urged the centre to prioritise the four-laning in view of growing traffic and road safety concerns.

Pattiseema Helped Generate Rs 50,000 Crore In Wealth, Says Minister

Vijayawada: Water resources minister Nimmala Ramanaidu said the Pattiseema lift irrigation scheme had helped divert nearly 500 tmc ft of Godavari water to the Krishna delta since its launch in 2015, contributing to the creation of wealth estimated at Rs 50,000 crore.

Speaking to the media at the Secretariat on Saturday, he said the state government had spent nearly Rs ,600 crore on the scheme. He described it as an engineering achievement, saying



the investment had helped provide irrigation water to farmers in the Krishna delta and support crop cultivation.

Referring to the prevailing Super El Nino conditions and concerns over

rainfall, Ramanaidu said nearly 57 tmc ft of Godavari water had been diverted to the Krishna delta to protect crops across seven lakh acres and meet the drinking water needs of nearly 30

lakh people.

He said the availability of Godavari water for the Krishna delta had reduced the need to draw water from the Srisailem reservoir for the delta, allowing Krishna water to

be used to meet requirements in Rayalaseema.

Ramanaidu criticised YSRC president Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy over his earlier remarks on the utility of the Pattiseema scheme when he was in the Opposition.

The minister credited Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu with executing the scheme to divert Godavari water to the Krishna delta before the completion of the Polavaram irrigation project, instead of allowing the water to flow into the sea.

Centre, State Join Hands To Restore Prathipadu Tank

VIJAYAWADA: Union minister of state for communications and rural development Pemmasani Chandrasekhar on Saturday inaugurated the restoration and modernisation of a drinking water tank at Prathipadu village in Guntur district. The project was taken up at a cost of Rs 49.91 lakh under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) 2.0, with financial support from the Central and state governments.

Speaking on the occasion, Pemmasani said he had set a goal of developing villages on a par with towns after taking charge as Union minister. The Centre had initiated measures to develop village tanks under the watershed development programme to improve the quality of life in rural areas.

He said a tank at Vengalayapalem had been developed as a pilot project, providing villagers with a suitable place for evening walks. The initiative, which he described as the first of its kind in the country, had proved successful and paved the way for wider implementation.



As part of the programme, 100 tanks had been selected for development across Andhra Pradesh, including 10 in Guntur district, he said. The Prathipadu tank was restored by officials using funds provided with support from the Central and state governments. Despite the State's financial difficulties, efforts were being made to take up as many village development works as possible, he added.

Telugu Desam leader Vangaveeti Radhakrishna said Pemmasani was demonstrating how development could be achieved under capable leadership. He said the Guntur parliamentary constituency was being developed as a model for the State and urged people to support the ruling alliance in the forthcoming local body

elections.

Prathipadu MLA B. Ramanjaneyulu alleged that the previous YSRC government had pushed Andhra Pradesh's development back by 25 years during its five-year tenure. He said the present government was focusing on public welfare and developing facilities according to people's needs.

Ramanjaneyulu said Pemmasani understood how to coordinate with departments and officials to provide public amenities. He recalled that the Vengalayapalem tank had been developed as a pilot project with Central funds and inaugurated in the presence of Union minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan. The initiative was now being extended to several tanks in the district, he added.

Guntur district Jana Sena president Gade Venkateswara Rao and Prathipadu constituency coordinator Korapati Nageswara Rao attended the programme.

President Murmu To Inaugurate Saras Aajeevika Mela In Vijayawada On Oct. 15

VIJAYAWADA: President Droupadi Murmu will inaugurate the Saras Aajeevika Mela-2026 at Punnam Ghat in Vijayawada on October 15, providing a national-level marketing platform for women members of self-help groups (SHGs) to showcase and promote their products.

The mela, organised in coordination with the Central and State governments, will feature more than 600 stalls run by SHG members from across the country. It will also have a food court offering regional cuisines and cultural programmes throughout the event.

Union minister of state for rural development and communications Pemmasani Chandrasekhar and Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath (Chinni) inspected the arrangements at Punnam Ghat on Saturday.

Addressing a press conference, Pemmasani extended Navaratri greetings and said Vijayawada would host two major events during the Dasara festivities — Vijayawada Utsav and the Saras Mela.

He said the national-level fair would enable women from SHGs across India to display their products and connect with potential customers. The organisers were planning activities and facilities to make the event an attraction for families.



Recalling last year's mela in Guntur, Pemmasani said the event had attracted considerable attention. He said it had been brought to Vijayawada at the request of Kesineni Chinni.

The MP thanked Pemmasani for bringing the event to Vijayawada and said it aligned with the efforts of Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi to promote entrepreneurship and women's economic empowerment.

Kesineni said Naidu aimed to encourage entrepreneurship in every household, while Modi's Lakhpati Didi initiative sought to help women achieve financial independence through self-employment.

