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INDIA's November 1 Rally Aims to Awaken People: Kharge

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Ponnam urges households to cut water use by 20%

- Households urged to cut water consumption by 20 per cent.
- PAANI app enables citizens to report water wastage.
- Government steps up water conservation measures amid El Niño concerns.

Munsif News Bureau Hyderabad, Oct 29

Chief Minister A. Revanth

Reddy has directed civic authorities to ensure treated water is used for all non-drinking purposes across Greater Hyderabad from November 1.

At a review meeting on sewage treatment plants (STPs), the Chief Minister ordered the use of treated water for landscaping at government offices, road cleaning along the Outer Ring Road, public parks, data centres and railway and Metro Rail facilities. He also directed officials to make its use mandatory for non-potable purposes a condition for building permits.

Revanth Reddy called for using

PAANI app launched to report drinking water wastage



AI to improve STP operations, appointing a special officer to monitor water quality and integrating all plants with the command and control centre. He also asked officials to introduce a toll-free number, track treated-water tankers, conduct public awareness campaigns and empower HYDRAA to monitor

STPs. The Chief Minister urged officials to explore solar power for STP operations and private participation in setting up treatment plants. He directed the Water Board to plan for future demand, closely monitor reservoir levels and ensure an uninterrupted supply of drinking water.

TG SAFE issues notices to 32 medical shops

Inspections detect prescription drug sale violations across CURE region

Munsif News Bureau Hyderabad, Oct 29

Telangan drug enforcement authorities have issued show-cause notices to 32 medical shops after inspecting 106 establishments across the CURE region for alleged violations of online medicine sale regulations.

The TG SAFE Drugs Wing, along with enforcement and excise personnel, conducted the drive on Wednesday, covering pharmacies linked to online delivery platforms, including Tata 1mg, Netmeds, Zepto, Apollo 24/7, MedPlus MART and Instamart.

Officials found alleged instances of prescription medicines being sold without valid prescriptions or pharmacist supervision. Other violations included failure to maintain sales bills,

purchase invoices and mandatory prescription drug registers.

Further action will be taken under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and related rules. TG SAFE warned medical shops to comply with statutory requirements.

The public can report illegal online medicine sales and diversion of habit-forming drugs through the TG SAFE toll-free helpline 1800-599-6969, available from 10.30 am to 5 pm on working days.



SC proposes bank compensation for digital fraud victims

Munsif News Desk New Delhi, Oct 29

The Supreme Court on Thursday proposed holding banks accountable for losses suffered by digital fraud victims if financial institutions fail to exercise due diligence.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant said victims of digital arrest scams should receive compensation equivalent to their losses in such cases. It asked the RBI to incorporate safeguards in its proposed KYC Amendment Directions, 2026, expected by November 30.

The court suggested flagging unusual transactions, automated reporting of suspicious activity and alerting police to potential digital arrest scams. It also stressed the need for preventive mechanisms to identify transactions that deviate from customers' usual banking patterns.

The bench directed the RBI to submit a list of authorised financial institutions before the next hearing, indicating that the proposed safeguards could apply across the banking sector.



Rajasthan IAS officer Shikhar Agrawal shunted out over villa deal row

IANs News Jaipur, Oct 29

The Rajasthan government has placed senior IAS officer Shikhar Agrawal on Awaiting Posting Orders (APO) following allegations over the purchase of 40 villas and cottages worth around Rs 6.16 crore and their subsequent lease to the same private company. The Personnel Department issued the order late Wednesday, citing administrative reasons. The properties comprise 20 villas in Ajabgarh, Alwar district, and 20 cottages in Bujra, Udaipur district. The annual lease payments reportedly total around Rs 2 crore.

Agrawal, who served



as Additional Chief Secretary in the Industries and MSME Department, has also faced allegations from IPS officer Pankaj Chaudhary over a resort project near Mumbai and major business deals during his tenure in key administrative positions.

Chaudhary has called for an investigation into the transactions, alleging that Agrawal holds a 50 per cent stake in the resort project at Karjat. These allegations have not been independently established.

Congress wins Nagpur MLC seat, dents BJP bastion



IANs News Nagpur, Oct 29

The Congress retained the Nagpur Division Graduates' constituency in the Maharashtra Legislative Council for a second consecutive term, defeating the BJP in the RSS stronghold.

Congress candidate Abhijit Govindrao Wanjari defeated BJP rival Sudhakar Kohle by 3,271 votes after prolonged counting. The seat is in Nagpur, home to RSS headquarters and the constituencies of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Union Minister Nitin Gadkari.

Cyclone Arnab floods Andhra villages; Coast Guard rescues 13 from stranded ship

IANs News Visakhapatnam, Oct 29

Heavy rains and floods triggered by Cyclone Arnab disrupted road and rail connectivity, inundated villages and damaged crops across north coastal Andhra Pradesh, while the Coast Guard rescued 13 crew members from a stranded cargo ship off the state's coast on Thursday.

The Vamsadhara, Nagavali, Mahendathanaya and Bahuda rivers were in spate following heavy rainfall and massive inflows from Odisha. Floodwaters submerged National Highway 16 in Srikakulam district, halting traffic, while in-

undated railway tracks at Tallabhadra and Jadupudi disrupted train services. South Coast Railway cancelled or diverted several trains.

The Bahuda River was placed under the third danger warning, and several villages were cut off. NDRF and SDRF teams were deployed for rescue and relief operations.

Meanwhile, the Coast Guard rescued 13 people from the Marshall Islands-flagged bulk carrier Sigma Pearl, stranded near Antarvedi after engine failure while navigating the Ravva oilfield. Seven crew members remained onboard as rescue operations continued. The Coast Guard deployed its vessel

Sujay and a helicopter for the operation.

Cyclone Arnab crossed the Andhra Pradesh coast early on October 28, packing winds of 125-135 kmph and gusts up to 150 kmph. It claimed four lives and caused widespread damage, uprooting trees and electricity poles and destroying crops.

The India Meteorological Department said the system had weakened into a depression over south Chhattisgarh and adjoining south Odisha and was likely to weaken further into a low-pressure area by Thursday evening. Heavy to extremely heavy rainfall was reported in parts of north Andhra Pradesh and south Odisha.



ED searches four premises over alleged \$40 million crypto transactions

IANs News Bengaluru, Oct 29

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) searched four premises in Bengaluru and Madhya Pradesh over alleged FEMA violations involving cross-border cryptocurrency transactions worth over \$40 million (around Rs 4,600 crore).

The searches covered entities linked to Mudrex, Saber.money, Fluid and Instadapp. The ED alleged that stablecoins were used to route funds



through overseas accounts, with some money brought into India as payments for software development and consultancy services. Investigators also found that funds were allegedly routed to Dubai accounts linked to Instadapp's founders. The probe began following complaints of large-scale violations of foreign exchange regulations.

Karnataka seizes 17.78 lakh kg of ration grains, files 238 FIRs

IANs News Bengaluru, Oct 29

Karnataka officials have seized 17.78 lakh kg of ration commodities and registered 238 FIRs in a three-month crackdown on illegal diversion and smuggling, arresting 215 people and impounding 156 vehicles.

Since August 1, raids across the state have also led to the seizure of 14,250 litres of petrol and 1,492 cooking gas cylinders. The seized goods are valued at around Rs 10 crore.

Food and Public Distribution Minister Rizwan Arshad warned that strict action would continue against those diverting foodgrains meant for the poor or hoarding rice for black-market sales.



Bangladesh hunt ends in a 100-strong 'welcome party' for activists

IANs News Bengaluru, Oct 29

Hebbagodi police have registered a case against around 100 unidentified persons for allegedly assaulting four activists, including Bengaluru district president of Rashtrarakshana Pade T. Nagendrappa, after they questioned workers over the suspected presence of illegal Bangladeshi nationals in Shikaripalya on October 28.

According to Nagendrappa's complaint, he visited the locality with three associates after receiving information about suspected Bangladeshi nationals living there. When they reached a shed, some workers allegedly objected to their questioning and pelted them with stones and pieces of glass.

The complaint stated that around 100 people chased the four men, knocked them

down and kicked them on their heads, chests, backs and legs. The attackers also allegedly threatened to kill them.

Police registered a case under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita relating to assault, unlawful assembly and criminal intimidation. The investigation will establish the circumstances of the confrontation and identify those involved. The complaint does not independently establish the nationality of the workers.

In a related earlier case, the Karnataka High Court had quashed two FIRs against Nagendrappa after he reported the suspected presence of Bangladeshi nationals in Bengaluru's Bellandur and Varthur areas. The court criticised the police for acting with "unusual haste" and described the prosecution as an abuse of legal process.

Bihar SI aspirants clash with police over exam cancellation

IANs News Patna, Oct 29

Hundreds of Sub-Inspector aspirants clashed with police at JP Roundabout in Patna on Thursday while protesting the cancellation of the main written examination for 1,799 posts. Protesters broke through barricades before police pushed them back.

The candidates demanded withdrawal of the cancellation order and restoration of the recruitment process, alleging that the decision had jeopardised their careers after months of preparation.

The Bihar Police Subordinate Services Commission cancelled the examination, held on May 27, citing unavoidable reasons. The candidates had staged a similar protest on October 5 and are demanding fresh examination dates.



Peddapalli Govt Hospital Successfully Performs Knee Replacements

Peddapalli, Oct 29: Munsif Desk

The Government General Hospital in Peddapalli district headquarters has achieved another significant milestone by successfully performing total knee replacement surgeries on two patients. The advanced procedures were carried out by a team of doctors under the supervision of Hospital Superintendent Dr. K. Sridhar.

Both patients had been experiencing severe knee pain and difficulty walking. The surgeries were performed in

the hospital’s modern operation theatre. As knee replacement procedures generally involve substantial expenses at private hospitals, the availability of this treatment at a government facility has brought considerable relief to people from economically weaker and middle-income sections.

The orthopaedic team led by Dr. Kumar, the anaesthesia team headed by Dr. Chandrashekar, and the operation theatre staff played a crucial role in the successful surgeries through effective



coordination.

Superintendent Urges Public to Avail Modern Medical Facilities

Hospital Superintendent Dr. K. Sridhar said that, with the support of the Telangana government, the Peddapalli Government Hospital is equipped with improved infrastructure, modern medical equipment and the services of specialist doctors.

He noted that several surgeries that are usually expensive at private hospitals are now being performed at the government hospital as well.

Blood Donation Camp Organised by Nizamabad Police Commissioner

Nizamabad, October 29: Mohd Baleegh Ahmed

On the occasion of Police Martyrs Commemoration Days (Police Flag Day), a “Blood Donation Camp” programme was organized today at 10 AM at the Police Parade Ground, where the chief guest, Hon’ble Nizamabad Police Commissioner Sri P. Sai Chaitanya, IPS., was present.

Speaking on this occasion, the Police Commissioner said that blood donation by personnel becomes life donation to others in times of emergency, that those severely injured in accidents need more blood, that participating in such social service activities and donating blood as one’s part in saving the lives of fellow beings is a social pro-

gramme, and that it is very useful to save lives in distress. He informed that you will become one who has saved someone’s life. He said that by donating blood, we become those who give new life to many. About 155 units of blood were collected in this blood donation camp.

