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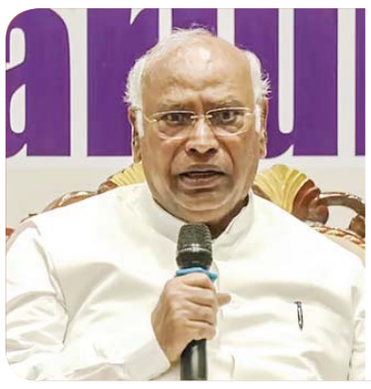
THE FREEDOM PRESS

THURSDAY
5 NOVEMBER 2026
VOL: 11 I ISSUE: 302
PAGES 12
PRICE: ₹6
HYDERABAD

Simultaneously Published from HYDERABAD & NEW DELHI

ENGLISH DAILY

Honest Journalism...



PM MODI PARROTING HIS FLOP LINE OF DIMAAGI NAXAL; HAS NO ANSWER ON VOTE CHORI: KHARGE

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CABINET CLEARS EXPANSION OF FAST TRACK SPECIAL COURTS

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1ST ODI: KOHLI'S 74 POWERS INDIA TO 5-WICKET WIN OVER NZ

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24 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

WORLD ▶ P8



EUROPEAN SUPERMARKET FRIDGES GOT HACKED

Republicans lost US midterm elections

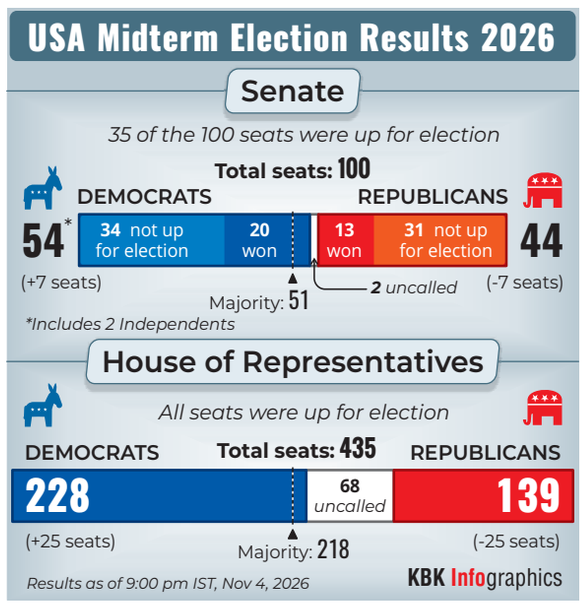
WASHINGTON, NOV 4

US Vice President J D Vance said on Wednesday that the war with Iran was the main reason Republicans lost the midterm elections, arguing that voters who supported Donald Trump in 2024 turned against his party despite turning out to vote.

In a lengthy post on X, Vance offered an unusually direct assessment of Tuesday's defeat, saying internal Republican data had initially suggested that the party's supporters were voting in sufficient numbers to avoid a sweeping setback.

"But the main problem is not turnout. The main problem is that many people who voted for Trump/Vance in 2024 voted for Democrats in 2026," he wrote.

Vance said Republican analysts had closely monitored the "composition" of the electorate, comparing it with the coalition that elected Trump and Vance two years earlier. In some states, turnout looked ordinary; in others, he said, it was exceptionally strong.



But an unnamed data analyst had cautioned that turnout would not necessarily translate into Republican votes. Vance recalled being told: "Our voters are turning out, but they may not vote for us."

The Vice President said a pollster he respected had warned him before the election that Republicans could lose the national generic congressional ballot by 13 percentage points. That pollster, he said, asked disaffected 2024 Trump voters what would bring them back.

The four leading responses, according to Vance, were to end the war, address the cost of living and inflation, put America first, and change Washington's relationship with Israel.

"Our voters showed up. And the above four reasons are why many of them voted for Democrats," he said.

He acknowledged criticism that the Republican campaign had failed to sharpen its economic message in the closing weeks, but insisted that the central cause of defeat was clear. (IANS/UNI)

Abdul El-Sayed triumphs in Michigan

Becomes first Muslim US Senator

WASHINGTON, NOV 4

Egyptian American Democrat and former public health official, Abdul El-Sayed on Wednesday scripted history by becoming the first Muslim elected to the US Senate following his triumph against Republican Mike Rogers in the race for a Senate seat in Michigan. El-Sayed also became the first Democratic doctor in the Senate since 1969.

In a speech at his election headquarters in Detroit, El-Sayed, the son of Egyptian immigrants, said, "Michigan, we did it! I am so proud and honoured to stand here as your Senator-elect from the great state of Michigan".

El-Sayed, a former public health official



Abdul El-Sayed

who has never held elected office, secured a seat in the US Senate after facing a double-digit defeat in Michigan's Democratic gubernatorial primary in 2018.

The Michigan doctor secured a win in the Michigan contest despite a last-minute hiccup in his campaign when Congresswoman Haley Stevens, who lost the Democratic primary to El-Sayed, came out in support of Rogers at the 11th hour.

El Sayed's campaign was built around universal health care, removing outside money from polls and criticising Israel, several reports cited.

"You deserve to be able to see a doctor without getting a huge bill", El-Sayed said while addressing people of Michigan on the eve of the vote. He pledged to upend the US' divisive multi-billion-dollar for-profit medical system and get "money out of politics" besides vowing to address the economic problems faced by the people. (IANS)

'Agniveers' to have option to serve for another 2 years

NEW DELHI, NOV 4

The Centre has introduced a major change to the 'Agnipath' scheme by announcing a second two-year service term option for Agniveers after they complete their initial four years of service.

The Union Cabinet decision was announced by the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General N.S. Raja Subramani during a press conference on Wednesday.

He said that while 25 percent of Agniveers will be inducted into the Indian Armed Forces as regular soldiers, the remaining 75 per cent will be given the opportunity to serve for an additional two years and will then be given an opportunity to serve as regular soldiers in the Army, provided that they are willing and meet the required criteria.

"75 per cent of Agniveers will be offered a second engagement period of two years. After completing those two years, all Agniveers will be given an opportunity to become regular soldiers in the Indian Armed Forces. There are two conditions: they must be willing to join, and they must meet the prescribed selection criteria," the CDS said.

This decision will allow those Agniveers who are not selected as regular soldiers after completing four years of service to continue serving in the armed forces. After the additional two-year period, there will also be a provision for their regularisation in the military.

Notably, the first batch of Agniveers is completing its service this month. (IANS)



Cabinet approves Rs 4,371 crore VISTAR scheme

NEW DELHI, NOV 4

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved the 'Viksit Bharat Initiative for Statistical Transformation, Analytics & Research (VISTAR)' Scheme for the period FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31 with an outlay of Rs 4,371.10 crore.



Aligned with the central objective of Viksit Bharat 2047, the VISTAR Scheme is designed to establish a dynamic, real-time, and future-ready official statistical architecture for enhanced timeliness, data granularity, and interoperability with harmonised and AI-ready datasets, according to an official statement.

The VISTAR scheme will provide the strategic flexibility to dynamically allocate resources based on immediate policy needs, fostering a holistic approach to large-scale survey execution, methodological research, digital transformation, and national data governance. The scheme will encompass all statistical and data management activities of MoSPI, and it will play a crucial role in upgrading the official statistical system of the country. The three components of the VISTAR scheme include Comprehensive Statistical Operations and Strengthening of Ecosystem, Support for Statistical Strengthening (SSS), and Economic Census (EC).

Under the Comprehensive Statistical Operations and Strengthening of Ecosystem component, MoSPI proposes conducting 59 surveys during the 16th FC cycle, as compared to 43 major surveys conducted previously, potentially filling up critical data gaps in various sectors, thereby, improving decision-making and enabling timely and targeted policy interventions. In addition, building on recent digital transformations in technology-enabled data collection and user-centric dissemination, MoSPI will focus on the end-to-end digitalisation of statistical processes and embedding Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning into regular workflows, primarily for data processing, validation, and analysis.

The MoSPI is planning to release new metrics, including the Headline Index of Services Production and the Index of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises. (IANS/UNI)

CARTOON CAROUSEL



Khamenei warns of wider regional response if US resumes attacks on Iran

TEHRAN, NOV 4

Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei on Wednesday warned that any renewed US military attack on Iran would trigger a much wider regional response, asserting that those expecting a change in Washington's policy following political developments in the United States were "seriously mistaken".

In a written message marking Iran's National Day of Fighting Global Arrogance, observed on November 4 to commemorate the 1979 seizure of the US Embassy in Tehran, Khamenei said neither changes in American political leadership nor concessions by Tehran would persuade Washington to abandon its hostility towards Iran.



Mojtaba Khamenei

"Those who still harbour even the slightest hope for a change in behaviour through political or partisan shifts in the system of domination, or imagine that making concessions to America can dissuade it from hostility towards the Iranian nation, are seriously mistaken," he said.

His remarks came hours after US President Donald Trump's Republican Party suffered losses in the midterm elections, with Democrats gaining control of Congress.

Khamenei said Washington's ultimate objective is the "unconditional surrender of the Iranian nation", warning that any willingness to compromise would encourage further American demands and military aggression.

"Even the slightest submissive inclination towards the domineering enemy will squander the great capital acquired through the blood of martyrs and the sacrifices of all sections of the nation, and will embolden the arrogant enemy to make further excessive demands and commit further acts of aggression and war," he said.

He described these actions as an "initial jihad against global arrogance on a regional scale", warning that "in the event of a repetition of these aggressions, their dimensions will become much wider". (IANS/UNI)

Woman RTC conductor dies after being pushed from moving bus

TFP I RAMARAJU
B. KOTHAGUDEM, NOV 4

A woman conductor of Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC), who was critically injured after allegedly being pushed out of a moving bus during an altercation over fare and change, has died at a hospital in Hyderabad.



Gundla Pravalika (24) breathed her last at a private hospital late on Tuesday, where she had been undergoing treatment for 10 days.

The conductor, who was serving at Manuguru depot of TGSRTC in Bhadradri Kothagudem district, had suffered critical injuries after falling under the rear wheels of the bus near Mittagudem village on October 25.

A woman passenger, identified as Mounika, had allegedly pushed out Pravalika from the moving bus following an argument over ticket fare for the latter's son and the return of change. As the passenger had handed over a Rs 100 note, the conductor had asked her to collect the remaining amount later as she did not have change. During a heated argument, the passenger allegedly pushed Pravalika out of the moving bus. She fell on the road, and the rear wheels ran over her right leg, crushing it. Her left leg also sustained serious injuries.

She was initially shifted to a hospital in Bhadrachalam and later brought to Hyderabad for advanced treatment.

The state government has announced Rs 10 lakh ex gratia for the family of Pravalika. It also announced that the family will be allotted a house under the 'Indiramma Indlu' scheme. The deceased's mother will also be provided with a government job.

Police took the accused passenger into custody and registered a case.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has expressed grief over the death of the conductor. He conveyed his heartfelt condolences to her family. The Chief Minister assured the family that the government will stand by them and extend every possible assistance.

Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar expressed shock and grief. The minister, who had called on the injured conductor a few days ago, conveyed his condolences to her family and assured them that the government and TGSRTC would stand by them. He also said strict action was being taken against those responsible for the incident.

The state government has announced Rs 10 lakh ex gratia for the family of Pravalika. It also announced that the family will be allotted a house under the 'Indiramma Indlu' scheme. The deceased's mother will also be provided with a government job.

Meanwhile, a bandh was observed by TGSRTC employees across the undivided Khammam district on Wednesday. Buses went off the roads following an appeal given by the Joint Action Committee of the employees.

TGSRC employees staged a protest at various places, demanding stringent punishment for the passenger responsible for the conductor's death.

Legislative Council Chairman calls for coordinated action to tackle El Niño

Officials told to prepare action plans for drinking water, agriculture and livestock

TFP I ANIL YADAV
NALGONDA, NOV 4



State Legislative Council Chairman Gutha Sukhender Reddy has called upon officials and public representatives to work together to ensure that people do not face hardships due to the possible impact of El Niño. He stressed the need for adequate arrangements for drinking water, agriculture, electricity, livestock, groundwater conservation and rural employment.

Addressing a constituency-level awareness seminar on El Niño at Srinivasa Gardens in Nakrekal on Wednesday, he directed officials to take preventive measures and create awareness among farmers about cultivating suitable alternative crops and using water and electricity judiciously. In view of the Marasu cyclone, he instructed the District Collector to ensure the immediate procurement of paddy lying in procurement centres to prevent damage from rain. He also called for measures to promote fine-quality paddy cultivation and encourage rice millers to procure the produce.

MP Chamala Kiran Kumar Reddy said borewells were drying up and the situation could worsen from December to January. He advised farmers to avoid paddy cultivation during the Yasangi season and urged officials to take up groundwater conservation and farmer-friendly works under VB-G RAM G.

Government Whip and Nakrekal MLA Vemula Veeresham said the state government was prepared to address drinking water, fodder and electricity requirements. He stressed coordination between officials and public representatives and said irrigation projects, including the Pillayipally and Dharmareddy canals, were being completed to improve water availability.

District Collector B. Chandrasekhar urged people to conserve water and directed officials to promote rainwater harvesting, soak pits, seepage ponds and alternative crops. He announced that a control room had been established at the District Collectorate to address El Niño-related issues, with toll-free number 18004251442.

Bandi Sanjay to pay SSC exam fees for 10,959 Govt school students

TFP I PRAMOD KUMAR
KARIMNAGAR, NOV 4



Bandi Sanjay Kumar

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar has decided to bear the SSC examination fees of all 10,959 Class X students studying in government schools across the Karimnagar parliamentary constituency for the current academic year.

The decision follows a representation submitted by Telangana Government Teachers' Association (TAPAS) Karimnagar district president Annapuneni Tirupati Rao and general secretary Jarathi Narsaiah, who met the union minister five days ago and requested him to extend the support provided last year.

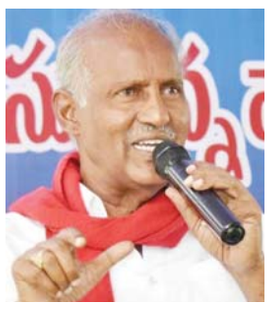
Responding positively, Bandi Sanjay assured them that he would personally pay the examination fees and has communicated his decision to the District Educational Officers (DEOs) concerned.

Of the total beneficiaries, 3,920 students are from Rajanna Sircilla district, 4,356 from Karimnagar, 1,087 from Jagtial, 1,133 from Siddipet and 463 from Hanamkonda district.

The teachers' representatives appreciated the Minister's initiatives to strengthen government schools through infrastructure development, including additional classrooms and toilets with CSR support, and the free distribution of branded bicycles to Class X students.

CPI MLA demands comprehensive drought relief package for farmers

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
HYDERABAD, NOV 4



Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao

Telangana CPI Secretary and MLA Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao on Wednesday demanded that the Telangana government announce a comprehensive drought relief package, alleging that farmers across the State were facing a severe crisis due to crop losses and the failure of rains.

Addressing a press conference at Makhdoom Bhavan here, Kunamneni said Agriculture Department estimates indicated that crops had been damaged across 12.5 lakh acres, while farmers in many other areas could not take up cultivation. He criticised the Centre for its alleged negligence and urged the State government to lead an all-party delegation to Delhi to seek immediate assistance.

He demanded compensation of Rs.30,000 per acre for paddy and Rs.50,000 for commercial crops, including cotton, besides Rs.10,000 per acre for farmers who could not sow crops due to drought. He also sought monthly financial assistance of Rs.10,000 for five to six months to poor families who had lost their livelihoods, along with the distribution of food grains, cattle fodder and essential commodities through fair-price shops.

Kunamneni said CPI teams had been visiting drought-affected districts since November 2 to assess the situation and alleged that representatives of the Central and State governments had failed to conduct field-level assessments. He demanded the immediate release of the Rs.25,000 crore drought relief sought by the State from the Centre and called for the introduction of a crop insurance scheme to protect farmers.

He also questioned Union Home Minister Amit Shah's silence on Telangana's drought situation during his visit to the State, saying the Centre should focus on farmers' problems instead of politically motivated marches.

Kunamneni further demanded Rs 1 crore compensation for the family of the deceased RTC woman employee and accountability from those responsible for alleged lapses in her medical treatment.

ACB catches Adilabad SI accepting Rs.40,000 bribe

ADILABAD, NOV 4

The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Wednesday caught Sub-Inspector G. Ramesh of Bazarhathnoor Police Station in Adilabad district while accepting a bribe of Rs.40,000 from a complainant in exchange for official favour.

According to the ACB, the SI had initially demanded Rs.50,000 and later reduced it to Rs.40,000 to avoid implicating the complainant in a case registered under Section 194 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) in connection with the suspected suicide of an unmarried woman.

He had also allegedly demanded money for returning the complainant's mobile phone, which was in his custody.

The SI reportedly directed the complainant to place the money beneath centering boxes near an under-construction petrol bunk on the outskirts of a village.

Following the payment, the ACB conducted a trap and caught the officer.

The accused was arrested and will be produced before the Special Judge for SPE and ACB Cases in Karimnagar for judicial remand.

