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Honest Journalism...



EAM MEETS GUYANESE PREZ IRFAAN ALI; ANNOUNCES CREDIT LINE EXTENSION OF $500 MILLION

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ADANI PORTS TO ACQUIRE EUROPE'S EVOS FOR 2.56 BILLION EUROS

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BANGLADESH: 50 INJURED, 200 FACTORIES SHUT AS PROTESTS BY GARMENT WORKERS TURN VIOLENT

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25 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

POLITICS ▶ P4



HARDEEP PURI ELECTED UNOPPOSED TO RS FROM MP

Centre releases tax devolution worth Rs 1,09,019 cr to states

NEW DELHI, NOV 5



The Central government on Thursday released the regular instalment of tax devolution worth Rs 1,09,019 crore to state governments, ahead of the normal release date on November 10 in view of the festive season and Diwali.

"In view of upcoming festive season and to enable states to accelerate capital spending and finance their development/welfare related expenditure, the Union Government released regular tax devolution of Rs 1,09,019 crore to State Governments in advance," the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

Uttar Pradesh, the most populous state, received Rs 19,208 crore, Bihar received Rs 10,845 crore, Madhya Pradesh Rs 8,010 crore, West Bengal Rs 7,866 crore, Maharashtra Rs 7,022 crore, and Rajasthan Rs 6,460 crore, among others.

Last week, the Union Government released an additional instalment of tax devolution worth Rs 1,09,019 crore to state governments, which is in addition to the regular monthly devolution.

The release of the additional instalment of tax devolution was in view of the upcoming festive season and to enable states to accelerate capital spending and finance their development/welfare related expenditure, according to the Finance Ministry.

In August, the government released an additional instalment of tax devolution worth Rs 1,09,019 crore to state governments, which was in addition to the normal monthly devolution. (IANS/UNI)

Come debate in Parliament: Shah's counter Rahul Gandhi's public debate call

NEW DELHI, NOV 5



Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday launched a blistering attack on Rahul Gandhi, the Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition (LoP), over his recent challenge to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a debate, asking him to write a letter for the same, rather than engage in diversionary tactics.

Addressing the gathering at 'Save democracy, remove anarchy' in Haryana's Karnal, HM Shah said, "I want to challenge Rahul ji directly. You challenge PM Narendra Modi to a discussion? If you want a discussion, simply write a letter to PM Modi. We are ready to convene a special session of Parliament to discuss the SIR exercise." Puncturing Rahul Gandhi and the Opposition's claims over 'vote chori' and alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), Amit Shah said that the voter revision exercise began only in 2025, but their losing streak has remained unabated ever since the BJP came to power in 2014.

He said that the manufactured controversy over SIR was nothing but an excuse by Rahul and his INDIA bloc allies to disown electoral defeats. "Rahul Baba knows that he is going to lose, which is why he blames the Election Commission and the SIR exercise for his defeats," HM Shah said.

The Home Minister said the country's people have elected Narendra Modi as the Prime Minister for the third consecutive time, but the Opposition, instead of accepting defeats under Rahul's leadership, keeps harping on 'lies and canards'.

He said, "You don't allow the Parliament to function, and rather than engaging in discussions on issues of national importance, you prefer to disrupt and boycott the session."

"Creating disruptions and boycotting proceedings in Parliament have become part of the Congress party's culture. You do not allow Parliament to function and then gather crowds on the streets to spread anarchy. Do you really think that an 80-year-old democracy will fall for your tactics? Rahul Gandhi, remember, we are people who have come from the streets," he stated. (IANS)

India successfully tests 'Pralay' Missile

NEW DELHI, NOV 5

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully conducted the flight test of the indigenously developed, surface-to-surface 'Pralay' Missile, marking another achievement in India's defence capabilities.

"DRDO successfully conducted the flight test of the indigenously developed Pralay Missile off the coast of Odisha today at 1110 hrs," he posted on X.

"The test was conducted as part of user evaluation trials and successfully met all the stipulated objectives, as validated by data captured through various range instruments," he added. (IANS)

Arms seizure in Bihar sparks RSS controversy

TFP I CORRESPONDENT
ARRAH, NOV 3

Bihar Police arrested three alleged arms smugglers and seized 19,250 live cartridges and a country-made pistol during vehicle checking near Kulharia Toll Plaza in Bhojpur district on Monday. Acting on a tip-off that a vehicle coming from Ara was carrying illegal ammunition, police intercepted an SUV under Koelwar police station limits.

The arrested persons were identified as Laltu Kumar (38) and Saras Kumar (27), both from Muzaffarpur district, and Chandan Tiwari (26) from Siwan district. Police said they failed to produce valid documents for the ammunition and weapon and allegedly confessed to their involvement in illegal cartridge smuggling during interrogation. A case has been registered under relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and the Arms Act, and further investigation is underway.

The seizure has triggered a political controversy, with RJD leader and former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav raising questions over the alleged RSS links of some of the accused. In a social media post, he claimed that 44,000 live cartridges had been seized from individuals, naming Chandan Tiwari, Abhishek Tiwari, Laltu Kumar and Saras Kumar, and alleged their involvement in an interstate ammunition smuggling network.

Tejashwi questioned whether the alleged network was planning attacks and asked whether the RSS should be declared a terrorist organisation over the alleged links. (IANS)

ECI announces SSR timeline, final publication of rolls on January 21, 2027

NEW DELHI, NOV 5



The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Thursday announced a detailed timeline for conducting the Special Summary Revision (SSR) of the electoral rolls for enrolling the 'left out' and first-time eligible electors.

According to the ECI release, the integrated draft rolls will be prepared by November 30, while the deadline for publishing final rolls has been fixed to January 21, 2027, leaving a window of about two months for appeals, objections and disposals.

The SSR exercise will be undertaken in those states and union territories (UTs) where the SIR has just been completed, or the third phase of SIR is currently underway, the poll panel said, signalling that it will be conducted in a phased manner and will not be a nationwide one-go exercise.

"In States/UTs namely Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Nagaland, NCT of Delhi, Tripura, and Telangana, the schedule for SSR will be announced later," the ECI said in a statement.

In hilly locations like Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, the SSR will be taken up at a later stage, keeping in view the chilly weather conditions.

According to the ECI release, the rationalisation or rearrangement of polling stations will have to be done by November 20, while publication of the integrated draft electoral rolls will be completed by November 30. About a two-month period has been allocated for filing objections and seeking addressal of the claims. (IANS/UNI)

IMG backs Rs.1,100 cr asset monetisation



NEW DELHI, NOV 5

The government on Thursday said the Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) has recommended asset monetisation proposals involving assets valued at over Rs 1,100 crore for consideration and approval by the Alternative Mechanism (AM).

The proposals primarily relate to surplus land and building assets of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) identified for monetisation. The recommendations mark an important milestone in the Government of India's efforts to unlock value from surplus and underutilised public assets and facilitate their productive utilisation, according to a Finance Ministry statement.

The IMG was chaired by the Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), and co-chaired by the Secretary, DoT.

The initiative reinforces the government's commitment to efficient public asset management, transparent and value-maximising monetisation, and productive utilisation of surplus assets to support investment and economic development. (IANS)

CARTOON CAROUSEL



IACCIA proposes 10-year India-Oman partnership plan

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
NEW DELHI, NOV 5



The India & Arab Countries Chamber of Commerce, Industry & Agriculture (IACCIA) has proposed a ten-year action plan to strengthen India-Oman economic and strategic cooperation. Addressing the valedictory session of an event on India-Oman relations, IACCIA Secretary General (In-charge) Dr. Waiel S. H. Awwad called for a structured approach to translate historical bilateral ties into practical outcomes.

He noted that the India-Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), signed on December 18, 2025, and effective from June 1, 2026, provides duty-free access for 99.38 per cent of India's exports to Oman by value. Bilateral trade stood at US$11.18 billion in 2025-26. He proposed a CEPA Business Facilitation Platform to help businesses, particularly MSMEs, with standards, customs procedures and market access.

Awwad outlined six priorities for the coming decade, including effective implementation of CEPA, energy and connectivity cooperation covering green hydrogen and Oman's ports at Duqm, Sohar and Salalah, maritime security, investment in people and technology, greater business participation and stronger institutional mechanisms.

The proposed roadmap envisages consolidation during 2027-28, expansion from 2029 to 2031 and transformation between 2032 and 2036. IACCIA, which works with 22 Arab national chambers and 17 Arab-foreign chambers, also offered to facilitate business and institutional cooperation.

Awwad invited Omani business leaders, chambers and institutions to participate in the BABC 2026, scheduled for December 18-19 at Yashobhoomi Convention Centre, New Delhi, in association with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI).

11 missing SDRF personnel rescued after 2 boats overturned

TFP I N.J. CHARY
KHAMMAM, NOV 5

Eleven personnel of SDRF and Fire Services, who went missing after two rescue boats overturned while saving trapped fishermen in a lake in Khammam district, have been safely rescued, officials said on Thursday.

Five of the missing personnel were rescued late Wednesday night, while the remaining were safely brought to shore early Thursday morning.

The incident occurred in the Bethupalli tank in Sattupalli mandal of Khammam district when State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) personnel were trying to rescue 10 fishermen trapped in the lake, which was overflowing due to heavy rain.



Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy congratulated rescue teams that participated in round-the-clock relief operations and saved lives of stranded fishermen and SDRF personnel.

One of the rescued SDRF personnel said the two boats overturned after a collision, and they were all washed away for about half a kilometre due to the heavy water flow. However, they managed to catch hold of trees.

Later, SDRF teams rescued the trapped personnel and fishermen.

Revenue Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy confirmed that the SDRF personnel have been rescued.

He congratulated the rescue teams that participated in round-the-clock relief operations and saved the lives of stranded fishermen and SDRF personnel, as well as the officials, who worked in coordination, and the local public representatives.

After receiving information about the incident late at night, he rushed to the Khammam district and was continuously monitoring the situation from Narayanpur in the Kalluru division. He had also informed Chief Minister Revanth Reddy.

On the CM's direction, the District Collector, Superintendent of Police, and the Khammam Police Commissioner coordinated the rescue efforts. Personnel from Revenue and Police also participated in the rescue efforts.

Heavy rains with gusty winds lashed the undivided Khammam district on Wednesday under the impact of cyclone 'Murasu', which crossed the Andhra Pradesh coast on Tuesday.

Road connectivity to many areas was snapped as the rains inundated low-lying areas, and crops over a large area were damaged.

According to preliminary estimates, paddy, cotton, maize and chilli crops over 15,000 acres were damaged.

SLBC project key to making Nalgonda a green district: Minister Venkat Reddy



TFP I ANIL YADAV
NALGONDA, NOV 5

State Minister for Roads, Buildings and Cinematography Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said completion of the Srisailam Left Bank Canal (SLBC) tunnel would enable the supply of irrigation water to farmers even during severe drought conditions by drawing water from the Srisailam reservoir's dead storage.

The Minister was speaking as the chief guest at the oath-taking ceremony of the newly appointed Nalgonda Agricultural Market Committee governing body, held at the District Marketing Office on Thursday. He urged the new chairman, vice-chairman and directors to work for farmers' welfare.

B. Hemalatha Venkat Reddy took oath as Market Committee Chairperson, while V. Srinivas Goud assumed charge as Vice-Chairman along with the directors. District Marketing Assistant Director Chayadevi administered the oath.

Komatireddy said the SLBC project, originally taken up to address the fluoride problem and provide irrigation across Nalgonda district, had been revived by the present government after delays. He also highlighted progress under the Brahman Vellemula project, through which irrigation has been provided to 35,000 acres, with a target of extending drinking water facilities to one lakh acres.

He further said AMRP canal lining works were being undertaken at a cost of Rs. 450 crore and that a substation at Mushampally and a road had been sanctioned. Completion of canals and reservoirs would also help recharge groundwater and improve borewell levels. The Minister expressed confidence that these projects would transform Nalgonda into a green district.

MLC Shankar Naik, Nalgonda Mayor Burri Chaitanya Srinivas Reddy, former Municipal Chairman Srinivas Reddy, former ZPTC Gummala Mohan Reddy and District Marketing Assistant Director Chayadevi were among those present.

AIMIM distributes Salaar-e-Millat guides to SSC students in Metpally

TFP I SRINIVAS RAO
JAGTIAL, NOV 5

Nampally MLA Majid Hussain said the AIMIM would continue supporting the educational development of Class 10 students, particularly those from economically weaker sections.

He distributed Salaar-e-Millat All-in-One study guides to SSC students at a programme held at Deluxe Function Hall in Metpally on Thursday. The programme was organised on the instructions of MIM president and Barrister Asaduddin Owaisi.



Addressing the students, Majid Hussain urged them to study hard, secure good marks and bring pride to their parents and the region. He advised them to avoid mobile phones and concentrate on their studies until the examinations were completed.

Karimnagar district MIM president Ghulam Ahmed Hussain, Jagtial councillor Mohammed Raziuddin, Noman, Mohasin, Metpally Town President Akhil Mohiuddin, Town Secretary Shakeel, Ghafoor Chand, Aleem, Hafeez Irfan, Shibaz, Arif, Shoaib, Ameer, Abdul Rab, Yasin, teachers and students attended the programme.

TGPCB trains officials on implementation of new solid waste management rules

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
HYDERABAD, NOV 5

The Telangana Pollution Control Board (TGPCB) conducted an awareness-cum-hands-on training programme on the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, at Paryavarana Bhavan, Sanathnagar, Hyderabad, on Thursday.



The programme was organised in hybrid mode to familiarise government departments, District Collectors, Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and Rural Local Bodies (RLBs) with their statutory responsibilities under the new rules and provide practical training on the Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB) Centralised Online Solid Waste Management Portal.

The training was led by M. Sujana Sree, Senior Environmental Engineer, TGPCB, State Nodal Officer for the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, and designated State Master Trainer, under the supervision of the TGPCB Member Secretary.

The programme covered the responsibilities of the Municipal Administration and Urban Development Department (MA&UD), Panchayat Raj and Rural Development Department (PR&RD), District Collectors, ULBs, RLBs, Gram Panchayats and Bulk Waste Generators (BWGs).

Civil Supplies officials crack down on overpriced rice sales in Peddapalli

TFP I MAHENDAR
PEDDAPALLI, NOV 5

Peddapalli District Civil Supplies Officer K. Srinath warned traders against selling rice above government-fixed maximum retail prices and said strict action would be taken against violators.

During joint inspections conducted by Civil Supplies and Legal Metrology officials at supermarkets on Koonaram Road in Peddapalli on Thursday, authorities found that Sri Sai Supermarket was selling rice at prices higher than the prescribed rates and registered a case against the establishment. As per government guidelines, the maximum retail prices per kg are Rs. 66 for BPT and KNM varieties.

Bhupalpally Collector directs officials to ensure error-free land resurvey

TFP | MLN MURTHY
J. BHUPALPALLY, NOV 5

Jayashankar Bhupalpally District Collector Rahul Sharma, IAS directed officials to complete the ongoing land resurvey process transparently and accurately to prevent boundary disputes and difficulties for farmers.



On Thursday, the Collector inspected the resurvey works at Pochampally village in Regonda mandal and reviewed the progress of land mapping, identification of dry and wet lands and other survey activities. Officials informed him that resurvey work covering around 443 acres had been completed in the village. Two special survey teams, each comprising a licensed surveyor and a GPO, are working in Pochampally and Lingapur villages.

Interacting with farmers, Rahul Sharma urged them to cooperate with survey teams and asked officials to carefully examine and resolve objections relating to land boundaries. He said notices would be issued to farmers after completion of the survey, giving them 60 days to file appeals as per rules.

Farmers also requested the Collector to identify and protect the boundaries of village tanks and remove encroachments from irrigation canals.

The Collector said the resurvey would improve transparency in land records, clearly establish land boundaries and help prevent future disputes among farmers.

Additional Collector Ashok Kumar, Survey and Land Records Assistant Director Kusuma Kumari, Tahsildar Shwetha and survey staff participated in the inspection.

Mahabubnagar Collector urges banks to extend loans & financial relief to farmers

TFP I AHAD SIDDIQUI
MAHABUBNAGAR, NOV 5

Mahabubnagar District Collector Khushboo Gupta, IAS directed banks to restructure crop loans, provide a 12-month moratorium and extend fresh credit to eligible farmers affected by drought conditions in Mahabubnagar district.



Addressing a special District Level Consultative Committee (DLCC) and District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting at the Collectorate on Thursday, she instructed banks to implement the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) and Reserve Bank of India (RBI) guidelines to provide relief to farmers.

The government has identified Chinna Chintakunta and Koilkonda mandals as severely drought-affected, while 11 mandals, including Gandeed, Hanwada, Mahabubnagar Rural, Devarakadra, Addakal, Moosapet, Mahabubnagar Urban, Balanagar, Rajapur, Jadcherla and Koukuntla, have been classified as moderately affected.

