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EC ORDERS FRESH VOTER VERIFICATION

EC Gives Excluded Voters Fresh Chance to Enrol

Fresh directions offer relief to voters wrongly marked absent, shifted or dead; Telangana's final rolls due November 30.

Munsif News Desk, New Delhi:

The Election Commission on Friday directed election officials in seven states and Union Territories to give another opportunity to voters excluded from draft electoral rolls after being classified as absent, shifted, dead or duplicate during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

The directions cover Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Haryana, Jharkhand, Nagaland and Delhi. They apply to electors whose enumeration forms were issued but not returned.

Booth-wise lists showing reasons for exclusion must be displayed again at polling stations and local government offices and uploaded to official websites.

Booth Level Officers (BLOs) have been instructed to contact affected voters through household visits, family members, WhatsApp, email and SMS.

Affected electors can submit fresh enumeration forms physically or through the ECINET platform using their existing voter identification numbers.

Those who have not shifted must explain their earlier non-submission. Voters who changed addresses within the same state can submit address proof without filing Form 8. Homeless electors may rely on BLO verification.

The decision is particularly significant for Telangana, where 73.39 lakh names were excluded from draft rolls. Following an extension, scrutiny continues until November 26, with final publication scheduled for November 30.

AT A GLANCE

- Six states and Delhi covered
- BLOs directed to revisit households
- Telangana recorded 73.39 lakh exclusions
- Earlier voter ID numbers retained





RICE PRICE CONTROL

Centre Orders Weekly Rice Stock Disclosure to Check Prices

Telangana among five southern states permitted to impose stock limits until January 31, 2027.

New Delhi: The Union government on Friday made weekly disclosure of rice and paddy stocks mandatory for traders, wholesalers, retailers, large retail chains and millers nationwide to prevent hoarding and control rising prices.

Stockholders must update their holdings across six categories every Friday on the Food Stock Portal. Non-registration or violation of prescribed stock limits could invite action under the Essential Commodities Act.

The Centre also authorised Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu to impose stock limits wherever necessary until January 31, 2027. Individual states must issue appropriate control orders.

Meanwhile, the government doubled its 2026–27 open-market rice sale target from 25 lakh to 50 lakh tonnes and announced additional Bharat Rice allocations through NAFED, NCCF and Kendriya Bhandar.

Supreme Court Rejects Delay in OBC Ruling

New Delhi: The Supreme Court on Friday rejected the Centre's request for two years to implement its March 11 ruling on determining creamy-layer status among Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

A bench of Justices P.S. Narasimha and R. Mahadevan reaffirmed that parental salary alone cannot determine reservation eligibility. The nature and status of parents' employment must also be considered.

The court rejected the government's request to apply the judgment only prospectively and extended compliance time by two months.

Importantly, the ruling will govern pending service allocations for candidates selected through the Civil Services Examination 2025.

However, the court clarified that completed appointments, promotions and settled seniority positions would not be reopened.

Similar claims pending before courts and tribunals will be examined individually. The decision highlights the need for uniform creamy-layer assessment across recruitment authorities, ensuring eligible OBC candidates receive reservation benefits without disturbing previously settled appointments.

Delhi-NCR Imposes Stage III Pollution Curbs

New Delhi: The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) imposed Stage III restrictions across Delhi-NCR on Friday as worsening air pollution raised serious public health concerns ahead of Diwali.

Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) reached 382, falling in the "very poor" category. Authorities introduced tougher measures as a precaution against pollution reaching severe levels.

The restrictions prohibit specified construction and demolition activities, except permitted essential projects. Older BS-III petrol and BS-IV diesel vehicles face restrictions in Delhi and designated neighbouring districts, subject to exemptions.

Authorities have also been asked to consider work-from-home arrangements to reduce traffic and pollution exposure.

The measures add to restrictions already operating under Stages I and II.

While emergency curbs aim to protect residents, their repeated use highlights the need for year-round pollution control. Effective enforcement, public health advisories and support for affected construction workers remain important concerns.

Telangana Gets ₹3,189 Crore BharatNet Boost

Programme targets 3 lakh rural household fibre connections to improve access to digital services.

Hyderabad: The Centre has approved ₹3,189 crore to expand and upgrade BharatNet broadband infrastructure across rural Telangana.

An implementation agreement was signed in New Delhi on Friday between the Department of Telecommunications, Telangana government, TRIICL, BSNL and T-Fibre. TRIICL will implement the programme.

The project covers 12,769 gram panchayats, including 10,787 under Phase II and upgrades to existing networks for improved reliability.

Around three lakh rural households are expected to receive subsidised fibre connections, improving access to online education, telemedicine, digital payments and government services.

Reliable rural connectivity will depend on timely rollout, service quality and proper maintenance, not funding alone.



CBSE Announces 2027 Class 10, 12 Exam Timetables

New Delhi: The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) released the 2027 Class 10 and Class 12 board examination timetables on Friday, allowing students and schools to finalise preparations.

Both examinations begin February 16, with Class 10 Painting and Class 12 Physics scheduled on the opening day.

The Class 10 Mathematics examination follows on February 17.

CBSE said the schedules cover 83 subjects in Class 10 and 121 in Class 12, with over 46 lakh students registered.

Schools have been advised to share official subject-wise schedules, including codes, to prevent confusion over optional and regional-language papers. Download timetables from **cbse.gov.in**.

Telangana Orders ₹25 Crore for Haj House Project

Hyderabad: Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka on Friday directed officials to expedite completion of the long-pending building beside Haj House in Nampally.

During a minority welfare review at Praja Bhavan, he instructed GHMC to release ₹25 crore from Waqf-related dues for the project.

The building could accommodate minority study circles and departmental offices.

Officials were also directed to remove obstacles affecting proposed study circles in Moghalpura and Bandlaguda and ensure timely educational funding.

The government will consider including Egypt and Saudi Arabia under its overseas scholarship programme.

However, fund release, construction timelines and scholarship changes remain to be confirmed.



Voter ID and Biometric Authentication to Become Basis for Panchayat Welfare

Hyderabad: Union Panchayati Raj Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh has proposed using voter ID numbers and biometric authentication instead of Aadhaar for identifying welfare beneficiaries and processing payments. Reiterating the proposal on November 3, Singh said the system would help eliminate duplicate and fraudulent claims. However, the government has not specified which schemes will be covered or announced an implementation date. The Panchayati Raj Ministry currently makes no direct payments to individual beneficiaries. The proposed change raises concerns about privacy and exclusion of people without voter IDs or facing biometric failures. Meanwhile, the Sixteenth Finance Commission has recommended ₹4,35,236 crore in grants for rural local bodies during 2026–31.

KFC Outlet Sealed Over Food Safety Violations

Karimnagar: Food safety officials sealed a KFC outlet in Karimnagar following Thursday's inspection over suspected hygiene and food quality violations.

Officials seized approximately 90 litres of cooking oil amid concerns over repeated use for frying chicken. The inspection, supervised by Food Safety Officer Ankit Reddy, reportedly witnessed an argument between restaurant management and officials, prompting Second Town Police intervention.

IN BRIEF

Developing Nations' Debt Hits $9.4 Trillion

World Bank says developing countries' external debt reached $9.4 trillion in 2025, with rising repayments squeezing development budgets. P5

Cyclone Murasu Causes ₹1,919 Crore Losses

Andhra Pradesh reports eight deaths and crop damage across 1.4 lakh hectares. Chief Minister Naidu ordered faster restoration, with preliminary losses estimated at ₹1,919 crore. P2

Delhi Receives 2.96 Lakh Enrolment Applications

Delhi recorded 2.96 lakh Form 6 applications. Excluded voters get another enrolment opportunity, with claims closing November 25 and final rolls due December 22. P4

Bhatti Assures Release of Minority Funds

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka assured early release of pending minority welfare funds, including Shadi Mubarak, scholarships and Haj House assistance, following a review meeting. P8

Rain Threatens India-NZ Second ODI

Wellington faces a 60% chance of rain on Saturday, threatening another interruption after India won the rain-affected opening ODI in Auckland by five wickets. P7

STATEWATCH | Where Telangana Moves.
Governance, development, welfare and districts shaping the State.

Murasu cyclone damages crops across 1.4 lakh hectares in Andhra Pradesh



Amaravati (NSS):

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Friday said the damage caused by Cyclone Murasu was estimated at Rs 1,919 crore, according to preliminary assessments.

Naidu reviewed the post-cyclone situation with officials late on Thursday and directed them to expedite relief and restoration work.

He stressed the need to ensure uninterrupted electricity and drinking water supply and repair damaged roads, while ensuring that farmers and residents faced no hardship following two consecutive cyclones — Arnab and Murasu.

"We will visit cyclone-affected areas in Bapatla and Guntur districts to assess the damage caused by Cyclone Murasu. Preliminary estimates have put the state's losses at around Rs 1,918.5 crore," Naidu said in an official press release late on Thursday.

At least eight people have died in cyclone-related incidents, officials said.

According to the preliminary assessment, agricultural crops were damaged across 1.4 lakh hectares, affecting over 1.8 lakh farmers. Horticultural crops suffered damage across 6,749 hectares, impacting 12,586 farmers.

The cyclone also damaged 983 houses, 346 boats and 220 fishing nets.

Officials informed the Chief Minister that an accurate assessment of crop losses would take another 48 to 72 hours after floodwaters receded. Under the Andhra Pradesh Central Power Distribution Company Ltd (APCPDCL), 871 of the 1,103 affected 11-kV feeders have been restored, while 1,493 of the 3,946 damaged electricity poles have been repaired.

The Roads and Buildings Department reported damage to 760 km of major district roads and state highways, while fallen trees at all 206 identified locations have been cleared.

The Panchayat Raj Engineering Department reported damage to 74 rural roads spanning 204 km, with restoration estimated to cost Rs 92 crore.

Haj House Works to Be Completed Soon: YS Reddy

Munsif Desk, Amaravati:

Government Whip and Mahabubnagar MLA Yennam Srinivas Reddy inspected the incomplete Haj House building, located near the double-bedroom houses at Moula Ali Gutta in Yengonda, which has remained pending since the previous BRS government.

Speaking to the media on the occasion, he assured that the State government would ensure the sanction of necessary funds and complete the remaining construction works of the Haj House at the earliest, enabling the building to become fully functional for Haj pilgrims.