The case is under investigation. (NSS)

Banks asked to restructure crop loans of drought-hit farmers in Sangareddy

TFP I HAJI ALI
SANGAREDDY, NOV 4



Sangareddy Collectorate Administrative Officer Vijayalakshmi and Lead District Bank Manager T. Sudheer Kumar have directed bank officials to take necessary steps to restructure crop loans of eligible farmers in drought-affected areas to provide financial relief and support the revival of agriculture and allied sectors.

A special District Consultative Committee (DCC)/DLRLC meeting was held at the District Collectorate on Wednesday to review drought relief measures under Kharif-2026. The meeting discussed restructuring crop loans, extending repayment periods and providing temporary repayment moratoriums to eligible farmers in accordance with RBI guidelines and respective banks' policies.

Vijayalakshmi stressed the need to identify eligible farmers, maintain accurate records and ensure timely implementation of relief measures. Sudheer Kumar said banks had disbursed Rs. 2,520.18 crore in crop loans through 1,20,065 accounts between April and September 2026.

He said all 28 mandals in the district had been declared drought-affected, including two severely affected and 26 moderately affected mandals. He clarified that crop loan restructuring was only a repayment relief measure and should not be mistaken for a loan waiver scheme.

RBI Lead District Officer V. Pradeep Chandra, NABARD AGM Krishna Teja, Agriculture Department Additional Deputy Director B. Sridevi, bank representatives and officials from concerned departments attended the meeting.

Two monitor lizards rescued from alleged wildlife traffickers

TFP I NIRANJAN RAO
SANGAREDDY, NOV 3

Two monitor lizards allegedly being trafficked for meat were rescued by the Telangana Forest Department in Sangareddy district following a joint effort with People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India, the organisation said on Tuesday.

Acting on information provided by a traveller about an injured monitor lizard reportedly being sold for meat along the highway near Sadashivpet, PETA India alerted the Sangareddy Forest Division.

After several days of surveillance, forest officials apprehended two persons allegedly in possession of the reptiles and seized the two monitor lizards.

The Forest Division registered a Preliminary Offence Report (POR No. 1694/68) under various provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, including Sections 9, 11, 12, 38J, 39, 40, 50 and 51A.

Suryapet Collector, SP inspect SWC warehouse

TFP I VENKAT REDDY
SURYAPET, NOV 4



Suryapet District Collector Tejas Nand Lal Pawar, IAS has directed officials to ensure proper storage and maintenance of rice stocks, stressing that there should be no compromise on the quality of rice supplied to poor families under the Public Distribution System (PDS).

On Wednesday, the Collector, accompanied by District Superintendent of Police K. Narasimha, IPS inspected the State Warehousing Corporation (SWC) warehouse at Balajinagar near Kodad. They examined rice stocks, storage facilities and maintenance arrangements. The Collector checked stock registers and collected rice samples for quality testing. Officials informed him that the test results were satisfactory.

He instructed the warehouse manager and technical assistants to follow safety standards, maintain accurate stock records and strictly implement the First In, First Out (FIFO) system.

During the visit, the Collector interacted with warehouse workers (hamalis) and addressed their request for labour cards. He directed the Labour Department to take steps to issue cards to workers at all six buffer warehouses in the district and assured them that their other grievances would also be examined.

CYBERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
Executive Engineer-II,Quthbullapur Zone
'e' Procurement Notice

NIT No. 35/EE-56/QBZ/CMC/2026-27, & NIT No.27/EE-60/QBZ/CMC/2026-27 Dt:03-11-2026 published on 'e' procurement platform.
The details can be seen by logging @ https://tender.eprocurement. gov.in. The date of events is detailed below:

Nit No.	Name of the Work	Estimate Amount in lakhs	Bid Document Download Start Date & Time / Bid Submission Closing Date & Time	Name & Address officer Ceil. No.
NIT No.35/EE-56/QBZ/CMC/ 2026-27, Dt. 03-11-2026	Chath puja arrangements – 1 work	5.50	06-11-2026 02.00 PM to 09-11-2026 02.00 PM	Executive Engineer-II, Quthbullapur Cell No. 7995468066 7331181426 7337557259
NIT No.27 /EE-60/QBZ/CMC/ 2026-27, Dt.03-11-2026	Construction of compound wall and others – 1work	8.50	06-11-2026 02.00 PM to 13-11-2026 02.00 PM	

Address of the officer concerned Sri. Subramanya SVRNRD, Executive Engineer-II, 56-Kompally, 59 & 60-Medchal, Quthbullapur Zone, CMC.
Further details can be seen at e-Procurement @ https://tender.telangana.gov.in

Sd/- Executive Engineer-II, QBZ,CMC.

DIPR - R.O. No. : 13122-PP/CL/ADVT/2026-27

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, DIVN. NO. 28, CHARMINAR ZONE

Short Tender Notice No.42/EE/Div-28/GHMC/2026-27, **Dated:04.11.2026**

Nit No.	Description of the work	Estimate Amount	Star Date / Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids	Name & Address Officer Cell no
Short Tender Notice No.42/ EE.Div. No.28/ GHMC/26-27 Dated: 04.11.2026	Maintenance works (02) No.	Rs.2.10 L	Starting Date **04.11.2026, @ 05.00 PM** Last date & Time of Receipts of **07.11.2026 05.00 PM**	Smt. R. Indira Bai 9963025505

Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER DIV.28, CRZ, GHMC.

DIPR - R.O. No. : 13103-PP/CL/ADVT/2026-27

LOST OF ID CARD

This is to bring to the notice of general public that one ID CARD no. 2643223 of Ms. Neerudi.Sravani issued by ICICI bank has been found missing and/or lost on 16th September 2026. Anyone who finds the said ID CARD is requested to return the card to the manager debt services and management group, ICICI Bank Ltd Hyd therefore all the customers of ICICI bank Ltd are hereby notified not make any unauthorized person holding the said ID card no. 2643223. Please take further notice that anybody making payment to any person holding the said ID card shall do so at This/her own costs. Risk and peril and ICICI bank shall not be bound and any payment.
M/S LAL ASSOCIATES
YELLAREDDY GUDA HYDERABAD

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Ponguleti calls for Diwali celebrations in 2.21 lakh completed Indiramma houses

TFP I RAVI KUMAR
MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI, NOV 4

Revenue, Housing and Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy has called for Diwali celebrations in every completed Indiramma house across Telangana, urging beneficiaries, public representatives and officials to participate in the celebrations and share the joy of families who have received their homes.



Ministers Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy and D Sridhar Babu address the media at Medchal-Malkajgiri district headquarters.

Addressing a media conference at the Medchal-Malkajgiri district headquarters on Wednesday, along with IT Minister and Rangareddy district incharge Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu, Ponguleti said housewarming ceremonies had been completed in 2,21,500 Indiramma houses, while another 1.90 lakh houses were at various stages of construction. He said the government had sanctioned 4.50 lakh houses in the first phase and was committed to completing the scheme.

The minister urged MLAs, district collectors, Housing Department officials and Indiramma Housing Committee members to visit completed houses on Diwali and celebrate with beneficiaries. He and Sridhar Babu unveiled a poster titled "Diwali Celebrations in Our Indiramma Homes" to mark the initiative.

Ponguleti also announced that Indiramma Towers would be constructed on the G+5 model in Nizamabad, Karimnagar, Warangal and Nalgonda municipal corporations, on the lines of Hyderabad. A notification for the project would be issued before Diwali. He said the government had sanctioned 2.50 lakh houses in the second phase and another one lakh houses in the Hyderabad Core Urban Region.

Stating that the Rs.40,000-crore Indiramma housing programme would continue without interruption, he said financial assistance was being directly transferred to beneficiaries' bank accounts every Monday. The scheme aims to provide permanent homes to poor families across cities, towns, villages and remote tribal settlements in the state.

'An Abdul will now become leader in UP', says Asad Owaisi after victory of Abdul El-Sayed in US

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
HYDERABAD, NOV 4

AIMIM President Asaduddin Owaisi on Wednesday invoked the victory of Democratic candidate Abdul El-Sayed in the US, to call for building a Muslim political identity in Uttar Pradesh, saying an Abdul will now become a leader in the state.

"An 'Abdul' has won in Michigan; now, the 'Abdul' of Uttar Pradesh must strengthen his own political identity," Asad Owaisi posted on X.

He was reacting to the mid-term election results in the United States where Abdul El-Sayed won the Michigan Senate race to become the first Muslim US senator.

The Hyderabad MP said 'Sanghis' made many attempts to make mockery of the name "Abdul".

"The time has come for us to demonstrate that 'Abdul' bows in servitude to no one but Allah. We will no longer be the ones laying out carpets for others," he said. Asad Owaisi also spoke on the issue during an interaction with



Asaduddin Owaisi

the media at his party's headquarters Darussalam here.

"BJP used to say 'Abdul makes puncture'. We are saying Abdul will now become leader. He will not lay carpets nor be scared of the RSS nor bow before anybody. Abdul will do his job and become a leader," he said.

Asad Owaisi slammed the BJP government at the Centre for telling the Delhi High Court that the century-old Qadeemi Masjid, located within the Krishi Bhawan compound in New Delhi, must be removed to make way for the redevelopment of Common Central Secretariat (CCS) under the Central Vista project.

The MP stated that when the construction of Lutyens' Delhi started in 1908, several villages were acquired but these mosques were not acquired.

"This mosque is a part of cultural and historical heritage of the country. It was built even before Krishi Bhavan. This is registered Waqf. The government is not its owner," he said.

The MP said Union Minorities Welfare Minister Kiren Rijiju should tell these people that the government is not the owner. He said the mosque existed even before Delhi became the national Capital and the Constitution of India was framed.

"If you want to contest that this is government property, go to the Waqf tribunal and argue there. What do you want to do. It is registered Waqf. There is gazette. You are saying it is the property of Krishi Bhavan. It's not the property of Krishi Bhavan," he said.

He slammed the Centre for its argument that the mosque is "impermissible and incompatible with the secular character of government property".

"Is this your secularism that you want to demolish a registered Waqf property which enjoys legal protection," he asked.

Asad Owaisi recalled that the Modi government inaugurated the Central Vista project with a Bhoomi Pooja. "Apparently, secularism is not offended by the use of one faith's rituals for a public project, but is allergic to a mosque that has stood there even before 1912, long before Krishi Bhawan was even built," he said.

"What will Amit Shah say now," asked Asad Owaisi when his reaction was sought on Hyderabad District Election Officer R.V. Karnan's statement that no illegal immigrants were found in Hyderabad's electoral rolls. He recalled the statements of BJP leaders that surgical strikes will be conducted on Hyderabad.

He said that the poor suffered a lot because of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise.

Asad Owaisi said AIMIM helped all eligible voters, irrespective of their religion, during the SIR process.

Harish Rao slams Congress govt over lack of facilities at Maheswaram Medical College

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
HYDERABAD, NOV 4

Former Minister and BRS Legislature Party Deputy Floor Leader T. Harish Rao has criticised the Congress government over the lack of basic infrastructure at Maheswaram Government Medical College and demanded immediate measures to safeguard students' academic future.



Harish Rao, accompanied by former Minister P. Sabitha Indra Reddy, former MLA Manchireddy Kishan Reddy and BRS General Secretary Kyama Mallesh, visited the students' protest camp at Mangalpally in Ibrahimpatnam constituency and interacted with students and their parents.

He alleged that the college had been facing serious infrastructure problems, including non-payment of building rent, electricity and water bills for 26 months, inadequate drinking water and toilets, and a lack of laboratories, library and hostel facilities. He also raised concerns over pending occupancy, fire safety and Pollution Control Board clearances.

Questioning the government's priorities, Harish Rao said students were being denied basic facilities while the government was announcing major expenditure on projects such as Musi beautification and Future City. He recalled that the previous BRS government had allocated 25 acres, sanctioned Rs.182 crore for college buildings and hostels, and laid the foundation stone for a 400-bed hospital. He alleged that construction had remained stalled since the Congress government came to power.

Demanding immediate drinking water, toilets and bus facilities, he urged the District Collector and Director of Medical Education to visit the protest site and hold discussions with students. He also demanded that the college be shifted within two months to a government or rented building with adequate facilities in Vanasthalipuram or near the LB Nagar TIMS campus. Harish Rao sought a written assurance from the government and said the BRS would continue supporting the students until a permanent solution was found.

Police tighten checks on firecracker shops

HYDERABAD, NOV 4

Golconda Zone Police on Wednesday directed firecracker traders to strictly follow safety regulations and obtain all necessary permissions before setting up shops for the festive season.

At a coordination meeting held at Exhibition Grounds, Nampally, Additional DCP, Golconda Zone, Krishna Goud instructed temporary and permanent traders to secure valid licences.

BJP to support Osmania University non-teaching staff stir

TFP I RATNA CHOTRANI
HYDERABAD, NOV 4

Telangana BJP President N Ramchander Rao on Wednesday expressed solidarity with the protesting non-teaching employees of Osmania University (OU) and demanded that their long-pending grievances be resolved immediately.



He visited the protest site in front of the university's administrative building, where non-teaching, technical, time-scale and contract employees were demanding implementation of pension benefits, regularisation of services and improved healthcare facilities.

Rao criticised the university administration for failing to provide job security, fair wages and pension benefits to employees who had served for 25 to 30 years.

He demanded equal pay for equal work, restoration of the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) for employees appointed between 2001 and 2004, implementation of the Contributory Pension Scheme (CPS) for subsequent recruits and abolition of the LIC-linked pension scheme.

He also sought an increase in the medical reimbursement limit from Rs. 10,000 to Rs 30,000, release of the pending annual increment of Rs. 1,500, regularisation of eligible contract and time-scale employees, and filling of vacant posts and pending promotion vacancies. Alleging that the university administration was threatening and suspending employees for participating in protests, he said such actions were unacceptable.

Recalling his association with OU as an alumnus who completed his M.A. and LL.B. degrees there, he urged the Vice-Chancellor and the State Government to invite the Joint Action Committee (JAC) leaders for talks and resolve their demands.

He warned that the BJP would extend direct support to the employees' agitation and help intensify the movement if the administration failed to address their grievances.

He also expressed concern over the suspension of Professor Manohar, a former association president, and said the issue had been brought to the Governor's notice.

BJP State General Secretary Gautam Rao, former professors, student union leaders, representatives of non-teaching staff associations from various universities and OU JAC leaders were among those present.

ACB registers DA case against MEPMA Addl Director; assets worth Rs. 4.75 cr identified

TFP I TAHER ALI
RANGAREDDY, NOV 4

The Telangana Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) has registered a Disproportionate Assets (DA) case against Yadagiri Rao Nallaguntla, Additional Director of the Mission for Elimination of Poverty in Municipal Areas (MEPMA), for allegedly amassing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income through corrupt practices.

ACB officials of the Rangareddy Range conducted searches at 10 locations on November 3, including his residence, office, bank lockers and properties linked to his relatives, associates and alleged benamidars.

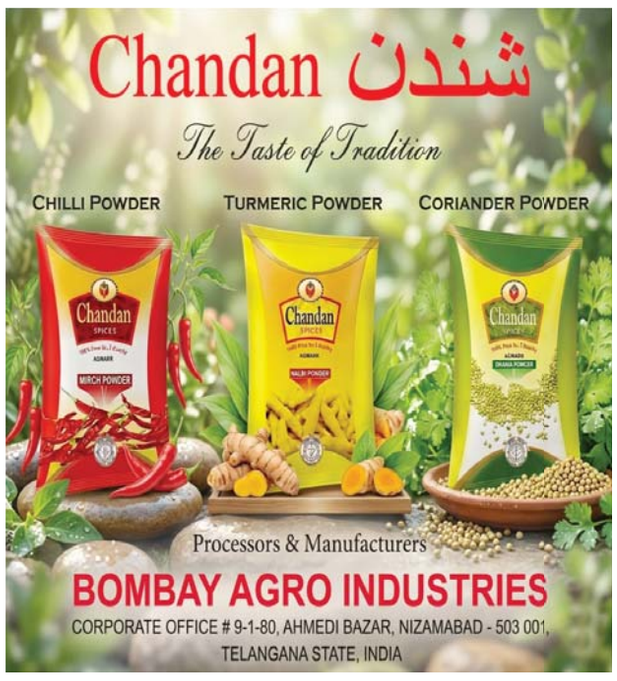
During the searches, officials identified 12 open plots in Hyderabad and Suryapet, valued at Rs. 58.63 lakh, and two residential flats at Uppal worth Rs. 31.36 lakh. They also identified a G 3 residential building with a penthouse at Uppal, valued at approximately Rs. 2 crore, a house in Suryapet worth Rs. 4.75 lakh and a commercial shop at Uppal valued at Rs. 1.06 lakh.

The searches also resulted in the identification of gold ornaments weighing 1,792.2 grams valued at Rs. 33.82 lakh, silver ornaments weighing three kg worth Rs. 1.80 lakh, two four-wheelers valued at Rs. 73 lakh, three two-wheelers worth Rs. 2.80 lakh, household articles worth Rs. 29.08 lakh, electronic gadgets valued at Rs. 7.01 lakh and bank balances of Rs. 32.30 lakh.

The total assets identified so far are estimated at Rs. 4.75 crore. The ACB stated that the market value of the properties could be considerably higher than their official valuations and further verification of additional assets was underway.