Under the restructuring measures, farmers in severely affected mandals will receive a 12-month moratorium, with the total repayment period extended to 60 months. In moderately affected mandals, the repayment period will be extended to 36 months, including the moratorium. The Collector directed banks not to pressure farmers for loan repayments during the drought period.

She also asked banks to provide fresh credit to eligible farmers and beneficiaries of government schemes implemented through the Horticulture, Fisheries and Animal Husbandry departments. Mandal-wise action plans and awareness programmes through Rythu Vedikas and Gram Sabhas were also proposed to inform farmers about available financial assistance.

Farmers urged to cooperate with land resurvey in Rangareddy

TFP I FAROOQ KHAN
RANGAREDDY, NOV 5

Rangareddy Additional Collector (Revenue) Chandra Reddy, IAS said land resurvey would help provide a permanent solution to land disputes by ensuring accurate land measurements, clear boundaries and transparent digital land records.



Addressing a land resurvey Gram Sabha and awareness programme at Manoraabad village in Manchal mandal on Thursday, as part of the Bhu Bharati initiative, he said modern Differential GPS (DGPS) technology would be used to conduct accurate surveys and prepare digital land records. The exercise would help resolve boundary disputes, identify encroachments, establish ownership rights and make land records accessible online. Accurate records would also help farmers access government welfare schemes and bank loans.

Officials informed the Gram Sabha that Manoraabad village has a total geographical area of 288 acres and 7 guntas, covering 48 survey numbers.

Chandra Reddy urged farmers to cooperate with the survey teams and keep their old land records, pattadar passbooks and other relevant documents ready. He advised them to verify their land boundaries and extent during the field survey.

AD SLR M. Rama Reddy, Ibrahimpatnam RDO Srinivas Reddy, Manchal MRO V. Prasad Rao, Ibrahimpatnam Deputy Inspector of Survey D. Srinivas, Mandal Surveyor S. V. Dhanasri, licensed surveyors of Manchal mandal, Village Administration Officer N. Jangaiah, Sarpanch A. Sanjeeva Reddy, mandal staff and farmers attended the programme.

SOUTH COAST RAILWAY
VISAKHAPATNAM
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No:G/E.29/Tr. /Tender/2026-27 Dt. 04.11.2026

PUB/SCoR-467

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction/Guntakal acting for on and behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders for the following works.

Tender No. GTL-TRD-29-eTN-74-2026-27 : Name of Work: GTL Division: OHE Modifications in view of Raising of Platform to High level and provision of new 3m FOB at Hagari (HGI), Jakkalacheruvu (JKO), Khaderpet (KDT) & Tadipatri (TU) stations, Approximate Value : **Rs.1,49,68,941.50/-**, EMD : **Rs. 2,99,400/-**,

Tender No.GTL-TRD-29-eTN-75-2026-27 : Name of Work : GTL Division: OHE Modifications in view of Raising of Platform to High level and provision of new 3m FOB at T.Sakibanda (TKBN), Nallacheruvu (E) (NCE), Sankaragummanuru (SKNG), Venkatampalli (VPL), Bantanahal (BLL), Virapur (VP), Pendekallu (PDL), Anantharajupet (ANE), Kondagunta (KQA), Jammalamdugu (JMDG), Settigunta (SF),Ontimitta (VNM) and Proddatur (PRDT) stations, Approximate Value :**Rs.1,19,76,837.30/-**,EMD:**Rs. 2,39,500/-**,

Tender Closing date & time: 25.11.2026 at 15.00 hrs

Note: 1. Tender Document may be downloaded from **www.ireps.gov.in** by tenderers, free of cost. For Bidding the tender and other details login to **http://www.ireps.gov.in** Corrigendum if any will be issued online only.

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer, Traction, Guntakal.
SCoR-A526

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at http://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scor.indianrailways.gov.in

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

Sl. No	Notification Number	Name of the work	Date & Time for download of applications	Last Date & Time for submission of Applications	Venue of submission of Applications	Name & Address of the Officer
1	Tender No. 02/DUB/ GHMC/ 2026, Dt. 05.11.2026	Any Govt Institutions like Department of Horticulture, Forest and Agricultural and relevant departments & Any Society of Retired Officers of Horticulture, Forest and Agriculture Departments and who registered as societies under Societies Act with Govt of Telangana/AP/India, for Execution of Quality Check and Control for the works pertains to Urban Biodiversity Wing, GHMC for a period of (1) year.	From 06.11.2026 @ 01.00 P.M. onwards to 25.11.2026 @ 01.00 P.M. from website i.e. http://www.ghmc.gov.in	25.11.2026 @ 02.00 P.M.	O/o. Director, Urban Biodiversity Wing, GHMC., Indira Park, Lower Tank Bund Road, Hyderabad.	Director, Urban Biodiversity, GHMC. Indira Park, Lower Tank Bund Road, Hyderabad. Cell No. 8712913117

DIPR - R.O. No. : 13185-PP/CL/ADVT/2026-27
Sd/- Director, Urban Biodiversity Wing,GHMC.

MALKAJGIRI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION

NIT No & Date	Name of the Work	Estimate Amount Rs.in Lakhs	Start Date & Time	Last Date & Time for receipts of Bid	Name & Address of EE
27/DB/EE-II/ Alwal Circle/ MMC/2026-27, Dt: 05.11.2026	Arrangements and cleaning of baby pond before and after Chatt Puja for the year 2026-2027 in ward 192 Temple Alwal, Alwal Cirlce-02, MMC.	2.40	06.11.2026 02.00PM	09.11.2026 02.00PM	Executive Engineer-II, Alwal Circle -2, MMC

Further details can be seen at e-procurement @ tender.telangana.gov.in
DIPR - R.O. No. : 13202-PP/CL/ADVT/2026-27
Sd/- Executive Engineer-II Alwal Circle-2, MMC..

CHANGE OF NAME

I CHAKALI RAJESHAM (Old Name), S/o CHAKALI RAJAM R/o.H.No.3-57 MANNEGUDEM (V), BHEEMARAM (M), JAGTIAL,(D),T.G.505462, India, have changed my name to JAMMIKUNTA RAJESHAM here after my name is know as JAMMIKUNTA RAJESHAM
MSK

CHANGE OF NAME

I CHAKALI RAJAM (Old Name), S/o BALAIAH R/o.H.No.3-57 MANNEGUDEM (V), BHEEMARAM (M), JAGTIAL,(D),T.G.505462, India, have changed my name to JAMMIKUNTA RAJAM here after my name is know as JAMMIKUNTA RAJAM
MSK

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Cabinet takes key decisions on Global Summit, welfare schemes

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
HYDERABAD, NOV 5

The Telangana State Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, on Thursday took several key decisions, including preparations for the Invest Telangana Global Summit-2026, restoration of the Kaleshwaram project barrages, establishment of separate commissions for SCs and STs, and the launch of new welfare schemes.

Briefing the media after the 38th Cabinet meeting at the Secretariat, Revenue, Housing and Information and Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy said the Global Summit would be held at the Fourth City from December 7 to 9, with hundreds of industrialists and investors from India and abroad expected to participate. He said the government had made elaborate arrangements to attract major investments and position Telangana as a globally competitive destination.



Minister Ponguleti Srinivas Reddy address media after 38th Cabinet meeting at Secretariat.

The Cabinet also discussed the restoration of the Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages of the Kaleshwaram project in accordance with the recommendations of the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) and the Central Water Commission (CWC). The Minister said the government had completed the prescribed tests and received technical guidelines for rectifying structural defects. It was decided to take up the repairs swiftly and transparently to bring the barrages back into use.

The Cabinet further decided to establish separate commissions for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, replacing the existing combined commission. It also reviewed the 'Maa Indiramma Intlo Deepavali' initiative and decided that ministers, MPs, MLAs, MLCs and other public representatives should celebrate the festival at Indiramma houses in their respective constituencies and localities. The initiative comes in the wake of the completion of more than 2.25 lakh houses under the first phase of the housing programme.

The Minister said Chief Minister Revanth Reddy would visit his home constituency of Kodangal from November 7 to 9 to participate in a Mega Rythu Mela and an Industrial Expo and lay foundation stones for several development projects. The Cabinet decided that public representatives should participate in these programmes.

The Cabinet also decided to launch the 'Indiramma Life Insurance' scheme and the second phase of the 'Indiramma Sarees' distribution programme at Siddipet on November 19, marking the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. Applications for the life insurance scheme will be received at every gram panchayat and ward from that day.

Besides, the Cabinet approved the transfer of government-owned revenue lands to various departments for their operational requirements and sanctioned new posts in different government departments, providing employment opportunities to unemployed youth, the Minister added.

APPSC Main Exam Case: Incriminating documents seized during ED searches



HYDERABAD, NOV 5

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) seized incriminating documents, digital devices and other records during the search operations at seven premises in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh in the case relating to the evaluation of the Andhra Pradesh Public Service Commission (APPSC) Group-I Main Examination evaluation scam, ED officials said on Thursday.

The ED's Hyderabad Zonal Office on Wednesday conducted search operations under Section 17 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

The central probe agency said in statement on Thursday that during the search operations incriminating documents, digital devices and other records relating to the scam were found and seized.

The searches were conducted at the premises of retired IPS officer P. Seetharamanjaneyulu, the then APPSC Secretary; Camsign Media Pvt. Ltd., the private party to which the work of manual evaluation was entrusted, and its Managing Director P. Madhusudhana Rao; Aavasa Resort Haailand in Chinakakani village of Andhra Pradesh's Guntur district, being the premises at which the answer scripts were kept and the evaluation exercise was carried out.

The searches were also conducted at the premises of TruGrader Services, a division of Stone Media Advisory Services Pvt. Ltd., which had conducted the earlier digital evaluation for APPSC, its Managing Director Akella Peri Srinivasa Rao, and Mahamkali Raghuram, who was engaged in connection with the evaluation work.

The ED said it recorded the statements of the accused persons, including Seetharamanjaneyulu.

TG Govt gears up for biggest industrial expo at Global Summit-2026

TFP I CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV 5

Telangana Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju today said elaborate arrangements were being made to organise the Invest Telangana Global Summit-2026, scheduled from December 7 to 9 at Bharat Future City, Hyderabad, as the country's largest industrial expo.

Reviewing the preparations at the Dr B R Ambedkar Telangana State Secretariat, he said several leading national and international companies had expressed interest in participating, with the response exceeding expectations.

The three-day summit will feature Raksha Expo, Startup Pavilion, Creation Corner, Pharma and Life Sciences Expo, Telangana Pavilion, Industrial Expo, Telangana Climate Conclave, Education Summit and an aerobatic and air show. The Startup Pavilion and Creation Corner will provide opportunities for young entrepreneurs, particularly Gen Z, to showcase innovative ideas and emerging technologies.

Jaju said the summit aims to showcase Telangana's investor-friendly environment, infrastructure and industrial opportunities to global investors and attract partnerships under the Rising Telangana Vision. He directed departments to coordinate closely and expedite preparations.

He said curtain-raiser events had already been held in Hyderabad and New Delhi, while delegate registrations for the summit had commenced, according to an official statements said.

Asad Owaisi assures support to Langar Houz dhobi ghat workers



FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
HYDERABAD, NOV 5

A delegation of the Rajaka Sangam from Langar Houz met AIMIM president and Hyderabad MP Barrister Asaduddin Owaisi and submitted a representation over the alleged encroachment of their decades-old Dhobi Ghat land and demolition of portions of the site without prior notice.

The delegation informed Owaisi that several cases had been filed against them over the past 14 years. They sought permanent land rights, protection of their traditional livelihood and employment opportunities for local youth.

Asad Owaisi assured the delegation of his support and issued a formal representation to the concerned Mandal Revenue Officer (MRO), requesting appropriate action to address their grievances.

6 arrested in Kanchanbagh murder case; 2 absconding

TFP I TAHER ALI
HYDERABAD, NOV 5

Kanchanbagh Police arrested six persons in connection with the murder of Syed Omer alias Mashallah Omer and an attempt to murder Syed Bin Mehfooz at Hafeez Baba Nagar on November 3. Two other accused, Abdul Khader Ahmed Batawil Almoodi and Muzamil alias MLA, are absconding.

According to Rajendranagar Zone DCP S. Sreenivas, the murder was allegedly planned over a rental property dispute involving the deceased's uncle, Abdul Barawaz, and house owner Abdul Khader. Police said the accused allegedly conspired to eliminate Mashallah Omer after he intervened in the dispute. Aman Qureshi allegedly lured the victim to the spot on the pretext of discussing the issue and attacked him with a knife. Syed Bin Mehfooz, who intervened, was also stabbed and injured.


Rajendranagar Zone DCP S. Sreenivas addresses media in Hyderabad.

The arrested accused are Aman Qureshi, Khaled Bin Abdus Samad Bayeesa Al Amoudi alias Khaled Bhaisa, Jaffar Bin Hawail, Mohammed Shafiullah Qureshi, Mohammed Ali Abrar and Dasthagir Mohiuddin Ahmed alias Imran.

Police seized a knife, five mobile phones, including the deceased's phone, and four two-wheelers allegedly used in the crime. Investigators said some accused had also attempted to destroy evidence by burning bloodstained clothes and discarding the weapon and the victim's mobile phone.

The accused were apprehended on November 4 and produced before the court. The case was registered under Sections 103(1), 109(1), 62 and 190 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

The operation was carried out by Sub-Inspector M. Sreekanth and his team. The investigation is being led by Inspector J. Balaraju under the supervision of ACP A. Sudhakar, Additional DCP K. Sreenivas Rao and DCP S. Sreenivas, IPS.

Kavitha gives TG govt 1 month to act against illegal constructions

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
HYDERABAD, NOV 5

Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) President K Kavitha on Thursday accused Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and his family members of encouraging illegal constructions and land irregularities in Hyderabad, particularly in Ayyappa Society and Khanamet, for financial gains.

Addressing the media at the TRS office in Banjara Hills, she alleged that 500 to 700 unauthorised buildings had come up in Khanamet since the Congress government assumed office, with nearly 80 more under construction.

She raised concerns over illegal registrations through notarised documents, unauthorised multi-storey buildings and serious fire safety violations, warning of potential disasters.


K Kavitha

Alleging encroachment of 150 acres belonging to Gurukul Trust, she demanded a comprehensive survey, action against unauthorised buildings, an inquiry into property registrations and enforcement of the High Court order prohibiting construction in the area.

She also alleged illegal projects along the Musi riverbed and intimidation of media personnel covering the issue.

Giving the government one month's deadline to act, Kavitha warned that her party would mark illegal structures in red if authorities failed to take action. She also said around 18,000 RTI applications were pending in the State and demanded disclosure of information on the Ayyappa Society issue.

Reacting to union Home Minister Amit Shah's Hyderabad visit, she criticised the Centre for failing to provide assistance to Telangana despite drought conditions in 320 mandals. She also questioned the Centre's claims about 13 crore foreigners in the country.

Poultry India Expo 2026 from Nov 25

TFP I CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV 5

The 18th edition of Poultry India Expo 2026, organised by the Indian Poultry Equipment Manufacturers' Association (IPEMA), will be held at the HITEX Exhibition Centre here from November 25 to 27.

The Poultry Knowledge Day will precede the exhibition on November 24 at HICC.

Announcing this at a curtain-raiser programme here today, IPEMA President Uday Singh Bayas said around 550 exhibitors from India and abroad and visitors from over 120 countries were expected to participate. The previous edition attracted 500 exhibitors and around 51,000 industry visitors.



CMC Commissioner inspects Kukatpally Y-Junction development works

TFP I RAVI KUMAR
MEDCHAL-MALKAJGIRI, NOV 5

Cyberabad Municipal Corporation Commissioner Dr. G. Srujana, IAS, inspected the ongoing Y-Junction HCITI (Hyderabad City Innovative and Transformative Infrastructure) works in Kukatpally Circle-52 on Thursday.



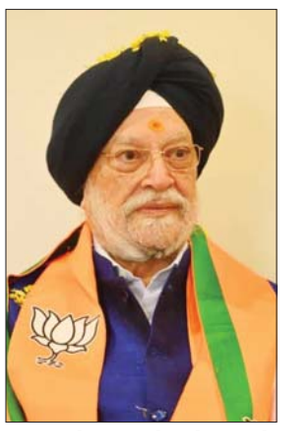
Accompanied by Kukatpally Zonal Commissioner Mayank Singh, IAS, she reviewed the progress, quality and timelines of the project. She directed engineering and planning officials to expedite the works while maintaining quality standards and minimising inconvenience to commuters.

Chief Engineer Srilakshmi, Chief City Planner Venkanna, Kukatpally Circle-52 City Planner Tulasiram, Deputy Commissioner G. Anjaneyulu, Assistant City Planner Venkata Ramana and other zonal officials participated in the inspection.

Hardeep Puri elected unopposed to RS from MP

BHOPAL, NOV 5

Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Madhya Pradesh on Thursday after the nomination papers of two independent candidates were rejected during scrutiny, leaving him as the sole candidate in the by-election.



