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ENGLISH DAILY

Honest Journalism...



DEATH TOLL HITS 29 AFTER RUSSIAN STRIKE ON UKRAINIAN AID SITE

PAGE 8



AFC ASIAN CUP POSTPONED UNTIL DECEMBER 2027

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MP AGA SYED RUHULLAH MEHDI RESIGNS FROM NC & PARLIAMENT

PAGE 4



23 JUMADA AL-AWWAL 1448H

NAMAZ TIME

FAJAR	05:20 AM
ZOHAR	01:30 PM
ASAR	04:45 PM
MAGHRIB	06:15 PM
ISHA	08:15 PM

SUNRISE/SUNSET

13 HRS 10 MINS
RISE 05:42 AM
SET 06:52 PM

MOONRISE/MOONSET

13 HRS 52 MINS
RISE 05:31 AM
SET 07:23 PM

ARAB WORLD ▶ P9



US STRIKES IRAN'S QESHM ISLAND NEAR STRAIT OF HORMUZ

India is fastest growing economy: PM Modi

PUNE, NOV 3

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday said that India is defeating poverty and has become the fastest-growing economy, adding that the country's budget is increasing, with the money, which was earlier wasted in leakages and transferred to the pockets of uncles and nephews, now going directly to the beneficiaries.

He noted that the money from the treasury is now being spent on infrastructure development, which will generate more jobs.

PM Modi virtually inaugurated the 23.2 km Pune Metro Line 3 (Pink Line) elevated corridor connecting Maan/Hinjewadi (the IT Hub) to Shivajinagar (District Court Metro station). Built under a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model at a cost of over Rs 8,300 crore, it significantly reduces travel time and traffic congestion for tech workers and commuters.



PM Narendra Modi inaugurates Pune Metro projects via Video conferencing.

Highlighting key operational milestones of the Pink Line, the Prime Minister emphasised that the line is operated entirely by women train operators. Approximately 30 per cent of its total power requirements are sourced from solar energy.

He also laid the foundation stone for the Pune Metro Phase-II expansion, valued at around Rs 13,500 crore. This phase covers key corridors connecting residential and business hubs, including Kharadi, Wagholi, Hadapsar, Swargate, and Khadakwasla. (IANS)

Centre opposes century-old mosque's retention at Krishi Bhawan

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
NEW DELHI, NOV 3

The Centre has told the Delhi High Court that the over 100-year-old Qadeemi Masjid located within the Krishi Bhawan complex must be removed to facilitate the redevelopment of Common Central Secretariat Buildings 4 and 5 under the Central Vista project.



In an affidavit, the Land and Development Office (L&DO), under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, said permanent religious structures within government office premises were impermissible and incompatible with their secular character.

It maintained that the land belongs to the government and the mosque was permitted to operate under a November 8, 1940 agreement, which granted only permissive possession without any ownership rights.

The Centre said reserving any portion of the project site for a religious structure would be inconsistent with the redevelopment master plan. It also argued that Article 25 of the Constitution does not confer a right to insist on worship at a particular place on government land. The affidavit pointed out that Shahi Masjid Zabta Ganj near India Gate, within a two-km radius, provides an alternative prayer facility for those seeking one in the area.

The affidavit was filed in response to a petition by the mosque's caretakers seeking protection against demolition or removal without fair and reasoned consideration of its continued retention.

Navy rescues hijacked fishing vessel

NEW DELHI, NOV 3

The Indian Navy has successfully rescued a hijacked fishing vessel, Azini, from armed pirates off the north-eastern coast of Somalia following a high-stakes operation lasting over 48 hours, securing the safe release of all 20 crew members without any casualties or injuries.

The operation involved close coordination between the Indian Navy and the Indian Air Force (IAF), with a mission-deployed naval warship, a maritime reconnaissance aircraft and Marine Commandos working together to neutralise the pirate threat and regain control of the vessel. The fishing vessel had been hijacked by an armed pirate group earlier last month.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

'It's A Secular Country': Court slams Mumbai civic body over Dia Mirza row

TFP I CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI, NOV 3

Underscoring that India is a secular country, the Bombay High Court on Tuesday expressed strong displeasure over the rhetoric used by politicians against actor Dia Mirza and ordered the Mumbai civic body to re-upload the deleted video where the actor appeals for an eco-friendly and firecracker-free Diwali.



In an awareness video for the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, the 44-year-old actor had appealed to the public, citing a High Court order, not to burst firecrackers on public roads.

A bench of Justices Girish Kulkarni and Neela Gokhale said it was anguished by the "petty mindset" of certain persons, especially those who are representatives of the common man. It was "most unfortunate" that such a colour was given to a video made to spread awareness about the environment and air and noise pollution, the High Court said.

"We have not seen any politician or any person who made remarks yesterday put up videos spreading awareness. We are a secular country. We are really hurt by this. The issue pertains to the environment and every person, irrespective of their religion and caste, is breathing the same air," the High Court said.

The court further said the civic body commissioner was absolutely correct in the selection of celebrities to spread awareness and it was unfortunate that other unnecessary issues were taken up. It sounded a note of caution to those who raised the objections and said there has to be respect for every person in the community irrespective of their religion, caste and creed. (IANS/UNI)

Delhi Police ACP suspended for protest

NEW DELHI, NOV 3

Delhi Police Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP), Manasvi Vashistha, who joined the protest by police personnel outside the Police Headquarters over the transfer of two officers, has been suspended, police sources said on Tuesday.

The suspension comes amid a controversy surrounding the protest, during which several police personnel assembled outside the headquarters and demanded that the transfer orders issued against the two officers be revoked.

According to a police source, action was taken against the ACP in connection with his participation in the incident. However, the source said that further details regarding the circumstances leading to the suspension were awaited. (IANS)

Rahul asks PM to face questions on foreign links

NEW DELHI, NOV 3

Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday renewed his challenge to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to engage in an open, face-to-face debate, declaring that 24 hours had passed since he first issued the challenge and urging him to come forward to answer questions on alleged foreign connections, national interest and key government decisions.



Rahul Gandhi

In a pointed post on social media platform X, Rahul said the Prime Minister could choose any venue and appoint anyone to moderate the proposed debate, even suggesting that RSS chief Mohan Bhagwat could act as the judge. He proposed that the discussion take place in the presence of the media and the country's youth, allowing both leaders to present their arguments and respond to questions.

"It's been 24 hours since I challenged you, Modi ji. You say the Opposition is anti-national. Choose any stage, any venue, and debate me on this - Who is anti-national? Who has connections with foreign forces? And what is the nature of those connections?" Rahul wrote, adding, "Let's do this as soon as possible. Daro mat!" (IANS)

No indefinite occupation in name of protest: SC

NEW DELHI, NOV 3

The Supreme Court on Tuesday orally observed that the right to protest cannot be exercised by occupying a designated protest site indefinitely, stressing that such places must be allotted for specified periods to ensure that other groups also get an opportunity to exercise their constitutional rights.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana made the observations while hearing a batch of petitions arising from the October protests in Delhi against Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar. "You cannot occupy a site for all time to come. There are other protesters. Where will the farmers go? Where will the workers go? Where will the trade unions go? Where will the homeless go? Everybody has a right to protest," the apex court remarked.

It further observed that protest sites must be made available to different groups for designated periods, adding that no organisation could claim an exclusive right over a public space merely because it had occupied it first. You cannot exclude other people merely because you have occupied the site," the CJI-led Bench said.

During the hearing, the top court called for a balance between the right to protest and the right to carry on trade and business, particularly keeping in view the livelihood concerns of daily-wage workers, street vendors and small shopkeepers. (IANS)

CARTOON CAROUSEL



Previous electors can submit Form-6 under SIR without fear of prosecution, clarifies ECI

NEW DELHI, NOV 3

The Election Commission of India has issued a significant clarification stating that previous electors whose names do not appear in the draft electoral rolls published during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) can submit Form-6 for inclusion without the fear of prosecution under Section 31 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

In a communication dated November 3, 2026,



addressed to the Chief Electoral Officers of all States and Union Territories, the Commission noted that certain previous electors are hesitant to submit Form-6.

These electors are required to "furnish a declaration in the form stating that their name is being included for the first time in the electoral roll. Many such voters believe that submitting Form-6, despite their previous enrolment, would amount to making a false declaration and could render them liable for legal action."

The Election Commission has clarified that the declaration prescribed under Form-6 has been in force since August 1, 2022.

It has stated that an elector whose name does not appear in the draft electoral roll may submit Form-6 to seek inclusion in the final electoral roll in accordance with the prescribed procedure.

Consequently, an elector whose name is missing from the draft roll is required to seek inclusion afresh under the SIR process or afterwards, irrespective of whether the person had been enrolled previously. (IANS/UNI)

Fighting escalates in Yemen

SANAA, NOV 3

Fighting and strikes intensified along a volatile front stretching toward the southern Yemeni port city of Aden on Tuesday, with casualties reported across the southern Lahj and southwestern Taiz provinces, according to military and Houthi media sources.

A military official with Yemen's government forces told Xinhua on condition of anonymity that two Houthi ballistic missiles struck a public market.

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TG to extend full support to Oil Palm investors: Agriculture Minister

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
HYDERABAD, NOV 3

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao has said the Telangana government is giving top priority to expanding oil palm cultivation and extending full support to companies investing in the sector.



Representatives of IVPA met Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao at Secretariat.

Representatives of the Indian Vegetable Oil Producers Association (IVPA) met the Minister at the Secretariat on Tuesday and invited him to attend the IVPA Global Round Table meeting scheduled to be held in Hyderabad on November 30. They requested him to address issues concerning the future of oil palm cultivation, farmers' welfare, productivity and industry participation.

Tummala said companies such as Godrej, Patanjali and Hindustan Unilever were partnering in the development of oil palm cultivation in Telangana, with the government providing necessary infrastructure and support. He also highlighted Godrej's initiative to establish a seed garden for developing the country's first sixth-generation hybrid oil palm seeds, with state government assistance.

Referring to the anticipated El Niño conditions, the Minister stressed the importance of promoting oilseed crops while considering water availability and crop planning. He said expanding oil palm and other oilseed cultivation would help reduce dependence on imported edible oils, improve farmers' incomes and strengthen agro-based industries.

BJP accuses Cong of misleading people with 'Vote Chori' campaign

TFP I RATNA CHOTRANI
NIRMAL, NOV 3

BJP Telangana President N Ramchander Rao on Tuesday accused the Congress of misleading people through its 'vote chori' campaign and alleged that the party was attempting to destabilise the Narendra Modi-led government at the Centre.



T-BJP President N Ramchander Rao addresses a public meeting after Maha Padayatra in Nirmal.

Addressing a public meeting after the BJP's Maha Padayatra in Nirmal, organised under the slogan 'Save Democracy - Remove Anarchy', Rao made sarcastic remarks against Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, alleging that the former had lost his political judgment while the latter had appropriated the Gandhi surname.

He accused the Congress of corruption and claimed that the party had looted Rs 12 lakh crore during its previous tenure at the Centre.

Criticising the Telangana government, Rao alleged that Revanth Reddy was ignoring farmers' problems, including shortages of irrigation water and electricity, while focusing on political campaigns in Delhi. He urged BJP cadres to expose what he described as the Congress' attempts to undermine democracy and strengthen the party at the grassroots level.

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar said Rahul Gandhi lacked an understanding of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise and asserted that the people of the country alone decide who becomes Prime Minister, MPs and MLAs. He expressed confidence that the BJP would come to power in Telangana under the leadership of Ramchander Rao.

BJP National General Secretary and Telangana in-charge Sunil Bansal, State co-in-charge Rekha Sharma, MP Eatala Rajender, BJP Legislature Party leader Aleti Maheshwar Reddy, MPs G. Nagesh and Dharmapuri Arvind, party MLAs and other leaders participated in the padayatra, which began at Shantinagar crossroads and witnessed a large gathering of party workers and supporters.

CS reviews Legislative Council development plans

TFP I FAROOQ KHAN
HYDERABAD, NOV 3

Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju, IAS on Tuesday inspected the proposed development and beautification plans for the State Legislative Council premises along with Hyderabad District Collector Dr. Priyanka Ala, IAS.



Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju, IAS along with Hyderabad District Collector Dr. Priyanka Ala, IAS inspected the proposed development and beautification plans for the State Legislative Council premises.

During the visit, he reviewed proposals for residential buildings for the presiding officers and secretaries of the Legislative Assembly and Council, an annex building, administrative facilities, party offices, recreational areas, a sports ground and parking facilities. The proposed transfer of land belonging to the Tourism Department and a portion of the adjacent DGP office premises to the Legislative Assembly was also discussed.

Jaju reviewed the identified sites and sought details from officials on project proposals, site conditions and engineering requirements. He said Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy had directed that the project follow eco-friendly and sustainable development principles, preserving existing greenery, the heritage value and the architectural ambience of the historic complex.

RDO Ramakrishna, Tahsildar Nayeemuddin, R&B Superintending Engineer Madhavi, Executive Engineer Manohar Babu and officials from various departments participated in the inspection.

TG SAFE suspends 138 medical shops for illegal sale of Habit-Forming drugs

TFP I MANVEER SINGH
HYDERABAD, NOV 3

The Telangana Standards Authority for Food and Essential Drugs (TG SAFE) has suspended the licences of 138 medical shops across the State for violating regulations governing the sale of habit-forming drugs during a special enforcement drive.

According to a press release issued on Tuesday, 98 medical shops have been suspended until further orders, while 40 others have been suspended for a specified period. Warnings were also issued to two establishments.

The action followed inspections and raids conducted on October 15 by the Drugs Wing of TG SAFE in coordination with Enforcement Wing police personnel in vulnerable areas across the State. The shops were found violating provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and related rules.

TG SAFE cautioned chemists and druggists against selling psychotropic and Schedule H/H1 drugs without valid prescriptions from registered medical practitioners or in the absence of registered pharmacists. Medical shops were also directed to maintain proper purchase, sale and stock records. Violations could invite licence suspension or cancellation and prosecution.

The public can report illegal sale or distribution of habit-forming drugs through the TG SAFE Drugs Wing toll-free number 1800-599-6969, available from 10.30 AM to 5 PM on working days.

Rajanna Siricilla Collector urges farmers to opt for alternative crops



TFP I GAMPA RAMESH
RAJANNA SIRICILLA, NOV 3

Rajanna Siricilla District Collector Garima Agrawal, IAS has urged farmers to avoid paddy cultivation and take up alternative crops in view of the anticipated Super El Niño impact and the possibility of water scarcity.

Addressing farmers at the Kethu Bachao Abhiyan and Rythu Nestham programmes held at Manala village in Rudrangi mandal on Tuesday, she said groundwater levels had declined compared to last year and paddy cultivation required large quantities of water and electricity.

Appreciating Manala farmers for adopting alternative crops during the previous season, she advised them to cultivate sesame, groundnut, vegetables, leafy greens, pulses and oil palm. She also encouraged the use of drip and sprinkler irrigation to conserve water.

Market Committee Chairman Chelukala Tirupathi, Mandal Special Officer, District Planning Officer Sampath Kumar, District Agriculture Officer Afzal Begum, District Horticulture Officer Sharath Babu and Tahsildar Pushpalatha were among those present.

Karimnagar Collector stresses rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge

TFP I PRAMOD KUMAR
KARIMNAGAR, NOV 3

Karimnagar District Collector Chitra Mishra, IAS has stressed the need to construct rainwater harvesting pits in every household and farm ponds in every agricultural field to prevent future water scarcity. She directed officials to ensure effective implementation of the Jalasiri programme to conserve every drop of rainwater and improve groundwater levels.



During her visit to Kothapalli mandal, she inspected a community farm recharge pit constructed under the VB-G RAM G programme at Baddipalli and a farm pond on the agricultural land of farmer Edla Latha at Nagula Malyala. She said recharge pits, farm ponds and borewell recharge works were being taken up across the district, particularly in view of the anticipated El Niño impact. She urged farmers and residents to actively participate in the programme and said fish farming would also be encouraged in community recharge ponds.

Man gets life imprisonment for murder of 12-year-old boy

TFP I ATEEQ KHAN
NIZAMABAD, NOV 3

The Special POCSO Court in Nizamabad has sentenced Bandi Narendra alias Narender (24), a resident of Balconda village, to life imprisonment for the murder of a 12-year-old boy in Chittapur village in 2024.