In this blood donation camp, Nizamabad Additional DCP (Admin) Sri N. Shubham Prakash, Indian Red Cross Society Nizamabad District Branch Chairman Sri Pothankar Lakshminarayana, Vice Chairman Dr. Srinu Naik, Medical Officer Sri Dr. Ravindranath Suri, Unit Medical Officer Dr. Sarala, Nizamabad ACP Sri Prakash, Special Branch Inspector Sri Mallesh, and Reserve Inspectors, MTO,

Nizamabad Police Commissioner Inspects Accident-Prone Area on NH-44

Nizamabad, Oct 29: Mohd Baleegh Ahmed

Nizamabad Police Commissioner P. Sai Chaitanya, IPS, on Thursday inspected an accident-prone stretch near Chandrayanpalli in Indalwai mandal along National Highway-44, which falls under the Nizamabad Police Commissionerate limits.

During the inspection, he reviewed the ongoing culvert construction works in the area and offered several suggestions to the concerned officials on measures to prevent road accidents.

The Police Commissioner held discussions with National Highway Manager (Technical) Ranga Rao and highway contractor Bal



Reddy, directing them to complete the culvert construction works as quickly as possible. He also stressed the need to take appropriate precautionary measures to ensure that the ongoing construction does not cause inconvenience to motorists.

He instructed officials to install clear signboards and

accident warning boards at suitable locations to alert motorists and ensure speed control on the national highway. He emphasised the need for adequate safety measures so that hazardous stretches are clearly visible to drivers in advance, particularly during night-time.

The Commissioner also

urged toll plaza personnel to remain alert and coordinate with the concerned officials to prevent road accidents.

He called upon the Police Department, National Highways maintenance authorities, contractors and toll plaza staff to work together in a coordinated manner to enhance road safety and prevent accidents.

Nizamabad ACP Prakash, National Highway Manager Ranga Rao, highway contractor Bal Reddy, Special Branch Inspector Malesh, Dichpally Circle Inspector K. Vinod, Indalwai Sub-Inspector Sumalatha, Indalwai Sarpanch Raghu, toll plaza staff member Veerababu and others participated in the inspection.

National ST Commission Working to Resolve Tribal Issues: Hussain Naik

Nizamabad, Oct 29: Mohd Baleegh Ahmed

National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) Member Jatothu Hussain Naik said the Commission was working with dedication to resolve the problems faced by tribal communities. He urged officials of the concerned departments to discharge their responsibilities sincerely and without negligence.

He stressed the need to create awareness among tribal communities about the remedies available through the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes to address their grievances.

During his visit to Nizamabad district on Wednesday, Hussain Naik toured Sarpanch Thanda, Gaddameedi Thanda, Kondapur and Gopya Thanda in Sirikonda mandal, as well as Man Singh Thanda in Navipet mandal. He interacted with tribal residents, enquired about their problems and inspected the facilities available in these

settlements. He also reviewed the basic infrastructure that was yet to be provided.

Later, at the District Integrated Offices Complex (IDOC), he conducted a review meeting with officials from various departments in the main conference hall, along with District Collector Ila Tripathi and Police Commissioner P. Sai Chaitanya.

During the meeting, he interacted directly with tribal representatives and gathered details about issues concerning tribal welfare, housing, medical and health services, Panchayat Raj, Roads and Buildings, Forest, Revenue, Education, Agriculture, Municipal Administration, Excise and Police departments.

He directed officials to address tribal grievances with a humanitarian approach. He emphasised that eligible tribal families should be allotted permanent houses without delay and provided with electricity connections.

AIMIM Demands Immediate Road-Widening Works in Kagaznagar

Kagaznagar, Oct 29: Munsif Desk

The need for urgent road-widening works in Kagaznagar has come into focus following a road-safety incident near Sirpur Paper Mills (SPM), where diesel reportedly spilled onto the road after a lorry’s diesel tank burst. The slippery surface allegedly caused around 40–50 two-wheelers to skid, leav-

ing several riders fallen and raising serious concerns over public safety. Following the incident, AIMIM Kagaznagar Town President Abdul Mubeen Sahab, accompanied by senior Congress leader Shabbir Hussain, met Joint Collector Sri Harsh Chowdhary and urged the authorities to take up the long-pending road-widening works without further delay.

Rivulet Reaches Danger Mark, Several Trains Cancelled

Visakhapatnam, Oct 29: Munsif Desk

South Coast Railway has cancelled and short-terminated several train services after a rivulet reached the danger mark at a railway bridge between Ichchapuram and Jhadupudi in Srikakulam district, under the Visakhapatnam Division, on Thursday.

The cancelled trains include Train No. 58531 Brahmapur–Visakhapatnam Passenger and Train No. 18525 Brahmapur–Visakhapatnam Express, both originating from Brahmapur, and Train No. 58532 Visakhapatnam–Brahmapur Passenger, originating from Visakhapatnam.

Several other services have also been affected. Train No. 68419 Bhubaneswar–Palasa, which departed from Bhubaneswar, was short-terminated at Chatrapur. Train No. 68420 Palasa–Bhubaneswar commenced its journey from Chatrapur instead of Palasa, while Train No. 18448 Jagdalpur–Bhubaneswar was short-terminated at Palasa.

In view of the disruption between Ichchapuram and Jhadupudi, South Coast Railway is making arrangements to operate a special train between Visakhapatnam and Palasa to facilitate the movement of stranded passengers and minimise inconvenience.

Nizamabad Plans Measures to Prevent Water Shortage

Nizamabad, Oct 29: Mohd Baleegh Ahmed

State Government Advisor P. Sudarshan Reddy said comprehensive measures were being planned to prevent drinking water shortages across Nizamabad district in the coming months in view of the adverse conditions caused by the impact of El Niño. He said a comprehensive plan was already being implemented to ensure the supply of safe drinking water to every habitation in urban and rural areas until the end of the upcoming summer season.

In view of the severe rainfall deficit and considerable depletion of groundwater levels, he advised farmers against cultivating paddy during the Yasangi (Rabi) season, as sufficient irrigation water would not be available for the crop.

On Thursday, Sudarshan Reddy held a review meeting with District Collector Ila Tripathi and officials from Municipal Administration, Mission Bhagiratha, Public Health, Rural Water Supply (RWS), Groundwater, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Roads and Buildings (R&B) and other departments at the Integrated District Offices Complex (IDOC). The meeting reviewed drinking water supply, fodder availability, Yasangi crop cultivation, progress of Railway Over Bridge (ROB) construction works, construction of Young India Integrated Residential Schools and development works in Nizamabad Municipal Corporation and the municipal towns of Bodhan, Armoor and Bheemgal. Drinking

Water Supply to Be Given Top Priority

Speaking at the meeting, Sudarshan Reddy said the available water reserves in the Nizamsagar and Sriramsagar reservoirs, which serve as major sources of drinking water, needed to be utilised exclusively for drinking water requirements. Keeping this in view, he urged farmers to cultivate less water-intensive crops such as vegetables and pulses during the Yasangi season. He also announced that rain guns would be provided to farmers on subsidy across all mandals to help irrigate dry crops using water efficiently and only when required. Each unit costs ₹24,000, of which farmers would have to pay ₹8,000, while the remaining ₹16,000 would be borne by the government as subsidy.

ACB Catches Kagaznagar GPO Red-Handed While Accepting 22,000 Bribe

Kagaznagar, Oct 29: Mohd Fayaz Uddin

(ACB) officials, led by DSP Madhu, conducted a surprise raid at the Tahsildar’s office in Kagaznagar Mandal of Komaram Bheem Asifabad district and allegedly caught GPO Srinivas red-handed while accepting a bribe of ₹22,000. According to reports, agricultural land in Mosem Gram Panchayat was registered in the name of a person’s grandfather.

However, an error in the name recorded on the grandfather’s Aadhaar card reportedly necessitated corrections to the land records before the property could be transferred to the beneficiary’s name.

In connection with the process, GPO Srinivas allegedly demanded ₹50,000



to correct the records and facilitate the land transfer.

The amount was subsequently negotiated down to ₹22,000. When Srinivas was allegedly accepting the money, ACB officials con-

ducted a raid and caught him red-handed.

The incident created a stir at the Tahsildar’s office. Further investigation and legal proceedings are expected to follow.

Governor urges Assam students to explore Telangana’s

Hyderabad, Oct 29 (NSS):

Telangana Governor Shiv Pratap Shukla urged a 72-member Assam contingent at Lok Bhavan to explore Telangana’s rich history, architecture, cuisine, festivals and cultural traditions. Addressing “Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat–Yuva Sangam” Phase VII participants on Thursday, he encouraged them to become cultural ambassadors, strengthening Assam–Telangana ties and national integration. The Union Ministry of Education and University of Hyderabad organised the October 23–29 programme. Students praised Hyderabad’s warm hospitality and technological development while sharing their experiences.



BRS deputy floor leader in assembly T. Harish Rao has warned that rock blasting near Mallannasagar reservoir could pose a threat to the dam and demanded an immediate halt to the work. Inspecting the reservoir with BRS leaders on Thursday, Rao alleged that blasting had been carried out for two months about 200 metres away from the reservoir without necessary permissions.



STATEWATCH | Where Telangana Speaks

People, civic issues, communities and developments from across Telangana

Third Grand Seerah Reading Competition Announced

Hyderabad: Oct 29: NSS

Following the encouraging response over the past two years and continued public demand, the Third Grand Seerah Reading Competition 2026 has been announced under the auspices of Seerat House, Lakdikapul, FOCUS Hyderabad and the Anjuman Musalleen of Shahi Masjid, Bagh-e-Aam.

Announcing the competition at a press conference held at the Media Plus Auditorium in Abids, Maulana Dr. Hafiz Ahsan bin Mohammed Al-Hamoomi, founder and conceptualiser of Seerat House and Imam and Khatib of Shahi Masjid, Bagh-e-Aam, said it was a matter of great happiness that the competition would be organised on a larger scale this year for students, men, women and professionals from different walks of life.

He said the primary objective was to encourage the younger generation to read books on the life of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), the benefactor of humanity. The competition is a unique written initiative aimed at promoting the comprehensive study of Seerat-un-Nabi.

Participants will be required to read the prescribed book for their respective category from beginning to end and subsequently appear for a written examination based on its contents.

Development Works at Waddepally Cheruvu Bund Must Be Accelerated

Hanumakonda: Oct 29: NSS

Hanumakonda District Collector and Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation (GWMC) Special Officer Chahat Bajpai directed municipal officials to expedite the ongoing development works at Waddepally Cheruvu Bund to provide a pleasant and attractive environment for the people of the district. On Thursday, District Collector Chahat Bajpai, accompanied by GWMC Commissioner Venkanna and other officials, conducted a field-level inspection of the development works being undertaken at Waddepally Cheruvu Bund.

During the inspection, the Collector reviewed the progress of various works.

Warangal Police to Organise 5K and 10K Walk/Run to Promote National Unity

Warangal, Oct 29: Munsif Desk

Warangal Police Commissioner N. Swetha, IPS, has announced that a 5K and 10K walk/run will be organised on October 31 to mark Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day), observed on the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, and as part of Vigilance Awareness Week.