Women from different states will run the food court, giving visitors an opportunity to sample regional cuisines, he said.

Kesineni urged SHG members from across Andhra Pradesh to visit the mela, study the products on display and learn ways to increase demand for their products and build distinctive brands. He said such initiatives could expand markets for SHG products and raise Vijayawada's profile as a venue for large public events.

He added that cultural programmes would run throughout the mela, providing families with entertainment and giving women entrepreneurs opportunities to showcase their products and learn from their counterparts across the country.

Sharmila Urges Delhiites to Seek Deletion of Gyanesh Kumar's Name from Electoral Rolls

As Preferred Source Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Congress president Y S Sharmila on Saturday appealed to the people of Delhi to file Form 7 seeking the deletion of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's name from the electoral roll, saying this would make him understand the pain and anxiety of citizens whose names were allegedly deleted without their knowledge. Form 7 is a voter application form to object the proposed inclusion or deletion of an existing name in the Electoral Roll.

Criticising the alleged deletion of votes during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process by the poll body, Sharmila accused the "system" of undermining democratic rights and the sanctity of the electoral process. "In a pointed appeal to the people of Delhi, she (Sharmila) called upon them to file Form 7 seeking the dele-



tion of CEC Gyanesh Kumar's vote. She said the move was intended to make the CEC understand the pain and anxiety experienced by citizens whose votes could be deleted without their knowledge," said a Congress press release, quoting Sharmila.

Targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, she said, "Modi

means 'Murderer of Democratic India.'" Meanwhile, the APCC president was stopped while driving herself from her residence to proceed to attend a protest organised against the alleged voter deletions under the SIR process. Sharmila's protest was aimed at highlighting concerns over the electoral revision exercise and demanding accountability over allegations of wrongful voter deletions. She asserted that the right to vote is fundamental to democracy and that any process affecting voters' names must be transparent, fair and accountable.

Modi Extends Mahalaya Greetings, Prays For Peace And Prosperity

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday greeted people on the occasion of Mahalaya and prayed for the blessings of Goddess Durga to bring happiness, compassion, hope and prosperity to society.

In a post on X, Modi said, "Shubho Mahalaya! We seek the blessings of Maa Durga. May the blessings fill our society with happiness, compassion and hope. May there be peace and prosperity all around." The Prime Minister also shared his greetings in Bengali.

Mahalaya marks the end of Pitri Paksha, a fortnight dedicated to paying homage to ancestors, and the beginning of Devi Paksha, which heralds the arrival of Goddess Durga and the countdown to Durga Puja.

According to Hindu mythology, Goddess Durga begins her journey from Mount Kailash, the abode of Lord Shiva, to her parental home on Earth, accompanied by her children.



The occasion holds special significance in West Bengal and other eastern states, where devotees traditionally begin the day by listening to 'Mahishasura Mardini', a devotional programme narrating the goddess's triumph over the demon Mahishasura.

Devotees also perform tarpan, a ritual offering of water and prayers in memory of departed ancestors.

This year, Mahalaya falls on October 10, while Sharad Navratri begins on October 11. The festivities will culminate in Vijayadashami on October 20.

Union Govt Goes All In To Thwart CJP Protest Planned On Saturday



Cockroach Janta Party's (CJP) protest planned for Jantar Mantar on Saturday. Over 7,000 protesters, including four former chief ministers — Arvind Kejriwal, Mamata Banerjee, Pinarayi Vijayan and Manik Sarkar —members of youth and students' organisations, besides CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke and YouTuber Dhruv Rathee, and several independent journalists were detained.

Later in the evening, the Delhi police released all detainees except CJP leaders Dipke, Ashutosh Ranka and Saurav Das. While the Delhi Metro reopened all the stations and Internet restrictions were removed, the police said that the security arrangements and traffic restrictions will be in place for Sunday as well.

The CJP vowed to continue protests against alleged electoral roll irregularities until Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar resigned, announcing another demonstration at Jantar Mantar at 10 am on Sunday, even as police warned of possible restrictions across New Delhi and Central Delhi.

"The government must have thought we will return home after the detentions today. This fear of Modi, Shah shows we have won half the fight," said Ajinkya Shinde, the CJP's national organisation in-charge, who was leading the protest as key members of the outfit remained under detention. Addressing a press conference after Saturday's police action, Shinde said the outfit would not retreat despite the detentions.

Urging people to join the demonstration in large numbers, Shinde called on them to continue protesting even if stopped by the police. "Come to Jantar Mantar in large numbers, and protest wherever Delhi Police stops you," he said.

On Monday, the Opposition will again take to the streets demanding the sacking of the CEC.

Nearly 35,000 paramilitary personnel, including those from the Border Security Force, along with the Delhi police contingents, were deployed across Delhi-NCR to prevent protesters from joining the demonstration. Reacting to the mass detentions, the United Nations Human Rights Council said,

"We are concerned by reports of mass detentions in India of demonstrators before and during the large-scale demonstrations in Delhi. We call on the authorities to ensure that the right to peaceful assembly is fully respected and fulfilled." There were also reports of "saffron goons" attacking the protesters.