The court, presided over by Judge D. Durga Prasad, delivered the verdict on November 3, 2026, in Sessions Case No. 86/2024. The accused was also sentenced to seven years of imprisonment under Section 238 of the BNS and fined Rs. 10,000 under each of the two sections, with additional six-month imprisonment for non-payment of each fine.

According to the police, the boy went missing on September 11, 2024, after Narendra allegedly took him on his two-wheeler on the pretext of showing him Ganesh idols. When the child failed to return, his mother lodged a complaint at Balconda Police Station on September 12. Police registered a case (Crime No. 108/2024) and investigated the incident, leading to Narendra's conviction.

MALKAJGIRI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
O/o the Executive Engineer, Uppal, Circle-9,Beside MRO Office, Uppal, Near Uppal X Road, Hyderabad. E-mail: eecircle9.ghmc@gmail.com

E-Procurement Tender Notice

Tender Notice No. 29/EEC-9/UPL/MMC/2026-27, Dated: 02-11-2026 publishing For 1 Work "Procurement of Larvicides and Adulticides, namely Alpha-Cypermethrin (ACM) 5% (Kgs), Pyrethrum 2% (Ltrs), Mosquito Larvicidal Oil (MLO) (Ltrs), and Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis (BTI) (Kgs), is essential for carrying out anti-larval operations and vector control measures in Uppal Circle-9, thereby ensuring uninterrupted Entomology activities". The details can be seen by logging at https://tender.telangana.gov.in/login.html The details of events is detailed below:

Events	Only 1 work
Start Date	03-11-2026 @ 03:00 PM
Download end Date	06-11-2026 @ 03:00 PM
Last date & Time for Receipt of Bids	06-11-2026 @ 03:00 PM
Price Bid Opening	06-11-2026 @ 03:30 PM

Address of the office concerned, Sri. K Ramesh Babu, Executive Engineer Uppal, Circle-9, MMC, Hyderabad.
Further details can be seen at e-procurement @ https://tender.telangana.gov.in/login.html

Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
UPPAL CIRCLE-9, MMC.

DIPR - R.O. No. : 13008-PP/CL/ADVT/2026-27

CYBERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

NIT No.	Name of work	Estimate Amount	Start Date/ Last Date & Time for receipts of Bids	Name & Address Officer
05/EE(ELEC)/ CMC/2026-27 Date: 04.11.2026	Temporary Lighting	11.10 Lakhs	04.11.2026,11.00 AM 07.11.2026,11.00AM	Sri.P.Vijay,Executive Engineer,CMC. ph.No.9247540127,

Further details can be seen at e-procurement @ https://tender.telangana.gov.in/

Sd/-
Executive Engineer, Electrical,CMC.

DIPR - R.O. No. : 13059-PP/CL/ADVT/2026-27

Special measures planned for Sannur Venkateswara temple development

TFP I BASHEERUDDIN
WARANGAL, NOV 3

Palakurthi MLA Yashaswini Reddy and Warangal District Collector Dr. Satya Sharda on Tuesday visited the Sri Venkateswara Swamy Temple at Sannur village in Rayaparthy mandal and inspected the ongoing development works.



The temple priests welcomed them with Poorna Kumbham and performed special prayers. The MLA and Collector reviewed the progress of the works and discussed the requirements with officials.

Yashaswini Reddy said efforts would be made to develop temples and tourist destinations in the region. Collector Dr. Satya Sharda directed officials to improve basic facilities for devotees, maintain quality standards and complete the works within the stipulated time. She also stressed the need to beautify the temple premises and ensure a comfortable experience for visitors.

BJP campaign aimed to cover up SIR flaws: Kota Neelima

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
HYDERABAD, NOV 3

TPCC Vice-President Dr. Kota Neelima has accused the BJP of using its 'Save Democracy, Remove Anarchy' campaign to divert attention from alleged discrepancies in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and intimidate those questioning the process.



Dr. Kota Neelima

Reacting to the campaign launched by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Hyderabad, she said the BJP was branding those raising legitimate objections as anti-national instead of addressing their concerns. She described the campaign as an attempt to silence citizens, political parties and leaders seeking accountability in the voter revision process.

Neelima said the BJP's approach reflected its anxiety over the November 1 'Vote Bachao, Desh Bachao' rally held at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan.

LOST OF PASSPORT

I VASAM MARUTHI PRASAD S/O NARSAIAH ,H.NO.3-2-123 &124,Patel Road, Korutla (v), Korutla (M) Jagtial (D) 505326, T, G., I HAVE LOST MY ORIGINAL PASSPORT BEARING NO. A5548528, ISSUED BY HYDERABAD, MISSING AT, WHILE BOMMENA,OF KATLAPUR MDL, IF ANYONE FINDS IT PLEASE INFORM ME AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS OR CON.9440536997

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1,920 Indiramma houses allotted through E-lottery

Indiramma Towers to be completed by next Bonalu: Ponnam Prabhakar

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
HYDERABAD, NOV 3

Hyderabad District Incharge Minister Ponnam Prabhakar has announced that Indiramma Towers will be completed by the next Bonalu festival, with the government identifying additional land to expand housing facilities for the urban poor.



The Minister, along with Goshamahal MLA Raja Singh, on Tuesday launched the e-lottery for allotment of 1,920 Indiramma houses in Goshamahal, Musheerabad, LB Nagar and Chandrayangutta constituencies. He said the government was utilising valuable lands belonging to the RTC and Police departments for housing projects under the directions of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. Groundbreaking ceremonies for the selected locations would be held shortly.

Ponnam Prabhakar said the government was identifying suitable land to take up the construction of one lakh houses and aimed to enable beneficiaries to move into their homes by the next Bonalu festival. Raja Singh welcomed the initiative and urged officials to identify more suitable land in Goshamahal constituency. Housing Board Vice-Chairman V.P. Gautham said Indiramma Towers would continue to be developed until all eligible beneficiaries were provided housing. He said the houses, estimated to be worth Rs. 40–50 lakh in the open market, would be allotted at a nominal cost of Rs. 6 lakh, with free registration. The allotment process was being conducted transparently through e-lottery, and selected beneficiaries would receive SMS notifications.

A mop-up e-lottery will be conducted on Wednesday, November 4, to fill vacant houses in 14 constituencies. Around 1,700 houses have become available due to cancellations and other reasons. The process will be live-streamed on the Telangana Housing Department's official YouTube channel.

Telangana Govt. steps up district-level reviews

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
HYDERABAD, NOV 3


Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy

The Telangana government is conducting district-level review meetings to improve grassroots administration, resolve long-pending issues and bring government services closer to the people, Revenue, Housing and Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy said.

The Minister said reviews covering the Revenue, Housing and Land Survey departments were aimed at identifying field-level problems and finding solutions through coordination among departments. Reviews have already been completed in nine erstwhile districts.

As part of the exercise, a review meeting for the erstwhile Rangareddy district will be held at Shamirpet in Medchal-Malkajgiri district on Wednesday. Ministers, MLAs, MLCs, district officials and in-charge ministers concerned will attend the meeting.

The discussions will cover revenue-related issues, implementation of housing schemes, progress of land surveys and the delivery of public services. The meetings will also assess the implementation of decisions taken during state-level reviews held in April and May, along with progress made on the ground and issues that remain unresolved.

Ponguleti said the objective was not merely to identify problems but to ensure their resolution.

TVRF alleges large-scale wrongful deletions in SIR, demands rollback



FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
HYDERABAD, NOV 3

The Telangana Voter Rights Forum (TVRF) on Tuesday alleged serious irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, claiming that several eligible voters were wrongly deleted in Musheerabad and Secunderabad Cantonment constituencies following a social audit and public hearings.

Addressing a press conference at Basheerbagh Press Club, the forum said its volunteers surveyed 757 voters in Booths 150 and 151 of Secunderabad Cantonment, of whom 232 were placed in the ASDD category, including 43 alleged wrongful deletions. In Musheerabad, 42 of the 95 deleted voters surveyed were found to be allegedly wrongfully removed.

Economist and political analyst Dr. Parakala Prabhakar criticised Union Home Minister Amit Shah's claims regarding voter deletions and alleged infiltrators, demanding state-wise and constituency-wise evidence to substantiate the allegations. Other public jury members, including Prof G Haragopal, Prof Padmaja Shah and human rights lawyer SQ Masood, also highlighted alleged flaws in the SIR exercise.

Several affected voters narrated how their names were deleted despite submitting enumeration forms and having voted in previous elections.

The forum demanded complete rollback of the present SIR process, resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and repeal of the Chief Election Commission Act, 2023.

It also urged authorities not to use the disputed electoral rolls for the forthcoming Hyderabad municipal elections and instead prepare fresh rolls based on the 2025 lists through a public audit process.

Govandi AIMIM delegation discusses local issues with Owaisi brothers

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
HYDERABAD, NOV 3



A delegation of AIMIM leaders from Govandi, Mumbai, met AIMIM president and Hyderabad MP Barrister Asaduddin Owaisi and AIMIM Floor Leader Akbaruddin Owaisi at Darussalam in Hyderabad on Tuesday.

During the meeting, the leaders discussed ongoing development works in Govandi, basic civic issues faced by residents and party activities in the area. They also exchanged views on addressing public grievances and strengthening the party.

Malakpet MLA Ahmed Bin Abdullah Balala, AIMIM Maharashtra General Secretary Ateeque Ahmad Khan, Taluka President of Assembly 171 and Corporator Zameer Qureshi, BMC Standing Committee member and Corporator Vijay Tatoba Ubale, BMC Group Leader, Co-Corporator Roshan Irfan Sheikh, Taluka President of Assembly 172 and Corporator Farooque Qazi, former Ward 141 candidate Sambodhi Kamble and Assembly 171 General Secretary Javed Mulla were among those present.

Form-18 applications for Graduates' MLC voter registration accepted till Nov 6

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
HYDERABAD, NOV 3

The Chief Electoral Officer, Telangana C. Sudharshan Reddy on Tuesday announced the schedule for the de novo preparation of electoral rolls for the Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda and Mahabubnagar-Rangareddy-Hyderabad Graduates' constituencies, with November 1, 2026, as the qualifying date.

According to the schedule issued by the Election Commission of India, the last date for receiving applications in Form-18 is November 6. The draft electoral rolls will be published on November 25, followed by the filing of claims and objections from November 25 to December 10. The final electoral rolls will be published on Dec 30, 2026.

The Chief Electoral Officer clarified that Form-18 applications can also be submitted during the claims and objections period and from December 30 until the last date for filing nominations for the respective Graduates' constituencies.



Telangana Govt. Advisors V. Hanumantha Rao and H. Venugopal Rao, MPs Suresh Shetkar and Anil Kumar Yadav, All India Yadav Mahasabha General Secretary R. Lakshman Yadav and other leaders welcome former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav on his arrival in Hyderabad to attend the Saddar festival.

Umrah organisers urge airlines to refund ticket fares

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
HYDERABAD, NOV 3



Hyderabad Umrah Organisers have appealed to IndiGo and Air India Express to transfer 100 per cent of the ticket amounts of Umrah pilgrims who could not undertake their journey due to flight cancellations from October 12 to the accounts of Consolidated Agents. In view of the prevailing situation in Gulf countries, the return journey of the pilgrims has also become uncertain. They stated that if the ticket amounts are transferred to the accounts of Consolidated Agents, they would be able to refund the money to the concerned pilgrims.

Addressing a press conference at Media Plus Auditorium, representatives of Umrah Organisers stated that hundreds of pilgrims who had planned to perform Umrah during the Dussehra holidays were deprived of the opportunity due to the sudden cancellation of flights without any prior notice. The pilgrims had already paid the ticket amounts in advance, and although the airlines had assured a 100 per cent refund, most of them have not received their money so far. This has led to considerable anxiety and resentment among the pilgrims.

The organisers stated that representations are also being made to State Minister for Minority Welfare Mohammed Azharuddin and Hyderabad MP Asaduddin Owaisi, requesting them to intervene and facilitate the early refund of the pilgrims' money. They appealed to them to take up the matter with officials of IndiGo and Air India Express, particularly IndiGo in-charge V.V. Chari and Air India in-charge Sai Kumar, as well as the revenue departments of both airlines, to ensure that the refunds are processed at the earliest.

Syed Shah Iftikharuddin Qadri, Saleh Ba Salama, Abdullah, Syed Maqsood Rahmath, Abdul Aziz Javed, Abubakar Shareef, Faizan, Mohammed Abdul Qadeer, Mohammed Faisal, Mujahidullah Hussaini, Mohammed Imran Khan, Mohammed Iqbal and Hamid Abdul Mannan addressed the press conference.



Kukatpally MLA demands cancellation of KPHB amenity plot auctions

TFP I RAVI KUMAR
MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI, NOV 3



Kukatpally MLA Madhavaram Krishna Rao has demanded the immediate cancellation of the Telangana Housing Board's proposed auction of amenity plots in Kukatpally Housing Board (KPHB) Colony, alleging that land reserved for public utilities is being sold as commercial property.

Addressing representatives of local welfare associations and voluntary organisations, he criticised the Housing Board for auctioning a 2,500-square-yard plot near the Forum Mall junction on the JNTU–Hi-Tech City road, which was originally earmarked for a petrol station. He said KPHB Colony, despite having lakhs of residents, still lacked essential public facilities and warned that selling the remaining amenity lands would affect the community's long-term interests.

Krishna Rao appealed to residents and leaders across political parties to unite in protecting public assets. He warned that if the Housing Board failed to withdraw the auction, he would mobilise residents and launch a large-scale agitation.

People may change Oppn if Rahul continues with 'model of anarchy', warns BJP

NEW DELHI, NOV 3



The BJP on Tuesday warned the Congress and allies that if Rahul Gandhi persists with his "model of anarchy" for a "regime change", people would find an alternative to them in the opposition space. Gandhi's "model of anarchy" does not have any takers, BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia claimed, addressing media persons.

"All of them, including anarchic Cockroach and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi, are presenting a model of anarchy before the country" for a "regime change".

Bhatia warned that those who want a regime change in India might instead see the people deciding that the "opposition is irresponsible and should be changed".

"I say this with a lot of responsibility that those wanting a regime change might witness a situation where people of the country feel that the Opposition is irresponsible and should be changed. The public will find an alternative to the opposition. Rahul Gandhi, Mamata Banerjee or Tejashwi Yadav will not gain anything through anarchy. This public will put an end to your political careers; India's democracy will remain intact," he said.

Bhatia claimed that even within the Congress, senior leaders do not agree with the "anarchist model of Rahul Gandhi."

"They feel this will lead to complete collapse and destruction of the Congress," he added while reiterating the allegation that the opposition protests in the country are fuelled by foreign funding. (IANS)

Congress questions delay in proroguing Parliament

Suspects special session push for delimitation bills

TFP I PRASHANT SHARMA
NEW DELHI, NOV 3



The Congress on Tuesday questioned the Centre's continued delay in proroguing Parliament, alleging that the government was deliberately keeping open the possibility of convening a Special Session to push through proposed Delimitation Bills with a two-thirds majority in the Lok Sabha, despite keeping their contents under wraps.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh pointed out that 82 days had elapsed since the Monsoon Session of Parliament was adjourned sine die, but it had yet to be formally prorogued.

He suggested that the delay was connected with Home Minister Amit Shah's reported consideration of convening a Special Session to secure the passage of the proposed delimitation legislation.

In a post on the social media platform X, Ramesh alleged that the proposed Bills were politically motivated and intended to shield the BJP from an electoral setback in the 2029 Lok Sabha elections.

"The content of these Bills is still not known although its intent is clear-to save the BJP from the debacle that is staring it in 2029," he charged.

Taking a sarcastic swipe at Shah, whom he described as the "self-styled Chanakya", the Congress leader also accused the Home Minister of double standards over the government's position on parliamentary discussions concerning electoral irregularities.

He recalled that Shah had rejected the Opposition's demand for a debate on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls last year, maintaining that the exercise was the prerogative of the Election Commission of India.

"Last year, when the combined Opposition wanted a debate on SIR he had refused saying SIR was the prerogative of the Election Commission," Ramesh said.

Questioning the government's willingness to discuss allegations of vote theft in Parliament, Ramesh argued that any such initiative would ring hollow unless the Centre first addressed the Opposition's concerns over the Election Commission's functioning and the ongoing electoral roll revision exercise.

"If the Home Minister is serious about a Special Session on vote chori, he should first secure the resignation of his hatchet man CEC Gyanesh Kumar. He should also suspend SIR," he demanded.

Ramesh also challenged the government to come clean on its proposed changes to the delimitation framework before introducing legislation in Parliament.

