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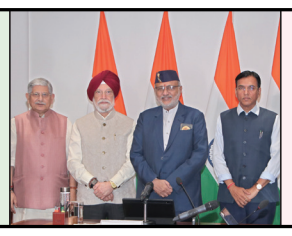
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Yadadri Plant to Reach 4,000 MW by Rabi

Statewatch, Page 2



Radhakrishnan Administers Oath to Hardeep Singh Puri

Nation, Page 4



Third US Aircraft Carrier Reaches Middle East

Horizons, Page 5



Dhoni Retires From IPL, Becomes CSK Mentor

Sports, Page 7

IMD ISSUES ORANGE CYCLONE WARNING

Cyclone Akvan Threatens Andhra Coast With 145-kmph Gusts

Storm expected to make landfall on November 20, bringing extremely heavy rainfall.

Highlights

- Cyclone 650 km from Machilipatnam
- Very severe storm forecast Thursday
- Four Telangana districts under orange alert
- Coastal evacuation preparations ordered

Munsif Desk, Amaravati:

Cyclonic Storm Akvan continued to threaten the Andhra Pradesh coast on Tuesday, with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) maintaining an orange cyclone warning for Andhra Pradesh and southern Odisha.

At 5.30 pm, the storm was centred about 650 km south-east of Machilipatnam. The IMD expects it to strengthen into a severe cyclonic storm on Wednesday and a very severe cyclonic storm by Thursday evening.

It is forecast to cross the Andhra Pradesh–Yanam coast between Nellore and Visakhapatnam around noon on Friday, November 20, with sustained winds of 120–130 kmph, gusting to 145 kmph. Extremely heavy rainfall is possible in coastal districts.

Andhra Pradesh authorities have directed disaster-response teams to prepare for deployment, warned fishermen against sailing and ordered electricity restoration crews to remain ready. District administrations have also been asked to identify vulnerable settlements and prepare evacuation shelters with food and drinking water.



Orange rainfall alerts cover four Telangana districts on Friday. Residents are advised to follow official updates.



TELANGANA SIR 2026

Final Electoral Rolls Deferred to December 22

Hyderabad: The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Tuesday extended Telangana's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) timetable, shifting publication of final electoral rolls from November 30 to December 22. Claims and objections must be decided by December 15, giving election officials more time to resolve disputed entries.

Under fresh directions, forms for voters classified as absent, shifted, dead or duplicate (ASDD) must be printed by November 18, distributed and collected between November 18 and 30, and processed by December 10.

The decision also applies to six other states and Union Territories. In Telangana, 76,058 voter entries were awaiting decisions on Tuesday. The extension places responsibility on officials to reach eligible voters, provide notices and explain decisions affecting registration.

IN BRIEF

US Bill Seeks Pakistan Aid Restrictions

US Senate proposes withholding $33 million in aid until Pakistan releases Dr Shakil Afridi and clears related charges. P5

Modi Visit Highlights India–ASEAN Trade Gap

India seeks stronger ASEAN economic ties amid a $51.55 billion trade deficit and calls for trade agreement reforms. P4

Telangana Intermediate Education Merger

Govt integrating intermediate education with schools from 2027–28 to reduce dropouts while protecting existing syllabuses and faculty. P8

High Court Questions Police Operations

Telangana HC seeks explanations over alleged unauthorised searches, irregular investigations and failure to issue seizure receipts. P8

Manu Bhaker Elected to ISSF Committee

Double Olympic medallist joins the ISSF Athletes Committee for 2026–2030, focusing on athlete welfare and representation. P7

Quad Leaders Announce Maritime and Cybersecurity

Manila: Prime Minister Narendra Modi joined the leaders of the United States, Japan and Australia at the Quad summit on Tuesday, announcing cooperation to strengthen maritime security and digital infrastructure across the Indo-Pacific.

A joint statement announced the Indo-Pacific Maritime Surveillance Collaboration to improve information sharing. P-8 and P-3C patrol aircraft will participate in the first Quad maritime exercise of its kind in 2027.

The leaders also announced enhanced cybersecurity cooperation, stronger undersea cable connectivity and the inaugural Quad Business Leaders' Forum in early 2027.

The initiatives aim to protect regional trade routes, communications networks and economic interests. Their effectiveness will depend on practical implementation, clear timelines and measurable benefits for participating countries and regional partners.

Samsung, Xiaomi Raise Smartphone Prices by ₹4,000

Hyderabad: Smartphone buyers face higher costs after Samsung and Xiaomi increased prices of popular models following Diwali, citing rising memory-chip and component costs. Effective November 16, the increases cover 41 smartphone variants, with prices rising by ₹1,000 to ₹4,000.

Xiaomi's Redmi A7 now costs ₹14,999, Redmi 17 starts at ₹25,999, and Redmi Note 17 Pro (8GB/128GB) costs ₹40,999. Samsung's Galaxy A07 5G now starts at ₹22,999.

The revisions affect maximum retail and market operating prices. Retailers reported nearly 20% lower smartphone sales during the festive period compared with last year.

Other manufacturers, including Vivo, Oppo and Realme, may also increase prices, raising concerns over affordability and further weakening demand for budget smartphones.

Retailers report a nearly 20% decline in festive-season sales, raising concerns over affordability and weakening consumer demand.

Nine Killed, 25 Injured as Bus Plunges Into Uttarakhand Gorge



Dehradun: Nine people were killed and 25 injured when a passenger bus plunged nearly 100 metres into a gorge near Gular Market on the Rishikesh-Badrinath National Highway in Uttarakhand's Tehri Garhwal district early Tuesday.

Police said the bus, travelling from Haridwar to Joshimath with 34 people aboard, crashed through an iron roadside railing around 4.50 am.

Seven passengers died at the scene, while two succumbed to injuries during treatment.

State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) teams, police and firefighters conducted rescue operations under difficult conditions. The injured were shifted to AIIMS-Rishikesh.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami announced ₹2 lakh compensation for families of the deceased and financial assistance for injured passengers.

Allahabad HC Grants Azam Khan Interim Bail, Questions ED Arrest

Prayagraj: The Allahabad High Court on Tuesday granted interim bail to former Uttar Pradesh minister Azam Khan in a money-laundering case, raising serious concerns over the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) arrest procedures.

The court observed that mandatory safeguards under Article 22(1) of the Constitution and Section 19 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act appeared not to have been followed.

It also questioned Khan's October 31 arrest shortly after his release in another case, describing the proceedings as prima facie motivated and mala fide.

The ED maintained that Khan refused to accept written arrest grounds, an argument requiring further examination.

The court ordered his release on bail conditions, granted the ED time to respond and scheduled the next hearing for December 10.



Nizam's Museum to Hold Children's Day Drawing Contest

Hyderabad: H.E.H. The Nizam's Museum at Purani Haveli will organise a drawing competition on November 14 to mark Children's Day and promote awareness of Hyderabad's cultural heritage.

The competition, themed "The Nizam of Hyderabad and Their Heritage", is open to students from Classes V to X, divided into Junior (V–VII) and Senior (VIII–X) categories.

Museum Curator Dr. P. Suresh said A3 drawing sheets, fruit juice and biscuits would be provided, while participants must bring their own colours and drawing materials.

Selected artworks will be displayed at the museum for a week. Entry will be free for schoolchildren up to Class X on November 14.

Schools must register by November 11, providing students' names and classes, through 9299653666 or curatorhehnm@gmail.com.



Hyderabad Police Bust Four Fake Silver Waraq Units

Four arrested as aluminium-based products allegedly supplied to sweet shops, bakeries and paan outlets across Telangana.

HYDERABAD: Hyderabad police on Tuesday raided four manufacturing units around Charminar and Falaknuma for allegedly selling aluminium sheets and flakes as genuine edible silver waraq used in sweets and paan. Four persons were arrested and separate criminal cases registered.

Police Commissioner Mahesh Muralidhar Bhagwat said the Commissioner's Task Force, assisted by local police, seized 49 bundles of fake silver leaves, 10 kg of aluminium flakes, aluminium-coated sugar balls and manufacturing equipment.

Investigators alleged that the material was supplied to sweet manufacturers, bakeries and paan shops across Telangana, including for decorating kaju katli, cakes and flavoured paan. Aluminium flakes were reportedly sourced from Uttar Pradesh.

Under food-safety regulations, edible silver waraq must contain at least 99.9 per cent silver. The units allegedly operated without valid FSSAI licences.

Police warned that prolonged consumption of non-food-grade aluminium could pose health risks.

However, laboratory findings are necessary to establish actual contamination risks. Further investigation is needed to trace supplies, identify affected retailers and ensure unsafe products are withdrawn from sale.

STATEWATCH | Where Telangana Moves.

Governance, development, welfare and districts shaping the State.

2,740 New Cheyutha Pensions Sanctioned in Warangal East: Konda Surekha

69.89 Lakh Monthly Assistance to Beneficiaries; Pension Amount to Be Credited on November 19



Munsif Desk: (Warangal)

Former Minister and Warangal East MLA Konda Surekha said the State government was committed to extending welfare benefits to every eligible person, with priority to the poor, persons with disabilities, widows and single women.

She was speaking at a programme held at A1 Convention Hall in LB Nagar, Warangal, on Tuesday, where she distributed sanction letters for newly approved Cheyutha pensions along with KUDA Chairperson Gundu Sudharani, District Library Chairman Mesala Prakash, Collector Dr Satya Sharda and Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation Commissioner T Venkanna.

The MLA said 2,740 people had been selected for new pensions in Warangal East constituency out of 3,675 applications received. The beneficiaries would receive a total monthly assistance of ₹69,89,840. The newly sanctioned pensions include 733 for persons with disabilities, 1,704 for widows, 166 for married single women, 22 for unmarried single women, 98 for handloom workers and 17 for toddy tappers.

She said 35,716 people in the constituency were already receiving pensions under various categories. The new pension amounts would be credited directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts on November 19. The distribution of Indiramma sarees to women would also begin on the same day.

Surekha assured applicants who had not been sanctioned pensions that their cases would be re-examined through field-level verification. She also said eligible poor families would be considered for Indiramma houses, including those who owned land but did not have a house.

District Collector Dr Satya Sharda said 11,750 new Cheyutha pensions had been sanctioned across Warangal district, involving monthly assistance of approximately ₹2.09 crore. She confirmed that the amounts would be deposited in beneficiaries' bank accounts on November 19.

KUDA Chairperson Gundu Sudharani said the government was implementing several programmes to promote women's economic empowerment, including housing, ration cards, free electricity, free bus travel and subsidised LPG cylinders. District Library Chairman Mesala Prakash highlighted the proposed Indiramma Family Life Insurance scheme, which would provide ₹5 lakh financial protection to eligible families.

GWMC Commissioner T Venkanna called for coordination among public representatives and officials to ensure that welfare benefits reached every eligible beneficiary.

