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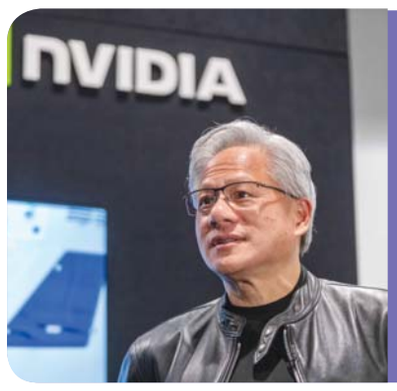
Honest Journalism...



YOU CANNOT TAKE AWAY TIPU SULTAN'S CONTRIBUTIONS TO K'TAKA: PRIYANK KHARGE

PAGE 4



NVIDIA LOSES $1.57 TRILLION IN MARKET VALUE AMID AI GROWTH FEARS AND CEO PROBE

PAGE 10

JHARKHAND: INSAS RIFLE, CARTRIDGES RECOVERED FROM PALAMU FOREST

PAGE 5



30 JUMADA AL-AWWAL 1448H

NAMAZ TIME

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

SUNRISE/SUNSET

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

MOONRISE/MOONSET

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

WORLD ▶P8



WAVE OF BOMB BLASTS, ARSON ATTACKS ROCKS DHAKA

ECI tightens political neutrality rules for retired officials ahead of 2027 Assembly polls

NEW DELHI, NOV 10

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has directed that individuals, including retired government officials who have been re-employed, appointed, or engaged by state governments in various capacities, must strictly maintain political neutrality during the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) period.



In a communication addressed to the Chief Secretaries and Chief Electoral Officers of Goa, Manipur, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand, where polls are due early next year, the poll body clarified that such individuals must refrain from participating in election campaigns, canvassing, or any activity that could indicate support for a particular political party or candidate.

It also prohibited them from using their names, official designations, positions or authority to favour any individual, political party, or group during the election period.

Assembly elections in all five states are scheduled to be held in 2027.

Explaining its existing instructions regarding the conduct of government employees during elections, the ECI said that public servants are expected to maintain impartiality and avoid any involvement that could influence voters or provide an advantage to a particular political organisation.

"The Commission has in the past, in respect of the conduct of Government employees, issued instructions stating that they are not expected to take part in any election campaign or canvassing and should take scrupulous care not to lend their names, official position or authority to assist one individual/political party/group as against another," it stated.

The poll body further clarified that the provisions of the Model Code of Conduct are not restricted to regular government departments and employees, and also extend to organisations, committees, corporations and commissions that receive full or partial government funding, along with the employees associated with these establishments.

To address this gap, the Commission has now extended the restrictions applicable to serving government employees to this category of individuals as well. It directed that retired officials working with state or Union Territory governments must follow the same standards of political neutrality and refrain from activities prohibited under the MCC.

Additionally, the ECI has specifically prohibited such individuals from summoning election-related officials posted in constituencies or districts where elections have been announced for official discussions or meetings. They have also been barred from conducting video conferences or holding meetings with any such election officials during the MCC period. (IANS/UNI)

Unemployment rate drops to 5.1%

NEW DELHI, NOV 10

India's unemployment rate among people aged 15 years and above declined to 5.1% in the July-September quarter of 2026, compared with 5.4% in the preceding April-June quarter, indicating a marginal improvement in labour market conditions. The rate was 5.2% in the corresponding period last year, according to the latest Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) released by the National Statistics Office (NSO) on Tuesday.

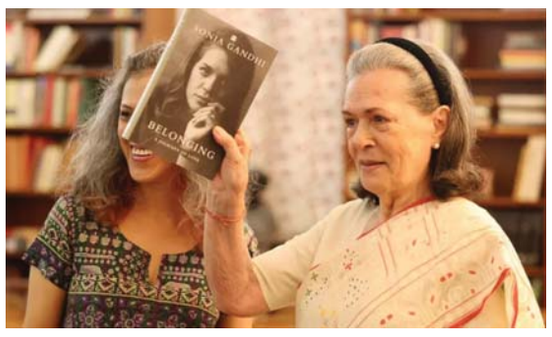
The improvement was largely driven by lower unemployment in rural areas, where the joblessness rate dropped to 4.3% during the September quarter from 4.8% in the previous three months.

Sonia Gandhi recounts horrors of 2002 Gujarat riots

Says, 'Haunted by misery on meeting victims'

TFP I PRASHANT SHARMA
NEW DELHI, NOV 10

Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) Chairperson Sonia Gandhi has revisited the horrors of the 2002 Gujarat riots, recalling that she was "haunted by misery" upon meeting the victims and blamed the then Chief Minister Narendra Modi-led state administration for "failing to respond".



In her memoir "Belonging: A Journey of Love", released on Tuesday, the then-Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha described travelling to Ahmedabad as part of an all-party parliamentary delegation, visiting relief camps housing survivors, and witnessing the physical and emotional devastation inflicted on families caught in the violence.

"When I was leader of the opposition in Parliament, I met the victims of many tragedies, and each time I was haunted by the misery I had witnessed. In 2002 the state of Gujarat was ravaged by communal riots; much of the carnage was televised live with the advent of cable TV and shook the country with its fearsome images. The riots were triggered when four coaches of the Sabarmati Express were set on fire and fifty-nine pilgrims died. The train was returning to the state capital Ahmedabad from Ayodhya carrying Hindu kar sevaks-volunteers for the Ram temple," she wrote in her book.

Gandhi also recalled watching television reports of the violence with disbelief and horror, while attempting to reach Congress colleagues in Gujarat who were calling for assistance.

"The cause of the fire remains disputed, but the turmoil that followed spread to many parts of the state, and the victims were overwhelmingly Muslims. We watched the live reports in horror, and tried to get help to our colleagues in Gujarat who were calling us in desperation, but the administration failed to respond," she added.

"The riots were said to have been fuelled by a fanatical fringe of the BJP and RSS, the Bajrang Dal. The chief minister of the state at the time was Narendra Modi," Gandhi wrote in her memoir.

She further recounted her experience of meeting the "survivors of the massacre" at relief camps in Gujarat.

"After the meeting, we were herded into a bus 'for security reasons', then taken to some of the relief camps housing the survivors of the massacre.

Van Dyke alleges Russia link to arrest

TFP I CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI, NOV 10

US national Matthew Aaron Van Dyke, arrested by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) along with six Ukrainian nationals for allegedly entering India through Myanmar without valid travel documents in March, has claimed that they were imprisoned in India for over six months as part of Russia's war against Ukraine. In a post on X, Van Dyke said he would disclose "shocking details" about the case through social media posts and media interviews in the coming months.

A Delhi court recently permitted Van Dyke and the six Ukrainian nationals to travel to their respective home countries, the US and Ukraine, for one month after they were discharged from proceedings under the Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025. In its September 25 order, Special NIA Judge Prashant Sharma observed that the right to travel abroad was an extension of the fundamental rights guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution. The court noted that the NIA's investigation into alleged offences under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) was still underway but said the agency had not sought their physical presence in the immediate future. (IANS)



Russia and Ukraine demonstrate 'flexibility' in talks

KYIV, NOV 10

Russia and Ukraine have privately demonstrated "a little bit of flexibility" over disputed territory, according to a senior US official, as a new round of negotiations aimed at ending Moscow's war against Kyiv began in Abu Dhabi on Tuesday.



House heavily damaged by a Russian drone strike, amid Russia's attack on Ukraine, in Odessa. (File Photo)

The comments came after US President Donald Trump suggested that Ukraine could emerge from the conflict with "a little bit different shape", without specifying what territorial changes might be involved. Moscow has demanded that Kyiv recognise Russian control over Crimea and the four regions it claims to have annexed - Donetsk, Lugansk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson - and withdraw its forces from all four.

Merchants await clarity on UPI MDR rollout after Diwali

NEW DELHI, NOV 10

Merchants are awaiting a revised rollout date from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) of Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) charges on select person-to-merchant (P2M) Unified Payments Interface (UPI) transactions.



NPCI had deferred the introduction of MDR charges beyond the originally planned October 15 rollout to avoid additional transaction costs during the festive season.

With Diwali celebrations over and Bhai Dooj falling on November 11, merchants and customers are awaiting clarity on implementation date as UPI and Services Steering Committee had decided that MDR these transactions would be implemented immediately after Diwali, with the exact effective date to be notified separately.

NPCI's frequently asked questions said that an MDR of 0.4 per cent will apply to eligible P2M UPI transactions exceeding Rs 2,000 and the charge will be capped at Rs 300 for transactions of Rs 75,000 and above.

For instance, a merchant receiving a UPI payment of Rs 1 lakh would have incurred a 0.4 per cent charge of Rs 400, if not for the prescribed cap, limiting the MDR to Rs 300.

Certain merchant categories, including railways, telecom services, insurance and fuel, will attract a concessional flat MDR of Rs 5 per transaction for payments over Rs 2,000, rather than the standard percentage-based rate.

Capital market transactions attract a concessional MDR of 0.02 per cent, including payments towards mutual funds, securities, stockbrokers and dealers, subject to a maximum cap of Rs 300.

MDR is a merchant-side transaction fee that will be borne by the merchant receiving the payment, and the customer making the UPI transaction will remain unaffected. (IANS/UNI)

Sports Minister calls for Khelo India Youth Games success



Sports Minister Vakiti Srihari addresses a special meeting with Deputy Collectors from various districts and Sports Department officials at Tourist Plaza in Begumpet, Hyderabad.

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
HYDERABAD, NOV 10

Telangana Sports and Youth Services Minister Vakiti Srihari on Tuesday directed officials to ensure the successful and flawless conduct of the Khelo India Youth Games-2026 in Telangana, saying the prestigious national-level event should bring recognition to the State.

Addressing a special meeting with Deputy Collectors from various districts and Sports Department officials at Tourist Plaza in Begumpet, the Minister said Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy's efforts had helped Telangana secure the opportunity to host the Games. He urged officials to treat the event as a matter of prestige and work with proper planning, coordination and accountability.

Srihari directed officials to complete sports infrastructure and other arrangements on time, ensure quality in works and avoid unnecessary expenditure. He stressed that the facilities developed for the Games should also benefit future generations.

He called for identifying rural sporting talent and providing young athletes with proper training and opportunities. He also urged officials to promote sports culture among youth and discourage them from falling into the betting menace and excessive social media distractions.

Sports Authority Chairman Shivasena Reddy warned that negligence in executing infrastructure works would invite strict action against officials and contractors. He called for continuous monitoring of works and ensuring quality and timely completion of all arrangements.

Government Special Chief Secretary Vani Prasad said Rs. 203 crore had been earmarked for conducting the Games, including Rs. 120 crore for sports infrastructure development. She said arrangements were being made to ensure that athletes, coaches and guests faced no inconvenience.

Sports Authority Vice-Chairman and Managing Director Sonibala Devi said 11 stadiums were ready, while development works were underway at another five stadiums. She said a dedicated portal had been introduced to monitor progress and instructed Deputy Collectors to regularly update work details on the IMS portal.

The meeting was attended by Sports Authority Chairman Shivasena Reddy, Vani Prasad, Sonibala Devi, Deputy Collectors from various districts and Sports Department officials.

Minister Vivek launches CC road works in Siddipet

Distributes 1,121 Indiramma house allotment certificates

TFP I GANESH
SIDDIPET, NOV 10

Labour, Employment and Mines Minister Gaddam Vivek Venkataswamy, along with Medak MP Raghunandan Rao and District Collector K. Haimavathi, laid foundation stones for CC road works in various wards of Siddipet town and distributed 1,121 Indiramma housing allotment certificates to beneficiaries from Siddipet Municipality, Siddipet Urban and Rural, Chinnakodur, Narayanaraopet and Nangunur mandals on Tuesday.



Speaking on the occasion, Vivek announced that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy would visit Siddipet on November 19 to launch the Indiramma Bima scheme, which will provide insurance coverage of up to 5 lakh to one crore people.

Expressing concern over possible drinking water shortages due to the El Niño effect, Vivek urged people to conserve water. He said the government was taking steps to utilise available water resources and would implement the AMRUT scheme in Siddipet to ensure household drinking water supply.

District Collector K. Haimavathi urged poor families to utilise government welfare schemes. State Padmashali Corporation Chairman Srinivas, District Library Corporation Chairman Daripelli Chandram, ATMA Chairman Pujala Gopikrishna, market committee chairpersons, Siddipet RDO Sadanandam, public representatives, officials and beneficiaries attended the programme.

Zaheerabad MLA directs officials to ensure uninterrupted power supply

TFP I HIMAYATH ULLA
SANGAREDDY, NOV 10

Zaheerabad MLA Koninty Manik Rao held a review meeting with Electricity Department officials to discuss power supply, public grievances and agricultural electricity requirements in the constituency.



The MLA directed officials to ensure uninterrupted and quality power supply to consumers and give special attention to farmers' electricity needs. He instructed them to promptly address complaints from villages and towns, respond immediately to power interruptions and clear pending electricity-related issues without delay.

Manik Rao also stressed the need for preventive measures to avoid electrical accidents and urged officials to work responsibly to provide better services to the public.

CYBERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
O/o. The Superintending Engineer, STSQM (HQ), CMC, 2nd Floor,
Cyberabad Municipal Corporation, NAC Building, Izzath Nagar– 500 084.

NIT.No.27/SE(STSQM)/HQ/CMC/2026-27 Date: 10.11.2026.

Sl. No	Name of the work
01	REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) - Consultancy services for "GIS-Based Sanitation Jurisdiction Delineation for Door-to-Door Waste Collection & Road Sweeping Services" for Cyberabad Municipal Corporation.
02	REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) - Consultancy Services for GIS-Based Mapping, Asset Inventory, Spatial Analysis and Web-GIS Management of Burial & Cremation Facilities in Cyberabad Municipal Corporation.

Events	For works
Bid Download Start Date	11.11.2026 @ 11.30 AM
Bid Download End Date	25.11.2026 @ 11.30 AM
Last Date & Time for uploading of Bids	25.11.2026 @ 11.30 AM
Price Bid Opening Date	25.11.2026 @ 11.30 AM

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer
STSQM, HQ, CMC.

DIPR - R.O. No. : 13454-PP/CL/ADVT/2026-27

MALKAJGIRI MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
O/o The Deputy Director, Veterinary Section, MMCMail: ddveterinary.mmc@gmail.com
Cell No. 9989930-397

'e' Procurement Notice
Lr.No. 113 /DD/VET/MMC/2026 Dt.09.11.2026

Sl. No	Name of the Work	Amount of Estimate (In Rs.)
01	Newly merged areas of Old Pedda Amberpet Municipality of Nagole circle in LB Nagar Zone – Scientific collection, transportation and disposal of chicken waste and waste generated in meat and fish trading shops – Fixation of estimated contract value for a period of five (5) months and permission to call tenders.	2,50,000/-

Events	For S.No.1
Download Start Date	10/11/2026 @ 3.00 PM
Download End date	18/11/2026 @ 3.00PM
Price Bid Opening Date	18/11/2026 @ 3.01PM

Further details can be seen at www.tender.telangana.gov.in

Sd/-
Deputy Director
(Veterinary Section), MMC.

DIPR - R.O. No. : 13435-PP/CL/ADVT/2026-27

Registrations open for TG Global Summit from Dec 7

TFP I CORRESPONDENT
HYDERABAD, NOV 10

The Telangana government has opened online registrations for the three-day Invest Telangana Global Summit 2026, scheduled to be held from December 7 to 9 at Bharat Future City in Hyderabad.

Organised by Invest Telangana under the Industries and Commerce Department, the summit is part of the State government's Telangana Rising 2047 vision to transform Telangana into a USD 3 trillion economy by 2047.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will lead the summit, while a Cabinet Sub-Committee headed by Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka is overseeing the preparations. The summit will feature six exhibition hangars spread across 72,250 square metres, compared to 27,500 square metres at the 2025 edition. It will host an inaugural plenary and 52 sectoral sessions across four parallel halls, besides a CEO-Minister Deal Floor and Government-to-Business interaction platform.

Nine major events and pavilions are planned, including Raksha Expo 2026, an acrobatic airshow, Startup Pavilion featuring 136 startups, IndiaJoy 2026, Pharma and Life Sciences Expo, Telangana Pavilion, Industrial Expo, Telangana Climate Conclave and Education, Research and Skilling Expo.

TGSRTC rolls out action plan to improve facilities at 86 major bus stations

TFP I RAOOF KHAN
HYDERABAD, NOV 10

The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) has launched a strategic action plan to improve passenger amenities, strengthen crowd management and ensure safe and comfortable travel at major bus stations across the State.



Y Nagi Reddy

As part of the initiative, the corporation has identified 86 major bus stations, each recording a daily passenger footfall of more than 5,000, and introduced improved passenger information and communication systems.

A dedicated controller has been appointed at each of these bus stations, along with specific inquiry and contact numbers to help passengers obtain information about bus services and schedules. Public Address Systems (PAS) have been introduced to provide regular announcements about bus services, including the timings of the first and last buses.

To strengthen passenger safety and crowd management, TGSRTC has also decided to install CCTV cameras at all bus stations. The cameras will be connected to regional offices and the corporation's headquarters to facilitate continuous monitoring of passenger movement and station operations.