Jantar Mantar was turned into an fortress, ringed with barricades, loudspeakers blaring warnings and thousands of armed security personnel maintaining an intimidating vigil. Several trains were cancelled and 45 Metro metro stations were shut with the Internet suspended in central Delhi.

The day began with a dramatic intervention at the IGI airport, where police detained Dipke, along with Das and Ranka, inside their aircraft soon after it landed in the national capital. In a video released by the party, Dipke could be heard telling the police personnel who entered the aircraft to detain the CJP leaders, "We are here to be arrested, come and arrest us."

Accusing the authorities of treating the leaders like criminals, Dipke described the government action as "dictatorship". He claimed that "even former PM Indira Gandhi had not resorted to such measures". Mr Rathee was picked up from his Gurugram residence.

The crackdown acquired a wider political dimension as leaders from several Opposition parties attempted to reach the protest site. Several detained leaders claimed that they were driven around in police vehicles for hours. AISA leader Neha Bora, CPI (ML) general secretary Dipankar Bhattacharya, social activist Yogendra Yadav, activist lawyer Prashant Bhusan and others were detained from the INA area as they tried to march towards the protest site. Vijayan, Sarkar and other Left leaders including M.A. Baby and Brinda Karat faced police action as they attempted to leave Kerala Bhavan and other locations to join the protest march. Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk dubbed the clampdown in Delhi an "undeclared emergency".

The AAP chief was forcefully detained outside his Lodhi Estate

residence while ensuing his march to Jantar Mantar with party colleagues and supporters. Soon after being released late in the evening, Mr Kejriwal took out a road show and exhorted people with his "Dilli Chalo" slogan.

Banerjee, accompanied by TMC leaders including MP Derek O'Brien, staged a sit-in on South Avenue after police prevented them from proceeding towards the protest site. Wearing a band-aid over her mouth, she termed the situation as having gone "beyond an Emergency" and becoming a "Super Emergency". Soon after being released, the TMC supremo said she almost felt kidnapped and that the situation had surpassed the Emergency era. She has decided to stay in the city and join the INDIA bloc's planned protest against the SIR on Monday.

With the designated venue out of reach, parts of Connaught Place, the INA market and the area around Safdarjung Tomb briefly became makeshift sit-in sites, as protesters regrouped and raised slogans before being subsequently rounded up. Some protesters hid in public washrooms, took shelter overnight in a gurdwara and slipped in and out of its gates as police closed in, turning the crackdown during the protest into an elaborate game of hide-and-seek.

From Connaught Place and Gurdwara Bangla Sahib to INA, Gole Market and Minto Bridge, small groups of protesters repeatedly assembled, raised slogans and attempted to regroup, only to be chased or detained. Some sought refuge inside a gurdwara or hid in public washrooms to evade the security cordon. The planned gathering at Jantar Mantar thus spilled into streets and intersections across the capital, as protesters struggled to find one another amid restrictions on movement and rapidly changing police deployments.

The outer circle of Connaught Place, the area near Hanuman Mandir, Sansad Marg, Raisina Road, Imtiaz Khan Road, H.K.S. Surjeet Bhawan, the stretch around the Safdarjung Airport flyover and the vicinity of the Shivaji Stadium Metro station were among the locations where protesters gathered or attempted to mobilise. Several people were detained near Regal Cinema in Connaught Place, while others were sent back or chased away as they tried to regroup.

Later, the AISA announced a change in its destination to Dilli Haat after several protesters were detained in and around Jantar Mantar. Bora, marched towards the alternative location and urged others to join her. "Delhi Haat becomes Jantar Mantar today! See you there!" she wrote on X.

BJP Chief Nitin Nabin Warns Rahul, Kejriwal & CJP: No Leniency for 'Anarchists'

New Delhi: BJP president Nitin Nabin on Saturday accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal and the CJP of attempting to destabilise the country with the backing of foreign forces, and asserted that the government will deal sternly with their "ill intentions," while the party workers will foil their design on the ground. Speaking to reporters here, Nabin alleged that Gandhi, Kejriwal and the Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) are resorting to create anarchy because they "cannot digest the country's progress" under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership.

"An attempt is being made to create a state of anarchy in the country. Efforts are underway to destabilise the country and its 140 crore people. Who is doing this? There are two anarchic groups, one led by 'INDI Alliance' leader Rahul Gandhi, and the other led by Arvind Kejriwal and his associate CJP," he added. The BJP chief claimed both groups are trying to compete with each other to prove who is the "greater anarchist", and said they must clearly understand that the people of India are fully aware of their objectives.