He emphasised that priority measures were being taken to provide all essential basic amenities to pilgrims.

Cyclone Murasu: Rainfall eases, water levels stabilise across AP

Munsif Desk, Amaravati

Rainfall associated with Cyclone Murasu weakened considerably across Andhra Pradesh on Thursday, officials said. Although the cyclone's impact has largely subsided, people in low-lying areas and those living near drains, canals and reservoirs have been advised to remain cautious and follow the instructions of the district administration. People have also been advised against crossing overflowing streams or causeways.

By Thursday morning, rainfall had largely stopped in most parts of the State, with only very light rain reported in a few places along the southern coastal belt.

According to the State Emergency Operations Centre of the Real Time Governance Society (RTGS), heavy rainfall on Wednesday was mainly concentrated in the Godavari belt, covering West Godavari, East Godavari, Kakinada, Eluru and Polavaram districts, where a few weather stations recorded very heavy rainfall.

On Thursday morning, rainfall activity shifted to Nellore district, but remained light to moderate.

1,000-Bed Hospital to Be Ready in 3 Months: Uttam

Munsif Desk, Suryapet



State Minister for Civil Supplies and Irrigation N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said the government was taking all possible measures to strengthen educational and healthcare infrastructure in Suryapet district.

On Friday, Minister Uttam Kumar Reddy inspected the construction works of the new building of the Government General Hospital in Suryapet, being constructed at an estimated cost of around Rs. 190 crore. On the occasion, he directed the officials to expedite the construction of the modern five-storey hospital with a capacity of 1,000 beds, ensuring quality standards, and make it ready for inauguration within the next two to three months. Later, the Minister inaugurated modern medical equipment worth approximately Rs. 1.17 crore, provided with the support of SBI, IOC, Kotak Mahindra and Akshara Foundation.

The equipment includes ventilators, microtomes, cautery machines, bronchoscopes, dental chairs, C-arms and other advanced medical instruments.

During the programme, appointment letters were also distributed to eligible candidates under the compassionate appointment scheme.

Revanth Attends MLA Ramdas Naik's Daughter's Engagement



Hyderabad, NSS:

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy attended the engagement ceremony of Dr. Gayatri, daughter of Wyra MLA Maloth Ramdas Naik, and Ram Naik at the Jubilee Convention Centre in Hyderabad on Friday. During the function, the Chief Minister greeted the couple, offered his warm congratulations, and blessed them alongside family members, political leaders, and well-wishers present at the venue.

Zaheerabad Police Arrest Interstate Highway Robbery Gang

Munsif News Desk, Nizamabad:



Zaheerabad police have arrested an interstate highway robbery gang involved in a series of robberies targeting motorists parked along national highways.

Sangareddy District Superintendent of Police Preethosh Pankaj disclosed the details during a press conference held at his office on Thursday.

According to the SP, the accused, belonging to Latur, Pune and Baramati areas of Maharashtra, had formed a gang and used to operate on national highways during night hours.

They particularly targeted cars parked in isolated locations along the roadsides.

The gang members would park their two-wheelers at some distance from the targeted vehicles and approach them wearing monkey caps to conceal their identities.

They threatened occupants with fake pistols and knives before forcibly robbing them of gold ornaments and cash. After committing the robberies, they would flee to Latur in Maharashtra on their two-wheelers. The stolen gold ornaments were sold through an acquaintance at a jewellery shop in Latur, and the proceeds were shared among the gang members.

Nizamabad Progressing with Support of M Goud,S Reddy

Mohd Baleegh Ahmed , Nizamabad:

District Congress President Anglesh Reddy, City Congress President Bobbi Rama Krishna and Municipal Mayor U. Amarani said that the release of Rs. 101 crore by the State Government for completing the Madhavnagar Railway Overbridge in Nizamabad was the result of effective efforts and representations made by PCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud and Government Advisor Sudarshan Reddy to Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy.

Addressing a press conference at Congress Bhavan in Nizamabad, the leaders said Congress representatives were consistently striving for the development and welfare of Nizamabad district. They recalled that an estimated Rs. 93.12 crore had been earmarked for the construction of the Madhavnagar Railway Overbridge during 2020-21. However, the project was delayed due to delays on the part of the Central Government, Railway Department and the contractor. Following representations by Nizamabad Congress leaders to the Chief Minister, the required funds had finally been released. The Congress leaders alleged that Nizamabad MP Dharmapuri Arvind was now claiming credit for the release of the funds and that BJP leaders were celebrating it as their achievement.

They criticised the MP for staging a dharna with students near the Madhavnagar Railway Overbridge a few days ago and seeking public donations.

Work Collectively To Face El Nino Conditions

Mohd Baleegh Ahmed
Nizamabad

Nizamabad District Collector Ila Tripathi said that the district administration needs to work collectively to face the adverse conditions prevailing in the backdrop of El Nino. On Friday, State Government Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju, along with senior officials of various departments, held a review on key issues with all District Collectors through video conference from Hyderabad. He directed that various development works undertaken in PM Shri Schools should be expedited. He said that special action plan should be taken to ensure that drinking water problems do not arise. He said that works like repairs of hand pumps, prevention of pipeline leakages should be done. He said that the water available in reservoirs at present should be used entirely only for drinking water needs. He revealed that as there are not enough water reserves in Singur Reservoir, Rs. 120 crore has been allocated to 4 districts to take up alternative measures and supply protected drinking water in Nizamabad.

Durgam Trust to Launch Anti-Drug Awareness Campaign

Munsif News Desk, Adilabad:

A demand has been made for immediate measures to curb anti-social activities, including the illegal sale of ganja, illicit liquor and gambling, within the limits of Danora (B) Gram Panchayat in Indervelly mandal.

In this regard, Village Sarpanch Jamuna Naik and TPCC SC Department Vice-Chairman Durgam Shekhar jointly met District Superintendent of Police Akhil Mahajan and submitted a detailed representation seeking strict action against those involved in such illegal activities.

During the meeting, the leaders expressed concern that certain individuals were targeting local youth and pushing them towards substance abuse and other harmful addictions. They urged the SP to strengthen police surveillance in Danora (B) village to protect the future of youth belonging to poor, Dalit, Adivasi and BC families and take stringent legal action against those involved in illegal activities.

Speaking on the occasion, Durgam Shekhar, Chairman of Durgam Trust, reiterated his commitment to the welfare of his native village. He announced that the trust would organise special awareness programmes and seminars to strengthen anti-drug initiatives and educate the local community.

Responding positively to the representation, District SP Akhil Mahajan assured the leaders that the police department would soon organise a special awareness campaign.

STATEWATCH | Where Telangana Speaks.

People, civic issues, communities and developments from across Telangana.

Food Festival Held at Divyangula Vijayan Special School

Adilabad, Munsif Desk :

A grand 'Food Festival' was organized at the 'Divyangula Vijayan Special School', located near Vijaya Dairy in Kailas Nagar, Adilabad district headquarters. Adilabad District Congress Committee (DCC) President Dr. Naresh Jadhav attended the event as the Chief Guest. During the program, Dr. Naresh Jadhav visited the various food stalls enthusiastically set up by the special (specially-abled) students and interacted with them. He inspected the dishes prepared by the students themselves and warmly praised their talent, creativity, and initiative. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Naresh Jadhav stated that such innovative programs play a crucial role in bringing out the hidden talents of specially-abled students. He emphasized that education should not be limited to textbooks alone; building self-confidence, social awareness, creativity, and independent decision-making skills among students is equally essential.

Institution of Adab-e-Islami Hind Establishes Kagaznagar Unit

Kagazmagar, Munsif Desk:

The Kagaznagar local unit of the Institution of Adab-e-Islami Hind, Telangana, was formally established at an organisational meeting held on Wednesday, November 4, at the Islamic Centre, Masjid-e-Aamira, after Isha prayers.

The meeting was held under the supervision of Mohammed Shoaib-ul-Haq Talib, State President of the Institution of Adab-e-Islami Hind, Telangana. State Vice-President Arif Ansari and General Secretary Sheikh Laiq Ali Warsi were also present.

The programme began with the recitation of the Holy Quran by the Imam and Khateeb of Masjid-e-Aamira. Later, Sheikh Laiq Ali Warsi explained the aims and objectives of the institution, while Arif Ansari outlined the purpose of the state-level delegation's visit and the organisation's ongoing activities.

CM Chandrababu Naidu Inspects Flood-Hit Areas in Bapatla and Guntur Districts

Amaravati, Munsif Desk :



Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu toured Bapatla and Guntur districts on Friday to assess the flood situation and damage caused to agricultural fields.

During his visit, the Chief Minister inspected floodwater levels near the Jillellamudi bridge in Bapatla mandal and interacted with local residents and public representatives to understand the problems faced by people in the affected areas.

Later, Naidu visited Returu village in Prathipadu Assembly constituency, where he walked through agricultural fields along with farmers and inspected submerged paddy crops.

He personally stepped into the waterlogged fields to assess the extent of crop damage and listen to the grievances of affected farmers.

Subsequently, the Chief Minister addressed a press conference, explaining the prevailing flood situation and outlining the measures being taken by the government to provide relief and assistance to those affected.

SCR Generates Highest Ever Ticket Checking Revenue of Rs. 1.18 Crore in a Single Day

Hyderabad, NSS :



South Central Railway (SCR) undertook a day long intensive ticket checking drive on Thursday in anticipation of huge rush of rail passengers travelling in view of Diwali and Chhath festivals, to avoid inconvenience to genuine passengers.

The drive was conducted across the Zone covering all the three divisions viz Secunderabad, Hyderabad and Nanded as per the instructions issued by Ms. Ity Pandey, Principal Chief Commercial Manager, SCR. In this context, the zone has achieved highest ever single day earnings of Rs 1.18 crore in Ticket Checking activity on this particular day (05th Nov, 2026). A total of 11,150 cases pertaining to ticketless or irregular travel were registered against the defaulters and the amount was realised from them.

This is the highest-ever single day ticket checking revenue recorded by South Central Railway since the bifurcation of the Zone in June 2026. The average daily ticket checking revenue of the Zone is Rs. 33.44 lakh from around 4,373 cases. SCR has achieved a new milestone by registering Rs. 1.18 crore in a single day, setting a new record for the Zone while, Secunderabad Division contributed the highest ticket checking revenue of Rs. 1.02 crores. It is also heartening to note that along with male counterparts, 117 lady ticket checking staff are in the forefront for effective ticket checking.