TGSRTC Managing Director Y Nagi Reddy, IPS said the corporation was committed to continuously improving passenger facilities and strengthening public transport services across Telangana.

BJP plans Maha Padayatra with one lakh participants in Karimnagar on Nov 18

TFP I PRAMOD KUMAR
KARIMNAGAR, NOV 10

The BJP is gearing up to organise a massive 'Maha Padayatra' in Karimnagar on November 18, with plans to mobilise at least one lakh people to counter what it termed as malicious propaganda by opposition parties against constitutional institutions.



Bandi Sanjay Kumar met with core committee leaders of Karimnagar Parliamentary Constituency.

BJP leader Nitin Nabin will visit Karimnagar for the first time and participate in the foot march. State BJP president N Ramachandra Rao and Union Minister of State (MoS) for Home Affairs Bandi Sanjay Kumar will also lead the march.

The padayatra will begin at Gandhi Circle and Vaishya Bhavan, pass through Tower Circle and culminate at Kaman.

As part of the preparations, Bandi Sanjay held a meeting with core committee leaders of the Karimnagar parliamentary constituency at his MP office on Tuesday to review arrangements and discuss strategies for mobilising participants.

Speaking at the meeting, Bandi Sanjay accused the Congress and the INDIA alliance of spreading misinformation, conspiring to undermine the Election Commission and attacking constitutional institutions. He alleged that opposition parties were attempting to weaken democratic institutions and mislead the public.

He said Nitin Nabin's visit would provide an opportunity to present the facts before the people and bring national attention to Karimnagar.

Stressing the importance of making the programme a grand success, Bandi Sanjay asked party leaders and workers to organise mobilisation drives at polling booth, Shakti Kendra and mandal levels. He also called for extensive publicity through mainstream and social media platforms.

Several senior BJP leaders, including Karimnagar and Sircilla district presidents Saini Malleshham and Reddaboyina Gopi, Mayor Kolagani Srinivas, Deputy Mayor Sunil Rao and former district presidents Basa Satyanarayana and Gangadi Krishna Reddy, attended the meeting.

Singareni to supply 75,000 tonnes of coal daily to TG-GENCO's Thermal power plants

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
HYDERABAD, NOV 10

Singareni Collieries Company Limited (SCCL) on Tuesday decided to supply 75,000 tonnes of coal per day to Telangana GENCO's thermal power plants to meet the anticipated rise in electricity demand due to the impact of El Niño.



The company is also making arrangements to transport 16,000 tonnes of coal daily from its Naini coal mine in Odisha to the Yadadri Thermal Power Plant in Telangana from the end of November.

The decisions were taken at a high-level coordination meeting held through video conference held under the chairmanship of Singareni CMD Buddhaprakash Jyoti and Telangana GENCO CMD Harish, following directions from Deputy Chief Minister and Energy Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, the Mining company said in a release.

Singareni CMD directed the company's directors and area General Managers to accord priority to coal supplies to Telangana GENCO's thermal power plants and meet the State's requirements before supplying power plants in other states.

He said Telangana GENCO was receiving higher coal supplies this year compared to the previous three to four years and Singareni was prepared to provide additional quantities within its production capacity if electricity demand increased.

The Naini coal mine in Odisha, has set a production target of around 20,000 tonnes per day and currently holds a stock of three lakh tonnes.

Harish said local transportation issues had caused some delays, but arrangements were being made to transport 16,000 tonnes per day from the end of this month. Measures were also being taken to improve road transportation from the mine to the nearest railway siding.

The Naini General Manager informed the meeting that several private companies and power generation companies in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu had also expressed interest in procuring coal from the mine.

Singareni's Marketing Department officials were directed to give Telangana GENCO first priority in allocating Naini coal and coordinate with GENCO officials daily to ensure smooth transportation.

TGHRC orders probe into alleged police assault

HYDERABAD, NOV 10

The Telangana Human Rights Commission (TGHRC) has directed the Hyderabad Police Commissioner to order an enquiry into alleged illegal detention and assault of Shaik Sajid Ahmed by a Golconda Sub-Inspector on October 31, 2025. Citing medical records and unsatisfactory police explanations, the Commission suspected the case against Ahmed was a counterblast.

LOST OF PASSPORT

I, Davagudi Sujatha, W/o. Davagudi Ramudu, R/o: 48-386, Ganesh Nagar, Chintal, Quthbullapur Mandal, Medchal Dist, bearing Aadhaar No. 4527 5736 9181. I further state that I have lost/misplaced lost the original passport bearing No. R5271830 issued at Hyderabad on 21st Dec'2017. I made several searches through all ways, but not able to trace. It is hereby cautioned not to involve in any transaction with the above said document, anyone who finds may return it to the below mentioned.

Sd/-
Davagudi Sujatha,
(Mob): 7386067980

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Delegates from 70 countries to attend 2nd Bharat Summit in Hyd



(L to R) Chairman of Congress Party's Foreign Affairs Department Salman Khurshid, Minister D. Sridhar Babu and CWC Member Gurdeep Singh Sappal address the media in New Delhi.

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
NEW DELHI, NOV 10

About 1,000 delegates from 70 countries, including policymakers and prominent leaders from progressive movements, will attend the second Bharat Summit scheduled to be held in Hyderabad on November 13-14.

Being organised by the Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee, the event coincides with the first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's 137th birth anniversary and India's 80th independence year.

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka Garu will address the valedictory session.

Chairman of the Congress Party's Foreign Affairs Department Salman Khurshid told a press conference in Delhi on Tuesday that the intention is to reflect the vision of Rahul Gandhi for India and the world of tomorrow, and the emergence of a new global order.

There will be 12 international sessions and eight important sessions focused on Telangana. Sessions will tackle geopolitics, urban development, social justice, and more, reflecting the Congress party's foreign policy outlook.

Telangana's Minister for Industry and Information Technology D. Sridhar Babu said the state was proud to host the second edition of the international event. "The basic idea of Rahul Ji is to provide a platform for people who think progressively, whether on policymaking, economic matters, national development or the development taking place across states," he said.

Sridhar Babu stated that the summit will address geopolitical matters, the new world order, societal challenges, climate change, the role of the media, international journalism and information integrity.

Congress Working Committee (CWC) Member Gurdeep Singh Sappal said that when Rahul Gandhi was on a visit to Berlin, an idea was discussed there to set up a think tank that would include people from progressive parties around the world. "So that, through this, we can find a response to this changing form of politics in the world. This will begin at the Bharat Summit in Hyderabad, where 70 think tanks will participate," he said.

"Today, the bigwigs of the IT sector are busy directing world politics. In other words, politics is now falling into the hands of corporations. In such a situation, it is extremely important for political parties to engage in intellectual exercise, where people who understand society and politics can find practical solutions," said Gurdeep Singh.

TG govt to formulate action plan to become destination for automobile, EV sectors

TFP I SAUD SIDDIQUI
HYDERABAD, NOV 10

The government of Telangana is formulating a strategic action plan to establish the state as a premier investment destination in the country for the automobile and electric vehicle (EV) sectors, with the primary objective of attracting substantial investments into the state.

The state aims to attract major investment in the automobile and EV sectors at the 'Invest Telangana Global Summit - 2026' scheduled to be held next month.



As part of the preparations for the event, the first meeting of the newly constituted executive council for the automobile and EV sectors will be held on Wednesday.

Minister for Transport and BC Welfare Ponnam Prabhakar will chair the meeting, which will be held in a hybrid format (both online and offline).

Following outreach to prominent companies, industrial organisations, industry experts, and key stakeholders in the automobile and EV sectors, about 25 entities have agreed to participate in this council, an official release said.

During this meeting, Minister Ponnam Prabhakar will have direct discussions with industrialists and representatives from companies in the automobile and EV sectors. He will gather insights regarding their interest in investing in Telangana, their investment proposals, ongoing projects, industrial expansion plans, and future development opportunities.

The minister will seek suggestions and advice from these industry leaders on issues like manufacturing of automobiles and electric vehicles, development of EV charging infrastructure, battery technology, clean mobility, and the integration of advanced technologies within the transport sector.

The objective of the meeting is to understand the interest of companies in investing in Telangana's automobile and EV sectors, as well as to review their investment proposals, ongoing projects, and industrial expansion plans.

BRS Seeks Judicial Probe into Group-I Recruitment

HYDERABAD, NOV. 10

BRS MLC Dr. Sravan Dasoju has demanded an independent, time-bound judicial inquiry into the Telangana Group-I recruitment process following reports that over 40 of the 112 trainee Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs) failed their foundational examinations at the Telangana State Police Academy (TGPA).

In a representation submitted to Telangana Public Service Commission (TGPSC) Chairman Burra Venkatesham on Tuesday, Sravan said the failure of nearly 35 per cent of the trainee DSPs, despite undergoing 10 months of intensive training, raised serious concerns over the credibility and transparency of the Group-I selection process.

He noted that the trainees were evaluated in 10 subjects carrying a total of 1,600 marks, with a minimum qualifying requirement of 50 per cent. The high failure rate, he argued, warranted a thorough examination of both the academy's training standards and the recruitment evaluation system.

Sravan identified three possible reasons for the poor results: deficiencies in training, irregularities in the Group-I Mains evaluation process, or possible manipulation of marks and rankings. He also referred to reports of poor performance among other Group-I trainees at the Dr. MCR HRD Institute.

Kishan Reddy inaugurates modern facilities at GSI Training Institute



FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
HYDERABAD, NOV 10

Union Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy on Tuesday inaugurated three modern facilities at the Geological Survey of India Training Institute (GSI-TI) campus at Nagole-Bandlaguda in Hyderabad.

The facilities include an International Hostel Complex, an Advanced Geophysical Data Processing Laboratory and Karmayogi Digital Studios.

After inaugurating the facilities, the Union Minister inspected the services offered by the respective departments and called for a comprehensive strategic roadmap to strengthen mineral exploration and enhance the global capabilities of the GSI. Addressing the gathering, Kishan Reddy said the GSI, with its 176-year legacy and the Training Institute's 50-year journey, had achieved several milestones but needed to embark on a new chapter through modernisation, progressive reforms and technological advancement.

He said India's mining sector was steadily moving towards international standards under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and stressed that the GSI should expand its global presence by strengthening cooperation with geological and mineral exploration agencies in developed countries.

The Minister said that 4,373 mineral exploration projects had been completed across the country since 2014, including 1,724 blocks for critical minerals and 656 blocks for rare earth elements. Under the National Critical Minerals Mission, the GSI was undertaking 300 critical mineral exploration projects during 2026-27.

He urged the GSI to accelerate exploration activities, identify priority areas and prepare time-bound action plans, particularly for critical minerals. He also stressed the need to leverage artificial intelligence, machine learning, remote sensing and advanced data analytics to improve exploration capabilities.

Kishan Reddy called for transforming the GSI Training Institute into a Centre of Excellence for Geological Training and Capacity Building through international collaborations, joint training programmes and faculty exchanges. He said special attention should be given to training scientists in the exploration of lithium, graphite, rare earth elements and cobalt.

The Minister also emphasised the need for state-specific exploration plans, coordinated with State governments and aligned with their respective mineral potential and priorities. He suggested identifying government-owned, dispute-free lands and areas where statutory clearances could be obtained expeditiously to speed up exploration.

He said clearly defined objectives, timelines and regular reviews were essential to ensure that the proposed reforms translated into tangible results on the ground.



TG SAFE suspends licences of 8 cloud kitchens

TFP I MANVEER SINGH
HYDERABAD, NOV 10

The Telangana Standards Authority for Food and Essential Drugs (TG SAFE), along with Hyderabad Police, conducted special inspections at 23 cloud kitchens and restaurants across the CURE region, uncovering serious food safety and hygiene violations.

A total of 24 enforcement teams comprising Food Safety Officers and police personnel carried out the inspections. Officials found expired and contaminated food items, cockroach and rodent infestations, unclean kitchens, clogged drains, improper food storage and food handlers working without protective gear.

During the drive, 25 food samples were collected for testing and approximately 700 kg of spoiled and contaminated food articles were discarded. Improvement notices will be issued to five establishments, while show-cause notices have been served on 10 others.

The FSSAI licences of eight establishments have been suspended, with immediate instructions to stop operations in the interest of public health. They include Biryani By Kilo (Sky Gate Hospitality) at Gachibowli, Kulcha Kulture (Satti Hospitality) at Madhapur, Lucky Multicuisine Restaurant at Somajiguda, Tum Yum Innovisions at Madhapur, Zora 11 By 2 at Khairatabad, LO Fresh Foods at Madhapur, ITC Aashirwad Soul Creations at Gachibowli and Sodexo India Services at Kondapur.

The five establishments facing improvement notices are AVA Cloud Kitchens, Harley's India, Hunger Experiment, Fruitique and Rebel Foods (Behrouz Biryani). The 10 establishments served show-cause notices include Prism Hospitality Services, Ghar the Cloud Kitchen, Rebel Foods (Behrouz and Faasos) at Serilingampally.

Kavitha backs Osmania University non-teaching staff's protest, demands regularisation of services

TFP I TAHER ALI
HYDERABAD, NOV 10



Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) President Kalvakuntla Kavitha on Tuesday expressed solidarity with Osmania University non-teaching staff participating in a massive dharna at the university's administrative building and demanded the regularisation of contract employees and the implementation of their long-pending benefits.

Addressing the protesters, Kavitha alleged that employees had been exploited for 35 years under successive governments and accused the present government of ignoring their grievances.

She demanded the release of the promised Rs. 1,000 crore for the university, reinstatement of unjustly suspended employees and interventiAon by the Governor in his capacity as Chancellor. She also sought implementation of the Employees' Health Scheme, regular payment of annual dues, financial support to families of deceased contract employees and the Old Pension Scheme for eligible employees.

Saluting permanent employees for supporting their non-permanent colleagues, Kavitha said the Joint Action Committee representing six unions would succeed in its struggle.

She assured the protesters that her party would stand by them in their fight for justice.

Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan programmes to be conducted across TG: Dattatreya

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
HYDERABAD, NOV 10



Former Governor Bandaru Dattatreya on Tuesday announced that extensive programmes would be conducted across Telangana under the Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan (Drug-Free India Campaign) to combat drug abuse, particularly among students and youth.

A decision to this effect was taken at a meeting jointly organised by the Alai Balai Foundation and V-Net voluntary organisation at Andhra Mahila Sabha Women's College on the Osmania University campus here.

The meeting also decided to constitute a steering committee to plan, implement and monitor the campaign across the state.

Expressing concern over the growing drug menace, Dattatreya said substance abuse, which was initially noticed among students, was spreading to rural areas and affecting young people, their families and society at large.

As part of the initiative, areas and villages severely affected by drug abuse would be identified, and organisers would interact directly with local residents and victims to bring about behavioural change.

He said the organisers would also visit rehabilitation centres and extend guidance and psychological support to those undergoing treatment to overcome addiction.

Andhra Mahila Sabha president and former IAS officer D. Chakrapani, Professor Murali Manohar, Professor Raji Reddy, motivational speaker Akella Raghavendra, Sandeep, Vishwanath and representatives of V-Net participated in the meeting.

'Dimagi Naxals' next on govt target, Rijiju tells Rahul Gandhi

NEW DELHI, NOV 10

Taking aim at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Tuesday credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for eliminating Naxalism and warned the opposition leaders that days of "Dimagi Naxals" are also numbered.



Criticising Rahul Gandhi for trivialising the Union government's success in ending Left-wing extremism, Rijiju on social media platform X said, "Rahul ji, thank Modi ji for eliminating the Armed Maoists. Former PM Manmohan Singh ji had famously described Left-Wing Extremism and Naxalism as 'The single biggest internal security threat' to India. Next target is to finish Dimagi Naxals."

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Congress have recently been exchanging verbal blows over the fight against Naxalism and foreign intervention in Indian politics.

Interacting with CRPF personnel in Chhattisgarh, PM Modi had said that the elimination of Naxalism is not the final destination and that the country still faces the challenge of countering 'Dimagi Naxals' who have taken control of several organisations.

Later, Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi challenged PM Modi for a public debate regarding allegations of being 'Dimagi Naxals' and anti-nationals controlled by foreign entities. Responding to Rahul Gandhi's claims, four-time BJP MP from Jharkhand Nishikant Dubey on Monday questioned the Congress leader's "meeting with two Chinese Ministers. (IANS)

ECI allows Kerala voters missing from SIR draft roll to apply afresh

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, NOV 10

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has clarified that voters whose names are missing from the draft electoral roll published as part of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) can submit fresh applications in Form 6 to get their names included in the final voters' list.



The clarification is significant as many voters had expressed concern over submitting Form 6 when their names had appeared in earlier electoral rolls.

They feared that doing so could amount to making a false declaration, as the form requires applicants to state that they are seeking enrolment in the electoral roll for the first time.

The Commission has now made it clear that there is no bar on such voters submitting Form 6 merely because they were enrolled in previous electoral rolls.

They can apply afresh by following the prescribed procedure during the ongoing SIR exercise or even after its completion.

The ECI has also addressed concerns over possible legal action against such applicants.