During the searches, officials identified 12 open plots in Hyderabad and Suryapet, valued at Rs. 58.63 lakh, and two residential flats at Uppal worth Rs. 31.36 lakh. They also identified a G 3 residential building with a penthouse at Uppal, valued at approximately Rs. 2 crore, a house in Suryapet worth Rs. 4.75 lakh and a commercial shop at Uppal valued at Rs. 1.06 lakh.

The accused will be produced before the Principal Special Judge for SPE and ACB Cases in Hyderabad for judicial remand. The case has been registered under Section 13(1)(b) read with Section 13(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, as amended in 2018, and further investigation is in progress, according to a ACB statement on Wednesday.



ED arrests 4 in call centre scam targeting US nationals

TFP I MANVER SINGH
HYDERABAD, NOV 4

The Enforcement Directorate has arrested four key accused in connection with an ongoing money laundering investigation into a fake call centre scam targeting US nationals.



ED, Hyderabad Zonal Office arrested Harshil Nayanbhai Raval, Jaswant Singh, Chetan Munjal, and Pranav Pithadia under the PMLA, 2002 and produced them before the Special Court in Nampally, which remanded them to judicial custody.

The Central agency said in a release on Wednesday that it had arrested Vikas Nimar, Tarachand Nimar and Mohd. Irfan Ansari in July-August in the same case. With the latest arrests, the total number of persons arrested by the ED in the case has gone up to seven. On September 15, the ED conducted searches in Patiala, Pune and Chandigarh, wherein three live call centres were detected with around 220 persons working at the time of searches. Digital devices along with cash and records were seized during the searches. Forensic examination has so far been completed on 79 digital devices, comprising 65 mobile phones, 13 laptops and computers and one data storage disk, which were found to hold the chats, ledgers, calling data, victim records and crypto wallets of the syndicate.

The ED investigation was initiated into offences of cheating, forgery and criminal conspiracy committed against residents of the US through call centres, operated from India, involving impersonation of government officials and use of forged government documents and identity cards.

LS Speaker calls for stronger audit monitoring, accountability in public spending

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOV 4



Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Wednesday called for stronger legislative scrutiny of public expenditure and greater accountability from governments, saying every rupee of public money must be spent transparently and in the larger public interest.

Addressing the concluding session of the two-day conference of Public Accounts Committee (PAC) chairpersons from Parliament and State Legislatures, held at the Kerala Assembly, Birla said audit reports and recommendations should not remain pending for years without action.

The Lok Sabha Speaker noted that the conference had adopted the Kerala resolution, which would serve as an important framework for strengthening the functioning of PACs across the country.

He said the Centre and states should work together to improve financial management, ensure discipline in public spending and make governance more transparent and accountable.

He added that budgetary allocations were rising in sectors such as education, healthcare, infrastructure, social welfare and rural development.

It was therefore important to ensure that the money allocated was used for its intended purpose and delivered the expected results.

Birla said that legislative committees had a major role in monitoring the implementation of government schemes and assessing their quality, continuity and outcomes.

He expressed concern that audit reports often remained pending for long periods without proper follow-up.

While the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) conducted independent audits, PACs had the responsibility of examining the findings and ensuring timely action on the recommendations.

The Lok Sabha Speaker also called for wider use of technology to improve the functioning of legislative committees.

He suggested that state Legislatures develop digital audit monitoring platforms on the lines of the system available to parliamentary committees.

He said officers of the CAG and PACs should receive regular training to keep pace with technological changes. (IANS)

Karnataka govt burdening people: BJP

BENGALURU, NOV 4

Karnataka Assembly Opposition Leader R. Ashoka on Wednesday accused the Congress government of pushing state transport corporations into financial distress by withholding Rs 5,650.95 crore in dues and burdening the public with steep bus fare hikes to cover up its administrative failures.

Addressing a press conference, Ashoka said there would have been no need to increase bus fares if the government had cleared the outstanding dues. Instead, the government had arbitrarily increased fares, imposing an additional burden on commuters.

He described the hike as worse than the Tughlaq regime and alleged that fares had been increased by as much as 40 per cent.

He said the government owed Rs 2,943 crore to Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC), Rs 1,306 crore to North West Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC), Rs 1,019 crore to Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) and Rs 999 crore to Kalyan Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (KKRTC). (IANS)

PM Modi parroting his flop line of Dimaagi Naxal; has no answer on vote chori: Kharge

NEW DELHI, NOV 4



Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge

Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday came out in support of Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and criticised Prime Minister Narendra Modi over his 'Dimaagi Naxal' remark, alleging that the government had no answers to questions raised by Congress on alleged vote theft and foreign influence.

In a post on social media platform X, Kharge said, "PM Modi is parroting his flop line of 'Dimaagi Naxal'! He has NO answer on Vote Chori and the open challenge by Shri Rahul Gandhi to discuss how he mortgaged Indian interests to foreign powers."

Targeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah over his remarks that three crore voters were infiltrators, Kharge questioned his handling of the issue.

"Shah is telling us three crore voters are Ghushpaithiya! What was he doing as Home Minister for years, letting 'illegal' people enter India? He should be sacked for his incompetence," Kharge said.

He also accused the Election Commission of India (ECI) of repeatedly changing its position on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

"The ECI has taken five U-turns on SIR. This includes a complete change of Form 6, which was termed as 'illegal' by fellow Election Commissioners! Why?" he said.

Raising questions over the functioning of Parliament, Kharge said the previous session had not been prorogued for 83 days and alleged that the government's decision to convene a special session had been prompted by the Opposition's recent activities.

"The last session of Parliament has not been prorogued for 83 days and counting. And now, when the next session is on the anvil, they want a special session. (IANS)

Jana Sena scores 100% strike rate in AP municipal polls

AMARAVATI, NOV 4



AP Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan

The Jana Sena Party led by Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister, Pawan Kalyan, has again scored a 100 per cent strike rate, winning all the seats it contested in the elections to Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

In a repeat of its performance in the 2024 general elections, the Jana Sena won all the seats allotted to it under the seat sharing agreement among NDA partners.

The Jana Sena won all the mayoral and municipal chairperson posts it contested to set a new record in municipal polls.

Pawan Kalyan's party, the second key party in the TDP-led coalition, bagged the posts of mayors of both Vijayawada and Eluru corporations.

The Jana Sena also won the posts of chairpersons of all 14 municipalities and three nagar panchayats it contested.

The party not only registered victories in its Assembly constituencies but also expanded itself to other towns.

It succeeded in building the leadership by fielding those who came into the party fold from the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP).

Former MLA Vangaveeti Radhakrishna, who joined Jana Sena only a few days before elections, has been elected as mayor of Vijayawada.

Radhakrishna defeated YSRCP candidate Rayana Bhagyalakshmi by 1,30,872 votes. Radhakrishna secured 2,65,888 votes, while Bhagyalakshmi polled 1,35,016 votes.

Pawan Kalyan's party, the second key party in the TDP-led coalition, bagged the posts of mayors of both Vijayawada and Eluru corporations.

Radhakrishna is son of Vangaveeti Mohana Ranga, a prominent leader who was killed by a rival faction in 1988 while he was sitting on a hunger strike in Vijayawada.

Radhakrishna was elected to the Assembly in 2004 from Vijayawada East constituency on a Congress ticket. He unsuccessfully contested the 2009 Assembly elections as the candidate of Praja Rajyam Party, which was floated by Pawan Kalyan's elder brother and popular actor Chiranjeevi.

Jana Sena's Reddy Appalanaidu has been elected as mayor of Eluru Municipal Corporation.

In 2024 elections, the Jana Sena had won all 21 Assembly and two Lok Sabha seats it contested.

Like in the 2024 polls, the NDA made clean sweep in municipal elections.

Out of 100 ULBs for which elections were held, the coalition won 94 ULBs. Its candidates were elected as mayors in 11 out of 13 corporations. It was leading in Ongole where the counting of votes was taken up on Wednesday.

Opposition YSR Congress Party could win only one corporation and three municipalities. As part of seat sharing agreement among NDA partners, the post of mayor of Anantapur Municipal Corporation was left for the BJP. However, YSRCP's Ramesh Goud defeated BJP candidate Ajeesh Babu. (IANS)

TN CM urges students to aim high

CHENNAI, NOV 4

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay on Wednesday urged students to pursue academic excellence, develop self-confidence and stay away from corruption, bribery and drugs, asserting that the future of the state depended on the achievements and contributions of its younger generation.

Addressing an educational awards ceremony at Neelankarai in Chennai, Vijay distributed certificates and incentives to students who had secured outstanding marks in the Class 10 and Class 12 examinations. (IANS/UNI)

22.84 lakh cases pending in Jharkhand SIR

Over half of 'No Mapping' records yet to be verified

RANCHI, NOV 4



With only 26 days to go for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Jharkhand to be completed, a substantial number of voter records are yet to be verified and updated.

Of the 59.53 lakh cases identified under the categories of "No Mapping" and "Logical Discrepancy", only 36.69 lakh have been resolved so far, leaving 22.84 lakh cases pending.

They include 7.95 lakh "No Mapping cases" and 14.88 lakh "Logical Discrepancy" cases.

According to data released by Jharkhand Chief Electoral Officer K. Ravi Kumar, as of November 4, the state recorded 14,04,033 "No Mapping" cases, of which only 6,08,618 have been disposed of and updated on the ECI-Net portal, representing 43.35 per cent of the total.

As a result, 7,95,415 cases in this category remain unresolved.

The performance has been comparatively better in the "Logical Discrepancy" category. Out of 45,49,961 such cases identified across the state, 30,61,159 cases, or 67.28 per cent, have been resolved. However, 14,88,802 cases are still pending verification and correction.

Under the "No Mapping" category, election authorities verify records of voters whose names, or those of their family members, could not be linked to the 2003 electoral roll.

"Logical Discrepancy" cases involve scrutiny of inconsistencies between old and current voter records, including abnormal age gaps between parents and children or discrepancies in family relationship details.

District-wise figures show that West Singhbhum has achieved the highest disposal rate in "No Mapping" cases at 96.16 per cent, followed by Lohardaga (80.04 per cent), Deoghar (75.25 per cent), Ramgarh (63.19 per cent) and Gumla (61.01 per cent).

In contrast, Giridih (19.52 per cent), Sahibganj (21.03 per cent), Palamu (25.25 per cent), Pakur (28.86 per cent), and Ranchi (29.03 per cent) have recorded the lowest progress. (IANS)

Arunachal capital shutdown evokes mixed response

ITANAGAR, NOV 4



A 12-hour shutdown called by the People's Rights Action Committee (PRAC) in the Itanagar Capital Region (ICR) on Wednesday evoked a mixed response, with government offices functioning, shops and commercial establishments remaining closed, and vehicular movement continuing amid tight security arrangements.

"The shutdown was peaceful. There was no report of any law-and-order problem or untoward incident," a police official said. The shutdown, which began on Wednesday morning and ended in the evening, was called to demand the release of people detained in connection with the October 23 protests against the proposed 11,200-MW Siang Upper Multipurpose Project (SUMP) in Siang, East Siang and Upper Siang districts.

The protesters are also demanding the withdrawal of security forces deployed in the project areas, revocation of suspension orders against 'Gaonburas' (village headmen), and suspension of survey activities to prepare the Pre-Feasibility Report (PFR) for the proposed project.

PRAC has also raised several public welfare issues, including proper maintenance of roads in the ICR, availability of essential medicines and improvement of ambulance services. (IANS)

BJP has succeeded in getting Ruhullah Mehdi out through 'Operation Lotus': NC

SRINAGAR, NOV 4



A day after Srinagar MP Syed Aga Ruhullah Mehdi announced his resignation, ending his 24-year association with the National Conference (NC), the party on Wednesday accused him of helping the BJP successfully execute its "Operation Lotus" in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the media here, NC legislators Salman Sagar and Sajjad Shaheen claimed that the BJP had succeeded in getting Ruhullah out of the party, drawing parallels with the poaching of MPs from other parties across the country.

"I say this with a heavy heart, not with happiness. The BJP has succeeded in getting Agha Ruhullah Sahib out," Sagar said, alleging that the 'Operation Lotus' used to make MPs leave their political parties had now reached Kashmir.

"The Operation Lotus that operates in Parliament to make MPs leave their political parties has now been witnessed in Kashmir. With Agha Sahib's help, the BJP's agenda has been fulfilled," he alleged.

Sagar said the developments were unfortunate for both the party and the people of Jammu and Kashmir, claiming that an organised effort was underway to weaken the NC and divide the people.

"There is an entire organised setup operating behind this, aimed at dividing the people of Jammu and Kashmir," Shaheen said, questioning why new political parties were suddenly emerging across Kashmir. He also cited BJP national vice-president Ram Madhav, who had claimed that Ruhullah was holding the rally with the blessings of "their people."

Sagar also alleged that agencies were working to create divisions within the NC, but maintained that the party would not split. Referring to recent meetings among NC legislators, he said the differences would be resolved in the coming days.

"Anyone who wants to become part of Operation Lotus will ultimately be humiliated. Whether it is an MLA or even someone like me, whoever joins hands with the BJP, works at its behest or maintains any association with it will face the same fate," Sagar said.

The two legislators rejected Ruhullah's criticism of the party's position on Article 370, Article 35A and reservation, maintaining that the NC had consistently pursued the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's special status. (IANS/UNI)

CM Naidu seeks Centre's aid for drought-hit AP

AMARAVATI, NOV 4



Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday conducted an aerial survey of Guntur, Bapatla and Prakasam districts affected by the cyclone 'Murasu'

He directed officials to take immediate steps to clear waterlogging in Karamchedu, Kothapatnam, Chirala, Chilakaluripet and Parchur.

Later, in a review meeting at RTGS, the Chief Minister instructed district collectors to ensure that road traffic was not disrupted.

The officials informed the Chief Minister that heavy rains were continuing in tribal areas of Eluru district. The Eluru District Collector reported that minor irrigation tanks in some areas are overflowing.

Earlier, Chandrababu Naidu appealed to the Central Government to extend all possible assistance to Andhra Pradesh to address agricultural losses and hardships faced by people due to severe drought conditions in the state.

The Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT), which visited the state to assess the prevailing drought situation, met the Chief Minister on Wednesday. (IANS)

Four killed in gunfight between Naga groups in Manipur

IMPHAL, NOV 4



At least four militants were killed and another injured in a gunfight between rival groups in Manipur's Noney district on Wednesday, officials said.

According to police, a heavy exchange of fire broke out early in the day between cadres suspected to belong to rival Naga militant outfits, including the Zeliangrong United Front-Jenchui (ZUF-J) and the Zeliangrong United Front-Kamson (ZUF-K) at Taodaijang village in the Khoupum area of the Naga-majority district, an official said.

According to initial reports, the gunfight continued for several hours, leaving three cadres of the ZUF-J and one cadre of the ZUF-K dead.

The bodies of the slain militants were recovered by local residents. Following the incident, local residents, including women, went to the spot in an attempt to prevent further violence between the rival groups. They also used a public address system to appeal to the cadres to stop firing, the official said. (IANS)

Cabinet clears expansion of Fast Track Special Courts

NEW DELHI, NOV 4



In a bid to reduce the pendency of rape and child sexual offence cases, the Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved the continuation of the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs), including exclusive POCSO courts, for another five years till March 31, 2031, with a total financial outlay of Rs 3,788.04 crore.

The scheme aims to ensure speedy trials of pending cases relating to rape and offences under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, while reducing the pendency of such cases across the country. The total financial outlay of Rs 3,788.04 crore includes a central share of Rs 2,353.15 crore and a State/Union Territory share of Rs 1,434.89 crore. The central share will be funded from the Nirbhaya Fund.

Under the extended scheme, the government plans to increase the number of functional FTSCs from the existing 779 to 850 across participating States and Union Territories, with additional districts to be identified on the basis of the pendency of rape and POCSO cases.

Each court will have a dedicated judicial officer, a Special Public Prosecutor and six support staff to facilitate the expeditious disposal of pending cases.

The initiative is expected to ensure faster trials and timely justice for victims of sexual offences, particularly women and children. It also envisages the establishment of Vulnerable Witness Deposition Centres (VWDCs) and child-friendly court spaces to facilitate the recording of victims' testimonies without causing them further distress.

The Centre's Department of Justice will implement the scheme in coordination with State governments and Union Territory administrations. The functioning of the courts will be monitored through the FTSC Dashboard, periodic progress reports and consultations with High Courts and State governments. (IANS)

DRI busts hashish smuggling racket



MUMBAI, NOV 4

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Mumbai Zonal Unit, has busted an international drug smuggling racket involving the concealment of hashish in an international courier shipment originating from New York, United States, and destined for Mumbai, officials said on Wednesday. Acting on specific intelligence inputs, DRI officers uncovered a sophisticated smuggling operation and seized 7.85 kg of hashish concealed inside a wooden-framed bathroom mirror, officials added. Based on the intelligence, officers intercepted and examined a suspicious courier consignment at the International Courier Terminal in Mumbai. The package had been declared as a framed bathroom wall mirror. During a detailed inspection, officers dismantled the wooden cuboidal frame and discovered eight concealed packets hidden within the structure.

Further examination revealed that the packets contained 169 smaller packets filled with a blackish resinous substance of varying weights. (IANS/UNI)

Two-child norm for contesting polls has lost relevance: SC

NEW DELHI, NOV 4



The Supreme Court on Wednesday observed that India's demographic landscape has undergone a significant transformation over the past two decades, and hence laws disqualifying individuals with more than two children from contesting elections may no longer be relevant in the present context.