Additional Collector Y.V. Ganesh, In-charge Additional Commissioner Sammaiah, Deputy Commissioner Prasanna Rani, District BC Welfare Officer Pushpalatha, District Industries Officer Narasimha Murthy, MH Dr Rajesh, former Corporator Farhan and other public representatives, officials and beneficiaries attended the programme.

Yadadri Thermal Plant to Achieve Full 4,000 MW Capacity by Rabi Season: Bhatti Vikramarka

Munsif Desk: (Hyderabad)



Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka has said the State Government is taking major steps to strengthen Telangana's power sector and meet the growing electricity demand. He said special attention was being paid to making the 4,000 MW Yadadri Thermal Power Station fully operational.

Four units of the plant are already generating power, while the fifth unit was synchronised with the grid on October 20. Commercial power generation from the fifth unit is expected to begin in December. Telangana Genco is implementing a comprehensive plan to resolve technical issues in the coal supply system and achieve the plant's full capacity of 4,000 MW through all five units during the coming Rabi season. The project has five units of 800 MW each and faced delays due to the Covid pandemic, forest clearances, railway land issues and environmental directions from the National Green Tribunal. Following fresh environmental impact studies and public consultations, work was resumed in February 2024. Four units have since commenced commercial operations.

After identifying technical issues in the coal handling plant, the government prepared a special action plan under the directions of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and the guidance of Bhatti Vikramarka. A high-level team comprising officials of Telangana Genco and BHEL inspected the plant and worked out measures to restore the coal supply system. Four coal supply routes have been revived, with a combined handling capacity of 3,200 tonnes per hour. To ensure uninterrupted coal supply, arrangements have been made to transport three to four rakes of coal daily from the Naini coal mine of Singareni Collieries Company Limited. So far, 4.26 lakh metric tonnes have been transported to the plant. Agreements have also been finalised to procure 4.6 lakh tonnes from MCL and SECL through the Window-II auction mechanism. The Standing Linkage Committee has additionally approved an annual coal supply of 7.71 million tonnes from MCL and ECL for two units of the plant, providing a long-term arrangement to address fuel availability and quality concerns.

Bhatti Vikramarka said these coordinated efforts were already yielding results. On November 11, Telangana recorded its highest-ever power generation of 6,088 MW, with the Yadadri plant alone contributing 2,754 MW.

Meanwhile, Telangana Genco will undertake phased repairs of the first coal supply line from November 18 to 24. The remaining three lines will continue operating, enabling four units to generate around 2,000 MW during the maintenance period. If required, generation will be regulated at 1,800 MW in coordination with the State Load Despatch Centre. The repairs will cover conveyor belts, vibrating grizzly feeders, crushers, belt feeders, stackers and reclaimers. After completion, BHEL will have to demonstrate that the coal transportation system can handle 2,500 tonnes per hour.

The Deputy Chief Minister expressed confidence that improved coal supply, technical upgrades and regular monitoring would soon enable Yadadri Thermal Power Station to operate at full capacity and meet Telangana's growing power needs.

Mahabubnagar to Host Kabaddi Events for Khelo India Youth Games

Minister Vakiti Srihari Calls for Coordinated Efforts to Make Event a Grand Success



Munsif Desk: (Mahabubnagar)

State Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Vakiti Srihari has urged officials, public representatives and sports enthusiasts to work in close coordination to ensure the grand success of the 8th Khelo India Youth Games, scheduled to be held from December 11 to 22. Kabaddi competitions under the mega sporting event will be conducted in Mahabubnagar district.

On Tuesday, the Minister inspected the Mahabubnagar Indoor Stadium and reviewed the arrangements, including the construction of a toilet block. He directed officials to complete all works within the stipulated time without compromising on quality. He also inaugurated the Khelo India selfie point at the stadium.

Addressing the gathering, Srihari said Telangana had secured the prestigious opportunity to host the event due to the special efforts of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy. Around 8,000 athletes and 1,500 coaches from 29 states are expected to participate, creating a festive sporting atmosphere across the region. He said the Central Government was providing ₹23 crore, while the State Government was spending ₹203.36 crore to upgrade stadiums and sports infrastructure to international standards, ensuring that the facilities would benefit future generations as well.

For the first time, the competitions are being extended beyond Hyderabad, with five sports allocated to different districts. He described Mahabubnagar getting the opportunity to host kabaddi events as a matter of pride.

Practise Previous Years' Question Papers to Excel in SSC Exams: Collector

Rajanna Sircilla Collector Greema Agrawal Advises Class 10 Students to Focus on Regular Study and Writing Practice



Munsif Desk: (Rajanna Sircilla)

District Collector Greema Agrawal has advised Class 10 students to practise previous years' question papers and prepare thoroughly to achieve good results in the upcoming SSC annual examinations.

The Collector visited the government school at Cheekode in Mustabad mandal of Rajanna Sircilla district on Tuesday. During her visit, she inspected the midday meal dining hall and instructed the school authorities to take necessary measures. She also visited the computer room and interacted with students. Earlier, she inaugurated the solar fencing facility at the school.

During her interaction with Class 10 students, Greema Agrawal asked them mathematics questions and assessed their understanding by eliciting answers. Addressing the students, she stressed the importance of studying all subjects regularly and completing adequate writing practice. She advised them to solve previous years' question papers and give special attention to written exercises.

She further urged students to practise answering all questions within the prescribed examination time, saying that marks secured in the current academic year would play a significant role in their admission to higher classes and future academic pursuits.

The Collector said that students could build a bright future irrespective of their background if they pursued education with dedication, interest and hard work. She encouraged every student to aim high, excel in their chosen fields and achieve success in life.

Tahsildar Farooq, teachers and others were present during the visit.

No Eligible Beneficiary Will Be Denied Welfare Schemes: MP Suresh Kumar Shetkar



Munsif Desk: (Zaheerabad)

Zaheerabad MP Suresh Kumar Shetkar has said that the State Government is committed to ensuring that welfare scheme benefits reach every eligible and deserving person, asserting that no target has been fixed for pension sanctions and that beneficiaries are being selected solely on the basis of eligibility. He was speaking at a programme held at SV Convention Hall in Pastapur, Zaheerabad, on Monday, where smart ration cards and Cheyutha pension sanction orders were distributed to beneficiaries.

Shetkar said the people's government was working to bring positive change in the lives of poor and weaker sections. Its priority, he said, was to ensure that no eligible family was left out of welfare schemes. He clarified that there was no fixed quota or target for pension approvals and that every applicant fulfilling the prescribed eligibility conditions would be considered for the benefit.

Telangana State SETWIN Corporation Chairman N. Girdhar Reddy and Zaheerabad Congress in-charge Dr A. Chandrashekhar attended the programme as guests of honour. They said smart ration cards and Cheyutha pension sanction letters were distributed to eligible beneficiaries from different parts of Zaheerabad town and mandal.

They observed that ration cards and pensions provide vital support to poor families and urged officials to identify all eligible persons and ensure that government welfare benefits reach the last deserving beneficiary.

Former TGIDC Chairman Tanveer, Municipal Chairman Mohammed Younus, Atma Committee Chairman Ramalinga Reddy, CDC Chairman Mubeen, Vice-Chairperson Shirisha Surender Reddy, senior officials, Congress mandal and town presidents, municipal councillors, sarpanches, party leaders and workers attended the programme.

New Aasara Pensions Sanctioned to 5,000 Beneficiaries in Narayankhed Constituency



Munsif Desk: (Narayankhed)

MLA Dr P Sanjeeva Reddy distributed sanction letters for newly approved Aasara pensions to eligible beneficiaries under the Narayankhed Municipal Council at a programme held at the Jukal Convention Centre on Monday.

Speaking on the occasion, the MLA said a total of 204 new pensions had been sanctioned within Narayankhed Municipality, while 5,000 beneficiaries across the Narayankhed Assembly constituency had been approved for pensions. He said the initiative would extend financial support to eligible people through the government's welfare scheme. Narayankhed Municipal Chairman Nagesh Kumar Shetkar, Vice-Chairman Dharam Shankar and municipal councillors also participated in the distribution of sanction letters.

Councillors Shah Rukh Khan, Rukmini Gopal Reddy, Mahesh Chauhan, Surekha Vitthal, M.A. Saboor, Mehtab, Vivekanand, Lakshman, Pathri Ramakrishna, Vijay Boji and Swapna Abhishek Shetkar, along with co-opted member Mohammed Abdul Qayyum alias Mumtaz, were present.

Former Narayankhed Mandal Congress president M.A. Waheed Tahir, Municipal Congress president Pandari Reddy, party leaders, former MPTC Ramakrishna, Congress workers and a large number of beneficiaries also attended the programme.

Women Fight Over Seats in Free RTC Bus in Achampet

Munsif Desk: (Hyderabad)

A dispute between women passengers over seating in a free RTC bus escalated into a physical altercation at Achampet bus stand in Nagarkurnool district.

According to reports, the incident occurred on a bus bound for Hyderabad. Several women reportedly argued over seats before grabbing each other by the hair and exchanging blows. A video of the incident has surfaced.

The incident has once again brought attention to disputes over seating in buses operating under the State Government's Mahalakshmi scheme, which provides free bus travel for women. Complaints over overcrowding and inadequate bus services have also been reported at various places.

Wanaparthy Collector Inspects School Works, Sets December-end Deadline



Munsif Desk: (Wanaparthy)

Wanaparthy, November 17: District Collector Adarsh Surabhi conducted a surprise visit to the Zilla Parishad High School at Polikapad village in Gopalpet mandal and inspected the ongoing construction of additional classrooms.

During the visit, he enquired with engineering officials about the progress of the works and directed them to speed up construction and make the classrooms available to students by the end of December.

The Collector stressed the need to maintain construction quality and ensure better educational facilities for students. He also instructed officials to take necessary steps for the construction of a compound wall around the school.

School staff, Gram Panchayat Sarpanch Bangarayya, PR AE Bhaskar and other officials were present.

STATEWATCH | Where Telangana Speaks.

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

People's Government Aims to Ensure Happiness and Financial Security for Every Family: Seethakka

306 New Cheyutha Pensions Sanctioned in 18 Gram Panchayats; Priority to Widows, Single Women and Persons with Disabilities



Munsif Desk: Tadvai (Mulugu District)

Minister for Panchayat Raj and Women and Child Welfare Danasari Anasuya Seethakka said the people's government was committed to ensuring financial security for every eligible family through welfare schemes.

On Tuesday, she distributed sanction orders for new Cheyutha pensions at Rythu Vedika in Tadvai mandal headquarters. A total of 306 pensions were sanctioned across 18 Gram Panchayats.

The Minister said priority was being given to single women, widows, persons with disabilities and handloom workers. Eligible single women would receive pensions irrespective of age. More than 3.5 lakh women across the State were being covered under the new pensions. Pension benefits had also been extended to Thalassemia patients requiring regular blood transfusions.