It has clarified that an Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) cannot initiate proceedings under Section 31 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, solely because a person who was enrolled in an earlier electoral roll has submitted a fresh Form 6 application.

Section 31 provides for punishment for making false declarations in connection with electoral rolls. (IANS)

You cannot take away Tipu Sultan's contributions to K'taka: Kharge

BENGALURU, NOV 10

Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge said on Tuesday that Tipu Sultan's contributions to the state cannot be ignored, and history can never be erased.



Karnataka Home Minister Priyank Kharge

While hitting out at the BJP over the party's stand on the celebration of Tipu Sultan Jayanti and removing references to the Mysore ruler from school textbooks, Kharge said, "You cannot take away Tipu Sultan's contributions to the state. You cannot simply erase history, whether you like it or not."

Responding to a memorandum submitted by the Tehrik-E-Khudadaad organisation to Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, urging the government to restore the official celebration of Tipu Sultan Jayanti and reinstate lessons on him in school textbooks, Kharge said the BJP needed to get its history right.

He pointed out that Tipu Sultan fought four Anglo-Mysore Wars and said the British were extremely afraid of him. These were recorded historical facts that neither he nor the BJP could change, he said.

Kharge alleged that the RSS had not participated in the freedom struggle, the Civil Disobedience Movement, the Quit India Movement, the Dandi March or the Non-Cooperation Movement, and had not been part of any of the Round Table Conferences.

He also recalled that the BJP had opposed Tipu Sultan Jayanti when B.S. Yediyurappa was Chief Minister, despite Yediyurappa having praised Tipu Sultan in a book.

Kharge reiterated his demand for RSS registration, arguing that the absence of formal membership records allowed the organisation to disown individuals when controversies arose. He asked the BJP and RSS to explain the alleged possession of thousands of live cartridges by individuals associated with the organisation.

The Home Minister accused the BJP of using minority issues for political gains, alleging that it supported minorities when it needed votes but adopted a different stand otherwise.

Referring to historical landmarks, Kharge said Lalbagh in Bengaluru was developed by Hyder Ali and further nurtured by Tipu Sultan. He also cited the fort at Nandi Hills, questioning whether the BJP intended to erase such historical contributions. He described the BJP's understanding of history as "WhatsApp University history" and said the government would take a decision on the memorandum.

On his remarks regarding the seizure of 44,250 live cartridges during interstate raids in Bihar and Haryana, Kharge asked why questions were not being directed at Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

He said the cartridges were reportedly linked to a Pune ordnance factory and questioned who was responsible for their alleged diversion. (IANS)

Assam CM targets Congress in Muslim-majority locality

GUWAHATI, NOV 10

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Tuesday sharpened his political attack on the Congress, accusing the party of neglecting development in a Muslim-majority constituency that has traditionally supported it, while projecting the BJP's governance model as one based on development rather than "appeasement".



In a post on X, Sarma highlighted the condition of a road in Laharighat constituency in the Morigaon district with a picture of a local youth carrying a poster claiming that the locality had continued to face poor infrastructure despite repeatedly electing Congress representatives.

"Look at this picture carefully. This man is from Laharighat, a Muslim-majority constituency that has always voted Congress. Its roads are in a dismal state because the local MLA never recommends projects for them," the Chief Minister said.

Sarma said the issue had now been brought to his notice and assured that the state government would undertake the construction of the road.

"His request has now reached me, and I will get this road built. Development for all, appeasement of none," he said.

The Chief Minister's intervention carries a strong political message as the BJP seeks to expand its support base in Assam's minority-dominated regions, where the Congress has traditionally enjoyed significant electoral backing.

Sarma has repeatedly accused the Congress of pursuing what the BJP describes as minority appeasement while failing to deliver development and improve basic infrastructure in areas that have remained loyal to the party.

By specifically referring to Laharighat as a Muslim-majority constituency and its long-standing voting pattern, Sarma sought to turn the spotlight on the Congress' governance record in its traditional strongholds. (IANS)

Kargil witnesses shutdown against LAHDC election

KARGIL, NOV 10

Kargil region of Jammu and Kashmir observed a complete shutdown on Tuesday against the administration's decision to hold the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) election in December.

A complete shutdown was observed as shops and other business establishments remained closed today following a call by the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), demanding postponement of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) elections scheduled during winter and a review of the recently completed delimitation exercise.

Traffic was also thin on roads across the region. Additional police personnel were deployed in several areas as a precautionary measure.

The shutdown was called by the KDA, an alliance of political and religious organisations, trade bodies and civil society groups, which also announced a candlelight march under the banner of 'Save Democracy' in the evening. KDA co-chairman Sajjad Kargili, accompanied by Ladakh MP Haji Haneefa Jan and civil society representatives, said the shutdown would continue till the evening today, with essential services, including medical facilities, water supply and school buses, exempted. (IANS)

First-level checking of EVMs, VVPAT machines in Punjab on Nov 12

CHANDIGARH, NOV 10

Ahead of the Assembly elections in Punjab, likely slated for February next year, the first-level checking of electronic voting machines (EVMs) and voter-verifiable paper audit trail (VVPAT) machines will commence in all districts from November 12, Chief Electoral Officer Anindita Mitra said on Tuesday.



She said the first-level checking is an essential process prescribed by the Election Commission of India (ECI) to ensure that only fully functional and election-ready machines are used during the elections.

As per the guidelines of the Election Commission, the first-level checking to be used in every general election and by-election is conducted under the supervision of the District Election Officer by authorised engineers of Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL).

The CEO said only those EVMs and VVPATs which successfully pass the first-level checking will be used in the elections. The detailed procedure will be conducted as per instructions of the Election Commission. (IANS)

Andhra Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan, Anna Konidela part ways

HYDERABAD, NOV 10

Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister and well known Telugu actor Pawan Kalyan and his wife Anna Konidela have now announced that they are parting ways, ending their thirteen-year marriage.



For the unaware, Pawan Kalyan had married Anna Lezhneva, a Russian citizen, in September 2013 under the Special Marriage Act at a Sub-Registrar Office in Hyderabad. The couple have two children Polena Anjana Pawanova and Mark Shankar Pawanovich.

In a joint statement which was addressed to well wishers and near and dear ones, the couple said, "After sharing a significant part of our lives together, we have decided to part ways with mutual understanding and respect."

They further added, "Though our marriage has come to an end, we remain good friends and devoted parents to our wonderful children. Their happiness and well-being will always remain our shared priority."

They concluded the brief statement saying, "During this personal transition, we seek your understanding, kindness, and respect for our privacy. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has stood by us throughout this journey. (IANS)

'Frivolous lawsuit, fabricated attacks': MEA on Pannun's claims against Indian officials

NEW DELHI, NOV 10

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Tuesday rejected the "fabricated and malicious attacks" on Indian officials and rejected the lawsuits filed by proscribed terrorist and Sikhs for Justice (SFJ) chief Gurpatwant Singh Pannun in a US court, terming them as "frivolous."



MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal

Addressing a bi-weekly media briefing in New Delhi on Tuesday, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that the request for the service of judicial documents in India can be routed through India's designated central authority.

"We reject the fabricated and malicious attacks on our high officials. As also, we reject the frivolous lawsuits. A request for the service of judicial documents in India can only be routed through India's designated central authority, which is the Ministry of Law and Justice," said Jaiswal while responding to a question on the US State Department reportedly serving summonses to the Government of India in a civil lawsuit filed by terrorist Pannun.

Last month, reacting to reports of a so-called 'Khalistan referendum' taking place in Canada, the MEA had reiterated that New Delhi strongly condemns all anti-India activities.

In August, a report highlighted Pannun's announcement to form a Khalistan Army and Sikh Homeland Security force. The report mentioned that videos showing Sikh men training with semi-automatic rifles on Canadian soil were deeply alarming and could have catastrophic consequences for the Sikh community itself.

Pannun released a video calling on diaspora Sikhs to participate in a so-called Khalistan "Referendum" in Indianapolis, the capital of the US state of Indiana, while also floating the idea of a "Sikh Homeland Security" force, or Khalistan Army, according to a report in 'Khalsa Vox'.

"These are not abstract political arguments. They are calculated provocations aimed at restless young men already navigating the pressures of migration, identity, and easy money. The result is visible and ugly: a small minority of Sikh youth in the United States and Canada drifting into drugs, illegal guns, and gang life, damaging their own communities and the cities that host them," the report detailed. (IANS)

India condemns misleading content created by Chinese vloggers

NEW DELHI, NOV 10



India on Tuesday severely condemned attempts being made by the Chinese vloggers to portray impoverished neighbourhoods in Bangladesh's capital Dhaka as New Delhi through misleading content, saying such efforts to peddle false narratives undermine the credibility of those undertaking and backing them.

Addressing a bi-weekly press briefing in New Delhi, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal urged the authorities concerned to take action against those involved.

"We have seen media reports in this regard. Such efforts to present a distorted picture of any country are unfortunate. Insofar as efforts to buy foreign elements to portray Dhaka as Delhi are concerned, the peddling of false narratives only undermines the credibility of those who are undertaking such actions and those who are behind them. And we would urge the authorities concerned to take action against such people," he said.

The remarks came amid reports that over 150 Chinese nationals have been filming and livestreaming from economically disadvantaged neighbourhoods of Dhaka, falsely depicting them as parts of New Delhi.

While recording footage from these locations, they made disparaging comments about India's living standards, sanitation, food habits, and poverty.

The misleading portrayal has sparked concerns over the deliberate distortion of geographical locations and the possible use of deceptive online content to create negative perceptions about India among international audiences.

The incident underscored the growing threat posed by misinformation and manipulated content on social media, where sensationalised posts can spread widely before their authenticity is established.

The activities have reportedly been taking place in Dhaka's Tekpara and Uttara areas for several months, with streamers remaining active from early morning until late at night.

One Chinese woman identified as 'Mianmian', who claimed to be from China's Sichuan province, livestreamed from beside a canal in Uttara Sector 12 of Dhaka on November 1. She reportedly presented the area to her online audience as New Delhi and described the residential buildings and surrounding areas as dirty, underdeveloped, and unhygienic.

"This is New Delhi. Their homes are extremely dirty. There isn't even a fan inside the tin-roofed houses. This place is quite underdeveloped, dirty and unhygienic, and the law-and-order situation is poor," leading Bangladeshi daily 'Prothom Alo' quoted her as saying. (IANS)

Narrow escape for passengers as bus catches fire in AP

AMARAVATI, NOV 10



Passengers of a private travel bus had a narrow escape after the vehicle caught fire in Andhra Pradesh's Prakasam district in the early hours of Tuesday, police said.

The accident occurred near Chandi in Valetivaripalem mandal around 1.30 a.m.

The bus, which was heading to Vijayawada from Kadapa, caught fire after one of its front tyres came off.

The alert driver immediately stopped the bus and alerted the passengers. There were 33 passengers aboard the bus, and all of them got off before the flames engulfed the vehicle.

The bus was completely gutted in the fire. A fire engine rushed to the spot and doused the fire.

Police have registered a case and taken up the investigation.

Prakasam district had witnessed a similar accident in May this year. (IANS)

Suvendu turns Mamata's neighbourhood into political stage

KOLKATA, NOV 10

Turning the narrow lanes of Harish Chatterjee Street into an unlikely political stage, Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Tuesday walked past the residence of his predecessor Mamata Banerjee, stopping at one Kali Puja pandal after another, greeting residents, exchanging pleasantries with elderly people, showering affection on children and obliging neighbours with autographs.

The enthusiastic reception, the crowds following him and the spectacle of the BJP chief minister moving through the heart of Mamata's political neighbourhood made the visit an unmistakable show of strength, carrying a message well be yond the customary round of Kali Puja festivities.

The visit was politically charged, coming barely days after a confrontation outside the residence of Trinamool Congress national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee, where Mamata and Abhishek had alleged that BJP supporters attacked Trinamool workers. (IANS)

Jharkhand: INSAS rifle, cartridges recovered from Palamu forest

PALAMU, NOV 10



An INSAS rifle and a large quantity of ammunition have been recovered from a forest in Jharkhand's Palamu district following information provided by a Maoist commander carrying a reward of Rs 1.3 million in Jharkhand and Bihar, who was recently arrested in Maharashtra.

The recovery was made based on information provided by Sanjay Yadav, alias Godram, who was arrested by the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) in Thane two days ago. Following his interrogation, he was handed over to the Palamu police for further investigation.

Sanjay Yadav is a Zonal Committee Member (ZCM) of the banned Communist Party of India (Maoist). He carries a bounty of Rs 1 million in Jharkhand and Rs 3 million in Bihar. He is wanted in connection with a total of 53 cases registered in the two states, including 23 in Palamu, 20 in Aurangabad and 10 in Gaya district of Bihar.

The cases against him include charges of murder, attacks on police personnel, extortion, explosions, arson, and possession of arms and explosives. He is a resident of Devgan (Tilhadwa) village under the Chhatarpur police station area of Palamu district.

According to police records, Sanjay Yadav has allegedly been involved in several major Naxalite incidents.

On the night of April 25-26, 2019, he was allegedly involved in the bombing of the BJP election office at Hira Complex in Hariharganj Bazaar. (IANS)

Delhi's AQI improves

NEW DELHI, NOV 10

Delhi's air quality showed a marginal improvement on Tuesday, with the city's overall Air Quality Index (AQI) settling at 307 in the 'very poor' category at 7 am, against the severe pollution levels recorded at several monitoring stations on Monday, even as the India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast mist and shallow fog during morning hours for the next five days. With minimum temperatures hovering between 14 and 17 degrees Celsius and no significant change expected in the coming week. (IANS)

Bihar announces DA hike

PATNA, NOV 10

The Bihar Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary, on Tuesday approved 31 proposals, including an increase in Dearness Allowance (DA) for government employees and pensioners ahead of the Chhath festival.

As a pre-Chhath gift, the Bihar government has raised DA for employees and pensioners covered under different pay commission scales.

Those receiving salaries or pensions under the 7th Central Pay Commission (CPC) will now get DA at 63 per cent, up from 60 per cent. (IANS/UNI)

J&K CM Omar reviews progress under special assistance to states

JAMMU, NOV 10



J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday reviewed the progress of works under the scheme for special assistance to states for capital investment (SASCI).

The Chief Minister reviewed both physical and financial progress across key sectors, including Public Works, Jal Shakti, Youth Services and Sports, Power Development, and Housing & Urban Development.

Special focus was given to the Disaster Management component to augment mitigation resilience and restore infrastructure damaged in natural disasters.

Chief Minister issued directions for time-bound completion of ongoing SASCI works, within the sunset period, to achieve financial targets under the scheme; for expedited execution of SASCI Disaster component works to enhance overall disaster resilience; and for early identification and creation of a robust shelf of projects to finalise the SASCI 2027-28 plan.

The Chief Minister emphasised seamless inter-departmental coordination and strict adherence to timelines to ensure maximum fund utilisation and the creation of durable capital assets across Jammu & Kashmir. (IANS/UNI)

Karnataka cops recover 7 bodies in murder case

BENGALURU, NOV 10

Police have recovered all seven bodies in the murder case involving members of a single family, with the investigation now focussing on establishing the motive behind the killings. The questioning of the accused, Indushekar, will be intensified from Tuesday under the direct supervision of Deputy Commissioner of Police Nema Gowda. Indushekar, who has been brought to Bengaluru, has reportedly told investigators during preliminary questioning that mental harassment by his wife and her family. (IANS)

Punjab Police dismantles two arms supply networks

CHANDIGARH, NOV 10



In a major breakthrough, Amritsar Commissionerate Police has dismantled two separate illegal arms supply networks in the state with the arrest of six people and recovered 14 sophisticated pistols from their possession, said Punjab Director General of Police (DGP), Gaurav Yadav, here on Tuesday.

Those arrested have been identified as Bobby Singh and Ravinder Singh, alias Manna, both residents of Talwandi Shoba Singh village in Tarn Taran; Gurpreet Singh, alias Preet, Kamal, and Ajay Singh, alias Kaka, all residents of Amritsar; and Swaran Singh, a resident of Panchkula in Haryana.

The recovered pistols include one .30 bore TISAS Zigana, one .30 bore Zigana Eagle, one .30 bore (made in China), two 9mm pistols, seven .30 bore pistols, and two .32 bore pistols.

DGP Yadav said preliminary investigation has revealed that the accused were allegedly in contact with foreign-based handlers through social media platforms, who facilitated the supply of illegal weapons through drone-based consignments. (IANS)

India steps up diplomatic efforts, engages with Russia and Ukraine to end prolonged war

NEW DELHI, NOV 10



Reiterating its position that the Russia-Ukraine conflict must be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Tuesday highlighted New Delhi's continued engagement with both Moscow and Kyiv to explore ways to restore peace in the region.

Addressing a bi-weekly press briefing in New Delhi, MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said that India had shared several proposals with the two sides, including ensuring the safety of commercial shipping in the Black Sea, addressing the immediate concerns of energy and grain exports, and discussing possibilities of a non-attack arrangement.

He further said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also emphasised the need to end prolonged wars and called for an end to the ongoing conflict.