The main objective of the ticket checking drive was to prevent inconvenience to bona fide passengers and curb ticketless and irregular travel in reserved and unreserved coaches of passenger and express trains. The drive also aimed to create awareness among the public about the importance of travelling with valid tickets or proper travel authority.

Telangana Caps Rice Prices, Cracks Down on Traders

Hyderabad, Munsif Desk:



The Telangana Civil Supplies department has launched a statewide crackdown on rice millers, wholesalers and retailers indulging in price manipulation, hoarding and other unfair trade practices, fixing maximum retail prices for popular rice varieties to protect consumers.

As part of the initiative, the department has capped the retail price of BPT/KNM rice at Rs.66 per kg, RNR/Telangana Sona at Rs.74 per kg and HMT/JSR at Rs.79 per kg. Millers and traders have been directed to prominently print the prescribed prices on all 26-kg packaged rice bags to ensure transparency.

Acting on the directions of Civil Supplies Commissioner and Ex-Officio Principal Secretary M. Stephen Raveendra, the Enforcement Task Force (ETF) and Legal Metrology department conducted a week-long joint enforcement drive from October 29 to November 5.

During the drive, ETF teams carried out 1,141 surprise inspections at rice mills, wholesale establishments and retail outlets, registering 55 cases, including 35 criminal cases.

The Legal Metrology department conducted another 1,545 inspections and booked 280 cases for violations.

Fraudster Held for Duping MLAs Over Govt Schemes

Hyderabad, NSS:



The Hyderabad Commissioner's Task Force (Golconda Zone), in coordination with Film Nagar Police, arrested a 53-year-old alleged fraudster for impersonating senior government officials and cheating public representatives and members of the public in the name of government welfare schemes.

The accused, Thota Balaji Nayudu alias Naidu, allegedly collected contact details of legislators from various websites and contacted them while posing as a senior official of the Finance department at the Secretariat. He reportedly lured them with information about government initiatives, including the Pradhan Mantri Vikasit Bharat Rojgar Yojana and Chief Minister's unemployment schemes, and sought monetary contributions in their names.

A native of Kirlampudi in Kakinada district, Nayudu graduated from JNTU Kakinada and joined NTPC Ramagundam as a Junior Engineer before being promoted as Assistant Executive Engineer and later Assistant Engineer. He was reportedly trapped by the ACB in 2008 and subsequently handed over to the CBI and was under suspension.

Police said 43 cases had been registered against him in various police stations across Telangana and Andhra Pradesh. In 2016, Banjara Hills Police had also initiated proceedings under the Preventive Detention Act against him.

During interrogation, the accused reportedly confessed to his involvement in two recent cases registered at Film Nagar Police Station and Mancherial Town Police Station. The arrest was made under the supervision of Task Force Golconda Zone Inspector M. Mahesh and Film Nagar Police Inspector A. Ramesh, along with sub-inspectors G. Vijayanand and Shaik Saleem and their teams.

Huge Crowds at Charminar Bhagyalaxmi Temple on Dhanteras

Hyderabad (NSS):

The historic Shri Bhagyalaxmi Mata Temple near Charminar witnessed a huge turnout of devotees on the occasion of Dhanteras, with special pujas and festive celebrations marking the beginning of Diwali festivities.

The temple was adorned with colourful floral arrangements and LED decorations, while devotees thronged the shrine to seek the blessings of Goddess Bhagyalaxmi. Special prayers and aartis were organised, along with the distribution of auspicious coins to devotees.

BRS MLA Sudheer Reddy also visited the temple and offered prayers. Speaking on the occasion, he said thousands of devotees visit the shrine during the festive period and wished happiness and prosperity for Hyderabad, Telangana and the entire country.

With large crowds expected over the festive days, particularly during evening hours, special arrangements involving temple authorities and police personnel were made to regulate the movement of devotees and ensure smooth entry and exit.

Madiga Advocates' State-Level Alai Balai Meet Held in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, Munsif Desk :

The state-level Madiga Advocates "Alai Balai" programme will be held on Saturday at Visvesvaraya Bhavan (Institute of Engineers), Khairatabad, with organisers appealing to Madiga lawyers across Telangana to participate in large numbers.

Addressing a press conference at Basheerbagh Press Club here on Friday, programme convener Chatla Manikumar, along with representatives Dunna Ambedkar and Nerella Parijatha, said the event was aimed at strengthening unity among Madiga advocates and promoting national integrity.

Ravichandra Takes Charge as TTD Chairman

Tirumala, Munsif Desk :

Sri Muddada Ravichandra, Executive Officer of Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD), was sworn in as Chairman of the TTD Specified Authority on Friday. TTD Additional Executive Officer Ch. Venkaiah Chowdary administered the oath of office at the Bangaru Vakili of the Srivari Temple. Later, Vedic scholars performed Vedic blessings at Ranganayakula Mandapam and presented him with Srivari Teertha Prasadams.

Speaking to the media, Ravichandra thanked the State Government and Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu for entrusting him with the responsibility. He said his priority would be to strengthen TTD's service activities and improve facilities for devotees visiting Tirumala. He assured that special attention would be given to enhancing pilgrim amenities at the Srivari Temple and all 64 temples managed by TTD, ensuring devotees have a comfortable and spiritually fulfilling experience.

On education sector, he said TTD-run institutions would focus on providing quality education in tune with future requirements and developing students into responsible citizens with a strong spirit of service.

Necessary facilities would also be provided for their overall development. In the healthcare sector, TTD would work towards providing better medical services with modern facilities at hospitals managed by the Trust.

Harish demands immediate drought relief for farmers

Hyderabad, NSS :



Former Minister and BRSLP Deputy Floor Leader T. Harish Rao on Friday inspected withered paddy fields across Chilipiched and Hathnoora mandals in the Narsapur constituency, criticising the Congress government for failing to ensure adequate irrigation water and power supply.

Accompanied by Narsapur MLA Sunitha Laxma Reddy and Sangareddy MLA Chintha Prabhakar, Harish Rao interacted with affected farmers in their dried fields before addressing the media.

Speaking to reporters, Harish Rao targeted Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's administration, accusing the Cabinet of prioritizing grand preparations for an upcoming global summit over the severe distress faced by the farming community. He noted that despite official estimates acknowledging crop damage across more than 25 lakh acres.



NATION | India's Politics, Policies & People.

Politics, economy, society and developments shaping the nation.

At a Glance

Minor girl being questioned over alleged role in killing of 7 family members

Bengaluru

Police are questioning cab driver Indushekar's minor daughter over her alleged role in the killing of seven members of his wife's family. Investigators are examining how she was allegedly persuaded to assist.

The victims included the accused's wife and relatives. A 10-year-old child survived. Police said the killings occurred over 15 to 20 days; this is being verified.

A suspected dispute over property worth Rs 2.5 crore is being probed as a possible motive. One body was recovered near Nandi Hills.

Hindutva Not Sanatan Dharma Digvijaya Singh:

New Delhi

Congress leader Digvijaya Singh said that Hindutva was not Sanatan Dharma, citing Veer Savarkar, whom he said used the term. He questioned whether the BJP, RSS and VHP believed in Sanatan Dharma.

Singh said Sanatan Dharma stood for respect for all religions. He accused the RSS and VHP of promoting hatred through Hindutva. His remarks follow his criticism of the organisations and BJP's interpretation of Hindutva. IANS

PM Modi to lead grand Bhupen Hazarika centenary finale; Usha Mangeshkar to get National Award

Guwahati



Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday launched an online registration portal for the public to attend the grand closing ceremony of Bharat Ratna Bhupen Hazarika's birth centenary celebrations at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi on November 29.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will attend the ceremony as the Chief Guest and confer the Bhupen Hazarika National Award on veteran singer Usha Mangeshkar.

The event, scheduled from 6 to 8 p.m., will bring together leading national artistes and performers from Assam in a musical tribute to the legendary singer, composer and cultural icon popularly known as Sudhakantha.

Addressing the media at Dispur, Chief Minister Sarma said the closing ceremony would showcase the enduring legacy of Bhupen Hazarika through performances by some of the country's most celebrated musicians.

Shreya Ghoshal, Shankar Mahadevan, Kalpana Patowary, Angaraag Mahanta, popularly known as Papon, Kavita Krishnamurti, L. Subramaniam, Kaushiki Chakraborty, Mahalaxmi Iyer, Rahul Deshpande and Sriramchandra are among the artistes scheduled to perform.

Several prominent singers from Assam, including Tarali Sarma, Mousumi Saharia, Sankuraj Konwar, Dikshu Sarma, Rupam Bhuyan, Mayukh Hazarika, Zublee Baruah, Nahid Afrin, Anindita Paul, Dawor Hazarika and Achurjya Borpatragohain, will also take the stage.

A major attraction will be the participation of 1,000 artistes from Assam, who had earlier performed at the inaugural ceremony of the centenary celebrations.

They will join other performers in presenting Hazarika's iconic songs, including "Manuhe Manuhor Babe" and "We Are in the Same Boat, Brother".

Another 1,000 college students from Assam associated with music and cultural activities will attend the event, with a special train arranged for their journey to the national capital.

The programme will have an overall audience capacity of around 5,000, including artistes, students, diplomats, Governors, Chief Ministers, Union Ministers and other distinguished guests associated with Hazarika's legacy.

The November 29 ceremony will mark the culmination of a year-long celebration honouring one of India's most influential cultural voices. IANS

Assam opens registration for Bhupen Hazarika centenary event

Guwahati: Assam opened online registration for the closing ceremony of Bharat Ratna Bhupen Hazarika's birth centenary at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, on November 29. Registration is free. Applicants must submit personal details and an Aadhaar copy after OTP verification.

Registration closes on November 20, or earlier if capacity is reached. Selected applicants can download QR-code e-passes from November 12. Entry requires selfie verification and original photo ID. The event is from 6 pm to 8 pm; attendees must report by 5 pm. IANS

2.96 LAKH FORM 6s RECEIVED SO FAR: DELHI CEO

New Delhi



The Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi, said on Friday that between August 31 and November 5, as many as 2.96 lakh Forms 6 have been received in the city for inclusion of eligible citizens' names in the electoral roll.

During this period, 28,853 Forms 7 have been filed for objection to proposed inclusion or deletion of names in the existing electoral roll, said a statement issued by the office of the CEO, Delhi, reminding that the final roll will be published on December 22.