Hardeep Singh Puri

The by-election was necessitated by the resignation of Union Minister of State L. Murugan, who vacated the Rajya Sabha seat after being elected to the Lok Sabha from Tamil Nadu. His Rajya Sabha term was scheduled to end on April 2, 2030.

Chief Minister Mohan Yadav congratulated Puri on his unopposed election and said the BJP's decision to field him from Madhya Pradesh was a matter of pride for the state.

"I am delighted that the Bharatiya Janata Party proposed Hardeep Puri's name as its candidate from our state. After scrutiny, only one nomination remained valid, and he was elected unopposed. I extend my heartiest congratulations to him," Yadav said.

Puri's election followed the rejection of nomination papers filed by two independent candidates, Rajkumar Lohani and Kante Sayanna, during scrutiny.

With no other valid candidate remaining in the contest, Puri was declared elected unopposed. The BJP had announced Puri's candidature on October 28.

He filed his nomination papers on October 31 in the presence of Yadav, Deputy Chief Ministers Rajendra Shukla and Jagdish Devda, BJP state president Hemant Khandelwal and other party leaders.

The election certificate was received on Puri's behalf by Khandelwal from Returning Officer Umesh Kumar Sharma at the Madhya Pradesh Assembly in Bhopal on Thursday.

A former Indian Foreign Service officer, Puri has served as India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations and held several important diplomatic assignments during his career.

He entered the Rajya Sabha in 2018 and subsequently joined the Union Council of Ministers. He has held portfolios including Housing and Urban Affairs and Civil Aviation before taking charge of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry in 2021. (IANS)

Petrol bombs hurled during ZPTC, MPTC polling in AP

TDP, YSRCP trade charges

TIRUPATI (ANDHRA PRADESH), NOV 5

Tension flared at several locations across Andhra Pradesh on Thursday during polling for Zilla Parishad Territorial Constituency (ZPTC) and Mandal Parishad Territorial Constituency (MPTC) elections, with petrol bomb attacks and clashes reported from parts of YSR Kadapa and Tirupati districts.



Political rivals, the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) and the YSR Congress Party (YSRCP), blamed each other for the incidents.

In Errampalli village of Pulivendula constituency in YSR Kadapa district, considered a stronghold of YSRCP chief and former Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy, petrol bombs were hurled near a polling station, triggering panic among voters and residents.

According to reports, the incident occurred after police prevented a group of YSRCP workers from entering a polling booth amid rising tensions. (IANS/UNI)

BJP accuses Congress, oppn of politicising SIR

PATNA, NOV 5



union Environment Minister and senior BJP leader Bhupender Yadav on Thursday accused the Congress and other opposition parties of politicising the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and spreading confusion in the name of protecting democracy.

Addressing a press conference here, Yadav alleged that extremist ideological elements were influencing the think tanks of opposition parties, including the Congress, RJD and Samajwadi Party, and accused them of attempting to create political unrest by questioning constitutional institutions and electoral processes. Defending the SIR exercise in Bihar, he said it was a routine constitutional process conducted under Article 324 of the Constitution and the provisions of the Representation of the People Act. Its objective was to remove the names of deceased, permanently shifted and, duplicate voters while ensuring that all eligible citizens were included in the electoral rolls, he added. (IANS)

SC directs TMC leader to approach HC over rebel MLAs' disqualification

NEW DELHI, NOV 5

The Supreme Court on Thursday declined to entertain a plea filed by senior Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Sovandeb Chattopadhyay seeking disqualification of 10 rebel party MLAs, including Leader of Opposition Ritabrata Banerjee, under the anti-defection law, and asked him to approach the Calcutta High Court.



A Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi observed that the appropriate remedy at this stage would be to approach the Calcutta High Court and granted liberty to the petitioner to file an appropriate petition before it.

The apex court also requested the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court to place the matter before a Division Bench for expeditious consideration.

During the hearing, counsel appearing for Chattopadhyay submitted that the disqualification petitions had been filed on July 8 and that nearly five months had elapsed without a decision.

The counsel argued that the issue was covered by the Supreme Court's earlier directions and sought an early hearing by a Division Bench of the High Court to avoid further rounds of intra-court appeals.

Dictating the order, the CJI Kant-led Bench observed that the petitioner should take recourse to the Calcutta High Court and accordingly disposed of the petition at this stage, granting liberty to file an appropriate petition before the High Court.

The writ petition, filed by veteran TMC legislator Sovandeb Chattopadhyay, had sought directions for the disqualification of 10 rebel MLAs, including Ritabrata Banerjee and former Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) Mayor Firhad Hakim, under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution. (IANS)

K'taka Police to probe 'misuse' of Form 7: Karnataka CM Shivakumar



BENGALURU, NOV 5

Karnataka Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Thursday said the state government would initiate a police investigation against those who allegedly encouraged electoral fraud and misused Form 7 applications to get voters' names deleted from electoral rolls.

Addressing the INDIA Bloc's 'Stop Vote Theft, Save the Nation' protest at Freedom Park in Bengaluru, Shivakumar alleged that the BJP had indulged in electoral fraud and said legal action would be taken against those responsible.

"We are not fighting only against the Election Commission but also against the conspiracy of the BJP operating behind it. We are committed to protecting the votes of ordinary people. I want to tell all Booth Level Officers (BLOs) appointed by the Election Commission that CCTV footage is available showing who encouraged vote theft and who brought the applications. Cases will be registered in this regard, and justice will be delivered to society," he said.

Accusing the BJP of electoral fraud, Shivakumar said legal action should be taken against the party. "In a democracy, our vote is our right and our vote is our life. We have gathered here to fight for our rights," he said.

He described Freedom Park as a witness to historic struggles and political changes in the country. Recalling an earlier campaign against alleged violations of voters' rights in Mahadevapura, Gandhinagar and other parts of Karnataka, he said the agitation had been launched from the same venue along with Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge, Rahul Gandhi and Siddaramaiah and had sent a strong message across the country.

Shivakumar alleged that during the previous BJP government, the Chilume organisation had been used in Bengaluru to give Booth Level Officer powers to party workers and facilitate the deletion of lakhs of votes and the inclusion of new voters through irregularities. (IANS)

Mehbooba Mufti re-elected PDP President for 5th term

SRINAGAR, NOV 5

Mehbooba Mufti was on Thursday re-elected as Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) President for the fifth term.



Mehbooba Mufti

A party press release said that the electoral college of the PDP unanimously re-elected Mehbooba Mufti, a former J&K Chief Minister, as the PDP President. As per the statement, the unanimous vote in her favour said she had given more to the party than she had ever received from it.

The proposal to re-elect her was moved by senior party leader and former minister Abdul Rehman Veeri, while senior leader Mohammad Khursheed Aalam seconded it, the statement said.

All members of the electoral college present at the meeting unanimously supported her candidature, reflecting a collective decision, the PDP said. It added that members of the electoral college from Jammu participated in the proceedings online and extended their unanimous support to her re-election.

After her re-election, Mehbooba Mufti said people who have suffered for years need healing rather than political victories.

"Those who are hurt do not need victories. They need healing. My heart is heavy and full at the same time. I am grateful. You have trusted me for the fifth time, and I do not take that lightly," she said. (IANS)

Probe intensifies against Kerala PSC chairman

BJP to meet Prez Murmu seeking board's dismissal

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOV 5

The heat is mounting on Kerala PSC Chairman M.R. Baiju as the Special Investigation Team (SIT) steps up its probe into the examination scam, and the BJP moves to seek the dismissal of the entire commission board.



The SIT wants to question Baiju again, this time alongside the arrested Additional Secretary R. Hari, to confront the two over the alleged manipulation of the State Planning Board examination.

However, the Chairman has been giving reasons to avoid the questioning, according to sources.

The Crime Branch suspects that Baiju's unilateral decisions paved the way for the irregularities.

Hari, who was taken into custody for questioning, has denied any role in skipping the evaluation of 10 questions.

He told investigators that the responsibility rested with the now-retired Deputy Secretary Satheesh (already arrested) and that he was unaware that the questions had been left unchecked.

The SIT has not accepted his explanation.

The examination was held for the post of Chief in the State Planning Board. (IANS/UNI)

Congress questions Maharashtra CM Fadnavis over water for Data Centres, says farmers left to battle drought

TFP I PRASHANT SHARMA
NEW DELHI, NOV 5

Congress leader and MP Pawan Khera has questioned Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis over the state government's reported plan to treat sewage water and sell the reclaimed water to data centres, accusing it of prioritising commercial interests while farmers continue to grapple with drought and water shortages.

In a sharply worded post on social media platform X on Wednesday, Khera questioned why the state could mobilise its technological and financial resources to ensure water supplies for data centres but could not make similar investments to provide relief to farmers. He claimed that at least 10 cultivators had died by suicide in Maharashtra in a single week, allegedly due to agrarian distress.

"Hello @Dev_Fadnavis, you have an elaborate plan to treat sewage water and sell reclaimed water to data centres," Khera wrote, taking a swipe at the Chief Minister over the proposed initiative.

"I understand your excitement because this could earn you a few hundred crores and help fund your lavish 'Bollywood' lifestyle," he added, launching a personal attack on Fadnavis while questioning the government's priorities.



Drawing attention to the recurring tragedy of farmer suicides, Khera said, "Year after year, we witness the same tragedy." He asked whether the state government had any plans to invest public money in a similar system to reclaim wastewater and make it available for agricultural use.

"Do you have any plans to invest public money in a system to reclaim water for farmers?" he asked, suggesting that the government appeared less interested in projects that did not promise comparable commercial returns.

"If you can mobilise the full technological might of the state to make data centres possible, why can't you do the same for farmers?" Khera said.

His remarks have brought the spotlight back on Maharashtra's persistent agrarian crisis, particularly in drought-prone regions where erratic rainfall, inadequate irrigation, crop losses and mounting indebtedness have continued to put farming households under severe financial pressure. Farmer suicides remain a major concern in several agricultural belts, with successive governments facing demands for better irrigation facilities, timely crop-loss compensation, financial assistance and long-term water management solutions.

The proposed use of treated sewage water for data centres has also raised a broader question about the allocation and management of Maharashtra's limited water resources as the state seeks to attract investments in technology and digital infrastructure.

Reclaimed wastewater, after appropriate treatment, can provide an alternative source for industrial and commercial consumption, reducing dependence on freshwater supplies. However, Khera's criticism centres on whether similar investments in wastewater treatment, recycling and distribution could be extended to agriculture, particularly in areas where water scarcity leaves farmers vulnerable to crop failures and financial distress. (IANS)

JULY 20 PROTEST

SC seeks report on police action in a month

NEW DELHI, NOV 5



The Supreme Court on Thursday directed the five-member High-Powered Enquiry Committee (HPEC), constituted to investigate allegations of police excesses during the July student protests, to submit its fact-finding report within one month.

A Bench of Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi made the observation after the Committee, chaired by former apex court judge Justice R. Subhash Reddy, submitted its status report in a sealed cover.

The top court clarified that the status report submitted by the HPEC on October 31 merely outlined the progress made so far and did not contain any findings on the allegations under investigation.

The CJI-led Bench directed the HPEC to examine all documents, video recordings and other material placed before it, including those submitted by the petitioners on behalf of the affected persons, and also seek responses from the authorities concerned.

The Supreme Court said the panel should not restrict its inquiry to complaints formally received from victims but should also consider the representations and evidence submitted through lawyers and other persons.

The CJI-led Bench was informed that despite efforts to invite complaints, only a few representations had been received through the dedicated portal, while none had been submitted through email, post, or physical delivery. (IANS)

EAM meets Guyanese Prez Irfaan Ali; announces credit line extension of $500 million

ST. JOHN'S (ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA), NOV 5



External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar met Guyanese President Irfaan Ali on the sidelines of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) 2026, where both nations announced an extension of a $500 million Line of Credit for the South American nation's public and defence infrastructure.

Taking to X, EAM Jaishankar said, "Delighted to meet with President Dr Irfaan Ali of Guyana. Reviewed the steady progress in our bilateral cooperation, especially after PM Narendra Modi's visit in 2024. Announced extension of USD 500 mn Line of Credit for roads, health & defence projects."

"Signed agreements on supply & installation of MSEs manufacturing projects, grant assistance for implementation of Quick Impact Projects, and cooperation in Digital Public Infrastructure & functioning of a UPI-like System in Guyana," he added.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had made a landmark state visit to Guyana in November 2024 -- the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to the country in 56 years -- where he was conferred Guyana's highest national award, the "Order of Excellence".

The relationship between India and Guyana, ever since the independence of Guyana in May 1966, has been close and cordial with a high degree of understanding.

Last month, India's High Commissioner to Guyana Chinmoy Naik presented his credentials to Guyana President Irfaan Ali at an official ceremony in Georgetown. (IANS)

Shutdown over Kuki youths' killing continues in Manipur's Kangpokpi

IMPHAL, NOV 5



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

A police officer said that shops, markets, business establishments, and educational institutions remained closed, and most vehicles remained off the roads due to the shutdown.

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

Additional security forces had been deployed in the mountainous Kangpokpi district to prevent any untoward incident and maintain law and order during the shutdown.

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

CYCLONE ARNAB

Odisha seeks Rs 2,526 crore compensation; Rs 10,000 cr for permanent restoration

BHUBANESWAR, NOV 5



The Odisha government has sought Rs 12,526 crore in central assistance, including Rs 2,526 crore towards preliminary damage compensation and Rs 10,000 crore under the mitigation head for permanent restoration and strengthening of infrastructure damaged by Cyclone Arnab and the subsequent floods, Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Rajesh Prabhakar Patil said on Thursday.

An eight-member Central Inter-Ministerial Team, which is on a visit to Odisha to assess damage caused by Cyclone Arnab and subsequent floods in various districts of the state, attended a preliminary assessment meeting organised by the SRC at the Lok Seva Bhavan here.

During their field visit, the Central team observed extensive damage to crops caused by the cyclone and subsequent floods. Various infrastructure facilities, including roads, power infrastructure, river embankments and canals under the Water Resources Department, have also suffered extensive damage.

The District Collectors informed the team that, given the large scale of destruction, a few more days will be required to complete the comprehensive assessment of the damage. The Central team advised the authorities to conduct door-to-door surveys to assess the losses. (IANS)

TN boosts Annan Seer scheme



C. Joseph Vijay

CHENNAI, NOV 5

The Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay-led Tamil Nadu government has earmarked Rs 812 crore to provide eight-gram gold coins and pure silk sarees to 60,000 eligible brides during the 2026-27 financial year under the Annan Seer Thittam, reviving gold-based marriage assistance with revised eligibility conditions and quality standards.

The initiative marks the return of gold coin distribution under the state's marriage assistance programme, which had witnessed prolonged disruptions and policy changes under successive governments.

According to tender documents issued by the Social Welfare and Women Empowerment Department, approximately Rs 1.35 lakh has been allocated for each beneficiary towards purchasing an eight-gram gold coin and a silk saree.

The government has prescribed stringent specifications to ensure the quality of the materials distributed. (IANS)

Punjab govt employees reject DA hike

CHANDIGARH, NOV 5

Ahead of the Assembly polls, Punjab government employees and pensioners on Thursday rejected Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann's announcement of a 3 per cent dearness allowance (DA) hike, saying the hike is inadequate, and announced a month-long agitation from November 13.

The decision was announced by the Joint Coordination Committee of Employee and Pensioner Unions, which represents nearly four lakh government employees and 3.5 lakh pensioners.

The agitation will begin with an indefinite sit-in in Sangrur town from November 13 to 19. The unions have also decided to shift their protest venue from Chandigarh to Sangrur.

As part of the protest programme, employees and pensioners will stage demonstrations outside the residences of all 91 Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) MLAs in their respective constituencies from December 1 to 5. They will also burn effigies of the ruling party. (IANS/UNI)

Ankita Bhandari's parents detained at Raj Ghat

TFP I CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV 5

The parents of 19-year-old Ankita Bhandari, who was murdered while working at a resort in Rishikesh in 2022, were detained by Delhi Police from Raj Ghat late Wednesday while they had gone to offer prayers. They were accompanied by social activist Yogita Bhayana and Congress leader Mumtaz Patel. Ankita's father, Virendra Bhandari, alleged that police personnel dragged the couple into a vehicle despite his wife feeling weak and dizzy.

Virendra alleged that the couple was kept in a police van for nearly two hours without water or medical assistance, while being driven around markets and roads. Police later took them to Burari Hospital, where he claimed his wife did not receive proper treatment. He also alleged that police had tracked their phone location before detaining them.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) M. Harsha Vardhan said the couple was removed because they intended to stage an indefinite protest, while Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) was in force in the Raj Ghat area. He said police had no objection to them sitting there briefly but had to intervene after learning about their protest plans. He denied that their phones were tracked and said CISF personnel at the site alerted Delhi Police. He added that the couple was taken to Burari Hospital after complaining of illness and that traffic congestion could have contributed to the time spent in the vehicle.