He questioned why the Centre had not taken the Opposition into confidence or convened an all-party meeting to discuss the proposals, their constitutional implications and their likely impact on the political representation of different states.

"And, of course, he should also be sharing with the Opposition well in advance his new proposals for Delimitation. Why doesn't he have the courage to convene an All-Party meeting to discuss these proposals in detail?" he asked.

Delimitation, which involves redrawing the boundaries of parliamentary and Assembly constituencies and determining the distribution of seats, has become a politically sensitive issue ahead of the next proposed nationwide exercise.

The debate has acquired added significance in view of the constitutional provisions linking the future readjustment of constituencies to the first Census conducted after 2026.

MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi resigns from NC & Parliament

SRINAGAR, NOV 3



Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi

Srinagar-Budgam MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi on Tuesday announced his resignation from J&'s ruling National Conference (NC) and his Parliamentary seat.

Addressing a large gathering of supporters at the Behisti Zehra Park in Budgam town, Mehdi launched a no-holds-barred attack on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and party President Dr Farooq Abdullah.

He started his speech with a gibe at Omar Abdullah, saying: "The chair you occupy today has power, but no respect; if you want to see respect, come to Budgam."

He then dealt in detail with the circumstances that prompted him to fight the Lok Sabha elections in 2024.

He said he refused to join the assembly elections because he had realised that whatever respect and self-reliance people had in J&K was snatched through a process started in 1953 and completed in 2019 when Article 370 was abrogated.

He claimed that the NC high command had literally begged him to fight the Lok Sabha elections.

"They begged me to fight the Lok Sabha elections. They said Parliament was the right forum to agitate the cause of the people. They told me they did not want to beg the BJP for statehood, and restoration of dignity of people through restoration of Article 370 was the main aim of the NC. They may deny it today, but I have recorded everything they said, and I will be turning it over in the public domain. I agreed to fight Lok Sabha elections. They first told me to fight from Baramulla, and then they developeAd second thoughts and told me to fight from Srinagar. I said: 'Okay'," Mehdi disclosed. (IANS)

BJP to expand in minority areas, says Assam CM Sarma

GUWAHATI, NOV 3



Himanta Biswa Sarma

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma has said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) will continue expanding its organisational presence in minority-dominated areas without compromising its ideological principles, and added that electoral gains cannot come at the cost of the party's core beliefs.

Addressing a party core committee meeting here on Tuesday, CM Sarma reportedly said the BJP's vote share in minority-dominated areas had increased, reflecting its expanding political footprint in these regions. However, he made it clear that the party would not dilute its ideological position to attract voters or strengthen its electoral prospects.

"Organisational expansion will continue, but there will be no compromise on ideology," was the message conveyed by the Chief Minister at the meeting. CM Sarma also reiterated the state government's position on social issues, particularly child marriage and polygamy, asserting that these practices must be brought to an end. "Child marriage and polygamy must be stopped," he said, underlining that the BJP would remain firm on these issues even as it works to expand its organisational network in minority-dominated constituencies.

The remarks assume significance against the backdrop of the BJP's efforts to strengthen its political presence across Assam, including constituencies where minority voters constitute a substantial share of the electorate. (IANS/UNI)

MP: Cong-backed candidate's nomination rejected for RS bypoll

BHOPAL, NOV 3



The nomination of Congress-backed Independent candidate Rajkumar Lohani was rejected during scrutiny on Tuesday for the November 12 Rajya Sabha by-election in Madhya Pradesh, dealing a setback to the opposition party's attempt to challenge the BJP candidate, Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri.

Lohani had filed his nomination papers on Monday, the last day for filing nominations, with the support of Congress legislators.

Lohani's nomination was rejected over the alleged failure to submit the mandatory Form 26 affidavit containing details of a candidate's assets, liabilities, educational qualifications and criminal antecedents, if any.

Lohani had sought an opportunity to rectify the deficiencies, citing the precedent of BJP-backed Independent candidate Parimal Nathwani in Jharkhand, who was allowed to make corrections to his nomination papers.

Congress MLA Hemant Katare, who was among Lohani's proposers, had also raised objections to Puri's nomination affidavit before the Returning Officer.

On Tuesday, Katare submitted three objections, questioning the non-disclosure of the Union Minister's wife's name, the declaration of certain overseas assets in foreign currencies and the alleged irregularities in the notarisation of his affidavit. (IANS)

Hardeep Puri's RS nomination accepted



Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri's nomination for the Rajya Sabha by-election from Madhya Pradesh was accepted on Tuesday after the Returning Officer rejected all objections raised against his candidature.

The decision came after hearing objections raised by Congress leader Hemant Katare, who had questioned the validity and completeness of Puri's mandatory Form 26 affidavit.

According to the order issued by Returning Officer Umesh Sharma, Puri had filed three nomination papers on October 31. The objectors were heard during scrutiny on Tuesday, and Puri was given an opportunity to respond.

CAA push brings festive cheer to Thakurbari, triggers political war of words in Bengal

KOLKATA, NOV 3



Thakurbari in North 24-Parganas witnessed scenes of celebration on Tuesday as large numbers of Matua devotees gathered at the religious headquarters of the community following the state government's decision to deploy 12 IAS probationers in North 24-Parganas and Nadia districts to expedite the citizenship process under the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA).

The development has sparked fresh hope among applicants awaiting citizenship, even as political differences resurfaced over implementation of the CAA.

Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari has set a target of completing the CAA process for around 2.5 lakh applicants in West Bengal by December 31. The deployment of 12 IAS probationers is expected to accelerate the processing of applications and the associated hearings. The state government issued a formal notification in this regard on Monday. Adhikari had assured that the administration would extend all necessary assistance to Matua applicants whose names have been deleted from the electoral rolls to facilitate their inclusion once they receive their citizenship certificates.

The announcement triggered celebrations at Thakurbari, where devotees arrived from different parts of the state carrying traditional drums, cymbals and red-and-white religious flags. The premises reverberated with 'Haribol' chants as devotees participated in Harinaam Sankirtan and traditional devotional dances. Some were also seen rolling on the ground as part of their religious observances.

The celebrations, however, were accompanied by a political war of words between the BJP and the Trinamool Congress over the citizenship issue. (IANS/UNI)

NCP MLAs express displeasure over Parth Pawar's working style

MUMBAI, NOV 3



Parth Pawar

Discontent among Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) MLAs over Parth Pawar's working style reportedly came to the fore at a core committee meeting held on Monday. Several legislators are said to have raised concerns about his functioning in the presence of Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Pawar. Significantly, Parth Pawar was not present at the meeting.

According to sources, some MLAs urged the party leadership to ensure that Parth consults senior leaders before taking important decisions and works collectively by respecting the experience and seniority of party colleagues. They also stressed the need for him to take everyone along rather than functioning independently. The legislators further expressed the view that the party's position should be communicated more effectively.

Another major demand raised during the meeting was that the Finance portfolio should be restored to the NCP at the earliest, without waiting for any merger between the two factions of the party. Several MLAs also reportedly complained that leaders of other Mahayuti constituents were not extending adequate support to the NCP. They expressed concern that local political differences should not adversely affect the party's organisational interests.

Sunetra Pawar is understood to have assured the legislators that Parth and Jay Pawar would maintain a balance in their dealings with senior party leaders and work in coordination with all members. She also emphasised the need to strengthen the party's grassroots presence and reach every household.

The Deputy Chief Minister directed all party MLAs to undertake visits to drought-affected areas and submit reports on the ground situation to her.

Meanwhile, Sunetra Pawar has convened another meeting of all NCP MLAs at her official residence, Devgiri, in Mumbai at 7 pm on Tuesday. The meeting is expected to focus on the party's organisational situation, coordination among legislators and the prevailing political circumstances. (IANS)

Shutdown hits normal life in Manipur's Kangpokpi for second day

IMPHAL, NOV 3

Normal life remained affected in Kangpokpi district for the second consecutive day on Tuesday as a tribal organisation continued its shutdown to protest against the alleged failure of the Manipur government to take action over the killing of two Kuki community youths.



A police officer said that shops, markets and business establishments remained closed due to the shutdown.

Several goods-laden vehicles bound for Imphal through National Highway-2 (NH-2) were also unable to enter Kangpokpi district and remained stranded in neighbouring Senapati district, which is predominantly inhabited by the Naga community.

He said that additional security forces had been deployed in the hilly Kangpokpi district to prevent any untoward incident and maintain law and order during the shutdown.

The Committee on Tribal Unity (CoTU), a prominent Kuki-Zo organisation, had called the shutdown to condemn what it described as the state government's inaction over the killing of two Kuki civilians.

The bodies of the two Kuki youths, who had gone missing on October 28, were recovered on November 1 following multiple search operations conducted by joint teams of the Manipur Police, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), CoBRA (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action), Rapid Action Force (RAF) and Assam Rifles. (IANS)

Cyclone Murasu hits AP Coast

AMARAVATI, NOV 3

Heavy rains continue to lash south coastal Andhra Pradesh under the impact of severe cyclonic storm 'Murasu', which crossed the coast in the early hours of Tuesday. Gusty winds uprooted trees and electricity poles in a few places, while heavy rains inundated low-lying areas, disrupting normal life. Crops were damaged, and electricity supply was disrupted in the affected districts. No loss of life has been reported. The severe cyclonic storm crossed south Andhra Pradesh coast between Nellore and Narasapur close to between 3.30 a.m. and 5.30 a.m. (IANS)

Chhattisgarh now Naxal-free: HM Amit Shah



RAIPUR, NOV 3

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday said Chhattisgarh has become Naxal-free and is poised to rank among the top three states in the tourism sector in the coming years.

Addressing the closing ceremony of the Chhattisgarh Rajyotsav in Naya Raipur, HM Shah said the state possesses immense tourism potential with treasures such as the Gariaband region, Balameshwari temple, Dantewada's Danteshwari temple and the unique Bastar Dussehra.

He recalled that it was once said the land is rich, but the people are poor, and assured that within 10 years both the land and its people would be prosperous.

HM Shah said the goal under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi is to create a state where people are happy and affluent, and the land itself is prosperous and thriving.

He noted that out of the 26 years since the state's formation, the BJP has been in power for 20 years.

During this period, he said, the annual budget has increased 30-fold, per capita income has risen significantly, and the Gross State Product has grown 25 times. The network of ITIs, colleges, polytechnics and universities has expanded threefold.

The Home Minister said the BJP's tenure has guided the people of Chhattisgarh from an era of fear toward an era of trust, and from mere resources toward true prosperity.

He expressed commitment to transforming possibilities into reality to build a capable and thriving Chhattisgarh. HM Shah praised the large turnout despite heavy rain and said Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai had assured him that people would come and participate as it was a programme for Chhattisgarh.

He offered greetings to the people of the state on the occasion of Chhattisgarh Foundation Day and paid respects to 'Chhattisgarh Mahtari'.

Earlier, HM Shah inaugurated the Viksit Bharat Sankalp Park in Naya Raipur. At the Rajyotsav closing ceremony, which was presided over by Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai, distinguished individuals from various fields were honoured with State Awards.

In his address, HM Shah also said that Atal Bihari Vajpayee created Chhattisgarh and Prime Minister Modi has nurtured it. He added that the state has moved forward under the leadership of PM Modi and Vishnu Deo Sai, and cultural initiatives such as Bastar Pandum and Bastar Olympics are helping revive and promote the state's rich folk traditions. (IANS)

NCP (SP) alleges Rs 2,300 crore scam in Maha CET

MUMBAI, NOV 3

The Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) MLA Rohit Pawar on Tuesday levelled serious allegations of corruption amounting to Rs 2,300 crore in the conduct of Maharashtra Common Entrance Test (CET) exams and centralised admissions, demanding an immediate judicial inquiry into the matter.



Addressing a press conference, Pawar targeted Higher and Technical Education Minister Chandrakant Patil and Maharashtra CET Commissioner Dileep Sardesai, demanding their immediate resignations.

Pawar alleged that a private firm, EduSpark, along with its associated sister concerns, secured lucrative government contracts through rigged and manipulated tendering processes.

According to him, these contracts spanned CET examination management, skill development projects, educational software, and infrastructure services across multiple state departments. (IANS)

Indians urged to follow embassy advisories in France, Italy

NEW DELHI, NOV 3

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Tuesday advised Indian nationals in France and Italy, including students, to follow the advisories issued by embassies and the local authorities amid the ongoing protests in Europe.

"Regarding the disturbances and ongoing protests in Europe, our Embassies in France and Italy have issued advisories," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said at the weekly media briefing in New Delhi.

The Indian Embassy in France had issued a travel and safety advisory following protests over the rising cost of living that broke out into violent clashes. It had urged Indian nationals and travellers to stay alert and take care, especially in crowded places or where demonstrations were happening.

The Embassy had said protests and civil unrest in France had led to localised curfews and potential delays or reductions in road travel and public transport. In a post on X, it had asked Indian nationals to avoid large gatherings . (IANS)

9 arrested for attacking BSF personnel in Tripura

AGARTALA, NOV 3

Nine people, including three women, have so far been arrested in connection with the reported attack on Border Security Force (BSF) personnel at Ashabari along the India-Bangladesh international border in Tripura's Sepahijala district, police officials said on Tuesday.

A senior police official said three BSF personnel, including a Company Commander, were injured after a mob comprising men and women allegedly attacked them with sticks near the international border at Ashabari, under Kalamchaura police station, on Monday.

According to the official, BSF personnel noticed some Indian and Bangladeshi smugglers allegedly engaged in illegal cross-border trade along the international border. The jawans immediately rushed to the spot and apprehended an Indian smuggler. However, the Bangladeshi smugglers, who were on the other side of the border fence, fled. The Indian smuggler also managed to escape and allegedly informed villagers that he had been assaulted by BSF personnel, the official said. (IANS)

ED attaches another Rs 510 crore of Reliance Group's assets

NEW DELHI, NOV 3

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has attached several assets, including aircraft, bank balances, fixed deposits, immovable properties, receivables & investments, totally valued at Rs 510 crore, in cases of alleged fraud related to the Anil Ambani Group, according to an agency statement issued on Wednesday.



While assets valued at Rs 263.05 crore have been attached pertaining to the Reliance Home Finance Limited and Reliance Commercial Finance Limited Bank fraud case, another Rs 247.12 crore worth of assets have been attached that are linked to the Reliance Communications Limited bank case.

In the RCOM case, the attached assets include two chartered aircraft, 6 plots of land and office premises in Maharashtra. In the RCFL and RHFL case, two windmills in Tamil Nadu, bank balances, fixed deposits, as well as investments and receivables have been attached, the statement said.

With these new attachments, ED has now cumulatively attached or seized assets worth around Rs 23,100 crore till date in several cases being investigated. (IANS)

Gujarat cracks down on fake doctors

GANDHINAGAR, NOV 3

The Gujarat Health Department has identified 38 suspected fake doctors during a 15-day statewide crackdown on unauthorised medical practitioners, with FIRs registered against 35 of them, Minister Praful Pansheriya said on Tuesday.

The drive involved 298 teams formed by the department, which conducted inspections across all districts in coordination with local police, Crime Branch and Special Operations Group (SOG).

The operation was carried out under the supervision of Additional Chief Secretary (Health) Rajiv Topno and Health Commissioner Ratankanvar Gadhvi Charan.

Rajkot reported the highest number of cases, with 17 suspected fake doctors identified, followed by Surat with nine, Gir Somnath with three and Surendranagar with two.

"The remaining cases were reported from other areas, with one each, taking the total number of FIRs registered to 35," the minister said. (IANS/UNI)

India and France discuss climate finance

NEW DELHI, NOV 3

India and France on Tuesday discussed biodiversity conservation, energy transition, climate finance and priorities for COP31 while reiterating committment to strengthening cooperation through the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

France was re-elected co-president of the ISA on Tuesday.

Welcoming France's re-election, Lefevre credited President Emmanuel Macron for France's role in the alliance. (IANS)

Navy rescues hijacked fishing vessel

FROM PAGE 1

The incident had raised serious maritime security concerns, particularly over the possibility of the vessel being used as a 'mother ship' to launch further attacks on merchant shipping operating in the strategically important waters off Somalia.



Responding to the threat, the Indian Navy deployed a mission-ready warship to intercept the hijacked vessel, supported by a maritime reconnaissance aircraft. Following sustained surveillance, the naval platforms successfully located the vessel, tracked its movements, and employed calibrated non-kinetic measures to restrict its movement and prevent it from escaping.