Actress DIVI, Actress Rithu Chowdhary, Actress Kamakshi Bhaskarla along with others at the Grand Launch of TAVYA Silver Jewellery Flagship Showroom at Rd #36, Jubilee Hills in Hyderabad on Thursday.

KTR Accuses Revanth of Running Telangana Under His Own Constitution

Hyderabad: Oct 29: NSS

BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao (KTR) has accused Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy of running Telangana according to his own Constitution instead of implementing the Constitution authored by Dr B.R. Ambedkar.

Launching a scathing attack on the Congress government, KT Rama Rao alleged that the drought-like conditions in the State were a result of the Chief Minister's incompetence and poor governance.

Speaking to the media at Telangana Bhavan on Thursday, he asserted that

the crisis was not merely a consequence of natural factors but had been aggravated by the Congress government's failures.

Questioning the government's financial priorities, KTR said that the Congress government was citing a lack of funds to implement the promises made to people during the elections. He asked how it could mobilise thousands of crores of rupees for the Musi River beautification project when it claimed that the State exchequer was under financial strain.

KT Rama Rao demanded that the government abandon publicity-driven initia-



tives and focus on fulfilling its electoral promises. He alleged that Telangana was facing setbacks across all sectors under Congress rule.

Expressing concern over the hardships faced by farmers and the drinking water shortage in Hyderabad, KTR said the government had failed to address pressing public concerns.

SP Nithika Pant Conducts Surprise Check at Easgaon Police Station

Kagaznagar, Oct 29: Mohd Fayaz

District Superintendent of Police Nithika Pant, IPS, conducted a surprise inspection of Easgaon Police Station in Kumuram Bheem Asifabad district and reviewed station records, the progress of ongoing investigations, the functioning of the police station and the performance of police personnel.

During the inspection, the SP instructed police personnel to treat complainants courteously, listen patiently to their grievances and strive to ensure prompt justice in accordance with the law.

She examined crime records, case diaries, FIRs, pending cases, warrants, the beat system, rowdy sheets, CCTNS records and other official documents. She directed officers to conduct thorough and quality investigations, complete them within the stipulated time and expedite the disposal of pending cases.

The SP stressed the need



to strengthen police-public relations at the village level and give priority to maintaining peace and law and order. She directed police officials to maintain constant surveillance over the illegal transportation and sale of ganja, the transportation of other prohibited

substances, gambling, satta matka and other unlawful activities. She ordered strict legal action against those involved in such activities. The SP also instructed police personnel to maintain cleanliness and proper organisation in the police station premises.

Collector Chahat Bajpai Orders Faster Waddepally Cheruvu Bund Works

Hanamkonda, Oct 29: Munsif Desk

Hanamkonda District Collector and Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation (GWMC) Special Officer Chahat Bajpai has directed municipal officials to expedite the ongoing development works at Waddepally Cheruvu Bund and com-

plete them at the earliest to provide a pleasant and attractive environment for the public.

On Thursday, Collector Chahat Bajpai, accompanied by GWMC Commissioner Venkanna and other officials, conducted an on-site inspection of the development works at Waddepally Cheruvu Bund.

Gadwal Collector Reviews CCI Cotton Procurement and Ginning Operations



Gadwal, Oct 29: Munsif Desk

District Collector Rizwan Basha Shaik on Thursday urged cotton farmers to sell their produce locally to secure better prices and avoid additional transportation costs. He directed officials to ensure smooth procurement and adequate arrangements at purchase centres.

Visiting Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) procurement centres at Haritha and Balaji

Cotton Mills in Gadwal, he reviewed purchases, prevailing market prices and mill operations. He compared private traders' rates with CCI's procurement price, noting that transporting cotton elsewhere increases expenses and risks financial losses.

The Collector emphasised transparency and fair prices, stressing that farmers should face no difficulties with weighing, pricing or payments. Local procurement would also support agricul-

ture-based businesses, he said.

CCI was offering ₹8,667 per quintal, he said, adding that farmers must download the Cotton Farmers App on their mobile phones and book a slot to sell at its centres.

He inspected ginning and pressing machinery, weighbridge operations and cotton bales, and enquired about seed separation, supplies to oil mills, processing procedures and the mills' production capacity.

He also discussed the area under cotton cultivation in the district, production changes and El Niño's impact, directing officials and mill managers to coordinate efforts, use processing facilities efficiently and improve local marketing opportunities.

District Marketing Officer Pushpama, Gadwal Agricultural Market Yard Secretary Yella Swamy, CCI representative Rahul, mill owners and others participated.

Peddapalli Collector Directs Officials to Complete Land Resurvey on Time

Peddalli, Oct 29: Munsif Desk

District Collector Koya Sri Harsha has directed the concerned officials to complete land resurvey works within the

stipulated timeframe.

On Thursday, the Collector conducted a surprise inspection of the Sultanabad Tahsildar office. During the visit, he reviewed office records and the

process of resolving applications received under the Bhū Bharati scheme. The Collector instructed officials to complete survey work in the villages selected under the first phase of

the land resurvey programme according to the prescribed schedule. He directed them to ensure that the work was not delayed and to take the necessary measures at the field level.

CHANDRABABU ORDERS SPEEDY COMPENSATION FOR CYCLONE VICTIMS

Amaravati: Oct 29: NSS

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has directed the officials to expedite compensation for Cyclone Arnab victims, speed up damage assessments and restore essential services in affected areas.

During a teleconference with district collectors and departmental officials on Thursday, the Chief Minister reviewed relief and restoration measures. Officials said normalcy had returned to most affected areas and that a preliminary damage report would be submitted soon. Naidu directed the officials to complete damage assessments and compensation payments

at the earliest, excluding crop-loss cases. He stressed that the administration must stand firmly with people during natural disasters and continue relief efforts until normalcy is fully restored.

The Chief Minister highlighted the contrasting challenges facing farmers across the State, with Rayalaseema grappling with El Nino-related difficulties and farmers in North Andhra, Coastal Andhra and the Godavari districts suffering crop and coconut tree damage due to the cyclone.

He called for a comprehensive action plan to support affected farmers and minimise losses.

Officials were instructed to clear remaining fallen trees, remove cyclone

debris and restore power supply in all affected areas by Friday.

Naidu also asked agriculture officials, scientists and students to explore ways to save submerged crops and assess whether damaged coconut trees and other horticultural plants could be replanted. He emphasised extending government scheme benefits to affected agricultural and horticultural farmers.

The Chief Minister further directed officials to use technology to accelerate crop-loss assessments and prepare accurate damage estimates.

He urged the administration to keep the public regularly informed about relief and restoration measures to ensure people's cooperation. (NSS)

Telangana Sends Power Restoration Teams to Cyclone-Hit AP

Hyderabad: Oct 29: NSS

In a gesture of inter-state solidarity, the Telangana government has extended immediate humanitarian and technical assistance to Andhra Pradesh following severe power infrastructure damage caused by Cyclone Arnab. The development follows a telephonic conversation on Thursday where Andhra Pradesh Chief

Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu and Energy Minister Gottipati Ravi requested support from Telangana Deputy Chief Minister and Energy Minister Bhatti Vikramarka.

Chandrababu Naidu detailed widespread disruption across nine affected districts including Visakhapatnam, Anakapalli, and Srikakulam where over 16,000 electricity poles were uprooted, leaving hundreds of villages without

power. Following consultations with Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Deputy CM Bhatti Vikramarka directed power utilities to deploy assistance teams immediately.

Acting on these orders, TGSPDCL CMD Jitesh V. Patil dispatched specialised SPDCL crews and heavy equipment to Andhra Pradesh to expedite emergency grid repairs and restore power to affected communities.



At a Glance

Two Elephant Calves Killed by Train

IANSAmaravati, Oct. 29



Two elephant calves died after being hit by a train near Kalyam village in D. Hirehall mandal of Andhra Pradesh’s Anantapur district early Thursday.

Deputy Chief Minister and Forests Minister Pawan Kalyan expressed grief and directed Forest and Railway officials to coordinate measures to prevent wildlife accidents on railway tracks passing through forest areas.

He ordered a meeting with railway officials and stressed that loco pilots must remain vigilant, regulate train speeds and sound horns where necessary. He also called for identifying wildlife crossing points and training loco pilots in wildlife conservation.

Reviewing elephant deaths caused by electrocution, he directed officials to investigate each incident, ensure power lines are sufficiently high and discourage electric fencing around crops in wildlife movement zones.

Woman Dies After Illegal Abortion

IANSDhanbad, Oct. 29

A woman, Kiran Kumari, died following an alleged illegal abortion in Jharkhand’s Dhanbad district after a suspected foetal sex determination test. Police arrested her husband, Sonu Kewat, and diagnostic centre operator Sachin Kewat. The centre at Shyamdh Chowk has been sealed.

The woman’s family alleged that she was pressured to terminate the pregnancy after learning the foetus was female. She reportedly suffered severe bleeding and was declared dead at Sanjeevani Hospital. Police have launched an investigation, and an FSL team will examine the case

Karnataka Governor Sudha Yadav meets PM Modi



IANSBengaluru, Oct. 29

Karnataka Governor Sudha Yadav met Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday and held discussions with him after assuming charge as the Governor of Karnataka.

The meeting marked her first interaction with the Prime Minister following her appointment to the constitutional post.

Taking to social media X, the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO) stated, “Governor of Karnataka, Sudha Yadav met Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi today.”

Senior BJP leader Sudha Yadav was sworn in as the 20th Governor of Karnataka at Lok Bhavan in Bengaluru on Oct 16. She is the second woman to hold the constitutional

post in the state, after V.S. Ramadevi, who served as Governor from 1999 to 2002.

Chief Justice of the Karnataka High Court Vibhu Bakhru administered the oath of office to Sudha Yadav in the presence of CM Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara and other dignitaries.

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashoka, Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council Chalavadi Narayanaswamy and outgoing Governor Gehlot were among those present at the ceremony.

Ahead of the oath-taking ceremony, Sudha Yadav paid floral tributes at the National Military Memorial in Bengaluru. Following the ceremony, Gehlot felicitated the

new Governor, while CM Shivakumar presented her with a bouquet.

President Droupadi Murmu appointed Sudha Yadav as the Governor of Karnataka on October 12.

Sudha Yadav hails from Haryana and has held several key positions in the BJP. She served as a Member of Parliament representing Mahendragarh from 1999 to 2004 and later held the post of BJP national secretary. She also headed the party’s Other Backward Classes (OBC) Morcha.

She was a member of the National Commission for Backward Classes (NCBC) from 2019 to 2022. In August 2022, she was inducted into the BJP’s Parliamentary Board, the party’s highest decision-making body.

POLL DEFEAT EXPOSES CRACKS IN MAHARASHTRA'S RULING ALLIANCE

IANSMumbai, Oct. 29

The Maharashtra ruling Mahayuti alliance is facing growing internal tensions following the Legislative Council elections for Graduates’ and Teachers’ constituencies, with the BJP, Shiv Sena and NCP trading accusations over candidate selection, cross-voting and poor coordination.

Of the five seats contested, the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) won three, while Mahayuti secured two. The results have triggered a blame game within the ruling coalition.