Till November 5, 1.1 lakh Forms 8 have been filed for shifting of resident/correction of entries in the existing electoral roll, it said.

The maximum number of Forms 6 – for inclusion of name in electoral roll - had been filed till November 5 in the West district (36,306), followed by South East district (28,688), said the statement.

The CEO said the period for filing claims and objections has been extended till November 25. All these claims and objections will be disposed of by December 15.

Earlier, the CEO, Delhi, published the draft electoral roll on August 31 and uploaded it on its official website. The draft roll included 97,53,577 electors under the SIR while notices were issued to 33.14,032 electors over mapping-related issues and logical discrepancies.

Meanwhile, the ECI has instructed the CEO, Delhi, to provide one more opportunity to voters who were left out during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR).

The Commission said in a statement that voters who were issued enumeration forms but whose names could not be included in the draft electoral roll on account of being marked as Absent/Shifted/Dead/Duplicate (ASDD) would be provided one more opportunity to get their names included in the final electoral roll.

The ECI added that booth-wise lists of all such voters, who were marked as ASDD and whose enumeration forms were not received back and consequently could not be included in the draft electoral roll during the ongoing SIR, would be displayed afresh (once again) on the notice boards of the respective polling stations.

The Commission said, "In cases where such an elector who was marked as ASDD and consequently whose name does not appear in the draft electoral roll, has shifted the place of residence within the state, such elector is not required to submit Form 8; instead, he/she shall submit enumeration form along with the statement enclosed herewith as Annexure-C (indicating the new address and the Assembly Constituency)."

The ECI noted, "An elector who has already submitted Form-6 for fresh enrolment during the SIR, need not submit the enumeration form with statement afresh. Their form will be processed as per the procedure in accordance with the Commission's clarification dated November 3." IANS

ANDHRA PRADESH CM VISITS CYCLONE-HIT GUNTUR, BAPATLA DISTRICTS

Amaravati



Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Friday visited cyclone-affected areas in Guntur and Bapatla districts and inspected submerged fields and damaged crops. He assured affected people that the State Government would continue relief efforts until everyone eligible received assistance.

During his visit to Bapatla district, Naidu walked from Jillellamudi to Returu village, speaking to farmers, officials and public representatives to assess the damage caused by cyclone Murasu. He inspected paddy fields submerged by floodwaters along irrigation canal embankments and asked farmers about cultivation costs, expected yields and losses.

At the Jillellamudi bridge, farmers and officials explained how the rising water in a stream had inundated surrounding areas. In Returu, farmers told the Chief Minister that they had cultivated paddy with irrigation water supplied through the Pattiseema project and were expecting a good harvest when the cyclone struck.

Naidu said crop insurance and input subsidies would provide some relief by compensating farmers for part of their investment. He asked officials to create greater awareness about crop insurance and plan irrigation supplies ahead of the regular cultivation season so that farmers could sow early and reduce their exposure to cyclones. Completion of the Polavaram project would create further opportunities for early cultivation, he said.

Addressing residents in Returu, the Chief Minister said the cyclones had caused considerable damage across the State, striking when crops were nearing harvest. Farmers had already faced the effects of El Nino before cultivating with water supplied through Pattiseema, he said.

Naidu said advance measures taken by the government had helped reduce the potential damage. Guntur, Bapatla and Prakasam districts were among the worst-affected areas. He urged people to take cyclone warnings seriously and remain alert when advisories were issued.

The Chief Minister said 30,000 electricity poles damaged by one cyclone had been restored, while another 10,000 poles were damaged by a subsequent cyclone. Efforts were under way to restore power supply to aquaculture ponds, he added. The State was seeking assistance for relief operations from Telangana, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

Naidu said the Central Government had been informed about the cyclone impact and that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also enquired about the situation. He said so! IANS

Karnataka sugarcane farmers withdraw protest after price agreement

Bengaluru

Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Friday said the Centre should take responsibility for fixing sugar prices and that he would raise the issue with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his November 13 visit to Bengaluru.

Shivakumar said the State Government had written to the Prime Minister. Union Minister Pralhad Joshi had informed them that efforts were being made to address the issue.

Meanwhile, farmers have withdrawn their agitation after sugar factories agreed to a profit-sharing arrangement linked to any increase in sugar prices.

Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha and Hasiru Sene state president Chunappa Pujeri said farmers had accepted the Rs 3,600-per-tonne price announced for Belagavi district by Minister Satish Jarkiholi.

Farmers want the same rate across Karnataka.

Shivakumar said the government had urged farmers not to make the issue a matter of prestige.

Ministers and factory representatives held discussions, and an affidavit was being filed in court over pleas seeking permission for factories to crush sugarcane.

He said threats to disrupt the Belagavi winter session were inappropriate and urged that farmers be treated respectfully.

Farmers had demanded Rs 5,500 per tonne, a rise in the Centre's sugar minimum support price from Rs 31 to Rs 60 per kg, revision of the Fair and Remunerative Price, payment within 14 days and changes to ethanol procurement and sugar pricing policies.

Earlier talks on October 26 at Suvarna Vidhana Soudha failed to settle the dispute. IANS

GUJARAT: 12.16 KG OF SILVER VALUED AT RS 27.44 LAKH RECOVERED

Gandhinagar



Banaskantha police recovered 12.16 kg of silver ornaments worth Rs 27.44 lakh within hours of a highway robbery near Tetoda village in Deesa and arrested four persons, Deputy Chief Minister Harsh Sanghavi said on Friday.

The ornaments were returned to their owner under the State Government's 'Tera Tujhko Arpan' programme, which facilitates the return of recovered or lost property.

The robbery occurred when employees of Ahmedabad-based wholesale jewellery shop Maximum Enterprise were travelling to Dhanera with silver ornaments. Near Tetoda village, unidentified persons intercepted their vehicle, assaulted the complainant and fled with the consignment.

A case was registered at Deesa Rural police station. The Banaskantha Local Crime Branch used technical inputs and human intelligence to trace the accused. Police arrested four persons, seized the car allegedly used in the robbery and recovered the stolen ornaments.

Sanghavi felicitated Banaskantha LCB Inspector D. M. Rathod and team members UHC Rajeshkumar Shankarlal, UPC Kansinh Balwantsinh and UPC Mukeshkumar Shantilal with certificates of appreciation.

The district police organised around 538 programmes under the initiative over the past year and returned lost or stolen property worth more than Rs 4.66 crore to owners, the government said. IANS

RAJATARANGINI INSCRIBED IN UNESCO'S MEMORY OF THE WORLD REGISTER

Srinagar

Kashmir's chronicle Rajatarangini, written by historian Kalhana in 1148-49, has been inscribed in UNESCO's Memory of the World Asia-Pacific Regional Register, the Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor's office announced on X.

The office said the recognition celebrates Kashmir's intellectual heritage. Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal welcomed the inscription, saying the Mahabharata and Kautilya's Arthashastra had been included.

Written in Sanskrit, Rajatarangini chronicles Kashmir's rulers and traces the region's history from early times to Kalhana's period. It is regarded as an important historical account of the north-western Indian subcontinent.

Kalhana drew on earlier royal chronicles, literary works, inscriptions, coins, temple records, land grants and local traditions. His father and uncle served at the Kashmir court, giving him access to details of contemporary affairs.



The chronicle remains a truly valuable source on Kashmir's past. However, its early accounts reflect the traditional beliefs and moral framework of its time, requiring careful historical assessment. IANS

At a Glance

Two oil tankers caught fire while seeking to cross 'unauthorised' route of Hormuz: IRGC

Tehran

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) said two oil tankers caught fire after hitting naval mines while using an "unauthorised" route through the Strait of Hormuz.

Its navy said the vessels had switched off navigation systems and were trying to exit the strait with US military support. It said the waterway would remain closed until the United States met Iran's seven conditions.

On Thursday, the IRGC reported that three vessels and a tugboat caught fire in 2 incidents on the same route. It claimed its electronic warfare unit took control of combat drones and landed them safely.

The claims have not been independently verified. IANS

Belgian King rejects PM's resignation, urges renewed budget talks

Brussels

Belgium's King Philippe on Friday rejected Prime Minister Bart De Wever's resignation and urged him to resume budget talks.

The King met leaders of the five-party coalition, who pledged to make concessions on a budget plan. De Wever must report back on Nov 16.

He resigned on Monday after the coalition failed to agree on a budget. The parties are divided over a 10-billion-euro package of spending cuts and tax increases. His N-VA and the liberal MR favour spending restraint, while socialist and centrist partners seek higher taxes on wealth.

Belgium's deficit was 5.2 per cent of GDP in 2025 and public debt 108.1 per cent, Eurostat said. IANS

TRUMP WARNS IRAN AS DEMOCRATS PLAN WAR VOTES

Washington



US President Donald Trump warned that military action against Iran remained possible, as House Democrats prepared to seek votes to end the conflict and demand answers about its objectives.

"I would rather not destroy the rest of the country, if possible, but maybe I'll have to. You'll know soon enough," Trump told reporters at the White House.

He gave no timetable or targets for further action and did not announce new strikes. At an Oval Office event, he defended the campaign and reiterated that Iran must not acquire a nuclear weapon.

Asked about proposals concerning Tehran's nuclear programme, Trump said: "They're not doing anything without our approval." He did not confirm details or outline a negotiating framework.

Democrats prepared to challenge the administration's Iran policy in the next Congress. Representative Gregory Meeks, the senior Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said he intended to bring resolutions seeking an immediate end to the war.

In a November 4 letter seeking support to become the committee's chairman, Meeks said he would seek to restore Congress's role in US foreign policy. He proposed public testimony from officials on the Iran war, Venezuela and disputes over congressional authority on military action and trade.

The letter outlined his plans but gave no date for a vote and identified no newly introduced resolution.

Democratic Whip Katherine Clark said Democrats would question the administration about funding for the conflict and plans to bring US troops home. Her office circulated excerpts of a CNN interview before Trump's remarks.

Clark accused the president of taking the country into "a reckless war that had no exit strategy, had no clear goals". She said the conflict was adding to pressure on household fuel costs.

She said Democrats would seek clarity on the administration's objectives and plans to end the war while protecting Americans and US troops.

Meeks focused on resolutions and congressional oversight, while Clark highlighted funding, costs and an exit strategy. Their statements preceded Trump's warning and did not impose a new restriction on the president.