In a significant inter-service coordination effort, Marine Commandos were also augmented through a precision airdrop conducted by an IAF C-17 aircraft, strengthening the Navy's operational capability for the tactical intervention.

The operation culminated in a swift and coordinated assault in which the Navy secured the vessel, overcame the armed pirate threat and rescued all 20 crew members safely.

The successful mission highlights the Indian Navy's operational preparedness and its ability to execute complex maritime security operations in distant waters through coordinated deployment of naval and air assets.

It also reinforces India's commitment to acting as a 'First Responder' and a 'Preferred Security Partner' in the Indian Ocean Region, particularly amid persistent threats to maritime security and international shipping. (IANS)

India, US begin military exercise Tiger Triumph in Visakhapatnam

VISAKHAPATNAM, NOV 3

The fifth edition of bilateral tri-service Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) amphibious Exercise Tiger Triumph 2026 between India and the United States is underway in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, with forces from both countries training side-by-side to strengthen defence cooperation and enhance their ability to respond to regional crises, the US Navy's Pacific Fleet said on Tuesday.



According to the US Navy, the service members from the US and Indian Armed Forces officially commenced Exercise Tiger Triumph 2026 with an opening ceremony in Visakhapatnam on Monday.

Tiger Triumph 2026 is a bilateral, combined joint exercise focused on advancing joint and combined interoperability for humanitarian assistance and disaster response operations, tabletop staff planning, and integrated multi-domain command and control.

"Tiger Triumph represents the growing strength, sophistication, and shared commitment of the US-India Major Defence Partnership. Our bilateral training reinforces our shared commitment to regional stability, refines our combined operational coordination, and prepares our forces to rapidly respond to crises and natural disasters in the region," said US Pacific Fleet Vice Commander US Navy Rear Adm. Joaquin Martinez de Pinillos.

Underscoring the significance of the joint exercise, Indian Navy Rear Admiral Vishal Bishnoi, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet, said, "Our two countries share a strong and enduring partnership, built on mutual trust, professional respect and an expanding range of defence engagements. Exercise Tiger Triumph gives practical expression to this relationship by bringing together complementary capabilities of our armed forces in demanding humanitarian assistance and disaster response settings."

Marking the fifth edition of the bilateral exercise series since its inception in 2019, Exercise Tiger Triumph 2026 incorporates staff planning, all-domain tabletop exercises and specialised training in command, control, cyber and space synchronisation. (IANS/UNI)

THE FREEDOM PRESS

WEDNESDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2026

India needs roadmap for managing rural-to-urban transition

The Standing Committee on Housing and Urban Affairs, in its report presented to the Lok Sabha on September 25, has highlighted the challenges arising from India's changing urban landscape. The report examines how urbanisation should be defined and how settlements that increasingly function like towns can be accommodated within the administrative framework. Of the 2,576 new Census Towns identified in 2011, only 175 were converted into statutory towns, while 367 were merged with existing urban settlements. This highlights the gap between the growth of urban characteristics and formal administrative recognition.

The Committee has rightly acknowledged that existing Census Town criteria need to be reviewed to reflect changing economic and social realities. The requirement that at least 75 per cent of male main workers be engaged in non-agricultural activities does not adequately capture women's employment and diversified livelihoods. Similarly, calculating population density based on revenue-area boundaries may not accurately represent the built-up character of settlements. These observations underline the importance of developing more comprehensive indicators to understand India's evolving patterns of urbanisation.

Beyond revisiting definitions, the report recommends examining the conversion of eligible Census Towns into statutory urban local bodies, maintaining an updated database of such conversions and developing a framework for 'Visionary Towns'. It also proposes extending basic urban infrastructure and relevant development schemes to Census Towns and peri-urban settlements. The suggested 'Transition Units' at state and local levels could facilitate coordination in planning, financing and governance, helping settlements prepare for their changing requirements.

However, identifying a settlement as urban and formally changing its administrative status are separate processes. Since Census Town classification does not automatically result in statutory urban status, state governments have an important role in determining the transition. The transfer of responsibilities for public services, assets, accounts and ongoing development projects must therefore be carefully planned. A systematic mechanism is necessary to prevent administrative uncertainty and ensure that citizens do not experience disruptions in essential services during the transition.

Effective coordination between the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR) is equally important. Rural-to-urban transition directly affects Panchayati Raj institutions and departments implementing rural development programmes. The constitutional framework under Article 243Q provides for Nagar Panchayats in transitional areas, but many settlements enter the urban system through mergers with existing statutory towns. The Committee's findings provide an opportunity to examine whether existing constitutional and legislative arrangements adequately address these different pathways and whether further reforms are required.

The implementation of the proposed Visionary Towns framework also requires clearer guidelines. States need a transparent mechanism to identify, prioritise and prepare settlements likely to undergo urbanisation. Dedicated financial assistance, infrastructure development and access to appropriate urban schemes should be supported by plans for staffing, institutional capacity and service delivery. The proposed Rs.10,000 crore Urbanisation Premium under the Sixteenth Finance Commission could provide an important opportunity to encourage states to undertake planned transitions. State Finance Commissions should also be involved in aligning local resource allocation with changing administrative and service requirements.

Circular economy through ports

The circular economy is emerging as an important pillar of sustainable industrial development, with ports playing a significant role in connecting manufacturing, energy, logistics and international supply chains. The European Union's 2020 Circular Economy Action Plan, introduced under the European Green Deal, aims to double the circular material use rate by 2030 by promoting resource efficiency, reducing waste and extending the life of products. This approach offers useful lessons for India as it expands its industrial infrastructure, modernises ports and pursues sustainable economic growth.

Ports are strategically positioned to support circular industries because large volumes of raw materials, industrial waste and finished products move through them. The European Sea Ports Organisation considers ports natural hubs for developing circular value chains. The Antwerp-Rotterdam-Rhine-Ruhr region, which accounts for around 40 per cent of EU petrochemical production and 3.5 lakh direct jobs, demonstrates the potential of integrating industrial activity with sustainable resource management. For India, developing similar port-led industrial ecosystems could strengthen manufacturing, improve logistics efficiency and create new opportunities in recycling and resource recovery.

The Port of Antwerp-Bruges has developed the 88-hectare NextGen District on a former General Motors site to promote circular industrial activity. Its model combines industrial land, shared infrastructure, logistics facilities, research institutions, financing and regulatory support. A dedicated demonstration zone provides more than two hectares of plug-and-play facilities where companies can test technologies before commercial expansion. The port authority also connects businesses with industrial partners for raw materials, utilities, residual heat and product distribution, while helping them access permits and public funding.

Several projects demonstrate how this approach can translate innovation into commercial activity. Bolder Industries plans to process more than six million discarded tyres annually into nearly 18,000 tonnes of recovered carbon black and 21,000 tonnes of circular oil, supported by a 32-million-euro EU grant. PureCycle is establishing its first European polypropylene purification plant with a designed capacity of 59,000 tonnes annually, backed by 40 million euros in EU funding. TripleW has moved from a demonstration facility converting food waste into lactic acid for biodegradable plastics towards a proposed full-scale plant capable of processing one lakh tonnes annually. Outside the district, Indaver's 105-million-euro plastics recycling facility and SynPet Technologies' proposed 300-million-euro investment further illustrate the sector's potential.

The success of NextGen District is supported by the wider industrial strengths of Antwerp-Bruges. The port handles around 290 million tonnes of maritime cargo annually, supports approximately 1.64 lakh direct and indirect jobs and generates more than 21 billion euros in added value. Its integrated chemical cluster, extensive pipeline network, liquid storage facilities and access to major European markets provide important advantages. The availability of industrial customers, engineering services, utilities and research institutions within close proximity also encourages industrial cooperation, allowing companies to reuse materials and by-products more efficiently.

However, infrastructure and connectivity alone cannot ensure the growth of circular industries. Regulatory coordination remains important, particularly for the movement of recyclable materials across national borders and the recognition of recycled content. European rules requiring prior approval for transporting certain plastic waste across member states can delay industrial projects. Similarly, mass-balance accounting rules under the Packaging and Packaging Waste Regulation will determine how chemically recycled materials are recognised towards recycled-content targets. Predictable regulations, faster permitting and early coordination between companies and authorities are therefore essential. Access to public and private finance is equally important, as first-of-a-kind industrial projects require substantial investment and longer development periods.

PM Modi overreacting to INDIA's 'vote chori' campaign

He needn't think like Indira Gandhi

DK SINGH

The Opposition's rally in the national capital on Sunday was massive. The atmosphere was electric and the speeches thunderous. Union Home Minister Amit Shah wouldn't have been impressed, for sure.

Days before this rally, Shah dismissed the Opposition's stir against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) in an interaction with a select group of reporters at the BJP headquarters. The home minister was of the view that a few years down the line, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar would be seen as a better reformer than TN Seshan, who served as the 10th CEC from 1990 to 1996, for 'purging' the electoral rolls.

A master political strategist that Shah is, he would know that political parties—that, too, the combined opposition—bringing a few lakh karyakartas to New Delhi might be good optics in terms of a show of strength, but it's not necessarily a measure of their electoral might. To cite just one example, a year before the West Bengal Assembly elections, Left-affiliated organisations had organised a rally at Kolkata's Brigade Parade Ground in April 2025. Hundreds of thousands participated in it. The Left ended up with one seat in the 294-member Assembly.

There is also no evidence yet of the alleged 'vote theft' influencing people's voting behaviour. Rahul Gandhi's 'vote chori' campaign in Bihar flopped in the Assembly election. He hit the Delhi streets on this issue, but it paid little dividend for the Congress' students' wing, the NSUI, in the students' union elections in Delhi and Panjab Universities.



Also, Karnataka was the state from where Rahul Gandhi produced evidence of the alleged 'vote chori'—from Bengaluru's Mahadevapura and Kalaburgi's Aland Assembly constituencies. Yet, the Congress drew a blank in the Legislative Council elections for four seats in the state, including the Bengaluru Teachers' constituency that it had won last time.

So, it's not about the size of the gathering at the Ramlila Maidan or the resonance of the anti-SIR campaign. The INDIA bloc rally serves to unite the opposition, energise their cadres and keep dominating the political discourse in which the BJP has been lagging for some time. These are good takeaways for the Opposition, but are they significant enough to worry Prime Minister Narendra Modi?

On the face of it, no, as I explained earlier. Why would PM Modi then talk, like Indira Gandhi, about foreign hands attempting to create 'araajakta' (anarchy) in the country? Because such talks betray insecurities. Without naming Rahul, the PM said on Saturday, "Who is secretly meeting whom abroad? Who are anti-India forces supporting?"

The BJP, which used to call the opposition leader 'Pappu', is suddenly finding him capable of creating 'araajakta' in India, something Indira Gandhi thought Jayaprakash Narayan was capable of. Modi used to mock Rahul earlier. He sounds angry with the Opposition leader now.

I would like to think it's Gen Z and Alpha, not Rahul, who have rattled the ruling BJP. It has seen post-millennials ousting governments in the neighbourhood—Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Nepal—and a wave of protests in Germany, Belgium, France, Italy, Albania and Serbia.

There are many similarities between Indian Gen Z and Alpha and their counterparts in these countries. For instance, they echo similar grievances—poor education system, lack of economic opportunities, systemic corruption, cost of living, weakening institutions and, more importantly, not being heard in what they see as a sign of democratic backsliding. They vent it out not just on Instagram and other social media platforms but also on the streets.

Indian Gen Z and Alpha are also leaderless. The Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) might have created the circumstances and allowed them to vent out their frustration but there is no obvious leader. While CJP leaders sat on dharna in the national capital, demanding education minister Dharmendra Pradhan's resignation, students and youth spontaneously gathered in Mumbai, Patna and many other places across the country to press for the same demand. Even when the CJP wasn't participating in the INDIA bloc's rally in the national capital on Sunday, many students and youth attended it.

And this is what may be worrying Modi-Shah—mainstream parties tapping into Gen Z-Alpha's disillusionment. In Nepal, Gen Z protests were targeted at all old parties. In Serbia, students kept away from other Opposition parties. In Belgium, Germany, Italy and Albania, too, political parties have largely stayed away, with a few in the opposition voicing support for the students' cause.

The Opposition's anti-SIR campaign is not producing electoral dividends for them as yet. It does, however, feed into the larger grievances of the students and youth, some of whom reached Delhi's Ramlila Maidan on Sunday. PM Modi and other BJP leaders are, however, going over the top with their angry reactions and conspiracy theories. It's premature. The Opposition coming to the forefront of the Indian Gen Z movement, unlike in most other countries where students led from the front, has its flip side, too.

It politicises the Gen Z protests, which would divest it of the romanticism attached to the idea of resetting the social and political order. It runs the risk of killing the movement at its nascent stage. Also, one still doesn't know the extent of the Gen Z-Alpha's disgruntlement, if any, beyond cities, even though the BJP's defeat in Graduates' and Teachers' constituencies in the MLC polls on BJP stalwarts' turfs such as Varanasi, Lucknow, Nagpur and Patna seemed to suggest disillusionment among the educated youth.

The next parliamentary elections are two-and-a-half years away. Consistency and perseverance aren't the Opposition's forte. See how quickly they have forgotten about education reforms and moved back to 'vote chori'. There would be something else next. Gen Z would struggle to keep pace with the shifting priorities of the Opposition.

The Great AI Rift: Why Meta, Palantir are fighting against OpenAI, Anthropic, Google

SUBIMAL BHATTACHARJEE

Silicon Valley's sharpest quarrel this year is about who gets to hold the weights, the billions of trained numbers that make a model work. One camp rents intelligence through cloud APIs and keeps its frontier models sealed: OpenAI, Anthropic, and Google. The other wants weights published, so anyone can download a model, run it on their own servers, and change it at will.

The line hardened on July 24, when 25 companies, among them Nvidia, Microsoft, Meta, IBM, and Palantir, signed an open letter titled "Open Weights and American AI Leadership", urging Washington not to restrict open-weight models. Google, OpenAI, and Anthropic did not sign. Sam Altman later posted that he wanted America to win in both open and proprietary AI. The hedge was telling: OpenAI released open-weight models in 2025, alarmed by China's progress, but keeps its best systems behind an API.

Jensen Huang's case blends principle with arithmetic. Every downloaded model still needs a GPU to run, and most GPUs are Nvidia's. When Nvidia released the Nemotron 3.5 Lightning model that runs on a single GPU in August this year, he said that "Free AI should be great for chips. In March, Nvidia had assembled the Nemotron Coalition, eight labs including Mistral and Perplexity, to build frontier-grade open models. At CES in January, Huang claimed that 80% of startups build on open models.

Mark Zuckerberg's path has been more erratic. Meta built developer goodwill on Llama, then debuted Muse Spark in April as a closed flagship. On August 10, it swung back, releasing the 30-billion-parameter open-weight Muse Glimmer and promising Spark's weights too. His accompanying 6,500-word essay argued that concentrating AI in a few companies is itself a danger, and cast OpenAI and Anthropic as the foils.

Neither man is a pure idealist. Nvidia sells the hardware open models run on. Meta earns from advertising, not from selling model access, so giving weights away costs it little and undercuts rivals who do charge.

The closed labs' case is not frivolous. Altman put the core problem plainly in 2025: once weights are out, they cannot be pulled back. Neither can the safety guardrails a downloader strips away. A closed model can be patched, monitored, and switched off; an open one, once copied, cannot.

Geopolitics sharpens the worry. Washington fears that Chinese labs distil expensive American closed models into cheap open ones. Chinese open models from DeepSeek, Alibaba, and Moonshot have grown fastest in adoption, and Moonshot's Kimi K3 helped push Huang into the policy fight this summer. Notably, the White House's new framework for pre-release review of advanced models reportedly covers only the most powerful closed systems.

There is the commerce angle, too. Closed labs sell access to their models; publishing weights would give away the product. Their frontier models still lead on the hardest reasoning and agentic tasks, and that lead is what customers pay for.

The schism is reshaping how AI gets built. The capability gap that once settled the debate has narrowed sharply: by one widely cited estimate, the best open models now trail the closed frontier by about four months, and cost roughly a third as much per unit of capability. Yet enterprise use of open models has reportedly fallen, as large companies pay a premium for managed services, support, and the very best performance.

The result is a two-tier economy. Startups and researchers build on open weights because they can inspect, fine-tune, and run them cheaply; open models featured in 44% of single-model-family research papers this year, according to one August study. Large enterprises increasingly do both, routing routine, high-volume work to cheap open models and sending only the hardest tasks to a closed API.

