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Maharashtra UCC Hearings Begin Amid Strong Opposition from Muslim Organisations

Muslim Bodies Demand Protection of Religious Freedom; Women's Groups Seek Equality as Public Consultations Continue

Mumbai (Munsf Desk):

Maharashtra's first public hearing on the proposed Uniform Civil Code (UCC) witnessed sharp differences on Saturday, with Muslim organisations raising concerns over religious freedom and personal laws.

The hearing, held at Konkan Bhavan in Navi Mumbai, was conducted by a committee headed by retired Supreme Court judge Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai.

Representatives of Jamaat-e-Islami Hind and the All India Muslim Personal Law Board questioned the need for a common civil law, stressing constitutional protections for religious practices and cultural diversity.



Women's rights organisations demanded gender-just reforms in marriage, divorce, maintenance and inheritance laws. Transgender representatives sought legal recognition for chosen families, while Nomadic and Denotified Tribes urged protection of traditional marriage customs.

Some participants supported the UCC, arguing that common laws could ensure equality across communities. Others suggested voluntary implementation to safeguard customary practices.

The committee is examining issues involving marriage, divorce, live-in relationships, guardianship and inheritance.

Public consultations will continue on Sunday, November 22. Citizens can also submit opinions on 37 issues through the government's UCC portal.

The discussions have highlighted demands for transparency, constitutional safeguards and meaningful consultation before any legal framework is finalised.

India-US Drug Operation Busts Major Trafficking

New Delhi: India's Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), in coordination with the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), has disrupted a major international drug trafficking network under Operation Monsoon Thunder, arresting six persons. Union Home Minister Amit Shah congratulated both agencies on Saturday following the operation's success.

According to officials, raids conducted between November 4 and 13 in Hyderabad, Delhi, Kolkata and Lucknow exposed a network allegedly supplying prescription opioids and psychotropic medicines to American consumers.

Investigators identified approximately 3,000 parcels containing nearly five lakh tablets shipped within the United States between June 2022 and November 2026.

Information concerning over 59,000 US customers was shared with American authorities, who intercepted two active consignments.

Investigations revealed that orders were placed through WhatsApp, Telegram and Skype, while payments involved digital platforms, cryptocurrency and hawala channels.

Authorities are probing drug sources, key suspects, financial links and distribution loopholes.

IN BRIEF

Vance Avoids Question on Iran War's Political Cost
JD Vance defended preventing Iran's nuclear ambitions but declined to assess the war's electoral consequences. P5

Rajasthan BJP Suffers Major Panchayat Poll Setbacks
BJP lost ground in constituencies associated with 17 state ministers and three Union ministers. P4

Safran Plans ₹4,000-Crore Telangana Expansion
French aerospace major Safran may finalise its proposed investment agreement at December's Invest Telangana Summit. P8

Telangana Polio Drive Targets 18 Lakh Children
Over 18 lakh children across five districts will receive polio drops, with follow-up vaccination visits scheduled. P8

Pakistan Excludes Rizwan, Masood, Ayub From Contracts
PCB announced central contracts for 38 cricketers, excluding Mohammad Rizwan, Shan Masood and Saim Ayub. P7

TELANGANA GOVT ISSUES GUIDELINES FOR ₹5 LAKH FAMILY LIFE INSURANCE

One Earning Member Aged 18–59 Per Household Eligible;

Hyderabad: The Telangana government has issued operational guidelines for the Indiramma Kutumba Jeevitha Bima Padhakam (IKJBP), providing ₹5 lakh insurance coverage to families following the death of an insured member.

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy launched the scheme in Siddipet on November 19. Around one crore families are expected to benefit. Existing government insurance programmes will continue while being consolidated under the new scheme.

Under the guidelines, only one member per household, ordinarily the primary breadwinner nominated by the family, can enrol. Applicants must be aged 18–59, having been born between November 19, 1967, and November 18, 2008.

Eligibility will be determined through Aadhaar records. Where only the birth year is available, July 1 of that year will be considered the birth date. Incorrect Aadhaar details must be corrected before registration.

Assisted online enrolment camps will be organised at gram panchayats and designated urban wards, with special assistance for elderly, differently-abled and vulnerable applicants.

Applicants must carry their Aadhaar card, ration card wherever available, and an active mobile number. The enrolment drive is scheduled to continue until December 18.

NO PLACE FOR IGNORANCE IN DEMOCRACY: IUML Leader Condemns Owaisi's Remarks

Hyderabad: Mohammed Shakeel, advocate and Telangana president of the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), strongly condemned AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi's remarks against Congress leader Dr Kota Neelima.

In a statement, Shakeel said derogatory language against women violated Hyderabad's Ganga-Jamuni Tehzeeb and democratic traditions.

He criticised using women for political attacks, saying such conduct undermined the city's culture of mutual respect.

Expressing solidarity with Neelima, Shakeel reaffirmed IUML's commitment to protecting the dignity and respect of women in public life. He urged political leaders to uphold dignity, mutual respect and democratic values in public discourse.