"I give a clear warning to you today that the 'bikau' politics you are pursuing and attempting to destabilise India in collusion with foreign forces will never succeed. I warn you today that the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the patriotic people of this country will give you a fitting reply," Nabin said. "The Government of India will deal sternly with the situation as you attempt to stoke tension, and BJP workers, remaining firmly among the people, will thwart these designs of yours," he added.

Nabin alleged that Gandhi and Kejriwal are trying to destabilise the



country and its economic progress to fulfil their political ambitions in "collusion" with the foreign forces. "They are challenging the country's democracy because Prime Minister Narendra Modi is at the helm with the people's mandate and trust in his favour," he charged. "When the people have rejected you and democracy punished you, instead of accepting that verdict or learning from it, you hatched a plan to destabilise this country. You are doing this to serve your political objectives and at the behest of foreign forces," the BJP leader said.

Hitting out at Gandhi and Kejriwal, Nabin said challenging democracy in the name of the Constitution and resorting to lies amounts to insulting the people's mandate. "The person whom the people of the country have given their mandate and in whom they have placed their trust is leading the nation. Your repeated electoral defeats in the states and the resulting desperation suggest that you do not want the country to move forward peacefully," the BJP president said. Nabin said that the BJP-NDA under Prime Minister Modi's leadership has liberated the country from "an atmosphere of fear" and ended "terrorism and Naxalism" from their very roots over the past 12 years. "Yet, there are still individuals with an 'urban naxal' mindset who are intent on destabilising the country," he said, adding, "Rahul Gandhi ji, your ambitions will never succeed. All the patriots and nationalists will come together and thwart your plans." Without taking names, Nabin slammed Kejriwal, Gandhi and other opposition leaders for using "contemptuous words" for those holding the highest positions in the country, asserting that people of the country will "punish" them. He also asserted that the country's youth will reject the "so-called leadership" of the CJP for their "derogatory words" against those holding high positions in the country. "India's youth are connected to India's culture and its democracy. They are committed to the Indian Constitution. That is precisely why the people of India will never accept those words of yours," Nabin added. The BJP president said Prime Minister Modi is dedicated to building a 'New India' with people of the country showing faith in him. "We clearly state to the people of India that we are fully committed to the nation's development. We will ensure peace and progress and all of us will work together to realise the dream of a Viksit Bharat, while dealing sternly with any forces, whether domestic or foreign, that seek to undermine it," he added.

India Closely Monitoring Developments In Neighbourhood And Beyond As Global Security Order Undergoes...

New Delhi:Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Saturday said India was closely monitoring developments in its neighbourhood and beyond, along with their strategic implications, as the global security order undergoes a major transformation and new forms of warfare reshape the battlefield.

Addressing Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026 at Jodhpur Air Force Station, Mr Singh said the established world order was rapidly changing, even as the contours of the emerging order remained uncertain. He said the Indian armed forces were undergoing a fundamental transformation — structurally, materially and strategically — guided by the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

"India is continuously monitoring developments in our region and beyond along with their broader strategic implications," Mr Singh said after witnessing an aerial display.

He said the established world order was rapidly changing while the shape of the future order was yet to emerge. "India's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat does not mean isolation from the world. It means developing domestic capacity to design, develop, manufacture, maintain and upgrade critical defence technologies," he said.

The defence minister said modern warfare is becoming increasingly complex with rapid technological changes and the emergence of new areas of conflict.

He said the growing role of non-state actors, threats to critical trade routes and sealanes, and the use of new technologies added to uncertainties in the global security environment.

"Modern warfare is getting more complex with new technological changes, expansion of weapon domains and the addition of new elements. It is no longer confined to land, sea and air. It now spans space, cyber, the electromagnetic spectrum and the information domain. Surprise and deep uncertainty have become a new normal. Accompanied by these is the rising influence of non-state actors from the battle-



field. Critical trade routes, vital sea lanes and vulnerable points are actively being weaponised," Mr Singh said.

He said artificial intelligence is reshaping decision support, electronic warfare demands, and absolute spectrum control.

"We are facing a situation where the older established world order is fast disappearing while the shape of the future order is yet to emerge," the minister said.

He said the volatile security situation required countries to remain constantly alert.

Referring to changes in military operations, Mr Singh said drones and unmanned systems had altered the speed, scale and nature of warfare.

He said military strength, in the future, would depend less on the number of platforms a country possessed and more on how quickly it could gather information, understand a situation, take decisions and act.

"Speed, precision, information and integration are now the true defining attributes," he said.

Mr Singh said India recognised the need for self-reliance in defence years ago, knowing that no country could sustain a prolonged war without the ability to produce its own weapons and critical technologies.

The defence minister referred to the Tejas fighter aircraft, Dhruv, Rudra and Prachand helicopters, the Light Utility Helicopter and the Akash air defence system as examples of India's growing indigenous defence capabilities.

Grand Dasara Celebrations in Manuguru: Opportunity for Entrepreneurs to Set Up Stalls!