A Bench of the apex court noted that the country's fertility rate has witnessed a steady decline and has now fallen below the replacement level of 2.1. It raises concerns about an ageing population in the coming decades.

In view of this changing demographic reality, the court questioned the continued justification for statutory provisions that bar persons with more than two children from contesting local body elections.

The observations came while the court set aside the disqualification of Mangala Bhimrao, a former Sarpanch of Maharashtra's Kakoda Gram Panchayat, who had been barred from contesting elections following the birth of her third child.

While allowing her appeal, the Supreme Court decided to revisit its earlier position on the issue and referred the landmark Javed vs State of Haryana (2003) judgment to a larger Bench for reconsideration.

In the 2003 ruling, a three-judge Bench upheld the constitutional validity of provisions under the Haryana Panchayati Raj Act, 1994, which disqualified persons having more than two living children from contesting panchayat polls.

The court pointed out that when the Javed judgment was delivered, India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) stood at around three children per woman, making population control a significant policy concern. However, demographic indicators have now changed substantially since then, with the TFR steadily declining across the country.

Noting these developments, the apex court said that a larger Bench will now determine whether such electoral disqualification provisions remain constitutionally valid and relevant in a country where population growth has slowed significantly, and concerns about demographic ageing are increasingly emerging. (IANS)

Kerala plans higher minimum wages under Labour Codes

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOV 4



V.D. Satheesan

Kerala is considering higher minimum wages and wider bonus benefits for workers as part of its proposed rules for implementing the Labour Codes.

A draft report containing key recommendations was handed over to Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan by Labour Minister Bindu Krishna on Wednesday.

The proposals follow detailed discussions with trade unions and other stakeholders.

One of the major recommendations is to change the family unit used to calculate minimum wages.

The existing unit of three members is proposed to be increased to five by including the worker's parents.

This would raise the wage calculation and provide scope for higher minimum wages.

The report also proposes bringing more workers under the coverage of the bonus and other benefits.

This is aimed at ensuring that a larger section of the workforce receives the benefits available under labour laws.

Worker safety is another major focus of the recommendations.

The committee has proposed free medical examinations for employees engaged in hazardous and dangerous work processes.

It has also called for strict safety provisions for women working night shifts.

The proposed state rules will include safeguards to ensure their safety while allowing them to work during night hours.

The recommendations were prepared by a special committee formed at a meeting chaired by the Chief Minister on October 22.

The meeting had decided to involve trade union representatives in preparing practical suggestions for framing state rules under the Labour Codes.

The Labour Commissioner headed the committee as its convenor.

The Law Department Additional Secretary, seven representatives of different trade unions and Labour Department officials were also members. (IANS)

Pondy Govt Dental College bank account hacked

3 months salary siphoned off

CHENNAI, NOV 4



In a major security breach, the bank account of Puducherry Government Dental College was hacked by cyber crime fraudsters and three months' salary of staff, amounting to Rs 8.5 crore was siphoned off on Wednesday.

Sources told UNI that the Puducherry Cyber Crime wing of the police has registered a case and are investigating after a formal complaint was lodged.

The bank account of Mahatma Gandhi Postgraduate Institute of Dental Sciences (MGPGI), the premier government dental college in Puducherry, was hacked and Rs 8.5 crore deposited as part of three months' salary of its staff was stolen online by phishing.

The incident has sent shock waves among the staff and the administration and the police are probing all angles to trace the origin of the crime. This is the first online fraud reported in the union Territory in the recent past following which the government has started a security audit. (IANS/UNI)

India, Canada explore avenues to strengthen defence cooperation in capacity building

NEW DELHI, NOV 4



India and Canada held the inaugural Defence Dialogue, exploring avenues to strengthen cooperation in capacity building, military-technical exchanges and defence industrial collaboration.

Joint Secretary (International Cooperation) in the Ministry of Defence, Amit Telang, and Assistant Deputy Minister (Policy) in Canada's Department of National Defence, Scott Millar, co-chaired the Dialogue. The two sides also spoke about regional and global issues, the ministry stated on Wednesday.

"Building on the momentum of high-level engagements, both sides explored avenues to strengthen defence cooperation in capacity building, military-technical exchanges and defence industrial collaboration, while exchanging views on regional and global issues," it added.

Last month, External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar held a meeting with his Canadian counterpart Anita Anand on the sidelines of the G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Atlanta, discussing trade, critical minerals, defence and energy.

During the meeting, the two ministers also discussed evolving geopolitical landscape and work ahead to advance comprehensive trade agreement.

"Just weeks after our discussions in New Delhi, I met again with S Jaishankar on the margins of the G20 in Atlanta. We exchanged perspectives on the evolving geopolitical landscape and discussed the work ahead to advance a comprehensive trade agreement and deepen cooperation on regional security," Anand posted on X.

"The global economy is being reshaped, and Canada and India have an important role to play in what comes next. With renewed momentum in our relationship, we have an opportunity to expand trade, strengthen energy security and build greater economic resilience," she wrote.

In a statement, Global Affairs Canada said Anand "welcomed progress towards concluding a comprehensive economic partnership agreement by the end of the year," and that the ministers "agreed that Prime Minister Modi's visit to Canada in December will be another building block in the ambitious trajectory in the relationship between the two countries."

In July, India and Canada agreed to enhance defence cooperation, with discussions focusing on maritime collaboration, defence capacity-building and training. The discussions were held during a meeting between India's High Commissioner to Canada, Dinesh K. Patnaik, and Canadian Minister of National Defence David McGuinty.

"Building on the momentum of high-level engagements, both sides explored avenues to strengthen defence cooperation in capacity building, military-technical exchanges and defence industrial collaboration, while exchanging views on regional and global issues," it added.

"High Commissioner Dinesh K Patnaik met Canadian Minister of National Defence David McGuinty. Discussions focused on strengthening maritime cooperation, advancing defence capacity-building and training, and deepening India–Canada defence ties to advance shared commitment of promoting peace, stability, and stronger bilateral engagement," the Indian High Commission in Canada had posted on X. (IANS)

THE FREEDOM PRESS

THURSDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2026

Delhi pollution crisis calls for long term

The restrictions imposed from November 1 on non-Delhi petrol and diesel vehicles below the BS-VI emission standard have brought renewed attention to the growing air pollution crisis in the National Capital Region (NCR). Vehicles from Gurugram, Noida, Ghaziabad and Faridabad have been affected by the 90-day restrictions, impacting more than a million vehicles. The move is aimed at reducing vehicular emissions during the winter pollution season.

However, the implementation of the restrictions has also resulted in traffic congestion at several Delhi border points, with queues extending up to five kilometres, particularly along the Gurugram border. The situation could become more challenging with the beginning of the working week and the approach of Diwali. It highlights the need to balance environmental objectives with the mobility requirements of residents and commuters.

Despite its serious implications for public health, air pollution has received limited attention in the wider political discourse. While political parties continue to debate several national and regional issues, the recurring pollution crisis in Delhi deserves sustained attention across party lines. Environmental protection and public health must remain important elements of governance and policy discussions.

Winter pollution in Delhi-NCR is a complex problem involving multiple sources, including construction dust, vehicular emissions, stubble burning and weather conditions such as falling temperatures. These factors combine to increase the concentration of harmful pollutants in the atmosphere. Although Delhi receives greater public and media attention, similar challenges affect other urban and industrial regions across the country.

The situation represents a classic example of market failure, as the environmental costs of pollution are borne by society rather than solely by those responsible for emissions. The widespread and interconnected nature of pollution sources makes it difficult to address the problem through individual action or market mechanisms alone. This underlines the importance of coordinated government intervention, effective regulation and cooperation among neighbouring states. The 90-day vehicle restrictions reflect a command-and-control approach to addressing the immediate problem. While such measures may help limit emissions from older vehicles, their actual impact on overall air quality will need to be assessed through reliable data. A comparison of pollution levels between November 2026 and January 2027 and the corresponding period of the previous year could provide useful evidence on the effectiveness of the restrictions.

A sustainable response, however, requires more than temporary restrictions. Government policies must encourage cleaner mobility, accelerate the adoption of electric and BS-VI-compliant vehicles, strengthen public transport and improve monitoring of industrial and construction-related emissions. Incentives for cleaner technologies, better urban planning and coordinated action by Delhi and neighbouring states can deliver more durable results than isolated enforcement measures.

The growing importance of Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) principles and sustainable investing also highlights the need for greater accountability. In 2022, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) mandated the top 1,000 listed companies to include Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reports (BRSR) in their annual disclosures. The initiative was an important step towards improving corporate transparency and encouraging responsible business practices.

Household capex strengthens India's growth outlook

India's private investment activity is showing signs of renewed momentum, reflecting growing confidence in the country's economic prospects. A Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) analysis of nearly 1,200 companies found that private capital expenditure increased 67 per cent to Rs. 7.7 lakh crore in September 2025, compared with Rs. 4.6 lakh crore a year earlier. Private gross fixed capital formation (GFCF) by non-financial corporations also rose from Rs. 27 lakh crore in FY23 to more than Rs. 30 lakh crore in FY25, indicating an expansion in investment activity.

However, corporate investment represents only one part of India's economic landscape. A broader understanding of economic confidence requires examining the household and unincorporated sectors, which account for a substantial share of employment and economic activity. Household gross fixed capital formation provides an important indicator of investment trends beyond the formal corporate sector.

According to National Accounts Statistics 2026, household GFCF stood at approximately Rs. 44 lakh crore in FY25, accounting for nearly 44 per cent of total gross fixed capital formation. This was higher than the corresponding contributions of the government, financial corporations and non-financial corporations. The household sector includes individuals, proprietorships, partnerships, quasi-corporations and non-profit institutions serving households. Its investment estimates are largely derived through national accounting methods using surveys such as ASUSE and the All India Debt and Investment Survey.

Household investment includes both residential construction and productive assets acquired by unincorporated enterprises. Since nearly 88 per cent of India's workforce is employed outside the formal sector and the unorganised sector contributed around 44 per cent of Gross Value Added in 2022-23, these investments have considerable economic significance. Adjusted for inflation, household GFCF has increased every year since FY23, suggesting sustained investment in physical assets across the economy.

Dwellings, other buildings and structures constitute the largest component of household GFCF, at approximately Rs. 33 lakh crore, followed by machinery and equipment. A significant contribution comes from real estate, ownership of dwellings and professional services. This includes houses constructed for personal use, real estate activities and own-account construction. Since FY23, investment in this category has increased by around Rs. 4 lakh crore. However, residential investment and productive business construction must be distinguished while interpreting these figures.

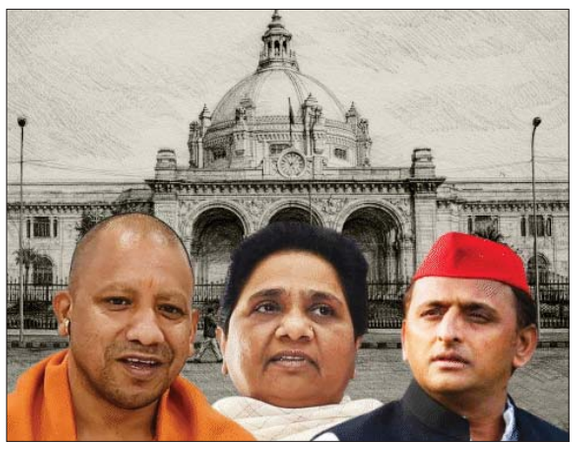
Agriculture also offers important insights into household investment patterns. The unorganised sector accounts for approximately 98 per cent of agricultural GVA, making investment in this segment particularly relevant. Expenditure on buildings and structures could include irrigation facilities, borewells, reservoirs, land development and other infrastructure that supports agricultural productivity. Although aggregate national accounts data do not identify individual assets, such investments have the potential to improve farm resilience, reduce production risks and support rural livelihoods. The projected 7.95 per cent annual growth in India's agricultural equipment market during 2026-2034 provides additional context to the sector's investment potential.

Trade, repairs and hotels constitute another important area of household capital formation, contributing significantly to additions in buildings and machinery. These investments may reflect expectations of rising demand and expanding business opportunities. The increasing contribution of intellectual property products to GFCF in trade and repair activities could also indicate greater adoption of digital platforms, logistics software and e-commerce services by unincorporated businesses.

The growing competition from quick-commerce companies has further increased the importance of technology adoption among local traders. Initiatives such as ONDC's DigiDukaan, launched in February 2026, and the proposed DigiBazaar platform seek to improve the digital visibility and market access of neighbourhood shops and small vendors. Such initiatives can complement the government's broader efforts to strengthen digital commerce, support small businesses and create a more inclusive marketplace.

Uttar Pradesh 2027: Can the BJP's winning machine deliver for a third time?

NIKHIL PANDEY



The results of Uttar Pradesh's Legislative Council polls for five graduates' and six teachers' seats, declared on October 29, held few shocks. Both parties finished roughly where the pre-poll chatter had placed them. The BJP kept its tally of six. The SP grew from three to five. It wrested the Lucknow graduates' seat from the BJP, took the Agra teachers' seat from an independent, and held both Varanasi seats in the Prime Minister's own constituency. The BJP, in turn, captured the Gorakhpur-Faizabad teachers' seat on the CM's home turf.

One thing is obvious from these polls: Uttar Pradesh is settling into a straight fight. In ten of the eleven seats, the BJP and the SP finished first and second. In the eleventh, Gorakhpur-Faizabad, an independent pushed the BJP close. The BSP and the Congress did not field candidates at all.

The results also suggest that 2024 was no accident. When the SP-led alliance won 43 of the state's 80 Lok Sabha seats, many in the ruling camp wrote it off as a passing storm: anxiety over the Constitution, tired candidates, a listless cadre. Two years on, the SP's revival looks rooted.

But one thing is obvious from MLC polls: neither BJP nor SP has a clear lead. The fight is still on.

Plus, we should not read too much into these results: Only about 14.8 lakh people were eligible to vote, around one in a hundred of the state's voters. They are a particular kind of voter, too: registered graduates and teachers, largely urban and salaried. No assembly forecast can be built on this. What it can show is the drift of an alert, opinion-forming slice of the electorate, and that slice leaned a little further towards the SP.

For the BJP, Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath campaigned for the party's candidates in every one of the eleven seats, while the SP relied largely on local leaders. Nearly a decade into the job, the Chief Minister remains the BJP's most recognisable face in the state. His pitch on law and order, welfare delivery, and Hindutva is clear, and no one inside the party comes close to challenging him.

Combine Yogi's appeal with the BJP's election machinery, and we may have a winning formula. BJP seldom loses for lack of effort. No party in India fights elections quite like it: booth committees, panna pramukhs, caste equations reworked seat by seat, and a readiness to change candidates or messaging the moment the ground shifts.

The SP has earned its celebrations, but the real battle begins now. The first is the Congress. The partnership paid off in 2024, when the Congress turned its share of tickets into six seats. Now the bargaining has turned sour. Congress wants well over 150 seats. The SP is said to be weighing an offer of 60 to 70. Posters claiming 200 seats have already caused embarrassment.

Akhilesh Yadav has to decide what the Congress really is for him. It can be an asset that helps consolidate Muslim votes, adds slivers of upper-caste and Dalit support, and lends national weight. Or it can be a drag that is adamant on fighting on seats it cannot win, as happened in Bihar. Akhilesh faces the risk of conceding too much to Congress.

But the most crucial question for SP is: can Akhilesh really expand his PDA coalition? Will Pandits really vote for him? Can he offer enough seats to new PDA constituents to make SP overcome its Yadav-Muslim handicap? It's a tough balancing act.

Then there is the BSP. Mayawati says she will contest alone, has revived talk of Brahmin outreach, and has reviewed preparations across all 75 districts. But a party that won 206 seats in 2007 was reduced to one in 2022, with its vote share below 13%. Sitting out these polls fits a long pattern of absence. If she can stir even part of her Jatav base, she may hurt the SP more than the BJP. If she cannot, the two-horse race only hardens.

The assembly election is still a few months away. In Uttar Pradesh, that is a long time. Ticket distribution, a seat-sharing spat, a fresh welfare scheme, or a single event or comment can each reset the mood.

Then, SIR is the other unknown factor this time. Will the "vote chori" campaign find resonance at the hustings? Does the SP-Congress alliance end up spending too much energy and time on an issue that may not matter much in the end? We don't know who is likely to benefit from it: the BJP or the SP?

Like sports, winning is a habit in politics, too. Last week, Brazil's Lula da Silva, now 80, trailed in the first round and still won a fourth term in the run-off. In Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud again emerged as the largest party, and his rivals cannot reach a majority without partners they have so far shunned. Established leaders backed by a disciplined organisation are hard to dislodge.

That is the BJP's edge in Uttar Pradesh. The SP's task is to prove that 2024 marked the beginning of a trend rather than its high point. The council results say it has a case. They do not say it has won it.

Karnataka's sting operation saga - political rivalry or a battle of allegations?

BHARTI MISHRA NATH



Karnataka's latest political controversy has all the ingredients of a political thriller - an alleged sting operation, a former Chief Minister fighting to protect his reputation, allegations of an intra-party conspiracy, an expelled Congress functionary, a serving chief minister facing questions about internal factionalism. And, then came the entry of a former chief minister from the opposition – bringing an entirely new dimension to the whole saga.

