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IN BRIEF

Leaders Pay Tribute to Maulana Abul Kalam Azad

Om Birla, Kiren Rijiju and Imran Pratapgarhi honour India's first Education Minister on his birth anniversary at Samvidhan Sadan.

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Revanth Accuses BRS of Supporting BJP

Telangana CM defends 4% minority reservations, highlights Old City development, and urges greater focus on education, skills and sports.

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Vizag CII Summit Eyes ₹11 Lakh Crore

Two-day summit brings delegates from 58 countries, targeting ₹11 lakh crore in investment agreements and 2.5 lakh potential jobs.

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Russia, Ukraine Agree on Major Prisoner Exchange

Abu Dhabi talks conclude with a prisoner exchange agreement but no ceasefire breakthrough; American envoys plan further negotiations in Moscow.

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Rahmat Shah Makes History in ICC Test Rankings

Afghanistan's Rahmat Shah rises to seventh after scoring 173 against Zimbabwe, becoming his country's first player in the Test top 10.

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Fake Court Orders Trigger Blocking of 129 Websites

Reuters investigation exposes serious questions over judicial verification as police probe forged documents.

Munsif News Desk, New Delhi:

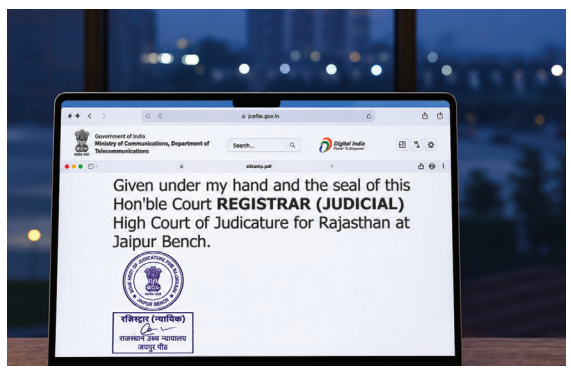
India's Department of Telecommunications directed internet providers to block 129 betting websites using fake High Court orders, a Reuters investigation revealed on Wednesday, raising concerns about safeguards against fraudulent government blocking requests.

The directives, issued on July 21 and September 2, relied on documents supposedly issued by the Rajasthan and Allahabad High Courts, covering 34 and 95 websites respectively.

Neither order appeared in official court records. Rajasthan High Court authorities described the document as apparently fraudulent, while Allahabad High Court confirmed the forgery and filed a police complaint on November 6.

Police have launched an investigation into alleged forgery and cheating. No arrests have been reported. One fabricated order carried an official-looking seal and a misleading QR code.

The telecom department did not respond to Reuters' questions, leaving unanswered whether officials independently authenticated the judicial documents before ordering website restrictions or would review the affected directives.



Cabinet Approves ₹62,370 Crore Rabi Fertiliser Subsidy

Allocation rises 64% as Centre seeks to protect farmers from increasing global fertiliser prices.

Munsif Desk, New Delhi:

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved ₱62,370.02 crore in fertiliser subsidies for the Rabi 2026–27 season to ensure affordable supplies for farmers nationwide.

The allocation is ₱24,417.73 crore higher than last season's ₱37,952.29 crore, reflecting increased international fertiliser prices.

The Nutrient Based Subsidy rates will apply from October 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027, covering phosphatic and potassic fertilisers, including DAP and NPKS grades.

The government said DAP would remain available at ₱1,350 per 50-kg bag, with subsidies provided to manufacturers and importers.

The decision also benefits Telangana farmers preparing Rabi crops. However, timely distribution, adequate stocks at agricultural outlets and effective monitoring of retail prices will remain crucial to ensuring the increased allocation reaches farmers.



Telangana CM Directs 10+2 School Plan from 2027–28

Intermediate Board awaits official communication; admissions and junior colleges remain uncertain.

HYD: Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday directed officials to prepare for introducing the 10+2 school system from the 2027–28 academic year.

At an Education Department review, he emphasised improved infrastructure and specialised teaching for Classes 9 to 12, aiming to reduce dropouts after Class 10.

The proposed reform would integrate Intermediate education more closely with schools without adding extra years of study.

However, the Telangana Intermediate Board said it had not received formal communication about implementation.

No final government order, school-wise rollout plan or revised admission guidelines have been announced.

Students and parents should continue following existing procedures until authorities clarify the future of junior colleges, examinations and arrangements for current students.

HMWSSB Explores Additional Supply from Twin Reservoirs

Hyderabad: The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB) is exploring additional water supplies from Osman Sagar and Himayat Sagar to prevent drinking water shortages during summer 2027.

Managing Director K. Ashok Reddy and senior officials inspected the twin reservoirs on Wednesday, assessing available water volumes, transportation routes and connections to existing pipelines.

The exercise follows declining reserves in Singur and Manjira amid concerns over El Niño conditions.

With demand expected to increase during February and March, officials examined alternative pipeline arrangements and infrastructure requirements.

Reddy directed officials to identify feasible supply options. However, no additional allocation has been finalised. Decisions will depend on water availability and technical assessments, making advance supply planning crucial for Hyderabad households.



Congo Ebola Death Toll Crosses 5,300: WHO

Attacks on health facilities disrupt contact tracing as Kenya discharges its last patient.

GENEVA: The Democratic Republic of the Congo has recorded 11,042 Ebola cases and 5,387 deaths, according to government figures reported Wednesday, as the World Health Organization warned that violence was disrupting outbreak control.

Addressing member states, WHO said infections had spread across eight provinces. Recent attacks killed health workers and damaged medical facilities, leaving more than 1,000 contacts without follow-up and three confirmed patients unaccounted for.

WHO called for safer humanitarian access, stronger financial support and timely payment of frontline health workers to prevent further transmission.

Meanwhile, Kenya discharged its last Ebola patient on Wednesday. The country will begin a 42-day monitoring period on Thursday and could be declared Ebola-free on December 23 if no new infections occur. WHO warned that violence threatens Ebola containment, urging stronger protection for health workers and disease surveillance.

Cyberabad Traffic: 82% Private Vehicles, 2% Public Transport

HYD: Private vehicles account for approximately 82% of commuter movement across Cyberabad's major IT hubs, while public transport contributes just 2%, according to figures presented by Cyberabad Police and the Society for Cyberabad Security Council (SCSC).

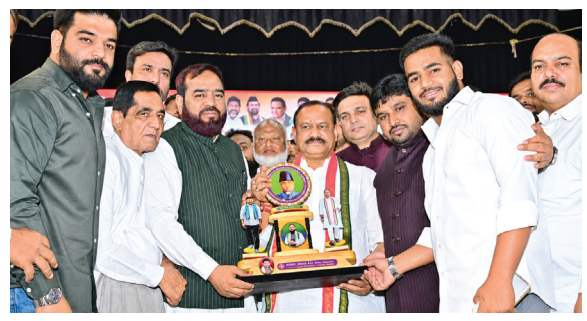
At a stakeholder meeting on Tuesday, officials highlighted congestion across 15 IT-sector locations, including Gachibowli, Raidurg and Madhapur.

Companies were urged to introduce staggered office timings, carpooling, shared shuttles and improved parking management.

A proposed one-way traffic system remains under study.

The findings will inform discussions at the Cyberabad Moves 2026 symposium, scheduled for November 26–28 at T-Hub.





Osman Al Hajri Honoured for Social Services

HYD: Congress leader and Karwan Assembly Constituency in-charge Osman Bin Mohammed Al Hajri was honoured with the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Memento for his contributions to social service and public welfare.

TPCC President and MLC Mahesh Kumar Goud presented the memento at Prakasham Hall, Gandhi Bhavan, during a programme marking National Education Day and Maulana Azad's birth anniversary.

The event was organised under the leadership of TPCC Minority Department Chairman Irfan Ali, who also felicitated Mahesh Kumar Goud.

Several social workers, political leaders, teachers and students received mementos recognising their contributions.

Organisers acknowledged Al Hajri's efforts to address public concerns and support underprivileged communities, recalling Maulana Azad's ideals of education, national integration and communal harmony.

Jamia Nizamia Holds 156th Annual Convocation in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD: Jamia Nizamia held its 156th annual convocation alongside the 112th Urs-e-Shareef of its founder, Hazrat Shaykh-ul-Islam Imam Muhammad Anwarullah Farooqi, on Tuesday night.

Chancellor Mufti Khaleel Ahmed and Vice-Chancellor (Shaykh-ul-Jamia) Prof. Dr. Mohammed Saifullah attended the ceremony with religious scholars and dignitaries.

Graduating students received certificates, ceremonial robes and turbans, marking their academic achievements.

Students from Narayanpet were among those honoured for completing religious studies and Quran memorisation.



STATEWATCH | Where Telangana Moves.

Governance, development, welfare and districts shaping the State.



Rajanna Sircilla District Collector Garima Agrawal has said that education is the foundation for shaping an individual's personality and ensuring the all-round development of students. On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and National Education Day, she inaugurated smart classrooms established in 20 government schools across the district at a cost of ₹1 crore under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative of HDFC Bank on Wednesday.

Education Key to Students' Progress: Collector

Munsif Desk, Rajanna Sircilla:

Rajanna Sircilla District Collector Garima Agrawal has said that education is the foundation for shaping an individual's personality and ensuring the all-round development of students. On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and National Education Day, she inaugurated smart classrooms established in 20 government schools across the district at a cost of ₹1 crore under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative of HDFC Bank on Wednesday.

The Collector, who attended the programme as the chief guest, inspected the digital classroom established at Peddur MPHS within Sircilla Municipal limits. She reviewed the facilities provided in the classrooms, including interactive flat panels, desks, fans, electric lights and UPS systems, and obtained details from the officials concerned.