Food Stalls, Assam Speciality Products and Other Business Stalls Invited — Apply Before October 17



Manuguru:* In view of the upcoming Dasara festival, Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL), Manuguru, has invited interested traders and entrepreneurs to set up stalls as part of the grand Dasara celebrations scheduled to be held on *October 20*.

As part of the celebrations, arrangements are being made to provide opportunities for various stalls from the beginning of the festival. Food stalls, sales counters featuring interesting and speciality products from Assam, and other business stalls will be permitted as part of the event.

The initiative is expected to provide a

valuable opportunity for local traders, small business owners and aspiring entrepreneurs to showcase and sell their products during the festive celebrations.

Applications to Be Submitted by October 17

Interested traders and stall operators are requested to submit their applications with complete details to the *Personnel Department at the Singareni office in Manuguru, on or before **5:00 PM on October 17*.

POM (Personnel) Officer *N. Ramesh* informed the interested applicants about the opportunity and urged them to contact the department within the stipulated deadline.

Contact Number: 9951210143

Interested entrepreneurs are encouraged to make use of this opportunity and participate in the Dasara celebrations in Manuguru.

Good News for Farmers: Sriram Sagar Project Releases Irrigation Water!

Irrigation Water to Reach Peddapalli Constituency Until Monday Steps Taken to Protect Crops; Farmers Need Not Worry: Government Whip and MLA Vijaya Ramana Rao

Peddapalli Correspondent| September 10: Farmers in Peddapalli constituency have received good news, as water has been released from the Sriram Sagar Project to meet the irrigation needs of standing crops during the Kharif season. The water was released on Saturday at Pochampad in Nizamabad district. State Government Whip and Peddapalli MLA Chintakunta Vijaya Ramana Rao announced that irrigation water would be supplied to agricultural fields in the constituency through the D-86 and D-83 main canals from the Ravelli distributary until Monday. The MLA stated that he had taken special initiative to protect farmers' crops amid the prevail-



ing irrigation challenges attributed to the effects of El Niño. He assured farmers that efforts would continue to ensure an uninterrupted water supply until their crops were ready for harvesting. He urged farmers not to worry about irrigation water and advised them to make proper use of the available supply without wasting water. MLA Vijaya Ramana Rao expressed his gratitude to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, State Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy, and Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu for their support in ensuring irrigation water for farmers in Peddapalli constituency. The MLA reiterated that continuous efforts would be made to ensure an adequate irrigation water supply, with the primary objective of protecting farmers' crops and safeguarding their interests.

Rising Sun School Student Sahasra Selected for Telangana State-Level Netball Competitions

Peddapalli Correspondent September 10: Sahasra, a student of Rising Sun School in Peddapalli, has been selected for the Telangana State-Level Sub-Junior Netball Competitions after showcasing outstanding talent in the district-level tournament. The district-level sub-junior netball competitions were organized by the District Netball Association at Rising Sun School on September 30. Sahasra demonstrated excellent performance and secured selection for the state-level competitions, informed the school's Physical Education Teacher, Thaguram Tirupathi. Sahasra will participate in the state-level netball competitions scheduled to be held from the 10th to the 12th of this month at Telangana Model School in Asifabad. On this occasion, school correspondent Syed Ahmed and Headmaster Hakeem Khan congratulated Sahasra on her achievement. They expressed their confidence that she would perform exceptionally well at the state level and bring pride to the school and Peddapalli district.



Telangana Athletes Must Shine on International Platforms with Medals: Minister Ponguleti

Ashwaraopeta Mini Stadium to Be Developed into a Landmark: Minister 23.50 Crore Road Development Works Launched; State-Level Under-20 Girls' Kabaddi Tournament Begins with Teams from 33 Districts



improve traffic movement, road safety and public convenience in Ashwaraopeta town.

Grand Bathukamma Rally Marks Girls' Kabaddi Tournament

Ashwaraopeta witnessed a festive atmosphere as teams of girls from all 33 districts of Telangana arrived to participate in the state-level kabaddi tournament.

Women and sportspersons carrying Bathukamma floral arrangements participated in a grand rally from the town's main junction to the sports ground. The rally reflected Telangana's rich cultural traditions and added festive spirit to the town.

Upon reaching the stadium, Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy unfurled the National Flag and formally inaugurated the tournament by cutting the ribbon. He later joined the women and sportspersons in offering special prayers to Bathukamma and participating in the traditional celebrations.

Ashwaraopeta Mini Stadium to Become a Landmark

Addressing the gathering, Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy extended his greetings to the people on the occasions of Dasara, Navaratri and the Bathukamma festival.

He said the state government was giving priority to development programmes and the creation of sports infrastructure in tribal regions such as Ashwaraopeta. The Mini Stadium, constructed over an area of more than five acres, would be further developed into a landmark of the town, he announced.