The conflict concerns Asian energy importers, including India. The International Energy Agency identifies the Strait of Hormuz as a critical oil route and lists India, China and Japan among its principal destinations. IANS

DEVELOPING NATIONS' FOREIGN DEBT HITS $9.4 TRILLION: WORLD BANK

Washington



Developing countries' external debt hit a new record $9.4 trillion in 2025, with the World Bank warning that high borrowing costs could squeeze development spending.

Debt rose 5.5 per cent, its fastest increase since 2021. Low- and middle-income countries paid $1.4 trillion in principal and interest, the fifth consecutive annual rise, the International Debt Report 2026 said.

The debt of countries eligible for concessional financing from the International Development Association (IDA) rose 8.1 per cent to $1.3 trillion.

They paid an average 8.2 per cent interest on new private-sector commitments, the highest since 1989. New bonds carried an average rate of 9.4 per cent. By comparison, countries borrowing from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development paid an average 5.5 per cent on new bonds, down from 5.8 per cent in 2024.

World Bank statistician Haishan Fu welcomed the return of private lending but warned that higher borrowing and repayments could leave fewer resources for development.

"Managing debt responsibly means giving everyone—including future generations—a chance to thrive," she said.

Entities issued $251 billion in bonds, nearly 35 per cent more than in 2024. Governments used new borrowing to repurchase debt nearing maturity, spreading repayments without substantially reducing the amount owed. Payments to bondholders reached $363 billion, partly reflecting buybacks and early repayments.

In a commentary, Fu and World Bank data official Evis Rucaj said financing should support productive investment and higher future incomes, rather than replace expensive debt. They said heavier external debt burdens were linked to worsening access to affordable healthy diets during external shocks.

The officials urged borrowers and lenders to reconcile records, resolve discrepancies and disclose complete debt information to help assess repayment risks and manage or restructure debt.

India's external debt rose to $763.5 billion in 2025 from $717.4 billion in 2024, up about 6.4 per cent. Its debt-service-to-exports ratio fell to 9.8 per cent from 10.5 per cent. IANS

Japanese lawmakers participate in Diwali celebrations hosted by Indian Embassy

Tokyo



Japanese Internal Affairs and Communications Minister Hisayuki Fujii, Justice Minister Takashi Yamashita and India's Ambassador to Japan Nagma Mallick inaugurated a Diwali celebrations event hosted by the Indian Embassy in Tokyo which witnessed performances of Indian classical music, dance and a tapestry of Indian food, bringing the best of India to our friends in Japan.

In a post on X, the Indian Embassy in Japan stated, "Celebrating Diwali with friends. Embassy was pleased to host representatives of Govt of Japan, Parliamentarians and friends of India for a wonderful evening celebrating the Festival of Lights."

"Ambassador Mallick, along with Internal Affairs and Communications Minister Hisayuki Fujii and Justice Minister Takashi Yamashita inaugurated the celebrations. The evening witnessed captivating performances of Indian classical music and dance and a tapestry of Indian food, bringing the best of India to our friends in Japan," it added.

On Thursday, the US Embassy in India also celebrated Diwali and extended wishes to the people celebrating the festival of lights.

"Great to celebrate Diwali at our Embassy in New Delhi. Wishing all who are observing the holiday a very Happy Diwali!," US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor posted on X.

The United States provides a prominent example of Diwali receiving recognition at the highest levels of government. The festival is observed by Hindu, Jain and Sikh communities, as well as some Buddhist communities.

At the municipal level, New York City began observing Diwali as a holiday for public schools in 2023, with the first school closure taking place in 2024.

New York, New Jersey and the San Francisco Bay Area have substantial Indian-origin populations and host temple celebrations, cultural performances and community gatherings.

On November 2, Singapore High Commissioner to India Simon Wong shared pictures of Singapore streets all decked up to welcome the Diwali festival.

Diwali, the festival of lights, will be celebrated two days later, on Sunday, November 8, on the occasion of Kartik Amavasya. On the day, homes and temples are decorated and illuminated with earthen lamps and decorative lights.

In the evening, devotees perform traditional prayers to Lord Ganesha and Goddess Lakshmi, seeking blessings for happiness, peace and prosperity.

Diwali symbolises the spiritual victory of good over evil, light over darkness, and knowledge over ignorance. IANS

US LAWMAKERS SEEK NVIDIA ANSWERS ON CHINA CLAIMS

Washington



Three US House committee chairmen have asked Nvidia chief executive Jensen Huang to explain contacts with a woman linked to Chinese intelligence.

They seek a briefing on November 18. A November 4 letter asks Huang to accept or suggest another date by November 11. It is not a subpoena.

Signed by House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Brian Mast, Select Committee on China Chairman John Moolenaar and House Intelligence Committee Chairman Rick Crawford, the letter seeks details of Huang's interactions with Alice Huang, an executive associated with Singapore-based Megaspeed, and Nvidia's safeguards against espionage.

Nvidia said regional cloud customers received routine commercial information, not sensitive trade secrets or national-security information. It said it expected US authorities to alert it to threats to American industry.

The request follows an October 29 New York Times report that US intelligence officials concluded Alice Huang was passing information to Beijing. The newspaper could not establish what information she allegedly passed or its value. It reported that officials initially believed Jensen Huang was unaware.

Megaspeed told the Times it had hired outside lawyers to investigate and informed the US government. Alice Huang did not respond; China's embassy rejected the allegations.

The letter provides no intelligence evidence and does not establish that Huang knowingly assisted espionage. IANS

NEW ZEALAND ELECTION RACE TIGHTENS AS COST OF LIVING DOMINATES VOTER CONCERNS

Washington

New Zealand's ruling National Party and opposition Labour Party are locked in a tight race ahead of Saturday's election, with living costs, healthcare and fuel prices among voters' concerns.

A Post/Freshwater Strategy poll released on Friday put Labour at 30.7 per cent and National at 26.4 per cent. Their governing partners, ACT and New Zealand First, recorded 9.8 per cent and 12 per cent, respectively. The Greens had 13 per cent, the Maori Party 2 per cent and the Opportunity Party 5.1 per cent.

The poll projected 59 seats for the governing coalition in the 120-member Parliament, two short of a majority, against 55 for Labour, the Greens and the Maori Party.

An Ipsos survey of 1,008 adults found that 64 per cent ranked the cost of living and inflation among their top three concerns, followed by healthcare at 45 per cent and fuel prices at 31 per cent.

More than 913,000 people voted in seven days of advance polling for the November 7 election, exceeding the 712,192 recorded over the same period in 2023, the Electoral Commission said. The 913,762 votes cast between October 26 and November 1 represented 24 per cent of enrolled voters, compared with 19 per cent in 2023.

The busiest advance voting day was October 31, when more than 190,000 votes were cast. The figure remains below the 1.16 million recorded at the same stage of the 2020 election.

More than 2,300 voting places are due to open on election day. Results are scheduled for November 27. IANS

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf continues to voice concerns over Imran Khan's health

Islamabad

Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf's (PTI) core committee has expressed concern over the health of party founder and former Prime Minister Imran Khan, urging the Chief Justice to ensure court orders on his treatment are implemented.

The committee met after reports claimed Khan's blood pressure had reached 192. In a statement, it voiced grave concern, citing an alleged lack of medical facilities and restrictions on meetings with his family and personal doctors, Dawn reported.

The committee called for access to his personal physicians, medical evaluation and diagnostic tests without delay. It also urged that he be shifted to Shifa International Hospital for examination, describing the matter as an urgent humanitarian and medical emergency.

It appealed to people in Pakistan and overseas Pakistanis to raise their voices and called on PTI leaders and office-bearers to take up Khan's health, treatment and rights in Parliament, provincial assemblies and other forums.

The committee said implementing court orders was a constitutional and legal responsibility of the government and administrative authorities. It asked the Chief Justice to give the matter immediate attention, Dawn reported.

Khan has been in prison since August 2023 following convictions that PTI has described as politically motivated. Since his ouster through a no-confidence vote in 2022, he has faced cases involving state gifts and an unlawful marriage. IANS

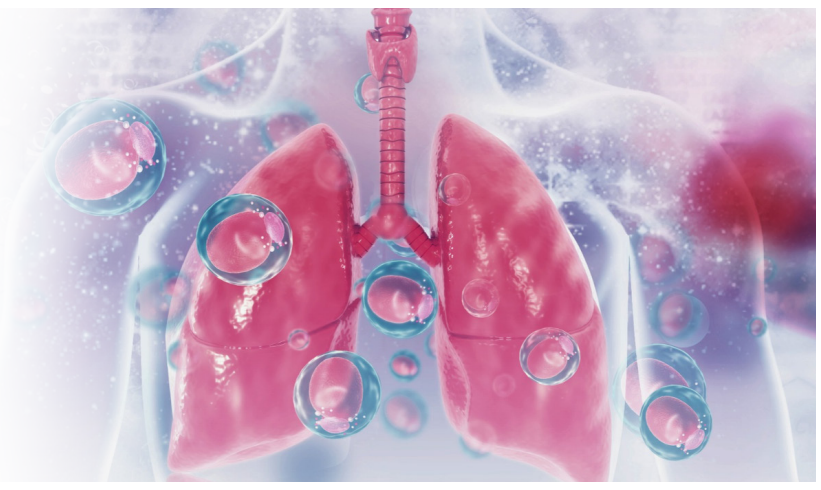
PERSPECTIVE | Beyond the Headlines. Context. Clarity. Consequence.

HEALTH & WELLNESS | WORLD PNEUMONIA DAY | NOVEMBER 12



Pneumonia Is Not Just a Childhood Disease

Older adults and people with diabetes, heart or lung disease face greater risks of serious complications, making vaccination, early diagnosis and preventive care essential.





By: Dr. Md. Mubasheer Ali
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Pneumonia is commonly associated with childhood, particularly infants and children below five years of age. However, this perception overlooks an important medical reality: pneumonia can affect people of all ages and may become life-threatening in adults, especially older individuals and those living with chronic illnesses.

As World Pneumonia Day approaches on November 12, the need to raise awareness about pneumonia prevention among adults becomes increasingly important.

While childhood pneumonia receives considerable public health attention, the disease also poses significant risks to elderly individuals, people with diabetes and patients suffering from chronic heart, lung or kidney conditions.