5 killed after car plunges into river in Uttarkashi

UTTARKASHI, NOV 5



Four people were killed, while the search for three is underway after a MUV plunged directly into the river near Gangnani Dharamkund in Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi on Thursday morning, officials said.

The accident occurred on the Gangotri National Highway near Gangnani Dharmkund early on Thursday morning, when an MUV car plunged directly into the river.

According to preliminary information, there were seven people in the 7-seater car. Following the accident, the bodies of four individuals were recovered from the riverbank, while an extensive search operation is underway in the strong river current to locate the other potential passengers. Given the gravity of the situation, the district administration, police, SDRF, and emergency services were mobilised immediately. (IANS)

Centre releases tax devolution worth Rs 1,09,019 crore to states in advance

NEW DELHI, NOV 5



The Central government on Thursday released the regular instalment of tax devolution worth Rs 1,09,019 crore to state governments, ahead of the normal release date on November 10 in view of the festive season and Diwali.

"In view of upcoming festive season and to enable states to accelerate capital spending and finance their development/welfare related expenditure, the Union Government released regular tax devolution of Rs 1,09,019 crore to State Governments in advance," the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

Uttar Pradesh, the most populous state, received Rs 19,208 crore, Bihar received Rs 10,845 crore, Madhya Pradesh Rs 8,010 crore, West Bengal Rs 7,866 crore, Maharashtra Rs 7,022 crore, and Rajasthan Rs 6,460 crore, among others.

Last week, the Union Government released an additional instalment of tax devolution worth Rs 1,09,019 crore to state governments, which is in addition to the regular monthly devolution.

The release of the additional instalment of tax devolution was in view of the upcoming festive season and to enable states to accelerate capital spending and finance their development/welfare related expenditure, according to the Finance Ministry.

In August, the government released an additional instalment of tax devolution worth Rs 1,09,019 crore to state governments, which was in addition to the normal monthly devolution. The release was in line with the commitment of the Centre to strengthen the finances of states to accelerate their capital and developmental expenditure.

Meanwhile, India's fiscal deficit for the first six months (April-September) of the current financial year touched the Rs 7.14 lakh crore mark, which constitutes 42.1 per cent of the budget estimate for the full year, official figures showed. (IANS)

Dawood link: ED attaches Mumbai property, bank balances worth Rs 4 crore

MUMBAI, NOV 5



The ED attached assets, including properties and bank balances, worth Rs 4 crore in a case of extortion and conspiracy to acquire a property by coercing the owners in the name of fugitive don Dawood Ibrahim and his aide Salim Iqbal Qureshi alias Salim Fruit, brother-in-law of Chhota Shakeel, an official said on Thursday.

Based on the investigation, the ED provisionally attached Dongri's Lambat Building, presently held in the name of Shazia Salim Iqbal Qureshi, wife of Salim Fruit, along with bank balances held by Aslam Abdul Rehman Patni and other accused. The total value of properties provisionally attached is Rs 4 crore, the ED said.

The Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Mumbai Zonal Office, provisionally attached the movable and immovable properties under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002.

These properties include movable properties in the form of bank balances and also one immovable property, the ED said.

The ED investigation was initiated on the basis of an FIR registered at Dadar Police Station and subsequently investigated by the Anti-Extortion Cell, Crime Branch, Mumbai Police. The FIR pertains to allegations of criminal conspiracy, cheating, criminal breach of trust, forgery and use of forged documents.

The investigation revealed that the accused, including Shabbir Ahmed Hassan Karolia and Yusuf Ahmed Hassen Karolia, allegedly conspired to illegally acquire an immovable property named "Lambat Building" by impersonating the original owner and fabricating documents, including a deed of conveyance, the ED said.

The ED investigation revealed that Aslam Abdul Rehman Patni allegedly acquired a 50 per cent share of Lambat Building belonging to Yasmin Mohammed Ahmed and Late Sherzada Jangrez Khan in 2019 by threatening and coercing them in the name of the D-Company, Dawood Ibrahim and Salim Iqbal Qureshi and Salim Fruit.

The original owners were dispossessed of their share without any payment of consideration. Subsequently, the property was transferred by Aslam Patni to Shazia Salim Iqbal Qureshi, wife of Salim Fruit, thereby facilitating its acquisition and retention in the name of the latter's family, the ED said. (IANS)

THE FREEDOM PRESS

FRIDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2026

India-Azerbaijan ties gain momentum

India-Azerbaijan relations appear to be entering a phase of cautious re-engagement after a period of diplomatic friction. Connectivity, trade and energy cooperation are emerging as key drivers of this renewed engagement, even as both countries navigate changing geopolitical dynamics in the South Caucasus. The meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev on September 1 on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Summit in Bishkek provided an important opening for rebuilding bilateral ties.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar's visit to Azerbaijan on October 23, his first in eight years, further reflected India's efforts to strengthen the relationship. During meetings with President Aliyev and Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov in Baku, both sides discussed cooperation in trade, energy, connectivity and tourism, besides exchanging views on regional and international developments. India's welcome of the Armenia-Azerbaijan peace agreement also reflects New Delhi's interest in promoting stability across the South Caucasus.

The relationship has historical foundations dating back to ancient Silk Route trade and cultural exchanges. The 18th-century Ateshgah fire temple in Baku, featuring Devanagari and Gurmukhi inscriptions, reflects these longstanding connections. India recognised Azerbaijan in December 1991 following the dissolution of the Soviet Union, while the two countries formalised economic and technical cooperation in 1998. Bilateral trade increased from US$50 million in 2005 to US$1.882 billion in 2022, before declining to US$966 million in 2024 and US$401 million in 2025. The recovery to US$600 million during the first nine months of 2026 indicates renewed commercial activity.

Indian businesses have also established a significant presence in Azerbaijan, with more than 2,000 Indian companies operating in the country. Energy cooperation remains an important pillar, particularly through ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), which has invested over US$1.2 billion in the Azeri-Chirag-Gunashli oil and gas fields and the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline. Its additional US$60 million investment in 2024 increased its stakes to 2.925 per cent in ACG and 3.097 per cent in BTC. The latest diplomatic engagement provides an opportunity to expand cooperation beyond hydrocarbons into tourism, investment and other emerging sectors.

Connectivity offers perhaps the greatest opportunity for both countries. The International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), involving 13 countries, connects India with Iran, Azerbaijan, Russia and markets beyond. Its western route links Jawaharlal Nehru Port with Iran's Bandar Abbas and Chabahar ports before extending through Azerbaijan towards Russia and Europe. The approximately 5,100-km corridor has the potential to reduce transit time by around 40 per cent and transportation costs by nearly 30 per cent, strengthening India's access to Eurasian markets. The proposed 164-km Rasht-Astara railway line, expected to be completed within three years, could further improve this connectivity.

Iran's completion of the 730-km Chabahar-Zahedan railway line is another development that could strengthen India's access to Central Asia, Afghanistan and eastern Russia. Azerbaijan's strategic location at the intersection of the East-West and North-South corridors also offers India an opportunity to diversify trade routes and improve access to European markets. Its participation in the expanded Central Asian consultative framework, which became the C6 grouping in November 2025, creates additional opportunities for India's Connect Central Asia policy. Cooperation in aviation is also gaining importance, with both sides discussing an increase in weekly flights from 14 to 42, while Air India and Azerbaijan Airlines have established a codeshare partnership.

Security cooperation and humanitarian assistance have further demonstrated the value of bilateral engagement. Azerbaijan's assistance in evacuating Indian nationals, including students, from Iran during the West Asia conflict earlier this year highlighted the importance of diplomatic coordination during emergencies. However, differences remain over each country's relations with third parties. Azerbaijan's support for Pakistan's position on Kashmir and India's growing defence cooperation with Armenia have created sensitivities. New Delhi's defence exports to Armenia have been aimed at maintaining regional balance rather than escalating tensions.

India has consistently maintained a balanced position on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and welcomed the peace agreement between Armenia and Azerbaijan. A stable South Caucasus would benefit regional trade, investment and connectivity. At the same time, India expects its security concerns and territorial integrity to be respected by its partners. Greater sensitivity from Baku towards India's legitimate interests would help strengthen mutual trust. Both countries should ensure that their bilateral relationship is not unnecessarily influenced by their respective engagements with other nations.

The way forward lies in translating renewed diplomatic engagement into sustained economic and strategic cooperation. Regular high-level consultations, institutional mechanisms and greater participation by businesses can help address differences and identify new opportunities. Cooperation in energy security, counterterrorism, regional security, tourism and infrastructure development could broaden the partnership. The INSTC and emerging Eurasian transport networks provide a practical foundation for such cooperation, while stronger regional coordination can support stability across the South Caucasus.

India and Azerbaijan have considerable potential to develop a stable and mutually beneficial partnership despite existing geopolitical differences. For New Delhi, engagement with Baku is important not only for bilateral trade and energy interests but also for expanding connectivity with Central Asia, Russia and Europe.

Trump's midterm rout eases India's worries. But it doesn't end them



SHASHI THAROOR



The American political system has often delivered a pendulum-like swing during midterm elections, which have tended to serve as a built-in institutional mechanism for course correction. For an incumbent administration in Washington, losing seats halfway through a presidential term is standard practice, and a setback for the White House was therefore expected. "Anti-incumbency" is not merely an Indian emotion. Yet, the scale of the Democratic "flip" in the 2026 US midterm elections extends far beyond routine political swings. What was expected to be a modest wave of opposition pushback, with Democrats perhaps winning the House and coming close in the Senate, instead transformed into a sweeping realignment across both chambers of Congress.

The crowning symbol of this shift came in Texas, where a Democrat became Governor after decades, and the Democratic Senatorial candidate, James Talarico - whose campaign caught Indian attention when he made dosas at an Indian eatery to win Indian-American votes - ended a 32-year statewide drought by defeating the Republican incumbent in the US Senate race. For political observers in New Delhi watching the results unfold, this amazing Democratic flip in Texas, an entrenched "red" or Republican state, symbolised the comprehensiveness of the GOP defeat. Coupled with the Democratic party's comfortable command of both the Senate and the House of Representatives, the midterm election results signal a profound domestic rejection of the current policies of the Trump administration. Driven primarily by anxieties over inflation, trade policy friction, and daily living costs, all exacerbated by Trump's Iran War and erratic tariff policies, American voters recoiled against Trump's policies, delivering a decisive reprimand to the ruling party.

However, from the perspective of Indian strategic interests, it is crucial to separate domestic electoral theatre from the realities of American foreign policy execution. The instinct among global onlookers is sometimes to assume that a shift in congressional majorities translates directly into a reversal of Washington's international posture. In the American constitutional architecture, that assumption simply does not hold true.

While the incoming Democratic majorities in Congress gain formidable power over the purse strings, executive authority in foreign affairs remains largely intact. President Donald Trump retains broad, independent constitutional power as Commander-in-Chief to do pretty much as he pleases, including resuming the bombing of Iran, trying to topple the Cuban government, or pulling the plug on Ukraine (all possibilities he has hinted at). Although a Democratic-controlled Congress will undoubtedly introduce War Powers resolutions to try and restrict his freedom of action, and probably host high-visibility oversight hearings targeting America's overseas military entanglements, these legislative manoeuvres will merely confirm the Democrats' powerlessness in the face of the hard institutional limits imposed by the American political system. Any resolution seeking to constrain executive military action requires presidential approval, but it will encounter the President's veto. And overriding a presidential veto demands a two-thirds majority in both chambers - a threshold the Democrats do not possess despite their substantial gains.

Furthermore, the economic tools that define modern international relations, such as tariffs and sanctions, remain heavily concentrated within the executive branch. Congress could deny the President the funds needed for extensive overseas military deployments, but it cannot curb such actions as executive tariffs, sanctions, and even bombing campaigns, which lie within the President's sole discretion. In particular, the President's statutory authority to impose broad trade tariffs under national security provisions or executive emergency powers persists, regardless of who holds the gavel in the House or the Senate. For India, this means that the core economic variables shaping bilateral trade policy, from sector-specific tariffs to supply chain pressures, as well as the discretion to end the current waiver of the Graham Act and impose sanctions on India for trading with Russia, remain firmly rooted in the White House. New Delhi will still have to deal directly with the President and his cabinet appointees to negotiate trade access, manage regulatory frameworks, and resolve bilateral friction.

Where the midterm outcome offers immediate psychological and practical relief for India is in the domestic socio-cultural atmospherics of the United States. The MAGA ecosystem's rhetoric often fostered an increasingly restrictive and hostile environment toward immigration, non-white populations, and foreign skilled labour, a hostility that especially seemed to target Indians. The realignment delivered by the midterm elections signals a distinct cooling of that hyper-nationalist political temperature, which would be welcome news to most Indian-Americans, who seem to have voted overwhelmingly Democratic this year.

For the vast Indian diaspora, including hundreds of thousands of IT professionals, students, researchers, and entrepreneurs, a less adversarial national environment reduces anxiety around visa stability, green card backlogs, and the everyday climate of racial antagonism and "othering". The Indian-American community, which has grown into a powerful economic and civic force within the United States, stands to benefit from a public landscape that is less hostile to global talent and brown-skinned minorities.

Beyond executive powers like tariffs, the Democratic sweep of Congress reconfigures key legislative platforms - such as the House Foreign Affairs and Armed Services Committees - in ways that could significantly influence US-India defence and diplomatic engagement. With Democrats taking the committee chairmanships (unlike in India, where eight of our 24 Parliamentary Standing Committees are chaired by the Opposition, US Committee chairs are always held by the majority party), some interesting changes are likely. Representative Ami Bera, the longest-serving Indian-American in Congress, is in line to chair the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on South Asia or the Indo-Pacific, creating a knowledgeable, sympathetic interlocutor for New Delhi on Capitol Hill. This shift will elevate legislative focus on critical bilateral initiatives like the Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET) and joint defence manufacturing, while ensuring strong Congressional support for Quad cooperation, provided the Trump Administration is still interested in promoting the Quad.

At the same time, our Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) will have to face another reality. Democratic committee leadership will bring heightened scrutiny to secondary issues that are less favourable to New Delhi, with Democrats such as Pramila Jayapal raising issues relating to the human rights record of the Modi government, others expressing concern about religious freedom issues involving Muslims and Christians, and the "usual suspects" questioning India's continued purchases of Russian crude oil (several Democrats supported the passage of the Graham Act mandating 100% sanctions on India and China for such purchases). On the whole, these changes could create a foreign policy landscape where institutional strategic partnership and defence tech integration will move forward more haltingly, alongside more active and critical Congressional oversight of Administration initiatives.

But we will simply have to cope. Ultimately, India's strategic posture has always rested on the principle of pragmatic non-partisanship. The US-India strategic partnership is not built on individual personalities or single-party alliances; it is anchored in deep structural realities, ranging from shared security imperatives in the Indo-Pacific to robust technology and defence integration and the influential presence of the thriving Indian-American community. These verities are not going to go away.

Governments in Washington change, congressional majorities flip, and political tides ebb and flow. India's diplomatic machinery this century, under both Congress and BJP governments, has successfully navigated Republican and Democratic administrations alike for decades. Regardless of who controls Capitol Hill or the West Wing, and how transactional Washington's approach has become, maintaining a resilient, multi-faceted relationship with the United States remains an imperative for Indian foreign policy. It's one that New Delhi must continue to manage with steady realism and calculated self-interest.

(Shashi Tharoor is a Member of Parliament from Thiruvananthapuram)

Sovereign solutions to tech problems may not be enough

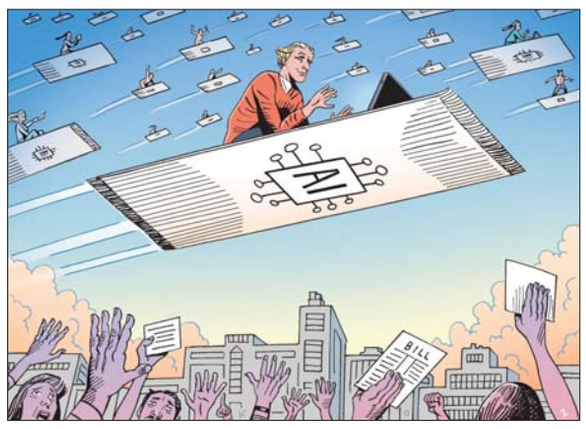
MOHAMED CHEBARO

Governments, economies and societies have become dependent on internet connectivity for every aspect of our lives, including formal and informal transactions, our personal and impersonal communications, and even our home thermostats and the fridges at the local supermarket.

Many of us have already been the victim of organized criminal acts, such as hacking and scamming, incurring material losses as a result. Last month, our collective food security was tested. A cyberattack on 700-plus supermarkets in France destroyed millions of euros of food that could have fed the poor instead of perishing in fridges that were remotely turned off. This week, the hackers hit supermarket fridges in another seven countries. So, who is hacking Europe's supermarket fridges and why?