Addressing the gathering, Garima Agrawal said education was a powerful instrument for bringing about social transformation.

Citing the examples of great personalities such as Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam and Sudha Murty, she said they had overcome numerous challenges to pursue higher education and made significant contributions to the development and progress of the country.

AP plans Rs 632 crore repairs to restore 789 lift irrigation schemes

Munsif Desk, Amravati:

Amaravati: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Wednesday directed officials to restore 789 defunct lift irrigation schemes at an estimated cost of Rs 632.07 crore and make them operational before the ensuing kharif season.

Reviewing irrigation projects and lift irrigation schemes at his camp office, Naidu instructed officials to complete all repairs by June next year, an official press release said.

These repairs will improve irrigation facilities for 7.4 lakh acres of land, officials informed the Chief Minister. He directed them to inspect the condition of the schemes at the field level, invite tenders immediately and begin repairs without delay.

Naidu proposed entrusting the continuous monitoring and maintenance of these schemes to the Jalaharathi Corporation, asking officials to establish a dedicated division for the purpose. He also suggested appointing a Chief Engineer or Superintending Engineer in every district to supervise the restoration works.

Officials were directed to coordinate with one another to complete the repairs.

During the review, officials informed the Chief Minister that 4,171 acres of government irrigation land could be utilised to establish solar power plants with a combined generation capacity of 903.1 MW.

Of the 5,565 acres available under the Water Resources Department, 4,061 acres have been identified for solar installations with a potential capacity of 877.3 MW. Additionally, 110 acres across 84 locations under the Irrigation Development Corporation could generate another 25.8 MW.

The Chief Minister asked officials to explore solar and hydropower generation opportunities along canals, besides using available land. He also



directed them to prepare a plan to ensure an uninterrupted electricity supply to lift irrigation schemes during the agricultural season and examine the possibility of selling surplus power to the grid. Naidu said integrating transport, power generation, solar energy and agriculture could create additional economic opportunities.

Police Conduct Community Contact Programme in Narsapur



Munsif Desk, Adilabad:

A Community Contact Programme was organised by Echoda Police at Narsapur village in Echoda Mandal. As part of the programme, police conducted an extensive vehicle inspection drive in the village from 5 a.m. on Wednesday. During the inspection, 90 two-wheelers, four auto-rickshaws and two cars were checked for proper documentation. Vehicle owners were educated about traffic regulations and road safety measures.

During the verification of online e-challans, police collected ₹16,570 in fines pertaining to 85 cases. Motorists were instructed to wear helmets without fail, strictly follow traffic rules and ensure that their vehicle documents and number plates were in order. In addition, youngsters were advised to stay away from ganja, other narcotic substances and illicit country liquor (Gudumba).

MLA Naini Rajender Reddy Inspects School Site

Munsif Desk, Warangal:

Warangal West MLA Naini Rajender Reddy on Wednesday inspected the site earmarked for the establishment of a Telangana Public School at Kazipet, for which the State Government has allotted land and sanctioned ₹10 crore.



The State Government has decided to establish the Telangana Public School on the premises of the Government High School (Peddabadi) in Kazipet.

Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka will lay the foundation stone for the school building tomorrow.

In view of the proposed ceremony, MLA Naini Rajender Reddy visited the designated site along with local leaders and officials from the concerned departments and conducted a detailed field-level inspection.

He reviewed the arrangements for the foundation stone-laying ceremony, including the condition of the site, construction preparations, stage arrangements and other basic facilities.

The MLA directed officials to complete all necessary arrangements well in advance through proper coordination among the departments concerned to ensure the smooth conduct of the programme without any inconvenience.

Speaking on the occasion, Naini Rajender Reddy said the establishment of a Telangana Public School in Kazipet would provide students from the region with access to quality education and further strengthen the government education system.

Departments Told to Coordinate for Successful Kisan Mela

Munsif Desk, Warangal:

Warangal District Collector Dr. Satya Sharada has directed officials of all concerned departments to work in close coordination and make comprehensive arrangements for the successful conduct of the Kisan Mela.

The Collector held a review meeting with officials of various departments at the District Collectorate on Tuesday night to discuss advance preparations for the Kisan Mela, being organised under the aegis of the Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA). Speaking on the occasion, she instructed officials to establish special stalls representing various departments at the Kisan Mela to create awareness among farmers about suitable crop cultivation practices in view of prevailing weather conditions and the possible impact of El Niño. Expressing concern over the possibility of declining groundwater levels due to El Niño, she stressed the need to educate farmers about cultivating rain-fed crops that require less water, choosing alternative crops and adopting water conservation measures. She suggested that farmers be made aware of ways to reduce cultivation costs and achieve better yields by adopting rain-fed and alternative cropping patterns. The Collector also directed officials to create awareness among farmers about crop loans and other agricultural credit facilities available through banks.

Uttam Inspects Redlakunta Lift Irrigation Works

Suryapet, November 11: State Civil Supplies and Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Wednesday inspected the ongoing works of the Redlakunta Lift Irrigation Scheme being constructed across the Palleeru Vagu at Redlakunta village in Kodad Mandal. During the visit, the Minister inspected the canal works, underground motors and substation facilities associated with the project.

At a subsequent review meeting, Uttam Kumar Reddy said the Redlakunta Lift Irrigation Scheme was being implemented at an estimated cost of ₹47.64 crore and would provide irrigation water to 4,460 acres during the Kharif and Rabi seasons.

Under the project, irrigation facilities would be extended to 66 acres in Dwarakunta village, 1,400 acres in Nallabandagudem, 1,608 acres in Kapugallu, 400 acres in Kochipudi, 576 acres in Redlakunta and 410 acres in Cherumarr i village, all in Kodad Mandal.

Education Key to Social Development: Bhatti Vikramarka

Munsif Desk, Dharmabad:

Suryapet, November 11: State Civil Supplies and Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Wednesday inspected the ongoing construction works of the Redlakunta Lift Irrigation Scheme across Palleeru Vagu at Redlakunta village in Kodad Mandal.

During the visit, the Minister inspected the canal construction works, underground motors and substation facilities.

At a subsequent review meeting, Uttam Kumar Reddy said the ₹47.64 crore project would provide irrigation water to 460 acres during the Kharif and Rabi seasons.

The scheme will benefit six villages in Kodad Mandal, covering 66 acres in Dwarakunta, 1,400 acres in Nallabandagudem, 1,608 acres in Kapugallu, 400 acres in Kochipudi, 576 acres in Redlakunta and 410 acres in Cherumarr i village. The project, featuring a 430 KW VT pumping system, is expected to benefit 1,486 families, including 290 OC, 720 BC, 30 ST and 446 SC families.

The Minister said that 70 per cent of the works had been completed and the remaining work would be finished by the end of December. He directed the contractors to expedite the construction while ensuring that quality standards were strictly maintained.



- **The scheme will benefit six villages in Kodad Mandal, covering 66 acres in Dwarakunta**
- **1,400 acres in Nallabandagudem, 1,608 acres in Kapugallu, 400 acres in Kochipudi, 576 acres in Redlakunta and 410 acres in Cherumarr i village.**
- **The project, featuring a 430 KW VT pumping system, is expected to benefit 1,486 families**
- **The Minister said that 70 per cent of the works had been completed**

Nalgonda MP Kunduru Raghuveer Reddy, District Collector Tejas Nand Lal Pawar, Superintendent of Police Narasimha, Library Chairman Vangaveeti Rama Rao, Irrigation Chief Engineer Naga Bhushanam.

Congress Leaders Pay Tributes to Maulana Azad

Mohd Baleegh Ahmed , Nizamabad:

Rich tributes were paid to Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, India's first Education Minister, on his birth anniversary at Congress Bhavan in Nizamabad. District Congress Committee (DCC) President Nagesh Reddy and City Congress Committee President Bobbili Ramakrishna led party leaders in paying floral tributes by garlanding his portrait.

Speaking on the occasion, DCC President Nagesh Reddy said Maulana Abul Kalam Azad had played a significant role in India's freedom struggle and, after Independence, served as Education Minister in the Cabinet of Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. He introduced several important reforms that laid the foundation for the development of the country's education sector.

Recalling Azad's patriotism and commitment to the freedom movement, Nagesh Reddy said that even when his wife passed away while he was imprisoned during the struggle, Azad refused to seek release from British custody and did not attend her funeral. This reflected his unwavering dedication to the nation, he said. He called upon people to uphold and carry forward Azad's ideals and vision.

City Congress Committee President Bobbili Ramakrishna urged the youth to follow the ideals and principles of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad. He recalled that IIT Kharagpur was established in 1951 to promote technical education and that Azad also encouraged higher education through the University Grants Commission (UGC).

STATEWATCH | Where Telangana Speaks.

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

Serving Humanity and Protecting Nature Is True Worship: Amma

(NSS), Hyderabad:

Social Activist Sri Mata Amritanandamayi Devi on Wednesday said that the supreme mantra of love was what gives the strength to face any challenges in life with courage.

Addressing devotees on the concluding day of the Hyderabad Brahmasthan Mahotsavam, she said that love was not just a mantra to be chanted with the lips but a supreme mantra to be felt in the depths of the heart and shown in practice. She clarified that loving each other and protecting nature with love was the true worship of God.

Amruthanandamayi , who arrived at the event venue in the Wednesday morning, was given a grand welcome by dignitaries and was felicitated with flower garlands. Telangana State Minister for Labour and Employment Vivek Venkataswamy, Secunderabad MLA Ganesh, Bhakti TV Managing Director Ramadevi, Swamini Aaptamrutha, Swami Bodhamayananda, Swami Tattvavidananda, film producer Abhilash Agarwal and others participated in the program.