The Minister expressed happiness over the participation of girls' kabaddi teams from all 33 districts of Telangana. He appreciated the organisers, public representatives, officials and donors for arranging accommodation and other facilities for the participating athletes despite Ashwaraopeta being a small municipality.

He also praised MLA Jare Adinarayana for his efforts to encourage athletes, drawing on his previous experience as a physical education teacher.

Emphasizing the importance of sportsmanship, the Minister said victories and defeats were natural parts of sports. He encouraged every participant to compete with determination, discipline and a positive attitude.

He urged students to excel in both academics and sports to fulfil their parents' aspirations and build a bright future.

The Minister assured that the government would provide athletes with quality coaching, necessary infrastructure and every possible form of encouragement to help Telangana achieve greater recognition in national and international sports. He expressed confidence that athletes from the state would win more medals on international platforms over the next five to six years.

Pro Kabaddi Bringing Greater Recognition to Rural Sports

Khammam MP Ram Sahayam Raghuram Reddy said organising state-level sporting events required extensive planning, coordination and hard work. He appreciated the efforts made to bring athletes from all 33 districts to a remote region like Ashwaraopeta and conduct the tournament successfully.

He observed that kabaddi was widely popular in rural areas and had gained greater national recognition through platforms such as the Pro Kabaddi League.



He advised athletes to accept both victories and defeats equally, learn valuable lessons from setbacks and continue striving towards their goals.

More Athletes from Tribal Regions Should Excel

Ashwaraopeta MLA Jare Adinarayana said it was a matter of pride to host a state-level sporting event in the tribal region. He explained that the tournament was organised with the objective of providing greater opportunities for local athletes to excel at state and national levels.

Drawing on his experience as a physical education teacher, he said he was committed to identifying talented sportspersons and providing them with suitable opportunities to demonstrate their abilities.

He thanked Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy, public representatives, officials, party workers, sports organisers and donors for their cooperation in organising the tournament.

Special Focus on Developing Sports Facilities

District Collector Ankit congratulated the athletes who had arrived from all 33 districts. He said hosting the state-level kabaddi tournament would provide further impetus to sporting activities in the district.

He explained that the district administration was developing sports facilities in disciplines such as archery and shooting to identify and nurture emerging talent.

He added that special coaching was being provided through summer training camps and that various sporting competitions were being organised to encourage talented athletes. He wished the participants success in the tournament.

District Superintendent of Police Rohith Raju welcomed the athletes arriving from different districts. He said participation, hard work, determination and competitive spirit were more important than victories and defeats.

He expressed hope that the visiting athletes would inspire local tribal youth to develop an interest in sports. He assured that the police department would extend full cooperation to ensure the smooth and successful conduct of the tournament.

Tribal Kabaddi Player Thodam Prasad Inspires Young Athletes

ITDA Project Officer Rahul said kabaddi had earned considerable recognition at national and international levels. He noted that the Pro Kabaddi League had created opportunities for athletes from remote areas to showcase their abilities on prominent platforms.

He highlighted the achievement of Thodam Prasad, a tribal youth from Bhadradi Kothagudem district who studied in local tribal schools and rose to the level of professional kabaddi. His achievement, he said, was an inspiration to aspiring sportspersons across the district.

He encouraged the girls representing all 33 districts to make the most of the opportunity and demonstrate their talent and sporting abilities.

Following the inaugural ceremony, Minister Ponguleti watched the kabaddi matches.

The programme was attended by Additional Collector for Local Bodies Vidya Chandana, Municipal Commissioner Dilip Reddy, public representatives, district officials, sports organisers, athletes from various districts and women.

TUWJ District President Yadagiri Extends Birthday Greetings to Collector Prateek Jain Calls for Better Public Governance and Resolution of Journalists' Issues

SANGAREDDY October 10, 2026: TUWJ (IJU) Sangareddy District President Bandaru Yadagiri has expressed hope that public governance in the district would improve further under the leadership of District Collector Prateek Jain. He urged the Collector to address the aspirations and needs of the poor, weaker sections and journalists.

On Saturday, a delegation of journalists led by Bandaru Yadagiri met Collector Prateek Jain at his camp office and extended birthday greetings to him. On the occasion, they presented books and pens to the Collector and wished him good health, happiness and continued success in serving the people.

Yadagiri appealed to the Collector to stand by the poor and underprivileged who lack support and to ensure that their needs are addressed. He also urged him to extend support to journalists in the district and cooperate in resolving their long-pending issues.

The Collector responded positively to the delegation's appeal.

TUWJ District Vice-President MA Matheen, senior journalist Masood khan, District Organising Secretary Wilson, Small and Medium Newspapers Association District President Mohammed Siddiq, General Secretary Eshwar Chavan, Treasurer Laxman, Photo Journalists' Association President Mohd Arif, and journalists Surya Venkat and Dinesh Naik, among others, participated in the meeting.