BJP state chief spokesperson Navnath Ban accused Shiv Sena leaders of undermining BJP candidates. He said BJP candidate Smita Jadhav lost by around 11,000 to 12,000 votes after Shiv Sena backed Independent candidate Sachin Sanap, who se-

cured approximately 16,000 votes. The BJP also accused Pune Shiv Sena chief Ravindra Dhangekar of campaigning against Jadhav and demanded his expulsion.

In Chhatrapati Sambhajnagar, Shiv Sena minister Abdul Sattar allegedly opposed NCP candidate Satish Chavan, further weakening the alliance’s prospects.

BJP leader Keshav Upadhye said the results reflected the actions of some “well-wishers” within Mahayuti and called for introspection. NCP leader and Cabinet Minister Hasan Mshrif also expressed concern over poor coordination, saying internal disputes were benefiting the Opposition. He expressed confidence that the Finance portfolio would soon be allocated to the NCP, as assured by the Chief Minister.

Shiv Sena spokesperson Anand Paranjape

rejected the BJP’s allegations, arguing that the party’s candidate selection had contributed to the defeat. He said the BJP had fielded an outsider in Pune instead of a loyal party worker, causing resentment among its own workers and voters.

Paranjape said Shiv Sena had sought one of the Pune seats but the BJP announced candidates for Pune Graduates’, Pune Teachers’ and Nagpur Graduates’ constituencies. Shiv Sena later withdrew its official candidate, Mangesh Chivate, from Pune Teachers’.

He urged the BJP to review its candidate selection and address workers’ grievances instead of blaming allies. Paranjape said all three Mahayuti partners must improve coordination and respect each other ahead of future elections.

BENGAL ISSUES FRESH CURBS ON FIRE CRACKER USE DURING KALI PUJA, CHHATH

MunsifKolkata, Oct. 29

West Bengal on Thursday announced a fresh set of guidelines regulating the use of firecrackers during Kali Puja and Chhath Puja, stressing the need to balance festive celebrations with environmental protection and public safety.

West Bengal Director General of Police (DGP) Siddh Nath Gupta and state Home Secretary Sanghamitra Ghosh announced the new measures at a press conference in the state secretariat at Nabanna, Kolkata, on

Thursday.

According to the administration’s instructions, only environmentally friendly ‘green crackers’ will be allowed to be burst during Kali Puja and Chhath Puja.

The maximum sound limit for loud crackers has been set at 125 decibels and 90 decibels for other varieties.

Crackers may be burst between 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. on Kali Puja and between 6 a.m. and 8 a.m. during Chhath Puja.

Residents of multi-storied buildings have also been advised to monitor

smoke levels while using firecrackers.

In addition, the government has made it mandatory to obtain a license from the Fire Department to fly paper lanterns.

As per the new guideline, bursting of firecrackers within 100 metres of hospitals and old age homes is completely prohibited.

Firecracker markets should be set up away from localities as per the rules set by the administration, and strict surveillance will be maintained on them.

The Kolkata police on Thursday said that 110

kg of banned firecrackers have been recovered from the market and action is being taken against the culprits.

The DGP has stated that legal punitive action will be taken if the rules are violated. The state administration has also provided a helpline for citizens to report violations.

Emphasising public responsibility, the Home Secretary urged people to celebrate responsibly and ensure that their festivities do not inconvenience or endanger others. She appealed to citizens to strictly adhere to the new guidelines.

OUR FIGHT IS FOR AWAKENING PEOPLE: KHARGE ON INDIA BLOC’S NOV 1 RALLY

IANSNNew Delhi, Oct. 29

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Thursday said the mega INDIA bloc protest, slated for November 1 at Delhi’s Ramlila Maidan, was very much on track, adding that the Opposition parties have taken up the task to “awaken the people” against the autocratic regime.

Kharge’s remarks came after multiple trade associations requested Rahul Gandhi to reschedule the Opposition’s ‘Chalo Delhi march’.

The march is being organised by the Congress-led INDIA bloc to protest the alleged vote theft and irregularities in the SIR exercise being conducted by the Election Commission.

Kharge, speaking to reporters, said, “Our protest is continuing because of



the vote theft and the mischief that Gyanesh Kumar has done in the Election Commission. We are protesting against that and will continue to do so. All parties are supporting us.”

He said that the fight was to awaken the people against the government’s misdeeds and its alleged attempts to deprive many voters of their genuine rights.

“Even tomorrow, there is a mock parliament, and

on 1st November, we are organising this, which will see people converging from across the country. We will fight because in a democracy, unless you fight, people will not be awakened. So, that’s why we are doing all that,” he said.

Notably, traders in the national capital have in the past few days raised apprehensions about the fallout of such a big rally on business during the

Kerala HC stays arrest of judge whose teen son was involved in fatal car crash

IANSKochi, Oct. 29

The Kerala High Court on Thursday stayed the arrest of an Additional District Judge booked as the second accused in the Cheranellor road accident case, in which his 17-year-old son allegedly drove a Mercedes-Benz car that killed a scooter rider.

Justice Kauser Edappagath passed the interim order on an anticipatory bail petition filed by the judge, who is posted at the Motor Accident Claims Tribunal in Irinjalakuda, Thrissur district.

The court directed the police not to arrest the judge until further orders and asked him to appear before the investigating officer.

It also directed that his interrogation be conducted in accordance with Supreme Court guidelines.

Questioning the need



for custodial interrogation, the court asked the investigating team why the judge had to be arrested when he was cooperating with the probe.

“What was the need to interrogate him for four hours, and now for further interrogation? Why is his arrest required? He is a judicial officer. He will cooperate with the investigation,” the court observed.

Senior advocate P. Vijaya Bhanu, appearing for the judge, told the court that his client had appeared before the police on Wednesday and had been questioned for over four hours.

However, counsel representing the legal heirs of the victim opposed the plea, alleging that the judge had tampered with evidence after being informed of the accident.

The court said it had to proceed strictly in accordance with the law while granting interim protection from arrest.

It also sought the state’s response to the plea.

The accident occurred around 2.20 a.m. on October 25 on Container Road at Cheranellor, near Kochi, when the Mercedes-Benz allegedly driven by the teenager rammed into a scooter rider

festive season and pleaded for its postponement, explaining how it would ruin the business climate and adversely impact their livelihood.

Early this morning, the Lok Sabha Leader of Opposition, Rahul Gandhi, urged people to participate in the protest march at Delhi’s Ramlila Maidan, describing it as a “movement to save democracy, stop alleged vote theft and protect the Constitution”.

In a video message posted in Hindi on his X handle, Rahul Gandhi said the march was not for any particular party but for protecting the soul of India.

The Congress MP also appealed to student groups across political affiliations to come forward and participate, claiming that democratic freedoms and individual expression were under threat.

den by Jayabalakrishnan, 55, who died at the spot.

In his petition, the judge claimed that he was asleep at home and had no knowledge that the car had been taken out.

He said he learnt of the incident only when he received a telephone call informing him that his minor son had taken the vehicle without his knowledge and met with the accident.

The FIR invokes Section 105 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, relating to culpable homicide not amounting to murder, along with provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act, including Section 199A, which deals with offences committed by juveniles and the liability of guardians or vehicle owners.

The Juvenile Justice Board had granted bail to the boy on October 26.

The state government’s plea seeking cancellation of his bail is pending before a sessions court.

Allahabad HC grants relief to Azam Khan, Abdullah Khan in dual PAN card

IANSLucknow, Oct. 29

In a major relief to Samajwadi Party (SP) senior leader and his son Abdullah Khan, the Allahabad High Court on Thursday suspended their sentence in the dual PAN card case and also granted them bail.

However, the High Court declined their plea to stay the conviction itself. Now, their release from jail will depend on the legal position in other pending cases.

Justice Samit Gopal of the Allahabad High Court passed the order while hearing criminal revision petitions filed by the father and son challenging the conviction and sentence awarded by subordinate courts in the two PAN cards case.

According to the prosecution, the case is related to the alleged procure-



ment and use of a second PAN card that carried a different date of birth.

The allegations also included the purported use of the second PAN card in documents of nomination filed for the election.

Senior counsel appearing for Azam Khan argued the matter before the High Court. The defence challenged the lower court’s verdict through criminal revision petitions and sought suspen-

sion of sentence and grant of bail pending disposal of the case.

The High Court accepted the plea for suspension of sentence and granted bail, but refused to stay the conviction.

This distinction is legally significant, as the conviction order remains in force even though the sentence has been put on hold. The final adjudication on the revision petitions will take place

separately.

Legal experts say that suspension of sentence allows a convicted person to remain out on bail while an appeal or revision is pending, whereas a stay on conviction would temporarily set aside the consequences arising from the conviction itself.

In this case, the court has not granted such relief. Based on the order, the conviction continues to stand until the revision petitions are finally decided.

Despite securing bail in the dual PAN card case, Azam Khan and Abdullah Khan may still have to address legal proceedings in other pending matters before any release can be effected.

Azam Khan and Abdullah Khan are already lodged in jail in connection with various cases.

At a Glance

JD Vance targets visa fraud, worker replacement

IANS
Washington, Oct. 29

US Vice President J.D. Vance said President Donald Trump had empowered him to tackle visa fraud and challenge employers replacing American workers with lower-paid foreign employees.

At a rally in Kinston, North Carolina, Vance said, “American jobs ought to go to American citizens.” He promised support for businesses investing in US workers and warned companies against moving jobs overseas.

Vance announced new visa policy or enforcement action. He named new employers accused of violations. His remarks were part of an appeal to protect jobs before the November 3 midterms. The speech also covered immigration, public safety, taxation and manufacturing, as Vance urged voters to back Republicans.



Christine Lagarde resigns as European Central Bank President

IANS
New Delhi, Oct. 29

European Central Bank President Christine Lagarde has told the Governing Council and European Council President Antonio Costa that she will resign on February 7, 2027, seven months before her term ends.

The European Council will appoint her successor under Article 283 of the EU treaty. Lagarde said she was leaving the bank with a sense of work done and an institution fit for the future.

Dutch central bank governor Klaas Knot and former Spanish governor Pablo Hernandez de Cos are possible successors.

Lagarde, former French finance minister and IMF chief, has ruled out running for French president but said she would promote European values in France.

TRUMP ORDERS TALKS ON MACHINERY IMPORTS

IANS
Washington, Oct. 29

US President Donald Trump has ordered negotiations with trading partners over imports of robotics, industrial machinery and related components, citing national security concerns while leaving open the possibility of future tariffs and other trade restrictions.

The proclamation directs the Commerce Secretary and the US Trade Representative to pursue or continue negotiations and submit a progress update within 180 days. It imposes no immediate tariffs and specifies no rates for the products covered.

Trump accepted the Commerce Secretary’s finding that the volume and circumstances of these imports threatened to impair US national security. The proclamation says the secretary submitted an investigation report within the preceding 90 days.

“Depending on the status or outcome of such negotiations, I may con-



sider alternative remedies in the future,” Trump said in the proclamation issued on Wednesday.

Possible measures include imposing or modifying tariffs, duties, quotas and fees. Trump also raised the prospect of a programme to encourage investment in US production of robotics, industrial machinery and their components.