Seethakka said 5,000 Indiramma houses had been sanctioned in Mulugu constituency, with efforts underway to approve another 3,000. She assured that all eligible people would receive pensions, ration cards and housing benefits in phases.

Earlier, the Minister laid the foundation stone for an Electricity Sub-Division Office building at Tadvai at a cost of ₹17 lakh. She said around 20 electricity substations had been sanctioned for Mulugu district, including 14 in Mulugu constituency.

She directed officials to ensure uninterrupted and quality power supply, resolve frequent interruptions and make special arrangements ahead of the forthcoming Mini Medaram Jatara.

Market Committee Chairperson Rega Kalyani, DRDO Chandrasekhar, NPDCL SE Bikshapathi, local Sarpanches, public representatives and officials attended.

Hanumakonda Collector Chahat Bajpai Directs Speedy Completion of PV Gyan Kendra Development Works



Munsif Desk: (Warangal)

Hanumakonda District Collector Chahat Bajpai has directed officials to expedite and complete the ongoing development works at PV Gyan Kendra, established in the name of former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao at Wangara village in Bheemadevarapalli mandal.

On Tuesday, the District Collector visited PV Gyan Kendra and inspected the progress of various development works being undertaken at the centre.

During her visit, she inspected the photo gallery, museum, conference hall, plants raised within the premises and the surrounding areas. She also enquired with the officials about the progress of the ongoing works.

Speaking on the occasion, Collector Chahat Bajpai stated that most of the development works at PV Gyan Kendra had been completed, while certain works relating to the art gallery were still in progress. She said the art gallery works were being carried out under the supervision of an architect.

The Collector instructed the officials to take immediate steps to complete the installation of the statue of former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao in the art gallery, installation of CCTV cameras, electrical lighting arrangements and other pending works without further delay.

She also stressed the need to take proper measures for the protection and maintenance of the plants grown within the premises. The Collector said that once all the development works were completed, arrangements would be made to inaugurate PV Gyan Kendra next month.

Local Sarpanch Srujana, KUDA CPO Ajith Reddy, EEE Bhim Rao, Tahsildar Rajesh, DEs, AEs and other officials were present during the inspection.

2,450 Beneficiaries Receive Aasara Pension Sanction Letters in Mahabubnagar

Munsif Desk: (Mahabubnagar)

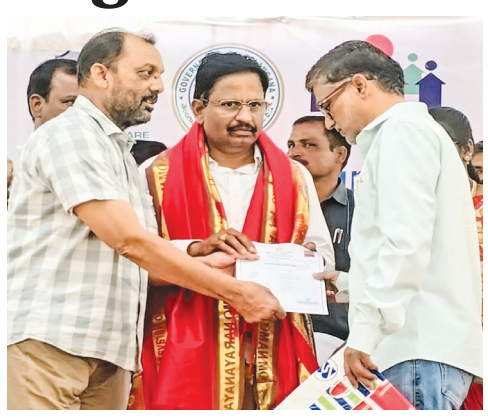
Government Whip and Mahabubnagar MLA Yennam Srinivas Reddy distributed Aasara pension sanction letters to 2,450 eligible beneficiaries, including widows, persons with disabilities and destitute women, within the limits of Mahabubnagar Municipal Corporation.

AIMIM senior leader and Municipal Corporation Floor Leader Abdul Rasheed Mushtaq attended the programme and, along with the MLA, distributed pension documents to eligible beneficiaries in Ramya Bowli.

Addressing the gathering, Abdul Rasheed Mushtaq said ensuring that government welfare schemes reach the poor and weaker sections of society was a collective responsibility. He said AIMIM had always been committed to resolving public issues and helping eligible people secure their rightful benefits. He welcomed the extension of Aasara pensions to deserving families in backward areas, including Ramya Bowli, stating that the assistance would provide financial support to widows and persons with disabilities.

MLA Yennam Srinivas Reddy, Mayor Mamatha Srinivas, MUDA Chairman Lakshman Yadav, Vice-Chairman Marepally Surender Reddy and AIMIM Town President and Corporator representative Syed Saadatullah Hussaini also addressed the gathering and explained various government welfare schemes to the beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries from Ramya Bowli expressed their gratitude to Abdul Rasheed Mushtaq, stating that he had consistently taken the lead in addressing public issues



in the division.

All Congress corporators, AIMIM corporator Imran Shareef, party leaders Waheed Sana, Abdul Mabood, Mujeeb Seth, Imran, Abbas and Haji Khan, besides other prominent personalities and a large number of people, were present.

Special Officer Inspects Telangana Gurukul Hostel, Warns of Action Over Poor Hygiene



Munsif Desk: (Madanapur)

Madanapur Mandal Special Officer Mohammed Sirajuddin Ahmed conducted a surprise inspection of the Telangana Gurukul Social Welfare Junior College (COE) boys' hostel during breakfast hours.

He inspected the kitchen, dining hall, storeroom, toilets and bathrooms. Expressing displeasure over poor sanitation and the absence of soap at the handwashing facility, he directed the Principal and Warden to take immediate corrective measures.

He also checked the expiry dates of food items, quality of vegetables, stock and daily consumption registers. He instructed the staff to provide students with nutritious food, safe drinking water and better facilities. He further directed that a staff member must taste the food before it is served to students to ensure its quality.

Later, he interacted with students to learn about their problems and also had breakfast with them. Sirajuddin Ahmed warned that negligence in matters of hygiene, food quality and students' health would not be tolerated. He cautioned that strict action would be taken against the Principal and Warden if the arrangements were not improved before the next inspection.

Welfare Schemes Being Extended to All Eligible Beneficiaries Without Political Bias: Kalwakurthy MLA

Munsif Desk: (Nagarkurnool)

Kalwakurthy MLA Kasireddy Narayana Reddy said the Congress government was extending welfare benefits to all eligible people without political discrimination. He said Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy was fulfilling electoral promises in a phased manner.

Speaking at a programme at KCR Function Hall in Kalwakurthy, the MLA distributed pension sanction letters to 1,778 newly approved beneficiaries. He said the government had introduced several welfare measures, including new ration cards, fine rice supply, free bus travel for women, free electricity up to 200 units and Indiramma houses.

He also announced that the Indiramma Life Insurance scheme would be launched on November 9. He urged officials to ensure transparency and deliver welfare benefits to every eligible person without discrimination.

Farmers Urged to Shift from Paddy to Water-Efficient Crops Amid Shortage



Munsif Desk: (Nagarkurnool) District Collector Hemant Keshav Patil has urged farmers to avoid paddy cultivation and opt for alternative crops that require less water, in view of the prevailing water scarcity. During his visit to Mokurala and Panjugal villages in Kalwakurthy mandal, he stressed the need for judicious use of available water resources and encouraged farmers to adopt water-efficient agricultural practices.

At Mokurala village, the Collector inspected the fields of farmer Rajender Reddy, who has cultivated kenaf crop on six acres. He appreciated the farmer's initiative and also inspected papaya cultivation in the village. He said crops that consume less water could help farmers reduce cultivation costs while ensuring better returns.

The Collector advised farmers to focus on quality produce that fetches better prices in the market rather than cultivating low-quality crops that sell at lower rates. He emphasised that selecting suitable crops according to water availability would help farmers protect their income while conserving water. He called upon farmers across the mandal to gradually shift from water-intensive paddy cultivation to crops that require less irrigation.

Bribery Allegations Surface in Suryapet Municipality Over Cheyutha Pension Approvals

Beneficiaries allegedly asked to pay Rs 5,000–10,000 to secure pensions; conflicting statements by municipal chairperson and commissioner raise questions



Munsif Desk: (Suryapet)

Allegations of illegal collections have surfaced in Suryapet Municipality, with some employees reportedly demanding Rs 5,000 to Rs 10,000 from applicants in the name of approving Cheyutha pensions. The alleged demands have caused concern among poor and vulnerable sections seeking financial assistance under the scheme.

Around 2,600 applications were received from persons with disabilities, widows, single women, toddy tappers and handloom workers within the municipal limits. Following verification by 12 special officers, assisted by 48 ward officers, around 2,102 applicants were found eligible. The DRDA department reportedly forwarded the list of eligible beneficiaries to the municipal authorities four days ago. However, applicants claim that the list has not been made public, forcing them to visit the municipal office repeatedly to check their status. There are also complaints that ward councillors have not been provided with the list.

Taking note of the allegations, Municipal Chairperson Moreshetty Navadeeptha Lakshadi warned employees that illegal collections in the name of pension approvals would not be tolerated. She reportedly issued a stern message in the municipal employees' WhatsApp group on Monday and said details of the approved beneficiaries had already been published in newspapers.

However, Municipal Commissioner Hanumantha Reddy said the eligible beneficiaries' list had not yet been received from the DRDA department. He stated that ward-wise meetings would be held on November 18 and approval letters distributed to selected beneficiaries.

The conflicting statements by the chairperson and commissioner have raised questions over the status of the list. Residents have urged the district administration to ensure transparency in the process and take strict action if any employee is found demanding money from applicants.

Woman, Lover Allegedly Murder Husband in Nizamabad

Mohammed Baleeg Ahmed: (Nizamabad)

A woman allegedly joined hands with her paramour and murdered her husband in Nizamabad after he objected to their relationship.

According to police sources, Sajjad Khan (40), a resident of Khoja Colony, had warned his wife Farzana Begum over her alleged relationship with Mansoor, leading to frequent quarrels. The duo reportedly conspired to eliminate him.

In the early hours of Sunday, while Sajjad was asleep, they allegedly strangled him with a nylon rope and attempted to portray the murder as suicide.

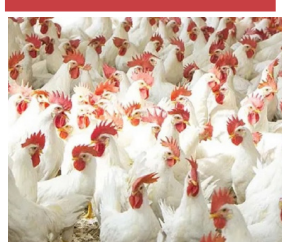
The One Town Police initially registered a suspicious death case. During questioning, Farzana and Mansoor reportedly confessed to the crime and were taken into custody. Further investigation is underway. The deceased is survived by four children. Police are yet to officially announce the arrests.



NATION | India's Politics, Policies & People.

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At a Glance



Bird Flu Scare Hits Namakkal Egg Exports

(IANS) Coimbatore, Egg exports from Tamil Nadu's Namakkal poultry hub have plunged following a bird flu outbreak in Cuddalore, with overseas buyers cancelling orders and procurement prices falling below production costs.

Importers in the UAE, Oman and South Africa have reportedly withdrawn orders, although farmers maintain that Namakkal remains unaffected.

Monthly exports, which stood at 25 crore eggs six months ago, fell to 15 crore and have now declined by another 50 per cent.

The National Egg Coordination Committee has reduced the procurement price to Rs 6 per egg from Rs 6.70, against a production cost of around Rs 6.50.

Namakkal has over 1,000 layer farms producing nearly six crore eggs daily. Farmers have strengthened biosecurity measures, including disinfection of poultry sheds and restrictions on visitors, to prevent the spread of infection.