What began as an apparent attempt to target former Karnataka chief minister Siddaramaiah has evolved into a complicated political contest involving the Congress, the JD(S), and Union Minister H D Kumaraswamy. More importantly, it has once again raised uncomfortable questions about the methods politicians in Karnataka employ to weaken opponents, settle internal scores, and gain political leverage. Sensational allegations, leaked videos, and competing narratives rather than political debate have become the order of the day.

Also, with this diversion masterstroke, the Karnataka Congress has been able to divert attention from its own intra-party feud.

Until November 1, the principal question was whether the alleged sting operation was connected to the Congress's own internal power struggle. The emergence of Kumaraswamy's alleged connection has shifted attention towards the opposition and the possible political networks behind the circulation of the video.

The political significance of the development lies in the fact that the police investigation has now brought Kumaraswamy's political circle into the picture. Bengaluru Police Commissioner Seemant Kumar Singh recently said an accused had told investigators that a mobile phone allegedly used to upload the video was handed over to an associate at Kumaraswamy's official residence in New Delhi. The police also said that this is an investigative lead, not proof of Kumaraswamy's involvement.

Kumaraswamy, predictably, has rejected the allegations and accused the Congress government of manipulating the investigation to divert attention from the alleged masterminds.

His response has been to turn the spotlight back on Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, questioning his alleged role in the political developments surrounding the circulation of videos involving his nephew Prajwal Revanna.

A purported sting, whether genuine or fabricated, can damage reputations long before the truth is established. The political consequences can be immediate, while the legal process takes months or years. The individual targeted is forced into damage control, party colleagues are compelled to take sides, and opponents gain an opportunity to exploit the resulting uncertainty.

Karnataka has witnessed several such controversies. The 2021 video controversy involving then BJP minister Ramesh Jarkiholi resulted in his resignation. Jarkiholi subsequently accused Shivakumar of orchestrating the operation, an allegation Shivakumar denied. The parallels are difficult to ignore.

The Siddaramaiah-Shivakumar relationship has been a subject of political speculation since the Congress returned to power in Karnataka in 2023. The leadership arrangement and subsequent transition have kept questions of power-sharing, political influence, and succession alive. Siddaramaiah's supporters have expressed concerns about his diminishing position since he relinquished the CM's post in May 2026. While Shivakumar may have fulfilled his ambition of becoming the CM, he still has to navigate the expectations of a powerful faction within his own party.

The sting controversy threatened to turn these differences into an open confrontation. Siddaramaiah took the matter to the Congress high command and even met Rahul Gandhi during his November 1 visit to Delhi. His demand was for a fair investigation, but the political subtext was equally significant - he wanted the national leadership to recognise the implications of what he perceived as an attempt to undermine him.

His son and Karnataka minister Yathindra Siddaramaiah had also alleged the involvement of Congress leaders in the controversy.

These allegations, combined with the expulsion of former Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee general secretary Krupa Alva (for her alleged involvement in sting operations targeting Congress leaders) on October 27, had made the affair increasingly uncomfortable for the state Congress leadership. Alva was expelled for six years after reportedly failing to respond to a show-cause notice. Then came the Kumaraswamy development.

For the moment, the focus may have shifted from the visible intra-party feud, but it is sure to haunt the Congress again soon.

For the Congress, this is undoubtedly a more convenient political terrain. It can now argue that the controversy needs to be examined as a possible politically motivated operation rather than merely an internal party dispute. Shivakumar's government can point to the police investigation, while Siddaramaiah's supporters wait for the alleged conspiracy to be exposed.

However, there is an important distinction between a change in the political narrative and a resolution of the underlying problem.

Kumaraswamy has denied wrongdoing, the police investigation is incomplete, and the allegations against various political figures remain subject to verification. If subsequent evidence does not establish the suggested links, the Congress could find itself confronting the original questions all over again.

There is also a danger in treating the controversy as an opportunity to settle political scores. If the investigation becomes an instrument for targeting political adversaries, its credibility will suffer irrespective of which party benefits from the immediate headlines.

Ultimately, Karnataka's political class needs to introspect about political competition stooping so low. Recordings, counter-recordings, anonymous disclosures, and allegations of clandestine operations is not real politics.

Political parties need to draw a line between legitimate political scrutiny and the deliberate manufacture or circulation of damaging narratives to secure an advantage.

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

Cyber breaches expose S. Korea's digital risks

SEOUL, NOV 3
A relentless wave of cyberattacks on South Korean banks, telecom operators, businesses and government agencies has exposed growing risks to the country's digital economy, highlighting the need for stronger cybersecurity.

The scale and frequency of the breaches have raised concerns that cyber threats could extend beyond personal data theft to disrupt financial services, business operations and industrial supply chains.



The latest series of security breaches has brought those concerns to the highest levels of government, reports Yonhap news agency.

Most recently, police have launched a preliminary investigation into the online leak of personal information belonging to 168 individuals who traveled aboard the presidential aircraft during a trip to Europe in June, including President Lee Jae Myung, the first lady and Cabinet ministers.

Following the incident, the foreign ministry said it is taking steps to reissue the passports of the president and first lady.

The leak has raised fresh questions about how government agencies handle sensitive information, prompting broader scrutiny of cybersecurity practices.

On Tuesday, the National Intelligence Service (NIS) said it will launch emergency security inspections at some 2,100 government agencies nationwide, including central government ministries and local governments.

The spy agency also plans to conduct direct security checks on critical public information and communications infrastructure under its oversight, with the inspections expected to be completed by mid-November.

The financial sector has also been hit by a series of breaches, exposing the scale of the problem.

On Oct. 14, the Financial Services Commission (FSC) said cybersecurity incidents had been confirmed at 16 financial firms, affecting approximately 100,000 customer records.

The affected institutions included commercial banks, savings banks and credit finance companies.

Concerns deepened on Oct. 28, when Daishin Securities, Mirae Asset Global Investments and cryptocurrency exchange Bithumb reported separate cybersecurity incidents involving customer information.

The threat is growing as hackers increasingly turn to artificial intelligence (AI) tools to find security weaknesses and launch attacks against multiple targets.

The recent incidents have highlighted the risks facing South Korea's highly digitalized economy, where financial institutions and businesses rely heavily on shared networks and online services.

A breach at a telecom operator, for example, could expose customer information used for banking and other online services, while an attack on a major cloud provider could disrupt multiple businesses at once.

Experts say the risks also extend to South Korea's key manufacturing industries, including semiconductors, automobiles and shipbuilding, which increasingly rely on connected factories and automated production systems. (IANS/UNI)

Aditya-L1 reveals solar eruptions expand asymmetrically

NEW DELHI, NOV 3
India's first space-based solar observatory, Aditya-L1, has helped scientists uncover new details about the behaviour of coronal mass ejections (CMEs) beneficial for space-weather studies and thereby affecting satellites and communication networks, an official statement said on Tuesday.



The statement from the Ministry of Science & Technology said observations revealed for the first time that these massive solar eruptions do not expand uniformly as previously assumed.

These differences in CME expansion can affect its speed as it travels towards Earth causing space-weather disturbances.

Researchers from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) combined observations from the Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC) aboard Aditya-L1 with data from NASA's Solar Dynamics Observatory (SDO) and three-dimensional modelling to reconstruct the full 3-D geometry and dynamics of a CME.

"The asymmetric shape of an early CME can have important implications for how it interacts with the solar wind and experiences drag during its propagation through the heliosphere. Such effects can influence the CME's speed and, ultimately, its arrival time at Earth", said Jayant Joshi of IIA and a co-author of the study published in Astrophysical Journal Letters.

Aditya L 1 satellite launched in September 2023 is now operational at the Sun–Earth L1 point, providing continuous observations of the Sun. It carries 7 payloads, of which the Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC), the primary payload, is an internally occulted coronagraph designed to observe the solar corona simultaneously in various modes.

The model was used to test how the CME's orientation and uneven sideways expansion could produce the spectral structures observed by VELC.

The researchers plan to use this technique on other CMEs, to reconstruct their motion without relying entirely on multi-viewpoint imaging from telescopes in space. This complementarity is particularly valuable in the lower corona, where CMEs evolve rapidly, and their motion along the line of sight cannot be obtained from imaging alone, the statement noted. (IANS/UNI)

Oracle cancels Tencent AI Chip leasing deal following US pressure



NEW DELHI, NOV 4
Oracle has reportedly canceled a multibillion-dollar agreement to lease advanced artificial intelligence chips to Chinese technology giant Tencent after coming under pressure from the Trump administration.

The report by Financial Times said US officials approached Oracle with concerns about the arrangement, which would have provided Tencent with access to a large number of advanced AI chips through Oracle's overseas data center network.

The move highlights growing scrutiny by Washington over China's access to cutting-edge computing technology amid an intensifying technology rivalry between the two countries.

The deal, first reported by the Financial Times last month, was estimated to be worth about $7 billion and was described as Tencent's largest overseas leasing agreement.

Under the proposed five-year arrangement, Tencent was expected to gain access to around 100,000 advanced AI chips housed across multiple Oracle data centers in Southeast Asia.

The chips were seen as a way for Tencent to bolster its AI capabilities despite restrictions that have limited China's direct access to advanced semiconductors.

Washington has imposed export controls on high-end chips and AI-related technologies, while Beijing has pursued policies aimed at strengthening domestic semiconductor capabilities.

According to the report, Tencent has also faced pressure at home. Senior officials from Guangdong province, where the company is headquartered, reportedly urged the tech firm to support the use of domestically developed Chinese chips instead of relying on foreign technology.

Reuters could not independently verify the report. Oracle, Tencent and the White House did not immediately respond to requests for comment on the matter.

These chips are mainly needed to train AI models. Chinese companies are using overseas computing facilities because their domestic chips are not yet able to handle all these tasks. Although such overseas leasing deals are currently allowed under existing rules, US companies are facing increasing pressure to limit their business with Chinese customers. (IANS)

Renewable energy capacity projected to reach 530 GW

NEW DELHI, NOV 4
India is rapidly strengthening its position in global renewable energy markets, with the country's expanding clean energy capacity enhancing energy security, reducing dependence on imported fuels and creating new manufacturing opportunities, according to a new report released by the International Energy Agency (IEA).



Launched at the Bharat Renewable Energy Summit in the national capital, the India Renewable Energy Market Report 2026 said the country's renewable power capacity has nearly quadrupled over the past decade, crossing 300 gigawatts (GW) in 2026.

India is now the world's second-fastest-growing renewable energy market and the second-largest manufacturer of solar photovoltaic (PV) modules.

The report noted that India achieved its target of sourcing 50 per cent of installed power capacity from non-fossil fuel sources in 2025, five years ahead of schedule, underscoring the pace of its clean energy transition.

According to the IEA, the rapid deployment of renewable electricity has already delivered significant economic and energy security benefits. Renewable power generation helped India save more than $100 billion in coal and natural gas import costs between 2011 and 2025. These cumulative savings are expected to more than double by the end of the decade.

The agency estimated that without the solar, wind and bioenergy capacity added since 2010, India's coal imports in 2025 would have been around 110 million tonnes higher.

Looking ahead, the report forecasts India's renewable energy capacity to reach around 530 GW by 2030, with solar PV accounting for more than 80 per cent of all new installations.

The growth trajectory is expected to keep the country on track to meet its broader non-fossil power capacity goals.

IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol said India's renewable energy expansion is delivering major energy security benefits at a time of heightened uncertainty in global energy markets. (IANS/UNI)

Health Ministry aims to align Grade A microbial monitoring requirements

NEW DELHI, NOV 4
The government on Wednesday said it has proposed amendments to 'Schedule M' of the Drugs Rules 1945, to revise the prescribed limits for microbial contamination in Grade A clean areas in accordance with the World Health Organisation (WHO) guidelines.



Grade A areas are critical zones in sterile pharmaceutical manufacturing, where exposed products, containers, and sterilised components are handled.

Maintaining stringent microbial control in these areas is essential to ensuring the quality and safety of sterile pharmaceutical products.

According to Health Ministry, the proposed amendment aims to address the existing differences between the microbial contamination limits prescribed under Schedule M and the corresponding WHO requirements for Grade A areas, "thereby bringing India's regulatory provisions in line with internationally recognised standards".

"The proposed revision will harmonise the Revised 'Schedule M' with WHO guidelines and further strengthen the regulatory framework governing sterile pharmaceutical manufacturing in the country. It also provides for treating any microbial growth detected in Grade A areas as a trigger for investigation, in accordance with WHO guidance," the ministry said in a statement.

Stakeholders and members of the public are invited to submit their objections and suggestions, if any, on the proposed amendment to the Under Secretary (Drugs Regulation), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, or via email.

The proposed amendment reflects the government's commitment to strengthening quality standards in pharmaceutical manufacturing, aligning domestic regulatory requirements with international benchmarks and ensuring the quality and safety of pharmaceutical products.

On Tuesday, the Health Ministry proposed changes to the Drugs Rules, 1945, aimed at enhancing accountability and traceability in pharmaceutical manufacturing by mandating the appointment of authorised personnel for batch release of drugs.

Under the proposed amendments, drug manufacturers seeking licences under the relevant provisions of the Drugs Rules, 1945, will be required to nominate a suitably qualified and experienced individual to undertake batch-release functions.

Manufacturers will also have to maintain prescribed records related to the release of each batch and issue batch-release certificates in a specified format. The ministry said the move seeks to address a regulatory gap in the existing framework. (IANS/UNI)

European supermarket fridges got hacked



Freezers are emptied and frozen goods are loaded into shopping carts to be thrown away at ICA Kvantum in Sjöbo, Sweden.

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
LONDON, NOV 4

Mysterious cyberattacks on European supermarket fridges have sent officials around the continent scrambling to figure out the cold, hard facts.

Supermarkets in a number of European countries reported this week that their fridges and freezers warmed up after they were remotely taken over, resulting in tons of spoiled food at a total cost of millions of dollars (euros).

One Swedish supermarket said its fridges and freezers had been hacked and set to 50 degrees Celsius (122 degrees Fahrenheit). It's a repeat of an earlier incident that struck refrigeration systems in hundreds of supermarkets and independent stores across France, Belgium and the Netherlands.

Supermarkets in at least half a dozen European countries, including Sweden, Belgium, Luxembourg, Ireland, Italy and Estonia, reported problems on Monday.

It wasn't just big chains.

The owner of a butcher shop in Athens told private Greek Skai TV Tuesday that someone hacked into the temperature control of a refrigeration unit, raising the temperature to 150 degrees Celsius (302 degrees Fahrenheit).

George Boubas said his employees who start their shift at 4 a.m. at the shop in the Kifisia suburb first noticed the problem. It took a technician two hours to wrest back control of the unit's temperature settings, although the meat products weren't affected, he said.

Boubas said the technician told him that an area supermarket and a fast-food restaurant experienced the same issue.

He said they resorted to switching off the Wi-Fi connection to the refrigeration units to restrict outside access.

Experts said the cyberattacks were a reminder of the risks that come as more things get connected to the internet.

US Midterms: Indian Americans record key victories

WASHINGTON, NOV 4

Indian-American candidates registered victories in congressional and state elections across the United States, while Democrat Dr Amish Shah led a closely watched House contest in Arizona and two prominent Indian-American Republicans, Vivek Ramaswamy and Saritha Komatireddy, lost statewide races.

Among the projected winners were Pia Dandiya in Florida, Suhas Subramanyam in Virginia, Pramila Jayapal in Washington state, Ro Khanna in California and Lieutenant Governor Aruna Miller in Maryland.

Several Indian-American candidates also secured victories in state legislative contests, while others maintained



substantial leads as counting continued late into the night.

Dandiya, a former school principal whose parents immigrated from India, defeated Republican Casey Askar in Florida's 22nd Congressional District. She secured approximately 52 per cent of the vote against Askar's 48 per cent, adding another Indian-American woman to the US House of Representatives.

In Virginia, Democratic Congressman Suhas Subramanyam won re-election from the 10th Congressional District, defeating Republican Dave Beckwith.

"The campaign is over, but the work is just beginning. I look forward to working with our community to deliver change in Washington," Subramanyam said in a statement.

In Maryland, Aruna Miller secured another four-year term as lieutenant governor after Democrat Wes Moore won re-election.

On the West Coast, Democratic Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal was projected to retain Washington state's 7th Congressional District, defeating Republican Nirav Sheth.

In California, Democratic Congressman Ro Khanna won re-election in the 17th Congressional District, defeating Republican Ritesh Tandon. Fellow Indian-American Congressman Ami Bera led Republican Robb Tucker by approximately 60 per cent to 40 per cent in the newly redrawn 3rd District, but that contest had not been called.

In Arizona, Indian-American physician and former state lawmaker Amish Shah was leading Republican Jay Feely in the 1st Congressional District.

Decision Desk HQ showed Shah receiving 54.9 per cent against Feely's 43.2 per cent, with approximately 76 per cent of the expected vote counted. No winner had been projected.

The contest, covering Scottsdale and parts of metropolitan Phoenix, could add another Indian-American Democrat to Congress. (IANS/UNI)

Indonesia detains 3 police generals suspected of wiretapping president Subianto

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
JAKARTA, NOV 4

Indonesian police said Tuesday they had detained three senior police generals suspected of illegally wiretapping President Prabowo Subianto and dozens of other prominent figures.