Vijayasai Reddy floats PRP

(NSS), Vijayawada:

A key development has taken place in AP politics. Another new party has started in the State . Former MP Vijayasai Reddy announced the name of his new party. At a program held at N Convention Hall in Vijayawada, he announced the name of his new party as 'Parivarthana Rajneeti Party' (PRP). He gave the tagline 'For the country.. for the sake of Dharma. .' Similarly, the party flag was also unveiled. The party flag was designed with saffron and white colors and the Dharma Chakra symbol in the middle of the flag. After the announcement of the party name and the unveiling of the party flag, Vijayasai Reddy spoke.

He said that he was starting a new political journey as a witness of Durgamma and added that the future of AP was not in the hands of any single leader. Reddy said that Change was possible only with the people and added that whoever does good should be appreciated and Whoever does wrong should be questioned with evidence.

Nearly 3,800 delegates from 58 countries expected at CII summit in Visakhapatnam

Munsif Desk, Amaravati:

The 31st CII Partnership Summit will begin in Visakhapatnam on Thursday, bringing together government representatives, overseas ministers, diplomats and global industry leaders from nearly 58 countries to explore investment opportunities and strengthen international economic partnerships.

The two-day event, themed 'Navigating the New World Order: Trade, Technology, Trust and Thought Leadership', is expected to facilitate investment deals worth up to Rs 11 lakh crore, with the potential to generate 2.5 lakh jobs.

"Visakhapatnam, the City of Destiny, is all set to host the 31st CII Partnership Summit, beginning tomorrow! A very warm welcome to all delegates arriving with fresh ideas and big aspirations," Naidu said in a post on X on Wednesday.

He said the summit would bring together leading industry representatives and prominent leaders, including Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal, for discussions on investment and economic opportunities.

Naidu expressed confidence that the deliberations would help identify new avenues for partnerships, attract investments and strengthen Andhra Pradesh's position as a preferred destination for global businesses.

Organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in association with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), the summit is being hosted by the Andhra Pradesh government.



State Civil Supplies and Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Wednesday inspected the ongoing construction works of the Redlakunta Lift Irrigation Scheme across Palleeru Vagu at Redlakunta village in Kodad Mandal.

Cold Wave Intensifies Across Telangana; Temperatures to Drop Further

Munsif Desk, Hyderabad:

Cold conditions are gradually intensifying across Telangana, with minimum temperatures continuing to decline due to dry and chilly winds blowing from the north and northwest.



According to data released by the Telangana State Development Planning Society (TSDPS), Kubeer in Nirmal district recorded the state's lowest minimum temperature at 14.6°C. Minimum temperatures dropped below 15°C in more than 21 districts, including Hyderabad.

West Marredpally recorded 15.2°C, Devarayamjal in Shamirpet registered 15.1°C, while Aroottla in Rangareddy district recorded 14.8°C.

Make Maulana Azad Your Role Model: Professors

Mohd Baleegh Ahmed, Nizamabad:

Education Day and Minority Day were observed at Telangana University on the occasion of the 138th birth anniversary of freedom fighter, eminent educationist, Quran interpreter and architect of modern India, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.

The programme was organised by the Minority Cell at the University College of Arts and Social Sciences.

Speakers paid rich tributes to Maulana Azad, recalling his multifaceted personality, academic and literary contributions, historic role in the freedom struggle and invaluable services towards the advancement of education



in the country.

Addressing the gathering in Urdu, Professor Ram Babu, Principal of the University College of Arts and Social Sciences.

CP Amber Kishore Jha Inspects NTPC Police Station

Munsif Desk, Ramagundam:

As part of the annual inspections of major police stations under the Ramagundam Police Commissionerate, Police Commissioner Amber Kishore Jha inspected the NTPC Police Station on Tuesday.

On the occasion, Godavarikhani ACP M. Ramesh and NTPC Sub-Inspector Venkat welcomed the Commissioner and presented him with a sapling. During the inspection, the Commissioner visited various sections of the police station and its surrounding premises. He directed the staff to maintain cleanliness across the station at all times.

He also interacted with reception centre personnel and reviewed the services being provided to visitors.

Kavitha Seeks Graduate Support for TRS in MLC Polls

(NSS), Hyderabad:

Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) President K. Kavitha on Wednesday made a strong appeal to graduates across Telangana to support and elect the party's nominees in the upcoming Graduate MLC elections.

Addressing a press conference at the party office in Banjara Hills alongside the party's candidates—Dr. Nalamasa Srikanth Goud and Akash Kolluri, Kavitha urged graduates to use the elections as an opportunity to question the ruling Congress government and the ineffective Opposition.

The TRS chief asked voters to elect Akash Kolluri from the Hyderabad–Rangareddy–Mahabubnagar constituency and Dr. Nalamasa Srikanth Goud



from the Nalgonda–Khammam–Warangal constituency. Criticising the ruling government, Kavitha declared that Congress has lost its political credibility.

TTD Releases Bhagavad Gita Recitation Competition Brochure

(NSS) Tirumala,

The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) and the Hindu Dharma Prachar Parishad have unveiled a brochure for Bhagavad Gita shloka memorisation and oratory competitions to mark Geeta Jayanti on December 20.

The event will be held at TTD Balaji Bhavan in Himayat Nagar, Hyderabad.

TTD Hindu Dharma Prachar Parishad Programme Coordinator Dr. Harinath Guduru, Deputy Executive Engineer Ramakrishna, Junior Assistant Satish Kumar.

Manne Krishank slams CM Revanth Reddy

(NSS), Hyderabad:

BRS party leader Manne Krishank on Wednesday wondered as to why Chief Minister Revanth Reddy not paying attention to government hospitals as much as he was to Medicover hospitals? He said that the CM went in a helicopter and opened 3 Medicover hospitals in 2 years. He criticized that only 5 percent of the work of Alwal TIMS Hospital was done in the same 23 months. He reminded that state Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy visited Alwal TIMS Hospital in January 2025 and said that 90% of the work had been completed while promising that the work will be completed



by August 31, 2025."On Tuesday(November 10, 2026) , state Minister Damodar Rajanarsimha visited the hospital and said that 95% of the work had been completed and added that the hospital would be opened soon. This means that the ministers have clarified that only 5% of the work on Alwal TIMS Hospital has been completed from January 2025 to Tuesday," he stated.

IYM Telangana to Hold State-Level Youth Conference on Nov 22

(NSS), Hyderabad:

Hyderabad: The Ideal Youth Movement (IYM), Telangana, is organising introductory and organisational programmes at various locations across the state to strengthen the movement and promote Islamic awareness, moral values and social responsibility among youth.

Addressing youth gatherings at Masjid-e-Mohiuddin in Alampally, Vikarabad, and Masjid-e-Amra in Sadasivpet, Syed Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed and other IYM representatives highlighted the importance of character-building, religious awareness and the constructive role of young people in society.

The speakers urged youngsters to develop their abilities, strengthen their commitment to Islamic teachings and actively contribute to social reform and nation-building. They also explained the objectives and activities of the Ideal Youth Movement and encouraged youth to become part of its organised initiatives.

During the programmes, the representatives announced the IYM Telangana State-Level Youth Conference, scheduled to be held on Sunday, November 22, 2026, at the Exhibition Grounds, Nampally, Hyderabad.

The conference aims to bring young people from across Telangana onto a common platform and promote Islamic thought, moral values.



Fire Services DG Honours 63 Personnel for Rescue Bravery

Munsif Desk, Hyderabad:

Director General of the Telangana Fire, Disaster Response, Emergency and Civil Defence Department, Vikram Singh Mann, IPS, felicitated 63 Fire Department personnel for displaying exceptional courage, dedication and commitment during a challenging night-time rescue operation at Bethupalli Lake in Sathupalli Mandal of Bhadradri Kothagudem district on November 4, 2026. Recognising their bravery and selfless efforts in carrying out the rescue mission under extremely hazardous conditions, the Director General invited all 63 personnel to his office and presented them with cash rewards and appreciation letters in recognition of their exemplary service and commitment to saving lives. He further assured the personnel that their recommendation rolls would be forwarded to the government for appropriate rewards in recognition of their outstanding courage and contributions.



DG Fire Services Felicitates 63 Fire Department Personnel for Exemplary Courage During Kothagudem Rescue Operation. Photo Syed Omar

NATION | India's Politics, Policies & People.

Politics, economy, society and developments shaping the nation.

At a Glance

Rajasthan: Four children from same family drown in water storage tank

(IANS) Jaipur, Four members of a family, including a 13-year-old girl, drowned in a water tank in Bikaner district while trying to rescue a child who fell in.

The incident occurred in the 04 AWM area, 70 km from Bikaner, under Chhatargarh police station limits. The deceased were Mukesh (21), Nirmal (18), Manoj and Pooja (13), children of brothers Ramesh and Kalu.

Information suggests one child accidentally fell into the tank. The others entered the water to save the child, but all four drowned. Police reached the spot and began an investigation. The deaths have left the family and villagers mourning deeply.

Drugs, cigarettes worth Rs 7.16 crore seized

(IANS) Mizoram (Azawil), The Assam Rifles seized methamphetamine tablets and foreign cigarettes worth Rs 7.16 crore in two Mizoram operations and arrested three people, officials said.

At Zokhawthar in Champhai district, they seized 5.789 kg of methamphetamine worth Rs 4.69 crore. The arrested person was handed over to Zokhawthar police.

In a separate operation at Seling, the Assam Rifles and Aizawl District Executive Force seized foreign cigarettes worth Rs 2.47 crore and arrested two people. A Tata Sumo and a Mahindra Pickup allegedly used to transport the consignment were seized. The accused, vehicles and cigarettes were handed over to Bawngkawn police. The Assam Rifles said the operations highlighted intelligence-led action and coordination to curb smuggling.