That hybrid pattern is the quiet winner. It also means developers' loyalties are fluid, which is why both camps are fighting so hard to set the defaults now. Openness also spreads scrutiny. Independent researchers can probe open models for bias and flaws in ways closed systems do not allow. When Hugging Face was hacked this year, it reportedly had to defend itself with a Chinese open model because closed models' guardrails blocked the security work.

The costs are real, too. The same freedom lets bad actors remove safeguards, and no one can recall a harmful model once it spreads. Users also face a geopolitical choice: if American policy restricts open weights, much of the world may default to Chinese models, along with whatever values and censorship they carry.

The open-versus-closed fight will not end in a knockout. Closed labs will keep the frontier for as long as they can afford to; open models will keep closing the gap a few months behind. The real question is who sets the rules in between: whether governments treat weights as dangerous exports or as shared infrastructure. Huang and Zuckerberg are betting on openness partly for profit, and the closed labs are guarding their models partly for the same reason. For the world's users, the healthiest outcome is a market where both survive, and no single company or country holds all the keys.

(Subimal Bhattacharjee is a policy adviser on digital tech issues and the author)

Disclaimer: Views expressed by writers in this section are there own do not nessarily reflect The Freedom Press' point-of-view.

Govt can scrap LTCG tax with limited fiscal impact

NEW DELHI, NOV 3

The government could abolish long-term capital gains (LTCG) tax across investor categories even keeping its fiscal consolidation roadmap largely unaffected, as the resulting revenue loss is likely to be limited to Rs 40,000-50,000 crore in FY28, a report said on Tuesday.



The report from SBI Research estimated that eliminating LTCG tax would reduce government revenue by nearly 0.1-0.2 per cent of GDP, a level it said could be absorbed while keeping fiscal deficit targets broadly on track.

"We believe the government would be able to take this hit if hypothetically, the entire capital gains taxes were abolished," the report said.

It estimated LTCG collections at around Rs 1 lakh crore in FY26 and projected them to decline to Rs 40,000-50,000 crore in FY27.

Nearly Rs 1.3 lakh crore collected in FY25 reflected exceptional market conditions, as Indian equities delivered returns of around 30 per cent in the preceding year and prompted foreign investors to book gains.

However, the recent market environment is markedly different, with the Nifty's average return over the last three years at just 0.5 per cent and cumulative foreign institutional investor outflows at Rs 4.8 lakh crore.

The report also suggested changes to the broader capital gains tax structure and recommended raising the annual LTCG exemption threshold from Rs 1.25 lakh to Rs 2 lakh and linking it to inflation to provide more relief to retail investors.

The report also proposed lower tax rates for longer holding periods, suggesting that gains on investments held for two to three years could be taxed at 5 per cent, while assets held for over three years could attract zero LTCG tax.

It suggested that the existing 12.5 per cent rate could continue for investments held between one and two years. (IANS/UNI)

Gen Z prefers more time in office than millennials



NEW DELHI, NOV 3

Generation Z employees prefer to work from the office an average of 3.4 days a week, more than millennial workers and slightly less than Generation X and Baby Boomers, a report said on Tuesday.

The report from Savills India said Gen Z office workers (those born between 1997 - 2012) also demand good Wi-Fi and to be located close to public transport connections, gyms and Pilates studios.

Generation Z deviated from the broader tendency for younger respondents to prefer fewer days in the office. Respondents across all generations currently report attending the office for approximately four days a week.

Younger millennials prefer to attend 3.2 days a week, compared with 3.3 days for older millennials. Generation X and Baby Boomers reported a preference for 3.5 office days a week.

Though Generation Z reported being in the office more frequently than older groups, the cohort still places significant value on work-life balance, with all Generation Z respondents saying this is 'moderately' or 'extremely' important, the report noted.

High-quality Wi-Fi is the most essential amenity across all age groups within the office, while public transport connections are more important to younger respondents, with access to meeting rooms ranking higher with age.

"As India's workforce evolves, organisations will need to consider how workplace design, reliable technology and connectivity can make office attendance more meaningful. Access to public transport and nearby lifestyle amenities will also be important considerations in shaping workplaces that respond to the expectations of younger employees," said Arvind Nandan, Managing Director, Research & Consulting, Savills India.

Generation Z respondents reported having the longest commutes, with 46 per cent travelling for 41 minutes or more, likely due to more affordable housing largely being located outside city centres.

Restaurants are the highest-rated local amenity across every age group in terms of nearby facilities, but gyms and wellness centres appeal more strongly to younger respondents. (IANS)

FDA seizes food products worth Rs 9 cr in Maharashtra

NEW DELHI, NOV 3

The Maharashtra Food and Drug Administration (FDA) -- led by Food Safety Commissioner Tukaram Mundhe -- has seized food products, including Patanjali Cow Ghee, valued at more than Rs 9 crore during a statewide enforcement drive ahead of Diwali to curb food adulteration, according to a report.



According to a NDTV Profit report, the operation that was carried out across all seven administrative divisions of the state covered 114 food establishments and resulted in the suspension of licences or registrations of 19 food business operators for serious hygiene and regulatory lapses.

Among the notable actions, the FDA seized 2,279 litres of Patanjali cow ghee valued at around Rs 20 lakh from a distributor in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, it added.

The authorities said the stock was detained under provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, on suspicion of misbranding and adulteration.

The largest seizure was reported from the Konkan division where more than 1.44 lakh kg of edible oil of various brands was confiscated from a facility in Bhiwandi, Thane district.

Several other consignments, including edible oils, rice, pulses and jaggery were seized during inspections in Pune, Satara, Solapur and Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar.

The drive also covered a broad range of food products such as spices, flour, dairy products, sweets, snacks, dry fruits and bakery items.

The FDA said inspections in Mumbai revealed multiple hygiene and compliance deficiencies at food establishments, including poor sanitation, insect infestation, inadequate documentation and lapses in food storage practices, according to the report.

In a parallel operation targeting banned food products conducted between October 28 and October 31, the department seized goods worth Rs 79.4 lakh from 17 establishments.

In addition, authorities registered 13 FIRs, arrested 16 individuals, sealed seven establishments and seized six vehicles. (IANS/UNI)

Satellites to help track fish as oceans change

KOCHI, NOV 2

Satellites could help scientists track where fish are moving as oceans change, offering valuable information to fishing communities and helping protect marine resources.

This will be among the key subjects at an international symposium beginning here on Wednesday.



Scientists from over 30 countries will discuss how satellite technology and climate research can help understand changes in the oceans and their impact on fisheries.

The three-day TREVOR-SAFARI symposium at the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) will focus on the use of modern technology to monitor marine ecosystems.

Satellite data can help track changes in sea temperature, ocean productivity and fish distribution, and this information can help identify potential fishing zones and enable fishermen to plan their trips better.

The meeting will also examine how climate change, shifting monsoon patterns, and extreme weather events affect fish populations and marine life.

Changes in ocean conditions and water quality can affect fish availability and threaten the livelihoods of coastal communities.

Scientists will discuss ways to make fisheries more sustainable and protect marine biodiversity.

They will also explore how traditional knowledge of fishing communities can be combined with modern science. (IANS/UNI)

Health Ministry to expand drug and devices import gateways

NEW DELHI, OCT 30

india will have preferential market access covering approximately 76 per cent of the global GDP of $115 trillion, with negotiations underway for another eight bilateral or multilateral agreements, which would add a further $15 trillion, according to Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal.



Addressing the curtain raiser of the 'Invest Telangana Global Summit' here, the minister congratulated Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, saying the state's ambition to become a $3 trillion economy by 2047 was achievable through collective efforts by the Central Government, State Government, industry, investors and citizens.

Goyal said India's existing trade agreements had provided preferential market access to a global GDP of $70 trillion, including $10 trillion through agreements finalised more than a decade ago and an additional $60 trillion through the nine recently finalised agreements.

He noted that the IMF had projected global trade growth of barely 1.9 per cent amid global challenges. Against this backdrop, India set a target of $1 trillion in exports, aiming for 15 per cent growth in the current year. He said the target reflected the collective conviction of exporters, industry associations, and businesses to surpass conventional forecasts.

Highlighting India's economic performance, Goyal said the country had moved from the "Fragile Five" a decade ago to the world's fifth-largest economy and the fastest-growing large economy.

He cited growth of 7.7 per cent in the previous year and 7.8 per cent in the first quarter of the current year, expressing the expectation that growth would remain above 7 per cent in the quarter ending September.

Referring to Telangana's historical trading traditions, Goyal recalled the Motupalli Abhaya Shasana, a maritime charter issued in 1244 by Kakatiya ruler, Ganapati Deva, which promoted stability and predictability in trade. He drew parallels with the present, noting that investors continue to seek certainty and continuity in policy.

Referring to Telangana's aspiration to grow from an economy of approximately $200 billion to $3 trillion by 2047, he welcomed the target set by the state government. (IANS)

"Impossible doesn't exist in my dictionary," Goyal said, acknowledging that achieving the target would require considerable collective effort. He said the Central Government, State Government, businesses, investors, farmers, fishermen, technical manpower, scientists, innovators, startups, women entrepreneurs and officials would all have to contribute to the State's development.

Goyal said Telangana is well positioned to contribute to the Viksit Bharat vision through its pharmaceutical industry, aerospace and defence capabilities, value-added agriculture, food processing, research and development, innovation and services sector. He also highlighted the opportunities presented by global capability centres, design and innovation, and the State's talent in artificial intelligence and quantum computing.

He called for taking GI-tagged products such as Tandur red gram, Chatpata chilli and Nizamabad turmeric to global markets, stressing the need for traceability, packaging and branding to help farmers secure a premium for their produce. (IANS)

JITO Hyderabad installs new managing committee

RATNA CHOTRANI
HYDERABAD, NOV 3

B L Bhandari has taken over as Chairman of the Jain International Trade Organisation (JITO) Hyderabad Chapter for 2026-28, succeeding Rohit Kothari. The new managing committee was installed at a ceremony attended by JITO Apex Chairman Sanjay Dangi, Vice Chairman Pramod Chordia and President Himanshu Shah. Bhandari said his priorities include creating opportunities, promoting the JITO Awas Yojana for affordable housing and increasing chapter membership from 748 to 1,008.



JITO, with a corpus of over Rs.700 crore, has expanded from its first chapter in Ahmedabad to 156 chapters across India and 38 overseas chapters in 20 countries. Secretary General Hemant N Shah said the organisation plans to expand into 12 more countries. Dangi said JITO had disbursed Rs.5 crore in educational loans and highlighted the importance of education, women's participation and networking. Past Chairman Ganpatji Choudhary announced plans to establish hostels with 10,000 rooms across India over the next eight years at an estimated investment of Rs.2,000 crore, with a projected cost of Rs.20 lakh per room.

JITO Administrative Training Foundation (JATF) President Mayur Jain said the organisation had helped 37 Jain youth enter civil services, including 10 who secured positions in the UPSC top 100. Shraman Arogyam Chairman Jaswant Munoth said the healthcare initiative for Jain monks and nuns had registered over 10,700 beneficiaries and facilitated 10,850 treatments, spending more than Rs.96 crore through a network of over 12,000 hospitals. Himanshu Shah described JITO as a platform for networking, while Chordia highlighted Hyderabad's contribution to the organisation.

Death toll hits 29 after Russian strike on Ukrainian aid site

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
KYIV, NOV 3

The death toll from a Russian attack in southern Ukraine on a site where people had gathered to receive humanitarian aid rose to 29 on Tuesday, with 48 still missing, as a wave of overnight strikes targeted power plants across the country, damaged hospitals and wounded scores of people.

Dozens of rescuers and volunteers continued to search the cratered blast site of a destroyed aid facility and shelter in Komyushuvakha, a village in Ukraine's southern Zaporizhzhia region, hoping to find missing residents alive under the rubble. Instead, more bodies were pulled out and carried away in white plastic sheeting.



Residential building seen following a Russian air attack in Dnipro.

"The scale of the tragedy is terrifying," Mykhailo Semikin, acting head of the region's military administration, wrote in an online post. "This is one of the worst tragedies in terms of the number of civilian victims in our region since the start of the full-scale war."

Russia launched 289 attack drones, 17 ballistic missiles and 59 cruise missiles across nine regions, triggering emergency power cuts, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in an online post that noted the barrage coincided with U.S. elections.

"The Russians think America won't notice this signal of theirs," he said. "But we need to notice and stop such terror. We need to help Ukraine defend its skies; otherwise, Russia will never stop its missile strikes."

Three days of mourning were declared in Zaporizhzhia where Russian bunker-busting bombs, filled with nearly 1.5 tons of explosives, were used in Monday's attack.

Dozens of Commonwealth leaders descend on Antigua

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
SAN JUAN, NOV 3

Leaders representing nearly a third of the world's population are meeting on the tiny Caribbean island of Antigua this week to strengthen ties during a time of global political upheaval.

New deals and pledges are expected to emerge from the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, which is held every two years.

The Commonwealth is made up of 56 nations spanning Africa, Asia, the Americas, Europe and the Pacific, most of which were once part of the British Empire. Their leaders are scheduled to attend, along with officials from Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Brazil and the United Arab Emirates.



Britain's King Charles III, gestures before an exhibition cricket match in North Sound, Antigua and Barbuda.

"To deal with what to expect in Antigua, I think we need ... to look at the world in which we find ourselves today," Commonwealth Secretary-General Shirley Botchwey told The Associated Press ahead of the meeting.

"We're looking at issues like conflict, economic shocks, rising costs, climate change, trade, weaponization of tariffs; and all of this hitting directly the pockets of our people."

Botchwey said Commonwealth leaders representing 2.7 billion people will look at how to attract investment and reduce barriers to intra-Commonwealth trade.

"For us, this is extremely important," she said. "All the countries woke up one day and were slapped with tariffs. If we are trading more among ourselves, whatever happens outside the Commonwealth will not affect countries too much."

Bangladesh garment workers clash with police, defy call to end protests

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
DHAKA, NOV 3

Paramilitary forces were deployed in industrial suburbs around the Bangladesh capital as protests by garment sector workers demanding a wage hike stretched into their fourth day on Tuesday, defying calls to return to factories.

Protesters are still on the streets despite the government's announcement of a board to review the minimum wage in the vital garment industry, which employs millions of people and generates the bulk of Bangladesh's export earnings.



The South Asian nation of 170 million people is the world's second-biggest garment exporter behind China, producing clothes for major international brands.

Police have filed cases against thousands of unidentified protesters for torching police vehicles and damaging property, with 58 officers injured since protests began, police spokesperson Kamarum Munira said.

Workers said scores of protesters have also been injured, with demonstrators seen hurling bricks at police who in turn used batons and fired tear gas to disperse the crowds.

"Some factories are closed and workers have taken to the streets," Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmed said on Tuesday.

"Some miscreants are trying to incite violence and make the situation more complicated."

The paramilitary Border Guard Bangladesh force said it had deployed forces in Gazipur and Narayanganj, key industrial suburbs around Dhaka, and were using drones to monitor the unrest.

The garment industry generates around four-fifths of Bangladesh's export earnings, worth up to $38 billion, and employs more than four million people.

Workers say the rising cost of food, housing, transport and health care has eroded their purchasing power in a country with eight percent inflation.

They are demanding a minimum monthly wage of 30,000 taka ($245) — a 140 percent increase from the current 12,500 taka.

Industry representatives said on Monday workers from at least 670 factories had walked out.

WHO urged to review drinking water standards

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
GENEVA, NOV 3

Dozens of global health and environmental organizations called on the World Health Organization on Tuesday to revise decades-old standards for nitrate levels in drinking water, arguing they do not reflect recent scientific evidence about potential health risks.



In an open letter, 85 organizations, including Greenpeace International and the World Organization of Family Doctors (WONCA), called on the United Nations health agency to include nitrate in an upcoming review of its drinking water guidelines.

The toxic effects of nitrates — a residue left behind by intensive farming — are widely recognized as particularly dangerous for children and pregnant women.

But the current WHO guidelines — which set the maximum acceptable nitrate level in drinking water at 50 milligrammes per liter as nitrate or 11.3 milligrammes per liter as nitrate-nitrogen — date back to 1958 and are "outdated," the organizations warned.

That level was set specifically to prevent so-called "blue-baby syndrome" — a deadly blood disorder in which the blood's capacity for carrying oxygen is reduced.

But the limit "has not been updated in response to robust epidemiological evidence linking chronic, low-level nitrate exposure to long-term human health risks," Tuesday's letter said, pointing in particular to "colorectal cancer and adverse birth outcomes."