The directive leaves the choice of negotiating partners to the Commerce Secretary and the trade representative. It does not name India or announce any country-specific agreement, exemption or restriction.

The officials must keep

Trump informed about the progress and outcome of the talks, with at least one update due within 180 days. Tariffs will not automatically take effect when that period ends, the proclamation says.

The proclamation highlights military applications for advanced robots, including reconnaissance, casualty extraction and mine detection and clearance. Automated manufacturing can help defence producers increase output during wars and other armed conflicts.

According to the document, the United States depends on foreign supplies for most types of robotics, industrial ma-

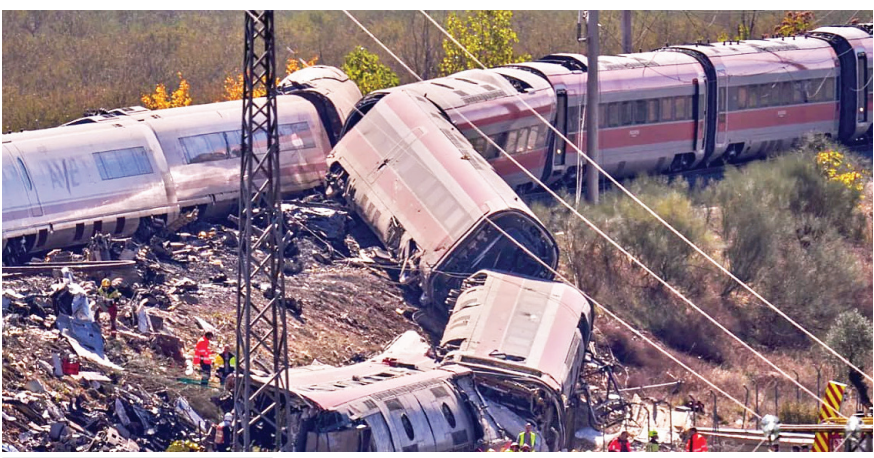
chinery and related components. Import values have increased over the past decade and are projected to rise further.

The Commerce Secretary also identified potential cybersecurity risks associated with equipment supplied by certain foreign entities. Such machinery can be integrated into manufacturing and defence systems that handle sensitive information.

Despite increased investment in US manufacturing facilities, domestic production remains below consumption, and available capacity is insufficient to meet national security needs, the proclamation said. It also cited underused manufacturing capacity.

A new White House fact sheet described the negotiations as part of efforts to strengthen domestic production and reduce dependence on imported equipment. Neither the fact sheet nor the proclamation announced a completed deal or quantified new investment resulting from Wednesday’s action.

SPANISH PM DECLARES 3 DAYS OF NATIONAL MOURNING AFTER DEADLY TRAIN COLLISION



IANS
Madrid, Oct. 29

Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez announced three days of official national mourning on Wednesday following a catastrophic high-speed train collision in central Spain that claimed at least 68 lives and left dozens of passengers injured, pledging a comprehensive judicial and technical investigation into the disaster.

Speaking to reporters from an emergency command operations post established near the crash site in Toledo province, Prime Minister Sánchez assured the public that state authorities would rigorously investigate the precise circumstances surrounding the collision and hold any responsible parties accountable if

safety oversights or systemic failures are identified.

“We will get to the bottom of this,” Sánchez declared, emphasising that any human error, operational negligence, or technical failures in automatic safety systems would be addressed decisively.

Underscoring the national impact of the tragedy, Sánchez noted that “all of Spain is in mourning.”

He stressed that the immediate focus of emergency management teams remains centred on rescuing trapped survivors, assisting affected families, and delivering immediate medical intervention and long-term psychological support to victims.

The high-impact incident unfolded on Wednesday morning in Toledo province, approx-

imately 120 kilometres south of Madrid along the high-speed Madrid–Seville railway line.

According to preliminary reports, a state-operated Renfe high-speed train struck the rear of a stationary commercial Iryo train operating on the same track corridor.

Emiliano García-Page, President of the autonomous community of Castilla-La Mancha, confirmed that the death toll has escalated to 68, with emergency crews continuing search-and-rescue operations amid heavily damaged rail carriages.

Railway safety regulators and investigative agencies have initiated a formal inquiry to determine how two high-speed passenger trains came to occupy the same section of track.

ELECTION ‘STOLEN’ BY ARAB-LED PARTIES, SAYS NETANYAHU’S LIKUD AFTER FALLING SHORT OF MAJORITY

IANS
Jerusalem, Oct. 29

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has alleged that the Israeli election was “stolen” by Arab-led parties, following a closely contested vote that has left neither his political bloc nor the main opposition with enough seats to secure a majority in parliament.

The election results have placed Arab-led parties in a potentially decisive position, with projections indicating that they could win a record 19 seats. Their performance could give them a crucial role in coalition negotiations as political parties begin assessing their options for forming the next government.

Netanyahu’s Likud party issued a statement alleging serious irregularities in the election process and accusing Arab-led parties of attempting to undermine the state of Israel.

“The elections in Israel were stolen by Arab parties that support terror and the elimination of the Jewish state through serious criminal offences of bribery, threats, violence, forgeries and the use of il-



legal software to mobilise voters,” the Likud party said. Following the allegations, Likud called for a police investigation into the suspected electoral offences.

The party also demanded an inquiry by Shin Bet, Israel’s domestic security agency, into allegations of voter fraud, intimidation and other potential violations linked to the election.

The party further alleged that prohibited software had been used to mobilise voters and called for a “thorough investigation” into the claims.

It also demanded an immediate response from the election committee, urging the relevant authorities to examine the alleged irregularities.

The accusations came

after Ra’am and the Joint List recorded a strong electoral performance, with the two Arab-led political groupings projected to secure a combined 19 seats.

Their anticipated gains could give them considerable influence in the negotiations aimed at forming a government, particularly as neither Netanyahu’s bloc nor the main opposition appears to have secured a clear parliamentary majority.

Netanyahu has repeatedly ruled out cooperation with Arab-led parties, making their projected electoral gains a significant factor in the political calculations surrounding government formation.

With the results leaving the main political blocs

short of a majority, the role of Arab-led parties could become a central issue in the negotiations, even as Likud presses for investigations into its allegations of electoral misconduct.

Meanwhile, the counting of “double envelope” votes is underway, the Central Elections Commission (CEC) announced, adding that the counting of all the regular votes has not completely finished, according to local media reports.

The double envelopes consist of the voters who cast absentee ballots, largely made up of votes from IDF soldiers, prisoners, medical personnel, those with medical conditions, and Israeli representatives in missions abroad, reports Times of Israel.

The CEC also noted that the counting of all of the regular votes has not completely finished, adding that the results have been processed from 11,712 out of the 12,018 regular polling stations, representing 5,126,759 voters.

The remaining polling stations are currently undergoing standard verification procedures, it added.

AUSTRALIAN TEENAGER DIES IN HOSPITAL AFTER DRIVE-BY SHOOTING

IANS
Sydney, Oct. 29

A teenager who was critically injured in a drive-by shooting southeast of Brisbane has died in hospital, police said on Thursday.

The 19-year-old woman was taken to the hospital after she was shot in the neck and head by two masked men who opened fire on a crowd outside a boxing event about 28 km southeast of central Brisbane in the state of Queensland on Saturday night.

Queensland Police Service Detective Inspector Ian Galpin told reporters that she died in hospital on Thursday morning and that the incident is now the subject of a homicide investigation, Xinhua News Agency reported.

He said that around 80 detectives were working on the case and had not ruled out gang involvement in the shooting.

Three men aged 27, 37



and 38 were also hospitalised with injuries sustained in the shooting, two of whom have since been discharged.

On October 18, a man was charged over a firearm incident that triggered a lockdown and major emergency response in Australia’s southwest Sydney.

Police said that a 32-year-old man was arrested in Sydney’s inner-west and charged with seven offences, including possessing a shortened firearm without authority and robbery while armed with a dangerous weapon.

The arrest followed a three-day search after

emergency services were called in the morning to reports of a stolen vehicle in Dulwich Hill, six kilometres southwest of central Sydney on October 16.

Officers were told at the scene that a man was armed with a firearm inside a stolen vehicle before he allegedly set fire to the vehicle and left the area on foot.

The incident triggered a major emergency response, with local residents, businesses and schools placed into lockdown for over three hours while police searched for the man.

The firearm was not recovered by police during the arrest.

UK ANNOUNCES EXTRA 10-BILLION-POUND SUPPORT FOR UKRAINE

IANS
London, Oct. 29

The United Kingdom will provide an additional £10 billion in economic and military support to Ukraine, British Chancellor of the Exchequer John Healey announced during the Budget 2026 speech in the House of Commons on Wednesday.

Healey said the package would include loans, Export Finance guarantees and £500 million in urgent mil-

itary funding for the coming winter.

He said Prime Minister Andy Burnham and he had spoken to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky earlier on Wednesday to inform him of the commitments.

“This is the largest ever package of funding for Ukraine from the UK,” Burnham said.

According to the British government, the latest announcement takes Britain’s total committed support for Ukraine to £35 billion, including

£16 billion in military assistance.

Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband said the funding would help Ukraine meet its immediate needs and strengthen its economic resilience.

Meanwhile, Burnham marked his first 100 days in office on Tuesday. Since taking office on July 20, he has proposed devolving more powers to regional administrations, reconsidering Brexit and pursuing a more independent foreign policy.

An analysis of polling data by the Press Association showed that Labour’s average support had risen by around 10 percentage points compared with the period immediately before former Prime Minister Keir Starmer announced his resignation in June.

However, Burnham faces pressure to translate his proposals into tangible results, amid constitutional tensions, the continuing impact of Brexit and disagreements with Washington.

CANADA ROLLS OUT IMMIGRATION FRAUD PENALTIES

IANS
Washington, Oct. 29



Canada has introduced penalties for misconduct by paid immigration and citizenship representatives, with combined violations attracting fines of up to C\$1.5 million per notice, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship

Canada (IRCC) said on Wednesday.

The rules cover licensed consultants, lawyers and other authorised advisers, as well as people charging for immigration advice without authorisation. They also apply outside Canada.

Baseline penalties are C\$5,000 for unauthorised paid advice and C\$15,000 for knowingly providing false or misleading information, or helping an applicant do so. Amounts depend on the violation, its consequences and previous

breaches. Extra penalties may apply if false information leads to approval.

Immigration Minister Lena Metlege Diab said the measures aim to protect applicants from fraud and hold representatives accountable. The penalties apply only to misconduct occurring after the regulations took effect. IRCC plans to publish the names of penalised representatives. An online registry is expected in 2027.

Failure to provide documents requested during an inspection carries a

baseline C\$10,000 penalty. Legal privilege and professional secrecy protections remain.

Representatives may respond to a preliminary notice within 30 days. Officials may issue a final notice if a breach is established. Recipients can seek review of the finding or penalty within 30 days.

IRCC urged applicants to verify representatives with the College of Immigration and Citizenship Consultants or relevant Canadian legal regulators before paying.

Hong Kong suffers economic hardship, property slump over China’s policy changes

Hong Kong was once celebrated as Asia’s ultimate success story is now enduring economic and social hardship due to property market pressures and business closures linked to Beijing’s policy changes, a new report has said.