PM Modi to Lay Foundation Stone for Rs 160-Crore Bio-Gas Plant in Bengaluru



(IANS) Bengaluru, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will lay the foundation stone for a Rs 160-crore Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) plant in Bengaluru on November 13, Bengaluru South MP Tejasvi Surya said on Wednesday.

Speaking at an awareness programme at the Karnataka Compost Development Corporation (KCDC) plant in Bommanahalli, Surya said the facility, to be set up by GAIL, would be the first of its kind in Karnataka and South India.

He said residents had faced problems for 25 to 30 years because the compost plant receives around 500 tonnes of wet waste daily and emits foul odour across a three-to-four-km area. Surya alleged that operations were stopped in 2008 following residents' demands but resumed in 2013 due to the lack of an alternative. He also alleged that leachate had contaminated groundwater and caused pollution. Surya said he and Bommanahalli MLA Satish Reddy pursued a solution.

The proposed facility will initially process 300 tonnes of wet waste a day, with capacity to expand to 500 tonnes. It is expected to be completed in 15 months and process nearly one lakh tonnes annually, addressing about 40 per cent of the wet waste generated in Bengaluru South.

The waste will be converted into biogas for supply to households through pipelines, while organic manure will be provided to farmers. Surya said around 25,000 households would receive cooking gas, saving nearly 900 LPG cylinders daily or about 3.2 lakh annually. He estimated foreign exchange savings at Rs 27 crore a year. The plant is also expected to produce around 22 tonnes of organic manure daily.

Surya said the project would be fully funded by the Centre and urged the Karnataka government to work with GAIL to establish at least 10 similar plants across Bengaluru.

He also criticised Home Minister Priyank Kharge over law and order, alleging that the minister was focusing on the RSS instead of drug trafficking, infiltration and cybercrime. Surya called Kharge a "fake news peddler" and questioned his proposed fact-checking unit.

TN CM Vijay calls TVK Legislators' meeting today amid controversies



(IANS) Chennai, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) president Vijay will chair a meeting of the party's disciplinary committee at Panayur on Wednesday amid controversies involving two ruling party MLAs and criticism from the Opposition over law and order.

The meeting comes six months after TVK, founded by actor-turned-politician Vijay, won the 2026 Assembly elections and formed the government, marking a major shift in the State's political landscape.

The leadership is under pressure following allegations against Thuraiyur MLA and Deputy Speaker Ravishankar and Kallakurichi MLA Arul Vignesh.

A video circulating on social media purportedly shows Ravishankar assaulting a person who approached him with requests, triggering criticism and demands for action.

In a separate controversy, Opposition parties have alleged that Arul Vignesh sent obscene messages to the Kallakurichi District Collector. Police security has reportedly been provided at the Collector's residence.

The allegations are yet to be established, and responses from the two MLAs were not available.

Vijay has directed all party MLAs to attend the meeting. TVK General Secretary and Minister N. Anand and senior office-bearers are also expected to participate.

The leadership is likely to seek explanations from the legislators concerned and consider disciplinary action.

The meeting is also expected to focus on the conduct of elected representatives and their dealings with the public and government officials.

Meanwhile, the DMK and AIADMK have continued to target the government over alleged failures in maintaining law and order, citing murders, robberies and sexual offences.

The meeting is seen as an early test of Vijay's ability to enforce discipline within the ruling party.

Cabinet Raises Fertiliser Subsidy to Rs 62,370 Crore for Rabi Season

(IANS) New Delhi, The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilisers for the 2026-27 rabi season, with a tentative budgetary allocation of Rs 62,370.02 crore.

The allocation is Rs 24,417.73 crore higher than the Rs 37,952.29 crore approved for the corresponding rabi season in 2025-26, according to an official statement.

The decision is aimed at ensuring the availability of fertilisers to farmers at affordable prices amid changes in international fertiliser and input costs.

The approved subsidy rates will apply from October 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027, and cover DAP and various NPKS grades.

The government makes 28 grades of P&K fertilisers, including DAP, available to farmers at subsidised prices through fertiliser manufacturers and importers. The subsidy is provided under the NBS scheme, which came into effect on April 1, 2010.

The government said the revised rates take into account recent international price trends for fertilisers and inputs such as urea, DAP, muriate of potash (MOP) and sulphur.

Under the scheme, fertiliser companies will receive subsidies at approved and notified rates to help ensure that farmers can buy these essential agricultural inputs at reasonable prices.

The approval covers the rabi season from October 1 to March 31 and applies to P & K fertilisers, including DAP and NPKS grades. The budgetary requirement is tentative. Fertiliser companies will receive subsidies at rates approved and notified by the government, so the products remain available to farmers at affordable prices. The rates also reflect global input costs.

Om Birla, Leaders Pay Tribute to Maulana Abul Kalam Azad on Birth Anniversary



(IANS) New Delhi, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla, Union Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju, Congress MP Imran Pratapgarhi and several other leaders on Wednesday paid floral tributes to Maulana Abul Kalam Azad on his birth anniversary at the Central Hall of Samvidhan Sadan.

Remembering India's first Education Minister and freedom fighter, Birla described Azad as a distinguished educationist, scholar and an important figure in the country's freedom movement.

In a social media post, Birla said floral tributes were offered to commemorate Azad's contributions to nation-building, education and social harmony. He said the ideals of the Bharat Ratna recipient would continue to guide the nation.

Born on November 11, 1888, in Mecca, Azad came from a family of Islamic scholars. He was a renowned freedom fighter, scholar, poet and journalist, proficient in several languages, including Arabic, English, Urdu, Hindi, Persian and Bengali. Following Independence, Azad became India's first Education Minister in Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru's Cabinet in 1947 and held the position until his death in 1958.

He played a key role in shaping India's education policy and advocated universal and compulsory elementary education for children. He also emphasised adult education, technical and scientific learning, higher education and the promotion of arts and literature.

Among his major contributions was the establishment of the country's first Indian Institute of Technology at Kharagpur in 1951. He also played an important role in setting up the University Grants Commission in 1953, which became a statutory body in 1956.

Azad supported the expansion of scientific research and educational institutions, including the Indian Institute of Science in Bengaluru and the Central Institute of Education at Delhi University.

He died of a stroke on February 22, 1958. In recognition of his contributions, he was posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna in 1992.

His role in strengthening India's education system and promoting scientific research continues to be remembered as an important contribution to nation-building.

Hijack Alert on Air India Flight Triggers Security Scare at Kolkata Airport



(IANS) Kolkata, A Mumbai-bound Air India flight received a hijack threat at Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport in Kolkata on Wednesday, triggering an emergency security operation and an extensive search of the aircraft, officials said.

The threat reportedly came to light while the aircraft was preparing for take-off. The pilot immediately alerted Air Traffic Control (ATC), following which the flight was directed to an isolation bay for security checks.

Security personnel launched an extensive search of the aircraft, while all 92 passengers on board were evacuated and moved to a safe location as a precautionary measure.

According to preliminary information, a note warning that the aircraft would be hijacked was reportedly found in the flight's toilet. The discovery prompted the security alert, following which the pilot acted on instructions from the ATC and moved the aircraft to the designated isolation bay.

Passengers were reportedly frightened by the incident, with panic visible as they were escorted out of the aircraft.

As per the latest information available, security personnel had not detected anything suspicious during the initial searches. However, airport authorities had not issued an official statement on the incident at the time of reporting.

The latest threat comes amid two consecutive bomb scares at Kolkata airport late last month.

On October 23, a bomb threat written on a piece of tissue paper was found at the airport, triggering a security alert. The following day, October 24, another threat message, written on the washroom mirror of an IndiGo flight operating from Phuket in Thailand to Kolkata, prompted an extensive security inspection.

However, security checks in both cases failed to detect anything suspicious, and the alerts were subsequently found to be hoaxes.

The latest incident has once again drawn attention to security concerns at the airport, with agencies carrying out precautionary checks following the threat. Further details were awaited as the search operation continued.

Candidates from other states not entitled to reservation in govt jobs: Rajasthan HC



(IANS) Jaipur, The Rajasthan High Court has ruled that candidates belonging to a Scheduled Tribe (ST) or other reserved category in another state cannot claim reservation benefits in Rajasthan government jobs merely by settling in the state. Such candidates will be considered under the General category.

A division bench comprising Justice Vinit Kumar Mathur and Justice Chandra Shekhar Sharma recently dismissed a special appeal filed by Baria Sharmishtha Ben, who originally belongs to Gujarat and is recognised as a Scheduled Tribe (ST) candidate there.

Following her marriage, she moved to Rajasthan and applied for the post of Nursing Officer, seeking reservation benefits under the ST category. However, the state government rejected her claim and considered her candidature under the General category in accordance with the conditions specified in the recruitment advertisement.

Challenging the decision, Baria Sharmishtha Ben initially approached a single-judge bench of the Rajasthan High Court. Her petition was dismissed in light of the Supreme Court's judgment in Ranjana Kumari v. State of Uttarakhand.

She subsequently filed a special appeal before the division bench, which also rejected her plea. The High Court observed that the conditions of social disadvantage and backwardness vary from state to state.

Therefore, recognition as a member of a reserved category in one state does not automatically entitle a person to the same reservation benefits in another state.

During the hearing, the division bench referred to the Supreme Court's landmark judgments in Marri Chandra Shekhar Rao and Action Committee on the Issue of Caste Certificate.

The Supreme Court has consistently held that a person belonging to a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe in one state cannot automatically claim the same reserved status and associated benefits in another state after relocating there.

Reiterating this legal position, the Rajasthan High Court held that caste and tribal communities notified as reserved categories in one state cannot automatically claim reservation benefits in another state.