Asep Safrudin, head of the National Police's Criminal Investigation Agency, said the suspects were being investigated for illegally intercepting communications, accessing electronic systems without authorization and deleting electronic data.



Prabowo Subianto

Police identified the suspects as current Presidential Chief of Staff Gen. Listyo Sigit Prabowo, National Police Legal Division head Insp. Gen. Ahrie Sonta Nasution and Insp. Gen. Eko Hadi Santoso, a senior instructor at the National Police Education and Training Institute. All three were detained at the National Police headquarters detention center, Safrudin said.

"The suspects are alleged to have carried out nonprocedural or illegal tapping against the telephone numbers of the president of the Republic of Indonesia, state officials, political figures, media figures, community leaders, NGO activists and businesspeople," Safrudin told a news conference at national police headquarters in Jakarta late Tuesday.

Neither Prabowo nor the three suspects have responded publicly to the wiretapping allegations. A spokesperson for the Presidential Chief of Staff's office could not be reached for comment.

Safrudin said police had questioned 10 witnesses and three expert witnesses, and investigators had seized 11 mobile phones, an iPad and four flash drives as evidence in the case.

Police allege the unauthorized wiretapping took place between 2025 and 2026 — during which Listyo held a position as National Police chief — with the suspects ordering wiretaps without following procedures established under a 2010 National Police regulation. Several telephone numbers were entered into the Lawful Interception Management System, or LIMS, without verification, Safrudin said.

Poland tightens security long Russian Border

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
WARSAW, NOV 4

Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk said on Tuesday that Poland successfully prevented what appeared to be an attempted provocation on its border with the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad overnight.

He gave few details but said that "individuals with flashlights" had been observed in the border area. The Polish guards prevented any incident from happening.

Poland, NATO's largest member on the alliance's eastern flank, borders Russia's Kaliningrad exclave to the north and Belarus, Moscow's close ally, to the east. "Just after midnight, I received information from the border guards that disturbing movement had been observed on the Polish-Russian border," Tusk said.

The Polish police, working with the military, border guards and intelligence services, have been carrying out additional activities recently to strengthen security along Poland's borders with Russia and Belarus, including near the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad.

On Tuesday, Tusk confirmed that a special operation coordinated by the police was happening in the two border regions.

Tusk said additional police and other troops, including counter-terrorism units, were recently directed to Poland's north-east border regions.

North Korea fires multiple missiles toward East Sea

SEOUL, NOV 4

North Korea fired multiple missiles toward the East Sea on Wednesday, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said, just days after it fired nearly a dozen short-range ballistic missiles.

The missiles were launched from the Sondok area in South Hamgyong Province early Wednesday, the JCS said, adding that further analysis of specifications was underway in coordination with the United States.

"Our military is monitoring the North's various movements under a robust South Korea-US combined defence posture, and maintains the capabilities and readiness to respond overwhelmingly to any provocations," the JCS said in a notice to the press, Yonhap News Agency reported.



File Photo

The missiles are believed to have flown less than 300 kilometres, with authorities analysing specifications of the launched missiles while leaving open the possibility that it involved a close-range ballistic missile.

"It appears to be the Hwasong-11 Ra surface-to-surface tactical ballistic missile," Shin Jong-woo, secretary-general of the Seoul-based Korea Defence and Security Forum, told Yonhap News Agency.

If confirmed, it would mark the third time the North has launched a ballistic missile in just a week.

The North fired around a dozen short-range ballistic missiles toward the East Sea from the Wonsan area on Thursday, less than a week after the South Korean military proposed military talks with Pyongyang over the inter-Korean border.

North Korean state media has reported that Pyongyang also tested a cluster bomb that can be mounted on tactical ballistic missiles on Saturday. The South Korean military did not disclose its detection of the test.

Wednesday's launch comes as Kim Yo-jong, the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, issued back-to-back statements this week countering the outcome of a US investigation that blamed the North for the theft of more than US$6 billion in cryptocurrency from Binance, the world's largest cryptocurrency exchange. (IANS/UNI)

Russian strikes disrupt water and power in Kyiv

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
KYIV, NOV 4

Overnight attacks on critical infrastructure triggered power and water outages across Kyiv and surrounding regions Wednesday as rescuers combed through rubble in southern Ukraine, still searching for survivors three days after one of the deadliest attacks there in nearly five years of war.

On Monday, multiple Russian guided bombs had slammed into a school and shelter in the village of Komyshuvakha, near the front line in the Zaporizhzhia region. Authorities have confirmed 37 deaths and say some 38 may still be trapped.



Underground school lies destroyed after a Russian airstrike in Komyshuvakha.

Moscow showed no signs of letting up its aerial assaults elsewhere.

In Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, residents were urged to use public drinking water fountains, and emergency centers were being hastily set up in the worst-hit areas, offering hot tea and power points where people could charge up electrical devices.On Tuesday, a large-scale Russian attack on power plants and substations across nine regions knocked out power in several areas in and around Kyiv. The state-owned electricity company Ukrenergo said Russia had struck energy facilities more than 20 times in 24 hours.

Greenland approves security deal with Denmark and US

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
ILULISSAT, NOV 4

Greenlandic lawmakers on Tuesday voted to approve an agreement between the Arctic island, Denmark and the United States to strengthen security in the Arctic and North Atlantic after months of pressure by U.S. President Donald Trump seeking to control the semiautonomous territory of a NATO ally.

The trilateral deal paves the way for more U.S. bases in Greenland and eases tensions over Trump's repeated calls for the vast island to become part of the United States. The agreement's goal is to bolster the U.S. military presence on Greenland but keep



the self-governing island under Danish control. It would still apply if Greenland eventually chooses independence.

Greenlandic lawmakers voted 16-0 for the agreement, with seven abstentions, in the capital city of Nuuk.

Some 570 kilometers (350 miles) north of Nuuk, Nukaaka Lund-Mathaeussen hoped that the deal's approval means the Trump administration "got what they wanted."

The U.S. president had previously said he would not rule out the use of military force to seize control of Greenland because he declared U.S. control of it to be vital to American national security, though he also underlined his support for Greenlanders determining their own future. He later backed down from any threat.

The White House had no immediate comment on the vote, but the State Department said it "marks another major victory for American national security."

"This administration is securing America's strategic interests in the Arctic, strengthening our national defense and ensuring this critical region remains free of adversarial threats," it said in a post on X.

Trump, Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen and Greenlandic Prime Minister Jens-Frederik Nielsen signed the security agreement in September on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly in New York.

Danish lawmakers are set to debate it later this month. The deal will "enter into force" once the "necessary parliamentary processes of the Kingdom of Denmark, in conjunction with Greenland, have been completed."

Despite the Greenland parliament's approval, Lund-Mathaeussen said some residents on the island felt worried and powerless. "What can a regular guy like me do about the diplomatic engine?" the municipality worker said. "It's a big machine, and being a small person here in Greenland — it's hard to have any influences on those things."

In expanding its military presence on the island, the agreement says Washington is to award contracts for goods and services related to setting up, maintaining or dismantling such bases "to Greenlandic sources to the maximum extent possible."

Spain's transport minister steps down after rail crash

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
MADRID, NOV 4

Spain's Transport Minister Óscar Puente announced Tuesday that he is stepping down, six days after a high-speed train collision south of Madrid killed 69 people.

He made the announcement at the end of an hourslong appearance before lawmakers about the crash — the second such deadly collision this year involving Spain's extensive high-speed rail network.

"A transport minister in a country like Spain cannot remain in office after two accidents of this seriousness in less than a year," Puente said.

The Oct. 28 crash took place when a high-speed train slammed into another that had stopped on the tracks. The chain of events that led to disaster started when the communication system key to the functioning of the security system on the Madrid-Seville line went down. Central controllers in Madrid took over and gave the go-ahead for a state-operated Renfe high-speed train to proceed, even though there was a stationary train ahead operated by the company Iryo.

Israel attacks towns, sets homes ablaze in southern Lebanon

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
BEIRUT, NOV 4

Israeli forces shelled several areas in southern Lebanon and set homes ablaze Wednesday, the Lebanese National News Agency (NNA) reported.

Israeli forces set fire to homes in the town of Haddatha in the Bint Jbeil district starting Wednesday morning, the agency said, without specifying the number of houses or the extent of the damage.

Artillery shelling also targeted the town of Baraachit in the Bint Jbeil district, as well as the town of Mansouri and Wadi Zibqin in the Tyre district, with no immediate reports of casualties.


File Photo

In the Hasbaya district, an Israeli drone dropped stun grenades near a group of farmers picking olives around Halta farm, on the outskirts of Kfar Shuba. No injuries were reported, according to NNA.

The agency also reported Israeli drones flying at low altitude over Beirut and its southern suburbs, as well as the Zahrani area in southern Lebanon. Heavy Israeli drone activity was also recorded over the Iqlim al-Kharrub region in the Chouf district of Mount Lebanon.

Yair Golan accuses Netanyahu of attempting coup

Israeli opposition leader Yair Golan accused Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Wednesday of attempting a coup to remain in power after losing last week's parliamentary elections.

Golan, who heads the Democrats party, described developments in the last 24 hours as a serious warning sign for Israeli democracy.

"Netanyahu lost. He refuses to recognize the results, and he is trying to carry out a coup and seize power by force," Golan wrote on US social media platform X.

He alleged that police arrested political activists without warrants and that the Shin Bet domestic security agency attempted to question senior elected officials without presenting evidence.

Golan also accused the outgoing government of refusing to recognize the election results, saying the developments were interconnected.

Syria discusses investment opportunities with China

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
DAMASCUS, NOV. 4

President Ahmad al-Sharaa held talks Tuesday at the People's Palace in Damascus with a delegation representing several Chinese companies and business groups.

The talks focused on investment opportunities in Syria and ways to strengthen economic cooperation and expand partnerships, particularly in industry, construction and reconstruction projects.

The meeting was attended by the ministers of energy, public works and housing, industry, and internal trade and consumer protection, as well as the presidential adviser for economic affairs and the director-general of the Syrian Investment Authority.

The meeting coincided with the opening of the Syrian-Chinese Economic Development Forum at the Four Seasons Hotel in Damascus.

The forum was organized by the Syrian-Chinese Business Council in coordination with the Syrian-Chinese Center for Industrial Cities Twinning and in cooperation with the Syrian ministries responsible for the economy, industry, internal trade and consumer protection.

Saudi Arabia vows firm response to any threat to national security

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
RIYADH, NOV 4

The Council of Ministers reaffirmed Saudi Arabia's unwavering resolve to safeguard its sovereignty, security and territorial integrity, declaring that any threat or aggression against its national security or the safety of its citizens and residents would be met with a firm and resolute response. Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman chaired the Cabinet session in Riyadh on Tuesday.

The Cabinet reviewed the latest regional and international developments, underscoring the


Mohammed bin Salman

Kingdom's continued diplomatic engagement, in close coordination with friendly nations, to reinforce regional security, preserve stability, and advance the causes of development, prosperity and lasting peace for the peoples of the region.

At the outset of the session, the Crown Prince briefed the Cabinet on the contents of the two messages addressed to Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman and the Crown Prince from King of Malaysia Sultan Ibrahim Iskandar, as well as the message the Crown Prince sent to Chinese President Xi Jinping. He also briefed the Cabinet on his phone calls with Korean President Lee Jae Myung, President of Romania Nicu or Dan, and Prime Minister of Spain Pedro Sánchez, alongside the outcomes of his reception of Jordanian Crown Prince Al Hussein bin Abdullah.

In a statement to the Saudi Press Agency following the session, Minister of Media Salman Al-Dossary said that the Cabinet reviewed the outcomes of Saudi Arabia's participation in meetings held under the auspices of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the G20. This was part of the Kingdom's efforts to support multilateral action aimed at strengthening mechanisms for joint cooperation across various fields, serving mutual interests and benefits, and contributing to effective and sustainable solutions.

Defense Ministry committed to supporting Kuwait's cybersecurity system

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
KUWAIT, NOV 4

The Ministry of Defense is committed to supporting Kuwait's cybersecurity system in line with the country's vision, protecting sensitive data and keeping operations running, Assistant Undersecretary for Support Services at the Ministry of Defense Dr Wael Nasser Hamoud Al-Sabah said on Wednesday. He was speaking at the opening of the 7th Gulf Conference and Exhibition on Cybersecurity Challenges, held under the patronage of Defense Minister Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah.



The two-day event, held under the theme "Building capabilities and enhancing readiness: Innovation and governance", is organized in cooperation with the Communication and Information Technology Regulatory Authority (CITRA) and the Kuwait Banking Association (KBA). Al-Sabah said the ministry was setting frameworks and policies and ensuring compliance with national standards. He described cybersecurity as one of the most important elements of national security as sectors go digital, and stressed the need to raise public awareness of cyber risks.

CITRA Chairman Dr Khaled Al-Zamel said strengthening cybersecurity requires moving beyond plans and policies to measuring how ready institutions actually are, with clear performance indicators. He said government bodies in Kuwait had been hit by attacks, and that data breaches in the region cost an average of $8 million this year, compared with about $5 million globally, with one in four breaches using artificial intelligence (AI).

Trial begins for suspects in Karak attack case

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
KARAK, NOV 4

The State Security Court held its first hearing on Wednesday in the case involving the terrorist attack on the St. George Church in the town of Hamoud, Karak Governorate.

The hearing took place in a calm and transparent atmosphere. The court heard the defendants' responses to the charges brought against them and decided to appoint lawyers to represent them in accordance with the law.

Lawyer Amer Hussein Al-Halasa attended the hearing as a representative of the families and relatives of the martyrs.

On Tuesday, State Security Court Prosecutor Brigadier Judge Ahmad Talat Shahaltough announced that the court's Public Prosecutor's Office had completed all investigative procedures. These included hearing testimony from prosecution witnesses, collecting evidence from the crime scene, documenting the weapons and ammunition used in the terrorist attack on St. George Church in Hamoud, Karak, on October 23, 2026, and interrogating the defendants accused of carrying out and participating in the attack.

Committing terrorist acts using firearms and ammunition, in complicity, on two counts, in violation of Article 7(b)(3) of the Anti-Terrorism Law and its amendments, in conjunction with Articles 2 and 7(f) of the same law and Article 76 of the Penal Code.

UAE announces star ratings for government services

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
DUBAI, NOV 4

Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President, Prime Minister and Ruler of Dubai, has announced the results of the sixth cycle of the Global Star Rating System for Services 2026. The Traffic and Licensing Services Centre in Fujairah, part of the Ministry of Interior, achieved a 7-star rating, the first service channel to do so since the system was launched in 2011.

The cycle assessed 179 service channels across 27 federal government entities, making it the largest in the system's 15-year history.



Sheikh Mohammed said that improving government services and the customer experience will always remain a priority for the UAE Government, stressing the need to keep raising the efficiency and quality of services and to adopt the best global practices in delivering them, so that they meet society's aspirations and improve people's quality of life.

He said, "Today, we approved the results of the latest cycle of the UAE Government's Star Rating System, which measures the quality and progress of our services through the eyes of the people who use them. This cycle covered 179 service channels across 27 government entities, led by the Traffic and Licensing Services Centre in Fujairah with a 7-star rating. Our congratulations to Lt. General Sheikh Saif bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, and the Ministry of Interior team on this outstanding achievement."

Sheikh Mohammed added, "We defined our vision for government services years ago. We want services that match the finest hotels in hospitality, the best banks in accuracy and reliability, and airlines in speed and round the clock availability. We want a government that anticipates people's needs, exceeds their expectations, and makes their lives easier and better."

Mohammad Al Gergawi, Minister of Cabinet Affairs, said the vision of Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum has created a global model for government services, one that puts people first, judges government performance by the experience of its customers, and turns service excellence into a lasting institutional culture.

Türkiye to unveil major decarbonization platform

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
ANKARA, NOV 4

Türkiye is planning to unveil the Türkiye Industrial Decarbonization Investment Platform (TIDIP) at the upcoming 31st UN climate change conference (COP31) in the nation's southwestern Antalya province.

Antalya will host COP31 on Nov. 9-20, with a primary focus on establishing complementary partnerships to support the new platform.

The new scheme was established through the joint efforts of the Turkish Industry and Technology Ministry, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC).

The investment platform targets carbon-intensive sectors, such as iron and steel, aluminum, cement and fertilizer, with plans to mobilize over $6 billion by 2030 and achieve an annual reduction of 20 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions.

The Climate Investment Funds' Clean Technology Fund has already provided $250 million in initial funding to kick-start the initiative, while new financial institutions are also expected to join the joint declaration that will unveil the scheme at COP31.

Oman: Sohar Free Zone named best industrial zone in Middle East, fourth globally for 2026

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
MUSCAT, NOV 4

Sohar Free Zone has been ranked fourth globally and named the best industrial zone in the Middle East for 2026 in the World Free Zones Awards, organized by fDI Magazine, part of the Financial Times Group.

Sohar Free Zone also ranked sixth globally in AI readiness and tenth globally in post-investment services.

These rankings reflect the competitiveness of the investment environment in Sohar Free Zone and its integrated system that combines the port and the free zone, connecting investors to infrastructure, logistics, and global markets, thus



supporting the establishment, growth, and expansion of businesses.