"Studies now link nitrate in drinking water, at levels well below the current WHO limit, to bowel cancer and premature birth," WONCA chair Pratyush Kumar said in a joint statement.

The letter was sent to coincide with WHO's annual One Health Day, which aims to raise awareness about the interconnected health of humans, animals, plants and shared ecosystems.

Surface water models indicate that hundreds of millions of people globally are exposed to elevated nitrate levels, the letter warned.

"Water should be life-giving, not life-threatening," Amanda Larsson, the global project lead for agriculture at Greenpeace, said in the statement.

"We cannot protect human health without protecting the groundwater and rivers that sustain us," she insisted.

"Governments must take decisive action to curb the growth of intensive livestock farming and actively support producers in transitioning to ecological farming practices — ensuring that clean, safe drinking water isn't a luxury but a guarantee."

The organizations pointed to findings published last year by an expert panel commissioned by the Danish government indicating that the current international standard was insufficient to protect public health.

Australia court hears social media ban challenge

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
MELBOURNE, NOV 3

Australia's highest court on Tuesday began hearing constitutional challenges to the nation's world-first legislation banning children younger than 16 from popular social media platforms.

The seven High Court judges began hearing two challenges to the ban that took effect last year on young children holding accounts on Facebook, Instagram, Reddit, Kick, Snapchat, Threads, TikTok, X, YouTube and Twitch.

The first challenge was brought by Sydney-based rights group Digital Freedom Project.

They claim the law improperly robs millions of young Australians of a right to freedom of political communication implied in Australia's constitution.

The second challenge comes from U.S. online forum Reddit, which argues the ban raised issues of privacy and political expression. Reddit also argued that it should not have included in the same category as other banned social media platforms.

The two-day hearing will end Wednesday.

Two Sydney 15-year-olds, Noah Jones and Macy Neyland, had been included as plaintiffs when the Digital Freedom Project case was filed last year. But the pair were removed over concerns they could be held liable for legal costs should the case fail.

N. Korea slams FBI allegations over Binance hack as 'grave' provocation

SEOUL, NOV 3

North Korea on Tuesday flatly dismissed the outcome of a US investigation that blamed Pyongyang for a massive cryptocurrency theft from Binance, the world's largest cryptocurrency exchange, calling it a "grave political provocation" against the North.



Kim Yo-jong, the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, made the remarks, referring to the US Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) announcement Saturday that the regime is responsible for the theft of more than US$6 billion in cryptocurrency from Binance.

The FBI linked the theft to a North Korean hacking group it calls TraderTraitor, a name previously tied to other cryptocurrency heists.

"The FBI is trying to brand the DPRK as a 'cyber criminal state', claiming that it obtained information that a hacking organisation 'supported' by the DPRK was involved in the incident," Kim said in a statement carried by the North's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

DPRK is short for the North's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

"It is a grave political provocation against the DPRK that the US misleads the international public opinion as if all the cyber crimes in different parts of the world are our deeds."

North Korea has been blamed for cyber thefts before and has denied any involvement. It is rare for Kim to issue a statement on a hacking incident.

Kim called Washington's accusation a "sinister" attempt to damage the international image of North Korea and undermine its dignity and national prestige, as well as another grave violation of the sovereignty of the North in cyberspace.

Turning the blame back on Washington, she said, "As soon as the present US administration took office last year, it announced that it would confiscate illegally stolen cryptocurrency assets and use them as a state's strategic reserve." (IANS)

Pakistan lost $40 billion over trade suspension with India since 2019

NEW DELHI, NOV 3

Pakistan has incurred an estimated $40 billion in economic losses due to trade with India being suspended in 2019, with businesses facing higher sourcing and logistics costs after being forced to import goods from more distant markets, according to the chairman of the Pak-India Business Council.



Noor Muhammad Qasuri said the disruption of commercial ties following the Pulwama terror attack and subsequent tensions had increased transportation costs, freight charges and delivery times for Pakistani businesses that previously relied on imports from India, according to multiple reports.

He said that Pakistan's pharmaceutical industry had depended on raw materials sourced from India and estimated that resuming imports from the neighbouring country could generate annual savings of $2 billion to $3 billion.

Meanwhile, a drop in domestic cotton production imposed additional costs worth $5 billion on the textile sector, while mills were forced to source cotton from Brazil, Egypt, China and the United States, he added.

Farmers in traditional cotton-growing regions are increasingly switching to sugarcane, which could worsen the crisis in future.

Qasuri further said Pakistan was also importing sugar, fertiliser, cement, petroleum products, iron and steel, vegetables and heavy machinery from distant markets despite India's substantial production capacity in these sectors.

The resumption of bilateral trade could lower transportation costs, improve supply chains and make petroleum imports cheaper as Indian oil refineries are geographically closer to Pakistan. Indian agricultural and industrial products could lower production costs for several businesses.

Pakistan lost a large number of Indian tourists, who used to visit religious and historical sites as well as their ancestral homes and villages.

"Pakistan and India share historical, cultural and family ties, which could provide a foundation for improved relations," he said.

Qasuri pointed to India's financial assistance to Sri Lanka during its economic crisis as an example of meaningful regional economic cooperation in difficult times. (IANS/UNI)

US strikes Iran's Qeshm Island near Strait of Hormuz



TEHRAN, NOV 3

The United States attacked Iran's strategic Qeshm Island in the Strait of Hormuz, The Wall Street Journal reported, citing US officials.

The attacks, carried out on Monday (local time), were the latest in "a series of limited strikes Washington has secretly carried out against the country in recent weeks as President Trump touted the possibility of a diplomatic deal," the report said.

The United States has been conducting smaller-scale strikes against Iran for several weeks, with explosions reported on social media around Qeshm Island on Monday, according to the report.

Some US officials described the attacks as defensive operations aimed at preventing Iran from freely attacking commercial vessels in the Strait of Hormuz, reports Xinhua news agency. Unlike earlier in the conflict, the United States has not publicly announced the attacks, the report said. Washington has deliberately kept the campaign under wraps to avoid signalling any intention of resuming major combat operations, one US official was quoted as saying.

Trump said that he was "in no rush" to decide whether to resume military action against Iran. "One way or the other, we will do something, but there is no rush. We crippled them financially. They have no money, no gasoline, and their people are getting very tired of it," he said in a phone interview with Axios on Monday.

The US midterm elections are seen as a turning point for Trump as he decides whether to launch a major bombing campaign against Iran to try to bring the conflict to an end, Axios reported.

It added that the president appears to be pursuing two tracks simultaneously, allowing diplomatic efforts to continue while preparing to resume military action if he determines that a deal is out of reach. "Oil Prices are dropping like a rock, down almost 10 US dollars a barrel, a record, because people feel that there will not be a war with Iran. Iran wants a settlement as soon as possible. It could happen," Trump wrote Monday in a post on Truth Social.

India reaffirms solidarity with Saudi Arabia, condemns Houthi attacks

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
JEDDAH, NOV 3



Indian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Vipul has reaffirmed India's unwavering solidarity with Saudi Arabia amid the exceptionally difficult circumstances prevailing in the region, strongly condemning the Houthi attacks targeting civilian and energy infrastructure in the Kingdom and expressing hope for the swift restoration of peace and normalcy.

"India stands in complete solidarity with our Saudi brothers and sisters during the very difficult situations prevailing in the region. We condemn in the strongest manner the attacks which are taking place on civilian and energy infrastructure in the Kingdom. We hope peace and normalcy will soon return to the region," he said while speaking to Okaz/Saudi Gazette during his visit to the headquarters of Okaz Organization for Press and Publication in Jeddah on Sunday.

The ambassador was received by Editor-in-Chief of Okaz newspaper and General Supervisor of Saudi Gazette Jameel Altheyabi and Director General of Okaz Organization Abdullah Al-Hassoun.

The meeting between Vipul and Altheyabi focused on further consolidating the strategic partnership between the two nations. The ambassador emphasized that Saudi-Indian relations are anchored in a long and distinguished history of friendship and close ties between the two countries and their peoples.

"What is most important in relations between India and Arabia is the people-to-people connection that began several centuries ago and now serves as the foundation of relations between the two countries. These historic ties continue to flourish under the leadership of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman," he said.

Palestinian hospitals get Greek aid

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
JERUSALEM, NOV 3

Greece has pledged 600,000 ($671,000) to support Palestinian hospitals in occupied East Jerusalem, the Palestinian Authority said on Monday.

The agreement was signed by the consul general of Greece in Jerusalem, Dimitrios Angelosopoulos, and the Palestinian Authority's minister of finance and planning, Estephan Salameh, the Palestinian WAFA news agency reported. The money will be paid through the EU's Pegase program, a financial mechanism established by the European Commission in 2008 through which the Palestinian Authority receives EU support to help pay public-sector salaries and fund services.

UN demands urgent aid access after Yemen's Taiz city cut off by fighting

UNITED NATIONS, NOV 3



Fighting has cut off all roads into Yemen's Taiz city, prompting the UN relief chief to call for urgent aid access, UN humanitarians said.

"Health services in the city are failing under the strain of lack of supplies and access to the city," the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said on Monday (local time).

"Nearly a quarter of a million people have lost access to essential health care, including more than 186,000 children under the age of 5 and 23,000 pregnant women."

Additionally, OCHA said 12 hospitals are at risk of closing or have had to reduce services because of a lack of fuel and critical supplies. More than 1,400 cases of acute diarrhoea and suspected cholera were reported in a single week.

Tom Fletcher, UN emergency relief coordinator, spoke with Yemeni Foreign Minister Afrah Abdulaziz Saleh Alzouba about the growing humanitarian crisis, discussing the displacement of civilians in Taiz, rising humanitarian needs and the urgent need for humanitarian access so partners can deliver aid, said OCHA.

PLC reshuffles cabinet

Yemen's Presidential Leadership Council (PLC) chief Rashad al-Alimi has reshuffled key cabinet and military posts as Houthi advances put government forces under growing pressure.

According to the government-run Saba news agency on Monday (local time), the reshuffle in Prime Minister Shaya al-Zindani's government appointed Salem al-Awlaki as information minister, Akram al-Amri as civil service and insurance minister, and Ahmed Saleh al-Awlaki as local administration minister.

Al-Alimi, who is also supreme commander of the armed forces, separately ordered changes to the high-ranking military leadership overseeing the Tur al-Bahah front in the southern province of Lahj, where government forces have been battling a Houthi push toward Aden. The appointments come as fighting intensifies near the entrance to Tur al-Bahah district, about 80 km northwest of Aden.

Free speech and respectful debate strengthen society: Jordan King

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
AMMAN, NOV 3



King Abdullah II has sent a message to members of both chambers of Parliament, stressing that Jordanians' assessment of Parliament's performance is not limited to the legislation it passes, but also includes the nature of the language and conduct displayed by lawmakers under the dome.

During the opening of the third ordinary session of the 20th Parliament on Monday, the King said in his Speech from the Throne that citizens' needs and interests must remain at the forefront of decision-making rather than being treated as secondary considerations.

He stressed that discussing public issues and expressing opinions are constitutionally guaranteed rights, emphasizing that Jordan has room for every opinion expressed with responsibility and sincerity. He said love of country requires appreciation for what it provides, protection of the dignity of words, and adherence to the principles of respectful disagreement.

Professor of Political Sociology at the German Jordanian University Dr. Bader Al-Madi said the King had underscored the importance of several issues related to freedom of expression and freedom of opinion.

Al-Madi said the King has consistently emphasized the need to provide individuals with space to express what is on their minds, whether concerning political, rights-related or social issues, helping to strengthen this value within Jordanian society.

He added that the King had simultaneously highlighted a fundamental principle: disagreement should not turn into conflict, whether the differences are religious, sectarian or political. Such differences, he said, should remain within the framework of the values traditionally upheld by the Jordanian state.

Kuwait, Algeria discuss cooperation

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
ALGIERS, NOV 3

Kuwait's Ambassador to Algeria Nawaf Bushaibah and Algerian Justice Minister Lotfi Boudjemaa discussed ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation in the judicial and legal fields on Monday. They also discussed preparations for the meeting of the Council of Arab Justice Ministers, which Algeria will host at the end of next week. In a statement, the Kuwaiti embassy in Algeria said the talks took place when Boudjemaa received Bushaibah. The ambassador congratulated Algeria on the anniversary of its Liberation Revolution.

The statement said both sides praised the historic relations between the two countries.

Syria, IFC discuss private investment and financial sector reforms

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
DAMASCUS, NOV. 3



Syrian Finance Minister Mohammed Yisr Barnieh met a senior International Finance Corporation (IFC) official in Damascus on Tuesday to discuss attracting private investment, financing infrastructure projects and supporting economic reforms as Syria seeks to rebuild its economy.

Barnieh held talks with Imad Fakhoury, the IFC's vice president for the Middle East and North Africa, and an accompanying delegation, according to a statement from the Syrian Ministry of Finance.

The IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, focuses on supporting private sector development in emerging markets and developing economies.

The discussions covered opportunities for public-private partnerships (PPPs), financial sector reforms and priority investment projects, including ways to make proposed projects commercially viable and attractive to investors.

The ministry also outlined progress toward establishing a dedicated public-private partnership unit to help develop projects involving government agencies and private companies.

The two sides discussed the Syria Connectivity Initiative, which focuses on improving infrastructure links, facilitating trade and strengthening economic integration with neighboring countries.

Türkiye posts record October goods exports of $25.9 Billion

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
ISTANBUL, NOV 3



Türkiye achieved its highest-ever October goods export figure last month, with outbound shipments rising 8.1% year-on-year to $25.9 billion, Turkish Trade Minister Omer Bolat announced on Tuesday.

"The highest October export record was broken last month; our goods exports rose 8.1% year-on-year to reach $25.9 billion," Bolat said.

Annualized goods exports climbed by $15.6 billion compared with October 2025 to reach $285.6 billion, surpassing the government's target of $282 billion, the minister noted.

"As of the end of October, total annualized goods and services exports rose to $413 billion," Bolat said.

"We have exceeded our $410 billion target as of October," he added.

Imports increased 3.4% year-on-year in October to $32.58 billion, according to the Trade Ministry's monthly foreign trade bulletin released later on Tuesday.

Consequently, the foreign trade deficit narrowed by 11.4% from October 2025 to $6.7 billion, down from $7.56 billion a year earlier.

The total foreign trade volume expanded 5.4% annually to reach $58.47 billion in October.

The export-to-import coverage ratio rose by 3.4 percentage points to 79.4% in October, while the ratio excluding energy stood at 100% and excluding both energy and gold reached 101.7%.

In the first 10 months of 2026, exports grew 5.5% year-on-year to $236.84 billion, while imports rose 5.1% to $314.5 billion, resulting in a trade gap of $77.67 billion.

Germany remained Türkiye's top export destination in October with $2.07 billion, followed by the US with $1.86 billion and the UK with $1.38 billion.

Aramco's adjusted net income rises 9% to SR117 billion in Q3

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
DHAHRAN, NOV 3



Saudi Aramco's adjusted net income increased by 9 percent year-on-year to SR117 billion in the third quarter of 2026, compared with SR107.2 billion during the same period in 2025.

According to the company's third-quarter financial results released on Tuesday, cash flow from operating activities reached SR145.2 billion, compared with SR135.4 billion in the third quarter of 2025, while free cash flow rose to SR105.8 billion from SR88.4 billion during the same period.

Aramco also reported a decline in its gearing ratio to 5.5 percent as of September 30, 2026, compared with 6.2 percent at the end of June.

Meanwhile, the company's Board of Directors announced base dividends of SR82.1 billion for the third quarter of 2026, representing a 3.5 percent annual increase, with payments scheduled for the fourth quarter.

The company also recorded a 234 percent year-on-year increase in adjusted earnings before interest, income taxes and zakat in its downstream segment, driven by improved refining margins.

In its upstream operations, Aramco announced the start of production at the Zuluf crude oil increment project, while major projects, including Jafurah Phase Two, the Fadhili Gas Plant expansion and the Dammam field development, remained on schedule. The East-West Pipeline continued to provide flexibility in export operations, with Aramco exploring additional overseas storage capacity and alternative export routes to strengthen its global supply network.

The company also announced the acquisition of a 49 percent stake in HUMAIN, involving asset transfers and cash contributions valued at approximately SR9.9 billion, expanding its presence in the artificial intelligence sector.

TRAI releases new telecom interconnection rules

NEW DELHI, NOV 3

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on Tuesday released "The Telecommunication Interconnection (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2026" which will come into effect from January 1, 2027.