The report from Myanmar-based Ayeyarwady Times said Hong Kong is now ridden with vacant storefronts, rental notices hanging from once-premium retail properties, struggling restaurants, declining property values.

While Hong Kong remains a major international financial centre, many residents feel the city has lost its dynamic, opportunity-rich metropolis character.

The report attributed the fall to multiple factors including economic shocks, corrections in the property market, demographic



changes and global geopolitical tensions.

However, a growing number also argue that Beijing’s increasing political and economic influence over Hong Kong has eroded business confidence.

International investors had earlier regarded Hong Kong as a safe and predictable place to deploy capital, while entrepreneurs enjoyed extensive freedoms that encouraged risk-taking and innovation.

Hong Kong’s “One Country, Two Systems” framework that maintained an economic and legal environment distinct from mainland China was the main allure for businesses.

unemployed according to official statistics. Though these figures may appear moderate by international standards, retail, hospitality, food services, construction, and small businesses continue to face significant pressure,” the publication said.

Investors who believed property prices would rise indefinitely see their commercial buildings lose value rapidly. Office vacancy rates remain elevated at over 12 per cent and landlords struggle to secure tenants in many districts, the publication cited experts.

“The collapse in confidence has created a vicious cycle. Falling property values weaken business balance sheets. Weak businesses cut jobs, while lower consumer spending further hurts retailers and more closures follow,” the report explained.

Pakistan's economic recovery narrative based on fudged figures

Pakistan’s economic stability narrative has come under scrutiny after the National Accounts Committee revised the country’s annual growth rate to 3.65 per cent and recorded 2 per cent growth in the final quarter of the last financial year. The revised figures also added \$14.8 billion to recorded imports over five financial years, raising questions about the accuracy of earlier economic data, according to a report published by Greek news website Directus.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has projected Pakistan’s current account deficit at around \$4.5 billion, compared with Islamabad’s estimate of \$2.5 billion. It also highlighted sluggish export growth, high financing requirements and a growth forecast of 3.5 per cent, below the government’s official projection of 4 per cent.

Sectoral data showed that industry contracted by 4.7 per cent in the fourth quarter, while electricity, gas and water supply declined by 33.2 per cent.

A Finance Ministry committee identified discrepancies of approximately \$18.13 billion between import data compiled through the Pakistan Revenue Automation Limited (PRAL) and the Pakistan Single Window. The review found that outdated data systems had failed to capture certain imports under newer declaration categories. The discrepancy came to light after Pakistan’s recorded imports from China differed from China’s reported exports.

Pakistan’s trade deficit widened over 15 per cent to \$10.79 billion in the first quarter as imports outpaced exports. The current account deficit rose to \$874 million, while the overall balance shifted to a \$3.12 billion deficit from a \$274 million surplus a year earlier.

Tired but Wide Awake: Understanding Why Sleep Eludes an Exhausted Body

How the body clock, stress, artificial light and daily habits influence sleep — and what we can do to restore a healthy rhythm

Feeling physically exhausted but unable to fall asleep is a frustrating experience shared by many people. After a long day of work, travel or household responsibilities, the body may crave rest, yet the mind remains alert long after bedtime. This apparent contradiction highlights an important fact about sleep: physical fatigue alone does not guarantee that a person will fall asleep easily. The brain, internal body clock and surrounding environment must also be ready for sleep.

Sleep is not simply a switch that turns off when the body runs out of energy. It is a complex biological process regulated by several interacting systems. Understanding these mechanisms can help explain why some people struggle to sleep despite being tired and what practical steps can improve their nightly rest.

One of the most important factors influencing sleep is the circadian rhythm, the body’s internal clock that operates on an approximately 24-hour cycle. It regulates the timing of sleep and wakefulness and influences several other bodily functions, including hormone release, body temperature and metabolism. The hypothalamus, a small but vital region of the brain, plays a central role in coordinating this rhythm. Specialised cells in the eyes detect changes in light and darkness and send signals that help the brain determine whether it is time to remain alert or prepare for rest.

During daylight hours, natural light helps maintain alertness and keeps the body’s internal clock

aligned with the day-night cycle. As evening approaches and darkness increases, the brain receives signals that encourage the production of melatonin, a hormone that helps prepare the body for sleep. However, when this natural rhythm becomes disrupted, the body may feel tired without experiencing a strong biological signal to sleep. Irregular working hours, late-night activities, changing sleep schedules and prolonged exposure to artificial light can all contribute to this mismatch.

Physical tiredness and the ability to fall asleep are related, but they are not identical. Sleep is influenced by two major processes: sleep pressure and the circadian rhythm. Sleep pressure builds gradually the longer a person remains awake. A chemical called adenosine accumulates in the brain during waking hours and contributes to the feeling of sleepiness. Adequate sleep reduces this pressure, allowing the cycle to begin again.

The circadian rhythm, meanwhile, determines when the body is biologically inclined to sleep or remain awake. When these two systems work together, falling asleep becomes easier. When they are out of sync, a person may feel exhausted yet remain alert.

Stress can further complicate the process. Work-related worries, financial concerns, family responsibilities and emotional tension can keep the brain in a state of heightened alertness. Even when the body needs rest, racing thoughts and anxiety may prevent it from settling down. In some cases, people begin worrying about



not getting enough sleep. They repeatedly check the time, calculate how many hours remain before they must wake up or become anxious about the consequences of another sleepless night. This pressure can make relaxation even more difficult.

Modern lifestyles have introduced another challenge to healthy sleep: prolonged exposure to screens at night. Smartphones, computers and televisions often keep people mentally stimulated at a time when the brain should gradually prepare for rest. The light emitted by electronic screens, particularly short-wavelength blue light, can influence the circadian system and suppress or delay melatonin production. The effect depends on the brightness, duration and timing of exposure, as well as individual sensitivity. Beyond light exposure, the content people consume can also keep the mind active. Social media discussions, breaking news, work emails and emotionally charged videos may encourage continued thinking and make it difficult to unwind. Late-night screen use can also delay bedtime, reducing the total time available for sleep. Consequently, even people who feel physically drained may find themselves awake for much longer than intended. Reducing screen exposure during the hour before bedtime, dimming household

lights and choosing quiet activities can help the brain transition towards sleep.

Although evening habits are important, healthy sleep often begins in the morning. Exposure to natural daylight after waking helps synchronise the circadian rhythm and reinforces the distinction between daytime alertness and night-time rest. Spending some time outdoors in the morning, opening curtains to let in daylight and maintaining a consistent waking time can help regulate the body’s internal clock.

Regular daytime physical activity may also support better sleep, although strenuous exercise immediately before bedtime can leave some people feeling stimulated. Consistency is particularly important. Going to bed and waking up at approximately the same times every day, including weekends, helps the body establish a predictable routine. Large changes in sleeping hours can make it harder to feel sleepy at the appropriate time.

Caffeine is another factor that deserves attention. Coffee, tea, energy drinks and some other beverages contain stimulants that can remain active in the body for several hours. Consuming them late in the afternoon or evening may delay sleep, even when a person does not consciously feel their stimulating effects.

18,000 Iranian cargo containers stuck at Pakistani ports over huge fees



Thousands of containers belonging to Iranian cargo owners remain stranded at Pakistani ports as transport sector representatives report that cumulative storage fees, container demurrage, and overland transport costs for certain shipments have surpassed \$25,000, making their clearance economically unviable, according to a report published in Iranwire news portal.

According to a report by Mehr News Agency, Mohammad-Ali Kargascha, a board member of the International Transport Companies Association of Iran, estimated the number of stranded containers in Pakistani ports at approximately 18,000 during a meeting of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce’s Transport Commission.

He was quoted as saying that the value of many shipments ranges between \$20,000 and \$30,000, a figure close to the expenses owners must pay to clear and transport them because of the exorbitant

fees levied by the Pakistani authorities.

The blockage of these shipments began in March 2026 following maritime transport restrictions triggered by the Middle East war. A portion of the goods was offloaded at Pakistani ports due to rerouting, but their onward transfer to Iran remains bogged down by financial and operational hurdles, the report states.

Kargascha cited bills of lading registered under intermediary companies, fears of sanctions of repercussions, and exorbitant fees as key obstacles to resolving the status of the cargo. He added that in response to follow-up notices, owners of only around 1,000 containers have initiated clearance procedures.

Peyman Sanandaji, head of the Transport Commission at the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, also said that the matter is being pursued in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Iranian Embassy in

Pakistan. According to him, an updated list of cargo owners, categorized by whether their shipments are destined for Iran or third countries, is set to be transmitted to Pakistani authorities.

Sanandaji further revealed that certain unaccredited companies lacking Pakistani approval have collected astronomical sums from cargo owners without taking any effective steps toward clearance, said the report.

During the same meeting, Amir Naqiseh, CEO of an international logistics firm, stated that an 80 per cent fee discount, which had been previously negotiated, has yet to be implemented.

To mitigate costs, the private sector has proposed transporting the cargo by sea to Chabahar Port using vessels with a capacity of 300 to 400 containers. However, this proposal has not yet reached the execution phase, as it requires coordination with Pakistan and mutual agreement on costs, the report added.

Back Pain Increasing Among Young People, Medical Experts Warn

Back pain, once commonly associated with ageing, is increasingly affecting young people as well. What may initially seem like occasional discomfort can gradually interfere with daily activities. Bending, stretching, standing for long periods and lifting heavy objects can worsen the pain. Prolonged travel and carrying heavy bags may also contribute to leg pain and numbness in some individuals. Ignoring persistent symptoms and continuing daily activities without addressing the underlying cause can eventually make even routine tasks difficult. Experts stress the importance of maintaining spinal health through regular physical activity, appropriate exercises and timely medical advice.

According to data from Mahajan Imaging and Labs, 6,925 of the 29,532 spinal examinations recorded between September 2025 and September 2026 involved people below the age of 40, accounting for approximately 23.5 per cent. People above 60 accounted for 39 per cent of the examinations, while those aged between 40 and 60 made up around 37 per cent. These figures highlight the number of younger individuals undergoing investigations for spinal problems, although they do not necessarily represent the prevalence of back pain in the general population.

Prolonged sitting, lengthy commutes, lack of physical activity and poorly designed workplace seating can contribute to back pain. Muscle strain and problems involving the discs between the vertebrae may also cause discomfort. Maintaining a healthy posture, taking regular breaks from sitting and strengthening the muscles that support the spine can help reduce the risk of certain back problems. Medical experts point out that not every episode of back pain requires an X-ray or an MRI scan. The need for imaging should be determined by a healthcare professional after considering the patient’s symptoms, medical history and physical



examination. Avoiding prolonged periods in the same position, improving workplace ergonomics and engaging in regular exercise can help maintain spinal health. People experiencing persistent or recurring pain should seek medical advice rather than relying solely on painkillers.

Progressive weakness, severe numbness or changes in bladder or bowel control require urgent medical attention, as these symptoms may indicate a serious underlying condition.