The strategic location of Sohar Port and Free Zone on the Sea of Oman is one of its most prominent competitive advantages, along with its maritime network connecting it to international markets and the trade agreements signed by the Sultanate of Oman, which provide investors with access to key markets in the GCC, Asia, Africa, and Europe.

Dr. Raed bin Mohammed Al-Rubaie, CEO of Sohar Port and Freezone, stated that investment decisions are now based on factors that extend beyond cost and location. Foremost among these are business flexibility, rapid market access, a clear regulatory environment, and the ability to serve multiple markets from a single base. This is precisely what Sohar Port and Freezone is working to enhance through an integrated industrial and logistics system that empowers investors to confidently and efficiently establish, operate, and expand their projects.

He added that the zone's focus is not limited to attracting new investments but also extends to building long-term industrial partnerships, supporting the growth of existing projects, and strengthening their integration with global value and supply chains. We view this recognition as an incentive to continue developing our services and enhancing Sohar's competitiveness, keeping pace with the transformations in trade and industry and achieving sustainable value for investors and the national economy.

For his part, Dr. Saeed bin Khalifa Al-Quraini, Director General of Investment Sector Development at the Public Authority for Special Economic Zones and Free Zones, stated that this recognition reflects the important role played by the Sohar Free Zone and the progress achieved by the Sultanate of Oman in building an investment environment that combines clear and stable policies, competitive infrastructure, and integrated government support.

The Sohar Free Zone's ranking of tenth globally in post-investment services reflects its commitment to providing a business environment that supports investors at all stages of project establishment, operation, and expansion.

Cabinet okays Rs 14,500 crore viability gap funding for grid-scale energy storage systems

NEW DELHI, NOV 4

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) Scheme for development of grid-scale energy storage systems, with a total financial support of Rs 14,500 crore for the period FY 2026-27 to FY 2030-31.

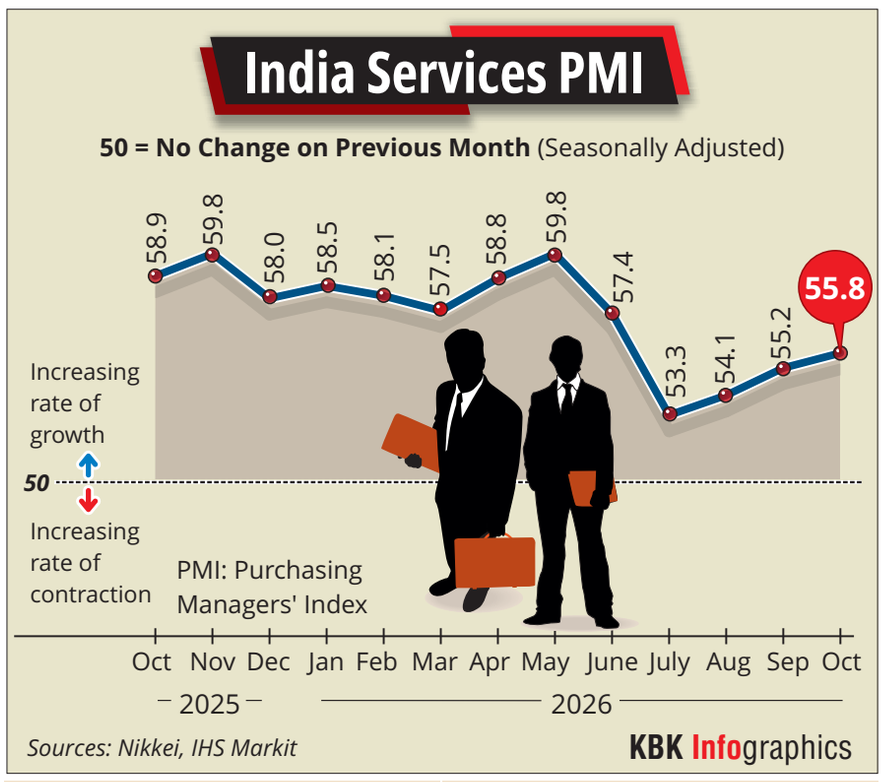


The scheme aims to support the development of 92 GWh of yet to be commissioned, energy storage capacity across the country. The scheme will support the creation of new capacities equivalent to 170 per cent of the present-day Grid Scale Energy Storage System capacity in the country and help meet the required Grid Scale ESS capacity of 411 GWh by 2031-32, according to an official statement.

The scheme marks a significant step towards strengthening India's power sector infrastructure, facilitating large-scale integration of renewable energy and ensuring reliable, affordable and round-the-clock power supply. It will also provide an impetus to domestic manufacturing of battery energy storage systems, reduce import dependence and enhance the country's long-term energy security.

The scheme envisages the development of 60 GWh of Hydro Pumped Storage Plant (PSP) capacity, 30 GWh of Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) capacity, and 2 GWh of capacity through alternative energy storage technologies, with a total estimated investment of Rs 97,600 crore. The VGF support will help improve the financial viability of these projects and accelerate the deployment of large-scale energy storage infrastructure in the country, the statement said.

Energy storage capacity will be allocated through a tariff-based competitive bidding process. Public and private sector electricity distribution companies will be eligible for VGF support for BESS and Hydro PSP projects, while projects based on alternative energy storage technologies will be implemented by public and private sector entities. (IANS/UNI)



Centre clears Rs. 2,814-Cr mineral scheme



NEW DELHI, NOV 4

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved a capex support scheme to promote critical mineral processing with a financial outlay of Rs 2,814 crore over a period of five years.

The 'Capex Support Scheme to Promote Critical Mineral Processing' aims to develop domestic processing capabilities in India to support value addition within the country, reduce import dependence, and develop the value chain.

The scheme period is from FY 2026-27 to 2030-31. Under the scheme, capital subsidy of 30 per cent of eligible investment will be provided for setting up four critical mineral processing plants, comprising two lithium processing plants (with a minimum capacity of 30 kt each) and two nickel processing plants (with a minimum capacity of 50 kt each).

The maximum capital support will be capped at Rs 500 crore per lithium beneficiary and Rs 900 crore per nickel beneficiary, respectively, according to an official statement.

The statement further said that the selection of beneficiaries would be carried out through a two-stage process.

In the first stage, applications shall be assessed for technical qualification, and only technically qualified applicants shall be eligible to participate in the second stage of financial bidding.

For each mineral, two beneficiaries shall be selected based on the least-cost criterion -- the lowest CAPEX support sought by the bidders under the scheme.

The incentives will be disbursed in three tranches linked to the achievement of specified milestones, said the Cabinet.

At present, India remains substantially dependent on imports for refined intermediates and high-purity materials, owing to the nascent stage of domestic beneficiation and processing infrastructure for critical minerals, including lithium, nickel, and cobalt.

Domestic processing capacity for critical minerals remains limited, with commercial-scale projects facing challenges relating to high capital requirements, limited availability of suitable technologies, and constrained access to raw materials. Domestic processing capacity is therefore imperative for maximising value addition, achieving import substitution, and establishing resilient end-to-end value chains. (IANS/UNI)

Indo-German Energy Forum's to focus on green hydrogen

NEW DELHI, NOV 4

As the Indo-German Energy Forum (IGEF) completed 20 years of bilateral energy cooperation, German Ambassador to India Jasper Wieck said on Wednesday that the most exciting phase of the partnership still lies ahead, with India and Germany set to deepen collaboration in renewable energy, green hydrogen, and future-ready industrial value chains.



The anniversary event in the national capital also highlighted green hydrogen as a key pillar of the next phase of Indo-German energy cooperation.

Held under the theme, "Indo-German Energy Forum – Navigating from Past to Present, with Optimism for the Future", the event highlighted the forum's role in advancing collaboration in areas such as renewable energy, energy efficiency, grid integration and green hydrogen since its establishment in 2006.

The IGEF is jointly anchored by Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy (BMWE) and India's Ministry of Power. Its work is guided by five thematic subgroups focusing on thermal power plant flexibilisation, renewable energy, energy efficiency, green energy financing and grid integration, and green hydrogen. (IANS)



Canva to eliminate 22% of jobs

NEW DELHI, NOV 4

Graphic design platform Canva will cut 1,271 jobs or about 22 per cent of its workforce as part of a major organisational overhaul aimed at positioning the company for long-term growth, Chief Executive Officer and Co-founder Melanie Perkins said on Wednesday.

In a note to employees published on Canva's official website, CEO Perkins described the move as the hardest moment in the company's 13-year history and said the company had decided to make significant changes to its structure, team locations and future skill requirements after months of deliberation.

The restructuring will affect 1,271 employees globally through role changes, relocations to centralised hubs and job eliminations. Canva said some teams would be consolidated while others would see broader responsibilities. (IANS)

RBI sets up Technical Consultative Committee for financial markets

MUMBAI, NOV 4

The Reserve Bank has constituted a Technical Consultative Committee for Financial Markets (TCCFM), headed by RBI Deputy Governor Rohit Jain, against the backdrop of rapidly evolving financial markets and market infrastructure.



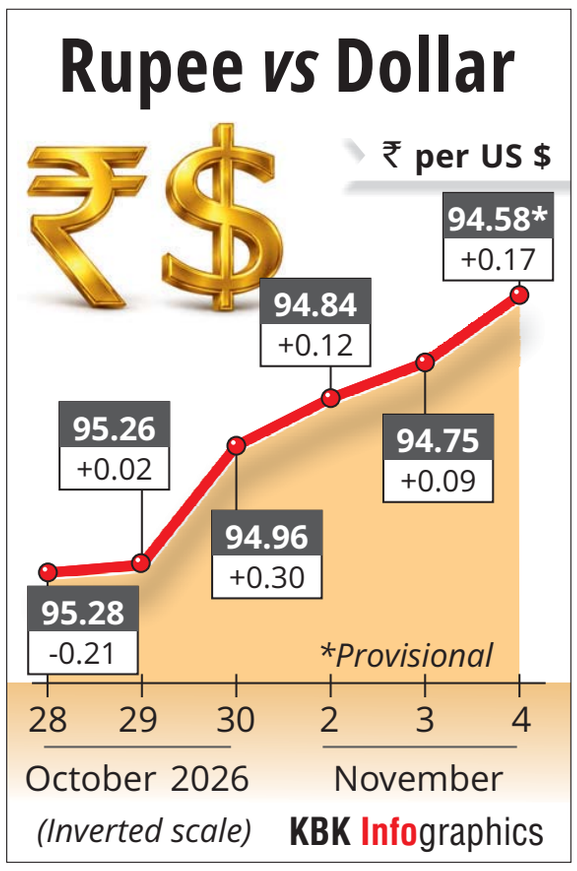
"The Committee will serve as a forum for structured engagement with market participants and stakeholders by the Reserve Bank on policy and operational matters related to money, government securities and foreign exchange markets as well as the respective derivative markets and infrastructure," according to an RBI statement issued on Wednesday.

While Jain is in charge of RBI's Financial Markets Regulation Department (FMRD) the committee will have seven external members representing banks, market associations, clearing institutions and financial services firms. The committee will meet at least once every quarter.

The external members include Ananth Narayan, former whole-time member of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) and professor of practice at IIT Bombay; Shamsher Singh, chairman of the Fixed Income Money Market and Derivatives Association of India (FIMMDA) and deputy managing director at State Bank of India; Neeraj Gambhir, executive director at Axis Bank.

Shailendra Jhingan, head of treasury and economic research at ICICI Bank; Aditya Bagree, managing director and head of markets at Citi India; Nand Kishore, managing director of Clearing Corporation of India Limited; and Ridham Desai, managing director at Morgan Stanley India are the other members. The committee's terms of reference include examining issues related to the functioning, efficiency, liquidity and resilience of the money, government securities, foreign exchange and related derivative markets. It will also identify measures to deepen and broaden these markets.

The panel will examine emerging policy and operational issues affecting financial markets, including implementation of RBI measures and identification of unintended market frictions. (IANS)



Gadkari announces bioethanol-powered Innova

NEW DELHI, NOV 4

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday announced that Toyota will launch a new version of its Innova vehicle running completely on 100 per cent bioethanol later this month, as the government pushes for cleaner and more cost-effective alternatives to conventional fossil fuels.



Speaking at the 'Powering the Next Mile' conclave here, Gadkari said the vehicle is scheduled to be launched on November 26.

According to him, the model will operate entirely on bioethanol instead of petrol and will offer substantial savings for consumers.

"This month, on November 26, I am going to launch Toyota's four-wheeler Innova, which will run entirely on 100 per cent bioethanol instead of petrol," he stated.

The minister said ethanol is currently priced at around Rs 75 per litre compared to petrol at about Rs 120 per litre.

He added that the vehicle would generate nearly 60 per cent of its power through electricity while running, bringing the effective operating cost down to the equivalent of Rs 25-30 per litre of petrol.

"The price of ethanol is Rs 75 per litre, while petrol costs Rs 120 per litre. This vehicle will also generate 60 per cent of its power through electricity while running. So, when calculated on an average basis compared to petrol, the effective cost will be equivalent to Rs 25–Rs 30 per litre," the minister stated.

Gadkari said green, safe and inclusive technologies such as electric and alternative-fuel vehicles would benefit both consumers and the country by reducing fuel costs and dependence on conventional fuels.

"This will result in significant savings for consumers. Regarding electric vehicles, I would like to say that this green, safe and inclusive technology will benefit all of you as well as the country," Gadkari mentioned.

Highlighting the evolution of India's electric mobility ecosystem, Gadkari said he had the opportunity to launch the first electric two-wheelers produced by Bajaj and TVS.

At the time, manufacturers offered vehicles with a driving range of around 125 kilometres.

However, he noted that several startups later reduced battery capacity to lower prices, allowing electric scooters to be sold for around Rs 70,000-72,000, though the range fell to about 70 kilometres. (IANS/UNI)

Sanmarg Group acquires Tehelka.com

KOLKATA, NOV 4

Sanmarg Private Limited has acquired a 100 per cent stake in Tehelka.com Private Limited, marking its entry into the magazine segment and adding to its presence in the digital media landscape, according to a company statement.

The group, which publishes a prominent Hindi daily, said it plans to invest further in Tehelka and intends to make the hitherto fortnightly magazine into a weekly publication and will continue to publish in both print and digital formats.

Sanmarg has made the acquisition from a group of investors who acquired the entire shareholding of Tehelka.com in 2017. These investors also successfully gave an exit to Tarun Tejpal and other minor investors. There have been no fresh litigations since their takeover. They also confirmed no involvement in any capacity of Tejpal in Tehelka or its operations, the press statement said.

Tejpal was earlier forced to step aside as editor after a sexual assault allegation by a colleague; he was later convicted and sentenced.

Sanmarg Group said it completed 100 per cent of the acquisition in October this year of Tehelka.com from these investors, along with all assets therein, both print, digital, and IP since 2017.

Arvind Chaturvedi has been appointed the new chief editor to head the publication.

The press statement also said that the erstwhile owner, Anant Media Pvt Ltd, will fight all previous litigations in which Tehelka was involved. Anant Media also has the sole responsibility for the earlier guarantees as well.

The press statement said that the lifetime subscribers of Tehelka shall continue to receive copies and digital subscription access, as applicable. (IANS/UNI)

1st ODI: Kohli's 74 powers India to 5-wicket win over NZ

AUCKLAND, NOV 4



Veteran batter Virat Kohli struck a commanding 74 off 51 balls after Arshdeep Singh, Gurnoor Brar and Anshul Kamboj's scintillating bowling show as India beat New Zealand by five wickets in a rain-affected first ODI here at Eden Park on Wednesday.

India's 'inexperienced' pace attack produced an impressive collective performance to bowl New Zealand out for 185 in 40.2 overs. In response, the visitors chased down a revised target of 143 in 22.4 overs to take a 1-0 lead in the five-match series.

India's chase suffered an early setback when Rohit Sharma was dismissed for a six-ball duck by Kyle Jamieson in the opening over. Brief Scores: New Zealand 185/10 in 40.2 overs (Tim Seifert 38, Blair Tickner 34; Arshdeep Singh 4-70, Gurnoor Brar 3-44, Anshul Kamboj 2-22) lose to India 143/5 in 22.4 overs, via DLS method (Virat Kohli 74, Shubman Gill 37; Jacob Duffy 3-49, Nathan Smith 1-21) by five wickets. (IANS)

ICC Rankings: Starc reclaims top spot in Test

DUBAI, NOV 4



Australia fast bowler Mitchell Starc reclaimed the top spot in the ICC Test Bowling Rankings after an impressive performance against South Africa, while India captain Shreyas Iyer moved up two places to seventh in the latest T20I rankings released on Wednesday.

Starc climbed one place to overtake South Africa's Marco Jansen after taking nine wickets in the third and final Test of the three-match series in Cape Town. The Australian left-arm pacer also achieved a new career-best rating of 881 to regain the No.1 position.

Starc had first reached the top of the rankings in August after ending India's Jasprit Bumrah's reign. However, Jansen took over the leading position following his six-wicket haul in the second Test at Gqeberha. The South African managed just three wickets in the Cape Town encounter, allowing Starc to return to the summit. (IANS)

PV Sindhu qualifies for BWF World Tour Finals

NEW DELHI, NOV 4



India ace shuttler P.V. Sindhu has qualified for the BWF World Tour Finals, the Badminton World Federation confirmed on Wednesday.