Two Rajasthan men arrested for supplying MD drugs in MP's Indore

(IANS) Indore, The Indore Crime Branch has arrested two men from Rajasthan's Jhalawar district for allegedly supplying MD drugs in Madhya Pradesh.

The accused, Umar Ali and Shoaib alias Bhura, were arrested following the interrogation of Taufiq Khan, who was caught with 13 grams of mephedrone on November 13. DCP Rajesh Tripathi said Khan had identified the duo as his regular suppliers. Cases have been registered under Sections 8/22 and 8/29 of the NDPS Act. Police are questioning the accused to identify their drug sources and other links in the suspected interstate network.

PM Modi's visit opens window for bolstering India-ASEAN economic ties



(IANS) New Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will sit down with Southeast Asian leaders in Manila on Tuesday, in the backdrop of India's closer strategic ties with the bloc which has opened an opportunity to build an equally strong economic partnership.

India's maritime and security engagement with ASEAN has matured rapidly. The natural next step is to bring commercial engagement up to the same level. Doing so would further strengthen the ASEAN "centrality" that India has consistently championed, according to an article in India Narrative.

Announcing the Year of Maritime Cooperation in 2025, PM Modi highlighted that India has always fully supported 'ASEAN centrality' and ASEAN's outlook on the Indo-Pacific. The year had also seen joint naval exercises with the ASEAN bloc which is keen to strengthen ties with India amid rapid geopolitical change.

The article underlines that India's trade with ASEAN reached $128.38 billion in 2025-26, with the country importing $89.96 billion and exporting $38.41 billion. The resulting deficit of $51.55 billion compares with a $7 billion gap when the goods agreement took effect in 2010. Indian exports moved from $42.4 billion to $38.4 billion between 2021-22 and 2025-26, even as imports rose. With ASEAN accounting for around 11 per cent of India's global trade, getting the balance right matters to both sides.

New Delhi has a strong case in the proposed review of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement. India has liberalised roughly 80 per cent of tariff lines for ASEAN members, though the reciprocity it receives is not yet as full. Officials also worry that Chinese goods are being routed through ASEAN states to exploit preferential duties. Tighter rules of origin are a reasonable demand, and one that protects the integrity of the agreement for every party to it.

Since India's withdrawal from RCEP in 2019, the review has taken on added weight as a route into regional value chains. India's strategic credentials in the region are now well established through its naval presence and defence partnerships. A deeper commercial relationship would complete the offer that ASEAN states seek when they hedge.

Ajay Sahai of the Federation of Indian Export Organisations argues that the review should be judged by the export opportunities and business partnerships it generates, not by the number of tariff concessions. That is the right test. It points towards simpler customs procedures, regulatory transparency and integration into regional supply chains, rather than tariff arithmetic alone.

Connectivity offers a similar opportunity. The Trilateral Highway and the Kaladan project, though slowed by Myanmar's instability and infrastructure delays, would bring India and Southeast Asia closer still once complete, the article points out.

Before leaving, PM Modi said ties with ASEAN occupy a central place in India's MAHASAGAR vision. In 2027, India and ASEAN will mark 35 years of Dialogue Relations. The maritime year has shown India to be a dependable partner at sea.

The anniversary year is a natural moment to bring the same energy to the marketplace. ASEAN centrality, in the end, is best served when member states have more than one serious economic partner to choose from, and India is well placed to be one of them, the article added.

C.P. Radhakrishnan administers oath to Hardeep Singh Puri



(IANS) New Delhi, Rajya Sabha Chairman C.P. Radhakrishnan on Tuesday administered the oath of office to re-elected member Hardeep Singh Puri at Parliament House. Puri represents Madhya Pradesh in the Upper House.

Union Ministers Mansukh Mandaviya and Rajiv Ranjan Singh, along with Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal, were present at the oath-taking ceremony.

Puri was elected unopposed to the Rajya Sabha from Madhya Pradesh on November 5 after the nomination papers of two independent candidates, Rajkumar Lohani and Kante Sayanna, were rejected during scrutiny. With no other valid candidate in the fray, he was declared elected without a contest.

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

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) announced Puri as its candidate on October 28. He filed his nomination papers on October 31 in the presence of Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav, Deputy Chief Ministers Rajendra Shukla and Jagdish Devda, State BJP president Hemant Khandelwal and other party leaders.

Khandelwal received Puri's election certificate from Returning Officer Umesh Kumar Sharma at the Madhya Pradesh Assembly in Bhopal.

A former Indian Foreign Service officer, Puri has served as India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations and held several diplomatic assignments. He entered the Rajya Sabha in 2018 and later joined the Union Council of Ministers.

During his ministerial career, Puri handled the Housing and Urban Affairs and Civil Aviation portfolios before taking charge of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry in 2021.

His election comes as the BJP enjoys a comfortable majority in the 230-member Madhya Pradesh Assembly, whose members elect the state's representatives to the Rajya Sabha.

HM Amit Shah should have apologised before Ajit Pawar's statue: Uddhav Thackeray

(IANS) Mumbai, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray on Tuesday criticised Union Home Minister Amit Shah over his remarks on Maharashtra's handling of the Covid-19 pandemic, saying he should have apologised before the statue of late Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar before praising him.

Speaking on the 14th death anniversary of Shiv Sena founder Balasaheb Thackeray, which falls during his birth centenary year, Uddhav called Shah a "gossipmonger" and questioned the BJP's earlier allegations against Ajit Pawar.

Thackeray said the BJP had accused Ajit Pawar of involvement in a Rs 70,000-crore corruption scam during his lifetime. He said Shah should have acknowledged the late leader's contributions when he was alive.

"It is unfortunate that Ajit Pawar's statue was unveiled by a gossipmonger like Amit Shah. I expected Shah to apologise before the statue and admit that the allegations were false," Uddhav said.

His remarks followed Shah's visit to Pune on November 16, when the Union Home Minister unveiled Ajit Pawar's statue and praised his work during the pandemic. Shah had said Pawar promptly answered his early-morning calls, while the then Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray was unreachable.

Rejecting the allegation, Uddhav cited Maharashtra's pandemic response and compared it with the situation in BJP-ruled Uttar Pradesh, where, he alleged, bodies were dumped in the Ganga. He also referred to the public response to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's appeal to bang plates during the pandemic.



Targeting Shah over the situation in Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh, Uddhav urged him to visit the affected regions and interact with people and security personnel. He also criticised Shah's alleged absence from Parliament during recent Gen Z protests in Delhi.

"The country is in the hands of a person who only knows idle chatter. Changing this regime is the only option," he said.

Earlier, Uddhav paid tribute to his father Balasaheb Thackeray and praised Shiv Sena worker Arvind Bhosale for organising monthly blood donation camps on the 17th in his memory.

He also said the trust plans to formally inaugurate the Balasaheb Thackeray Memorial Gallery within the next year.

Govt raises windfall tax on diesel and ATF exports

(IANS) New Delhi, The government has raised windfall taxes on diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) exports in its latest fortnightly revision of fuel export duties.

According to a notification issued by the Finance Ministry, the special additional excise duty (SAED) along with the road and infrastructure cess on diesel exports has been increased to Rs 14 per litre from Rs 11.50 per litre.

The export duty on ATF has been raised to Rs 12.50 per litre from Rs 11 per litre.

However, the export levy on petrol has been retained at zero for the second consecutive fortnight.

The revised rates took effect immediately from November 16, according to the government.

The latest revision follows the government's October 31 review, when it withdrew the export duty on petrol entirely while raising levies on diesel and ATF.



At that time, diesel export duty was increased to Rs 11.50 per litre from Rs 8.50 per litre, while the duty on ATF exports was raised to Rs 11 per litre from Rs 10.50 per litre.

The fortnightly reviews are part of the government's mechanism to align fuel export duties with movements in international crude oil and refined product prices.

Fuel export taxes have undergone several revisions since they were reintroduced in March amid heightened geopolitical tensions in West Asia which triggered volatility in global energy markets and pushed up crude oil prices.

Initially imposed on diesel and ATF exports, the levy was later extended to petrol exports from May.

The government has since adjusted rates multiple times in response to changing market conditions and domestic supply considerations.

In addition, the government clarified that there has been no change in duties on petrol and diesel sold in the domestic market.

Tamil Nadu sees five lakh increase in ration cards in 18 months

(IANS) Chennai, Tamil Nadu has recorded an increase of five lakh ration cards over the past 18 months, taking the total number to 2.30 crore and covering 7.02 crore people, according to the Food Supplies Department.

The state had 2.25 crore ration cards in March 2025. Since July 31, authorities have issued 1.16 lakh new cards after completing the verification of applications.

The department receives around 50,000 applications every month, while only 25,000 to 30,000 applicants receive cards during the same period. Consequently, eligible applicants often have to wait several months for approval.

Applications for new ration cards must be submitted through the public distribution system website using Aadhaar details. Apart from scrutiny by the Food Supplies Department, applications are also examined by the e-Governance Agency under the Information Technology Department.

The additional verification process has slowed the issuance of cards, as applications must meet the prescribed eligibility requirements before approval.

Demand for separate family ration cards reportedly increased after the launch of the monthly Rs 1,000 financial assistance scheme for eligible women in 2023. Several married couples living within extended family households subsequently applied for separate cards to access the scheme's benefits.

This prompted authorities to introduce closer scrutiny of applications to establish whether applicants qualified for individual family cards.

Despite the delays, the number of ration cards has continued to rise. The department's latest figures show that the number of applications received remains higher than the number of cards issued every month.

Thieves loot two houses in Gaya during Chhath; steal cash, jewellery

(IANS) Gaya, A gang of thieves broke into two neighbouring houses in the Siyadih locality of Kaler Tola under Magadh Medical police station limits in Bihar's Gaya district and decamped with cash and jewellery worth around Rs 27 lakh during the Chhath festival.

The targeted houses belonged to Rakesh Kumar Verma, a retired Army personnel, and his neighbour Rinku Kumar, a teacher.

The thieves stole around Rs 2 lakh in cash and gold and silver jewellery worth approximately Rs 20 lakh from Verma's house.

From the teacher's residence, they took Rs 5,000 in cash and jewellery valued at Rs 7 lakh.

Gaya Police reached the spot on Monday evening after receiving information about the incident and launched an investigation.

According to family members, both Verma and Rinku Kumar have been living with their families in the Siyadih locality for several years.

Verma is the son of Home Guard personnel Surendra Prasad, a native of Shakarpur village in the Bankebazar area, while Rinku Kumar belongs to Dighasan village in the same region.

Verma had locked his house and gone with his family to his in-laws' village, Sindhpur, in Bankebazar, to celebrate Chhath.

His father, Surendra Prasad, said the thieves first entered the house of Rinku Kumar and stole around Rs 5,000 in cash and jewellery worth approximately Rs 7 lakh. They subsequently broke into his son's house.

The thieves forced open a cupboard and escaped with Rs 2 lakh in cash and gold and silver jewellery worth nearly Rs 20 lakh.