NEET-UG 2026 Paper Leak: Delhi Court Frames Charges

All Accused Plead Not Guilty; Daily Trial Begins November 25 as Examination Security Comes Under Scrutiny

New Delhi: A Delhi fast-track court on Saturday formally framed charges against 14 accused in the NEET-UG 2026 question paper leak case. All accused pleaded not guilty and opted to face trial.

Special Judge Ajay Gupta of Rouse Avenue Court had ordered the framing of charges on November 18. The court will begin recording prosecution evidence on November 25, with hearings scheduled on a day-to-day basis.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has filed a main chargesheet and a supplementary chargesheet alleging criminal conspiracy, cheating, breach of trust and other offences.

According to investigators, confidential examination questions were allegedly accessed and circulated through intermediaries, including coaching operators, using digital communication platforms.

The controversy had earlier prompted cancellation of the original examination and a nationwide retest.

The proceedings are expected to examine responsibility for the alleged leak while ensuring a fair trial. The case has renewed concerns over examination security and the future of lakhs of medical aspirants.

India Crosses One Crore HPV Vaccinations in Nine Months

Telangana Achieves 95.28% Coverage; Nationwide Campaign Reaches 87% of Eligible Girls

New Delhi: India has administered over one crore Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine doses in less than nine months, covering nearly 87% of its annual target of 1.2 crore girls aged 14, the Union Health Ministry announced Saturday.

Launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 28, the nationwide campaign provides free, voluntary, single-dose HPV vaccination at government health facilities with parental consent.

Telangana recorded 95.28% coverage, while Assam achieved 95.63%. Six states, including Andhra Pradesh, reached 100% of their identified targets.

HPV vaccination significantly reduces the risk of cervical cancer, a major health concern among Indian women.

The Ministry said efforts would continue to reach remaining eligible girls. Ensuring equal access in rural and urban areas remains essential for comprehensive vaccination coverage.

Zinda Dilan-e-Hyderabad Highlights City's Distinguished Urdu Literary

Hyderabad: Zinda Dilan-e-Hyderabad reiterated its commitment to Urdu literature at a well-attended literary and humour programme held on November 20 at Anwarul Uloom College, Mallepally.

Retired IAS officer Mohammed Ali Rifat said the organisation encourages Urdu poets and writers through literary gatherings, humorous mushairas and satire.

Shagoofa editor Dr Syed Mustafa Kamal expressed concern over discontinued government grants, saying financial constraints had limited participation by writers from other states.

Recalling the organisation's history, he highlighted its literary activities since 1961 and the launch of Shagoofa in 1968. The magazine's November–December 2026 issue was released.

Professor S.A. Shakoor praised the organisation's literary contributions. Ghulam Ahmed Noorani and other participants entertained audiences with humorous essays and jokes.

Dr Aleem Khan Falaki conducted the proceedings. Urdu poet Elizabeth Kurien Mona was felicitated. Dr Kamal also announced plans for a major Urdu conference and sought public cooperation.



Hyderabad's INCOIS to Double Ocean Monitoring Network

India Joins Global Ocean Eye Alliance at COP31; International Partnership to Strengthen Cyclone Forecasting and Disaster Preparedness

Hyderabad, (Munsif Desk): Hyderabad-based Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) has announced plans to double India's ocean-monitoring network following its entry into the OceanEye International Alliance at COP31 in Antalya, Türkiye.

INCOIS Director T.M. Balakrishnan Nair said the expansion would improve ocean observations, weather forecasting, disaster preparedness and maritime safety.

The initiative will increase monitoring sensors across the Indian Ocean, address existing information gaps and strengthen international scientific data-sharing.

India joined the alliance alongside Albania and the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute.

INCOIS also announced a cooperation agreement with Mercator Ocean International to develop advanced digital ocean forecasting systems.

The expansion is expected to improve cyclone predictions, tsunami alerts and coastal safety.

Implementation timelines and timely warnings to vulnerable coastal communities will remain important.

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

Murderous attack on MP exposes Jungle Raj in Andhra Pradesh: YSRCP

Munsif Desk, Tadepalli:

The YSR Congress Party said that the alleged murderous attack on its Kadapa MP Y. S. Avinash Reddy on Friday exposes 'jungle raj' prevailing in Andhra Pradesh.

Condemning the attack on the MP's convoy in YSR Kadapa district, YSRCP State Spokesperson Putha Sivashankar demanded the immediate dismissal of the coalition government and imposition of President's Rule.

Addressing the media at YSRCP headquarters, Sivashankar said TDP leader B. Tech Ravi (Mareddy Ravindranath Reddy) mobilised hired goons to attack Avinash Reddy's convoy with stones, sticks, iron rods and petrol bombs near Aguduru in Simhadripuram mandal.