The World Tour Finals will take place in Hangzhou, China, from December 9-13. Her familiar foes, An Se Young, Akane Yamaguchi, Wang Zhi Yi and Chen Yu Fei, are others to qualify for the year-ender tournament.

This will be Sindhu's sixth career appearance in the World Tour Finals and her first since 2021. She had qualified for 2022 but withdrew due to an injury. She is the only Indian to win a BWF World Tour Finals women's singles title when she defeated Japan's Nozomi Okuhara in 2018. (IANS/UNI)

Bayern overcome injury setbacks to beat Atletico 2-0

MADRID, NOV 4



Bayern Munich demonstrated their depth and resilience by securing a 2-0 victory over Atletico Madrid in the UEFA Champions League, extending their unbeaten run in the competition despite arriving in Spain without several key players and head coach Vincent Kompany.

Teenage forward Lennart Karl and Konrad Laimer found the net for the German champions, who controlled proceedings against Diego Simeone's side to strengthen their position in the league-phase standings.

Bayern's preparations had been far from ideal, with Jamal Musiala, Luis Diaz, Serge Gnabry and Ismael Saibari among those unavailable through injury. Kompany was also absent from the touchline after falling ill with a meningitis-related condition. However, the visitors showed little sign of being affected by the disruptions.

Karl, who endured a difficult opening half, emerged as the unlikely breakthrough figure shortly after the interval. The 18-year-old seized on a defensive lapse from Robin Le Normand, took possession away from the Atletico defender and cleverly lifted the ball over goalkeeper Jan Oblak in the 54th minute.

The goal gave Bayern the momentum they needed, and Laimer soon extended their advantage with a spectacular finish. Harry Kane, making his first European appearance since winning the Ballon d'Or, spotted the midfielder in space and supplied the pass before Laimer unleashed a powerful effort into the roof of the net. (IANS/UNI)

WTA Finals draw: Rybakina to face Noskova in opener

NEW DELHI, NOV 4



World No. 1 and defending champion Elena Rybakina was handed a tough path to the knockout stage of the WTA Finals as the 27-year-old has been paired with American duo of Coco Gauff and Jessica Pegula and Wimbledon champion Linda Noskova in Group 1.

The event, which features the top eight women's players in the world, are separated into two four-player groups that will face off in a round-robin event, beginning on November 8 to determine four semifinalists.

The semifinals will be played on November 14, and the winners will then face off for the title on November 15.

A first meeting of 2026 between the last two major champions, Rybakina and Noskova, is set to open the WTA Finals. Rybakina, who fell to Aryna Sabalenka in the Indian Wells championship match in March, seeks to successfully defend the WTA Finals title for the first time since Serena Williams did it in 2013-14.

But the young Czech will be eager to make a statement in her debut at the year-end championships after winning her first Grand Slam title at Wimbledon earlier this year.

The two last met in Wuhan in 2025, where Rybakina earned her third straight victory in the head-to-head, all in straight sets. Gauff won the WTA Finals in 2024 and Pegula finished runner-up to Iga Swiatek in 2023. The pair were drawn into the same group at last year's WTA Finals, where Dubai champion Pegula prevailed in three sets. But Cincinnati champion Gauff has won both of their 2026 encounters, in the Wimbledon quarterfinals and the Cincinnati final. (IANS)

ENTERTAINMENT

Salman Khan releases new song



M.A.SALAM
Film Journalist



Bollywood superstar Salman Khan treated his fans to a new song, 'Teri Sexy Beauty', reportedly from his upcoming film 'Maatrubhumi', on Wednesday.

The actor took to his social media account to announce the release of the track, which has been sung by him along with Muskaan.

Sharing a clip of the song sung by him, Salman wrote, "Departure time 5:12 am.... Flight on time , 2 pegs down taking off with my sexy beauty... pata nahi kahaan mai land karoon #TeriSexyBeauty Out Now."

In the video clip, Salman can be seen entering the recording studio and singing the song in his quintessential style.

Featuring Salman Khan in the promotional artwork, the song announcement poster shows the actor wearing headphones and smiling as he listens to the track. The poster carries the film's title, 'Maatrubhumi', along with the tagline, 'May war rest in peace'.

According to the credits mentioned on the poster, 'Teri Sexy Beauty' is a Himesh Reshammiya musical, with Salman Khan and Muskaan as the singers. Sajid Khan has composed the music and penned the lyrics, while Caesar Gonsalves has choreographed the song.

This is not the first time Salman has lent his vocals to a track. Over the years, Salman has sung many tracks for his films, including 'Chandi Ki Daal Par' from 'Hello Brother', which marked one of his earliest singing outings.

Sandeep Reddy Vanga hits back at trolls



Ace director Sandeep Reddy Vanga on Wednesday hit back hard at trolls on social media who were looking to assign blame to his films for the recent school incident in Raptadu in Andhra Pradesh, where a man with a chainsaw attacked two tenth standard girls inside their classroom.

Taking to his X timeline to register his thoughts on trolls who were blaming cinema for the heinous crime, director Sandeep Reddy Vanga wrote, "When someone commits a heinous crime, the first response should be empathy and an attempt to understand the larger problem. Not finding a convenient scapegoat in cinema."

He went on to observe, "It is becoming increasingly clear that your concern is not for the victims or their families, but that you're using a horrific tragedy as a dirty excuse to settle your personal scores."

Vanga went on to specify whom his post was for. He wrote, "This is especially directed at those failed frustrated jobless male/female actors, few directors, producers & parasites, who suddenly appoint themselves as social reformers whenever an opportunity arises to take a dig at someone else's work. A tragedy deserves empathy, not opportunism. Learn the difference."

The incident had shocked the nation, with several people from across society expressing concern about the crime.

For the unaware, a Class 10 girl student was brutally attacked inside her classroom at Zilla Parishad High School in Raptadu of Anantapur district in Andhra Pradesh.

The student sustained severe injuries to her face, head, and throat in the attack, officials said and added that the girl sustained deep wounds to her neck and abdomen, while her right hand was reportedly almost severed in the assault.

Another girl student, who attempted to intervene and save her, was also seriously injured during the attack.

'Dharman' team welcomes Sree Leela on board



The makers of director Ashwath Marimuthu's eagerly awaited action entertainer 'Dharman', featuring Superstar Rajinikanth in the lead, on Wednesday welcomed actress Sree Leela on board the unit of the film.

Raaj Kamal Films International, the production house of actor Kamal Haasan which is producing the film, took to its social media timelines to welcome the actress on board the unit of the film.

It wrote, "She's got the spark. She's got the pataka. Welcoming the gorgeous @sreeleela14 to DHARMAN. #Dharman #KettaPaiyanSir #SuperstarRajinikanth #KamalHaasan."

Director Ashwath Marimuthu too took to his X timeline to welcome the actress to the unit. He wrote, "Welcome on board @ sreeleela14."

Ayushmann Khurrana receives threatening audio message



Bollywood seems to be undergoing a phase of constant threats. After the unfortunate firing incident involving actor Tiger Shroff, sources claimed that Bollywood actor Ayushmann Khurrana has also received a threatening audio clip.

The sources further revealed that in the audio, the person has claimed to be part of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang. The sender of the audio clip has reportedly demanded crores of rupees.

The police shared that they are matching the audio of the person's claimed identity with the audio of the accused whose name is already in the police records.

Meanwhile, the cyber cell is also reportedly tracing the number and location from which the message was sent to Ayushmann.

Recently, actor Tusshar Kapoor also reportedly received a threatening audio message, in which the sender claimed to be Harry Boxxer,

a member of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, and demanded Rs 5 crore from the 'Golmaal' actor.

However, as per the preliminary investigation, the audio might be fake. The police are working on identifying the gang or individual sending these threatening messages and creating fear.

In February, Boxer had also reportedly issued similar threats to actor Ranveer Singh and filmmaker Rohit Shetty. However, as per reports, he was detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers in California.

Meanwhile, the Lawrence Bishnoi group also claimed responsibility for the attack on Tiger Shroff, which took place on October 18 this year.

Sadar Sammelanam celebrates self-respect of TG people: CM Revanth



TFP I SAUD SIDDIQUI
HYDERABAD, NOV 4

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Wednesday said the Sadar Sammelanam was not merely a festival of the Yadav community but a celebration of the self-respect of all the people of Telangana.

He said the State government had recognised the community's contribution by declaring Sadar Sammelanam a state festival and sanctioning Rs 5 crore for its organisation.

Addressing the grand Sadar Sammelanam held at NTR Gardens here, the Chief Minister said Hyderabad had developed with the cooperation and contribution of the Yadav community.

Recalling the historical association of the community with the region, he said Golconda Fort was once known as 'Gollamkonda', meaning the hill of shepherds.

He said the Yadav community had welcomed and embraced people who came to Hyderabad from different parts of the country. No previous Chief Minister had considered declaring Sadar Sammelanam a state festival, and the present government had taken the decision in recognition of the community, he added.

Revanth Reddy said the government had conducted a caste census in Telangana in a manner that could serve as a model for the country and was committed to ensuring due representation for the Yadav community.

He cited the opportunities provided to Anil Kumar Yadav as a Rajya Sabha member, Naveen Yadav as an MLA and Eshwaramma Yadav as a member of the Yadagirigutta Temple Board.

The Chief Minister also said the government was making arrangements for the protection of cows at the goshala in Yadagirigutta and would take further measures to ensure that the Yadav community received its rightful share.

Stating that the government was working to transform Telangana into one of the most developed States in the country, he sought the cooperation of the Yadav community in taking forward major initiatives, including the Musi Riverfront development, Metro rail network expansion and the proposed Bharat Future City.

RJD leader and former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav and TPCC President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud attended the programme as chief guests. The event was organised under the leadership of MP Anil Kumar Yadav and former MP Anjan Kumar Yadav.

Government Advisor Hanumantha Rao, Mohammed Ali Shabbir, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, public representatives, Congress leaders and workers, and representatives of various Yadav community organisations also participated. A large number of community members attended the celebrations, which highlighted the traditions, culture and unity of the Yadav community.

Comprehensive land survey across TG to be completed by next year: Revenue Minister

Farmers to get secure land records and dispute-free titles



TFP I FAROOQ KHAN
RANGAREDDY, NOV 4

Revenue, Housing and Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy has said the Telangana government aims to complete a comprehensive land survey across the state by next year to resolve long-pending land disputes and provide secure land records to farmers.

During a review meeting on land surveys, revenue, stamps and registration, and housing issues concerning the erstwhile Rangareddy district at the Medchal-Malkajgiri Collectorate on Wednesday, the minister directed officials to conduct the resurvey in the presence of farmers and address field-level disputes on the spot. The meeting was attended by Rangareddy district in-charge Minister D. Sridhar Babu.

Ponguleti said the first phase of the survey would begin in selected revenue villages across districts. He instructed Tahsildars to visit survey villages regularly and RDOs, Additional Collectors and Collectors to closely monitor the work, with senior officials visiting the villages at least once a week. The survey will address boundary disputes, discrepancies in survey records and actual land possession, as well as issues involving patta and forest lands.

He said the government aimed to provide every landowner with secure and comprehensive land records and updated passbooks. Officials were directed to disclose pending applications and field-level problems without concealment so that suitable solutions could be initiated. He also warned of action against officials who deliberately mislead people or cause unnecessary hardship and called for a review of issues relating to Section 22-A that remain unresolved under existing government orders and memorandums.

MP Etela Rajender, MLAs Kale Yadaiah, Manohar Reddy, Arikepudi Gandhi, Bandaru Lakshma Reddy, Eerlapalli Shankar and Marri Rajasekhar Reddy, along with other public representatives and senior officials, attended the meeting.

TG's industrial GSVA grows 8.1% to Rs. 3.04 lakh cr: Sridhar Babu



Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka, IT and Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu at FICCI Centenary Celebrations and Telangana Deep-Tech Leadership Summit in Hyderabad.

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
HYDERABAD, NOV 4

Telangana's industrial sector registered 8.1 per cent growth in 2025-26, taking its Gross State Value Added (GSVA) to Rs.3.04 lakh crore, while merchandise exports increased by 39.3 per cent, IT and Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu said on Wednesday.

Addressing the FICCI Centenary Celebrations and Telangana Deep-Tech Leadership Summit at ITC Kakatiya here, he said the State was developing infrastructure to emerge as a global deep-tech hub, with a focus on artificial intelligence, quantum technology, robotics, cybersecurity, semiconductors and advanced manufacturing.

He expressed confidence that Telangana could double its contribution to the country's GDP from the present 5 per cent to 10 per cent.

Sridhar Babu said 13 lakh people were employed across the State's industrial ecosystem as of December 2025. He called upon industry leaders, technology experts and innovators to help Telangana manufacture high-value products for global markets.

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka said the government aimed to make Telangana a USD 1 trillion economy by 2034 and stressed the need for greater investment, testing facilities, certification infrastructure and public-private partnerships to promote deep-tech innovation.

The Deputy Chief Minister and Sridhar Babu released the FICCI-EY report titled Telangana DeepTech Blueprint, which outlines strategies to position the State as a global deep-tech innovation hub.

FICCI Past President and Apollo Hospitals Joint Managing Director Dr Sangita Reddy, FICCI Telangana State Council Chairman V.V. Rama Raju, FTCCI President K.K. Maheshwari and other industry representatives attended the summit.



Cabinet to discuss drought conditions, Global Summit preparations today

TFP I ABDUL RAHMAN KHAN
HYDERABAD, NOV 4

The Telangana Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, will meet here on Thursday to discuss the prevailing drought conditions in the state and preparations for the Invest Telangana Global Summit 2026.

The meeting is scheduled to be held at 4 pm at the Dr B R Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat. The Cabinet is expected to review the drought situation, rainfall deficit and its impact on agriculture, rural livelihoods, drinking water and other sectors.

It may also discuss measures to address the challenges arising from the prevailing conditions. Preparations for the Invest Telangana Global Summit 2026, a key priority for the state government, are also expected to figure prominently in the discussions.

The meeting is also likely to take up draft bills, welfare schemes, development programmes and other important administrative matters.



Minority institutions respond positively to Congress appeal for Graduate MLC polls



FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
HYDERABAD, NOV 4

Representatives of leading minority educational institutions in Telangana responded positively to an appeal by Advisor to the Telangana Government and senior Congress leader Mohammed Ali Shabbir to support party candidates in the forthcoming Graduate MLC elections. At a meeting at his Jubilee Hills residence on Wednesday evening, they assured him that they would consider extending support and encouraging their alumni to vote for Congress candidates.

The meeting, attended by AICC Secretary Sachin Sawant, TPCC Senior Vice-President Zafar Javeed and heads of nearly 15 minority institutions, discussed strategies to secure support for Sama Rammohan Reddy from the Mahabubnagar-Ranga Reddy-Hyderabad Graduates' Constituency and Ramreddy Sarvotham Reddy from Warangal-Khammam-Nalgonda.

Among those present were Zafar Javeed of M.J. College (Sultan-ul-Uloom); Mujahid Alam Khan of Anwar-ul-Uloom College; Syed Basha Mohiuddin of Lords Engineering College; Mohammed Qayyum of Presidency College; Mohd Ghouse of Azad College of Engineering; Mohammed Habeeb of MRM College; and Mohammed Anwar, Director of M.S. Junior College. Representatives of other minority institutions also attended. Candidate Sama Rammohan Reddy was also present.

Shabbir Ali urged the managements to reach out to thousands of graduates associated with their institutions and appeal for their support in the elections. He said the extensive alumni networks of minority colleges could play a significant role in strengthening Congress candidates' prospects in both constituencies.

Referring to the present government, Shabbir Ali said Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, who also holds the Education portfolio, is committed to strengthening minority education, improving infrastructure and addressing institutional challenges. He expressed confidence that the government would carry forward the educational legacy of Dr Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy while expanding opportunities for disadvantaged students.

Shabbir Ali urged the managements to consider the Congress party's contribution to their institutions and communities while extending electoral support. He said the forthcoming MLC elections offered an opportunity to acknowledge policies that had enabled generations of minority students to secure professional qualifications and better livelihoods.

TG simplifies fire NOC guidelines for existing educational institutions

HYDERABAD, NOV 4

Vikram Singh Mann, Director General of the Telangana State Disaster Response, Fire Services and Civil Defence Department, on Wednesday announced simplified guidelines for issuing Fire No Objection Certificates (NOCs) to existing schools and junior and intermediate colleges across the state.

The revised guidelines aim to address structural and infrastructure-related difficulties faced by existing educational institutions under earlier building norms while ensuring strict compliance with essential fire safety standards, emergency evacuation procedures and life-safety measures.

The initiative is intended to ease compliance for educational institutions without compromising the safety of students, teaching staff and other occupants, officials said. (NSS)

PRGI Reg. No. TELENG/2015/65354. Printed and Owned by **MOHAMMED ABDULLAH KHAN** and Published by **MOHAMMED ABDUL RAHMAN KHAN**. Printed at **THE FREEDOM PRESS**, Wajid Mansion, M.C.H. No. 23-2-135 to 138, Moghalpura, Hyderabad, Telangana - 500002 and Published at #5-9-233, 234, 235, Shop No. 23 & 24, 2nd Floor, Sanali Mall, Abids, Hyderabad, Telangana -500001.
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