Surendra Prasad further said that his son's house had been targeted by thieves three or four years ago as well, but the earlier case remained unresolved.

Station House Officer Sudeh Kumar said he personally inspected the crime scene after receiving information about the thefts.

Police are examining CCTV footage from cameras installed in the surrounding area to identify the suspects. Further investigation is underway.



Different religions don't have equal place in American identity: US preacher

(IANS) Washington, A preacher said Hinduism was not American at a far-right conference in Texas, where white nationalist commentator Nick Fuentes criticised Indian American Republican Vivek Ramaswamy's inclusive message, reports said.

The "Christ is King: America After Trump" conference was held near Dallas from November 12 to 14. Hundreds attended, Religion News Service reported.

Joel Webbon, the event's sponsor, said: "Christianity is American. Islam is not, Hinduism is not, Judaism is not," according to CNN. The remarks drew applause.

Reports described speeches advocating Christian primacy, mass deportations and a majority-white country, alongside antisemitic rhetoric and calls to revoke women's voting rights.

Fuentes criticised Vice President J.D. Vance and Ramaswamy for their "message of inclusive populism", RNS reported.

Indian American lawyer Harmeet Dhillon, head of the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division, said Fuentes had mentioned her at the gathering. She called him a "groyper", a term for his followers.

Dhillon clashed online with Texas Republican Bo French over immigration, rejecting any suggestion that ancestry gave someone a greater claim to the country. French denied targeting her.

US Senate bill seeks to withhold $33 million Pakistan aid until Shakil Afridi's release

(IANS) Washington, A US Senate funding bill proposes withholding $33 million in assistance to Pakistan until Dr Shakil Afridi is released and cleared of charges linked to his alleged assistance to the United States in locating Osama bin Laden.



The Senate Appropriations Committee released the fiscal 2027 State, Foreign Operations and Related Programs bill on Monday (local time). The proposals have not become law and remain subject to congressional negotiations.

Under Section 7044(b), the specified Pakistan funds would remain unavailable until the Secretary of State reports that Afridi has been released and cleared of charges relating to his assistance to the US.

The provision retains an existing restriction on a specified amount of aid and does not amount to a blanket suspension of US assistance to Pakistan.

The accompanying explanatory statement recommends $5 million for the Quad Investors Network under National Security Investment Programs. The funding would support public-private collaboration among the US, India, Japan and Australia to expand investment in critical emerging technologies in the Indo-Pacific and the United States.

This recommendation is separate from the proposed minimum of $1.8 billion for the Indo-Pacific Strategy. The committee summary also lists $400 million for the Countering PRC Influence Fund.

The bill includes several provisions concerning Tibetan communities in India and Nepal. It proposes at least $8 million to preserve Tibetan culture and language in refugee and diaspora communities and support the Central Tibetan Administration.

A separate $5 million is proposed to strengthen the administration's capacity, with up to $1.5 million available for economic growth activities, including assistance to displaced Tibetan refugee families in India and Nepal.

The explanatory statement also calls for a strategy to deter and respond to Chinese interference in recognising a future Dalai Lama. It directs the State Department to distinguish Tibet-related assistance from aid for China and India in its budget reporting.

For maritime security, the statement recommends at least $10 million for South Asia maritime law enforcement programmes and $20 million for similar initiatives in East Asia and the Pacific.

The bill also proposes at least $12 million for higher education institutions in South and Central Asia, including $7 million for nonprofit institutions providing online education primarily to Afghan women. It proposes a ban on assistance to the Taliban and at least $75 million for Myanmar-related programmes, including activities in Thailand and India.

The committee summary puts the bill's base discretionary funding at $50.11 billion, approximately $96 million above the fiscal 2026 enacted level and nearly $14.7 billion above the President's request.

Afridi was arrested following the May 2011 US operation that killed bin Laden in Abbottabad. His original 33-year prison sentence was reduced to 23 years in 2014, according to the State Department report cited in the source material.

Third US aircraft carrier arrives in Middle East amid Iran tensions

(IANS) Washington, The USS Theodore Roosevelt aircraft carrier has arrived in the Middle East, bringing the number of US carrier strike groups in the region to three amid continued tensions with Iran, a US official confirmed.



The carrier arrived in the area of responsibility of the US Central Command on Sunday, according to US media outlets on Monday (local time). It joins the USS George H.W. Bush and the USS George Washington, which have been deployed in the region since April and August, respectively.

The US Navy's presence in the Arabian Sea now includes three aircraft carriers, 13 destroyers, two cruisers and a littoral combat ship, reports Xinhua news agency, citing US media reports.

The deployment comes as diplomatic efforts between Washington and Tehran remain stalled and US President Donald Trump is considering whether to resume large-scale military strikes against Iran.

On February 28, Israel and the United States launched joint attacks on Tehran and other Iranian cities. Iran responded with waves of missile and drone strikes targeting Israel and US bases and assets in the region, while tightening its control over the Strait of Hormuz.

Meanwhile, US Vice President J.D. Vance has said that President Donald Trump would not allow the conflict with Iran to become a "forever war", rejecting even a two-year American commitment while defending the President's decision to attack Iran's nuclear programme.

In an interview to Fox News host Laura Ingraham on Monday (local time), Vance expressed confidence that Trump would end the conflict successfully. However, he did not set a specific withdrawal date in the remarks reported by Iran International.

"He is not going to let this become a forever war," Vance said. "We told the American people we would do no more forever wars."

Vance defended Trump's stated objective of destroying Iran's nuclear programme, which he described as a threat to the United States. But he rejected a prolonged military commitment.

"We are not going to allow this to become a 10- or 15-year commitment, or frankly even a two-year commitment," he said.

He criticised neoconservatives and others who wanted the United States to remain involved indefinitely, saying he trusted Trump to bring the conflict to an end.

QUAD TO SHAPE FUTURE OF INDO-PACIFIC WITH REGIONAL PARTNERS: JAPANESE PM

(IANS) Manila, Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi on Tuesday expressed confidence that the Quad, along with its regional partners, will shape the future of the Indo-Pacific.



In her remarks at the Quad Leaders' Summit in Philippines' Manila on Tuesday, Takaichi said that Quad nations through their cooperation will deliver results that will benefit the region. She called for giving further momentum to Quad cooperation.

"The Quad has always contributed to peace and stability of this region. The Quad will shape the future of the Indo-Pacific together with our regional partners. We would like to realise a free and open Indo-Pacific by strengthening resilience of countries in the region and promote their freedom to decide for themselves across a wide range of areas including maritime security, economic security, energy and critical and emerging technologies," Takaichi said.

"We will deliver results through cooperation that benefits the region. Let's give further momentum to this strategically important framework of cooperation," she added.

PM Narendra Modi, US President Donald Trump and Australian PM Anthony Albanese attended the Quad Leaders Summit along with Takaichi in Manila.

In his remarks at the summit, PM Modi said that Quad is a constructive and trusted partnership for India. He expressed confidence that his meeting with PM Albanese, PM Takaichi and President Trump in Manila will help them in setting concrete goals for the next phase of Quad cooperation.

PM Modi noted that five meetings of Quad Foreign Ministers since January last year bears testimony to political will and shared commitment of four nations towards the Quad partnership.

"Manila and Quad have shared an age-old and special bond. In 2007, officials of the four countries met for the first time right here. 10 years after that in 2017, it was here at this city that we started our dialogue once again. Today, holding a Quad meeting once again at this historic city, marks an important milestone. Since January last year till date, our foreign ministers have met five times. This bears testimony to our political will and shared commitment towards our partnership," said PM Modi.

"For India, the Quad is a constructive and trusted partnership. From maritime security to trusted supply chains, new technologies to disaster response, it has been our endeavour that the Quad provides trusted solutions…I am confident that our meeting today will help us in setting concrete goals for the next phase of our cooperation," he added.

Over 340,000 people now displaced in Yemen: UN

(IANS) United Nations, Fighting in Yemen continues to drive people from their homes, with the number of the displaced surpassing 340,000, UN humanitarians have said.



The UN Human Rights Office on Monday (local time) said it has verified more than 300 civilian casualties since the beginning of August, when hostilities surged, including more than 70 killed.

Nearly half of the fatalities were children. Because the count includes only casualties the UN has been able to verify, the real toll is likely much higher.

The International Organization for Migration said two-thirds of the 340,000 displaced are from Taiz governorate.

Restrictions on key transport routes also threaten to disrupt the delivery of life-saving assistance further.

"Despite the constraints, the UN and its humanitarian partners continue to deliver aid," said the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

"Emergency assistance has now reached more than 270,000 displaced people, about two-thirds of all those displaced, and more than 202,000 have received emergency cash."

OCHA said conditions continue to worsen in Taiz City, reports Xinhua news agency.

According to the government, access restrictions are affecting an estimated 1.3 million people across five districts.

"Cooking gas has reportedly been blocked from entering since early October, alongside shortages of fuel, food and water," the office said.

"All parties must ensure the safety of refugees, asylum seekers and other civilians, as well as safe passage for refugees leaving the camp," the office said.

"OCHA also calls for safe, sustained and unimpeded humanitarian access throughout Yemen, including for displaced people and refugees affected by the ongoing violence."

US targets China's remote access to AI chips

(IANS) Washington, The United States has announced restrictions to prevent Chinese companies from remotely accessing advanced US AI chips through overseas data centres.

The Commerce Department's Bureau of Industry and Security issued an interim final rule on Monday targeting arrangements that let restricted customers use US technology hosted abroad.

The bureau said the measure, directed by the Treasury Department and National Security Council, aims to stop remote computing from bypassing controls on sensitive technology.

The rule adds licensing requirements for specified semiconductor shipments to Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Brazil over diversion risks.

It covers equipment for data centres serving companies headquartered in Macau or countries in US export-control category Country Group D:5

Headquartered recipients are exempt.

House China Committee Chairman John Moolenaar welcomed the move, saying it would close loopholes exploited by China.

Moolenaar and other House committee chairmen urged inclusion of four measures in the annual defence policy bill: the AI Overwatch Act, Chip Security Act, MATCH Act and Remote Access Security Act.

This rule rescinds the Biden administration's AI Diffusion Rule, issued in January 2025 to govern AI exports.

Indian American-led firms in US AI export push

(IANS) Washington, Microsoft, IBM, Palo Alto Networks and Snowflake are among companies selected by the US Commerce Department to promote American AI systems overseas.



The companies are led by Indian American executives Satya Nadella, Arvind Krishna, Nikesh Arora and Sridhar Ramaswamy. They will anchor consortia under the American SI Exports Program, which uses the term 'Super Intelligence'.

The programme brings together suppliers of computing hardware, data tools, AI models, cybersecurity and applications. Selected groups will receive federal support to market technology packages abroad.

The announcement covers 33 consortia, not 33 individual companies. The list names 19 anchor companies, some leading multiple groups. Selection provides government support, not an export contract.