Recognising the warning signs, maintaining good health and receiving appropriate vaccinations can significantly reduce the risk of serious illness and complications.

Five Important Facts About Pneumonia

Allagesatrisk: Pneumoniaisnotlimitedtochildren. High-risk adults: Elderly people and those with chronic diseases need greater protection. **Warning symptoms:** Fever, cough, breathlessness and sudden confusion require attention. **Vaccination matters:** Recommended vaccines help prevent certain serious respiratory infections. **Early treatment:** Timely diagnosis can prevent life-threatening complications.

Understanding Pneumonia: What Happens to the Lungs?

Pneumonia is an infection affecting one or both lungs. It is commonly caused by bacteria or viruses and, less frequently, fungi.

During infection, the tiny air sacs in the lungs, known as alveoli, become inflamed and may fill with fluid or pus. This interferes with the normal exchange of oxygen, making breathing difficult.

Common symptoms include fever, cough, chest discomfort, breathlessness, chills and fatigue.

However, symptoms are not always typical, particularly in elderly patients.

Older adults may develop pneumonia without a prominent fever or severe cough. Instead, they may experience unusual weakness, confusion, reduced appetite or a sudden decline in their general health.

Such changes should never be dismissed as merely age-related problems, as they may indicate a serious underlying infection.

Why Are Older Adults and Diabetic Patients More Vulnerable?

The risk of severe pneumonia increases with advancing age, particularly after 65 years, when the body's immune response may become less effective.

People with underlying medical conditions such as diabetes, heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), asthma, chronic kidney disease and weakened immunity are also more vulnerable.

Diabetes deserves particular attention because poorly controlled blood glucose can impair the body's ability to fight infections.

In diabetic patients, respiratory infections may become more severe, complications can develop and recovery may take longer.

Additional risk factors include smoking, excessive alcohol consumption, poor nutrition and exposure to air pollution.

These factors can weaken respiratory health and increase susceptibility to infections.

For adults with chronic illnesses, regular medical follow-up and proper disease management are important components of pneumonia prevention.

Pneumonia Can Cause Life-Threatening Complications

Pneumonia should never be regarded as merely a routine chest infection that will always resolve after a few days of medication.

Although many patients recover with appropriate treatment, severe pneumonia can lead to respiratory failure, sepsis, hospitalisation and, in some cases, death.

Older adults may also experience prolonged fatigue, weakness and reduced physical independence even after the acute infection has resolved.

Early diagnosis and appropriate treatment are therefore essential.

The choice of treatment depends on the cause and severity of the infection. Antibiotics are useful for bacterial pneumonia when prescribed appropriately, but they do not treat viral pneumonia.

Self-medication, particularly unnecessary antibiotic use, should be avoided.

Patients experiencing severe breathlessness, new confusion or other signs of serious deterioration should receive urgent medical attention.

Protecting Our Lungs Is a Lifelong Responsibility

World Pneumonia Day serves as an important reminder that respiratory health deserves attention throughout life.

The focus should extend beyond treating infections to preventing illness through vaccination, healthy lifestyle practices, chronic disease management and timely medical care.

Families should pay particular attention to older members and individuals living with diabetes or other chronic medical conditions.

Recognising an infection early and seeking appropriate medical attention may make a significant difference in recovery and long-term health.

Pneumonia is not just a childhood disease. Prevention is important at every age.

On this World Pneumonia Day, let us remember that protecting our lungs is a lifelong responsibility — and that awareness, prevention and timely treatment can save lives.

The author, Dr. Md. Mubasheer Ali, is a Consultant in Internal Medicine and Diabetologist at Dr. Ali's True Care Clinics, Hyderabad.

IN FOCUS | WORLD HERITAGE | CULTURE & CIVILISATION



Albania: Where Islam, History and Culture Come Together

From historic mosques and UNESCO-listed towns to breathtaking coastlines, Albania reflects a remarkable blend of religious traditions, cultural heritage and natural beauty.

By: Dr. Shujath Ali Sufi

Albania, a beautiful country in southeastern Europe, occupies a distinctive place in the history and culture of the Balkan region. Known for its spectacular mountains, crystal-clear beaches, ancient castles, historic mosques and rich traditions, Albania presents a fascinating combination of European heritage and Islamic cultural influence.

For many, Albania is particularly interesting because of the important role Islam has played in shaping its history, architecture and social identity. However, the country's story extends far beyond religion. It is also a story of independence, cultural diversity, national resilience and coexistence among different communities.

A Beautiful Country in the Heart of the Balkans

Situated on the Balkan Peninsula, Albania shares borders with Montenegro, Kosovo, North Macedonia and Greece. The Adriatic Sea stretches along its western coastline, while the Ionian Sea borders its southwest.\

Its capital, Tirana, combines modern European urban life with historic architecture and traditional neighbourhoods.

Despite its relatively small geographical size, Albania offers remarkable diversity, ranging from mountain landscapes and fertile valleys to Mediterranean beaches and centuries-old towns.

Islam and Albania's Religious Heritage

Islam became an important influence in Albania during the Ottoman period, beginning in the late medieval era. Over successive centuries, mosques, educational institutions, bridges, markets and public buildings helped shape Albanian society.

Albania is frequently described as a Muslim-majority European country. However, recent statistics provide a more precise understanding of its religious composition.

According to the 2023 Albanian population census, approximately 45.9 per cent of residents identified as Muslim, while another 4.8 per cent identified with the Bektashi tradition, which was recorded separately.

Together, these categories represented approximately 50.7 per cent of the population.

Albania also has substantial Catholic and Orthodox Christian communities, alongside people with other religious beliefs or no religious affiliation.

This diversity illustrates how different religious traditions have contributed to the country's national character.

Historic Mosques and Religious Freedom

Among Albania's most celebrated monuments is the Et'hem Bey Mosque in Tirana, located near the famous Skanderbeg Square.

Built during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, the mosque is admired for its elegant architecture and beautiful decorative paintings depicting natural landscapes.

It also holds special historical significance.

During communist rule, Albania experienced severe restrictions on religious practice. In 1967, the authorities launched a campaign against religious institutions, closing or repurposing numerous mosques, churches and other places of worship.

The reopening of religious life around 1990–1991 marked an important turning point in the country's transition away from communist restrictions.

Today, surviving religious monuments represent both Albania's architectural heritage and its struggle to restore freedom of belief.

Berat and Gjirokastër: Cities That Preserve History

Two of Albania's most remarkable destinations are Berat and Gjirokastër, whose historic centres are recognised together as a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Berat, popularly known as the City of a Thousand Windows, is famous for its white Ottoman-era houses, hillside neighbourhoods, narrow stone streets and imposing castle.

Historic mosques and churches stand within its traditional urban landscape, reflecting centuries of cultural interaction.

Gjirokastër, often called the Stone City, is equally impressive. Its stone-roofed houses, cobbled streets, traditional bazaar and magnificent castle preserve the atmosphere of earlier centuries.

These cities demonstrate that cultural heritage survives not only in religious monuments but also in homes, marketplaces, architecture and everyday traditions.

Natural Beauty Beyond Historic Monuments

Albania's appeal extends far beyond its historical landmarks.

The Albanian Riviera, overlooking the Ionian Sea, is celebrated for turquoise waters, picturesque coastal villages and dramatic mountain scenery.

Destinations such as Ksamil, Dhërmi and Himarë attract visitors seeking beautiful beaches and Mediterranean landscapes.

Inland, the country offers mountains, lakes, forests and valleys that appeal to nature lovers and adventure travellers.

This remarkable geographical diversity has helped Albania gain increasing recognition as an attractive European tourism destination.

The true beauty of Albania lies not merely in its geography or religious statistics, but in the shared heritage, resilience and cultural traditions of its people.

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Rain threat looms over Wellington for NZ-IND 2nd ODI



New Delhi: Rain is likely to make its presence felt for the second straight time in the ongoing ODI series between New Zealand and India as weather points to a strong probability of showers in Wellington on Saturday, the match day. Weather interrupted the proceedings in the first ODI between the two sides in Auckland on Wednesday as India chased down a DLS reduced target of 143 in a rain-curtailed chase.

The interruptions might follow for the second ODI in Wellington too. Ahead of the second match, the city witnessed persistent rain in the first half of Friday as teams were forced to abandon their planned training sessions, a report in Cricinfo stated.

The training sessions were scheduled to take place at Basin Reserve instead of the match venue Hnry Stadium, but New Zealand moved their practice to an indoor facility, although India cancelled their training session. As per Accuweather, there is a 60 per cent chance of precipitation on Saturday in Wellington. There is a 60 per cent chance of showers in the morning, while the precipitation probability reduces marginally to 55 per cent in the second half. The match is scheduled to begin at 3 PM local time, which is 7:30 AM IST. Going by hourly updates with local time, there is only 5 per cent and 8 per cent chance of precipitation at 12 noon and 1 PM local time, although the probability of rain increases to 49 per cent at 2 PM local, which is one hour before the start of the game. It remains 55 per cent and 60 per cent at 3 PM and 4 PM local, which points to the start of the play can be delayed. The rain probability dips down to 20 per cent at 5 PM, 15 per cent at 6 PM and 20 per cent at 7 PM, before rising again to 43 per cent at 8 PM, 47 per cent at 9 PM, 51 per cent at 10 PM and 40 per cent at 11 PM.

Rain interruptions reduced India's target to 143 in 32 overs after New Zealand were bowled out for 185. India chased it down in 22.4 overs, winning by five wickets.

'New Zealand conditions are similar to ones we are going to get in WC': Gill

New Delhi India captain Shubman Gill believes the ongoing ODI series against New Zealand will provide the team with valuable preparation for next year's World Cup, with the conditions in the country expected to be similar to those likely to be encountered during the showpiece event. With the World Cup scheduled to be played in October-November, Gill feels the timing of the series in early November will offer India an opportunity to familiarise themselves with conditions that could prove crucial during the tournament. "The conditions that we're going to get here are going to be a lot more similar to the ones that we're going to get in the World Cup, especially playing here in early November. Usually, whenever we play in South Africa or in New Zealand or in Australia, we play around December, January and the World Cup being in October and November, so I think the conditions are going to be a lot more similar, and it's going to be a really good experience for us," Gill said in a video released by BCCI on X. India head into Saturday's match with a 1-0 lead in the five-match series after registering a rain-affected victory in the opening ODI in Auckland on Wednesday. The visitors chased down a DLS-revised target of 143 to take the lead. However, rain could once again interrupt proceedings, with showers forecast in Wellington on Saturday, raising the possibility of another weather-affected encounter.