Interconnection in telecommunications refers to the technical, operational, and commercial arrangements that connect two or more telecom networks, allowing telecommunications traffic to flow between them and enabling users of different service providers to communicate seamlessly, according to an official statement.

The amendment modernises the existing interconnection regulatory framework to align with contemporary network architectures and facilitate a transition from the existing interconnection at Long Distance Charging Area (LDCA) and Short Distance Charging Area (SDCA) level to the Licensed Service Area (LSA) level of interconnection.

The shifting of traffic to LSA-level POIs would simplify routing and support more efficient management of scarce numbering resources, and would also result in benefits such as lower latency, and enhanced service reliability, according to the official statement.

Existing traffic, in terms of Minutes of Usage (MoUs), at the LDCA/SDCA-level points of interconnection (POIs) will be migrated to LSA-level POIs within three years, in a phased manner. Thereafter, all traffic will be handed over or taken over at the LSA or Service Area level POIs.

The amendment regulations provide for establishment of IP-based interconnection by service providers. All new interconnections established after these regulations come into force will be IP-based interconnections.

All existing POIs working on E1/TDM-based interconnection will be migrated to IP-based interconnection within a period of three years, in a phased manner. The migration to IP-based interconnection improves bandwidth efficiency, call quality and end-to-end call performance.

For IP-based interconnection, maximum call-handling capacity at a POI would be determined having regard to the concurrent session-handling capability and link bandwidth, while maintaining the desired Quality of Service in accordance with the TRAI's relevant Regulations. A specific regulatory framework has been introduced for the surrender of POIs. Earlier, the regulations had only the provision of "disconnection" of a POI, which is for stoppage of exchange of traffic at the POI. This is a step taken by a service provider for reasons attributable to the other service provider, in exceptional circumstances arising out of differences between them. (IANS)

Europe bolstering economic ties with India amid changing global order



NEW DELHI, NOV 3

Europe's growing interest in strengthening economic ties with India, amid the changing global order, is reflected in the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), which entered into force on October 1, 2025, and the proposed broader EU-India free trade agreement (FTA), according to an article in Brussels Signal news portal.

It highlights that Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein participated in the second India-EFTA Prosperity Summit in New Delhi on October 7. Both sides announced new business projects and reviewed progress under the agreement. Swiss President Guy Parmelin said that 53 companies from his country had investment plans across 20 economic sectors.

Norway, meanwhile, highlighted the presence of around 160 Norwegian companies operating in India. The governments also identified opportunities in advanced manufacturing, medical technologies, maritime transport, and energy.

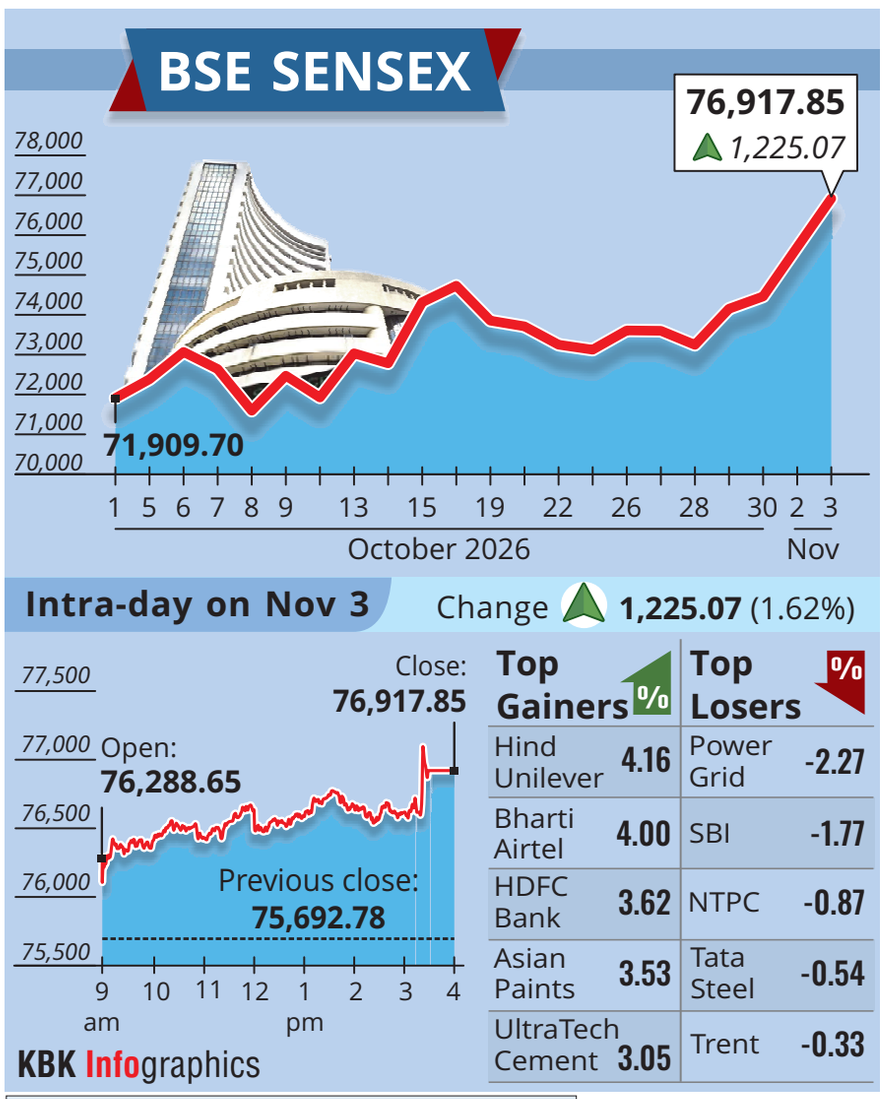
These announcements, though, do not provide a complete picture of the results. The official documentation marking the agreement's first anniversary does not include a consolidated figure for new investment actually disbursed or jobs directly attributable to the deal. Indian government put the increase in Swiss investment in the country at $202 million (181 million euros) between September 2025 and March 2026.

Meanwhile, the European Union, which is not part of EFTA, has also expedited trade talks with the objective of concluding the agreement in December this year during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Brussels.

The article underscores that merchandise trade between India and the EU-27 reached 118 billion euros in 2025. Europe imported 69.5 billion euros worth of Indian goods and exported 48.9 billion euros, resulting in a trade deficit of 20.6 billion euros. That made the EU India's second-largest trading partner in goods, behind the United States and ahead of China which shows the huge potential of strengthening economic ties.

In addition, the stock of European direct investment in India stood at 132.8 billion euros in 2024, with more than 6,000 European companies established in the country directly providing around three million jobs, the article states.

The agreement negotiated with Brussels provides for tariff reductions or eliminations covering 96.6 per cent of European goods exports to India, according to the Commission. It estimates that it could save European exporters around 4 billion euros annually in customs duties once fully implemented. Amid the ongoing tariff battle between Washington and Beijing, this is welcome news, the article points out. (IANS/UNI)



Top Gainers	%	Top Losers	%
Hind Unilever	4.16	Power Grid	-2.27
Bharti Airtel	4.00	SBI	-1.77
HDFC Bank	3.62	NTPC	-0.87
Asian Paints	3.53	Tata Steel	-0.54
UltraTech Cement	3.05	Trent	-0.33

White-collar hiring up 14%

NEW DELHI, NOV 3

India's white-collar hiring rose 14 percent year-on-year in October, led by strong demand for production and manufacturing roles, while hiring for artificial intelligence (AI) skills and senior professionals also remained robust, a report said on Tuesday.

The report from jobs site Naukri said that its JobSpeak index rose to 2,836 for the month, up from 2,480 in October 2025.

It further noted that part of the increase reflected a favourable base effect as Diwali fell in October 2025, weighing on recruitment activity during the corresponding period last year.

The automobile sector recorded the strongest hiring growth at 36 per cent, followed by BPO/ITES at 17 per cent and banking and financial services at 16 per cent. Across industries, hiring for production and manufacturing functions grew 39 per cent, making it one of the fastest-rising job functions.

"Manufacturing companies are building capacity, and demand for AI skills remains strong, indicative of the selective, fundamentals-led nature of hiring demand," said Hitesh Oberoi, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Info Edge (India). (IANS)

Apple posts all-time quarter revenue records in India: CEO

NEW DELHI, NOV 3

Apple has posted an all-time September quarter revenue records in India, delivering its best fiscal year ever for upgraders in the country as well as worldwide, according to Apple CEO John Ternus.

During the earnings call for Apple's fiscal 2026 fourth quarter that ended September 26, Ternus said the company set September quarter records in the Americas, Europe, Greater China, and the rest of Asia-Pacific.

"We also set September quarter revenue records in both developed and emerging markets, in addition to an all-time record in India," said Ternus, adding that the company also



set a September quarter record for upgraders worldwide, as well as in the US, China mainland, and India.

iPhone revenue was $57.6 billion for the September quarter globally, up 17 per cent from a year ago despite supply constraints and foreign exchange headwinds.

"Turning to Apple Pay, we recently launched in India with Axis Bank, bringing a seamless, safe, and secure way to pay in one of the biggest markets in the world. Today, Apple Pay is available in over 90 markets, giving customers around the world peace of mind built into every transaction," said Apple CEO.

Comment on Apple earnings, Tarun Pathak, Research Director at Counterpoint Research, said that one of the highlights of the earnings call was seeing India show up across such a diverse range of data points — record iPhone upgraders, all-time Mac records, an all-time Services record, iPhone ranking among the top-selling models, and the launch of Apple Pay.

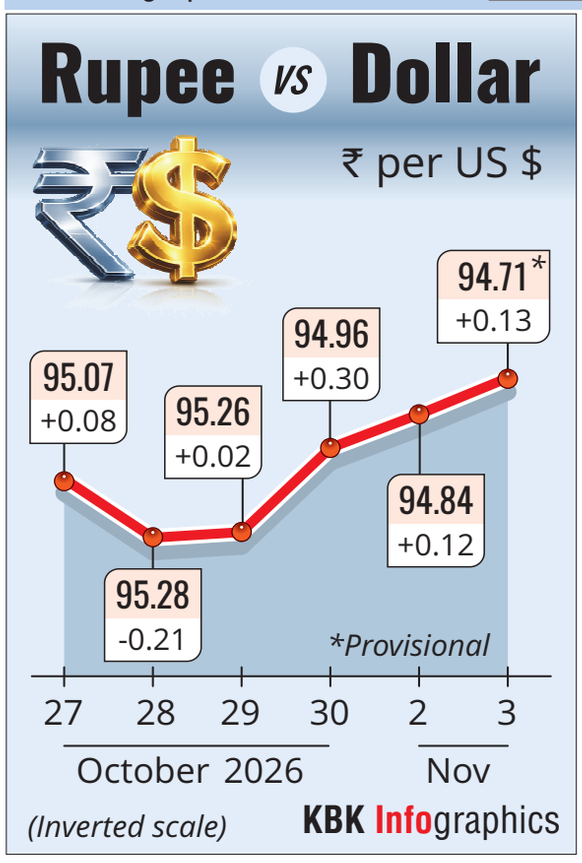
"Consumer aspirations remain Apple's biggest tailwind in India, and easy financing, trade-ins, channel expansion and local manufacturing are turning that aspiration into actual purchases. Even in a tougher smartphone market, users are willing to stretch their budgets for Apple products," Pathak told IANS.

Linde India Q2 profit drops

MUMBAI, NOV 3

The EBITDA margin contracted significantly to 32 per cent from 44 per cent a year earlier, as per its regulatory filing.

Linde India is one of the country's leading industrial and medical gases companies and is part of global industrial gases major Linde plc. The company operates across the gases and engineering segments, supplying industrial, medical and specialty gases to customers across multiple industries. Its gases, related products and services business remains the main revenue contributor, producing and supplying products such as oxygen, nitrogen, argon and nitrous oxide through onsite pipeline systems, bulk cryogenic tankers and cylinder distribution networks. (IANS)



Medical inflation likely to moderate

NEW DELHI, NOV 3

Medical costs in India are expected to rise 10.1 per cent in 2027, moderating from 11.5 per cent in 2026, but healthcare expenses will continue to grow substantially faster than overall inflation, a report said on Tuesday.

The report from professional services firm AON said the net medical trend rate is expected to fall from 7.4 per cent in 2026 to 6.1 per cent in 2027 after adjusting for India's projected inflation rate of about 4 per cent. (IANS)

Disney eyes thousands of job cuts

NEW DELHI, NOV 3

Walt Disney Co. is considering a fresh round of workforce reductions as part of a broader effort to lower expenses with some managers being asked to identify annual cost savings of up to 20 per cent, according to multiple reports.

According to the reports, the decision comes as Chief Executive Officer Josh D'Amaro confronts a range of challenges facing the entertainment giant, including the increasing adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) across the industry, softer box office performance, heightened competition in the streaming market and slower growth in attendance at international theme parks.

The proposed restructuring would not affect all business units equally with some operations expected to shoulder a larger share of the reductions than others. A portion of the savings generated through the initiative is expected to be redirected toward strategic growth areas, including film and television content, technology. (IANS/UNI)

RBI eases export reporting compliance for freelancers, service exporters

NEW DELHI, NOV 3

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has clarified Export Declaration Form (EDF) compliance norms for resident individuals exporting services, saying that they will be deemed to have submitted the EDF once they provide the required payment-related information to their authorised dealer (AD) bank.

The RBI issued the Foreign Exchange Management (Export and Import of Goods and Services) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2026, effective retrospectively from October 1, 2026.

Under the earlier framework notified in September, service exporters were required to furnish an EDF within 30 days from the end of the month in which an invoice was raised. The declaration enabled authorised dealer banks to record export transactions in the RBI's Export Data Processing and Monitoring System (EDPMS) and track receipt of export proceeds.



An exporter providing services to one or more recipients during a month could submit a single EDF covering all such exports. Exporters of services other than software can submit the EDF on or before the date of receipt of payment.

Under FEMA, an EDF is a document that an exporter submits to their AD bank, declaring the services exported and the corresponding payment expected from overseas clients.

The clarification deems that individuals earning income from overseas clients, such as freelancers, YouTubers and independent professionals, need not submit an EDF separately if they provide the required payment-related information to their bank.

The latest amendment notified on November 2 also introduces a definition of a resident individual and clarifies when an EDF will be considered submitted. The RBI has defined a resident individual as a person resident in India who is a natural person.

The amendment provides the same deemed-submission facility to non-resident exporters, when the inward remittance for a service does not exceed Rs 10 lakh.

Authorised dealer banks "shall enter details of import of service in IDPMS, as furnished by the importer who is a person other than a resident individual and where the invoice or the contract value is more than Rs 10 lakh within five working days of receipt of details," the revised provision said. (IANS/UNI)

Jeet Jhabakh wins maiden FIA Asia-Pacific Rally championship title

HYDERABAD, NOV 3



Indian racer Jeet Jhabakh scripted history by winning the 2026 FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship (APRC) title, becoming the first driver in the competition's 38-year history to claim the overall championship in a two-wheel-drive car.

Partnering with co-driver Musa Sherif, Jhabakh also became part of the first all-Indian driver and co-driver combination to win the prestigious continental championship. Sherif further completed a memorable campaign by securing the 2026 APRC Co-drivers' Championship.

The triumph came in Jhabakh's debut international season, with the Hyderabad-based racer finishing the campaign with 73 championship points, 35 clear of his nearest competitor. His consistency proved crucial, as he scored points in every round without suffering a single retirement. (IANS)

Sindhu seeks support for young shuttlers

NEW DELHI, NOV 3



Double Olympic medallist PV Sindhu hits back at criticism she faced over the issue of funding cut that left Indian shuttlers to bear the expenses of their recent European tour, arguing that funding athletes should be viewed as an investment in the country's sporting future rather than an unnecessary burden on the system.

Sindhu's comments come amid a debate over the Sports Authority of India's (SAI) alleged decision not to finance the Indian contingent's four-tournament European campaign, which included competitions in Finland, Denmark, France and Germany.