A second application route opens on November 30 for groups formed around specific overseas deals. They need provide only the technology layers required.

The programme implements President Donald Trump's executive order to promote exports of integrated US AI systems and expand overseas markets for American companies.

The first application window ran from April 1 to June 30. Commerce said 78 applications had been submitted, subject to national security, foreign policy and programme reviews.

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

Amazon to invest $7 billion in India renewable energy by 2030, unveils 4 new projects

Amazon on Tuesday announced plans to invest an additional $7 billion in renewable energy projects in India by 2030, expanding its clean energy footprint in one of its fastest-growing markets.

The company has unveiled four new utility-scale renewable energy projects with a combined capacity of 934 megawatts (MW).

These projects include a 234 MW wind project in Karnataka which Amazon described as its largest wind energy project in Asia to date, a 200 MW hybrid wind-solar facility in Karnataka, a 300 MW solar project in Madhya Pradesh and a 200 MW solar installation in Rajasthan.

The projects are being developed through long-term power purchase agreements and will lift Amazon's contracted renewable energy capacity in India to more than 2 gigawatts (GW) once fully operational.

According to the company, the projects will generate enough electricity annually to meet the needs of more than 3.5 million Indian households.

In addition, the fresh investment comes on top of about $4 billion already committed to renewable energy projects in India.

However, the company recently set a goal of reducing the carbon intensity of electricity used across its operations by 65 per cent by 2030 compared with 2019 levels as part of its target of achieving net-zero carbon emissions by 2040.

"Our renewable energy investments in India reflect years of sustained collaboration and underline our long-term commitment to supporting India's clean energy ambitions," said Kara Hurst, Amazon's Chief Sustainability Officer.



Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi welcomed the announcement, saying such investments strengthen India's energy security, support sustainable economic growth and demonstrate global investor confidence in the country's renewable energy sector.

Moreover, Amazon currently operates 57 renewable energy projects in India, including 14 utility-scale wind and solar facilities and 43 rooftop solar installations across its operations.

Apart from its green energy push, Amazon highlighted progress in water conservation and sustainable packaging initiatives in India, including achieving water-positive status in 2025 and increasing the use of reduced packaging for customer deliveries. IANS

'Where is accountability?': Passengers slam SpiceJet after flight cancellation

(IANS) New Delhi, Several passengers travelling from Bagdogra to Ahmedabad were left stranded after a SpiceJet flight was reportedly delayed multiple times before being cancelled, forcing travellers to make expensive last-minute travel arrangements and seek accommodation on their own.

The disruption triggered frustration among passengers, with some alleging that alternative flight tickets were available only at sharply higher fares, significantly increasing their travel costs.

According to passengers, around 50 to 70 people were affected by the cancellation.

One of the affected travellers, Kajal Mohta, took to Instagram to criticise the airline's handling of the situation and questioned the lack of support provided to stranded passengers.

She said the flight, originally scheduled to depart at 6 a.m., was first delayed to 8 a.m. and then further postponed to 10 a.m. before being cancelled altogether.

"Our Bagdogra to Ahmedabad flight kept getting delayed (6–8, then 8–10) and was eventually CANCELLED," she stated.

"Now 50–70 passengers are stranded in a small town, figuring out hotels and spending over Rs 1 lakh collectively on unexpected expenses. This is our hard-earned money, time and peace of mind. Where is the accountability?" Mohta noted.

Describing the experience as "absolutely pathetic service," Mohta said passengers were left scrambling for alternatives after the cancellation.

She alleged that many travellers were being forced to pay substantially higher fares on other airlines to reach Ahmedabad.

In her social media post, Mohta said the incident had cost passengers not only money but also valuable time and peace of mind.

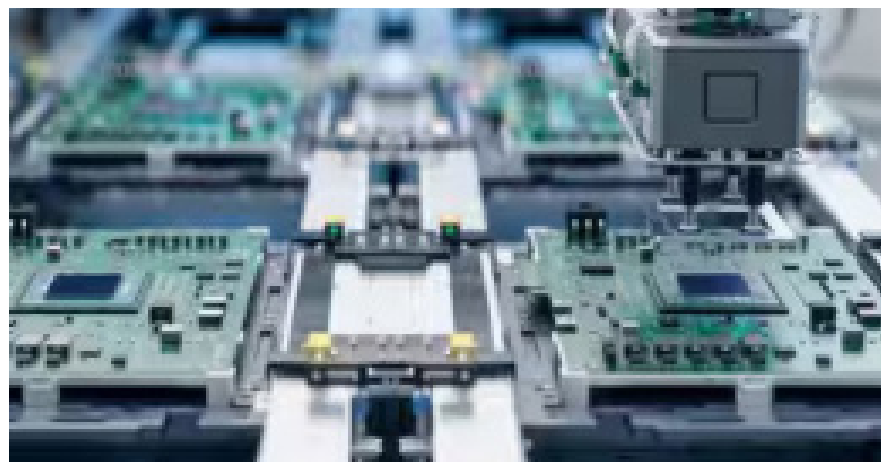


She questioned the airline's accountability and sought guidance from other users on how to pursue refunds, compensation and formal complaints with government authorities.

The incident quickly drew attention online, with several social media users criticising SpiceJet and sharing similar experiences involving flight delays and cancellations.

Some users recounted their own travel disruptions, while others questioned why passengers continued to choose the airline despite recurring complaints on social media.

India's electronics exports surge 44% to $31.97 billion in Apr-Sep



(IANS) New Delhi, India's electronic goods exports registered strong growth of 44 per cent to $31.97 billion year-on-year during April-September FY27, according to an official statement released on Tuesday.

According to the Ministry of Commerce & Industry data, electronics exports were at $22.2 billion in the corresponding period of FY26.

While smartphones continued to account for the largest share of the electronics export basket, non-smartphone electronics recorded significantly faster growth, showing broadening and diversification of India's electronics exports across components, printed circuit boards, communication equipment, memory products and storage devices.

Exports of smartphones increased by 35.8 per cent to $18.17 billion during April-September FY27, against $13.38 billion in April-September FY26.

Smartphones continued to be the largest component of India's electronic goods exports.

However, their share in total electronic goods exports moderated from 60.3 per cent to 56.8 per cent amid faster growth in other electronics segments, the government data showed.

Non-smartphone electronics exports recorded a growth of 56.5 per cent to $13.79 billion during the period, compared to $8.81 billion a year ago.

"Consequently, the share of non-smartphone electronics in total electronic goods exports increased from 39.7 per cent to 43.2 per cent, indicating a broadening of India's electronics export basket," the ministry said.

Meanwhile, exports of parts and accessories comprising mounted printed circuit boards increased from $63.3 million to $2.10 billion, registering growth of 3,219 per cent.

Moreover, Singapore was the leading destination, with exports reaching $1.87 billion, followed by China at $111.5 million.

Exports of populated, loaded or stuffed printed circuit boards also registered significant growth of 304 per cent to $864.1 million from $213.7 million.

According to the ministry data, China was the leading destination at $789.2 million, while exports to Hong Kong increased to $25.3 million from $5.9 million.

Similarly, exports of network transmission and routing equipment nearly doubled to $1.45 billion.

Exports of memory integrated circuits recorded growth of 2,333 per cent to $562.4 million.

Exports of solid-state non-volatile storage devices increased by 1,680 per cent to $260.5 million, with China as the leading destination at $108.6 million, followed by Singapore at $76.8 million, Hong Kong at $22.3 million and the United States at $20.7 million.

The growth in India's electronics exports showed an increasingly diversified export basket, with non-smartphone electronics registering faster growth and gaining a larger share in overall exports.

The ministry also noted that smartphones continued to remain the largest component, with exports reaching $18.17 billion.

NITI Aayog highlights 5 key lessons from PM Modi's 25 years of leadership

(IANS) New Delhi, The NITI Aayog Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Anurag Jain highlighted four key lessons from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 25 years of leadership, beginning as Chief Minister of Gujarat in 2001, at the national workshop of the think-tank held here on Tuesday.

"First, purpose must take precedence over hierarchical position, shifting the focus from individual leadership to a shared collective mission. Second, service must replace command, with governance centred on reaching the last person in the queue. Third, intrinsic conviction builds resilience, enabling adversity to become an opportunity for societal transformation. And fourth, true empowerment must outlive individual leadership through strong institutions, capable teams and sustainable systems," the NITI Aayog Chief said.

He underscored that the objective of this NITI Aayog workshop is to document the learnings from 25 years of leadership of the Prime Minister and translate them into institutional knowledge for the future.

NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Ashok Kumar Lahiri said, "The role of strong political and administrative leadership is crucial in driving India's development journey. The transformational vision of our Prime Minister, marks a significant shift in India's national aspiration to become Viksit by 2047, reflecting the country's transition towards a developed, prosperous and globally competitive nation."

He highlighted NITI Aayog's integrated roadmap for realising this ambition of building a $30-40 trillion economy by 2047, with a per capita income of $15,000-18,000, supported by sustained annual real GDP growth of 7-10 per cent.

Delivering the inaugural keynote address, P.K. Mishra, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, said, "India's governance journey has been marked by defining milestones that demonstrate the power of decisive leadership and the ability to translate vision into action."

"From swift response to the 2001 Kutch earthquake to the country's coordinated response to the Covid-19 pandemic, from expanding India's footprint in the global space economy to the transformative impact of Lakhpati Didi initiative, these actions reflect how strong political will, responsive administration and mission-driven governance can bring about meaningful change in people's lives," he added.

The Prime Minister assumed office as the Chief Minister of Gujarat in October 2001 and as Prime Minister of India in May 2014 and has led the government at the state and the Union levels without a break since then.

Throughout this period, PM Modi has held public office as a mission of service. His description of himself as the 'Pradhan Sevak' places the citizen at the centre of every office of government, and the principles of 'Antyodaya', 'Jan Bhagidari' and 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas' have guided the direction of governance at both levels, according to a NITI Aayog statement.

The workshop is the first in a series of five National Workshops.

The deliberations and first-hand experiences shared during the series will be developed into case studies and learning material for civil services training institutes, educational institutions and universities.

Over the course of the series, the learning from these twenty-five years will also be taken forward through research and teaching material that sets out directions for policy and administration in the years leading up to 'Viksit Bharat @2047'.



More than 900 participants attended the workshop, of whom 250 took part directly in the deliberations.

The participants included Secretaries and senior officers of the Union and state governments, District Collectors of Aspirational Districts, students of educational institutions and universities, and community partners and beneficiaries of national flagship schemes.

The proceedings are also streamed on the iGOT Karmayogi platform and at Central and State Administrative Training Institutes, enabling officers from across the country to participate in the programme.

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Manu Bhaker elected to ISSF Athletes Committee for 2026–2030 term



New Delhi, (IANS): India's double Olympic medallist Manu Bhaker has been elected to the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Athletes Committee for the 2026–2030 term, the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) announced on Tuesday.