Accordingly, the division bench dismissed the special appeal.

At a Glance

Laos endorses action plan to advance safe, regular migration

(IANS) Vientiane, Laos has endorsed a National Action Plan for 2026-2030 to strengthen migration management, protect migrant workers' rights and promote safe, orderly and legal migration.

The plan was approved in Vientiane, co-chaired by Deputy Foreign Minister Anoupharb Vongnorkeo and IOM chief of mission Tanja Pacifico, with 70 representatives attending.

The IOM-backed plan outlines nine strategic areas and seeks to make migration a choice rather than a necessity, while ensuring access to decent work and social protection. Anoupharb said effective migration management would support human resource development and sustainable economic growth for Laos too.

US charges 3 in Iran-backed terror plot case

(IANS) Washington, US prosecutors have charged three men over an Iran-backed campaign in Europe and a foiled plot targeting RAF Fairford, a British airbase hosting US personnel. The indictment names Mohammad Baqer Saad Dawood al-Saadi, Mohsen Mohajeri and Mohammad Ali al-Hassani, accusing them of supporting Iran's IRGC and Kata'ib Hizballah.

Prosecutors allege the network was linked to attacks on Jewish communities in Europe. They say associates planned the September airbase attack using vans and fuel, but British security forces stopped them. The charges include providing support to terrorist groups and conspiring to bomb a public place.

RUSSIA, UKRAINE CONCLUDE ABU DHABI TALKS WITH PRISONER EXCHANGE AS NEGOTIATIONS SET TO CONTINUE



(IANS) Abu Dhabi, Trilateral talks involving Russia, the United States and Ukraine ended on Wednesday in Abu Dhabi, with Russia and Ukraine reaching an agreement on a "large-scale" prisoner exchange.

Vladimir Medinsky, head of the Russian delegation at talks on the Ukraine crisis, told a press conference that details of the exchange would be announced soon and that negotiations would continue.

He said the delegations had discussed humanitarian issues, with the future of European security being a central focus of the US-mediated talks, Xinhua news agency reported. Medinsky added that parties had reached understandings on some issues, without providing further details.

He defended the need to discuss post-war security arrangements at the current stage of negotiations, saying the conflict in Ukraine had exposed shortcomings in Europe's security system.

Medinsky called for the establishment of a fair security framework that takes into account the interests of all countries.

Meanwhile, Jared Kushner, a member of the US negotiating team, told reporters that the prisoner exchange deal was one of the positive outcomes of the negotiations, with the exact number of prisoners to be finalized on Thursday.

He said he and US special envoy Steve Witkoff planned to travel to Moscow for further discussions on ending the Ukraine conflict.

Kushner said the two would seek progress in Moscow if Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed to US demands to end the war, and would meet Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky afterward.

Kushner added that Russia had its own security concerns and had been asked to put forward proposals to reduce tensions.

NATO and European countries would be part of the negotiating process, he said, adding that European representatives had been brought into the Abu Dhabi discussions.

The latest round of trilateral talks lasted two days and marked the first meeting among the three countries since February.

Iran designates Argentine Navy, Air Force as 'terrorist organisations'



(IANS) Tehran, Iran's Foreign Ministry announced on Wednesday that the country has designated the Argentine Navy and Air Force as terrorist organisations.

The move came in response to the Argentine government's decision in late March to designate Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) as a terrorist entity, the ministry said in a statement.

The ministry described Argentina's decision as "hostile and being in contradiction with the fundamental principles of international law," saying Iran's move was based on the principle of reciprocity and a domestic law on reciprocal action against the US designation of the IRGC as a terrorist organisation.

The law calls for equivalent countermeasures against countries that comply with or support Washington's actions against Tehran, the statement said, Xinhua news agency reported. The ministry held the Argentine government responsible for all consequences arising from the decision, stressing that the IRGC is an integral part of Iran's armed forces.

The office of Argentine President Javier Milei announced on March 31 that Argentina had designated the IRGC as a terrorist organisation.

The decision followed calls by US President Donald Trump's administration for its allies to designate the IRGC and Hezbollah as terrorist organisations.

The Argentine government said the measure had been adopted in response to the IRGC's support for Hezbollah, a Lebanese armed group, which Buenos Aires blames for a deadly 1994 bombing attack on the AMIA Jewish community centre in the capital city. The attack killed 85 people and injured over 300 others.

Earlier this month, the Iranian Foreign Ministry announced that Tehran had designated Britain's Royal Navy, Royal Air Force and Secret Intelligence Service as "terrorist and hostile" entities over the British government's anti-Iran actions.

Meanwhile, Qatar said Tuesday that progress had been made in negotiations between the United States and Iran, describing recent White House talks involving Qatari Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani as positive, while cautioning that it was too early to predict when an agreement could be reached.

Over 100 crude bomb blasts, vehicle arson rock Bangladesh amid fresh violence



(IANS) Dhaka, Bangladesh witnessed a fresh wave of violence, with more than 100 crude bomb explosions, vehicle arson attacks and demonstrations reported across several districts, leaving one person dead, local media reported on Wednesday.

According to police, over 100 explosions occurred near the Padma Bridge toll plaza in Shariatpur district during an overnight blockade. The blasts disrupted toll collection and triggered panic, while several vehicles were reportedly vandalised.

In a separate incident in Faridpur district on Tuesday, a 55-year-old bus driver, Md Kalachan Sheikh, died after unidentified assailants set fire to a parked bus while he was sleeping inside. He was trapped in the burning vehicle and died of smoke inhalation, the Dhaka Tribune reported.

Faridpur Kotwali Police Station Officer-in-Charge Mahmudul Hasan confirmed the death and said an investigation was underway.

Violence was reported in Dhaka, Shariatpur, Gopalganj, Chittagong and Manikganj, with explosions, clashes and road blockades disrupting normal life. At least eight vehicles were set ablaze between early Tuesday and evening. Police Headquarters recorded that 22 vehicles were torched nationwide in the 24-hour period ending Tuesday morning.

The incidents came amid a series of attacks over the past several days targeting public transport, police facilities, educational institutions and government establishments. Authorities have strengthened security and intensified intelligence operations across the country.

Earlier on Monday, crude bomb blasts and bus arson attacks were reported at several locations in Dhaka, including educational institutions, court premises and busy transport hubs.

A bus was set ablaze beneath the Farmgate metro rail station on Monday evening. Tejgaon Police Station Officer-in-Charge Moniruzzaman said police rushed to the spot after receiving information about the incident and were taking steps to identify and arrest those responsible, the Dhaka Tribune reported.

Explosions were also reported near Dhaka University's Teacher-Student Centre and outside the District Judge Court, where suspects were detained in connection with the attacks.

Government Bangla College in Mirpur was targeted when a crude bomb exploded at its main gate on Monday evening. Several adjoining shops were also set ablaze.

In other incidents, a bus was torched in Pallabi, while a van carrying gas cylinders was set on fire on Postogola Bridge in South Keraniganj. Further explosions were reported in Shyampur and near Shanto-Mariam University, World University and Southeast University.

The attacks followed a violent Sunday, when explosions were reported at Dhaka University, police facilities and other locations in the capital, alongside multiple bus arson incidents in the city and its outskirts.

Hundreds of schools evacuated across Italy after emailed bomb threats



(IANS) Rome, Hundreds of schools were evacuated across Italy on Wednesday after being targeted by bomb threats, local media reported.

The threat was triggered by an email sent to school administrations across the country, including Rome, Milan, Florence and other major cities, according to state-run Rai News 24.

At least 300 schools across Italy were affected by the bomb threats, and the number could rise, Italian TV channel La7 reported, citing Education Minister Giuseppe Valditara.

Police and Carabinieri military police were running security checks along with explosive expert teams. No evidence had been found to substantiate the threats so far, but students and teachers were sent home as a precaution.

Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni has reportedly called an urgent cabinet meeting at 4 pm local time (1500 GMT) to assess the situation, Xinhua news agency reported. The threatening email was sent to at least 12 schools in the province of Rome, including primary schools and nurseries, as well as 12 schools in Milan and the surrounding Lombardy region and another 12 in Naples and the Campania region, La Repubblica reported.

Other targeted schools were in Turin, Sanremo and Vicenza in northern Italy, and in Bari, Cagliari, and Palermo in the south.

The email threat began as follows: "This is Mikhail Andropov, leader of the Vilayat Misoginistan. We have come to annihilate you. We are going to carry out a genocide against Italians," according to La Repubblica, which published a copy provided by staff at one school.

The email also claimed that a "powerful explosive device" had been planted in each targeted school, and a bomb had been "placed in the car of your (Education) Minister."

According to Italian news outlet ANSA, police are investigating the message's origin and credibility. There is little public information about the purported group calling itself "Vilayat Misoginistan."

"I suppose this is a myth maniac, but it is triggering alarm ... it has indeed sparked an absurd panic," head of Lazio region's school masters association, Cristina Costarelli, told newspaper Il Corriere della Sera.

Nepal celebrates Bhai Tika, marking final day of Tihar festival



(IANS) Kathmandu, Nepal celebrated Bhai Tika, the final day of Tihar, on Wednesday. Sisters applied seven-coloured tika to their brothers' foreheads, praying for their long lives and prosperity.

Rituals include garlanding brothers with dubo grass, marigolds and globe amaranth flowers. Sisters serve sweets, while brothers give them money and gifts.

According to Hindu mythology, Yamaraj, the god of death, visited his sister Yamuna on this day. She welcomed him with tika, a garland and dishes. Yamaraj is believed to have declared that those receiving tika from their sisters would be protected from death.

Prime Minister Balendra Shah greeted people in Nepal, wishing that Bhai Tika would strengthen love and respect between siblings.