Nabha Natesh Embraces Traditional Elegance in a Festive Saree Look

Illuminated by warm fairy lights, Nabha Natesh radiates traditional elegance and joy in a festive indoor setting. Dressed in an olive-green saree adorned with classic dark floral borders, paired with a subtle cream patterned blouse, her sweet smile, delicate bindi, and traditional jhumkas showcase timeless South Indian grace. Nabha made her feature film debut in the 2015 Kannada action drama Vajrakaya opposite Shiva Rajkumar, earning a Filmfare Award nomination.

She subsequently entered Telugu cinema with the 2018 romantic comedy Nannu Dochukunduvate. Her career reached massive commercial height with Puri Jagannadh's cult sci-fi action entertainer iSmart Shankar (2019), where her iconic performance earned her the popular moniker "iSmart Beauty." Over the years, she has impressed audiences with versatility in films like Disco Raja, Solo Brathuke So Better, Alludu Adhurs, Maestro, and Darling. Expanding her footprint in multi-lingual pan-Indian cinema, Nabha's recent and upcoming lineup features the period action adventure Nagabandham: The Secret Treasure and the multi-lingual epic Swayambhu.

Katrina Kaif shares why emotional independence matters in relationships

Katrina Kaif has reflected on lessons from her past relationships, saying no one else should be responsible for an individual's happiness. The actor believes the strongest relationships are based on admiration, respect, companionship and emotional independence rather than dependence

Mumbai: Actress Katrina Kaif has opened up about the biggest lessons she has learnt from her relationships over the years, saying that



no one else should be held responsible for one's happiness.

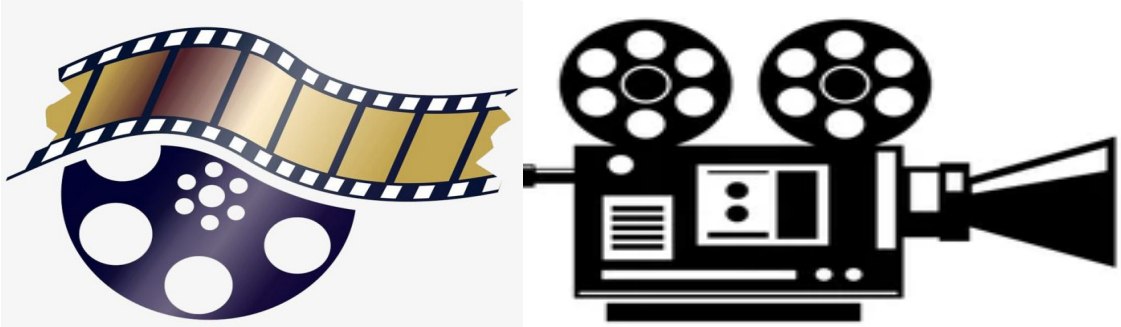
During an interaction with host and filmmaker Karan Johar on the chat show Koffee with Karan Season 6, Katrina said she had realised that people should not depend on others for their happiness.

She added that, in her view, the best relationships are built not on dependence but on admiration, respect and companionship.

The Tiger Zinda Hai actress said, "I had this discussion, not long back, with a few friends. They felt most women need men or it's necessary to have a man. I really don't think that's

true for everyone. I can't speak for women as a collective, but it's definitely not true for me being single. I'm becoming comfortable with who I am, which I don't think I was for a large part of my life because you somehow judge yourself based on how much love or attention you get from your partner. When your relationship is amazing, you feel great about yourself. Your relationship suffers a little bit; your self-esteem and image take a beating, which is not a good thing." Sharing her idea of a healthy relationship, Katrina added, "My biggest learning from my relationships is, 'Nobody else is responsible for your happiness.' You shouldn't give away your power because you are burdening that person with responsibility. Nobody can take that responsibility for a long period of time. At some point they are going to let you down, or you let them down, and that's when the relationship suffers. The most beautiful kind of love is when neither of you need each other. There's no great dependence on the other person, there's admiration, respect, companionship, and there's a space of ease between you."

Katrina is married to actor Vicky Kaushal, and the couple have a son, Vihaan.



CINEMA

Jailer 2 gets U/A certificate ahead of October 15 worldwide release

Rajinikanth-starrer Jailer 2, directed by Nelson Dilipkumar, has received a U/A certificate from the CBFC. Produced by Sun Pictures, the action entertainer is scheduled for a worldwide theatrical release on October 15 and has generated strong expectations among fans

Chennai: The Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) has now cleared director Nelson Dilipkumar's eagerly awaited action entertainer 'Jailer 2', featuring Superstar Rajinikanth in the lead, for release with a U/A certificate.

Sun Pictures, which is producing the film, took to its social media timelines to share the update. It wrote, "#Jailer2 is censored U/A!"

It may be recalled that the makers of the film had only recently released a trailer of the film, much to the delight of fans.