The Indian captain also revealed that he arrived early to get additional training sessions, particularly to understand the conditions and work on his game with the red ball.

"I wanted to get four or five extra sessions before I joined the team, mainly because of the red ball. I wanted to come here, work a little bit on my game, and see how the red ball is because I haven't played a Test match here. I've played a couple of India matches but haven't really played that much Test cricket here," Gill said.

He also backed India's pace attack, expressing confidence in the abilities of Anshul Kamboj, Aaqib Nabi Dar, Gurnoor Brar and Arshdeep Singh, saying their skill sets were suited to New Zealand's conditions."With the wickets seeming around and giving good bounce, our fast bowlers, whether it is Anshul, Aqib, Gurnoor or Arshdeep, I think the skill set that they bring to the team in these conditions is tailor-made for them, and I'm really optimistic that they're going to have a really good series," he said.

Gill praised Shreyas Iyer's leadership in India's 3-2 T20I series win, saying the team's comeback victories in the opening matches had boosted its confidence ahead of the ODIs. India will now aim to strengthen its position with another win in Wellington.

Shadman Islam stretchered off after twisting ankle during second West Indies Test

Nw Delhi: Bangladesh opener Shadman Islam was stretchered off the ground after twisting his ankle during the second Test match against the West Indies at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium here on Friday.

Shadman twisted his ankle and fell while fielding on Day 2 of the contest as he grimaced in pain for a few minutes. The opener was then taken on a stretcher off the field and will be sent for scans.

"Shadman suffered a left ankle twist. He is under observation. We will send him for an MRI scan," Bangladesh physio Bayjedul Islam Khan said, as quoted by Cricinfo.

The incident took place during the 78th over of the West Indies batting innings. Amir Jangoo had nudged one through to fine leg off Mehidy Hasan Miraz as Shadman ran from slips to chase the ball.

His left ankle stuck on the turf while crouching, and he twisted it while falling down awkwardly. Hasan Mahmud ran towards him, and the physio was called before the opener was stretchered off the field.



The West Indies resumed on Day 2 on 235/4. They were at 322/8 at lunch on Day 2 and were bowled out for 356 as Shadman's availability for the Test is yet to be confirmed. He did not come out to open as Nayeem Hasan and Tanzid Hasan Tamim began Bangladesh's charge at the top of the order.

Meanwhile, a member from the Bangladesh Cricket Board stated that Shadman's participation in the remainder of the Test is unlikely. "Look, I think it will be difficult for him to make a comeback in the Test match. Let's hope for the best, but we are not very confident about his availability," a member said, as quoted by Cricbuzz.

Shadman had scored a century in the first innings of the opening Test. The West Indies are leading the two-match Test series after having won the series opener by eight wickets.

Rashid Khan, Ibrahim Zadran Inspire Ihsas

New Delhi: Afghanistan Under-19 vice-captain Faridullah Ihsas said Rashid Khan's discipline and Ibrahim Zadran's consistency inspire him during the ongoing U-19 Asia Cup in Muscat, Oman.

He praised Ibrahim's dedication and Rashid's hard work and experience, adding that he hoped to meet the star leg-spinner soon. Ihsas also described his appointment as vice-captain as a great honour and responsibility.

Afghanistan began their campaign with a 113-run win over Bangladesh. After scoring 231, their bowlers restricted Bangladesh to 118 in 25.5 overs. Amir Hamza, Noor Ali Niazai and Samiullah Mubariz took three wickets each, while Shah Faisal Rahimi top-scored for Afghanistan with 83 runs.

Suryakumar Yadav and family meets PM Modi on the occasion of Diwali

News Delhi: Former India T20I captain cricketer Suryakumar Yadav, along with his wife and kids, met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the national capital to extend their festive greetings on the occasion of Diwali.

Prime Minister Modi shared pictures of the warm interaction on social media platform X.

In his post on X wrote, "Deepwali ke mahual mei Ram and Saryu ka aagman hua hai. Isse Diwali ka vatavaran aur bhi paawan aur divya ho gaya hai (On the occasion of Diwali, the arrival of Ram and Saryu has made the environment of the festival even more sacred and divine).

Suryakumar, known for his explosive performances on the cricket field, expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister for the warm hospitality and conveyed his heartfelt festive wishes to him.

The festive meeting delighted fans across social media, with cricket enthusiasts and supporters showering praise on the special occasion bringing together the country's top leadership and one of its premier sports icons.



Earlier this year, Suryakumar while exclusively speaking to IANS credited PM Modi's strong push for sports with the significant transformation in the country's sporting ecosystem, saying the change is now "massive and visible on the ground". He had said India has seen a major shift in sporting infrastructure, opportunities, and, most importantly, the mindset towards pursuing sport as a career.

"Our Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji has spoken very loudly and clearly about making India a sporting powerhouse, and if you see the change, it is clearly massive and visible on the ground," Suryakumar told IANS. Recalling his early days in cricket, he said that opportunities and infrastructure were limited when he began his journey, making it difficult for young athletes to pursue sport seriously.

"When I started playing cricket, there was very little infrastructure, so the opportunities were very limited," the 35-year-old said. Last month Suryakumar kicked off his role as MLB India Brand Ambassador, swapping cricket bat with the baseball bat when Major League Baseball hosted its inaugural MLBx Mumbai-3-on-3 baseball event in Mumbai.

'There have to be sufficient games': Nayar on Kohli's chances of reaching 100 centuries

New Delhi: Former India assistant coach Abhishek Nayar believes Virat Kohli may not have enough matches before the 2027 ODI World Cup to reach 100 international centuries. Kohli currently has 84 international hundreds, including a record 55 in ODIs. Nayar also stressed the need to develop another seam-bowling all-rounder alongside Hardik Pandya to strengthen India's team balance. Former batter Cheteshwar Pujara backed Nitish Kumar Reddy as Hardik's backup, citing his fitness concerns. Both also supported reviving tri-nation and quadrangular ODI tournaments to boost fan interest and improve teams' preparations. Nayar backed grooming Nitish Kumar Reddy as Hardik Pandya's backup, while supporting the return of multi-nation ODI tournaments to boost the format's popularity.

Hasan Mahmud joins Nathan Lyon in elite list with Sylhet six-wicket haul

Nw Delhi: Bangladesh fast bowler Hasan Mahmud continued his outstanding Test form, claiming six wickets for 90 runs in the first innings of the second Test against West Indies at the Sylhet International Cricket Stadium on Friday. Mahmud once again impressed with his bowling, strengthening his reputation as one of the fastest-rising pace bowlers in international cricket. The six-wicket haul marked his fifth five-wicket performance in Test cricket, with all five coming in different countries. He has achieved the feat in Pakistan, India, Australia, Abu Dhabi and now Bangladesh. Mahmud has thus become only the second bowler after Australia's Nathan Lyon to take his first five Test five-wicket hauls in five different countries.

Mahmud made history in October by becoming Bangladesh's first fast bowler to take a Test hat-trick against Afghanistan. He nearly repeated the feat against West Indies, dismissing Amir Jangoo and Roston Chase in consecutive deliveries, but Joshua Bishop survived the hat-trick ball after an LBW decision was overturned on review.



'We want to be one of the fittest and strongest sides in the world': Brook



Nw Delhi: England captain Harry Brook has stressed the importance of improving the team's fitness, strength and preparation as they begin their build-up to next year's ODI World Cup. Brook said the team would use the next 12 months to sharpen their skills and improve fitness standards, aiming to become one of the strongest and fittest sides in world cricket.

England will begin their three-match ODI series against Australia at Perth's Optus Stadium on November 13, following a preparatory match against Western Australia. Brook also highlighted the need for better off-field preparation, saying it could play a crucial role in winning matches.

Meanwhile, Brook said Adil Rashid's omission during the Pakistan series was based on pitch conditions, while praising young Australian fast bowler Mahli Beardman for his pace and bowling action.

Brook added that England must focus on trusting their abilities regardless of the opposition. He described the upcoming fixtures against Australia as a valuable challenge and an opportunity for the players to gain confidence and improve their readiness for next year's World Cup.

Sehwag, Raichandani fifties help India thrash Nepal by ten wickets in U-19 Asia Cup opener

Muscat: India began their Men's Under-19 Asia Cup campaign in fashion, thrashing Nepal by 10 wickets in their opening Group A match at the Al Amerat Cricket Ground on Friday. Aaryavir Sehwag and captain Lakshya Raichandani scored unbeaten half-centuries to guide India to a comfortable victory.

Chasing a modest target of 129, India reached 129 without losing a wicket in 19.1 overs. Aaryavir, son of former India opener Virender Sehwag, remained unbeaten on 70 off 53 balls, while Raichandani scored 53 not out off 59 deliveries. Aaryavir reached his half-century in just 34 balls, attacking the Nepal spinners. Earlier, Nepal were bowled out for 128 in 42.3 overs after India opted to bowl first. Fast bowler Ishan Sood led the attack with 3-18 in 10 overs, including four maidens. Left-arm spinner Arjun Rajput also claimed three wickets, while Yashveer Goud picked up two.

Darsh Sonar was Nepal's top scorer with 43 off 93 balls, while Aashish Luhar contributed 29 runs. However, Nepal's lower order failed to build on the recovery, leaving India with an easy target. The victory earned India two points and placed them at the top of Group A with a net run rate of 4.170. India will next face arch-rivals Pakistan on Sunday.



Azharuddin thanks Bhatti for assurance on release of minority welfare funds



Hyderabad (NSS): Minister for Minorities Welfare and Public Enterprises Mohammad Azharuddin expressed gratitude to Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka for assuring speedy clearance of pending funds for various minority welfare schemes across Telangana.

The assurance came during a high-level review meeting attended by Minister Azharuddin, Finance Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, AIMIM Floor Leader Akbaruddin Owaisi, and senior officials from the Finance and Minorities Welfare departments.

During the discussions, Akbaruddin Owaisi raised several critical issues, including pending clearances for Shadi Mubarak applications, scholarship dues, Waqf Board matters, the implementation of Rajiv Yuva Vikasam, and the establishment of a new Study Centre in the Old City.

Following a detailed presentation of the department's financial requirements, the Deputy Chief Minister assured officials that prompt steps would be taken to release funds and resolve pending proposals.