Tihar is Nepal's second-biggest festival after Dashain. People worship crows, dogs, cows and Goddess Laxmi, while homes and streets are lit with oil lamps.

Over 53 tons of illegal drugs burned in southern Afghanistan

(IANS) Kabul, Afghan authorities burned more than 53 tonnes of illegal drugs in Kandahar on Wednesday, police spokesman Mullah Assadullah Jamshid said. The haul included opium, heroin, methamphetamine and hashish, seized over three months. The drugs were destroyed at a ceremony attended by officials and tribal elders. Police arrested 227 people allegedly involved in the drug trade.

In Ghor province, security forces dismantled eight heroin-processing laboratories and arrested 17 suspected traffickers on November 1, police said. The suspects were taken into custody for legal action. Authorities also burned nearly one tonne of drugs in Farah on October 18, including 955 kg of opium-type substances and 36 kg of methamphetamine.

Cambodia expands HPV vaccination drive

(IANS) Phnom Penh, Cambodia has launched an HPV vaccination campaign nationwide to protect girls against cervical cancer, the second leading cancer among women.

The November-December drive will provide free vaccines to girls aged 13-14 and catch-up doses to those aged 10-12 who missed routine shots between 2023 and 2025. Vaccines will be delivered through schools, community centres and health facilities.

The campaign aims to protect more than 700,000 girls, with $3 million in funding from Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance.

Health Minister Chheang Ra said every girl deserved protection from the disease.

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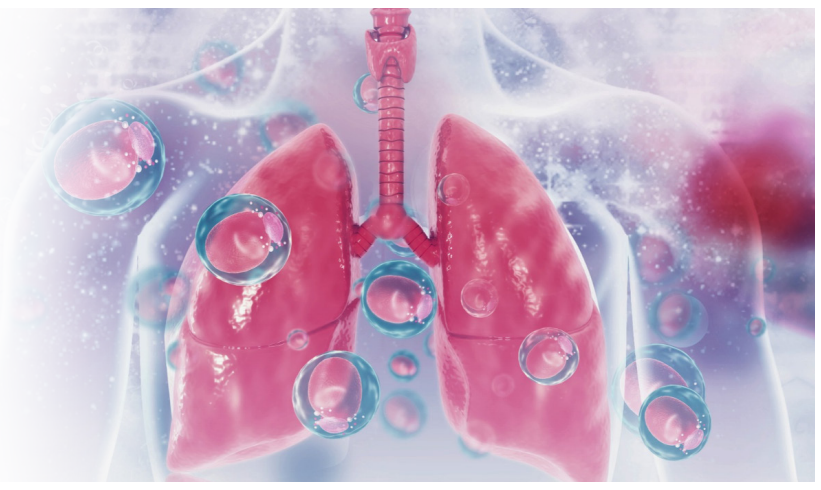
HEALTH & WELLNESS

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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MI and PBKS complete marquee trade deal of Hardik and Arshdeep

Mumbai Indians and Punjab Kings complete player swap ahead of IPL 2027; Pandya moves for 18 crore, while Arshdeep joins Mumbai at the same fee



New Delhi, (IANS): In a major player trade ahead of the Indian Premier League 2027, Mumbai Indians (MI) and Punjab Kings (PBKS) have completed the swap of Hardik Pandya and Arshdeep Singh.

MI captain Hardik Pandya will move to PBKS, while India's leading wicket-taker in T20I Arshdeep will join the five-time champions.

"Pandya will join PBKS at a fee of Rs 18 crore, up from his existing fee of Rs 16.35 crore, while Arshdeep will join MI at his existing fee of Rs 18 crore.

Besdies PBKS, Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR), Rajasthan Royals (RR) and Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) have also been in the running to acquire the premier seam-bowling all-rounder.

IANS had reported that PBKS had edged ahead of others in the race to secure the services of Hardik with MI ahead of the November 17 retention deadline as the paperwork was completed for the trade deal last week.

Pandya's trade brought the curtain down on his second stint with MI, a franchise with which he won four IPL titles. Having first joined MI in 2015, Pandya developed into one of the league's most impactful all-rounders, contributing with both bat and ball during the team's title-winning campaigns in 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2020.

After seven seasons with MI, Pandya moved to Gujarat Titans (GT) ahead of IPL 2022 and made an immediate impact as captain, leading the franchise to the title in its debut season.

GT also reached the final in 2023 before Pandya returned to MI in 2024 and took over the captaincy. Across 162 IPL matches, he has scored 2,955 runs at a strike rate of 146.28 and claimed 82 wickets, underlining his value as a proven match-winner.

Arshdeep, meanwhile, moves to MI after eight seasons with PBKS, the franchise where he made his IPL debut in 2019 and established himself as one of the competition's leading left-arm fast bowlers. With 111 wickets in 96 IPL matches, he is PBKS' all-time leading wicket-taker.

Arshdeep's ability to make early breakthroughs with the new ball and deliver under pressure in the death overs has made him a key component of Punjab's bowling attack.

He claimed 21 wickets in IPL 2025 and followed that with 14 wickets in the 2026 season. His left-arm pace and ability to deliver across different phases of an innings will add considerable depth to MI's bowling attack.

Rahmat Shah becomes first Afghan to enter top 10 of ICC Test rankings

Dubai, (IANS):

Afghanistan captain Rahmat Shah has scripted a piece of history by becoming the first cricketer from his country to break into the top 10 of any category in the ICC Men's Test Player Rankings, rising to seventh among batters following his impressive performance against Zimbabwe in Sharjah.

Rahmat climbed six places after scoring 173 in the opening Test of the two-match series, earning a career-best rating and moving ahead of several established names, including India captain Shubman Gill, South Africa's Aiden Markram and Sri Lanka's Kamindu Mendis.

The 33-year-old's knock was his fifth century in Test cricket and his second of the year. His rise marks another landmark moment for Afghanistan cricket, which has enjoyed a productive period on the international stage. Earlier this month, the team reached its highest-ever position in the ICC Men's ODI Team Rankings, moving to sixth after winning a tri-series involving Zimbabwe and Bangladesh.

Zimbabwe's Craig Ervine was another major beneficiary of the latest Test rankings update. The veteran batter surged nine places to 48th after remaining unbeaten on a double-century in the second innings of the drawn Sharjah Test.

The conclusion of the ICC World Test Championship series between Bangladesh and the West Indies also brought significant movement in the batting rankings. West Indies' Kavem Hodge climbed 12 places to 52nd, while Bangladesh's Towhid Hridoy moved into the top 60 at 60th. West Indies batter Amir Jangoo gained 28 positions to reach 62nd.

Among bowlers, West Indies spinner



Jomel Warrican recorded a career-high rating after his Player of the Series performance against Bangladesh. He moved up 11 places to equal 19th in the Test bowling rankings and climbed four spots to 31st among all-rounders. His teammate Justin Greaves also advanced, moving up one position to share eighth place in the Test all-rounders' list.

The latest update also brought gains for several players in the ODI rankings following the opening two matches of the India-New Zealand series.

India spinner Axar Patel rose 23 places to 21st among ODI bowlers after taking 2/28 in the second match in Wellington. Left-arm pacer Arshdeep Singh moved up 11 spots to equal 31st following his four-wicket haul in the series opener in Auckland.

Pacer Gurnoor Brar, currently the leading wicket-taker in the series with seven scalps, made one of the biggest jumps, moving from outside the top 100 to 48th in the ODI bowling rankings.

New Zealand seamers Jacob Duffy and Kyle Jamieson also improved their positions, with Duffy climbing eight places to 43rd and Jamieson advancing 24 places to 60th.

Ramandeep to Captain Punjab in Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy

Mohali, (IANS): All-rounder Ramandeep Singh will captain Punjab in the 2026-27 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, while young batter Arjun Rajput will join the squad after the Under-19 Asia Cup, the Punjab Cricket Association announced on Wednesday.

Rajput recently scored a century against Pakistan. Sehaj Dhawan will replace Prabhsimran Singh, who has been selected for the India A squad for the Rising Stars Asia Cup.

Anmolpreet Singh, Sanvir Singh and Umesh Yadav are also part of the squad, with Salil Arora named wicketkeeper.

Punjab are placed in Elite Group B and will open their campaign against Haryana on November 14. They won the title in 2023-24 and have finished runners-up four times.

Punjab squad: Vishwa Nath Pratap, Prabhsimran Singh (Sehaj Dhawan to replace him), Vihaan Malhotra, Anmolpreet Singh, Uday Saharan, Salil Arora, Ramandeep Singh (C), Sanvir Singh, Raghu Sharma, Harpreet Brar, Sahil Bhaskar, Kartik Chadda, Emanjot Singh Chahal, Sukhdeep Bajwa, Jashan Jindal, Krish Bhagat and Umesh Yadav.

ICC congratulates Paul Reiffel on officiating in 100th ODI as on-field umpire

Dubai, (IANS): Former Australia fast bowler Paul Reiffel has achieved a major milestone in his umpiring career, becoming the 23rd official to stand in 100 men's One-Day Internationals. He reached the landmark during the third ODI between India and New Zealand in Hamilton on Wednesday.

The 60-year-old, who is a member of the Emirates ICC Elite Panel of Umpires, is the sixth Australian to achieve the feat. He joins an illustrious list of Australian umpires, including Daryl Harper, Simon Taufel, Darrell Hair, Steve Davis and Rod Tucker.

Congratulating Reiffel on the achievement, ICC General Manager of Events and Cricket Operations Gaurav Saxena praised his successful transition from international cricketer to one of the respected officials in the game. He also highlighted Reiffel's 13 years on the Elite Panel, describing his career as an example of consistency, professionalism and high standards.