The trailer released begins with actor Suraj Venjaramoodu's character questioning a person he has kept hostage. "In these two months, you must have learnt something about the person who did this, right?" The hostage replies, "Not just me, even you won't be able to find him."

The trailer then shows that not just Suraj Venjaramoodu's character but a whole lot of villains are wondering who is behind certain developments.

It is then that Rajinikanth as Tiger Muthuvel Pandian makes an appearance.

At one point, a weary Suraj Venjaramoodu is seen asking his accomplices, "Have you managed to find him or not?"

For a minute, one is led to believe that Tiger Muthuvel Pandian has gone into hiding but almost immediately, the trailer clears the confusion.

It shows that Tiger Muthuvel Pandian has chosen to go off radar by pretending to be a driver and he has chosen to lie low to find out if the chain of command among the villains goes any higher.

The trailer also gives away the fact that Tiger Muthuvel Pandian has used snipers to attack his enemies and one among them, played by S J Suryah, says that even they can retort in kind.

The trailer also has an interesting conversation between the characters played by Rajinikanth and Vidya Balan. She asks him if he wants tea or coffee and he politely refuses. She responds saying, "The choice is between tea or coffee. It is not between whether to drink or not."

A person warns Tiger Muthuvel Pandian about the dreaded "Kalpaks", who, he says, will not allow anyone to live. Muthuvel Pandian smiles and replies, "Oh dear, I didn't know. Shall we see?"

He then issues a warning to Kalpaks himself. Listing out ways and



means used by thugs to strike terror in the hearts of victims, he tells Kalpaks," All this is the style employed in the time of your father. Now, getting all your enemies to one place and bombing that place is what is the present trend."

For the unaware, the film is slated to hit screens worldwide on October 15 this year.

The film has triggered huge expectations among fans and the general public ever since the project was first announced.

In April this year, the makers had announced that the unit had wrapped up the film's shooting. The makers had then shared pictures of a cake cutting ceremony that had taken place to mark the completion of filming.

TOLLYWOOD FILMMAKERS FEAR SOCIAL MEDIA TROLLS



Social media trolling and online negativity are emerging as a new concern for Telugu film producers and directors. But when did filmmakers become so worried about what social media might say?

Finding faults with films is certainly nothing new. For decades, every release has invited a mix of reactions — some audiences love a film, some dislike it, while others point out even the smallest mistakes. What has changed is the speed and scale at which these reactions spread, with social media amplifying every opinion within minutes.

Leading producer Naga Vamsi Suryadevara recently admitted that concerns over social media criticism were among the reasons behind the decision to postpone the release of his film Adarsha Kutumbam by a couple of weeks.

"We are worried about social media criticism. We want to avoid comments such as, 'Why did you miss this?' or 'Don't you even know this?' So, to make the movie as foolproof as possible, we decided to defer the release," says Naga Vamsi. His comments underline how the fear of online criticism is prompting filmmakers to become increasingly cautious, not just with their films but also with their promotional strategy and release plans.

"Undoubtedly, social media has become a new menace," says director Ashok Teja, who admits that filmmakers across Tollywood have become increasingly wary of criticism.

"If the criticism is genuine, it can certainly be useful. But most negative comments are intended to degrade a film rather than help it. We need to be doubly careful, right from the teaser and trailer stages to the final output," he adds.

The issue was also reflected in Ravi Teja's Mass Jathara, where a conversa-

tion between his character and his on-screen father, played by Rajendra Prasad, touches upon Twitter fan wars. Ravi Teja's character strongly criticises anonymous users who hide behind fake identities while spreading negativity, questioning what social media has become and taking aim at those who indulge in toxic and baseless trolling.

Producer M. S. Raju too believes that social media negativity has become a serious problem. "I don't want to take names, but many filmmakers are genuinely worried about the growing negativity on social media. Unfortunately, there is very little we can do to control it," he says.

He feels that the increasing toxicity surrounding fan wars is also affecting the theatrical life of films. "Fan wars have turned quite ugly, and the hatred is spilling over into films, cutting short their lifespan. Earlier, big films used to run for 100 or even 175 days, but now their fate is often decided within five or six days because of negativity on social media," he laments.

Fan rivalries have always existed in the Telugu film industry, but social media has given them a much larger and faster platform. Fans naturally want their favourite stars to succeed, but the rivalry can sometimes extend to attacking competing actors and their films, even before a movie reaches theatres.

"Fan wars on social media are unavoidable. Fans want their respective stars to shine while undermining their rivals. Trolls often begin even before the first show hits theatres. Though star rivalries are hurting cinema, good films are still managing to overcome this menace and emerge as blockbusters," points out M. S. Raju.

Even films like Vishwabhara, Devara, Peddi, Toxic and The Paradise among others suffered social media criticism for one issue or another. "For filmmakers, the challenge now is to distinguish between genuine and fake criticism which are affecting the collections of movies to some extent and naturally sending shivers down the spine of filmmakers," adds Ashok Teja..