The global burden of lower back pain is also substantial. According to the World Health Organization, approximately 619 million people worldwide experienced lower back pain in 2020, equivalent to roughly one in 13 people. The number is projected to rise to 843 million by 2050. Lower back pain is a leading cause of disability worldwide, affecting mobility, everyday activities and the ability to work. A review published in the journal Arthritis and Rheumatism in 2012 examined 165 studies from 54 countries. It estimated that 11.9 per cent of people experienced lower back pain at a given point in time, while 23.2 per cent experienced it over a one-month period. Experts emphasise that back pain among young people should not be dismissed as a temporary inconvenience. Recognising persistent symptoms, maintaining an active lifestyle and seeking appropriate medical guidance can help prevent the problem from unnecessarily affecting daily life and long-term well-being.



4th T20I: India eye 4-0 lead, chance to test bench strength against depleted NZ

Auckland, Oct. 29:

India, having secured an unassailable 3-0 lead in the five-match T20I series, may give wrist-spinners Kuldeep Yadav and Varun Chakravarthy an opportunity when they face New Zealand in the fourth T20I at Eden Park on Friday.

A sell-out crowd of nearly 40,000 is expected at the Auckland venue, potentially setting a new attendance record for a bilateral series match in New Zealand. The previous record of 36,523 was set during an India-New Zealand men's and women's double-header in 2019.

Kuldeep and Varun have received limited opportunities in recent months as the Indian team management has preferred a batting-heavy combination, with batters extending down to number eight. However, India could consider resting either Axar Patel or Naman Dhir to accommodate one of the wrist-spinners. Dhir has been in impressive form, making team selection a key consideration.

India will also monitor the availability of wicket-keeper-batter Ishan Kishan, who missed the last two matches due to an adductor strain. If he remains unavailable, young batter Vaibhav Sooryavanshi could get another opportunity to partner Abhishek Sharma, who has been in outstanding form.

Abhishek's 35-ball century in Wellington was his fourth hundred in T20 in-



ternationals and his 11th in overall T20 cricket, the most by an Indian men's batter. Since the beginning of 2025, he has scored 1,984 runs in T20Is at an average of 35.4 and a remarkable strike rate of 200.6, including 13 half-centuries and three hundreds.

India's bowling combination could also see changes. Bhuvneshwar Kumar, playing his first international series in four years, impressed with his yorkers in the death overs in Wellington but has conceded 139 runs off 72 balls in the series. Prince Yadav, meanwhile, has featured in the last two matches ahead of Mayank Yadav and could retain his place.

New Zealand have struggled to contain India's aggressive top order, particularly during the powerplay in Wellington, where India smashed a record 118 runs. The hosts will be without Matt Henry, while fast bowler Lockie Ferguson has been

ruled out of the series with a calf injury. Captain Mitchell Santner has bowled effectively but has received limited support from the other bowlers.

India have won 22 of their 34 T20Is against New Zealand, losing 11, with one match tied. They have won their last five encounters against the Black Caps and nine of their last 10 T20Is played in New Zealand, including two victories through Super Overs. India have also registered their third consecutive T20I series win on New Zealand soil.

The fourth match offers New Zealand an opportunity to respond, while India will look to maintain their winning momentum and assess their bench strength ahead of the final game.

Match Details
Match: India vs New Zealand, 4th T20I
Date: Friday, October 30, 2026

Time: 12:30 PM IST
Venue: Eden Park, Auckland, New Zealand
Telecast: Sony Sports Network
Live Streaming: Sony LIV app and website
Squads

India: Shreyas Iyer (captain), Sanju Samson (wicketkeeper), Ishan Kishan, Abhishek Sharma, Tilak Varma, Shivam Dube, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Naman Dhir, Prince Yadav, Vaibhav Sooryavanshi, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Varun Chakravarthy, Arshdeep Singh, Mayank Yadav, Bhuvneshwar Kumar and Kumar Kushagra.

New Zealand: Mitchell Santner (captain), Devon Conway (wicketkeeper), Tim Seifert, Finn Allen, Bevon Jacobs, Glenn Phillips, Daryl Mitchell, Michael Bracewell, Josh Clarkson, Nathan Smith, Adam Milne, Jacob Duffy, Matt Fisher and Blair Tickner.

Ferguson ruled out of India T20Is, Henry faces injury setback ahead of ODI series



Auckland, Oct. 29:

New Zealand have suffered a double injury setback, with fast bowler Lockie Ferguson ruled out of the remaining T20Is against India and Matt Henry facing up to two weeks of recovery after sustaining a quadriceps tear.

Ferguson injured his right calf during the second T20I at Hagley Oval, with scans confirming a low-grade tear. His availability for the upcoming ODI series will depend on his recovery.

Matt Fisher, who joined the squad as bowling cover, has been included for the remaining T20Is. Meanwhile, Henry's injury is not expected to affect his planned return for the ODI series, as he was already scheduled to miss the remaining T20 matches under the team's workload management plan.

New Zealand head coach

Rob Walter expressed disappointment over the injuries but remained hopeful that both fast bowlers would be available for the ODIs.

Fast bowler Kyle Jamieson will remain in Wellington under his workload management schedule before rejoining the squad on Monday to prepare for the ODI series.

New Zealand, already trailing 0-3 in the five-match T20I series, will hope their injured pacers recover in time for the upcoming 50-over matches.

New Zealand coach Rob Walter hopes Lockie Ferguson and Matt Henry will recover in time for the ODI series against India. Matt Fisher has joined the T20I squad as bowling cover, while Kyle Jamieson is set to rejoin the team on Monday. New Zealand, trailing 0-3 in the T20I series, will look to regain strength ahead of the 50-over matches.

Dutch opener Max O'Dowd reprimanded for ICC code of conduct breach

Dubai, Oct. 29:

Dutch batter Max O'Dowd has received an official reprimand and one demerit point for showing dissent at an umpire's decision during the Netherlands' ICC Men's Cricket World Cup League 2 match against Oman in Dubai on Tuesday.

The incident occurred during the Netherlands' innings, with O'Dowd penalised for breaching Level 1 of the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel. O'Dowd was found guilty of breaching Article 2.8 of the ICC Code of Conduct, which concerns "showing dissent at an Umpire's decision during an International Match." The sanction marks his first disciplinary offence in a 24-month period, with the demerit point added to his disciplinary record.

The incident took place in the 12th over of the Netherlands' innings when O'Dowd was adjudged leg-before wicket. Following the decision, the batter indicated to the umpire that he had edged the delivery by displaying his bat, an action deemed to constitute dissent.

O'Dowd admitted the offence and accepted the sanction proposed by Phil Whitticase of the Emirates ICC International Panel of Match Referees. As a result,



a formal hearing was not required.

The charge was levelled by on-field umpires Akbar Ali and Shiju Sam, along with reserve umpire Virender Sharma.

Under the ICC Code of Conduct, Level 1 offences carry a minimum penalty of an official reprimand and a maximum sanction of a fine amounting to 50 per cent of a player's match fee. Such breaches also attract one or two demerit points, depending on the nature and severity of the offence.

The disciplinary action came after the Netherlands registered a comprehensive 106-run victory over Oman in Match 141 of the League 2 tournament at the ICC Academy Ground in Dubai. The two teams are scheduled to meet again in Match 144 of the tournament on November 2, 2026, at the same venue, where the Netherlands will look to build on their victory and Oman will aim to respond.

Rybakina beats Putintseva at Toray Pan Pacific Open Tennis,

Tokyo, Oct. 29:

World No. 1 Elena Rybakina defeated Kazakhstani compatriot Yulia Putintseva in the Toray Pan Pacific Open Tennis second round, 6-2, 6-3, to secure the Year-End No.1 spot for the first time in her career.

Rybakina produced a strong outing in Tokyo to beat Putintseva in the 70-minute contest, where she did not lose her serve and had to save the only break point in the final game of the match.

She won 75% of her first-serve points and 57% of her second-serve ones. The Kazakh also nailed six aces and finished the game with an ace only. "It's always difficult matches against Yulia," Rybakina said in her on-court interview. "I was ready for longer rallies. She plays a lot of drop shots and changing the rhythm, so I was happy I stayed focused, stayed aggressive, and a lot of things worked for me to-



day.

"I think the closed roof a little bit also helped me. I like to play in these kinds of conditions. The ball is flying a bit faster; generally, I think the conditions suit me really well."

This will be the first year where Rybakina will end as the Year-End No.1. She was No. 3 at the end of 2023 and 2024 and No. 5 in 2025. Rybakina had become the World No.1 during her US Open 2026 win, when she captured her third Grand Slam.

The Kazakh now has a 3-2 record against Putintseva.

She had lost her first two matches against Putintseva (at Rome 2020 and Indian Wells 2021). Rybakina then won a marathon 2-hour and 48-minute clash against her compatriot in the 2024 Madrid quarterfinals, 4-6, 7-6(4), 7-5 and then also beat her in the second round in Miami earlier this year.

Rybakina will now face Leylah Fernandez in the quarterfinals. She had defeated the Canadian in the Ningbo Open final last week. Fernandez came into the Tokyo quarterfinals after beating No. 8 seed Elise Mertens 6-2, 7-6(8).

Josh Inglis Creates History with Centuries in All Three Formats

New Delhi, Oct. 29:

Australian batter Josh Inglis has created a unique record by becoming the first Australian to score at least two centuries in each of the three international formats — Tests, ODIs and T20Is.

Inglis achieved the milestone with a 102 off 135 balls, including 11 fours and two sixes, in the third Test against South Africa on Thursday. Australia were bowled out for 429 on the third day.

The wicketkeeper-batter has scored 286 runs in six Tests, 1,100 runs in 43 ODIs and 1,033 runs in 49 T20Is. His highest scores are 102 in Tests, 120 in ODIs and 110 in T20Is.

Among Australian batters, Glenn Maxwell and Aaron Finch have also scored multiple T20I centuries. However, Maxwell has only one Test century, while Finch never scored a century in the format.

Hylo Open: Sindhu, Lakshya prevail in opener as Prannoy exits



Saarbrücken, Oct. 29:

PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen advanced to the second round of the BWF Hylo Open on Wednesday, as several other Indian shuttlers progressed in the BWF Super 500 tournament.

However, HS Prannoy was among those eliminated, with the sixth-seeded Toma Junior Popov of France claiming a victory in straight sets. Sindhu, the second seed in women's singles, continued her impressive run following her runner-up finish at last week's French Open. The Indian needed only 28 minutes to defeat Prakriti Bharath of the UAE 21-10, 21-10, controlling both games to secure a comfortable opening-round victory.

Sen faced a tougher test in the men's singles draw but recovered well after losing the first game against Finland's Joakim Oldorff. The seventh seed raised his level in the subsequent games to complete a 16-21, 21-9, 21-13 comeback win in just over an hour.

Kiran George also moved into the next round after overcoming Malaysia's

Cheam June Wei 21-18, 21-17 in straight games.

Prannoy, meanwhile, was unable to convert a closely fought opening game against Popov, losing 21-23, 16-21 to bow out of the competition.

The Indian had an opportunity to take the first game but could not capitalise, allowing the Frenchman to close out the contest in two games.