Reiffel represented Australia as a fast bowler before taking up umpiring. He was inducted into Australia's national umpire panel in 2005, six years after his final international appearance as a player. In 2008, he became the first former Australian Test cricketer to be appointed to the ICC International Panel of Umpires. He was subsequently promoted to the Elite Panel in June 2013.



His first ODI assignment as an umpire came in February 2009, when Australia faced New Zealand in Melbourne. Since then, he has officiated in three ICC Men's Cricket World Cups in 2015, 2019 and 2023, besides the Champions Trophy tournaments in 2017 and 2025. Expressing gratitude, Reiffel thanked the ICC, Cricket Australia, his fellow officials, family and friends for their continued support. He said it had been a wonderful journey to remain involved in international cricket, first as a player and later as an umpire, adding that he looked forward to being part of many more matches in the years ahead.

Unadkat to Lead Saurashtra in Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy



Rajkot (IANS): Veteran left-arm pacer Jaydev Unadkat will captain Saurashtra in the 2026-27 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy, with a 16-member squad announced on Wednesday.

Wicketkeepers Harvik Desai and Harvansh Singh Pangalia have been included, while Chetan Sakariya, Prerak Mankad and Parth Bhut add strength to the bowling attack. Former batter Sheldon Jackson has joined the support staff as a coach alongside head coach Niraj Odedra. Saurashtra, placed in Elite Group B, will open their campaign against Bihar in Indore on November 14. The team is yet to win the tournament.

Saurashtra squad: Jaydev Unadkat (C), Harvik Desai (WK), Jay Gohil, Prerak Mankad, Vishvarajsinh Jadeja, Sammar Gajjar, Ruchit Ahir, Chetan Sakariya, Parth Bhut, Harvansh Singh Pangalia (WK), Siddhant Rana, Krains Fuletra, Yuvraj Chudasama, Luckyraj Vaghela, Devang Karamta and Ankur Panwar.

'Absolutely false': Ex-Aussie batting coach denies Khawaja's sandpaper claims



New Delhi (IANS): Former Australia batting coach Graeme Hick has strongly rejected Usman Khawaja's claim that the entire team knew about the ball-tampering plan during the 2018 Cape Town Test, calling the suggestion "absolutely false".

Khawaja made the revelation ahead of the release of his memoir Sabr, claiming that players and support staff were aware of the use of sandpaper and that the plan had also been used in the previous Test.

Hick, who served as Australia's batting coach from 2016 to 2020, told The Sydney Morning Herald that he had no knowledge of any discussions or involvement in ball-tampering. He said his first awareness of the incident came when it was shown on the stadium's big screen in Cape Town.

The scandal had resulted in one-year bans for then captain Steve Smith and vice-captain David Warner, while Cameron Bancroft received a nine-month ban. Warner's lifetime leadership ban was overturned in 2024.

Meanwhile, Australia Test captain Pat Cummins is expected to address Khawaja's claims publicly on Friday, although Cricket Australia said his appearance is yet to be confirmed.

Anushka Sharma, Minnu Mani Named Captains for India A Women's England Series

New Delhi, (IANS): Anushka Sharma will lead India A in the T20 and one-day matches of the upcoming home series against England A, while Minnu Mani will captain the multi-day team, the BCCI announced on Wednesday.

Minnu will also serve as Anushka's deputy in the white-ball formats, while Tejal Hasabnis has been named vice-captain of the multi-day side.

The series will feature three T20s, three one-day matches and a multi-day fixture. The T20s will be played in Pune from November 30 to December 5, while Mumbai will host the one-day and multi-day matches from December 8 to 19. Off-spinner Shreyanka Patil and pacer Saima Thakor have been selected in all three squads. All-rounders Kashvee Gautam and Amanjot Kaur, along with young wicketkeeper-batter G Kamalini, have also earned places in the teams.

The series provides an opportunity for both sides to renew their rivalry after their previous meeting in England earlier this year. India A won the one-day series 2-1, while England A claimed the T20 series by the same margin.

India A T20 squad: Vrinda Dinesh, Tanisha Singh, Sanika Chalke, Anushka



Sharma (C), Niki Prasad, G Kamalini (WK), Shipra Giri (WK), Minnu Mani (VC), Amanjot Kaur, Shreyanka Patil, Vaishnavi Sharma, Prema Rawat, Saima Thakor, Monica Patel and Kashvee Gautam. One-day squad: Vrinda Dinesh, Tanisha Singh, Priya Punia, Anushka Sharma (C), Niki Prasad, G Kamalini (WK), Shipra Giri (WK), Minnu Mani (VC), Tejal Hasabnis, Shreyanka Patil, Amisha Bahukandi, Shabnam Shakil, Saima Thakor, Akshita Bhagat and Kashvee Gautam.

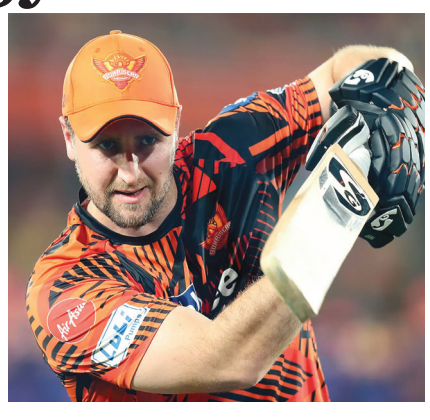
Multi-day squad: Shubha Satheesh, Priya Punia, Tanisha Singh, Purvaja Verlekar, Henreitta Perera, Tejal Hasabnis (VC), Shipra Giri (WK), Uma Chetry (WK), Minnu Mani (C), Shreyanka Patil, Saima Thakor, Akshita Bhagat, Amisha Bahukandi, Happy Kumari and Shabnam Shakil.

Livingstone, Edwards Trades Signal Shift in CSK's Strategy: Mukund

New Delhi, (IANS): Chennai Super Kings' (CSK) decision to acquire Liam Livingstone and Jack Edwards from Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) through a trade deal signals a definite shift in the franchise's strategy, former India batter Abhinav Mukund has said. In exchange, CSK have sent left-arm pacer Khaleel Ahmed and fast bowler Nathan Ellis to SRH. Mukund believes the new arrivals will strengthen CSK's middle order and provide additional all-round options ahead of IPL 2027. Speaking on JioStar, Mukund said Livingstone would add power to the middle order and offer a useful off-spin option. He described Australian all-rounder Edwards as a promising player capable of contributing with both bat and ball.

Mukund also suggested that CSK could retain Australian pacer Spencer Johnson, pointing out that the team already has left-arm seamers Gurjapneet Singh and Mukesh Choudhary.

The five-time champions, who missed the playoffs in the last two seasons, are rebuilding their squad



ahead of the November 17 retention deadline under new head coach Zaheer Khan.

Mukund also questioned CSK's decision to spend ₹14.2 crore each on young players Prashant Veer and Kartik Sharma at the previous auction, suggesting that Prashant could be released to free up funds for other squad requirements. Meanwhile, former India opener Aakash Chopra said finalising the right combination of four overseas players would be one of Zaheer Khan's key challenges ahead of the new season.

Chris Broad Says Lehmann 'Got Away Lightly' in Sandpapergate

Rajkot (IANS): Former England batter Chris Broad has criticised ex-Australia head coach Darren Lehmann over the 2018 ball-tampering scandal, saying he escaped punishment despite being in charge of the team.

Broad argued that Lehmann either knew about the players' plan to use sandpaper during the Cape Town Test or was not fit to lead the team. Unlike Steve Smith, David Warner and Cameron Bancroft, Lehmann faced no official sanctions.

Broad also accused Lehmann of hypocrisy, recalling his criticism of Broad's son, former England pacer Stuart Broad, during the 2013 Ashes series.

His remarks follow revelations by former Australia opener Usman Khawaja in his autobiography Sabr, claiming the entire team knew about the ball-tampering plan. David Warner has also backed Khawaja's account.

Only Congress can challenge BJP nationally, BRS is its ally in Delhi: Revanth



Hyderabad (NSS) : Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Wednesday asserted that the Congress is the only political outfit competent to counter the BJP nationwide, while accusing the regional BRS of acting as a tacit ally of the ruling party in New Delhi.

Speaking at the National Education Day and Minority Welfare Day celebrations in Hyderabad, Revanth Reddy took a swipe at the regional party's symbol.

"The 'Car' that starts from the streets of Telangana turns into a 'Lotus' the moment it reaches Delhi," he remarked.

The Chief Minister attacked the BJP over its stance on minority reservations, recalling its declaration at a public meeting in Chevella to abolish quotas. He challenged the BJP leadership to first abolish minority reservations in Gujarat before attempting to do so in Telangana, while reaffirming his government's commitment to the 4% reservation introduced under Congress rule. He claimed the BJP was attempting to disenfranchise minority communities, whereas Congress had historically empowered them.

Highlighting infrastructure initiatives aimed at bolstering the Old City, which he referred to as the "Original City", Revanth Reddy noted that Metro Rail expansion and the Musi Riverfront Rejuvenation Project were being expedited to revive the region's historic prominence and build a vibrant night economy.

Addressing changing employment landscapes, the Chief Minister cautioned that artificial intelligence is reducing software engineering roles. To counter this shift, the state is prioritising blue-collar skill development through Advanced Training Centres (ATCs)—upgraded from traditional ITIs—alongside newly established institutions like the Young India Skills University and a dedicated Sports University.

Honouring Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and India's first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru for building the nation's educational framework, Revanth Reddy urged minority families to focus on education and sports. He cited government appointments of leaders like Shabbir Ali and former cricketer Mohammad Azharuddin, as well as state recognition for sportspersons Nikhat Zareen and Mohammed Siraj, as evidence of the administration's focus on minority empowerment.