The 23-year-old was nominated in the Pistol category and competed against nine other candidates for two positions. Voting was held alongside the ISSF World Championships in Cairo and Doha, with eligible athletes casting their votes.

Bhaker's agenda focused on strengthening athletes' representation in decision-making, ensuring consistency in competition rules, improving financial opportunities and enhancing athlete welfare. She also advocated better mental health support, a confidential grievance redressal system and higher prize money at ISSF World Cups. The ISSF Athletes Committee serves as a link between athletes and the sport's governing body, representing competitors' concerns and advising on rules, welfare and competition conditions. Bhaker made history at the Paris 2024 Olympics by becoming the first Indian athlete in independent India to win two medals at a single Olympic edition. She secured bronze in the women's 10m Air Pistol and the 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team event alongside Sarabjot Singh.

Gurnoor Brar Reprimanded for Code of Conduct Breach

New Delhi, (IANS): India pacer Gurnoor Brar was reprimanded by the ICC and handed one demerit point for his aggressive celebration after dismissing Tim Seifert in the fourth ODI against New Zealand. His total has risen to two points following a second offence in 24 months. India pacer Gurnoor Brar was reprimanded by the ICC and handed one demerit point for his aggressive celebration against New Zealand batter Tim Seifert.

Dhoni retires from IPL, named Chennai Super Kings mentor

Chennai, (IANS): Chennai Super Kings legend Mahendra Singh Dhoni has retired from the Indian Premier League and will begin a new chapter with the franchise as a team mentor from the 2027 edition of the league.

The 45-year-old wicketkeeper, who had led the CSK to a record-equalling five IPL titles, captained the franchise in over 200 matches. The former Indian captain is the first player to achieve the feat in the league, having captained the side in 212 matches and registering 128 wins in them.

Under his leadership, CSK claimed the crown in 2010, 2011, 2018, 2021, and 2023.

"Through countless victories, challenging times, and memories that will stay in our hearts forever, MS has been at the heart of our journey from the very beginning. From leading us to glory to guiding the next generation of Super Kings, Thala will always be a part of our identity. And Chennai will always be his home," Chennai said in a 'X' post.

The ace wicket-keeper was at the helm at CSK throughout his career, except for a few matches in 2022, when Ravindra Jadeja replaced him. However, Dhoni took the reins back in the same season after CSK got off to a dismal start, before handing the captaincy baton to Ruturaj Gaikwad in 2024.

"There is no CSK without MS Dhoni. For nearly two decades, we have walked and grown alongside each other, through triumphs, setbacks and everything in between," said CSK owner N Srinivasan.

"Our relationship is as strong as it is because of one reason: we don't question intentions. That trust is what made this journey possible. In 2008, I insisted that Dhoni should be part of CSK... It turns out that's the best decision I took. Not because of all his achievements for the franchise, but for the kind of human he is. Dhoni will always be a part of our identity. This will always be his home," he added.

Apart from his prowess as a captain, Dhoni is also one of the greatest batters in the league's history. He is the second-highest run-scorer for the Super Kings, with 5,314 runs, and the most-capped Chennai Super Kings player with 272 appearances. The innumerable last-ball finishes and helicopter shots are a part of CSK and IPL folklore.

Dhoni retires from IPL with 278 matches and 5439 runs under his name, including 24 fifties.





ICC Rankings: Nashra Sundhu closes in on top T20I bowling spot after impressive Zimbabwe performance

New Delhi, (IANS): Pakistan left-arm spinner Nashra Sundhu has climbed two places to seventh in the latest ICC Women's T20I bowling rankings following her impressive performance in the ongoing Women's Emerging Nations Trophy in the UAE. The 28-year-old claimed a match-winning 3/8 against Zimbabwe, helping Pakistan register a 51-run victory. She has taken six wickets in four matches and now has 701 rating points, trailing top-ranked India's Sree Charani (803) by 102 points and second-placed Deepti Sharma (748) by 47 points. Scotland's Kathryn Bryce made a notable gain, rising 16 places to 11th, while Sri Lanka's Kavisha Dilhari moved up to 16th. Bryce also climbed to seventh in the all-rounders' rankings.

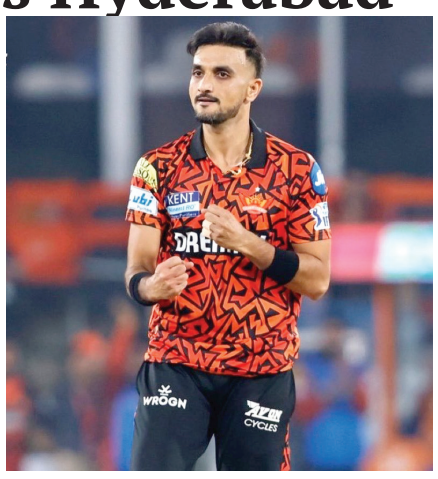
In the batting rankings, Ireland captain Gaby Lewis gained five places to reach 13th after scoring 135 runs in three innings, including an impressive 71 off 40 balls against the UAE.

Australia's Beth Mooney continues to lead the T20I batting rankings.

Pakistan's Nashra Sundhu climbs to seventh in ICC Women's T20I bowling rankings after an impressive six-wicket haul in the Emerging Nations Trophy.

IPL 2027: Harshal Patel traded to Gujarat Titans from Sunrisers Hyderabad

New Delhi, (IANS):



Two-time IPL Purple Cap winner Harshal Patel will represent Gujarat Titans (GT) after being traded from Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) ahead of the upcoming season, the Indian Premier League (IPL) governing body announced on Tuesday.

Patel, whom SRH acquired for Rs 8 crore at the IPL 2025 auction, will move to Gujarat Titans for Rs 4 crore.

The right-arm pacer brings considerable experience to GT's bowling attack, having taken 151 wickets in 124 IPL matches since his 2012 debut. He has won the Purple Cap twice, finishing as the tournament's leading wicket-taker in 2021 and 2024 while representing Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) and Punjab Kings (PBKS), respectively.

The move will also see Patel return to his home state. Born in Ahmedabad, the pacer moved back to represent Gujarat in domestic cricket from the 2025-26 season.

Gujarat Titans had also shown interest in acquiring Patel in previous auctions. They pursued him in the 2024 auction before withdrawing at Rs 10.5 crore, with Punjab Kings eventually securing his services for Rs 11.75 crore. GT also entered the bidding for him at the 2025 auction but stepped aside when the price reached Rs 6.5 crore.

Patel will join an experienced pace attack at Gujarat Titans, which includes Kagiso Rabada, Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Jason Holder and Ashok Sharma. The 35-year-old picked up 16 wickets in 13 matches during IPL 2025. However, he featured in only five matches in the most recent season and went wicketless, conceding runs at an economy rate of 10.82.

Patel has represented four franchises so far, including RCB, SRH, PBKS and Delhi Capitals (DC). His best IPL figures are 5/27, while he has maintained a bowling average of 24.68 and an economy rate of 8.92. At the international level, Patel has played 25 T20Is for India, taking 29 wickets.

Meanwhile, SRH had earlier strengthened their bowling options by bringing left-arm pacer T Natarajan from Delhi Capitals before securing Khaleel Ahmed and Nathan Ellis from Chennai Super Kings in a four-player exchange.

Shami, Siddharth traded to RR; Curran moves to LSG



New Delhi, (IANS): India pacer Mohammed Shami has been traded from Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) to Rajasthan Royals (RR) ahead of IPL 2027, while England all-rounder Sam Curran will move to LSG.

Shami, originally bought by LSG for Rs 10 crore, will join Rajasthan for Rs 8 crore. Left-arm spinner M Siddharth will also move to RR at his existing fee of Rs 75 lakh, while Curran joins LSG for Rs 2.4 crore.

Shami has taken 145 wickets in 132 IPL matches, including 12 wickets in 13 games for LSG in the 2026 season. His experience and new-ball skills are expected to strengthen Rajasthan's pace attack.

Curran, who missed IPL 2026 due to injury, has scored 997 runs and claimed 59 wickets in his IPL career. His all-round abilities are expected to add depth to the LSG squad. Siddharth's inclusion will also provide Rajasthan with another spin option.

Rajasthan's move is aimed at improving its powerplay bowling, an area where the team struggled despite reaching the playoffs in IPL 2026. Shami has picked up 14 wickets in the first six overs since 2024, at an economy rate of 8.76, and could form a strong pace partnership with Jofra Archer. His experience and ability to strike with the new ball are expected to give Rajasthan an added advantage in the upcoming season.

Travis Head set to miss IPL 2027 due to workload management



New Delhi, (IANS): Sunrisers Hyderabad are set to miss their swashbuckling opener, Travis Head, for the Indian Premier League 2027, with the Australian cricketer informing the SRH management of his decision to manage his workload.

With Australia on a busy international schedule, Head is set to miss the upcoming season of the league, which will break up SRH's fiery opening combination of him and Abhishek Sharma, nicknamed 'Travishek'.

As reported by Cricinfo, Head has informed SRH of his decision to miss the next season of the Indian cash-rich league. This will, although, break SRH's opening pair, but will free their purse for the upcoming auction.

Head was retained for Rs 14 crore ahead of the 2025 mega auction as he was among the five players retained. SRH will get that amount once the release is ratified by the IPL.

Australia will have a packed international schedule in the next few months. Earlier in August, Australia head coach Andrew McDonald had told Cricinfo that Australia were "going to have to make some decisions" with a lot of "important priority cricket" coming for them.

The Aussies will fancy themselves a shot at playing in the World Test Championship final, which is right after the IPL ends. The Ashes will take place from June to August, followed by the ODI World Cup 2027 in October-November.

Head has been with SRH for three seasons now. He was roped in by the franchise for Rs 6.8 crore at the 2024 auction and retained thereafter. Head played a crucial role in SRH's run to the final in the 2024 season, where they lost to Kolkata Knight Riders.

He made 567 runs in IPL 2024 and had two more impressive seasons with the 2016 champions. The Aussie opener hit 374 runs in 2025 and 410 in 2026 at a strike rate of over 160 in both editions.

His pairing with Abhishek Sharma is one of the most dangerous ones in the Indian cash-rich league, something which was later challenged to some extent by the Vaibhav Sooryavanshi-Yashasvi Jaiswal partnership in Rajasthan Royals and the Priyansh Arya-Prabhsimran Singh duo in Punjab Kings.

SRH have been active in their trades before the retention deadline of November 17. They have traded leg-spinner Zeeshan Ansari to DC for pacer T Natarajan and struck a four-player deal with the Chennai Super Kings, trading Liam Livingstone and Jack Edwards to rope in fast bowlers Khaleel Ahmed and Nathan Ellis from CSK.

'If people want answers, investigation should start again': Pathan on Sandpapergate

New Delhi, (IANS): Former India all-rounder Irfan Pathan has called for a fresh investigation into the infamous 2018 Sandpapergate scandal, saying that if Australian media and the public still want answers, the matter should be reopened.