"So, on the issue of the Ukraine conflict, as you know, India has been emphasising that the way forward is to take the path of dialogue and diplomacy. And in recent months, our Prime Minister has expressed and articulated that endless wars must now give way to an end to war. In keeping with this idea of bringing peace to the region, India has been engaging with both Russia and Ukraine, and we have conveyed certain ideas to them. These ideas include the safety of commercial shipping in the Black Sea region. It also includes addressing the immediate concerns of both countries in regard to energy and grain exports, as well as non-attack possibilities," the MEA spokesperson stated.

Jaiswal further said that Prime Minister Modi spoke to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Monday, with the two leaders discussing the ongoing conflict, its humanitarian impact and diplomatic efforts to bring about peace.

He added that External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar also spoke to Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov later in the day to discuss diplomatic initiatives related to the conflict.

"Yesterday, as you are aware, our Prime Minister spoke to the President of Ukraine. Both leaders shared perspectives on the ongoing conflict, its humanitarian aspects, as well as various efforts to restore peace that are underway. Prime Minister reiterated India's firm commitment to contribute towards peace in every possible way. Following this, in the evening yesterday, the External Affairs Minister had a conversation with Foreign Minister Lavrov of Russia, where both leaders discussed the ongoing diplomatic initiatives focused on the conflict," the MEA spokesperson stated.

"On the issue of the food corridor, we have exchanged ideas with both sides, and India remains in touch with both sides, as well as with interested parties to contribute towards the return of peace to the region," he added.

Prime Minister Modi had a telephone conversation with Ukrainian President Zelensky on Monday, during which he once again conveyed India's readiness to contribute to all efforts aimed at peaceful resolution of the conflict in the region.

According to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Zelensky shared his perspective on recent developments related to the ongoing conflict with Russia. (IANS/UNI)

THE FREEDOM PRESS

WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2026

Markets extend rally despite global headwinds

Indian equity markets extended their gains for a second consecutive week, recording their strongest weekly performance since April, despite elevated crude oil prices, sustained foreign investor outflows and weakness in global markets. The Nifty 50 rose 2.77 per cent, or 625.7 points, to close at 23,146.15, while the BSE Sensex advanced 2,256.94 points, or 3.11 per cent, to settle at 74,729.27. The rally reflected improving domestic sentiment, supported by strong IT stocks, encouraging second-quarter corporate earnings, a firmer rupee and continued participation by domestic institutional investors. The market capitalisation of BSE-listed companies increased by more than Rs.7 lakh crore during the week.

The information technology sector emerged as the principal driver, with the Nifty IT index surging 11.7 per cent, its biggest weekly gain in 18 years. Sentiment improved following Infosys CEO Salil Parekh's remarks that artificial intelligence services contributed more than 8 per cent of the company's second-quarter revenue and were growing at a double-digit sequential rate. The performance of Indian IT companies, in contrast to the weakness among several global technology peers, has also raised the possibility that domestic technology firms could offer some resilience against AI-related global market volatility. The Nifty Media index gained over 6 per cent, while Auto, Realty and Defence advanced 3 per cent, 2.7 per cent and 2.2 per cent, respectively.

The broader market presented a mixed picture, with the Nifty Midcap 100 gaining 0.6 per cent, while the Nifty Smallcap 100 remained largely flat. Defensive sectors underperformed amid a shift towards growth-oriented and cyclical stocks. Healthcare declined 1 per cent, while Pharma and FMCG slipped 0.7 per cent and 0.55 per cent, respectively. The rupee also provided support to market sentiment, recovering 178 paise to close at 94.95 against the US dollar on October 16, compared with 96.73 on October 9. Measures undertaken by the Reserve Bank of India to support currency stability, along with the postponement of UPI merchant discount rate charges, contributed to the improved sentiment. Foreign portfolio investors, however, continued their selling for the eighth consecutive week, offloading equities worth Rs.8,990.50 crore and taking their total monthly sales to Rs.48,769.01 crore. Rising crude oil prices remained another concern as the continuing conflict in West Asia pushed Brent crude from $104.95 per barrel at the beginning of the week to nearly $110 on Friday. Despite these external pressures, domestic institutional investors continued to provide support, highlighting the growing importance of domestic investment flows in cushioning Indian markets against international volatility. This domestic participation remains an important source of stability during periods of global uncertainty.

International markets followed a contrasting trajectory, with Wall Street ending the week largely lower. The Nasdaq Composite declined 4.48 per cent, while the Russell 2000 fell 3.05 per cent, as investors reacted to a sell-off in artificial intelligence stocks, higher-than-expected inflation data and the beginning of the third-quarter earnings season. The Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 0.67 per cent, outperforming other major indices. The divergence between Indian and US markets underlines the role of domestic corporate earnings, institutional participation and economic fundamentals in supporting India's equity market performance, even as global developments continue to influence investor sentiment.

Technical indicators also point towards an improving market structure, although caution remains necessary. The Nifty's weekly chart formed a strong bullish candle after a Doji pattern near an established support trendline, suggesting a possible recovery. However, the index continues to trade below its 40-week exponential moving average, while the Relative Momentum Index indicates bearish momentum. The Foreign Institutional Investor Net Index Position indicator, currently at minus 1,067,911, has improved from historically bearish levels, suggesting gradual short covering. Meanwhile, the Advanced Diffusion Indicator, which measures the proportion of Nifty 50 stocks with a daily RSI of 50 or above, has recovered from near-oversold territory and moved above its trendline. The Net New One-Month Highs indicator has also risen to 3.11, indicating improving market breadth and wider participation.

India's neurotech push

India's neurotechnology ecosystem is showing signs of growing maturity, with startups, research institutions and investors increasingly exploring technologies that monitor, diagnose and influence brain activity. The sector includes non-invasive diagnostic wearables, digital therapeutics, artificial intelligence (AI)-integrated systems and brain-computer interfaces (BCIs). A major development this year was the launch of Temple, founded by Deepinder Goyal, which raised US$54 million in seed funding for a wearable device designed to monitor cerebral blood flow and provide personalised brain-health insights. India's emerging ecosystem, comprising around 15 to 20 early-stage ventures, also received a major boost with the launch of the US$1 billion di Neuroscience Fund by GIFT City-based SPEC Finance in August 2026.

Neurotechnology has growing significance for India beyond its potential as a high-growth technology sector. The country faces increasing healthcare challenges, including an estimated nine million elderly people living with dementia, rising stroke incidence among younger populations and a growing burden of neurodegenerative and headache disorders. Affordable, locally developed technologies could improve early diagnosis, treatment and long-term monitoring, particularly in smaller cities and underserved regions. They could also strengthen domestic research and manufacturing capabilities while helping India capture a larger share of the medical devices market, projected to reach US$30 billion by 2030.

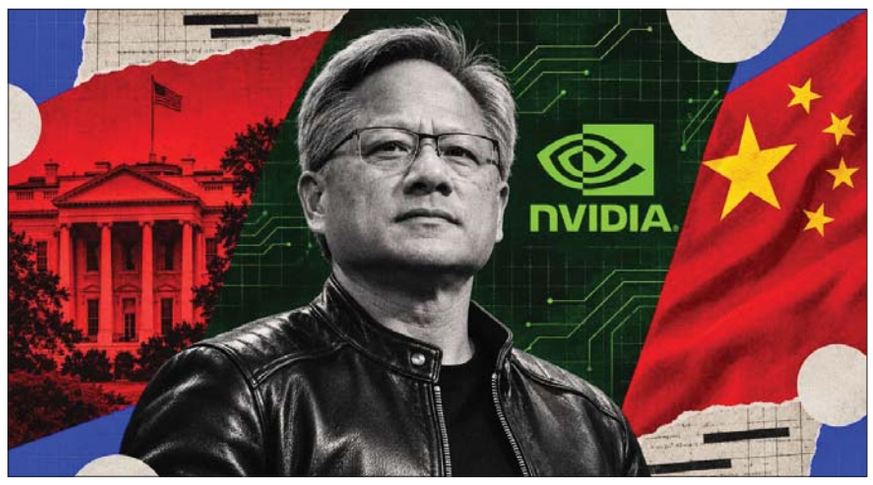
Globally, major economies are investing heavily in this emerging field. The United States has supported foundational research through its National Institutes of Health (NIH) BRAIN Initiative, focusing on neurological research and advanced data systems. China, meanwhile, has pursued a targeted industrial strategy and recorded progress in brain-computer interfaces, including the clinical deployment and regulatory approval of the NEO wireless BCI system developed at Tsinghua University. These developments underline the importance of sustained public investment, research infrastructure and industry participation in building India's technological competitiveness.

The commercial potential of neurotechnology is also expanding beyond medical applications. The global sector is projected to reach approximately US$66.81 billion by 2035, supported by growing demand for advanced wearables and personalised wellness solutions. New-generation devices can combine neural signals with broader biometric information to offer customised guidance on sleep, nutrition and lifestyle management. Advances in specialised Neural Processing Units (NPUs) and Edge AI are further enabling complex data analysis directly on wearable devices, reducing dependence on cloud computing while addressing concerns about latency and the privacy of sensitive brain-related information. Neurotechnology is also emerging as an important component of future military and industrial systems. The integration of wearable electroencephalography (EEG), biometric sensors and AI can help monitor operators' cognitive workload, stress and attention while they control complex machinery, robotic systems and unmanned aerial vehicles. Such technologies could enable human-machine interfaces to adapt to an individual's cognitive condition, improving training, decision-making and operational efficiency. Research by the US Army's Combat Capabilities Development Command (DEVCOM) on soldier-robot teaming illustrates how semi-autonomous systems could support personnel when they face excessive workloads or distractions.

For India, these developments present an opportunity to build capabilities across healthcare, consumer technology, advanced manufacturing and national security. Government initiatives such as India Semiconductor Mission 2.0, the Design-Linked Incentive scheme and the proposed National Deep Tech Startup Policy provide a foundation for strengthening domestic innovation and reducing dependence on imported components.

Huang or not, NVIDIA will remain a critical US asset

PRANJAL SHARMA



From being a leading chipmaker for the gaming industry to becoming the world's most crucial tech company, and then a potential national security risk, NVIDIA has seen its reputation shift dramatically in less than a decade.

The rise of GenAI bots brought international attention to NVIDIA founder Jensen Huang. NVIDIA's chips were best placed to handle the heavy computing required to fuel the rapid rise of AI-based activities.

The probe into whether Huang was possibly compromised by an international spy is a stunning new chapter in NVIDIA's story. Even as the probe and its political implications play out in the US, the global industry is keenly tracking the potential impact on chip supplies and the industry's computing needs.

NVIDIA is currently the dominant company in the global market for AI and high-performance computing chips. While market shares vary by segment, NVIDIA's position is strongest in AI accelerators used for training and running large language models, where it controls roughly 80% to 90% of the global market. Most leading AI models, including systems developed by OpenAI, Anthropic, Meta, Google, and xAI, are trained on NVIDIA GPUs. The company's H100, H200, and Blackwell chips have become the industry's standard for AI training and inference. AI development requires enormous computing power. Access to advanced NVIDIA chips is often the limiting factor determining how quickly companies and countries can build AI capabilities. This has made NVIDIA strategically and geopolitically important for the US.

The world's largest technology companies, including Microsoft, Amazon, Google, Meta and Oracle, are investing hundreds of billions of dollars in AI infrastructure and data centres, much of which relies on NVIDIA hardware. NVIDIA's CUDA platform, developed over nearly two decades, is embedded in most AI software frameworks and tools. Many AI applications are optimised specifically for NVIDIA hardware, making it difficult and expensive for customers to switch to alternatives.

NVIDIA became a global leader mostly because of the long-term bet on AI placed by Huang. The most important decision Huang made was investing heavily in GPU-based parallel computing long before artificial intelligence became mainstream. In 2006, NVIDIA launched CUDA, a software platform that allowed developers to use GPUs for general-purpose computing rather than just graphics.

At the time, this appeared to be a niche investment, but it later became the foundation for modern AI development.

NVIDIA faced several critical moments during its history since Huang founded it in 1993 and became its CEO. NVIDIA survived intense competition, failed product launches, the dot-com crash, and technological transitions. Huang has often remarked that if he had known how difficult building NVIDIA would be, he might never have started the company. His willingness to continue investing through downturns allowed NVIDIA to emerge dominant when the AI era arrived.

Huang has been a hands-on leader. Unlike many CEOs who delegate engineering decisions, Huang is deeply involved in product reviews and architecture discussions. Former executives and engineers frequently describe him as exceptionally detail-oriented and demanding. He expects his team leaders to understand both the technical and business implications of decisions.

NVIDIA's decision-making is driven by Huang, supported by a small set of deputies. Huang serves as President and CEO and remains the central strategic decision-maker. NVIDIA operates with a relatively flat structure compared with many large multinational corporations.

The centralised decision-making has allowed Huang to make long-term bets for NVIDIA. This involved taking risks that may not have been acceptable in a board-run and investor-led company. Investor and stock market pressures often force CEOs to make decisions that prioritise low-risk quarterly returns rather than long-term, high-risk, high-return investments. Founder CEOs who follow independent thinking inspired by their personal vision and commitment have to carry the weight and risk of their decisions. In terms of work temperament, Huang is closer to Apple founder Steve Jobs and current-era star Elon Musk than to professional CEOs of tech companies.

In the era of technological sovereignty, control over AI platforms and the underlying chip-based infrastructure is crucial for governments. The Donald Trump administration has been closely monitoring NVIDIA's business decisions. Its sale of chips to China has triggered concern and consternation.

The US government realises that companies like NVIDIA are far more crucial to its global power than the immensely powerful military-industrial complex. National security, the economy, and technological sovereignty are deeply dependent on the quality of chips being made by NVIDIA and other US companies. The government would have already assessed scenarios for NVIDIA's future without Huang as its leader.

With charges of being compromised by Chinese intelligence, Huang has difficult times ahead of him. If Huang has to resign as CEO of NVIDIA, the decision on his successor will depend as much on the Trump administration as on the board.

NVIDIA would have to imagine its growth without its founder. Companies like Microsoft, Google, and Apple have offered various models of leadership beyond their founders. The technological foundations of NVIDIA are strong, and it will survive on its own momentum for a few years.

If Huang does leave as CEO, NVIDIA's future growth could taper down. A strong board can't match the inspired vision of an exceptional individual founder. It will be difficult to replace Huang with another leader who can predict the next wave of the tech era. Any decision that NVIDIA takes will need a vision for imagining the era of computing in 2036 and beyond. The bets NVIDIA makes for the future will also influence the direction of the global industry.

Overtly or covertly, the US government will decide on Huang's possible successor at NVIDIA. The board, investors, and the government are likely to take extraordinary steps to insulate NVIDIA from Huang's alleged compromise. The US government's global power depends much on NVIDIA's continued success. They will hope to find a worthy successor if the situation arises.

Huang may go, but NVIDIA will stay. The US government will ensure that.

(Pranjal Sharma is an author and advisor)

India's energy autonomy is an expensive illusion



R. SURYAMURTHY

India's claim to strategic autonomy is tested not at diplomatic summits but at the oil pump, in the foreign-exchange market and in the government's monthly import bill. A country aspiring to become a global economic power cannot indefinitely outsource the security of its most critical energy supply to geopolitical bargains over which it has little control. Yet the latest oil shock exposes that contradiction.

Brent crude's retreat from nearly $118 a barrel in October to around $92 on November 10 may have eased immediate anxieties, but it has not changed the underlying equation. The market is reacting to the possibility of reduced military escalation involving Iran, not to the disappearance of the risks surrounding the Strait of Hormuz. India is benefiting from a geopolitical pause whose duration it cannot determine.

The more uncomfortable question is why a country with India's economic ambitions remains so vulnerable to movements in a commodity whose price is set by global politics as much as by supply and demand.

The answer lies in a development model that has expanded energy consumption faster than domestic production and strategic alternatives. India imports close to 89 per cent of its crude requirements. Its import bill reached $90.6 billion in the first half of 2026-27, up 46.3 per cent from a year earlier, although the volume of crude purchased increased only marginally. In September, the bill rose to $15.4 billion, compared with $10.5 billion a year earlier.

That is not merely an accounting problem. It is a transfer of economic resources from India to the producers of a commodity over which Indian policymakers exercise almost no pricing power. Every sustained $1 increase in the price of a barrel can add roughly $1.8 billion to $2 billion to the annual import bill. A $10 shock, therefore, can consume resources equivalent to a substantial public investment programme.

The conventional response is to celebrate diversification, and India has certainly demonstrated commercial flexibility. Russian crude, which at one point accounted for about 55 per cent of imports in July, represented roughly 35 per cent in October, while purchases from Saudi Arabia and Iraq increased. Total crude imports reached a record 5.54 million barrels a day in October.

But diversification of suppliers is not the same as diversification of power. Replacing one source with another does little to protect India if the alternative supplies remain exposed to the same shipping chokepoints, insurance markets and geopolitical calculations. A cargo may be commercially attractive at the point of purchase and prohibitively expensive by the time it reaches an Indian refinery.

The Russian experience is particularly instructive. New Delhi has defended its purchases on commercial and national-interest grounds, while navigating Western sanctions and diplomatic pressure. That balancing act is understandable. Yet a strategy that depends on the changing tolerance of foreign governments cannot, by definition, provide complete energy autonomy. India must retain the freedom to buy from Russia, the Gulf or the United States, but it must also recognise that freedom is constrained when the financial infrastructure supporting those transactions can be disrupted externally.