The issue came into focus after Sindhu and Lakshya Sen won the women's. (IANS)

India-New Zealand ODI Series 2026



Nov 4	1st ODI	Eden Park, Auckland
Nov 7	2nd ODI	Hnry Stadium, Wellington
Nov 10	3rd ODI	Seddon Park, Hamilton
Nov 13	4th ODI	Bay Oval, Mount Maunganui
Nov 15	5th ODI	Bay Oval, Mount Maunganui

Head-to-Head

Matches played: **123**

India won: **63** | No result: **7** | New Zealand won: **52** | Tied: **1**

Highest total India: **397/4** New Zealand: **349/9**

Matches will start at 7:30 am IST

KBK SportsGraphics

AFC Asian Cup postponed until Dec 2027

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV 3



The AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027, slated to begin in January. has been postponed, as the recent attacks in the region caused "substantial logistical complexities and travel disruptions," the Saudi Arabian Football Federation and the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) said on Tuesday.

The tournament, originally scheduled to be held from January 7 to February 5, 2027, will now take place from December 23, 2027, to January 21, 2028, following extensive discussions and close consultation with the Local Organising Committee (LOC) of the AFC Asian Cup Saudi Arabia 2027 and the Saudi Arabian Football Federation (SAFF). (IANS)

Manu Bhaker to contest for ISSF Athletes Committee

NEW DELHI, NOV 3



India's double Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker is set to contest the elections for the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Athletes Committee for the 2026–2030 term, having been nominated as a candidate in the Pistol category.

The election will take place during the competition days of the ISSF World Championship 300m Rifle in Cairo, from October 17–19 and the ISSF World Championship Rifle/Pistol/Shotgun in Doha, from November 3–13 .

All athletes who are at least 18 years old and actively participating as athletes at either of these World Championships will be eligible to vote. Each eligible athlete can vote for a maximum of two candidates in each discipline, with a total of six candidates across the three categories.

Manu, one of 10 candidates vying for two elected positions in the discipline. (IANS/UNI)

Maxwell announces retirement from intl cricket

NEW DELHI, NOV 3



Australia's explosive all-rounder Glenn Maxwell announced his retirement from international cricket on Monday, bringing the curtain down on a career spanning more than a decade across all three formats.

According to ESPNcricinfo, Maxwell, who represented Australia in 286 international matches, scored 7,226 runs and claimed 136 wickets during his career. Nicknamed 'The Big Show', the 38-year-old was a key member of Australia's successful campaigns in the 2015 and 2023 ODI World Cups and the 2021 T20 World Cup.

After making his International debut in an ODI against Afghanistan in 2012, Maxwell went onto become one of the most destructive white-ball batters of his generation, known for his unorthodox stroke-play, power-hitting and how he can change the course of a game. (IANS)

ENTERTAINMENT



M.A.SALAM
Film Journalist

Tusshar Kapoor receives Rs 5 crore extortion threat



Bollywood actor Tusshar Kapoor has received an extortion call from a person identifying himself as Harry Boxer, said to be a member of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang. He purportedly threatened the actor to pay Rs 5 crore, following which the actor reported the matter to Mumbai Police. The Anti-Extortion Cell and the Crime Branch have taken up investigation into the matter.

According to Mumbai Police sources, the Crime Branch's technical team conducted a detailed examination of the audio recording of the threatening call received by Tusshar Kapoor. The police compared the voice in the recording with an official audio sample of Harry Boxer available in their database.

According to senior Mumbai Police officials, preliminary investigations suggest that the call was a hoax, as the voice did not match the available audio sample. Police suspect that some miscreant may have used the name of the Bishnoi gang to create fear and extort money from the actor.

The police are now trying to trace the person behind the audio threat and ascertain whether it was an isolated act by a miscreant or whether an organised gang was involved in the incident.

Tusshar Kapoor belongs to a prominent family in the film industry. He is the son of veteran actor Jeetendra and producer Shobha Kapoor, while his elder sister, Ekta Kapoor, is a renowned television and film producer.

Tusshar made his acting debut with films such as 'Mujhe Kucch Kehna Hai', 'Kyaa Dil Ne Kaha' and 'Jeena Sirf Merre Liye'. However, he gained wider recognition through comedy films, particularly the 'Kyaa Kool Hain Hum' series and the 'Golmaal' franchise, which includes 'Golmaal', 'Golmaal Returns' and 'Golmaal 3'.

He also received appreciation for his performance in the critically acclaimed film 'Shor in the City', in which he explored a more serious role.

Also, eight bullion traders in the Sarafa Bazar area of Nagpur are said to have received threatening letters demanding Rs 10 lakh each in the name of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, with police suspecting the role of local criminals. The senders have also threatened to kill the traders and their family members, if they fail to pay the money or inform the police.

Music always been an integral part: Emraan Hashmi



Bollywood star Emraan Hashmi, who returns to the horror genre with "Rooh", has talked about how music plays an integral part for the audience to connect with his films.

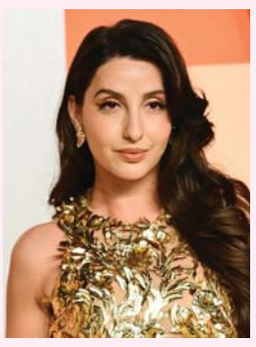
Speaking about the film's musical vision, Emraan said in a statement: "Collaborating with Kumarji on this film feels serendipitous. Music has always been an integral part of how audiences connect with my films."

"With ROOH, we want music that captures the soul of the film, which is deeply romantic, haunting and rooted by emotion."

Kumar Taurani of Tips Films and Tips Music joins hands with Emraan to produce ROOH, a musical horror film that places emotion at the heart of its cinematic vision.

Kumar Taurani added: "The association with Emraan is special, as we were also the producers on his debut film Footpath. Over the years, we have had many memorable successes across several films and with Rooh we are excited to recreate that magic once again. I am also excited to collaborate with Sunny Khanna and Vikram Khakhar on this project and we look forward to bringing the compelling experience of a theatrical film back to the audiences."

Nora Fatehi was summoned as a witness in Sukesh case



Actress Nora Fatehi's legal team has clarified that she is not an accused in the case involving alleged conman Sukesh Chandrashekhar and was summoned by the court only in the capacity of a witness.

The statement follows the November 2 hearing of the Economic Offences Wing (EOW) case at Delhi's Rouse Avenue Court, where Nora was summoned to appear as a witness and assist in the proceedings.

The case involving Sukesh Chandrashekhar was taken up at the Rouse Avenue Court in Delhi on November 2, where Nora had been summoned to appear as a witness. However, her lawyers informed the court that she could not attend due to prior professional commitments and the short notice of the summons. An exemption application was subsequently filed, following which the court adjourned the matter to November 6, and issued a fresh summons for her appearance.

'The Royals' returns for season 2



The royal family of Morpur is set to return as the second season of Netflix's romantic drama series 'The Royals' has officially gone on floors.

The upcoming season will see Ishaan Khatter, Zeenat Aman, Sakshi Tanwar, Vihaan Samat, and Kavya Trehan reprising their respective roles.

Speaking about the new season, Creators Rangita Pritish Nandy and Ishita Pritish Nandy shared, "Morpur has clearly found a place in the hearts of audiences far beyond its palace walls, and we couldn't be happier. The love audiences have shown The Royals, in India and across the world, has made our journey with the show all the more special. We're excited to return to this world of larger-than-life characters, complicated relationships and a family that never runs short of surprises."

The first season offered a contemporary and glamorous take on Indian royalty.

Nicolas Cage says he is 'little bit homeless'



Hollywood star Nicolas Cage seems to have run into an accommodation problem. The actor has said that he doesn't have a place to call home after a sinkhole formed outside his home in Malibu.

The actor recently attended a panel at the Los Angeles Comic Con where he spoke about his predicament. He said, "I'm currently a little bit homeless. Something happened to my house in Malibu, so I'm just sort of living in hotels".

He also shared that his living situation affected his Halloween plans with his 4-year-old daughter.

CM Revanth directs officials to expedite Thummidihatti barrage talks

TG ready to pay compensation for land submergence

TFP I ABDUL RAHMAN KHAN
HYDERABAD, NOV 3

Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed irrigation officials to maintain regular consultations with Maharashtra over the proposed Thummidihatti barrage and be prepared with complete details of the land likely to be submerged.

At a review meeting held at his Jubilee Hills residence with Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy and senior officials, the Chief Minister instructed the department to submit copies of existing agreements and other relevant documents to the Maharashtra government. He also reviewed the recent discussions held with Maharashtra and gave officials further directions.



Revanth Reddy said Telangana was ready to pay appropriate compensation for land that would be submerged in Maharashtra and would deposit the required funds in a joint account. He said the state had no objection to Maharashtra conducting its own survey of the land likely to be affected.

The Chief Minister directed officials to provide Maharashtra's authorities with all required information promptly and maintain continuous coordination to move the project forward. Irrigation Advisor Adityanath Das, Irrigation Secretary Sridhar, Irrigation Engineer-in-Chief (General) Ramesh and other senior officials attended the meeting.

Dy CM calls for effective utilisation of Central funds



Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka chaired review meeting with department heads and senior officials at Secretariat.

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
HYDERABAD, NOV 3

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka on Tuesday directed officials to ensure effective implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) in Telangana and maximise the utilisation of funds allocated by the Centre to deliver tangible benefits to people.

Chairing a review meeting with department heads and senior officials at the Dr B R Ambedkar Telangana Secretariat, he stressed the need to maximise the flow of Central funds and ensure that allocated resources were utilised efficiently.

He pointed out that the State government contributes 40 per cent of the funding under these schemes and called for close monitoring of both expenditure and outcomes.

He directed officials to make effective use of Liaison Officers at Telangana Bhavan in New Delhi to coordinate with the Central government, expedite fund releases and follow up on pending matters raised by the Chief Minister and Deputy Chief Minister with union Ministers.

Bhatti Vikramarka also stressed the need to utilise Central programmes such as the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment and resolve technical and administrative hurdles.

He asked the Irrigation, Urban Development, Transport, Agriculture and Health departments to focus on effective implementation of Central schemes to secure continued support and additional funding.

Principal Secretary (Finance) Sandeep Kumar Sultania informed the meeting that the State's share of funds under Centrally Sponsored Schemes was being released on time and several pending issues had been resolved.

Secretary (Planning) Gaurav Uppal and Sultania briefed the Deputy Chief Minister on the progress of various schemes and fund utilisation by departments, according to an official statement.

Shabbir Ali challenges Amit Shah's 3 crore infiltrators claim

Questions BJP's 12-year control over Home Ministry, demands accountability

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
HYDERABAD, NOV 3

Advisor to the Telangana Government and senior Congress leader Mohammed Ali Shabbir on Tuesday challenged Union Home Minister Amit Shah to substantiate his claim that nearly three crore people identified during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls were alleged infiltrators, mostly Bangladeshis. He demanded documentary evidence and questioned the BJP-led Central Government's accountability for border security after controlling the Union Home Ministry for over 12 years.

Reacting to Amit Shah's remarks, Shabbir Ali demanded that the Centre disclose how these individuals were identified as infiltrators, the supporting evidence and action taken against them.

"If Amit Shah claims that three crore infiltrators were found on India's electoral rolls, let him produce the evidence. Who are these people? How did they enter India, obtain identity documents and register themselves as voters?



Mohammed Ali Shabbir

These questions cannot be answered through political speeches," he said.

Shabbir Ali pointed out that the BJP had controlled the Union Home Ministry continuously since May 2014, first under Rajnath Singh (2014–2019) and subsequently under Amit Shah, who assumed charge in May 2019. He said the BJP could not evade responsibility for border security, intelligence and internal security after more than 12 years in power.

"If these infiltrators entered during the BJP's tenure, it represents a massive failure of the Centre's security arrangements. If they entered before 2014, why were they not identified despite 12 years of BJP rule? Rajnath Singh headed the ministry for five years and Amit Shah for over seven years. What were the intelligence agencies and border security forces doing all these years?" he asked.

Shabbir Ali also questioned the contradiction between Amit Shah's claims and the Election Commission's earlier statements. He recalled that Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar had failed to provide any specific figure for alleged infiltrators identified during the Bihar SIR, despite repeated questions from journalists. Moreover, a subsequent investigation reported that the Election Commission's own software had no provision to classify deleted voters as foreign nationals. "When the Election Commission itself has not disclosed how many infiltrators were identified, on what basis is Amit Shah claiming that three crore infiltrators were removed? Has the Home Ministry conducted a separate investigation, or is the Home Minister presenting political allegations as established facts?" he asked.

Woman hacked to death over land dispute

TFP | AHAD SIDDIQUI
MAHBUBNAGAR, NOV 3

A 26-year-old woman, Katravath Sunitha, was allegedly hacked to death by her relatives over a 1.5-acre agricultural land dispute at Chintal Thanda in Koilkonda mandal of Mahbubnagar district on Monday night.

According to Circle Inspector Gandhi Naik, Sunitha's maternal uncle had reportedly registered the land in her name instead of her husband's, citing her husband's mental health condition.

Police suspect the involvement of her brother-in-law Manya Naik, Pandu Naik, Parvathi and her maternal uncle in the murder.

BRS demands lifting of Godavari water from Medigadda

Says 85 pillars of Medigadda barrage remain intact

TFP I MLN MURTHY
J. BHUPALPALLY, NOV 3

Former Minister and Balkonda MLA Vemula Prashanth Reddy has alleged that the Congress government is spreading false claims that the Medigadda barrage has collapsed. He inspected the flow of Godavari water at Medigadda along with other BRS leaders and reviewed the condition of the barrage.

Prashanth Reddy claimed that 85 pillars of the barrage remained intact and had withstood heavy floods over the past three monsoons. He alleged that the government was portraying the entire barrage as damaged instead of undertaking repairs to the two or three pillars that required attention.



He said nearly two TMC of water was flowing downstream from Medigadda every day and urged the government to operate the pumps at Kannepalli to lift the water and fill the SRSP, Nizamsagar, Mid Manair, Mallanna Sagar, Konda Pochamma and Ranganayaka Sagar reservoirs. He criticised the government for failing to respond while crops were drying up due to inadequate irrigation. He warned that BRS would launch a farmers' agitation under the leadership of K.T. Rama Rao if irrigation water was not released.

Former Manthani MLA Putt Madhukar alleged that efforts were being made to weaken the Medigadda barrage to divert water to Andhra Pradesh under the influence of Chandrababu Naidu. He said the lack of water storage at the barrage had affected groundwater levels and urged the government to take steps to protect the barrages.

Former RTC chairman Bajireddy Goverdhan said the available water at Medigadda could help ease the state's irrigation problems to some extent. He alleged that the government lacked commitment to supporting farmers.

The BRS leaders warned that they would organise statewide protests in support of farmers if the government failed to provide irrigation water.

Those who visited the barrage included former MLAs Bajireddy Goverdhan, Ganesh Gupta, Jeevan Reddy, Gampa Goverdhan, Hanmanth Shinde, Jajala Surender and Putt Madhukar, former Urdu Academy chairman Mujeebuddin, and Vitthal Rao, among others. Police stopped the leaders from taking vehicles onto the barrage, leading to a brief argument between them and the police.

Farmers should adopt crop diversification & integrated farming: Agriculture Minister

TFP I SAUD SIDDIQUI
HYDERABAD, NOV 3

Telangana Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao on Tuesday advised farmers not to depend on a single crop and instead adopt crop diversification and integrated farming practices, including dairy, fisheries and poultry, to ensure regular income and make agriculture more profitable.



Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao addresses 113th episode of 'Rythu Nestham' programme at Secretariat.

Addressing the 113th episode of the 'Rythu Nestham' programme, the Minister stressed the need for advance planning to tackle climate change and the possible impact of El Niño during the upcoming Yasangi (Rabi) season.

He advised farmers to prioritise millets and fodder crops that require less water and exercise caution while taking up water-intensive crops.

During the programme, C H Naveen Kumar, a former Army Major turned natural farmer from Vaddepalli village in Nizamabad district, shared his success story of integrated farming on 15 acres.

Besides cultivating paddy and vegetables, he undertakes dairy farming, poultry and fisheries, and produces organic manure and natural agricultural inputs. Tummala appreciated his efforts and urged other farmers to follow similar models suited to their soil, water availability and climatic conditions.

In view of the impact of Cyclone Murasu, the Minister directed officials to alert farmers and advised them to temporarily postpone harvesting to prevent crop losses. He also stressed the importance of micro-irrigation methods such as drip and sprinkler systems to conserve water.

The Minister further emphasised farmers' safety while handling pesticides and advised them to use chemicals only at recommended dosages and wear protective equipment during spraying. Protective kits were distributed through Rythu Vedikas across the State.

Agricultural Production Commissioner and Agriculture Secretary K. Surendramohan, Agriculture Director B. Gopi, RTC Managing Director Nagireddy and other officials attended the programme.

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