Key initiatives discussed and agreed upon during the meeting including, setting up residential degree colleges specialised in skill-based programmes to foster vertical mobility for minority students, financial assistance for the Haj House, establishing new study circles and career guidance cells across selected districts.

Reaffirming the state government's commitment under Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy toward the social, economic, and educational empowerment of minorities, Azharuddin stated that continued support from the leadership will ensure seamless implementation of welfare schemes state-wide.

Govt targets 100 new GCCs in Hyderabad within a year: Sridhar Babu

Hyderabad (NSS) : Hyderabad is positioning itself as a global hub for value creation, with the State government making efforts to attract multinational companies to establish and expand their core operations, research and product development activities in the city, IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu said.

Speaking after inaugurating the India office of New York-based Pico Technology at Hitec City on Friday, along with Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, Sridhar Babu said discussions held with the company's representatives earlier this year on investment and expansion in Hyderabad had now materialised.

The Minister assured the company of the State government's full support for expanding its operations in Telangana.

The government has set an ambitious target of attracting 100 new Global Capability Centres (GCCs) to Hyderabad within a year, he said, adding that the focus was on moving beyond the conventional service-centre model and transforming GCCs into global hubs for technology development, research and innovation.

The Minister said the government was encouraging multinational companies to shift higher-value functions to Hyderabad, including product development, engineering, data analytics, cybersecurity and artificial intelligence. This would enable GCCs to play a more strategic role in the global operations, technological advancement and decision-making processes of their parent organisations, he said.

Headquartered in New York, Pico Technology provides technology infrastructure, software, data and analytics services to financial institutions worldwide. The company operates in more than 30 countries and serves over 350 organisations.

Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said the expansion of Pico Technology's operations in Hyderabad would create international employment opportunities and open up avenues for skill development among local youth.

He said the State government was committed to extending all necessary support to companies investing in Telangana and strengthening the infrastructure required to accelerate industrial and economic growth.

Revanth felicitates man who walked 350



Hyderabad (NSS): In a striking display of admiration, Thayanna, a native of Adoni in Andhra Pradesh's Kurnool district, walked nearly 350 kilometers from his hometown to Hyderabad to meet Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy.

Thayanna embarked on his nine-day journey on foot on October 29, reaching the state capital on Friday. Deeply moved by the gesture, Chief Minister Revanth Reddy warmly received and felicitated Thayanna at his residence, thanking him for his devotion.

Dhanteras Draws Huge Crowds to Bhagyalaxmi Temple Near Charminar

Hyderabad (NSS): The historic Shri Bhagyalaxmi Mata Temple near Charminar witnessed a large turnout of devotees on Dhanteras, marking the beginning of Diwali celebrations. Special pujas and aartis were performed, while the temple was decorated with flowers and LED lights. Auspicious coins were also distributed among devotees.

BRS MLA Sudheer Reddy visited the temple and offered prayers, wishing prosperity for Hyderabad, Telangana and the country. Temple authorities and police made special arrangements to manage the crowds.

Telangana Aims to Become Global Investment Hub: Sridhar Babu

Pico Technology India Headquarters Inaugurated in Hyderabad



Hyderabad (Munsif Desk) : Telangana is working to position itself as a global investment destination and attract international industries, IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu said on Friday. He added that generating employment opportunities for local youth remains the government's top priority.

The Minister, along with Roads and Buildings Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy, inaugurated the headquarters of Pico Technology India Pvt. Ltd. at the Financial District in Hyderabad. The event was attended by Pico founder and CEO Jarod Yester and AICO G. Sitaram.

Sridhar Babu said the government was creating a favourable industrial environment to attract global investors. He also announced that the Invest Telangana Global Summit would be held in Hyderabad from December 7 to 9 to showcase the state's investment opportunities.

Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said Hyderabad was emerging as an international centre for technology and innovation. He announced that the Indian Road Congress meetings would be held in Hyderabad from November 19 to 22 as a pre-summit event.

TPCC chief submits report to AICC on factional feuds in Telangana Congress

Hyderabad (NSS): Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) president B. Mahesh Kumar Goud has submitted a preliminary report to the All India Congress Committee (AICC) detailing ongoing factional feuds and internal differences within the party's state unit.

The report highlights high-profile disputes, including the standoff between Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha and MLA Lakshmikanta Rao, as well as controversial remarks made by Congress MLA Y. Anirudh Reddy. Additionally, the TPCC chief briefed the high command on recent statements by MLA Komatireddy Raj Gopal Reddy and the growing rift in Peddapalli district.

To contain the unrest, Mahesh Kumar Goud has mapped out sensitive constituencies and districts marked by struggles for local dominance. A truce meeting arranged in Delhi between Damodar Rajanarsimha and Lakshmikanta Rao was postponed after the Minister had to attend a scheduled Cabinet meeting on Thursday.

Meanwhile, the Peddapalli rift involving a cold war between Peddapalli MP Gaddam Vamsi Krishna and IT Minister D. Sridhar Babu has now reached Gandhi Bhavan, with the TPCC leadership actively mediating to resolve the differences.



Diwali gift to commuters: Metro-RTC pass reduced to 4,000



Hyderabad (NSS): In a major Diwali incentive for commuters in the capital, the Telangana government has announced a sharp reduction in combined travel pass fares for Hyderabad Metro Rail and TSRTC bus services. The revised tariffs will come into effect on November 8.

Announcing the decision on Friday, Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar stated that the revision follows direct instructions from Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to make public transportation more affordable and ease everyday commuting expenses.

Under the revised fare structure, the monthly combined travel pass has been slashed from 8,500 to 4,000 delivering a monthly savings of 4,500 for regular passengers. Of the 4,000 fare, 3,000 will cover Metro Rail travel while 1,000 is allocated to TSRTC services. The monthly pass permits up to 50 Metro round trips.

Similarly, the daily combined travel pass fare has been cut from 400 to 275, providing a daily saving of 125. The daily pass covers four single Metro journeys per day, split into 200 for Metro travel and 75 for TSRTC buses.

Ponnam Prabhakar added that relevant transit authorities have been directed to complete all backend arrangements ahead of the November 8 rollout.

Traffic Diversions Announced in Jubilee Hills for Steel Flyover Construction



Hyderabad (NSS) : Commuters travelling through Jubilee Hills and Banjara Hills should brace for traffic congestion in the coming months as construction of the steel flyover from Jubilee Check Post to NFCL via NTR Bhavan is underway.

Hyderabad Traffic Police has issued an advisory warning of possible congestion between NFCL, KBR Park Entrance Junction (Gate-I) and Jubilee Hills Check Post. Commuters have been advised to avoid Road No. 2, Banjara Hills, and use alternative routes.

Alternative routes:

- NFCL towards Srinagar Colony, KBR Park, Jubilee Hills Check Post, Road No. 36, Road No. 45 and Cable Bridge: Take Road No. 1, Banjarahills, turn right at 1/10 Junction (City Centre Mall), and proceed via Road No.10, Zaheera Nagar, Basavatarakam Cancer Hospital, Agrasen Island and Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan.

- Road Nos.36 and 45 towards NFCL and Panjagutta: Proceed via Jubilee Hills Check Post, Venkatagiri, Road No. 2, Yousufguda Basti, Yousufguda Check Post, Maitrivanam, Ameerpet and Srinagar Colony Road.

- Masab Tank towards Srinagar Colony, Kamalapuri Colony, Indira Nagar, Krishna Nagar and Yousufguda: Take a left at 1/12 Junction near Virinchi Hospital and proceed via Road No. 12, TGICCC Building, Agrasen Island, Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan and Road No. 45 Junction.

Traffic Police advised commuters to avoid peak hours, particularly between 8.30 am and 11 am and 5 pm and 9 pm, wherever possible. Heavy vehicles have also been advised to avoid the stretch during peak hours.

Motorists have been urged to follow traffic police instructions, use navigation applications for real-time updates and prefer public transport or carpooling. For travel assistance, commuters can contact the traffic helpline at 9010203626.

KTR condemns arrest of BRS leader Balaraju, demands unconditional release

Hyderabad (NSS): BRS working president K.T. Rama Rao has strongly condemned the arrest of former state corporation chairman and BRS leader Dudimetla Balaraju Yadav, alleging that the Congress government was using police cases to silence political criticism.

Reacting on social media, KTR said Balaraju was arrested following an SC/ST atrocity complaint lodged by Induja Reddy, wife of Congress MLC Balmuri Venkat. He said Balaraju had addressed a press conference condemning the alleged inappropriate remarks made by Venkat against him and former minister Harish Rao.

KTR accused police of intimidating Balaraju's family during the arrest and said political criticism should be addressed politically, not through police cases.

BJP Telangana State President Visits Sri Mookambika Devi in Kollur

Hyderabad (NSS): BJP Telangana State President N. Ramchander Rao visited the famous Sri Mookambika Devi Temple at Kollur in Karnataka on the occasion of Diwali and performed special pujas.

State Chief Spokesperson and Media In-charge N.V. Subhash accompanied him during the visit.

Speaking on the occasion, Ramchander Rao prayed for the happiness, health and prosperity of the people of Telangana and extended advance Diwali greetings to the people of the state.

EKA Mobility Opens Second Showroom in Hyderabad, Plans 20 More Outlets Across Telangana



Hyderabad (Munsif Desk) : SKED Rides Pvt. Ltd., the authorised dealer of EKA Mobility electric commercial vehicles in Telangana, has inaugurated its second showroom in Hyderabad at Kachiguda, marking another step in the company's expansion plans across the state.

The showroom, located at Nimboliadda beside Patel's Delights, was inaugurated on Friday by Amberpet MLA Venkat Kulluri in the presence of Prithvi Reddy, Managing Director of SKED Rides, and Executive Directors Manoj Kothari and Rajender Kothari.

Speaking on the occasion, Prithvi Reddy announced plans to establish 20 more outlets across Telangana within the next 18 months. Of these, five will be opened in Hyderabad, while the remaining 15 will cater to customers in other parts of the state.

The newly inaugurated showroom exclusively features EKA Mobility's AVI 3S electric autorickshaw, offering customers access to the company's electric commercial vehicle range.

The company has set an ambitious target of selling 2,500 electric autorickshaws in Telangana during its first year of operations. The planned expansion is aimed at strengthening its presence in the state and making electric commercial vehicles more accessible to customers.

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