There is a deeper contradiction in the political celebration of India's emergence as a manufacturing and export power. Industrial expansion, urbanisation and rising incomes will increase demand for transport fuels, petrochemical feedstocks and electricity. Unless the energy intensity of growth declines, economic success itself will enlarge the country's exposure to external shocks. Growth without energy resilience risks becoming a more expensive form of vulnerability.

Nor can the government indefinitely shield consumers from the consequences. When crude prices rise, the burden is distributed among households, oil marketing companies and the exchequer through higher retail prices, squeezed margins or tax reductions. Each option carries a cost. Suppressing prices may provide political relief, but it can weaken investment capacity; cutting fuel taxes can compromise public revenue; passing on the increase can feed inflation and erode purchasing power.

The answer cannot be another round of diplomatic bargaining for discounted barrels. India needs larger and better-managed strategic reserves, sustained investment in domestic exploration, more efficient refineries and a faster shift towards electrified transport and alternative fuels. Renewable energy cannot replace petroleum overnight, particularly in freight, aviation and petrochemicals, but reducing the growth of oil demand is a more durable form of insurance than negotiating temporary price advantages.

The real test of strategic autonomy is not whether India can resist pressure from Washington, Moscow or Beijing. It is whether the country can prevent decisions taken in those capitals, or conflicts unfolding around them, from destabilising its own economic trajectory.

Cheaper oil has bought New Delhi time. The danger is that it will mistake that reprieve for vindication. India does not need to prove that it can navigate every oil crisis through diplomatic agility; it needs to build an economy in which the next crisis matters less. Until then, strategic autonomy will remain an impressive diplomatic slogan resting on an increasingly expensive energy dependence.

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

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad's Educational Philosophy and the Vision of NEP 2020: A Journey from educational ideals to national transformation

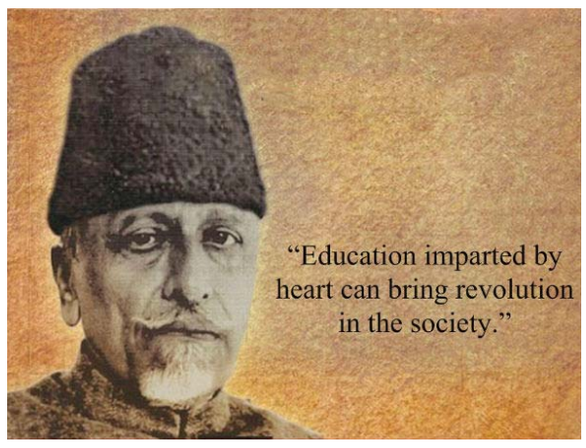


SYED SAMIULLAH HUSSAINI

Education is not merely the acquisition of information or academic qualifications; it is an instrument of individual empowerment, social transformation and nation-building. Among the architects of modern Indian education, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, India's first Education Minister, envisioned an education system rooted in universal access, humanism, scientific temper, intellectual freedom, cultural harmony and social justice. More than six decades after his demise, several of his educational ideals find meaningful reflection in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Although formulated in a different historical and technological context, NEP 2020 advances many objectives that resonate with Azad's educational philosophy.

Maulana Azad firmly believed that education was the birthright of



every individual and essential for building a progressive democracy. He emphasised the expansion of elementary education and equal educational opportunities, irrespective of social or economic background. NEP 2020 carries this vision forward by targeting universal access from pre-primary to secondary education and a 100% Gross Enrolment Ratio in school education by 2030. Its 5+3+3+4 curricular structure recognises the importance of early childhood education and age-appropriate learning.

Azad regarded women's education as indispensable for national development. He understood that no society could progress while half of its population remained educationally disadvantaged. His concern for women's education was also evident in his address at the UNESCO Seminar on Rural Adult Education at Mysore in 1949. NEP 2020 reflects this commitment through the Gender Inclusion Fund and Special Education Zones, aiming to address barriers faced by girls and disadvantaged communities. Both perspectives recognise women's education as an instrument of social transformation.

NEP 2020 also introduces contemporary priorities such as foundational literacy and numeracy, digital learning, flexible subject choices, technology integration and increased public investment in education, with a recommended allocation of 6% of GDP. However, the success of these provisions depends on effective implementation, adequate resources, trained teachers, inclusive infrastructure and meaningful learning outcomes.

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad was not merely India's first Education Minister but a visionary architect of its educational foundations. His commitment to universal education, women's empowerment, scientific temper, multilingualism, technical advancement and cultural harmony continues to inspire contemporary educational reforms. NEP 2020 reflects several of these enduring ideals through a modern policy framework.

Ultimately, the success of education must be measured not merely by literacy rates, degrees or employment, but by its ability to produce enlightened citizens who think rationally, respect diversity, uphold human dignity and contribute to society. The enduring message of Azad's philosophy and the vision of NEP 2020 is clear: education must transform individuals to transform the nation.

(Syed Samiullah Hussaini is a research scholar, Department of Education and Training, Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Hyderabad)

India, UAE are strengthening bilateral energy ties

NEW DELHI, NOV 10

As part of the strengthening bilateral energy ties, India's imports from the UAE have risen sharply over the years from less than one million barrels a day in the 1990s to about 4.4 million barrels a day in 2018, after which the Gulf nation has become the fourth largest crude supplier for India in 2026, according to an article in Gulf News.

India's energy ties with the UAE took a quantum jump in 2018 with public sector ONGC Videsh, Indian



Oil Corporation and Bharat PetroResources bought a 10 per cent interest in Abu Dhabi's Lower Zakum offshore oilfield with an investment of $600 million.

India's petroleum ministry told Parliament that it was the country's first investment in Gulf oil production. It estimated that the stake would give the consortium an average of 1.75 million tonnes of crude a year over the 40-year concession, states the report by journalist Justin Varghese.

By 2026, Ministry of External Affairs listed the UAE as the country's fourth-largest source of crude and its second-largest source of both liquefied natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas.

In May 2026, New Delhi and the UAE signed an agreement enabling India to hold part of its strategic oil reserve in Fujairah, where tankers can load outside the Strait of Hormuz. The same agreement opened the door for Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) to store up to 30 million barrels in India. (IANS)

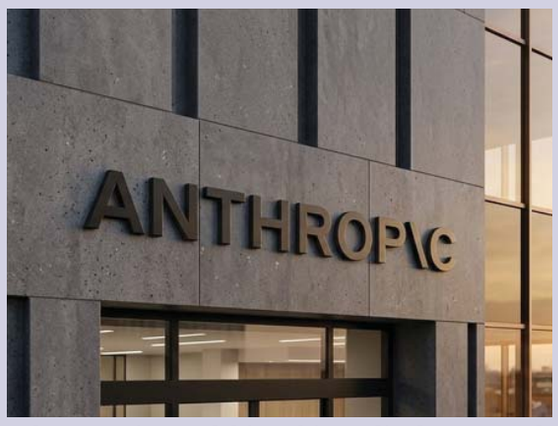
Anthropic unveils two new Claude 5.2 models

NEW DELHI, NOV 10

Artificial intelligence (AI) giant Anthropic has launched two upgraded models -- Claude Fable 5.2 and Claude Mythos 5.2 -- to advance advanced coding, mathematics, cybersecurity, robotics and scientific research, with capabilities designed to handle complex technical tasks autonomously for extended periods.

Anthropic said Claude Fable and Claude Mythos are based on the same underlying model.

"Fable has strong



cybersecurity and biology safeguards to guard against misuse, which allows us to make it available to all users. Organisations pursuing beneficial applications in cybersecurity or biomedical research can apply for access to Mythos through our recently expanded Life Sciences and Cyber Verification Programs," the statement said.

Fable 5.2 is designed for general users, including availability through cloud platforms such as Amazon Bedrock. Mythos 5.2 offers greater access to advanced capabilities involving vulnerability discovery and sensitive scientific research, resulting in tighter access controls.

Autonomous AI operations have improved, with the models capable of working independently for hours or days, coordinating multiple AI agents and managing complex software projects. (IANS)

Asia is a key growth engine for world economy

NEW DELHI, NOV 10

Asia remains one of the world's most important engines of economic growth with its manufacturing networks, expanding digital economy and large consumer markets. However, it is important for economic expansion to translate into higher purchasing power and stronger household savings, according to an article in India Narrative.

The article cites the IMF's Regional Economic Outlook for Asia and the Pacific which highlights the macroeconomic pressures that external shocks can create for regional economies. The problem is not international integration itself, but excessive dependence on external demand without sufficiently strong domestic foundations.

When export orders weaken, businesses may reduce production and recruitment. If household purchasing power is already constrained, domestic consumption may not be strong enough to offset the decline.

The article observes that investment should do more than increase output: it should raise productivity, develop local suppliers, improve worker skills, and strengthen small businesses.

The quality of growth should be assessed through real wages, employment quality,



household debt, savings, and consumption — not GDP alone. Inflation can undermine the benefits of expansion when food, energy, housing, and transport costs rise faster than household incomes.

It highlights that China illustrates why productive capacity does not automatically translate into stronger consumption. Weak household confidence and difficulties in the property sector have complicated efforts to strengthen domestic demand.

The broader lesson for Asia is that economic security influences spending decisions. When households fear future income losses, they postpone purchases and save more cautiously, affecting business sales and investment.

The article also observes that Asia has a distinctive advantage in today's increasingly fragmented global economy: it combines manufacturing depth, resource-rich economies, large consumer markets, technological capabilities, and expanding regional trade.

China remains a major industrial centre, India offers a vast domestic market and growing services sector, and Southeast Asian economies connect production networks with natural resources, logistics, and emerging consumer demand. Australia and other regional partners contribute energy, minerals, agricultural products, and specialised industrial capabilities.

These complementary strengths could allow Asia to build more diversified and resilient supply chains by strengthening practical regional cooperation rather than relying exclusively on any single external market or major power. Better cross-border infrastructure, predictable investment rules, technology transfer, and cooperation in energy and digital systems can reduce vulnerabilities while expanding economic opportunities, the article added. (IANS)

TRAI aims to boost interconnection framework

NEW DELHI, NOV 9

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) on Monday released the Telecommunication Interconnection (Port Charges) (Third Amendment) Regulations, 2026, introducing a framework for port charges for Internet Protocol (IP)-based interconnection to boost telecom interconnection and support seamless communication across networks.

The statement from the Ministry of Communications said the new regulations, effective from January 1, 2027, supplement the existing framework



applicable to E1/Time Division Multiplexing (TDM)-based interconnection ports and align the regulatory regime with technological advancements and sectoral developments.

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

TRAI initiated a review of the regulatory framework through a Pre-Consultation Paper to ensure that the existing regulatory framework governing interconnection matters remains relevant, transparent, and conducive to efficient interconnection between service providers.

Under the amended framework, the definition of a port has been revised to include both legacy E1 ports with a capacity of 2.048 Mbps and IP ports, with bandwidth measured in Mbps or Gbps.

The regulations prescribe annual ceiling charges of Rs 5.6 lakh for a 1 Gbps IP port and Rs 42.3 lakh for a 10 Gbps IP port.

The regulation also increased flexibility in interconnection arrangements. Interconnection providers and seekers may mutually agree to charges below the prescribed ceilings. They may also mutually agree to IP-port capacities other than 1 Gbps and 10 Gbps, with charges determined transparently using the same methodology as for 1 Gbps and 10 Gbps ports. (IANS/UNI)

China's pharmaceutical dominance raises supply chain resilience

NEW DELHI, NOV 10

China's growing dominance in pharmaceutical manufacturing, particularly in active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and critical medical supplies, creates concerns about supply-chain concentration and strategic dependence on a single country, a report has said.

Meanwhile, concerns over quality control and regulatory compliance continue, with recent inspections at some manufacturing facilities identifying deficiencies involving documentation, manufacturing processes and quality assurance systems, the report from Maldives Insight said.

"While such findings do not represent the entire Chinese pharmaceutical industry, they highlight the challenges regulators face in monitoring complex global supply chains that span multiple countries and thousands of facilities," the report said.

China has established itself as one of the world's largest producers of APIs, supplying thousands of ingredients used in medicines sold across North America, Europe and Asia, supported by government backing, large industrial clusters and lower production costs. (IANS)

Hyderabad to host startup summit on Nov 20

RATNA CHOTRANI
HYDERABAD, NOV 10

Hyderabad will host the Hyderabad Entrepreneurship Summit (HES) 2026 at HICC Novotel on November 20, bringing together over 2,000 entrepreneurs, 120 investors and more than 80 speakers.



Organised by TiE Hyderabad and promoted by the Hyderabad Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Collective, the day-long event, themed 'Inclusive, Scale, Leadership – Bet on Hyderabad', will focus on business expansion, fundraising, market access and emerging technologies. IT, E&C and Industries Minister D. Sridhar Babu will attend as chief guest, while Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju will deliver the inaugural keynote address.

The summit will serve as a curtain-raiser to the Invest Telangana Global Summit 2026 and coincide with Global Entrepreneurship Week. Discussions and masterclasses will cover AI, defence, space infrastructure, quick commerce, family offices and SME IPOs, alongside investor interactions and networking opportunities.

The HES Expo will feature startup pavilions on AI, space, defence, social impact and sports technology. (IANS)

Wave of bomb blasts, arson attacks rocks Dhaka amid deteriorating security situation

DHAKA, NOV 10

Amid mounting security concerns in Bangladesh, a fresh wave of crude bomb blasts and bus arson attacks rocked Dhaka, as educational institutions, court premises and busy transport hubs were among the locations targeted, local media reported.

The incidents on Monday further heightened concerns over public safety in the capital.

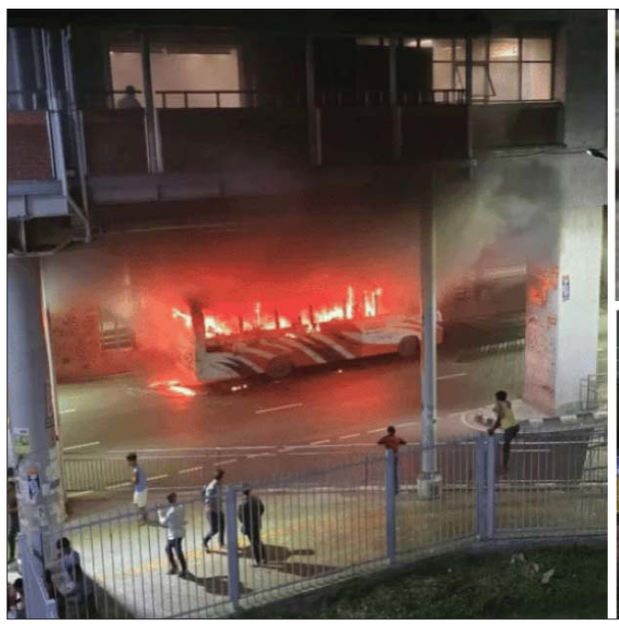
These attacks came a day after a wave of explosions at Dhaka University, police facilities and other locations across the capital, alongside multiple bus arsons in the city and its outskirts.

In the latest incident, unidentified assailants set a bus ablaze beneath the Farmgate metro rail station on Monday evening, leading to heightened security in the area.

Tejgaon Police Station Officer-in-Charge Moniruzzaman said that police rushed to the spot after receiving information about the incident and were taking steps to identify and apprehend those involved, Bangladeshi daily Dhaka Tribune reported,

The violence spread to several more parts of Dhaka, with crude bombs exploding near Dhaka University's Teacher-Student Centre and outside the District Judge Court, where suspects were detained in connection with the attacks.

Government Bangla College in Mirpur was also targeted, with a crude bomb exploding at its main gate on Monday evening as several adjoining shops were set ablaze.







In further arson attacks, a bus was torched in the Pallabi area of the capital, while a van carrying gas cylinders was set on fire on Postogola Bridge in South Keraniganj. Additional blasts were reported in Shyampur and near Shanto-Mariam University, World University and Southeast University.

Another attack was reported on Monday morning, with crude bomb explosions near Titumir College and in the Rampura-Banasree area, indicating that the spate of violence continued throughout the day.

The incidents came a day after a particularly volatile Sunday, when crude bombs exploded at multiple locations across the Dhaka University campus, including near the Teacher-Student Centre.

Further explosions were reported near the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) headquarters in Malibagh and Pallabi Police Station.

A member of the Special Response Battalion was injured after a crude bomb was hurled into the Pallabi police station compound, reportedly from a nearby flyover. Another person sustained injuries in an explosion in Mirpur-11. As Dhaka grapples with escalating violence and a deteriorating law-and-order situation, at least eight buses have been set ablaze, and more than 50 crude bomb explosions rocked different locations across the capital over the past few days, according to a local media report. (IANS/UNI)

Indian American Priya Sundareshan wins Senate top job

WASHINGTON, NOV 10

Indian American Democrat Priya Sundareshan has been chosen to lead the Arizona Senate as her party prepares to take control of the chamber for the first time since 1992, promising lower costs for families and greater attention to Southern Arizona.



Priya Sundareshan

Senate Democrats selected the Tucson lawmaker and outgoing minority leader as president-elect on November 6. She is set to take the gavel when the new Legislature convenes in January 2027.