Speaking on JioStar's programme Sandpapergate: The Unsettled Debate, Pathan expressed sympathy for Cameron Bancroft, who received a nine-month ban for his involvement in the ball-tampering scandal but struggled to revive his international career. He pointed out that Bancroft played only two Tests for Australia after serving his suspension, while Steve Smith and David Warner managed to return to international cricket.

Pathan said young and less experienced players often suffer the most in such controversies. He questioned why Bancroft had to bear such a heavy career setback while other senior players managed to rebuild their careers.

The 2018 scandal erupted during Australia's Test series against South Africa in Cape Town, when Bancroft was caught using sandpaper to alter the condition of the ball. Cricket Australia subsequently banned Bancroft for nine months, while then captain Smith and vice-captain Warner received 12-month suspensions. Smith was also handed a two-year leadership ban, while Warner faced a lifetime leadership ban, which was lifted in 2024.

Irfan Pathan has backed Usman Khawaja's claims on the 2018 Sandpapergate scandal, questioned the Australian bowlers' awareness and called for a fresh investigation if the public still seeks answers.

Mitchell Santner Ruled Out of India Test Series With Fractured Hand

Indian Wells, **(IANS):** New Zealand all-rounder and captain Mitchell Santner has been ruled out of the Test series against India after suffering a fracture in his right hand during the fifth ODI at Mount Maunganui. He was injured while batting after being struck by a delivery from Arshdeep Singh.

Dean Foxcroft has been named as Santner's replacement. New Zealand Cricket said scans confirmed the fracture. Santner's availability for the subsequent Test series against Australia will be assessed later, with his fitness to be reviewed ahead of the four-match series starting December 9.

Mitchell Santner ruled out of India Tests with a fractured hand.

Telangana Moves Towards Merging Intermediate & School Education

Government plans reforms from 2027–28 to reduce dropouts; existing syllabus and faculty interests to be protected.

Munsif News Desk, Hyderabad:

The Telangana government has begun consultations on merging intermediate education with the school system to ensure continuous education up to Class 12 and reduce student dropouts.

Government Adviser K. Keshav Rao, Education Secretary Yogita Rana and Intermediate Board Secretary Abhilasha Abhinav held discussions with government and private junior college representatives on Monday.

Officials cited UDISE data showing a 16 per cent dropout rate after Class 10 and 25 per cent after Classes 9 and 11. Distance from colleges was identified as a major concern.

Telangana has over 11,000 schools offering education up to Class 10 but only around 3,500 junior colleges.

Abhinav said the proposal received a positive response. Existing syllabuses for Classes 11 and 12 would remain unchanged, while faculty service interests would be protected.

Discussions also covered affiliation, infrastructure and conducting board examinations only for Classes 10 and 12.

The government reportedly plans legislation during the winter Assembly session, with implementation beginning in 2027–28, broadly aligned with the National Education Policy 2020.

The proposed merger aims to improve access and reduce dropouts.



Telangana High Court Questions Plainclothes Police Operations, Seeks Explanation

Home Department and DGP directed to respond within four weeks over alleged irregularities in searches, seizures and investigations.

HYD: The Telangana High Court on Tuesday sought explanations from senior police officials over allegations that Hyderabad Task Force personnel conducted investigations in plain clothes without proper identification and followed irregular search and seizure procedures.

Justice T. Madhavi Devi issued notices to the Principal Secretary (Home), Director General of Police, Hyderabad Police Commissioner and Task Force Deputy Commissioner, directing them to file responses.

The petition, filed by Borabanda resident B. Balraj through advocate Vijay Gopal, questioned investigations allegedly conducted without registering FIRs, searches without proper authorisation and failure to provide receipts for seized property.

It also challenged police personnel acting as complainants and the alleged issuance of search warrants by assistant commissioners.

The court has not ruled on these allegations. The authorities have been given an opportunity to explain their procedures.

The matter was adjourned to December 15, with important questions concerning police accountability and citizens' procedural safeguards remaining unresolved.

TG SAFE Suspends Licences of 23 Medical Shops Linked to Online Pharmacies

Hyd: The Telangana Standards Authority for Food and Essential Drugs (TG SAFE) has suspended the licences of 23 medical shops linked to online medicine delivery platforms for violating drug sale regulations.

Of these, 15 shops face suspension until further orders, while eight have been suspended for specified periods. Nine others received warnings, bringing total enforcement actions to 32.

The Drugs Wing, assisted by enforcement police, inspected 106 shops on October 28, including outlets associated with Tata 1mg, Netmeds, Zepto, Apollo 24/7, MedPlus MART and Instamart.

Officials examined prescription requirements, supervision by registered pharmacists, medicine distribution and mandatory records under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

The action follows June inspections of 166 medical shops, when 41 establishments received show-cause notices for similar violations.

Authorities emphasised that pharmacies handling online orders must follow statutory safeguards to prevent unauthorised dispensing of prescription medicines and protect public health.

Woman Booked for Killing Eight-Month-Old Daughter

Hyderabad: A tragic incident was reported at Damya Thanda in Mahabubabad district, where a woman allegedly killed her eight-month-old daughter following a family dispute and later attempted suicide by consuming pesticide.

The woman, identified as Supraja, is a native of Gopalthanda in Nellikuduru mandal. She married Bansilal, son of Bali, three years ago, and the couple recently welcomed a baby girl.

According to preliminary reports, an argument broke out among family members over agricultural work on Monday afternoon. Following the dispute, Supraja allegedly strangled her eight-month-old daughter, Trisha, resulting in the infant's death.

After the incident, she reportedly attempted to hang herself but was unsuccessful. When local residents questioned her about the baby, she allegedly disclosed that the child had died before consuming pesticide in another suicide attempt.

Six Arrested for Illegal LPG Refilling in Hyderabad

Police seize 82 cylinders and equipment worth ₹4 lakh

Hyderabad: Hyderabad police arrested six men on Tuesday for allegedly transferring LPG from domestic cylinders into smaller cylinders for black-market resale at a scrap shop near Bapu Ghat in Langer Houz.

The Golconda Zone Commissioner's Task Force, Langer Houz police and Civil Supplies officials conducted the raid following information about unauthorised refilling.

Police seized 46 domestic LPG cylinders, 35 empty three-kilogram cylinders, one five-kilogram cylinder, seven refilling kits, a weighing machine and two trolley autos. The seized property was valued at approximately ₱4 lakh.

According to police, the accused transferred gas without adequate safety precautions, creating serious risks of fires and explosions in nearby residential areas.

A case was registered under provisions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Essential Commodities Act and Explosives Act. One accused had reportedly faced a similar case earlier.

The operation also raises questions about the sourcing of domestic cylinders and their illegal distribution. Police warned against unauthorised LPG storage and refilling, particularly in densely populated neighbourhoods.

Telangana Allocates Additional ₹365 Crore for Nine Medical Colleges

Funds to strengthen infrastructure, expand facilities and improve healthcare services.

Hyderabad: The Telangana government has sanctioned an additional ₱365.40 crore for nine government medical colleges, increasing their combined project cost from ₱1,645 crore to ₱2,010.40 crore.

Government Adviser Mohammed Ali Shabbir said the revised allocations were approved through Government Order 175, issued on November 13.

The colleges are located in Kamareddy, Rajanna Sircilla, Vikarabad, Khammam, Karimnagar, Jayashankar Bhupalapally, Komaram Bheem Asifabad, Jangaon and Nirmal.

The funds will support academic buildings, hostels, staff quarters, roads, drainage, water supply and electrical infrastructure.

Kamareddy Medical College received an additional ₱24.40 crore, raising its overall project cost to ₱248.15 crore.

Shabbir also welcomed 32 additional postgraduate seats and announced that Kamareddy's Critical Care Centre and Mother and Child Hospital would open shortly.



'Wings & Wilderness' Brings Hyderabad Residents Closer to Nature

Hyd: The Telangana Tourism Development Corporation (TGTDC) has launched 'Wings & Wilderness', a weekly birdwatching and guided nature-walk programme at Ghar-e-Mubarak in Nanakramguda.

The inaugural walk on November 15 attracted around 30 nature enthusiasts, who spotted Indian Peafowl, Shikra, Black Drongo, Green Bee-eater, Kingfisher, Golden Oriole, Asian Koel and other species.

Experts explained how to identify birds through their appearance and distinctive calls. Participants also learned about native and non-native plants, bird habitats and the importance of seed dispersal in maintaining ecological balance.

TGTDC Managing Director Kranthi Valluru emphasised the need to protect biodiversity and raise public awareness about environmental conservation.

The walks will be conducted every Sunday. The inaugural registration fee was ₱200, and interested residents can contact 8019249292 for details.

TGTDC also announced a special 'Wings over Heritage' birdwatching and heritage walk at the Qutb Shahi Tombs on November 22 during World Heritage Week.

The initiative encourages residents to explore Hyderabad's natural surroundings while promoting conservation amid increasing urbanisation.



GHMC Doubles Park Entry Fee for Adults; Raises Children's Ticket Charges

Hyderabad: Visiting major parks maintained by the GHMC will become costlier following the standing committee's approval of revised entry charges.

Under the new rates, adults and children above 12 years will pay ₹20 instead of ₹10, while children aged five to 12 will be charged ₹5 instead of ₹2.

An earlier proposal to raise adult admission to ₹30 was reduced to ₹20.

The revision covers major parks, including Indira Park, Krishna Kanth Park and Jalagam Vengal Rao Park. Ticket-issuing hours will remain unchanged, from 8 am to 7.30 pm.

GHMC officials said the increase would help meet rising maintenance expenses and standardise charges across parks.

Adult entry fees were last revised in 2017, while children's charges increased in 2018.

However, visitors have raised concerns about inadequate drinking water, poorly maintained toilets and cleanliness at several parks.

Residents expect the additional revenue to improve public amenities, greenery and overall maintenance, ensuring that higher charges bring visible benefits to park users.



Worms in Hostel Food Trigger Fresh Protest at Osmania University

Around 100 female students demand hygienic meals amid continuing protests over basic hostel facilities.

Hyd: Around 100 female students of Osmania University staged a protest on Monday night, alleging that worms were found in food served at the university's ladies' hostel.

Students from MBA, Law and Nizam College gathered near the hostel, raising slogans and displaying plates of rice and curry. They accused authorities of ignoring repeated complaints about unhygienic meals.

The protesters demanded better-quality ingredients, hygienic preparation and adequate food for residents.

Police intervened, and Assistant Commissioner G. Jagan reportedly assured students that their grievances would be presented to the Vice-Chancellor.

The agitation followed a November 13 protest against the proposed demolition or closure of E1, E2 and D hostels. Students demanded restoration of electricity and water supplies, alleging that withdrawal of essential services was forcing residents to leave.

Several affected students are pursuing law courses or preparing for government examinations.

The repeated protests highlight growing concerns over hostel conditions and the need for timely action to ensure food safety and uninterrupted basic facilities.



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