Tharun Mannepalli and Sankar Subramanian also exited the men's singles competition after defeats against Chi Yu Jen of Chinese Taipei and Finland's Kalle Koljonen, respectively. Ayush Shetty, who was scheduled to compete in Germany, withdrew before the tournament began because of an injury sustained at the French Open last week. In women's singles, sixth seed Unnati Hooda recovered from a slow start to defeat Czechia's Tereza Svabikova 17-21, 21-12, 21-11. Hooda dropped the opening game but took control of the contest thereafter, winning the next two games to progress. Isharani Baruah produced a steady performance against Germany's Miranda Wilson,

registering a 21-19, 21-9 victory. Anmol Kharb also advanced, holding her nerve in a tight second game to beat Sri Lanka's Ranithma Liyanage 21-18, 22-20.

Malvika Bansod came through an all-Indian encounter against Devika Sihag. After surrendering the opening game 18-21, Bansod responded strongly to take the next two 21-10, 21-14 and book her place in the second round.

There were further setbacks for India in the women's draw, with Ashmita Chaliha losing to Bulgaria's Kaloyana Nalbantova 18-21, 21-12, 21-8 after taking the first game. Aakarshi Kashyap also bowed out, going down 21-12, 21-18 to Ukraine's Polina Buhrova.

India's PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen advanced to the second round of the BWF Hylo Open in Germany, with Sindhu winning in straight games and Sen staging a comeback victory. Kiran George, Unnati Hooda, Isharani Baruah, Anmol Kharb and Malvika Bansod also progressed, while HS Prannoy and several other Indian shuttlers were eliminated.

Malinga, Mhambrey and Hopkinson Exit Mumbai Indians Ahead of IPL 2027

New Delhi, Oct. 29:

Five-time IPL champions Mumbai Indians have announced the departure of bowling coaches Lasith Malinga and Paras Mhambrey, along with fielding coach Carl Hopkinson, from the men's team coaching staff ahead of the 2027 season.

The announcement comes days after Kieron Pollard took over as the franchise's new head coach following the departure of Mahela Jayawardene. Mumbai Indians thanked the three coaches for their contributions and wished them success in their future assignments.

Sri Lankan fast-bowling great Malinga played a key role in four of Mumbai Indians' IPL title wins and the 2011 Champions League T20 triumph. He returned as the team's fast-bowling coach ahead of IPL 2024 after previously serving as a mentor and playing a crucial role alongside Jasprit Bumrah.

Former India pacer Mhambrey served Mumbai Indians from 2010 to 2017 and returned ahead of the 2025 season. He was also India's bowling coach from November 2021 to July 2024, a period that included the team's T20 World Cup victory.

Hopkinson, a former England fielding coach, joined Mumbai Indians ahead of the 2025 season to improve the team's fielding standards.

SC reserves order on firecracker restrictions in Delhi-NCR, suggests involving Virat Kohli in awareness campaign

New Delhi, Oct. 29:

The Supreme Court on Thursday reserved its order on restrictions on firecrackers in Delhi-NCR during Diwali, observing that repeated judicial directions had failed to ensure compliance.

A Bench of Justices M.M. Sundresh and Prasanna B.

Varale suggested involving prominent personalities, including Indian cricketer Virat Kohli, in awareness campaigns to educate people about the harmful effects of firecrackers and encourage responsible celebrations.

The court also stressed the need to involve educational institutions in sensitising children and young people

about air pollution. It observed that a complete ban might not be the appropriate solution and called for a balanced approach that protects public health while respecting the festive spirit.

The court asked the Centre to detail steps taken to enforce firecracker restrictions and control pollution in Delhi-NCR.



Telangana introduces special fire safety rules for data centres

Munsif News Bureau Hyderabad, Oct 29

Telangana will implement special-ised fire and life safety guidelines for data centres from November 6, 2026, making compliance mandatory for obtaining provisional Fire No Objection Certificates (NOCs).

The Fire, Disaster Response, Emergency and Civil Defence Department issued the guidelines through a circular dated October 28, signed by Director General Vikram Singh Mann. The rules mandate fire detection and alarm systems, firefighting equipment, fire-resistant compartments, dedicated water storage and pumping facilities, and appropriate suppression systems. Administrative areas must have automatic sprinklers, while technical areas require suitable water-mist or clean-agent gas-based fire suppression systems.

Special safety measures have been prescribed for battery, UPS, transformer and switchgear rooms, along with fire risk assessments, emergency shutdown arrangements, adequate ventilation and protection for fuel storage. Combustible materials such



New guidelines to come into effect from November 6

as cardboard, packaging and wooden pallets will not be permitted in data halls and other critical areas.

Officials scrutinising applications must verify compliance with approved fire safety designs. The department said the guidelines aim to strengthen fire prevention and emergency preparedness while speeding up NOC processing and supporting Telangana's efforts to attract data centre investments.

TGSRTC plans modern bus terminals on Hyderabad outskirts

Hyderabad, Oct 29

The Telangana State Road Transport Corporation (TGSRTC) is exploring plans to establish modern bus terminals at Gajularamaram, Shamshabad, LB Nagar and Ghatkesar to ease traffic congestion and strengthen public transport infrastructure in Hyderabad.

The proposed terminals will feature spacious waiting halls, parking facilities and modern passenger amenities. The government is reportedly considering around 100 acres at Gajularamaram and 150 acres near Shamshabad, while the facilities at LB Nagar and Ghatkesar will be planned based on passenger demand.

The terminals are expected to serve as integrated transport hubs connecting city buses with Metro Rail and MMTS services. The government is also plan-



ning to introduce 2,200 electric buses to improve connectivity between the proposed facilities and major destinations.

Under the proposed plan, interstate buses from Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, along with services from other Telangana districts, may be diverted to the peripheral terminals instead of entering the core city. Authorities are also examining the possibility of allowing private bus operators to use the facilities on payment of prescribed charges.

The initiative aims to streamline bus operations, improve passenger convenience and reduce traffic congestion in Hyderabad.

Konda Surekha expresses regret over KTR remarks

Munsif News Bureau Hyderabad, Oct 29

Former minister and MLA Konda Surekha on Thursday expressed regret over her earlier personal remarks against BRS Working President K.T. Rama Rao (KTR), stating the comments were baseless and unintended to cause harm.

In a post on X (formerly Twitter), Surekha acknowledged that her statements were made amid political back-and-forth while criticising the Opposition.

Admitting the remarks should not have been made, she clarified that she had no intention of damaging the reputation of KTR or his family, and announced the full withdrawal of her earlier statements.

Hyderabad police launch mega blood donation drive



Munsif News Bureau Hyderabad, Oct 29

Hyderabad City Police organised blood donation camps at 38 centres across the city on Thursday, targeting the collection of 5,700 units with support from nearly 30 blood banks to honour police martyrs.

DGP CV Anand inaugurated a camp at CAR headquarters in Petlaburj, where police personnel and citizens donated blood. He said the camps were part of service programmes being held across Telangana from October 21 to 31 and urged private hospitals to promote blood and organ donation.

Hyderabad Police Commissioner VC Sajjanar thanked hospitals, voluntary organisations and donors for their support, saying such service initiatives would continue. The collected blood will help accident victims and patients requiring transfusions, including those suffering from thalassemia and cancer.

Additional Commissioners M. Srinivasulu and Tapsir Iqbal, Joint Commissioner Joel Davis, senior police officers, doctors and blood bank representatives participated in the drive. The initiative highlighted the police department's commitment to community service and supporting patients in need of life-saving blood.

Bhatti stresses timely use of SC/ST sub-plan funds

NSS News Hyderabad, Oct 29

Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka has directed officials to expedite the utilisation of SC/ST Sub-Plan funds and ensure welfare benefits reach all eligible families.

At a review meeting at the Secretariat on Thursday, attended by Social Welfare Minister Adluri Laxman and senior officials, he assessed expenditure during the first two quarters and implementation of schemes across key departments.

Bhatti stressed priori-



BC-A leaders oppose Mudiraj inclusion



NSS News Hyderabad, Oct 29

The BC-A Caste Rights Protection Committee has opposed the proposal to include the Mudiraj community in the BC-A category, demanding protection of the interests of the most backward castes.

At a press conference at the NSS News Centre in



Actress DIVI, Actress Rithu Chowdhary, Actress Kamakshi Bhaskarla along with others at the Grand Launch of TAVYA Silver Jewellery Flagship Showroom at Rd #36, Jubilee Hills in Hyderabad on Thursday.

Hyderabad police invoke PD Act against accused for third time

Munsif News Bureau Hyderabad, Oct 29

Hyderabad City Police have invoked the Preventive Detention (PD) Act against Nader Rizwan Ali Mirza alias Rizwan, who faces 29 criminal cases, for the third time.

Acting on Police Commissioner V.C. Sajjanar's orders, police detained Rizwan, an AC technician from



Yakutpura, citing cases involving robbery, property offences, bodily offences and Arms Act violations.

Police said Mirchowk police recently registered two cases against him under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), while Mehdiapatnam police booked him under the BNS and Arms Act.

Following the execution of the detention order, Rizwan was shifted to Chanchalguda Central Prison. Police said they would continue action against those posing a threat to public order and safety.

TG police train campus leaders on women's safety

Munsif News Bureau Hyderabad, Oct 29

The Telangana Police Women Safety Wing (WSW) on Thursday launched a two-day Training of Trainers programme at Osmania University under its #StandWithHer campaign to promote women's safety, consent and equality.

Led by WSW Director General Charu Sinha, the programme trains students and faculty from degree colleges in communication, empathy and



Mahesh Goud accuses Modi of avoiding journalists

Munsif News Bureau Hyderabad, Oct 29

TPCC president and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud on Thursday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of avoiding journalists and alleged that BJP's electoral setbacks reflected growing public dissatisfaction with its governance.

Speaking at a media conference, he cited results in several constituencies to claim that the BJP was losing public support and asserted that Rahul Gandhi was strengthening anti-BJP forces.

Goud criticised the BJP over the Special

Hyderabad auto drivers threaten Nov. 30 bandh

NSS News Hyderabad, Oct 29

Hyderabad auto-rickshaw drivers have threatened a city-wide bandh on November 30 if the government fails to resolve their 15 demands within a month.

Mahatma Gandhi Telangana Auto Drivers JAC convener Mohammed Amanullah Khan announced the proposed strike on Thursday, demanding an increase in the minimum fare from Rs.14 to Rs.18 per kilometre.

The demands include financial assistance, a dedicated welfare board, protection from financiers' harassment, a ban on bike taxis, exemption from e-challans and continuation of accident insurance benefits.

Khan also sought Transport Minister Ponnampallabharathi's resignation, warning of an indefinite strike if the government failed to honour its assurances.

UAE property expo to connect developers with Indian investors

Munsif News Bureau Hyderabad, Oct 29

Global Edge Advertisements LLC will organise the UAE Property Grand Expo 2026 at JRC Conventions and Trade Fairs on October 31 and November 1, connecting developers from Dubai and Ajman with Indian investors.

Supported by the Dubai and Ajman land departments, the expo will showcase residential properties and offer guidance on ownership rules, payment plans, financing, rental yields and residency eligibility.

The India-UAE Real Estate Forum will discuss investment opportunities and regulatory transparency. Global Edge CEO Raghu Pelakkat said the event aims to simplify overseas property ownership and strengthen real estate ties between India and the UAE.