Democrats won 20 of the Senate's 30 seats. That would give the party a two-thirds majority, up from its current 13 seats. "We heard you loud and clear. Arizonans rejected partisan extremism and chose a new direction," Sundareshan said in the leadership announcement.

"I am proud of what we accomplished together during my time as minority leader, and I'm ready to lead us into the next chapter."

The election also put Democrats on track to win about 37 of the House's 60 seats and returned Democratic Governor Katie Hobbs to office. Together, those results would give Democrats control of the governorship and both legislative chambers for the first time since 1966.

House Democrats chose Oscar De Los Santos as speaker-elect.

In an interview published Monday by KJZZ/Capitol Media Services, Sundareshan said her selection offered Southern Arizona a stronger voice in decisions made at the state Capitol in Phoenix.

"Southern Arizona has often complained about not having a representation in the majority at the legislature," she said. "Well, here we are."

She is the first Tucsonan chosen to lead the Senate in nearly 20 years. The last Democrat to serve as Senate president was Pete Rios, who held the post from 1991 to 1992.

University funding and roads are among the regional concerns facing the incoming leadership.

Sundareshan said Democrats would seek to avoid further university funding cuts and ensure that areas outside Maricopa County received fair treatment in the budget.

The incoming majority has identified lowering costs for working families as its leading priority. (IANS/UNI)

Russia has no intention or plans to attack European countries: Deputy FM

MOSCOW, NOV 10

Russia has no intention, plans or reason to attack European countries, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said.

Speaking at a roundtable discussion titled "Militarization of Europe: What Next?" held under the auspices of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), Ryabkov said Western countries were discussing the possibility of a military conflict in Europe as if it were "almost predetermined and inevitable."



According to a release posted on the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs' website, he said that Russia poses no threat to anyone and has no plans to attack any country in the near, medium or long term, adding that Moscow would be "forced to respond" if subjected to aggression.

Ryabkov also said some European governments had no genuine intention of ending the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The conflict could have been resolved while taking into account the legitimate interests of all parties, but the West had pushed Ukraine to abandon reasonable solutions and choose war, he said.

On the future of Russia-Europe relations, he said Moscow believes European countries would sooner or later be willing to engage in dialogue with Russia on the basis of equality, indivisible security, pragmatism and mutual consideration of interests, Xinhua news agency reported.

Long-term stability in Europe cannot be achieved without taking into account the interests of Russia and its allies, Ryabkov said. (IANS)

NATO holds submarine-hunting drills in Baltic

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
STOCKHOLM, NOV 10

Eight NATO countries have started five days of anti-submarine exercises in the Baltic sea and a top commander called the ultra-silent underwater vessels a constant "threat."

Based in Sweden from Monday to Friday, the submarine-hunting drills also involve Britain, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany and the Netherlands. The Baltic has become a key venue for the so-called war of "hybrid" tactics that Western nations blame on Russia.

Several thousand naval forces, submarines from Germany and Sweden, surface vessels from several countries and air patrols will take part in the staged hunts for submarines, the alliance said.

NATO has stepped up its naval presence in the Baltic, where, military experts say, submarine signals — the key to tracking vessels — can be more easily hidden in its shallow waters criss-crossed by intense shipping traffic.

"The submarine is the only technology at this point that can dominate that undersea consistently," Rear Admiral John Craddock, the NATO commander for submarines, told AFP.

Nepal seeks mountain-specific measures to address climate change risks

KATHMANDU, NOV 10

Nepal's Foreign Minister Shishir Khanal has urged the international community to prioritise three key measures to address the growing impacts of climate change on mountain regions, highlighting the devastating floods that hit Nepal on August 26 as evidence of the country's vulnerability.

He called for ensuring the 1.5 degrees Celsius warming limit for the Himalayas, establishing a dedicated work programme on mountains and climate change, and incorporating mountain-specific indicators into global climate finance and adaptation frameworks.



Addressing the opening session of the 31st Conference of the Parties (COP31) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) on Monday (local time) in Turkey, Khanal said concrete international commitments and effective implementation were essential to protecting the Himalayan region and mitigating the impacts of climate change.

Khanal's call for mountain-specific measures comes at a time when devastating floods along the Bhote Koshi and Trishuli rivers on August 26 killed more than 1,400 people, while over 5,000 remain unaccounted for.

The floods also caused extensive damage to public and private property, estimated at 1.66 billion US dollars, according to the World Bank. Human settlements, a dozen hydropower projects, a solar power project, roads and buildings suffered extensive damage.

An avalanche blocked a tributary of the Bhote Koshi River near the Nepal-China border, creating a natural dam that subsequently burst and triggered devastating floods downstream along the Bhotekoshi and Trishuli rivers.

Recovery and reconstruction needs following the disasters are estimated at more than 4.77 billion US dollars, according to the Rapid Disaster Needs Assessment report prepared by Nepali government agencies.

Khanal also drew the international community's attention to the devastating climate-related disasters Nepal has experienced in recent months.

"On 26 August, mountain collapse unleashed what we have called a Himalayan Tsunami," he said, adding that more than 1,400 people had lost their lives, while over 5,000 remained missing.

Critical infrastructure was swept away within minutes, and the cost of rebuilding was estimated at around one-tenth of Nepal's entire economy, he said, adding that scientific evidence confirmed the role of climate change in the disaster.

Nepal experienced three major disasters between August and October alone, he said. (IANS)

Canada sanctions against 11 Iranian companies

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
TORONTO, NOV 10

Canada on Tuesday said it was reimposing sanctions against 11 Iranian companies in the energy and banking sectors for contributing to the Islamic republic's nuclear drive, ballistic missile program or the financing of "malign activities." The companies, which include the National Iranian Oil Company and leading banks Mellat and Melli, were delisted from Canadian sanctions in 2016. But the measures have now been reimposed "to disrupt Iranian financial networks supporting its nuclear program," the Canadian foreign ministry said in a statement on the sidelines of the G7 meeting in Paris.

Funding crunch in Brussels puts EU-Asean connectivity plans at risk

NEW DELHI, NOV 10

The European Union's ambitions to expand its presence in Southeast Asia through large-scale infrastructure and sustainability projects are facing fresh uncertainty as a prolonged budget dispute in Brussels threatens funding for overseas development initiatives, a report has said.



At the centre of the debate is the EU-Asean Global Gateway strategy, launched in 2022 to strengthen connectivity, green transition projects and infrastructure development across Southeast Asia, according to the South China Morning Post.

Backed by 10 billion euros in public funding through 2027, the initiative is a key part of the bloc's effort to deepen engagement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and offer an alternative source of investment in a region where China's economic influence remains dominant.

However, the programme's future has been clouded by disagreements over the EU's 2028-2034 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), the bloc's long-term budget.

The European Commission had proposed an overall budget of nearly 2 trillion euros, including 200 billion euros for its Global Europe external financing instrument, a substantial increase from the current 79.5 billion euros allocation, as per the report.

The proposal has faced resistance from several fiscally conservative member states, including Germany, Austria, Denmark, the Netherlands, Finland and Sweden, which have called for significant reductions before approving the package. (IANS)

US flags sham staffing firms, fake student records in visa fraud

WASHINGTON, NOV 10

The State Department said fraudsters were using sham staffing firms, forged documents and fake student records to cheat the US visa system, detailing cases from several countries as the Trump administration widens its scrutiny of work and study visas used heavily by Indians.



"Fraudsters use sham staffing firms, forged documents, and fake student records to try to cheat the U.S. visa system," the department said in a thread on its official X account.

"Under President Trump and @SecRubio, the State Department is exposing these schemes, revoking fraudulent visas, and protecting our country from exploitation," it said.

In the first case, the department said petitioners in an unnamed Caribbean country "posed as 'staffing companies' and used unregistered agents to recruit foreign workers, charging thousands of dollars in illegal fees."

They placed workers in unauthorised jobs under exploitative conditions through falsified labour contracts, pushing up overstay rates by more than four times, the department said. It said the US Embassy flagged dozens of petitions covering hundreds of workers and helped launch criminal investigations.

A second case involved study and exchange programmes. "A recruiting agency ran a scheme to push unqualified applicants into U.S. exchange programs, using fake academic transcripts and lies about student status," the department said.

Consular Affairs tightened vetting and identified 30 more fraudulent agencies, leading to 250 visa refusals, according to the thread. (IANS/UNI)

Air defenses intercept Houthi ballistic missiles targeting Riyadh

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
RIYADH, NOV 10



Air defenses intercepted and destroyed a cruise missile launched by the Houthi militia toward Riyadh, the Coalition to Support Legitimacy in Yemen announced Tuesday.

The coalition also reported that Saudi air defenses had intercepted a ballistic missile launched by the Houthis toward the capital. Saudi Civil Defense activated an early warning alert in Riyadh, warning residents of a potential threat and urging them to follow official safety instructions.

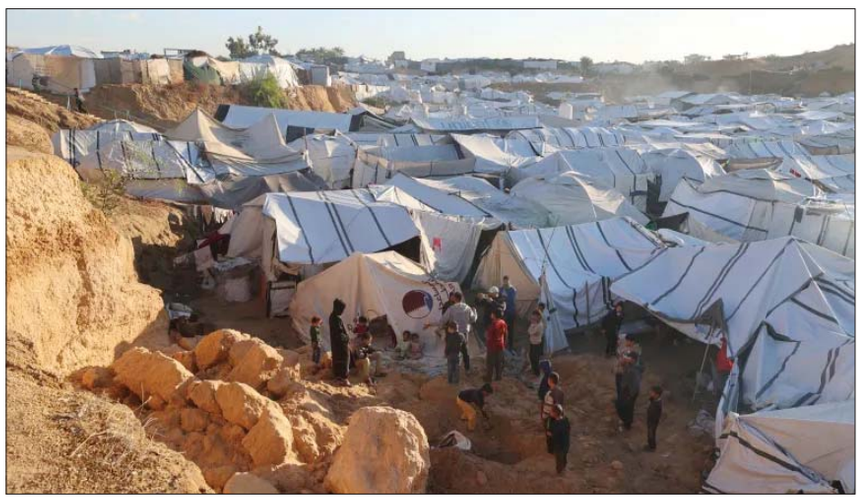
In a separate incident, Saudi air defenses thwarted another ballistic missile launched by the Houthi militia toward the Kingdom's southern region, according to the coalition.

The interceptions came shortly after the coalition announced the destruction of a Houthi facility used to assemble and produce ballistic missile components.

Earlier, Deputy Emir of Riyadh Region Prince Mohammed bin Abdulrahman inspected a Saudi Aramco administrative building in Riyadh on Monday to assess the limited damage caused by a Houthi attack targeting civilian facilities.

Board of Peace warns of humanitarian emergency in Gaza after severe flooding

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
GAZA, NOV 10



People stand at the site of a deadly sand embankment collapse at a camp for displaced Palestinians in Deir el-Balah.

The Board of Peace on Monday warned of an escalating humanitarian emergency in the Gaza Strip after severe seasonal flooding over the past two days inundated tens of thousands of tents and makeshift shelters, leaving displaced families exposed to cold, unsafe, and increasingly difficult living conditions.

"The situation no longer represents simply a threat posed by the approaching winter, but an immediate humanitarian emergency," the Board said in a statement.

"The urgent entry and distribution of essential shelter, sanitation, drainage, and other winterization supplies is critical to protecting civilian lives."

The Board said it had repeatedly warned about the risk of flooding and deteriorating shelter conditions and had urged all parties to fulfill their commitments under President Donald Trump's Comprehensive Peace Plan.

"We have specifically urged the Israeli government to authorize the entry of essential materials for temporary shelter,water and sanitation infrastructure, waste management, drainage, and sewage removal, and to abide by its commitments under the Sharm El-Sheikh Humanitarian Protocol," it stressed.

Jordan Crown Prince promoted to rank of Lt. Colonel

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
AMMAN, NOV 10



A Royal Decree was issued on Monday promoting His Royal Highness Crown Prince Al Hussein bin Abdullah II to the rank of lieutenant colonel in the Jordan Armed Forces-Arab Army.

The commander of the Prince Al Hussein bin Abdullah II Aerial Reconnaissance Wing, part of the Royal Jordanian Air Force, presented the Crown Prince with the new military rank, alongside a number of other officers from the wing who were also promoted.

His Royal Highness joined the Aerial Reconnaissance Wing in July as part of his continuing military service.

The Crown Prince graduated from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in 2017 and has completed a number of specialised military courses and training programmes throughout his service to date.

16 killed, 13 injured in steel plant explosion in western Türkiye

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
ISTANBUL, NOV 10



At least 16 people were killed and 13 others injured, including two seriously, in an explosion at a steel plant in western Türkiye on Monday, the Turkish president said.

Speaking after a Cabinet meeting at the Presidential Complex in Ankara, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said judicial and administrative investigations had been launched to determine the cause of the explosion in Izmir's Aliaga district and identify those responsible.

"An investigation has been launched into the explosion, both judicially and administratively. The cause and circumstances of this tragic incident, which has deeply saddened our nation, as well as any negligence and those responsible, will be established," Erdogan said.

Izmir Governor Suleyman Elban said the explosion occurred at around 11.46 am local time (0846GMT) at the HABAS Iron and Steel Plant during furnace replacement work.

Elban said a ceiling crane collapsed, causing materials to fall into an electric arc furnace and triggering an explosion after damaging a natural gas line.

Kuwait institutions record lower spending, higher revenues

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
KUWAIT CITY, NOV 10



The government institutions recorded a decline in actual expenditure and an increase in revenues during the 2025/2026 fiscal, reflecting progress in efforts to streamline public spending and improve financial efficiency.

An analysis of the final accounts of 25 government entities, published in the official gazette Kuwait Alyawm, showed that 17 institutions reduced their actual expenditures compared with the previous fiscal year, while spending increased in eight. At the same time, 16 institutions recorded higher revenues, against a decline in nine.

According to statistics published by Al-Jarida daily, the total expenditure among the institutions covered fell from 2.663 billion dinars in the 2024/2025 fiscal to 2.579 billion dinars in 2025/2026, representing a net reduction of approximately 83.7 million dinars, or 3.14 percent.

In contrast, combined revenues increased from 1.267 billion dinars to 1.373 billion dinars, registering a net growth of 106.4 million dinars, or 8.4 percent. The figures also showed that 10 entities managed to reduce expenditure while increasing revenues, achieving improvements on both financial indicators.

Syria seeks to expand UNRWA cooperation on reconstruction projects

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
DAMASCUS, NOV 10



Syria's Ministry of Public Works and Housing and the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East discussed strengthening cooperation on reconstruction projects and the rehabilitation of public service facilities during a meeting in Damascus on Monday.

The talks brought together Minister of Public Works and Housing Mustafa Abdul Razzaq and Olaf Becker, UNRWA's director of affairs in the Syrian Arab Republic.

The two sides reviewed their respective areas of work and ongoing projects, and discussed opportunities for cooperation through institutions affiliated with the ministry and vocational training centers.

They considered exchanging technical expertise and information, including guidelines for assessing building damage after disasters.

The meeting concluded with an agreement to designate a liaison point to coordinate the exchange of data and technical standards and maintain communication on areas of mutual cooperation.

The arrangement is intended to help align working methods and coordinate efforts, the ministry said.

Abdul Razzaq stressed the importance of cooperation among government institutions, international organizations and the private sector at the current stage.

The discussions come as Syria faces the need to rehabilitate infrastructure and public service facilities, strengthen technical expertise and make better use of available resources to support recovery and reconstruction and improve services for residents.

On Jan. 15, Abdul Razzaq held separate talks with a World Bank technical mission on reconstruction and the identification of priorities, particularly in heavily damaged and densely populated areas. The discussions included possible solutions for addressing stalled housing projects.

UAE leaders attend 'We Will Emerge Stronger' session

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
DUBAI, NOV 10



President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the UAE and Ruler of Dubai, attended the "We Will Emerge Stronger" session on Tuesday as part of the UAE Government Annual Meetings, highlighting the nation's resilience, institutional efficiency and readiness to confront future challenges.

The session brought together senior federal and local government leaders to assess national preparedness across key sectors, strengthen coordination and review strategies aimed at safeguarding the UAE's security, stability and continued development.

In a post on his X account, the UAE President wrote: "I attended, alongside my brother Mohammed bin Rashid, a session "We Will Emerge Stronger" as part of the Government Annual Meetings. The discussions highlighted the strength and efficiency the UAE has demonstrated in confronting challenges, thanks to its unity, the efficiency of its institutions, its preparedness, and the awareness of its citizens and residents, as well as the strength of its society and the spirit of responsibility that distinguishes it".

Saudi Arabia Energy revenue rises 11.5% to SR87.2 billion

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
RIYADH, NOV 10



Saudi Energy (SE) reported an 11.5 percent year-on-year increase in revenue to SR87.2 billion during the first nine months of 2026, while net profit rose 4.3 percent to SR12.1 billion, according to the company's latest financial results.

The company announced that earnings before depreciation, amortization, interest, zakat and taxes (EBITDA) increased by 6.6 percent to SR34.7 billion, supported by strategic investments, an expanding regulated asset base and growing electricity demand.