Above all, are we now totally at the mercy of an unregulated tech realm that is an indispensable conduit to all actions us humans need to take to run our lives? Has the tech realm, along with all its great advantages and services to science, medicine and modern life, also exposed us to new vulnerabilities? Who is responsible for warding off the dangers: states, companies or international watchdogs?

Unfortunately, tech controls and safety assurances remain murky, sporadic and unconvincing as the rollout of fast-evolving technology continues apace. Calls for control and sovereignty to shape the UK's approach to artificial intelligence and other tech development will require other countries to pull in the same direction. Prime Minister Andy Burnham this week announced that the UK's approach to AI ought to be shaped by British interests, control and sovereignty. But the task is colossal if it is not part of a global effort, including the corporate realm.



Burnham's bid to approve a framework to govern the domestic adoption of the fast-evolving technology and its infrastructure is a no-brainer. But this endeavor is too complex and might be too little, too late in a chaotic sector that could threaten the peace and security of our planet if it falls into the hands of rogue elements or malign states, let alone the superintelligent machines and their warped algorithms.

It is too early to judge whether the manipulation of the temperature of Europe's supermarket fridges was a result of a criminal act, a state effort to sow chaos or simply a lack of software updates and the need to upgrade the infrastructure.

But I would not be revealing a secret if I were to say that individuals and communities are today living in fear of the next hack or the next scam. There is also a feeling that we are at the mercy of the next upgrade or update, as well as a system reboot. Companies share the same fears and are also at the mercy of the often-costly process of constant upgrades and updates during what are already testing economic times.

A review of recent events shows how exposed our societies and states have become. AI tools hacking other AI tools autonomously has become a frequent occurrence. Attacks on undersea communication cables are a constant threat. Incidences of hacking thermostats or transport and electrical systems are also common and not just in Europe.

French fridges going rogue should become a talking point for leaders, security establishments and tech giants everywhere, as well as political and economic officials. The cost of cyberattacks, even on fridges, should not be belittled, just as attacks on financial institutions should not be accepted. The guardrails must be strengthened if the world is to prosper.

Since the dawn of history, bad actors have sought to undermine peace and security for criminal or geostrategic gains. In our rapidly changing and heavily interconnected world, with AI rapidly progressing, hacking and cyber disruptions have put digital threats on steroids. World leaders ought to know that, in such a time of transition, geostrategic discord, conflict and the flouting of the rules-based order are all contributing to increased volatility and the success of the agents of chaos.

Seeking sovereign solutions and national controls is all well and good but for those steps to secure our defenses, limit disruptions and protect state and society, world leaders need to put their competition and natural instinct to vie for power aside. They must work with corporations and tech giants to make society's protection integral in their business model, regardless of how difficult that might be.

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

CERT-In warns financial firms as AI-driven 'Crafty Falcon' cyberattacks escalate

NEW DELHI, NOV 5



The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has issued a fresh warning to banks, non-banking finance companies (NBFCs), fintech firms and other financial institutions following a rise in cyber attacks linked to unauthorised fund transfers.

CERT-In said it had observed a significant escalation in an ongoing cyber campaign, dubbed 'Crafty Falcon', which uses artificial intelligence-powered tools to automate attacks and rapidly exploit vulnerabilities in financial systems.

The advisory follows an earlier alert issued in October regarding the misuse of payment and disbursement application programming interfaces (APIs) to facilitate fraudulent fund transfers.

According to CERT-In, reports of successful intrusions continue to be received from banks, NBFCs and fintech companies, including some organisations that had already undertaken corrective measures after previous warnings.

In several cases, attackers returned to target entities where identified weaknesses had not been fully addressed.

Attackers have increasingly timed their operations to coincide with weekends, holidays and other periods of reduced security oversight, making detection and response more difficult, the watchdog said. (IANS)

Data centre investments and trade pacts can boost growth

NEW DELHI, NOV 5



Investments in data centres and new trade agreements may initially increase imports and widen the trade deficit, but this need not weaken the rupee if they are financed by foreign capital and lead to future export growth, a report said on Thursday.

The report from HSBC Global Investment Research said India's emerging data centre boom and expanding network of trade agreements could improve the country's medium-term growth and balance-of-payments prospects without necessarily weakening the rupee.

"A low current account deficit isn't automatically a sign of strength, nor is a wider deficit necessarily a sign of stress. What matters is how the deficit is financed and whether it reflects investment in tradeable sectors," the report said.

The report highlighted the rapid expansion of India's data centre sector, noting that around $70 billion of investment is already underway, with a further $90 billion of announced projects in the pipeline. (IANS)

India, SL, B'desh, Maldives launch joint fisheries research network

KOCHI, NOV 5



India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and the Maldives have joined hands to study how changing weather and sea conditions are affecting fish stocks in the Bay of Bengal.

The network was launched at an international meeting held at the ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) in Kochi.

The meeting was held on the sidelines of an international symposium on fisheries and remote sensing.

Union Fisheries Joint Secretary Surabhi Rai said the initiative could become a model for science-based fisheries management in other parts of the world.

The four countries have launched a regional research network to bring together ocean scientists and fisheries experts.

The aim is to understand why fish populations are changing and how these changes affect fishing communities.

The new network is called the Bay of Bengal Network of Ocean Researchers for Fisheries (BOB-NOR).

It will link ocean studies, climate data and information from the fishing sector.

This will help scientists get a clearer picture of changes taking place in the sea.

The network will study how rising sea temperatures, changes in monsoon patterns, salt levels, ocean currents and marine life affect fish.

It will look at changes in fish movement, breeding, growth and numbers in different parts of the Bay of Bengal.

Officials and experts from the four countries took part in the meeting.

Ocean scientists and marine researchers from the US, Brazil, Chile, Portugal, the UK and Greece also attended.

The network will bring together information from satellites, sea surveys and climate studies.

It will also use data from fisheries research.

By studying these details together, scientists hope to better understand where fish are moving and what is causing changes in their numbers.

The larger aim is to help countries plan their fishing activities based on scientific findings.

So far, fisheries management has often depended on the amount of fish caught.

The new network seeks to go beyond this approach and study the changes taking place in the ocean before they affect fish stocks.

Unveiling the initiative, BOBP-IGO Director P. Krishnan said the network would bring ocean researchers and fisheries experts closer.

It would help bridge the gap between ocean research and fisheries management.

Former ICAR Deputy Director General B. Meenakumari stressed the need for timely and reliable data.

She said regular advisories based on sea conditions, including sea surface temperature, would help fishermen make better decisions.

The network is coordinated by the Bay of Bengal Programme Inter-Governmental Organisation (BOBP-IGO).

The Union Fisheries Department hosted the meeting with support from GEO Blue Planet and the Trevor Platt Science Foundation. (IANS)

Global AI correction could boost capital flows: Uday Kotak

MUMBAI, NOV 5



India could attract fresh foreign money if the global artificial intelligence (AI) investment surge loses momentum, veteran banker Uday Kotak said on Thursday.

Speaking in a virtual address, the founder of Kotak Mahindra Bank said heavy borrowing by global companies to fund their AI ambitions has stretched valuations in several cases.

"If that reverses, India could benefit from reverse flows as it builds its own AI capability," Kotak said.

Indian equities have recovered nearly 10 per cent from their lows in early October even as global AI-linked stocks have come under pressure. Tech-heavy Asian markets have declined more than 7 per cent over the same period.

Global investors have withdrawn a record $29 billion from Indian markets in 2026 amid high valuations, limited AI-linked opportunities and rising energy prices.

Indian equities have held firm despite geopolitical uncertainty, volatile global markets and heavy foreign selling, helped by sustained confidence among domestic investors, Kotak said.

He said India's valuation gap with other markets has narrowed after the recent correction, making stocks less expensive than they were six to 12 months ago. The country's stronger growth outlook remains its key advantage, he added. (IANS)

Govt boosts livestock, fodder infra under rural scheme to tackle scarcity

NEW DELHI, NOV 5



The Department of Rural Development and the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) have jointly issued an advisory to states and Union Territories to strengthen fodder production, pasture development and livestock-supportive infrastructure through convergence, an official statement said on Thursday.

The initiative under the Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission – Gramin (VB–G RAM G) Act, 2025 seeks to address fodder scarcity, improve livestock-supportive infrastructure through a whole-of-government approach.

It also seeks to enhance rural livelihoods, particularly small and marginal farmers and landless households dependent on livestock and dairy activities.

It seeks to align rural employment and asset creation with the requirements of the livestock sector, while ensuring compliance with the provisions and planning framework of the Act.

Key interventions include fodder cultivation for individual and community use, development of community fodder resources, grazing lands, silvipasture projects, fodder banks, silage units and storage facilities. The advisory also covers construction, repair and maintenance of cattle, goat, piggery and poultry shelters. (IANS/UNI)

Centre asks states to speed up watershed development

NEW DELHI, NOV 5



The Centre has urged states to effectively and speedily utilise funds allocated to strengthen science-based watershed development programmes for resilient agriculture to benefit farmers and rural communities, an official statement said on Thursday.

Speaking at the national-level consultation meeting on the draft national technical guidelines (NTG) for improved watershed management in Nagpur, Secretary, Department of Land Resources, Dilip Kumar, emphasised the importance of identifying a set of essential parameters to be followed uniformly by all states, while allowing flexibility in adopting other desirable parameters according to local requirements.

He called for robust baseline data and comprehensive impact assessments to evaluate the outcomes of WDC-PMKSY 2.0, identify implementation gaps and draw lessons for the effective design and execution of WDC-PMKSY 3.0.

Kumar further stressed that watershed development should remain focused on tangible outcomes for farmers and communities. Scientific interventions must translate into practical, location-specific solutions that can be effectively implemented at the grassroots level. He also called for recognising and motivating well-performing states and field-level officers to strengthen institutional commitment and improve implementation.

The two-day consultation session is being held under World Bank-assisted "Rejuvenating Watersheds for Agricultural Resilience through Innovative Development (REWARD). "The officials also highlighted the need to accelerate project implementation under WDC PMKSY 2.0. while noting that project timelines had progressively been reduced from seven years under WDC-PMKSY 1.0 to five years under WDC-PMKSY 2.0.

The participants also underscored the importance of community participation, with the need to strengthen Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), User Groups (UGs), Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and other community-based institutions for livelihood enhancement, value addition and better market access. The need to strengthen community ownership and participation in the maintenance of water harvesting structures beyond the project period was also underlined.

The consultation saw participation from representatives of the Department of Land Resources, NRAA, World Bank, REWARD project States of Odisha and Karnataka, NGOs, consortium partners including ICRISAT, NABARD and various ICAR institutes. (IANS)

US MIDTERMS

Indian American Democrats score big; 30 win state legislative seats; maintain lead in LA Mayoral race

WASHINGTON, NOV 5

Indian American Democrats are in line to lead legislative chambers in two US states, Michigan and Arizona, after Tuesday's elections, in which at least 30 Indian American candidates won state legislative seats.

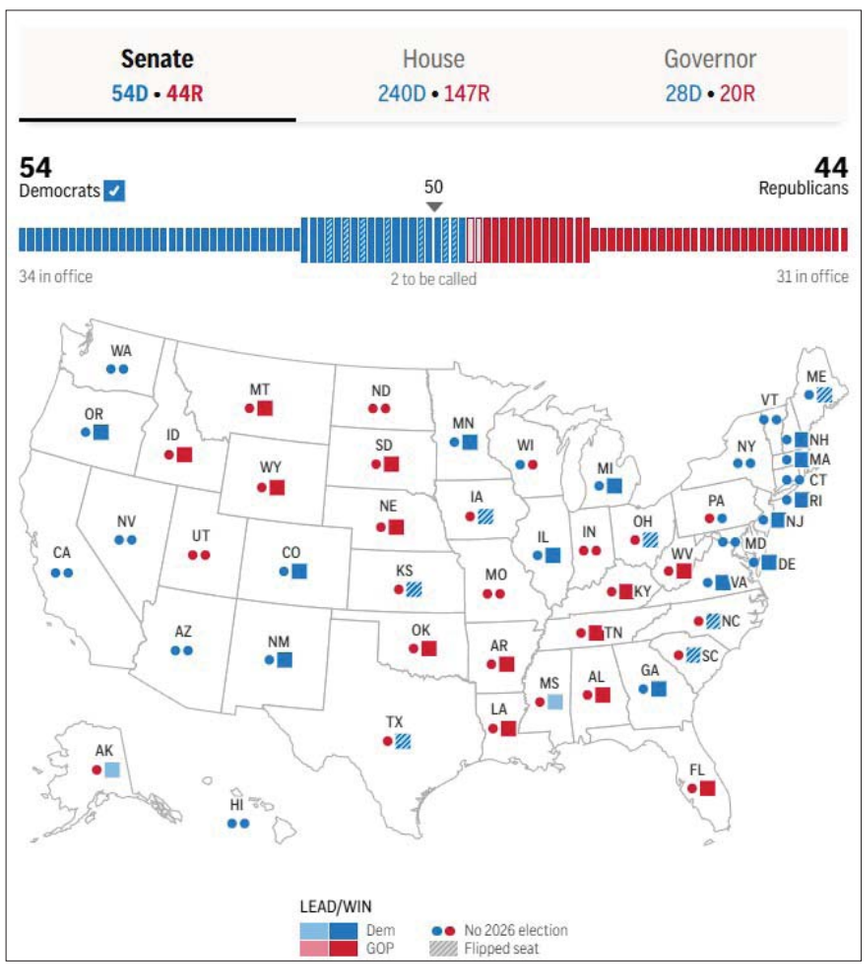
In Los Angeles, city council member Nithya Raman held her lead over Mayor Karen Bass on Wednesday evening, though the race was still too early to call.

In Michigan, Ranjeev Puri, the House minority leader, won re-election in the 24th District with about 66 per cent of the vote, according to an unofficial results aggregator, as Democrats retook the state House and full control of state government.

Michigan Advance reported that "Puri will become the first Indian American and Sikh speaker of the Michigan House". He still has to be elected speaker by the Democratic caucus.

"The people of Michigan spoke up tonight and said that they've had enough, and they delivered a House Democratic majority," Puri said.

In Arizona, Senate Minority Leader Priya Sundareshan won re-election in the 18th District with about 66 per cent, according to the Arizona Secretary of State's unofficial count. The Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee (DLCC) said Democrats flipped both chambers, "creating a Democratic trifecta for the first time since the 1960s".



What post Sundareshan will hold is not yet settled. The Center Square reported that she plans to run for Senate president, which requires a vote of the Democratic caucus, while a KTAR video caption describes her as "soon to be Senate Majority Leader". She told The Center Square: "We are confident that we have the trifecta come January."

In Los Angeles, Raman led Bass by about 52 per cent to 48 per cent, or about 405,000 votes to 379,000, with about two-thirds of the expected vote counted. Major networks said the race was too early to call and that Bass would need about 53 per cent of the roughly 394,000 remaining votes to catch up.

That is a lead of about 27,000 votes. Bass had led narrowly early on Wednesday before Raman pulled ahead.

In the same city, Marissa Roy was projected the winner of the city attorney runoff with about 66 per cent against John McKinney, according to a FOX 11 projection based on Los Angeles County returns.

Two newcomers in the South won seats that their supporters describe as historic. Jyot Singh won Georgia's 97th House District with about 68 per cent, or about 13,800 votes to 6,500, according to the Georgia Secretary of State.

Indian American Impact, an advocacy group, calls him the "first Indian American and first Sikh American elected to the Georgia State Legislature". In Texas, Pooja Sethi won the open 47th House District with about 63 per cent, or about 57,500 votes to 33,300, according to the Texas Secretary of State's count with all polling locations reporting.

On X, Sethi wrote that she is "the first Indian American woman and the first Asian American Democratic woman elected to the Texas Legislature".

Indian American Democrats also helped their party flip seats. Nabeela Syed, a state representative, won Illinois' 26th Senate District from appointed Republican Darby Hills by about 57 per cent to 43 per cent.

It was one of the costliest Illinois legislative races, with Syed raising about $3.2 million to Hills' $1.5 million by October, according to TransparencyUSA.

Lisa Kaul unseated Republican Rob Rolison in New York's 39th Senate District by about 55 per cent to 45 per cent, according to an unofficial aggregator and the Poughkeepsie Journal. (IANS/UNI)

40 Pak soldiers killed in operations across Balochistan, claims BLA

QUETTA, NOV 5



The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) has claimed responsibility for 25 operations across several areas of Balochistan over the past few days targeting Pakistani forces that resulted in the death of 40 security personnel and injuries to dozens of others, local media reported.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, BLA spokesperson Jeeyand Baloch claimed that the group carried out a series of attacks between October 26 and November 3 against Pakistani military personnel, intelligence operatives and armed groups it described as "death squads".

He said that the attacks involved both field operations and intelligence-based operations, with several military and logistical vehicles destroyed.