Rahul Gandhi needs no relaunch: Sridhar Babu

Hyderabad (NSS): IT and Industries Minister Duddilla Sridhar Babu on Wednesday dismissed BJP leaders' claims that the ongoing Bharat Summit in Hyderabad was organised to relaunch Congress leader Rahul Gandhi.

Speaking to the media at the Hyderabad International Convention Centre (HICC), he said Rahul Gandhi was already an established national and international leader who needed no relaunch. He suggested that the BJP should instead focus on its leadership succession after Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Minister said the Congress believed in progressive ideals and described the Bharat Summit as a high-level platform to discuss global challenges and economic strategies.

Azharuddin hails Azad's contribution to India's education system



Hyderabad (NSS) : Minorities Welfare Minister Mohammed Azharuddin on Wednesday described Maulana Abul Kalam Azad as one of the chief architects of India's modern education framework, highlighting his enduring contribution to shaping the country's institutional landscape.

Speaking at the National Education and Minority Welfare Day celebrations at Sevalal Banjara Bhavan, organised to commemorate Maulana Azad's 138th birth anniversary, Azharuddin emphasised Azad's pivotal role in both the freedom struggle alongside Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru, and the foundation of premier institutions such as the IITs and the UGC.

Drawing a parallel with current governance, the Minister stated that Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy is advancing a similar vision through modern initiatives like the Young India Integrated Schools, Young India Police Schools, and the Young India Skill University.

Azharuddin praised the Chief Minister's support for minority communities and young achievers, citing the appointment of international sports icons Mohammed Siraj and Nikhat Zareen as Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs).

He further announced that the state government has enhanced meal charges and other student allocations across Telangana Minorities Residential Educational Institutions Society (TMREIS) and other welfare residential schools to strengthen student facilities.

Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Vadra no moral right to visit Telangana: NRR

Hyderabad (NSS) : BJP president N Ramchandar Rao on Wednesday said Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Vadra have no moral eligibility to tour Telangana as state congress government utterly failed to fulfil its guarantees and promises made to people before election.

Speaking to media, Rao said Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Vadra who abandoned the guarantees and promises they gave while campaigning from village to village before coming to power. They have no moral right to set foot on the soil of Telangana, he said.

BJP would strongly protest and block at every single step of Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Vadra who wanted to visit Hyderabad in the name of Bharat summit. The Congress party has betrayed the people of state and BJP would strongly oppose their visit.

He alleged that the Revanth Reddy government has completely thrown its hands up and abandoned its promises to farmers, students, unemployed youth, BCs, SCs, STs and all the sections of society. Rao said during the last assembly election campaign Rahul Gandhi and his sister Priyanka Vadra had personally came to Telangana and made grand boast that the six guarantees and community wise declarations would be implemented without fail. But even after three years of rule not a single one of the promise has been implemented till today, he accused.

Strongly criticizing the functioning of state congress government Rao said there are no 'Rhythu Bharosa' funds for the farming community, there is no sign of fee reimbursement for poor students, there is no mention of job notifications promised to the youth. He alleged that in every single promise made to the people the congress government has failed miserably.

Nizamia Medical College Welcomes New BUMS and PG Students at Orientation Programme



Hyderabad (Press Note) : Government Nizamia Medical College, Charminar, organised an orientation programme to welcome newly admitted BUMS and postgraduate students for the 2026-27 academic year, following the completion of the admission process.

College Principal Dr Shahzadi Sultana and Vice-Principal Dr Anjum Sultana attended the programme along with the student advisor and faculty members from various departments. The faculty introduced the students to the college's academic environment, rules and regulations, and the importance of medical education.

Admissions to the college had earlier been temporarily halted due to shortcomings in basic facilities. However, following a written assurance from the Telangana government to address the issues at the earliest, the authorities granted permission to resume admissions.

Addressing the students, Principal Dr Shahzadi Sultana said the college administration was making efforts to improve educational facilities. She informed that construction of new buildings and other infrastructure upgradation works were underway, causing some temporary inconvenience to students and staff.

She expressed confidence that the completion of these works would strengthen the college's academic facilities and improve healthcare services for the general public.

Ponnam urges global automakers to invest in Telangana

Hyderabad (NSS): Telangana is steering toward a $1 trillion economy by 2034 and a $3 trillion target by 2047, driven by its vision to emerge as a fully developed state under the leadership of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, Transport and BC Welfare Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said.

Speaking while chairing the first Executive Council meeting on the automobile, auto components, and electric vehicle (EV) sectors at the Secretariat on Wednesday, the Minister urged leading global manufacturers, industrial leaders, and investors to participate in the upcoming Invest Telangana Global Summit–2026. The flagship event is scheduled to take place at Bharat Future City in Hyderabad from December 7 to 9.

Highlighting the state's investor-friendly ecosystem, Ponnam Prabhakar called on existing players and potential investors to capitalise on opportunities in EV manufacturing, battery technology, auto components, and charging infrastructure.

The Minister noted that the state's landmark EV policy—introduced two years ago—has accelerated adoption by providing a 100% exemption on road tax and registration fees. The initiative has driven the sale of 2,17,690 electric vehicles to date, translating to tax benefits worth ₹2,343 crore while significantly curbing urban pollution, he said.

63 fire personnel felicitated for daring night rescue at Bethupalli Lake

Hyderabad (NSS): Vikram Singh Mann, Director General of Telangana Fire, Disaster Response, Emergency and Civil Defence, on Wednesday felicitated 63 fire department personnel for their exceptional courage during a hazardous night rescue operation at Bethupalli Lake in Sathupalli mandal, Bhadradri Kothagudem district, on November 4.

The DG hosted the personnel at his office, presenting them with cash rewards and appreciation letters for their bravery in saving lives under extremely difficult conditions. He assured the team that recommendation rolls would be submitted to the State government for formal honours in recognition of their outstanding service.

Vikram Singh Mann urged fire personnel to follow safety protocols during rescue operations. Senior officials were also present.

Telangana Cyber Bureau Warns of Rising Online Shopping Frauds

Fake discounts and malicious banking apps target consumers; immediate reporting crucial to recovering stolen money.

Hyderabad: The Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB) on Wednesday warned of a sharp rise in online shopping scams and unauthorised credit and debit card transactions over the past month.

In two advisories, the bureau said fraudsters were advertising heavily discounted electronics, clothing and holiday packages through Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp and fake websites.

After collecting advance payments through UPI or bank transfers, they send false order confirmations and delivery-delay messages before blocking customers without supplying products.

Another scam involves phishing links and malicious Android APK files disguised as cashback offers, banking rewards and credit-limit upgrades. These applications can steal card numbers, PINs, CVVs and OTPs, enabling unauthorised domestic and international transactions.

TGCSB Director Shikha Goel urged consumers to verify sellers, avoid suspicious links and never download unknown applications or disclose banking credentials.

Victims should immediately notify their banks, block affected cards and call 1930 or register complaints at cybercrime.gov.in.

Authorities stressed that reporting fraud first hour improves the chances of freezing stolen funds and facilitating recovery.

Uttam dismisses BRS allegations of Krishna, Godavari water diversion

Hyderabad (NSS): Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Wednesday launched a sharp attack on the BRS leadership, accusing them of exploiting drought conditions and spreading false propaganda regarding the diversion of Telangana's Krishna and Godavari waters to Andhra Pradesh.

Speaking to reporters after inspecting ongoing developmental works in Suryapet district, the Minister asserted that the main opposition party was seeking political mileage from farmers' distress instead of offering support.

Accompanied by Nalgonda MP Raghuveer Reddy, Kodad MLA N. Padmavathy Reddy, and District Collector Tejas Nandlal Pawar, Uttam Kumar Reddy inspected lift irrigation project sites and the ongoing construction of the Young India Integrated Residential School. Strongly dismissing allegations of water diversion as completely baseless, Uttam Kumar Reddy declared that Telangana has drawn higher volumes of Krishna and Godavari waters under the Congress government than during the previous BRS regime.

"Since the Congress government assumed office on December 7, 2023, Telangana has recorded higher water utilization from both rivers, alongside record agricultural acreage, paddy yield, and grain procurement," Uttam Kumar Reddy stated.

He further alleged that the BRS leadership was deliberately capitalising on the current water stress and drought-like conditions induced by the El Niño phenomenon, rather than standing by the farming community.

57% of Enterprises Using GenAI in Production, Only 15% Have Dedicated AI Testing Frameworks: Study



Hyderabad (Press Note) : A new study by QualiZeal and HFS Research has found that while 57% of enterprises have deployed generative AI in production, only 15% have a purpose-built approach to testing AI systems.

The study, based on a survey of 101 US enterprise technology and quality leaders, highlights a significant gap between the rapid adoption of AI and the measures taken to ensure its reliability and safety. It also found that 36% of enterprises have deployed agentic AI systems, while 52% continue to test AI using frameworks designed for conventional software.

The report further revealed that 37% of enterprises using AI in production have no designated function responsible for AI quality. Although 88% measure model accuracy, only 47% assess bias and fairness, 37% measure explainability and 35% can provide evidence of regulatory compliance.

QualiZeal CEO Kalyan Konda said enterprises were adopting AI faster than they were developing systems to govern and validate it. He stressed the need for clear accountability and appropriate testing frameworks as AI deployment expands.

The study also found that 82% of enterprises expect the role of Quality Engineering (QE) to grow significantly, but only 24% have allocated resources proportionate to its expanding responsibilities.

Hansa Iyengar of HFS Research said accuracy alone was not enough to establish trust in AI, emphasising the importance of fairness, transparency and regulatory compliance. The report calls for a shift from traditional software testing towards trust engineering to ensure reliable and responsible AI deployment.

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