In the third quarter alone, revenue climbed 12.9 percent to SR35 billion, while net profit increased 0.4 percent to SR5.4 billion.

SE Chief Executive Officer Khalid Al-Ghamdi said the company continued to meet rising electricity demand while improving power plant availability, grid reliability and operational efficiency.

He highlighted that operational battery energy storage capacity reached 22 gigawatt-hours, achieving the company's 2026 target and strengthening the electricity grid's ability to integrate renewable energy sources.

The company's regulated asset base expanded by 16.6 percent year-on-year to SR278.8 billion as of September 30, 2026, supported by continued investments in transmission and distribution infrastructure.

Adjusted capital expenditure stood at SR59.6 billion during the first nine months of the year, while SE signed financing agreements worth approximately SR64.4 billion through sukuk and various credit facilities.

Operationally, peak electricity demand in the Kingdom rose 2.5 percent to 79,045 megawatts, while total generation capacity reached 56.8 gigawatts.

Oman's iconic landmarks to become underwater sculptures at Daymaniyat Islands

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
MUSCAT, NOV 10



From the Royal Opera House Muscat to Al Alam Palace and Al Sahwa Tower, some of Oman's most recognisable landmarks are set to take on a new form beneath the sea, as the Daymaniyat Islands Nature Reserve prepares to host the Underwater Landmarks of Oman Museum.

The project, being implemented by the Environment Authority in cooperation with Omantel and Innotech, uses 3D printing technology and environmentally friendly concrete to create structures designed to encourage coral growth and provide habitats for marine life.

The first phase, covering an area of 250 square metres within the reserve, will feature four main units inspired by prominent Omani landmarks, including the Royal Opera House Muscat, Al Alam Palace and Al Sahwa Tower. Over time, these structures are expected to develop into innovative marine habitats, combining cultural identity with marine conservation.

The museum aims to promote sustainable ecotourism, ease pressure on the reserve's natural coral reefs and serve as a platform for scientific research and environmental education. It is also expected to attract diving enthusiasts from Oman and abroad, offering a unique underwater experience that brings together heritage, nature and innovation.

The first phase is scheduled for completion in the coming months. Its outcomes will then be assessed ahead of a proposed second phase, which will feature additional sculptures inspired by Oman's historical and cultural landmarks.

Nvidia loses $1.57 trillion in market value amid AI growth fears and CEO probe

NEW DELHI, NOV 10

US chipmaker Nvidia has lost around $1.57 trillion in market capitalisation after its shares plunged more than 26 per cent from their 52-week high with entering bear-market territory amid investor concerns over artificial intelligence (AI) spending and growing scrutiny surrounding its Chief Executive Officer Jensen Huang.



The company's market capitalisation stood at $4.31 trillion at the close of trading on November 9, down from approximately $5.88 trillion when its shares touched a 52-week high of $243.37, according to a report by NDTV Profit.

Moreover, the estimated erosion in market value is larger than the entire market capitalisation of electric vehicle manufacturer Tesla, which stands at around $1.49 trillion.

Nvidia shares closed at $178.67 on November 9, a decline of around 26.6 per cent from their 52-week peak.

The stock has also witnessed sustained selling pressure, falling 14 per cent over the past week and 22 per cent over the last 30 days.

It has declined 18 per cent over three months and 17 per cent over six months.

The sharp correction comes ahead of the company's quarterly earnings announcement scheduled for November 17 with investors closely monitoring the sustainability of global AI infrastructure spending and demand for advanced semiconductor chips.

Adding to the company's challenges, recent developments involving Huang have brought the chipmaker's leadership under increased scrutiny.

As per reports, Huang had engaged crisis communications firm Heller Inc. as early as October 2025, months before publicly acknowledging an extramarital relationship with a former executive of Singapore-based data centre company Megaspeed.

The communications firm was also brought into Nvidia's media response process following questions raised over the company's chip sales and possible diversion of advanced semiconductors to Chinese entities in violation of US export restrictions, they added.

Moreover, Megaspeed had reportedly acquired nearly $2 billion worth of Nvidia chips, the report said.

In a statement released on Sunday, Jensen Huang acknowledged having an affair with a former Megaspeed executive, without naming the woman.

He also apologised to his family and Nvidia employees. (IANS/UNI)

FPIs return to Dalal Street, invest Rs 53,739 cr

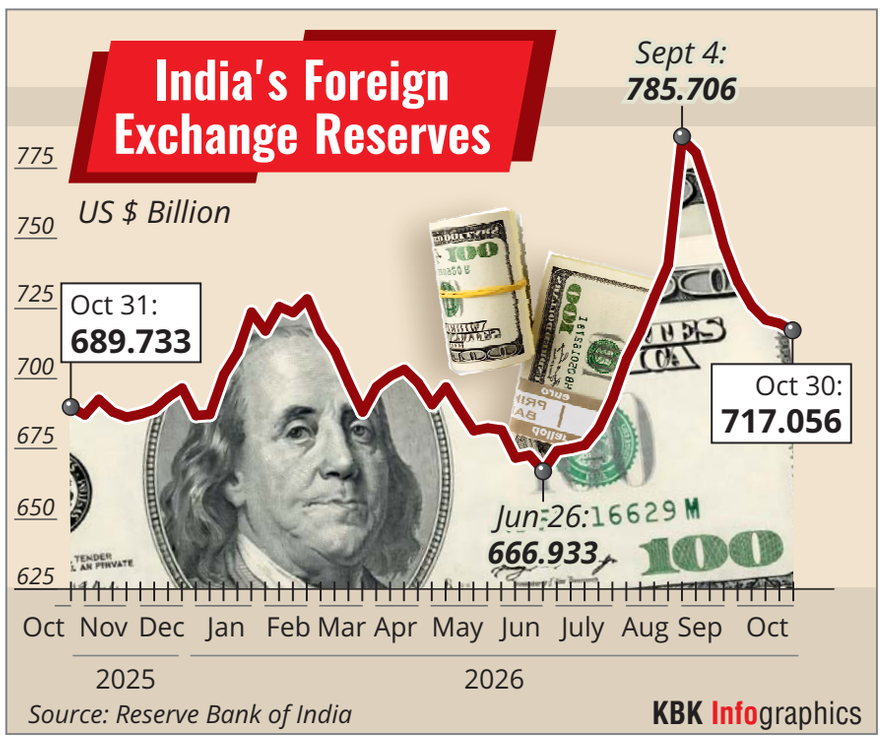
MUMBAI, NOV 10

Foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) turned net buyers of Indian equities in November, investing Rs 53,739 crore during the first nine days of the month after remaining net sellers for the previous two months, amid improving sentiment towards Indian markets and a global shift away from AI-linked trades.

The latest inflows come after FPIs withdrew Rs 34,843 crore from Indian equities in October and Rs 35,861 crore in September.

Analysts attributed the sharp turnaround to an AI-driven sell-off across major global markets, including the US, South Korea, Taiwan and Japan, which prompted investors to reassess their allocations.

According to analysts, concerns over data centre spending linked to artificial intelligence triggered a correction in AI-focused markets, leading global investors to seek opportunities in sectors and markets less exposed to the AI theme. India, widely viewed as a non-AI trade, emerged as one of the preferred destinations for foreign investors during this period. (IANS/UNI)



India remains critical drug supplier to US as it seeks self-reliance

NEW DELHI, NOV 10

India's vast pharmaceutical manufacturing network has emerged as a critical pillar of the US healthcare system, highlighting the challenges facing American President Donald Trump's efforts to bring generic drug production back to the United States, according to a report.



A report by The Star highlighted a manufacturing facility operated by a leading pharmaceuticals firm in Hyderabad, nearly 1,900 workers produce more than 100 generic medicines, ranging from cholesterol and allergy treatments to antidepressants.

The plant manufactures close to one billion oral doses every month with roughly three-quarters of output destined for the US market, it added.

The scale of India's generic drug industry has made the country indispensable to global medicine supplies.

Generic medicines account for about 90 per cent of prescriptions dispensed in the United States, while Indian manufacturers supply around 40 per cent of those medicines.

Trump has proposed steep tariffs on imported generic drugs, including a 100 per cent levy from 2028 and a 200 per cent tariff a year later as part of a broader push to expand domestic manufacturing.

However, industry executives and healthcare experts said that cost advantages built over decades make large-scale reshoring difficult, according to the report.

According to industry estimates, producing most generic medicines in the United States could cost four times more than manufacturing them in India. Lower labour costs, faster factory construction timelines and extensive technical expertise continue to give Indian drugmakers a competitive edge.

The industry's rise dates back to the 1970s, when India prioritised affordable access to medicines and developed strong capabilities in reverse-engineering and manufacturing pharmaceutical products at scale. (IANS)

Govt invites applications under PLI scheme for medical devices

NEW DELHI, NOV 10

The Union government has invited fresh applications under the Production Linked Incentive scheme for promoting domestic manufacturing of medical devices (PLI-MD), for which nearly Rs 2,700 crore outlay has been earmarked.



The applicants can submit applications through an online portal, which would be operational in the next 10 days, according to an official statement issued on Tuesday.

Launched in 2021-22 the PLI-MD scheme has now been extended up to 2035–36.

The scheme has led to domestic manufacturing of more than 60 high end medical devices and components, including X-ray tubes and detectors, 1.5T MRI, LINAC, CT scanners, mammography machines, Cathlab, orthopaedic and cardiac implants, dialysers with the production valued at more than Rs 16,000 crore.

On the basis of learnings in the first phase of the scheme, a number of simplifications have been done in the eligibility conditions as well as procedure for claiming incentive by the applicants, the statement said.

"The applicants would be allowed three years for setting up their manufacturing facilities in any of the four target segments (TS) which include medical consumables, disposables and implants (TS 1), Critical components (TS2), high-end medical devices which are presently at a nascent stage of domestic manufacturing (TS3), and high-end medical devices that are presently only assembled in the country (TS4). The tapering incentive rate would be averaging around five per cent for TS1, nine per cent for TS2 and TS3, and six per cent for TS4," the statement noted. (IANS/UNI)

India eyes bigger role in global auto supply chains: Piyush Goyal

NEW DELHI, NOV 10

Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal met a delegation from Skoda Auto Volkswagen India Pvt. Ltd. to discuss expanding automobile exports, strengthening domestic manufacturing and accelerating electric vehicle production, as India seeks to strengthen its position in global automotive value chains.



The delegation that was led by the company's Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Piyush Arora.

The discussions focused on opportunities to increase vehicle exports from India, deepen localisation of manufacturing and encourage innovation across the automotive sector.

Moreover, the two sides also explored ways to enhance India's role as a global automotive manufacturing hub and expand its integration into international supply chains.

The meeting comes as the government continues to promote domestic manufacturing through various initiatives aimed at attracting investments, increasing exports and accelerating the transition towards cleaner mobility solutions.

Goyal said India remains committed to creating a conducive business environment that supports innovation, competitiveness and long-term industrial growth.

The discussions also covered opportunities emerging in the electric mobility ecosystem and the potential for greater collaboration in advanced manufacturing technologies.

The engagement with the automaker follows the minister's interactions with officials at the Department of Commerce during Diwali celebrations at Vanijya Bhavan on Monday where he highlighted the importance of setting goals and preparing for opportunities in the year ahead.

In a social media post, Goyal described Diwali as a festival symbolising new beginnings, renewed energy and fresh ideas, while also providing an opportunity to reflect on collective achievements. (IANS)

SoftBank reports $7.1 billion quarterly loss



NEW DELHI, NOV 10

Japanese investment giant SoftBank Group has reported its first quarterly net loss in nearly two years as falling valuations of key technology holdings and growing concerns over artificial intelligence (AI) investments weighed on its financial performance.

The company posted a net loss of 1.12 trillion yen ($7.1 billion) in the second quarter of its financial year, reversing a profit recorded in the corresponding period a year earlier.

The performance was significantly below market expectations with analysts polled by the company estimating an average profit of 129 billion yen.

Declines in the share prices of semiconductor companies Arm Holdings and Intel, along with South Korean e-commerce major Coupang, contributed to the deterioration in SoftBank's financial performance.

Its Vision Fund division -- which manages investments in hundreds of technology startups -- also reported a loss of 81.6 billion yen.

SoftBank has increasingly emerged as an indicator of investor sentiment towards OpenAI and the broader AI industry, given its substantial exposure to the sector. (IANS)

India and France deepen cooperation in space, critical technologies and economic security

PARIS, NOV 10

India and France on Tuesday held the 3rd Strategic Space Dialogue and the inaugural meeting of the India-France Economic Security and Critical Technologies Dialogue in Paris, co-chaired by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri and Martin Briens, Secretary General of the French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, the Indian Embassy in France said.



"Today, Foreign Secretary Shri Vikram Misri co-chaired with Secretary General of French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs Mr Martin Briens the 3rd India-France Strategic Space Dialogue as well as the inaugural meeting of India-France Economic Security and Critical Technologies Dialogue, respectively," the Embassy posted on X.

The two sides also reviewed the full range of relations between the two countries.

"Both sides also held bilateral talks, reviewing the entire gamut of bilateral relations. They also exchanged views of regional and global issues of mutual interest," the Embassy said.

Misri arrived in Paris on Monday for the dialogues, which are aimed at expanding cooperation between the two countries, with a particular focus on resilient supply chains.

"These discussions will deepen cooperation between India and France in space, critical technologies and economic security, particularly in the area of resilient supply chains," the Embassy had said.

In September, Minister of State for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Jitendra Singh met his French counterpart, Philippe Baptiste, and said that cooperation in the space sector between India and France has entered a new phase, with a focus on human spaceflight, start-ups, and a new space ecosystem. (IANS/UNI)

Apple probes after 3 workers die at Tata iPhone parts factory

NEW DELHI, NOV 10

Apple is investigating a fatal accident at a Tata Electronics facility in southern India that left three contract workers dead during maintenance work, as per multiple reports.

The incident that occurred at an effluent treatment plant (ETP) at Tata Electronics' facility in Tamil Nadu which manufactures components used in Apple's iPhone supply chain.

Three workers died after reportedly being exposed to toxic gases while carrying out maintenance activities.

Apple's team visited the facility following the incident as part of its assessment of the circumstances surrounding the deaths, according to the reports. However, production at the plant was not affected because the accident occurred while the factory was shut for festive holidays.

Apart from that, the district administration has launched an investigation into the incident, while local authorities are examining whether adequate safety measures were in place during the maintenance operation.

One worker collapsed after looking inside the treatment tank and inhaling gas.

Two colleagues then entered the tank to assist him and also lost consciousness. The workers were pulled out and rushed to a private hospital in Hosur, where they were declared dead.

According to Police officials, preliminary inquiries point to possible toxic gas inhalation, though the exact cause of death will be determined following a final postmortem report.

In a separate development, Tata Electronics has been directed to carry out a comprehensive review of the safety and performance standards of agencies responsible for maintaining the effluent treatment facility.

3rd ODI between NZ and India abandoned due to rain

HAMILTON, NOV 10

Rain had the final say in the third ODI between New Zealand and India here at Seddon Park as the contest was called off on Tuesday without a ball being bowled.



The five-game series currently stands at 2-0 in favour of India, with the remaining two games to be played on Friday and Sunday.

The contest was already under a weather cloud following heavy rainfall in the city over the last 12 hours. Although the rain had briefly stopped and ground staff were working to get the playing area ready, another spell of showers forced the covers back onto the square, further delaying the scheduled toss.

However, after a two-hour delay due to rain and a wet outfield, the toss finally took place in the middle as India elected to bowl for the third straight time. (IANS)

Mahbubnagar cricketer selected for SGF nationals

TFP I AHAD SIDDIQUI
MAHBUBNAGAR, NOV 10

Syed Faizan Hussain, son of Syed Zakir Hussain and a resident of Mini Tank Bund X Roads near Ibrahim Masjid, has been selected for the SGF National Cricket Championships.



A student of Vagdevi Junior College, Faizan has been training at the Mahbubnagar District Cricket Association (MDCA) and gained match experience through one-day cricket tournaments in Hyderabad. Recognising his performance, he has secured selection for the Under-14 and Under-19 SGF national-level competitions.

Faizan will represent Telangana at the national championships scheduled to be held in Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh. (IANS)

CA chief Greenberg rules out fresh probe into sandpaper scandal

NEW DELHI, NOV 10

Cricket Australia chief executive Todd Greenberg has ruled out reopening the investigation into the 2018 ball-tampering scandal, maintaining that the governing body's position remains unchanged despite fresh revelations from Usman Khawaja and David Warner about the events in Cape Town.



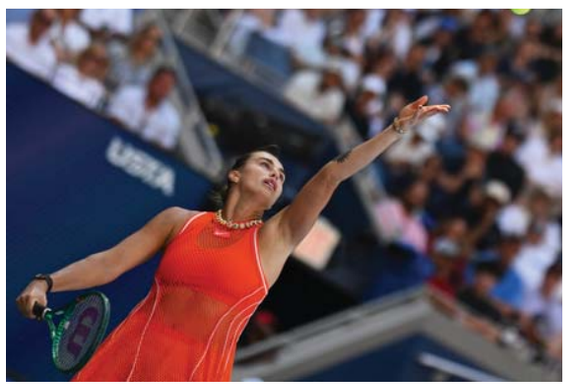
Greenberg said the CA board saw no value in revisiting an inquiry conducted eight years ago, arguing that conflicting accounts from members of the Australian dressing room made it difficult to establish a common version of events. He added that the organisation was keen to move forward rather than reassess decisions taken under its previous leadership.