According to the BLA, its fighters ambushed two Pakistani military vehicles in Kharan district on November 3, attacking a convoy at Zomi area in the morning and another at Nauroz Qalat later that night. The group claimed that the Zomi attack killed at least three personnel.

It also said a military installation at Rotinko was targeted with heavy weapons, causing casualties and material losses, The Balochistan Post reported. . (IANS/UNI)

Bangladesh: 50 injured, 200 factories shut as protests by garment workers turn violent

DHAKA, NOV 5



As many as 50 people, including law enforcement personnel, were injured, while more than 200 factories in Savar and Ashulia were forced to declare holidays as protests by garment workers in Bangladesh turned violent, local media reported on Thursday.

The protests continued across several industrial areas, with workers demanding a minimum monthly wage of Tk 30,000.

Reports suggest that multiple areas, including Savar, Ashulia, Gazipur and Narayanganj, witnessed demonstrations, road blockades and confrontations, leading to the deployment of additional security personnel to curb the unrest.

Violence broke out in Savar's Padma Mor area of Hemayetpur and subsequently spread to Ulail, where workers clashed with police in front of the Al-Muslim Group factory.

While workers pelted police personnel with bricks and stones, the law enforcement personnel used tear gas shells, sound grenades, and rubber bullets to disperse them. A vehicle belonging to the officer-in-charge of Savar Model Police Station was set ablaze, Bangladeshi daily Dhaka Tribune reported.

According to Dhaka District Superintendent of Police Shamima Parveen, at least 50 people, including policemen, workers and pedestrians, were injured in the violence. She said OC Saiful Alam also suffered serious injuries.

The unrest erupted after workers assembled near Padma Mor to press for their wage demands. Clashes broke out when police tried to remove protesters who had blocked the road, with the confrontation subsequently spreading to nearby areas.

Workers blocked the Dhaka-Aricha highway, bringing traffic to a complete standstill in both directions and triggering severe congestion. Dhaka District SP Shamima said between 30,000 and 40,000 workers had assembled in the area from both sides.

Several factories in Hemayetpur, Ulail and nearby areas subsequently announced holidays amid the unrest.

Meanwhile, three platoons of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) personnel were deployed in Savar and Ashulia to ensure security across the industrial belt.

In Gazipur, garment workers also blocked the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway near Signboard in the Gacha area on Wednesday morning, halting traffic.

An estimated 2,000 to 4,000 workers took to the streets and hurled bricks and stones at police during a standoff. Police responded by firing tear gas shells and sound grenades to disperse the protesters, Dhaka Tribune reported.

The workers are demanding a minimum monthly wage of Tk 30,000, arguing that the existing minimum wage of Tk 12,500 is inadequate to cope with the rising cost of living.

Their other demands include the introduction of rationing facilities in every garment factory, protection of trade union rights, an end to arbitrary job dismissals and blacklisting, and justice for deceased workers. (IANS)

EU sets out accession roadmaps

Urges Ukraine to accelerate reforms



BRUSSELS, NOV 5

The European Commission has presented accession roadmaps for Ukraine and three other leading European Union (EU) membership candidates, urging Kyiv to accelerate reforms to meet its goal of concluding negotiations by the end of 2028.

Adopting its annual enlargement package, the EU executive on Wednesday (local time) outlined milestones for Montenegro, Albania, Moldova and Ukraine, while stressing that progress toward membership depends on reforms.

Ukraine has opened four groups of negotiating chapters over the past year and meets the conditions to open all remaining groups, the Commission said.

It called on Ukraine to focus on rule-of-law benchmarks, democratic institutions, public administration reform and an action plan on national minorities. Specialised anti-corruption institutions continued to operate "overall independently and effectively," it said.

Montenegro is closest to completing talks, having provisionally closed 21 negotiating chapters. It could close the remaining chapters by the end of this year, with work on its accession treaty already underway, reports Xinhua news agency.

Albania aims to conclude negotiations in 2027, while Moldova is targeting early 2028. The Commission said both goals depend on sustained reforms.

The Commission also proposed a common framework for integrating candidates into sectors including energy, transport, digital and defence before membership, with related dialogues to begin over the next six months.

Additionally, the European Commission hosted talks Wednesday on Ukraine's post-war economic development and instruments to support its reconstruction, according to a Commission statement.

Representatives of the European Union (EU), Ukraine, Germany, France, Britain, the United States, NATO and the World Bank participated in the discussions. (IANS/UNI)

Paraguay faces biggest-ever banking crisis

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
ASUNCIÓN, NOV 5



A banking crisis in Paraguay has quickly turned into a major political challenge for President Santiago Pena. The country's central bank has intervened in digital lender Ueno Bank, leaving nearly 3 million customers unable to access their accounts and triggering public anger.

The fallout has also led to the resignation of the central bank chief, the detention of eight Ueno executives and growing calls for Pena's impeachment.

Opposition lawmakers have stepped up efforts to remove Pena from office, accusing him of conflicts of interest, misuse of pension funds and covering up institutional failures linked to the banking crisis.

According to Reuters, 35 lawmakers in the 80-member lower house submitted impeachment articles on Wednesday. They also asked congressional leaders to call an extraordinary session on Thursday to discuss Pena's future.

However, the opposition does not have the two-thirds majority required to move the impeachment proceedings forward. It has, however, received support from some members of the ruling Colorado Party who have broken ranks.

Multicultural marriages in South Korea edge down

SEOUL, NOV 5

The number of multicultural marriages in South Korea edged down in 2025 from a year earlier, data showed on Thursday, taking up 8.9 per cent of all marriages.

The country recorded 21,399 multicultural marriages last year, down 0.2 per cent, or 51, from 21,450 in 2024, according to data from South Korea's Ministry of Data and Statistics.

Marriages involving foreign wives accounted for 71.4 per cent of multicultural marriages, followed by those with foreign husbands at 18.9 per cent and those with naturalised citizens at 9.7 per cent, Yonhap News Agency reported.

The average age for first marriages was 37.1 years for husbands and 29.7 years for wives.

Husbands were older than their wives in 75.2 per cent of multicultural marriages. In 36.1 per cent of all multicultural marriages, the husband was at least 10 years older than his wife.

Vietnamese wives accounted for 25.3 per cent of all multicultural marriages, followed by Chinese wives at 15.1 per cent and Thai wives at 9.2 per cent. (IANS)

UK adventurer returns home after 28-year trek around the world

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
HULL, ENGLAND, NOV 5



A British adventurer who has been walking around the world for almost three decades is due to finish his trek on Monday, ending a 31,000-mile journey at the house where he grew up.

Karl Bushby has hacked through jungles in Central America, crossed the ice between Alaska and Russia and last month swam across the English Channel on the final stretch of a voyage made entirely under his own steam.

Hundreds of cheering supporters greeted the 57-year-old in the square of his home city of Hull on Monday morning.

"After 28 years, you just couldn't ask for more than this," he told the crowd, before pushing on with his few possessions in a trolley, a spare tyre which will now never be needed slung on top.

"I guess I'll be seeing you around," he added. He then headed for his family home where his mother, his 36-year-old son and a 12-year-old granddaughter were waiting.

Chaos hits European skies

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
DUBLIN, NOV 5

A number of passenger jets have been rerouted after bomb threats were received on Thursday.

The first report came from an Aer Lingus flight from Dublin to Rome early in the afternoon.

The flight from Ireland to Italy was diverted to a military air base in western France, the French prime minister's office said.

The flight landed safely at the base in Evreux in Normandy, Prime Minister Sebastien Lecornu's office said. All 151 passengers and six crew members are safe and military bomb defusal teams are examining the plane.

Saudi signs $403 mn development loan agreements to support Syria's reconstruction

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
RIYADH, NOV 5

Saudi Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman received Syrian President Ahmed Al-Sharaa in Riyadh on Wednesday. The leaders held extensive talks aimed at further bolstering bilateral relations between the two countries.

The Saudi Fund for Development (SFD) signed six concessional development loan agreements worth more than $403 million with Syria on Thursday to support key sectors, including energy, water, health, housing, infrastructure and digital transformation.



Syrian President Ahmed Al-Sharaa with Saudi Arabia Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman in Riyadh.

A $105 million project will finance the construction, rehabilitation and equipping of 25 civil defense centers across several governorates, benefiting more than seven million people.

The agreements were signed in the presence of Crown Prince and Prime Minister Mohammed bin Salman and Syrian President Ahmed Al-Sharaa, in implementation of the directives of Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Salman and the Crown Prince.

SFD Chief Executive Officer Sultan Al-Marshad and Syrian Minister of Finance Mohammed Yisr Barnieh signed the agreements, which aim to restore essential services, rehabilitate damaged infrastructure and improve living conditions across Syria.

The agreements cover six development projects targeting critical infrastructure and public services.

A $90 million project will rehabilitate generating units at the Aleppo Thermal Power Plant, benefiting approximately five million people.

The project aims to restore the plant's electricity generation capacity, provide a stable power supply to residents and public facilities, support economic and industrial activity, and strengthen the national electricity grid.

Another agreement, valued at $30 million, will support the modernization of Syria's drinking water metering system through the supply and installation of 300,000 smart water meters.

The project is expected to benefit approximately 1.5 million people across several governorates while improving the quality and efficiency of water services.

The initiative seeks to strengthen emergency response and disaster management capabilities, including debris removal and management, while supporting stability in communities affected by the conflict.

The agreements also include a $60 million housing rehabilitation project targeting up to 10,000 damaged residential units in various parts of Syria, contributing to improved living conditions and social stability.

In the healthcare sector, a $100 million project will support the rehabilitation, construction and equipping of hospitals and health centers.

The project aims to restore essential and specialized medical services, upgrade priority healthcare facilities, expand access to treatment and reduce pressure on existing hospitals.

Additionally, more than $18 million will be allocated to support the digital transformation and institutional development of the Syrian Ministry of Finance.

Oman, Iran emphasise de-escalation tensions

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
MUSCAT, NOV 5

A phone call took place between Sayyid Badr bin Hamad Albusaidi, Foreign Minister and Dr. Seyed Abbas Araghchi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The two ministers reviewed the latest developments in contacts and discussions aimed at reaching practical, political, and technical agreements leading to the unhindered resumption of navigation through the Strait of Hormuz. The two ministers emphasised the importance of moving from the stage of de-escalating tensions to establishing sustainable agreements based on practical arrangements to ensure the safety of maritime corridors, as well as joint technical mechanisms to secure the flow of international trade and energy, in a manner that ends the state of war and prevents the recurrence of confrontations in the region.

It was also emphasized that these hoped-for agreements must be grounded in respecting state sovereignty, observing the legitimate interests of all parties, and creating appropriate conditions to restore paths of dialogue and negotiation, as well as addressing outstanding issues driving the escalation.

Egypt, US sign strategic objective agreement

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
CAIRO, NOV 5

Egypt and the United States signed a Strategic Objective Framework Agreement on Enhancing Mutual Prosperity on Wednesday, aimed at expanding cooperation across several sectors, according to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry.



Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty attended the signing ceremony alongside the ministers of finance, supply and internal trade, and higher education and scientific research.

The agreement was signed by Egypt's Deputy Foreign Minister for International Cooperation, Dr. Samar El-Ahdal, and US Chargé d'Affaires in Cairo Robert Silverman.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Ambassador Nader Zaki said the framework agreement aims to strengthen cooperation with the United States to achieve tangible economic growth in Egypt.

He explained that its objectives include expanding cooperation in key sectors and adopting US institutional and technological innovations to improve the efficiency of Egypt's water, energy and infrastructure systems.

Israel's president opens party talks after indecisive election

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
TEL AVIV, NOV 5

Israel's President Isaac Herzog is set to begin consultations with political parties to form a new coalition government, after official results of a general election last week showed no clear winner.



Herzog began the consultation process on Wednesday night and told party leaders that "not every commitment and promise can be fulfilled" if they wanted to avoid a new election.

Three factions aligned with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's religious-nationalist base recommended that he be given a chance to form a coalition, while a fourth, led by a former Netanyahu ally, backed Gadi Eisenkot. Eight more parties, including the two Arab-led factions, are scheduled to meet with the president on Thursday, with Eisenkot's Yashar party and Netanyahu's Likud going last.

Israel's elections last week saw no clear winner as the blocs of neither Netanyahu nor Eisenkot secured a parliamentary majority.

Saudi: Hajj and Umrah Committee reviews early pilgrimage preparations



FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
JEDDAH, NOV 5

The Permanent Committee for Hajj and Umrah meeting reviewed the latest developments in early preparations for the Hajj 2027 and ongoing development projects designed to facilitate the pilgrims' journey. Deputy Emir of Makkah Prince Saud bin Mishaal chaired the meeting, which discussed the ongoing Umrah season and preparations for the Hajj 2027.

The meeting was held in line with the directives of Advisor to Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, Emir of Makkah and Chairman of the Permanent Committee for Hajj and Umrah Prince Khalid Al-Faisal. During the meeting, the committee reviewed the efforts of relevant entities serving Umrah pilgrims. These efforts aimed to provide all necessary facilities for visitors to the Grand Mosque and enable them to perform their rituals in ease and comfort. The committee also reviewed operations at King Abdulaziz International Airport and its readiness to serve 65 million passengers annually. The meeting examined the range of services provided to pilgrims, including check-in and processing platforms, health centers, air-conditioned rest areas, and welcome halls.

The committee reviewed the latest developments in early preparations for this year's Hajj and ongoing development projects designed to facilitate the pilgrims' journey. The meeting also discussed several items on its agenda and adopted the necessary recommendations.

Dubai's new tourism club offers five-year visas

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
DUBAI, NOV 5

Frequent visitors to Dubai could soon enjoy more than just another holiday, with a new invitation-only tourism club offering a five-year multiple-entry visa, shopping credits and exclusive privileges across the city.



The General Directorate for Identity and Foreigners Affairs – Dubai (GDRFA Dubai) and the Dubai Department of Economy and Tourism (DET) have unveiled details of 'Dubai Access Club', the world's first city-led, invitation-only tourism membership programme of its kind, recently launched by His Highness Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of the UAE, and Chairman of The Executive Council of Dubai, as part of a series of initiatives to further enhance the competitiveness of Dubai's tourism sector.

The programme offers repeat visitors an exclusive five-year membership, available by invitation only through partner nominations, providing access to a range of exclusive benefits, services and experiences across the city, alongside a five-year multiple-entry tourist visa.

DIFC hosts 600 asset managers

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
DUBAI, NOV 5

The Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) now hosts more than 600 wealth and asset management firms. The centre says that is three times the number of comparable firms in other financial centres in the market. The financial centre disclosed the figure on the third day of the inaugural Dubai Future Finance Week. The event runs under the patronage of Sheikh Maktoum bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, First Deputy Ruler of Dubai, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Finance and President of DIFC. The milestone supports the Dubai Economic Agenda (D33). The plan aims to place Dubai among the world's top four global financial centres.

Jordanian security officer killed in stabbing

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
AMMAN, NOV 5

A Jordanian security officer was killed and another wounded in a stabbing attack by a suspect described as a "terrorist" in the capital Amman, state news agency Petra reported on Thursday, adding that the attacker had been arrested.

Local press reported that the deadly attack took place on Medina Street - one of Amman's main thoroughfares, adding that the attacker was found with two daggers in their possession.

The victim's identity and further details surrounding the attack have not been made available.

Türkiye on track for record $3B in EBRD investments

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
ISTANBUL, NOV 5

The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) has invested 2.5 billion ($2.8 billion) in Türkiye so far this year, including 1.7 billion ($1.9 billion) in green projects, and expects its total investments to reach 2.7 billion ($3 billion) by the end of 2026, reaching a record level.



EBRD President Odile Renaud-Basso praised Türkiye as a leading emerging market "that is really embracing the green agenda," speaking at the bank's London headquarters ahead of the 31st UN Climate Change Conference (COP31), to be held in the southwestern Turkish province of Antalya on Nov. 9-20.

She said that while many countries had made numerous commitments under the Paris Agreement to limit the global temperature rise to 1.5C, achieving the goal would require intensive efforts, and Türkiye would use COP31 to showcase its progress in implementing those commitments.

She noted that the global fight against climate change had faced challenges over the years, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine war and the Middle East conflict. While these developments affected markets and created obstacles, they also accelerated the transition to clean energy.

The energy crisis caused by supply disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz fueled interest in renewable energy.

"A country like Türkiye is really accelerating its efforts in terms of renewable energy, but we also see this in countries like Egypt, where there is a real scale-up of investment in this area by the private sector, particularly private developers," she said. "In a way, this could reshape the geopolitics of energy, because some countries that are poor in fossil fuels could be very strong in renewable energy and could become exporters of green energy -- they could become real energy hubs at the regional level."

Renaud-Basso said energy security and costs were the main drivers behind accelerating green energy investments, but certain hurdles remained regarding the investments themselves and the countries where they would be directed.

She urged governments to align policies and regulatory frameworks with targets related to market incentives, energy efficiency, recycling and similar issues to attract the necessary investments.

Kuwait's first ammunition factory begins production

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
KUWAIT, NOV 5

Defense Minister Sheikh Abdullah Ali Abdullah Al-Salem Al-Sabah on Wednesday attended the launch of production of the first batch of small-arms ammunition at the Naif Small Arms Ammunition Factory, the first of its kind in Kuwait, the Ministry of Defense said. The ceremony was organized by the Logistics and Supply Authority.

Sheikh Abdullah stressed the importance of continuing to develop national military industries and their production capacity to the highest standards of quality and safety. He praised the work on strategic military projects and said investing in national talent would strengthen defense readiness and support the sustainable growth of Kuwait's military industries.

Assistant Chief of General Staff for the Logistics and Supply Authority Maj Gen Eng Salah Al-Azmi said the factory was one of the most important strategic projects aimed at localizing defense industries. He said it aims to build a national industrial base able to meet military and security needs and strengthen self-sufficiency.

Adani Ports to acquire Europe's Evos for 2.56 billion euros



AHMEDABAD, NOV 5
Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ) on Thursday announced the acquisition of Netherlands-based Evos B.V., Europe's second-largest independent liquid storage operator, in an all-cash transaction valued at an enterprise value of 2.56 billion euros.

Under the agreement, APSEZ will acquire a 100 per cent stake in Evos from Igneo Infrastructure Partners.

The deal values Evos at an equity value of 1.18 billion euros and implies an acquisition multiple of 11.7 times CY25 EV/EBITDA.

The transaction will be funded through debt and remains subject to regulatory approvals and works council consultation.

"APSEZ, India's largest and one of the world's fastest growing Integrated Transport Operator, agrees to acquire 100 per cent stake in Netherlands-headquartered Evos B.V. (Evos) from Igneo Infrastructure Partners. The proposed transaction is an all-cash deal at an enterprise value of 2.56 bn euros," the official statement said.

For calendar year 2025, Evos reported revenue of 392 million euros and EBITDA of 219 million euros, translating into a robust EBITDA margin of 56 per cent.

Following the acquisition, the combined entity's pro forma net debt-to-EBITDA ratio is expected to stand at 2.76 times and decline to around 2.5 times by FY27.

Commenting on the deal, Karan Adani, Managing Director of APSEZ, said the acquisition marks a significant milestone in the company's journey toward handling one billion tonnes of cargo and building a truly global integrated transport platform.

"Evos marks an important milestone in APSEZ's trajectory towards handling 1 billion tons of cargo and building a truly global, integrated transport platform. We are delighted to welcome Evos into our portfolio, giving us significant presence across key global liquid storage and energy hubs," Karan Adani noted.

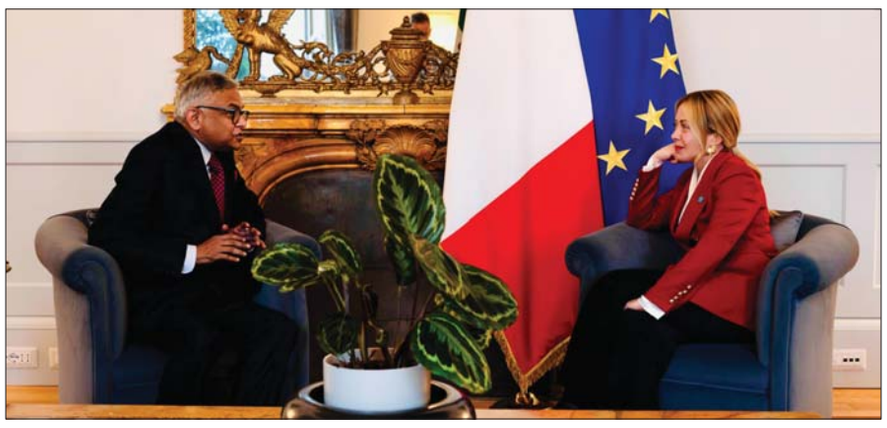
"We look forward to partnering with Europe, supporting its sustainable energy transition and creating enduring value while maintaining the financial prudence that underpins our growth," he added.

Headquartered in the Netherlands, Evos operates 6.3 million cubic metres of storage capacity across eight strategically located port-based terminals in the Netherlands, Germany, Spain, Belgium and Malta.

The company has a presence in major energy and industrial hubs, including the Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp region, Hamburg and the Mediterranean. (IANS)

Tata Sons Chairman meets Italy PM, Iveco deal takes centre stage

NEW DELHI, NOV 5
Tata Sons Chairman N Chandrasekaran has met Italian Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni in Rome, with Tata Motors' acquisition of a controlling stake in Italian commercial vehicle manufacturer Iveco Group emerging as a key focus of discussions. The meeting highlights the growing industrial and economic engagement between India and Italy, particularly following the Tata Group's expansion into the European automotive market.



The meeting took place at Palazzo Chigi, the official residence of the Italian Prime Minister. According to reports, Chandrasekaran outlined the Tata Group's strategy following its acquisition of Iveco, one of Italy's prominent commercial vehicle manufacturers. The discussions come at a time when both countries are looking to deepen their strategic and industrial cooperation.

Tata Motors announced on October 30 that it had secured an 89.42 per cent stake in Iveco Group for approximately 3.43 billion euros, following the initial settlement of its cash tender offer. The acquisition marks a significant step in Tata Motors' efforts to strengthen its global commercial vehicle operations and expand its presence in international markets.

Speaking at a global press conference at Iveco's headquarters in Turin, Chandrasekaran acknowledged the support extended by the Italian government and Prime Minister Meloni during the acquisition process. He also highlighted the strategic importance of Iveco's industrial capabilities and international footprint.

"I would like to thank everyone who has been involved in this transaction, and I'm grateful to all of them. I would also like to start today by thanking the Italian government and the Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni and Minister Adolfo Urso for their encouragement and support throughout this process," the Tata Sons Chairman said. (IANS/UNI)

Bharti Airtel Q2 profit rises 31% to Rs 8,888 cr

MUMBAI, NOV 5
Bharti Airtel Limited on Thursday reported a 31 per cent year-on-year (YoY) increase in consolidated net profit to Rs 8,888 crore for the quarter ended September 2026 (Q2 FY27), driven by robust growth in its India and Africa operations, higher customer additions and continued expansion across its digital and home broadband businesses.

The telecom operator had posted a net profit of Rs 6,792 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous fiscal (Q2 FY26), according to its stock exchange filing.

Revenue from operations during the quarter rose 16.7 per cent year-on-year (YoY) to Rs 60,878 crore from Rs 52,145 crore a year earlier.

Consolidated EBITDA stood at Rs 35,240 crore, translating into an EBITDA margin of 57.9 per cent. Commenting on the performance, Gopal Vittal, Executive Vice Chairman of Bharti Airtel, said the company delivered another quarter of consistent growth, with consolidated revenue increasing 4 per cent sequentially, reflecting the strength of its diversified business portfolio. (IANS/UNI)



Centre eases overseas-listing rules for companies with negative net worth

NEW DELHI, NOV 5
The central government has amended the rules for Indian public companies listing on stock exchanges in permissible jurisdictions. A company with negative net worth can now issue equity instruments for listing if it undertakes to allot at least 75 per cent of the net offer to qualified institutional buyers.



The Ministry of Corporate Affairs notified the Companies (Listing of Equity Instruments in Permissible Jurisdictions) Amendment Rules, 2026. The rules came into force on publication in the Gazette.

Under the 2024 rules, a company with negative net worth was ineligible. The amendment adds a proviso to rule 5(d). It says such a company is eligible if the issuer undertakes to allot "at least seventy-five per cent. of the net offer to qualified institutional buyers", in accordance with the regulations of the securities market regulator in the permissible jurisdiction.

The amendment also shortens a waiting period in rule 5(e). Under the 2024 rules, a company that defaulted on dues to banks, public financial institutions, non-convertible debenture holders or other secured creditors was barred unless it had made good the default and two years had passed since. The proviso now says "more than six months".

In rule 5(g), the words "and such default has not been made good" are inserted after "specified period".

Throughout the 2024 rules, "shares" is replaced with "instruments". A new definition says "equity instruments" means equity shares, convertible debentures and preference shares issued by an Indian company. In rule 4, "existing shareholders" becomes "existing holders".

For the International Financial Services Centres (IFSC), rule 3(a) now excludes public companies in the IFSC jurisdiction. A new clause (c) covers unlisted public companies there, to the extent they comply with the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019 and its regulations.

The notification also replaces Form LEAP-1, the form for submitting a prospectus to the Registrar. It asks for the company's corporate identity number, name, registered address and email. It also asks for the dates of approval by, and prospectus submission to, the securities regulator or stock exchange, and whether any inspection, investigation or inquiry under the Companies Act, 2013 has been ordered. (IANS/UNI)

India received $150.7 billion in remittances in 2025

WASHINGTON, NOV 5
India received $150.7 billion in remittances in 2025, more than four times the Foreign Direct Investment recorded in the country, according to a World Bank report highlighting the growing importance of these transfers to developing economies.

The International Debt Report 2026 put India's Foreign Direct Investment at $35 billion. It recorded a net portfolio equity outflow of $18.5 billion during the same year. Remittances were about 4.3 times the report's FDI figure.

The Washington-based lender identified India as a major driver of remittance growth among countries borrowing from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the World Bank's lending arm serving middle-income and creditworthy lower-income countries. India's receipts were more than twice those of Mexico, which received $65.1 billion and was the second-largest remittance recipient among IBRD borrowers, according to the report.

India also accounted for roughly 73 per cent of the $207.6 billion in remittances received by South Asia in 2025, calculations based on the report's figures show.

The bank identified India and Mexico as key drivers of remittance flows to their respective regions. Latin America and the Caribbean received $164.1 billion in 2025, behind South Asia's total.

The findings form part of the bank's annual assessment of external debt and financial flows. The report's release provides a new assessment of developments in 2025; the remittance figures do not describe money received in 2026. Across low- and middle-income countries excluding China, remittances reached $687.1 billion in 2025, compared with $333.5 billion in Foreign Direct Investment.

The gap has widened considerably since 2011, when the two flows were almost equal. Those economies received $313.3 billion in remittances and $316.6 billion in FDI that year. (IANS)

Chip industry push moves from policy to execution under Semicon 2.0: Govt

NEW DELHI, NOV 5
India's semiconductor strategy has moved from policy design to building the ecosystem with early manufacturing projects already underway, said Amitesh Kumar Sinha, Additional Secretary at the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) and CEO of the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM).



Speaking on the second day and final day of the ISIG Executive Summit India 2026, Sinha said India has approved 12 manufacturing projects, of which five have already begun commercial production.

"Semicon 2.0 is about building the broader ecosystem, including design companies, materials, chemicals, gases and equipment, alongside manufacturing, R&D and talent," he said.

According to the government official, India's market, talent pool and government incentives are key advantages but global technology partnerships and resilient supply chains will be essential.

The summit -- held under the theme 'Enabling the Intelligent Future: Advanced Semiconductors, AI, Data Centers and Power Electronics -- was the first ISIG Executive Summit held in India.

The event brought together senior executives, global technology leaders, researchers, investors and government stakeholders to chart India's next phase in the global semiconductor ecosystem. (IANS/UNI)

Premium housing drives market recovery as sales rise 6%

NEW DELHI, NOV 5
Home sales across India's seven major residential markets rose 6 per cent year-on-year to 2,14,562 units during January-September 2026, reversing the 12 per cent decline recorded in the corresponding period of 2025, led by demand for premium housing, a report said on Thursday.



The report from JLL said that recovery was led decisively by premium housing with apartments priced at Rs 1 crore and above posting 23 per cent Y-o-Y growth and capturing 72 per cent of total sales during the period, up from 62 per cent a year earlier.

The recovery was driven by sustained urban migration, upgrades to infrastructure, and shifting lifestyle preferences among homebuyers, the report noted. Developers continued to align new supply with the prevailing premium-led demand pattern, with residential launches across the top seven cities rising 15 per cent YoY to 2,59,425 units during January–September 2026.

The sub-Rs 1 crore mass housing segment continued to lose ground, with sales falling 23 per cent YoY as affordability pressures and a continued shift in buyer preference toward larger, higher-specification homes reshaped the demand mix.

"Sales momentum has been led decisively by the Rs 1.5-3 crore segment, which grew 54 per cent year-on-year, while developers have matched this demand with a massive 70 per cent increase in launches," said Siva Krishnan, Senior Managing Director and Head of Residential Services, India, JLL.

Sales in the third quarter rose 12 per cent quarter-on-quarter to 76,181 units, led by Hyderabad with 70 per cent growth, followed by Kolkata at 28 per cent and Bengaluru at 13 per cent. Sales declined marginally in Delhi-NCR and Mumbai, by 5 per cent and 2 per cent respectively. (IANS)

IPL 2027: Livingstone, Edwards move to CSK

Khaleel, Ellis head to SRH in massive trade

NEW DELHI, NOV 5

Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) have struck one of the biggest deals of the IPL 2027 trading window. As per the massive trade deal, England all-rounder Liam Livingstone and Australia all-rounder Jack Edwards will move to CSK, while India left-arm fast bowler Khaleel Ahmed and Australia pacer Nathan Ellis are set to join SRH.



The trade is a reshuffle for both teams' combinations. CSK have added two overseas all-rounders to their ranks, while SRH strengthened their pace attack with a left-armer in Khaleel and a death-overs specialist in Ellis.

The headline move is of Livingstone, who was bought by SRH for Rs 13 crore, and an official statement by the tournament says he now joins CSK at less than half that price – Rs 6 crore. Livingstone didn't have a memorable IPL 2026 - scoring only 15 runs in two games before losing his spot in the playing eleven.

Edwards follows him to Chennai on his existing fee of Rs 3 crore. The Australian all-rounder was picked up by SRH before he had played international cricket, but a foot injury kept him out of IPL 2026 altogether. SRH, in turn, welcome back an old face in Khaleel, who played for the franchise from 2018 to 2021. He returns to SRH on his current fee of Rs 4.8 crore.

Khaleel was one of CSK's most reliable bowlers in IPL 2025, picking 15 wickets from 14 matches. His 2026 season was cut short after five games due to a right hamstring injury needing surgery. (IANS)

PM Modi lauds Asian Para Games 2026 paraticipants

NEW DELHI, NOV 5

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday highlighted India's remarkable progress at the Asian Para Games, saying the country's journey from 14 medals in 2010 to 114 in the 2026 edition reflected not just its rise in the medal tally but also the immense potential and talent of the country's athletes.



In a post on X following his interaction with India's Para Asian Games contingent at the Indira Gandhi Sports Complex, PM Modi highlighted the achievements of the athletes at the Aichi-Nagoya Games in Japan and said no dream was too big and no challenge too great when backed by determination. "On one hand, this is a number…a statistic of India's rise in the Asian Para Games. But, importantly, this meteoric rise suggests something else…the immense potential and talent of our athletes," PM Modi wrote.

India registered its best-ever performance at the continental event, with 97 para-athletes winning 114 medals, comprising 30 gold, 35 silver and 49 bronze. The country finished fourth in the overall medal standings.

Highlighting the contingent's achievements, PM Modi pointed out that India won 30 gold medals and also registered five world records and nine Asian records. Indian athletes also swept all three podium positions in four events.

PM Modi further highlighted two statistics from India's campaign, noting that 36 of the 61 athletes making their Asian Para Games debut returned with medals, while 34 of the 56 women athletes in the contingent emerged as medal winners. "Of the 61 athletes making their Asian Para Games debut, 36 came back home with medals. There are 34 medal winners among 56 women athletes!" PM Modi wrote. (IANS/UNI)

PREMIER LEAGUE

Arsenal look to extend winning run

NEW DELHI, NOV 5

Arsenal will look to extend their impressive home record when they host promoted Hull City, while Aston Villa manager Unai Emery is set to reach a significant milestone as the 2026/27 Premier League season enters Matchweek 10.



Emery will take charge of his 200th Premier League game when Aston Villa travel to face Manchester United, who are enduring a difficult run of form with seven consecutive league matches without a win. The Spaniard will become the fifth manager from his country to reach the milestone after Rafael Benitez, Roberto Martinez, Pep Guardiola and Mikel Arteta as compiled by Jio Star.

Arsenal, meanwhile, head into their fixture against Hull with the league's strongest defensive record. The Gunners have conceded just five goals, kept six clean sheets and faced only 24 shots on target this season.

Mikel Arteta's side have won their last seven home league matches and are unbeaten in their last 17 home games against promoted teams. Hull, who will be playing their 200th Premier League match, have gone seven games without a victory.

Bournemouth forward Evanilson will also have an opportunity to create history when his side take on Ipswich Town. The Brazilian has scored in each of his last four Premier League appearances and could become the first Bournemouth player to find the net in five consecutive matches in the competition. He has registered eight goal involvements, including four goals and four assists, in nine league appearances this season.