"There's absolutely no benefit in going back," Greenberg told SEN radio. "That's the clear position of the CA board. I think it's time we've got to look ahead, and the matter was dealt with under a previous leadership back in 2018. And you know, trying to second guess decisions from a previous time, or making an assessment through the prism of hindsight, it's not something we want to do." (IANS/UNI)

Sabalenka, Andreeva begin WTA Finals campaigns with wins

INDIAN WELLS, NOV 10

Aryna Sabalenka and Mirra Andreeva opened their respective campaigns at the WTA Finals with victories on Tuesday (IST), setting up an intriguing Group 2 encounter between the two after the Belarusian overcame Karolina Muchova 7-6(2), 7-5, while the 19-year-old Russian cruised past Elina Svitolina 6-4, 6-0 at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden.



Top seed Sabalenka needed one hour and 53 minutes to get past Muchova, ending the Czech's unbeaten record in tiebreaks this season and improving her own head-to-head advantage against her opponent. Muchova had entered the contest with a 3-2 career lead over Sabalenka, making her the only player in this year's Finals field to hold a winning record against the Belarusian.

The opening set was closely contested, with both players trading breaks and Muchova twice moving ahead. Sabalenka responded immediately on both occasions, eventually taking control in the tiebreak. Muchova saved two set points to force the decider, but a pair of forehand errors allowed Sabalenka to clinch it 7-2.

The second set also featured a series of breaks, with Sabalenka eventually establishing a 5-3 advantage. Although she failed to serve out the match at 5-4, allowing Muchova to level the set, the Belarusian regained control in the following game before holding serve to seal the win. (IANS)

Salima Tete to lead as Hockey India

NEW DELHI, NOV 10

Hockey India on Tuesday announced the Indian squad for the upcoming Madhya Pradesh Women's Asian Champions Trophy Bhopal 2026, scheduled to be held from November 19 to 28 at the newly built International Sports Complex, Nathu Barkheda, Bhopal.



Midfielder Salima Tete will continue to lead the Indian team playing its first international tournament after the historic gold medal triumph at the Asian Games in Japan last month.

Veteran goalkeeper Savita Punia, who captained and anchored India to a historic gold medal at the 2026 Asian Games, where she made a crucial penalty-stroke save against China to secure direct qualification for the LA 2028 Olympics, is not part of the squad, with Bansari Solanki and Bichu Devi Kharibam shouldering goalkeeping duties.

The hosts will enter the tournament as defending champions and three-time winners, having secured the title in 2016, 2023 and 2024. India will be aiming to continue their impressive run and complete a hat-trick of titles while building on the confidence gained from their Asian Games success.

The six-team competition will feature India, China, Japan, Malaysia, Thailand and South Korea. Like India, South Korea too have won the Women's Asian Champions Trophy three times.

The tournament will follow a round-robin format, with each team playing the other five once. The top four teams at the end of the league stage will qualify for the semi-finals. (IANS/UNI)

ENTERTAINMENT



M.A.SALAM
Film Journalist

Pankaj Tripathi speaks up on his spiritual journey

Actor Pankaj Tripathi, who is gearing up for the release of his upcoming streaming film 'Parivarik ManuRanjan', has spoken about his journey into spirituality and how it has been helping him to attain control over his emotions.



The actor spoke with IANS along with his co-actor Aditi Rao Hydari in the Goregaon east area of Mumbai, and said that while he has managed to have control over expression of emotions but he is yet to master the art of not letting an emotion affect him.

He told IANS, "I am a sanyasi who is holding on to the external. I need to practice the internal, that is the final process. I don't express my anger, that is one thing. But to not get angry, is another thing. That is the control that I have. If I get angry, I know that my anger will disappear in a few seconds. That is all I understand. The anger taking over my mind cannot be stopped. But how I react in anger is something in my control".

"Greed, greed, lust, all emotions are inside of us. There is everything inside us. There is violence and violence. I would say that I'm still working on it", he added.

Earlier, the actor had said that the preparation of an actor far precedes the preparation for a character. He shared that while playing a part requires a specific time frame, actors prepare throughout their lives, and it's a constant process.

Mumbai Police advises Bollywood stars to avoid crowded public places

In the wake of the firing incident involving Tiger Shroff and revelations of alleged reconnaissance at several celebrities' homes during the investigation, Mumbai Police has advised prominent Bollywood actors to avoid crowded public places and refrain from mingling with fans in public spaces as a precautionary security measure.



Mumbai Police has issued a security advisory to prominent Bollywood actors following the firing incident at actor Tiger Shroff's residence and revelations during the investigation that several celebrities' homes had allegedly been recceed.

A senior Mumbai Police official said that actors have been advised to avoid visiting public places and mingling with fans in crowded areas. They have also been urged to stay away from large gatherings as a precautionary measure.

Several Bollywood actors have reportedly received threats from the Lawrence Bishnoi gang. Sources said the advisory has been issued as a precautionary step, keeping the safety and security of actors in mind.

On October 21, it was reported that the accused in the firing case involving actor Tiger Shroff had reportedly conducted reconnaissance of the residences of several Bollywood celebrities, including Amitabh Bachchan and Salman Khan, before the attack, according to sources in the Mumbai Crime Branch.

The shooters were reportedly instructed to target celebrities whose security arrangements were relatively less stringent. During the reconnaissance, different auto-rickshaw drivers had also taken the accused to the residences of several celebrities, including Amitabh Bachchan, Aamir Khan, Akshay Kumar and Salman Khan.

It was on October 18 that Tiger escaped after three motorcycle-borne men opened fire at his car in the Juhu area of Mumbai.

Subhash Ghai shares how AR Rahman changed Mumbai's music culture

Filmmaker Subhash Ghai recalled music maestro A R Rahman's contribution to the Indian music industry and shared how he transformed Mumbai's music culture with films such as 'Lagaan' and 'Rang De Basanti.'



Taking to Instagram, the 'Taal' hit-maker shared a heartfelt note about the composer, describing him as a "blessed talent." He also recalled how he first approached him for his 1999 film 'Taal'. Recounting his initial hesitation, Ghai said he was nervous about offering Rahman the project because the composer was not very familiar with Hindi lyrics or Hindi films at the time. However, his concerns eased when Rahman told him that he used to play the hero flute.

Alaya F reflects on her fitness journey

Actress Alaya F used social media to reflect on her fitness progress over the years. In her latest post on Tuesday, the 'Jawaani Jaaneman' actress shared that back in 2023 she was unable to properly hold a headstand, but after three years of persistent hard work, she can now do a handstand scorpion on canes.



Alaya dropped a video of herself doing the handstand scorpion. The clip opened with glimpses of many of her failed attempts in the last three years, with Alaya finally performing the handstand scorpion perfectly at the end.

Nick Jonas opens up about his struggle with diabetes

Singer-songwriter Nick Jonas has shared that he "resents" having diabetes after spending 21 years living with the condition.



The 34-year-old singer was diagnosed with diabetes at the age of 13, and he's now spoken up about his health issue in an open letter as part of National Diabetes Awareness Month.

He addressed his message to the condition itself which he described as his "old friend", as he shared, "Hello, old friend. How long has it been? 21 years. 21 years, and you haven't changed a bit ... It's funny how often we talk. Staring at my phone to see where my glucose is. Reaching for my pump to bolus because I'm about to eat something with 17 carbs. Those are just a couple of the hundreds of little decisions I make every week. Most people never notice them. But they add up to a real relationship, because that's what diabetes is. It's an ongoing conversation between your body, your mind and your devices".

Serve people with honesty & compassion, CM Revanth tells probationary DSPs



Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy at an interactive session with probationary DSPs at MCRHRD Institute in Hyderabad.

FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
HYDERABAD, NOV 10

Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Tuesday urged newly appointed probationary Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs) to discharge their duties with honesty, integrity and compassion, stating that the future of Telangana over the next three decades would depend significantly on their performance.

Participating in an interactive session with probationary DSPs at MCRHRD Institute, the Chief Minister said the police force was often the first point of contact for people facing difficulties and advised officers to listen patiently to victims and understand their problems before taking action. He presented awards to outstanding trainees and unveiled the 'Crime Scene Forensic Handbook'.

Revanth Reddy said the government had ensured transparency in the recruitment of 112 DSPs despite several legal and political challenges. He recalled that the government had restructured the Telangana Public Service Commission (TGPSC) on the lines of UPSC to restore public confidence in recruitment. Out of 563 Group-I posts notified, 562 candidates had joined, he added.

He said the government had even approached the Supreme Court to protect the DSP appointments and successfully secured the recruitment process. He advised the newly appointed officers never to forget their backgrounds and the responsibility associated with their positions.

Highlighting emerging challenges in policing, the Chief Minister said cybercrime, drug abuse, traffic management and food safety required specialised attention and modern technological support. He said the government had established the Eagle Force to combat the drug menace and introduced specialised systems to tackle emerging challenges.

He also emphasised physical fitness, continuous learning and professional development, adding that the government was willing to send DSPs abroad for advanced training if necessary.

Chief Minister's Advisor Shivadhar Reddy, MCRHRD Vice-Chairperson Shanta Kumari, DGP C.V. Anand and senior police officials attended the programme.

TG urges banks to restructure crop loans in view of drought



Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka addresses SLBC meeting in Hyderabad.

TFP I ABDUL RAHMAN KHAN
HYDERABAD, NOV 10

Telangana Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Tuesday urged banks to restructure crop loans of eligible farmers or reschedule them in accordance with RBI guidelines in view of drought conditions, and provide fresh loans required for the Rabi season in a timely manner.

He asked banks to stand by farmers, taking into account the drought conditions in the state caused by the El Nino phenomenon and the financial hardships faced by the farming community.

Addressing the State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) meeting, he emphasised that bankers at the field level must take the initiative to ensure there are no delays in the sanctioning of loans to farmers.

The banks were advised to promptly sanction the Rs 38,268 crore crop loans earmarked for the Rabi season. The state government voiced concern that only 53% of the Rs 96,943 crore loan disbursement target—set for the period ending September 2026—has been achieved so far. It was noted that the disbursement of monsoon farming loans has reached only 17% of the target, and banks were urged to accelerate the loan sanctioning process.

The Deputy CM stated that 365 mandals across 31 districts have been declared drought-affected, with 111 of these mandals being severely impacted. Due to a lack of rainfall, farmers' investments and incomes have suffered; under these circumstances, they require immediate support from the banking system.

District Collectors, Agriculture Department officials and Lead District Managers should work in coordination to implement RBI guidelines at the field level.

Emphasis was placed on rescheduling existing loans and ensuring the timely disbursement of fresh crop loans to eligible farmers. Special priority should be given to small and marginal farmers, tenant farmers, and families dependent on agriculture-allied sectors.

Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao has urged bankers to take a special initiative to support the farming community, given the rainfall deficit in the state caused by the 'Super El Nino' phenomenon. He advised bankers to stand by the farmers, keeping the current situation in mind—an approach that goes beyond routine banking operations. The minister emphasised that in drought-affected mandals, crop loans should be immediately rescheduled or restructured in accordance with RBI guidelines.

He further stressed that bankers themselves should take the lead, ensuring that farmers are not forced to make repeated, burdensome visits to bank branches. The minister stated that water storage levels in reservoirs have dropped significantly due to the absence of floods in the Krishna and Godavari rivers this year.

Groundwater levels have not recharged to the expected extent, leaving approximately 10 to 15 lakh borewells dry. As this is likely to impact both Kharif and Rabi crops, banks have been urged to devise a special action plan to support the farmers.

The Deputy CM requested that banks adopt a positive approach toward granting educational loans and ensure that the maximum number of eligible students receive financial support.

He said banks should take a proactive approach toward providing loans for individual home construction.

Comprehensive land resurvey crosses 1,000-village milestone

Revenue Minister directs officials to ensure transparent & accurate land resurvey



FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
HYDERABAD, NOV 10

Telangana Revenue, Housing and Information & Public Relations Minister Ponguleti Srinivasa Reddy has directed officials to conduct the comprehensive land resurvey transparently and accurately, giving top priority to the interests and concerns of landowners.

Reviewing the progress of the resurvey with senior Revenue Department officials at the Secretariat on Tuesday, the Minister said the exercise had crossed the 1,000-village milestone, with surveys completed in 416 villages. The first phase covers 2,720 villages across 32 districts, excluding Hyderabad, out of the state's 10,954 revenue villages.

Ponguleti instructed officials to begin surveys only after thoroughly examining revenue records and issue notices to landowners after completion, allowing them to raise objections. He stressed that farmers must be informed about the survey process and grievance redressal mechanism, and even minor errors should be corrected to prevent future land disputes. He also directed officials to expedite the allocation of unique Bhoodar numbers to surveyed lands.

The Minister said the initiative, launched after nearly 125 years under Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's leadership, aims to provide clear ownership rights and accurate boundaries and resolve long-pending land disputes. He also announced a video conference with district collectors, additional collectors, RDOs and Survey Department Assistant Directors on Wednesday to review progress.

Revenue Secretary D.S. Lokesh Kumar, Survey and Land Settlement Commissioner Rajiv Gandhi Hanumanthu and Joint Director Prasanna Lakshmi attended the review meeting.

TGHRC pushes salary payments to Bhubharati operators

HYDERABAD, NOV 10

The Telangana Human Rights Commission (TGHRC) has recommended that the State Government immediately clear seven months of pending salary dues to Bhubharati operators working across Telangana.

The Commission acted on a complaint filed by P. Lingam of Kondapur in Kamareddy district, highlighting the prolonged non-payment of salaries to the operators. In its order dated November 6, the Commission observed that withholding salaries for an extended period adversely affects employees' livelihood and dignity, amounting to a violation of their right to life guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution.

The Commission, headed by Chairperson Dr. Justice Shameem Akther, recommended that the Secretary of the Revenue Department take necessary steps.

Hanumantha Rao tears gazette copies, demands caste census for BCs



FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
HYDERABAD, NOV 10

Telangana Government Advisor V Hanumantha Rao on Tuesday demanded that the BJP-led Central government explain why caste-related data of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) had not been included in the ongoing nationwide census.

Speaking to the media at Gandhi Bhavan, he tore up copies of the government gazette in protest, declaring that a notification without provision for a caste census was unacceptable. He accused the BJP of failing to protect the interests of Backward Classes and called upon Congress workers to question BJP leaders about the omission of OBC caste enumeration wherever they visited villages.

He said he would continue to bring the concerns of Backward Classes to the notice of the State government and asserted that he would fight for justice for them, even at the cost of his life, until their demand for a caste census was fulfilled.

Hanumantha Rao also warned that BJP leaders arriving from Delhi would not be allowed to enter Telangana if the party attempted to obstruct Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's visit to the State.

Questioning the BJP's criticism of Congress leaders, he asked whether the Congress had ever obstructed union Home Minister Amit Shah during his visits to Telangana. He urged political parties to maintain decorum and focus on public issues rather than making personal attacks.

Alwal TIMS Hospital to open by Jan 2027

HYDERABAD, NOV 10

The 1,000-bed Telangana Institute of Medical Sciences (TIMS) Super-Specialty Hospital at Alwal is set to become operational in January 2027, Health Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha announced on Tuesday. Construction is expected to be completed by Dec 2026.

The Minister, accompanied by local MLA Sri Ganesh and senior officials, inspected the facility and reviewed progress. Officials said construction has crossed 95 per cent completion, compared to just 14 per cent in December 2023.

The minister instructed officials to complete the oxygen and medical gas pipeline systems, OP counters, help desks, pharmacy, consultation rooms, toilets and supporting facilities for the operation theatres.

TG cracks down on illegal Oocyte collection

13 violations in 7 IVF centres, 44 ART facilities under scanner



FREEDOM PRESS BUREAU
HYDERABAD, NOV 10

Telangana Health Minister Damodar Rajanarasimha has directed officials to conduct a comprehensive investigation into alleged illegal activities involving oocyte (egg) collection and take stringent action against IVF centres and individuals violating prescribed regulations.

Following his directions, task force teams constituted under GO Rt.No.176 have intensified inspections of IVF centres across Telangana. Of the 44 registered ART facilities identified in the State, inspections have been completed at 27 centres, where 13 regulatory violations were detected in seven hospitals. Show-cause notices have been issued to the managements concerned.

Inspections at the remaining facilities are underway. The Health Department is also examining records seized by the police and information sought from the National ART and Surrogacy Registry. The roles of doctors, IVF centres, intermediaries and women identified in connection with the case are being investigated.

Health officials visited the National ART and Surrogacy Registry in New Delhi on November 6 to obtain details of ART clinics and banks registered in Telangana.

The Department warned that oocyte collection must strictly comply with the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act and Rules. All ART clinics and banks must obtain mandatory registration and follow the prescribed guidelines.

The Minister advised women not to fall prey to misleading promises and financial inducements by intermediaries that could expose them to unauthorised medical procedures. The public has been urged to report suspected illegal activities to the respective District Medical and Health Officers.



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