Elsewhere, Manchester United will aim to end their seven-game winless streak when they welcome Aston Villa. United have managed just one victory in nine league matches this season and are one of only two teams yet to keep a clean sheet, alongside Ipswich Town. (IANS/UNI)

Harry Kane signs contract extension with Bayern Munich

MUNICH, NOV 5

Recently crowned Ballon d'Or winner Harry Kane has signed a contract extension with Bayern Munich that will see him stay with the German giants until 2029, the club announced on Thursday.



This came 10 days after he won the Ballon d'Or by pipping Lamine Yamal and Kylian Mbappe. "I feel right at home at FC Bayern. I love the club, the fans and the city of Munich," Kane said in a statement shared by the German club.

"We have a fantastic team and, in Vincent Kompany, a fantastic manager. It makes me very proud to be part of this club. My whole family is very happy here. I was keen to stay. I'm now looking forward to the future, and I want to win many more titles with this great club," he added.

Kane has scored 156 goals from 161 competitive appearances for the club since 2023, when he left Tottenham Hotspur. The England captain also netted in 61 goals last season in 51 outings, playing a crucial role in the club achieving a league and a cup double with the Bundesliga title and the DFB-Pokal. (IANS)

ENTERTAINMENT

Dwayne Johnson: I have zero regrets



M.A.SALAM
Film Journalist



Hollywood star Dwayne Johnson has said he has "zero regrets" about not making it to the National Football League (NFL), describing the unfulfilled dream as "the best thing that ever happened" to him.

Reflecting on his football journey, the actor took to Instagram to share a video and said the setback instilled in him a lifelong hunger, determination and work ethic that went on to shape his career.

"You know, when you work so hard for a goal for many, many years, and that's the ticket out, that's the dream. Making it to the NFL meant I was going to make money, meant that we weren't going to live in trailer parks or apartments anymore, meant that I was going to buy my parents their first home, me buy my first home, my first car, and all that never happened," Johnson said.

"It happened much later down the road when I turned 28, 27, 28, when I made it in the WWE, I was able to buy my parents their first home they ever lived in, buy my first home I ever lived in, buy my first car."

She added: "Like, buy it, buy it, or I don't owe shit to anybody. But that came later, but for football, you know, that was the thing, and that was the ticket. And when I didn't make it to the NFL, it put a chip on my shoulder."

"The roster in NFL, it's 53-man roster. I always say I was number 54. I was good, but just not good enough. So that put a chip on my shoulder, and not in any way like, oh, you know, making excuses. I didn't make it because politics or because of this or that. No, I didn't make it because that just was not in my cards"

Johnson then shared that a "guy named Warren Sapp came in and just blew the world away with his playing, and that meant, you know, moving me to the bench. Hack and gash. That's an inside joke."

"He'll get it. But I do miss football. I miss those aspects of football. But I will tell you this about football. Even though I didn't make it to the NFL, two things. Number one, making it to the NFL was the best thing that ever happened for me, because it set me down a road and a path with a chip on my shoulder, and it's right there."

The star then shared: "It will never go away. But it also created this hunger in me that never went away. And the other part about football that I really love and appreciate was the work ethic that it taught me. And back then, there was no NIL deals. You know, there was no millions and millions of dollars that these athletes are making these days, which I love."

Ibrahim Ali Khan calls Kareena the 'coolest stepmother ever'

Actor Ibrahim Ali Khan described Bollywood star Kareena Kapoor Khan as the "coolest stepmother ever".



The actor offered a glimpse into the warm equation he shares with his father Saif Ali Khan's wife.

The young actor made the comment during a video segment on Koffee with Karan, where Ibrahim and his sister Sara Ali Khan were seen sending their love and warm wishes to Saif and Kareena, who appeared together on the show as couple guests.

During the segment, Ibrahim spoke about his bond with Kareena and referred to her as the "coolest stepmother ever".

Speaking about the equation between Kareena and his children, Saif further said, "I credit everyone, because these things work both ways. And, of course, Kareena makes it easy and is wonderful with Sara and Ibrahim.

Harshvardhan Rane begins voice work for 'Force 3'

Actor Harshvardhan Rane has shared an update on his upcoming projects.

He revealed that he has begun voice work for 'Force 3' and that the shoot of his new film 'Police Company' is expected to wrap up by November 28. Taking to Instagram, the actor shared the latest developments of both projects, giving a glimpse into his ongoing work commitments.



Harshvardhan wrote: "FORCE 3 voice work begins DAYA NAYAK shoot to finish by 28th November #update."

The 'Sanam Teri Kasam' actress also gave a glimpse into his work and fitness routine by sharing a series of pictures and videos. In one of the pictures, he is seen sitting in a recording room with a script in his hand, while another video shows him working out and flaunting his muscles.

"Force 3" also stars John Abraham and Tanya Maniktala. Directed by Bhav Dhulia, known for his work on 'Khakee: The Bihar Chapter' and 'The Freelancer,' the film marks the third installment in the

Shah Rukh Khan says, 'Let's create some more magic' to his 'Jawan' captain Atlee

Actor Shah Rukh Khan expressed his wish to reunite with the 'Jawan' director Atlee in his latest Tweet on Thursday.

Reacting to Atlee's birthday wish on November 2, SRK wrote on his timeline, "Thank you my Jawan captain. Missing the madness of our sets. Let's create some more soon. Love you. (sic)"



Commemorating King Khan's birthday on Monday, Atlee had shared on the microblogging site, "Happy, happy, happy Birthday King Khan, SRK sir! The song 'Tu Mil Jaaye' is lovely. Can't wait to see you on a big screen sir, looking forward for 'KING'. (sic)"

The filmmaker called Shah Rukh Khan his biggest inspiration in a post that further read, "Thank you for being my mentor, my guide, my well-wisher and my biggest inspiration in this incredible journey. The time spent with you has taught me so much -not just about cinema but about life, people and staying truly humble. Grateful, always".

'Jawan' which also featured Deepika Padukone, marked the first professional association between Atlee and Shah Rukh. Aside from being a massive success at the ticket counters, the movie also bagged SRK his first National Award as 'Best Actor'.

Congratulating the 'Devdas' actor, Atlee had written on his official handle, "Shah Rukh sir being near you itself is a great blessing, sir.

CM Revanth directs officials to begin Kaleshwaram barrage restoration by Dec

Rs. 4,193 Crore plan for Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrage repairs

TFP I ABDUL RAHMAN KHAN
HYDERABAD, NOV 5



Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy has directed officials to restore the Medigadda, Annaram and Sundilla barrages of the Kaleshwaram project strictly in line with recommendations from central government agencies and dam safety experts. He instructed officials to obtain final approvals by the end of November and make arrangements to begin the works in December.

Reviewing the restoration plans with ministers and Irrigation Department officials, the Chief Minister stressed that barrage safety must not be compromised and warned against repeating the mistakes of the previous government. Officials told him that they had prepared proposals worth about Rs. 4,193 crore for the three barrages, and the central expert committee had given in-principle approval to the preliminary restoration plans.

Revanth Reddy said the government was effectively utilising Godavari waters through the Devadula and Sitarama Lift Irrigation schemes to meet irrigation and drinking water requirements in the erstwhile Warangal, Nalgonda and Khammam districts. He said Devadula lifted an average of 18.13 TMC annually during the past three years, compared with 9.57 TMC under the previous government. By October this year, 16.71 TMC had been lifted through Devadula and 8.10 TMC through Sitarama, taking the total to 24.81 TMC.

The Chief Minister also directed officials to coordinate with central agencies and construction companies to secure necessary clearances without delay and divide the restoration works into two phases covering water utilisation and protective measures.

Irrigation Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy, Irrigation Department Secretary Sridhar, Tunnels and Safety Secretary Colonel Parikshit Mehra and Joint Secretary Srinivas attended the meeting.

TG govt sanctions Rs 88.50 cr for BC self-respect buildings



FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
HYDERABAD, NOV 5

The Telangana government has sanctioned Rs 88.50 crore to build self-respect buildings (Atma Gaurava Bhavanams) for 38 Backwards Class (BC) caste associations, with a target of completing the projects within one year.

Minister for BC Welfare Ponnam Prabhakar on Thursday handed over the Government Orders (GOs) to representatives of the respective associations at an event held at the Minister's Quarters. He said HMDA had resolved administrative and technical hurdles, and the sites were now ready for construction.

The Minister urged the associations to lay foundation stones during the auspicious Kartika month and begin work without delay. He said a single-window system would be introduced for construction approvals, while the BC Welfare Department would review progress every month. He also assured that there was no truth in rumours about the government reclaiming the allotted lands and warned that associations would be held accountable for delays.

He said the buildings should serve as centres for student accommodation, libraries, skill development and community activities. Government Advisor V. Hanumantha Rao called for unity among BC communities and suggested identifying five acres near Osmania University in Amberpet for a common BC Bhavan with a library and auditorium.

BC Sangham national president Jajula Srinivas Goud thanked the government and said budget sanctions had been issued for facilities covering 76 groups, including 40 BC associations and 36 nomadic tribes. He also urged the government to allot five acres for a common BC Bhavan in Hyderabad.

TG to establish exclusive 'Space City' at Bharat Future City: Sridhar Babu



FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
HYDERABAD, NOV 5

Telangana government will establish an exclusive Space City at the upcoming Bharat Future City near Hyderabad to provide incubation, research and advanced technology facilities for space technology companies, State IT and Industries Minister D Sridhar Babu said on Thursday.

Addressing the gathering after inaugurating Cosmoserve Space's Base 1, India's first integrated space debris removal facility, here, he said the proposed Space City would provide the necessary ecosystem and infrastructure to support space technology startups and industries.

He said the government was also planning to introduce a dedicated 'Space Technology Policy' within a year to promote investments, innovation and collaboration in the sector.

While space policy came under the purview of the Centre, the state would formulate its own Space Tech Policy to facilitate the growth of the industry, he said.

Sridhar Babu said Hyderabad and Telangana had a strong talent pool, advanced physical and digital infrastructure and an investor-friendly ecosystem to attract space technology companies.

The government was also focusing on developing skilled manpower through the Young India Skills University, an industry-led institution where industry leaders would partner with academia to identify skill requirements, train candidates and recruit them, he said. The Space technology would be introduced as the 34th skill vertical, in addition to the existing 33 sectors.

Referring to the growing number of satellites expected to be deployed in orbit over the next decade, he said India would require a large skilled workforce in space technology, research, simulation laboratories and allied areas.

The Minister said Hyderabad, already recognised for its IT, pharmaceutical and life sciences sectors, was emerging as a centre for defence and aerospace industries.

Defence exports had grown by over 103 per cent during the last two years, reflecting the expansion of the sector in the state, he said.

With nearly 50 research laboratories and a strong industrial ecosystem, Hyderabad had the potential to expand its presence in emerging technology sectors, including space technology, he added.

Maruti Suzuki to establish 12 automated driving test tracks in Telangana



FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
HYDERABAD, NOV 5

Maruti Suzuki India Limited will establish 12 Automated Driving Licence Test Tracks (ADTTs) at six locations in Telangana in collaboration with the state Transport Department to improve road safety and ensure transparency in the driving licence testing process.

The company has signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Transport Department for setting up the facilities at Ibrahimpatnam and Kondapur in Ranga Reddy district, Uppal, Medchal and Nagole in Medchal district, and Karimnagar.

The automated tracks will facilitate driving tests for two-wheelers, light motor vehicles and heavy motor vehicles, the company said in a release on Thursday.

Equipped with high-definition cameras, RFID sensors, real-time analytics and integrated IT systems, the facilities will conduct computerised tests in accordance with the Central Motor Vehicles Rules (CMVR).

The automated evaluation system is designed to ensure objective assessment of applicants and eliminate human bias and errors in the testing process, the company said.

Transport Commissioner K Ilambarithi said the initiative would make driving tests more transparent and efficient and ensure that only competent applicants were issued driving licences.

Rahul Bharti, Senior Executive Officer, Corporate Affairs, Maruti Suzuki India Limited, said the automated tracks would promote fairness in the licensing process and encourage disciplined driving practices.



CM Revanth to visit Kodangal for 3 days from Nov 7

Projects worth Rs 9,053 crore on agenda

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
HYDERABAD, NOV 5



Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy will undertake a three-day visit to his Kodangal constituency from November 7 to 9, during which he will inaugurate a Mega Farmers' Fair and Industrial Expo, launch several development projects and inaugurate completed infrastructure works.

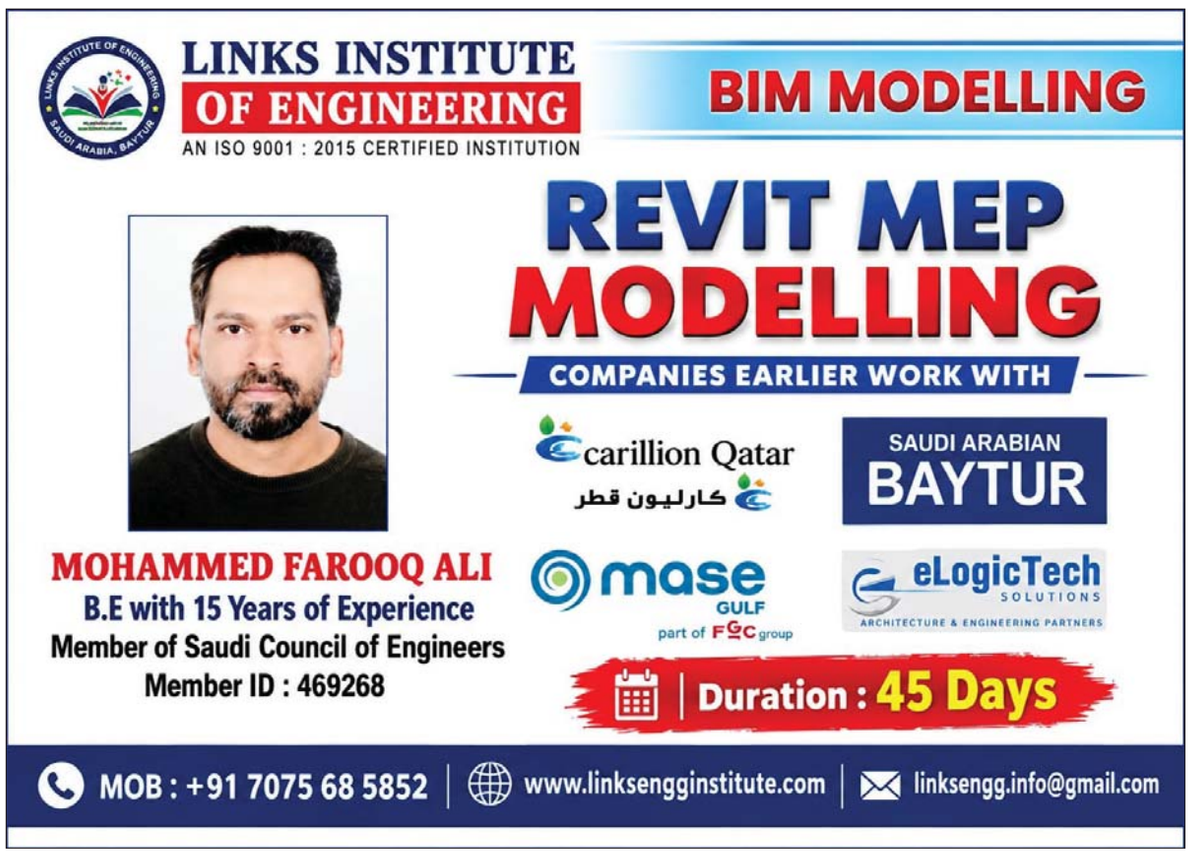
During the visit, the Chief Minister will lay foundation stones and unveil plaques for 13 development projects involving an estimated investment of Rs. 9,053.48 crore. Major projects include Radial Road-2 from Kothavalguda to Nacharam (Rs. 5,060 crore), the second phase of the Mahabubnagar-Narayanpet-Kodangal Lift Irrigation Scheme (Rs. 2,100 crore), 223 BT roads (Rs. 1,410 crore), an agricultural college in Kodangal (Rs. 123 crore) and 10 Telangana Public Schools (Rs. 118.80 crore).

On November 7, Revanth Reddy will inaugurate the Mega Farmers' Fair and Industrial Expo at Hakeempet in Dudyala mandal and interact with progressive farmers, agricultural scientists and industrialists.

On November 8, he will lay the foundation stone for the Rs. 81-crore EcoPalm palm oil factory in Lagacharla Industrial Corridor and inaugurate several completed facilities, including schools, junior colleges, primary health centres, police stations, a circle office, an integrated mandal office complex and a science museum.

The Chief Minister will also inaugurate 10 government buildings constructed at a cost of Rs. 46.08 crore across the constituency.

On November 9, he will address a major farmers' meeting at Hakeempet at 7 pm. Around 50,000 farmers from 10 districts, including Vikarabad, Rangareddy, Mahabubnagar, Medak and Sangareddy, are expected to attend the meeting, according to an official statement.



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