The MP was accompanying YSRCP-supported candidates seeking to file nominations under High Court protection. Pulivendula Rural CI Shantilal, SI Maddileti and other police personnel stood by as the attack unfolded, he said. He questioned why DIG Koya Praveen and senior police officers, who previously used force against YSRCP candidates, remained inactive when an MP faced a life-threatening attack. He said police were protecting TDP groups instead of enforcing court orders. Sivashankar said the coalition feared electoral defeat and had unleashed violence across Kadapa, Annamayya, Tirupati, Nellore, Prakasam and Sri Sathya Sai districts. Candidates faced attacks, petrol bombs and destruction of their homes from Rayalaseema to Tadepalligudem. He recalled earlier attacks on MPs Mithun Reddy and Gurumurthy.

He said Lokesh's 'Red Book' threats and assurances of bail had emboldened TDP groups. Despite High Court directions, police continued obstructing nominations, while Chandrababu Naidu politicised non-party Panchayat elections through teleconferences and candidate announcements on TDP letterheads.

Meanwhile, YSRCP Kadapa District president and former MLA Ravindranath Reddy slammed the Chandrababu Naidu government for turning Andhra Pradesh into the country's number one state for violence and lawlessness, destroying democracy in local body elections.

CMRF Aid of ₹23.39 Lakh Distributed to 69 Beneficiaries in Vemulawada

Munsif Desk, Rajanna Sircilla:



Government Whip and Vemulawada MLA Aadi Srinivas said that the Chief Minister's Relief Fund (CMRF) was proving to be a major source of support for poor and middle-class families facing financial difficulties during times of distress. On Saturday, at his MLA camp office in Vemulawada town of Rajanna Sircilla district, he distributed CMRF cheques worth Rs. 13.92 lakh to 38 beneficiaries from Vemulawada Rural Mandal and Rs. 9.47 lakh to 31 beneficiaries from Vemulawada Urban Mandal.

Speaking on the occasion, Aadi Srinivas said that supporting poor families facing financial hardships due to medical emergencies was one of the key objectives of the people's government led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy.

He assured that the benefits of government welfare schemes would be extended to all eligible beneficiaries.

KTR Accuses Congress Government of Neglecting Rural

(NSS), Hyderabad:

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) Working President K.T. Rama Rao criticised the Congress government for neglecting rural development, citing a sharp decline in Gram Panchayat expenditure recorded by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

Rama Rao said that during the previous BRS regime in 2022-23, an average of Rs. 16.59 lakh was spent on each Gram Panchayat. However.



A two-day 'Spectrum Educational Exhibition' was organised in a grand manner at United Public School (UPS), Old Tandur, on November 20 and 21. The event was conducted under the supervision and guidance of School Principal Shabana Yasmin Saniya, with students showcasing their academic, creative and linguistic talents. On the first day, Tandur Mandal Education Officer (MEO) Indu Priya attended the programme as the chief guest. Riaz Ahmed Sainai, Chairman of Spring Fields School, Musheerabad Tank, Principal Asma Qureshi, Hifza, Principal of Falaknuma UPS School, and Sheikh Abdul Jaleel, Chief Inspector of Feed Management at CIS, attended as special guests. Spring Fields School staff members Shravanti and Musarrat were also present.

Congress Prioritises Development of Government Colleges

Munsif Desk, Hanumkonda:

A newly constructed seminar hall at Kakatiya Government Degree College in Hanumakonda, built at a cost of Rs. 20 lakh, was inaugurated on Saturday by Warangal West MLA Naini Rajender Reddy, who attended the programme as the chief guest.

Warangal MP Kadiyam Kavya and Hanumakonda District Collector Chahat Bajpai, IAS, were also present on the occasion.

Prior to the inauguration, the dignitaries paid floral tributes to the statues of Mahatma Jyotiba Phule and Savitribai Phule installed in front of the seminar hall.

Later, MLA Naini Rajender Reddy inaugurated the facility by cutting the ribbon and lighting the ceremonial lamp.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Naini Rajender Reddy said that strengthening government educational institutions and providing students with a better learning environment and modern facilities were among the primary objectives of the Congress government. He stated that the government was committed to providing all necessary infrastructure for the bright future of students.

He said that proposals for the overall development of Kakatiya Government Degree College had already been prepared and were being brought to the attention of the concerned government authorities. The requirements of the college, including additional classrooms and a hostel for girl students, had been identified.

Strict Enforcement of Building Construction Rules

Munsif Desk, Warangal:

Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation (GWMC) Commissioner T. Venkanna has made it clear that building permissions and Occupancy Certificates (OCs) will be issued only to buildings constructed in strict compliance with the prescribed building rules and regulations.

On Saturday, the Commissioner conducted field-level inspections of completed buildings in Fatima Nagar.

Indiramma Insurance Scheme to Provide ₹5 Lakh Cover per Family

Munsif Desk, Asifabad:



The Telangana State Government's ambitious Indiramma Family Life Insurance Scheme was formally launched in Komaram Bheem Asifabad district on Saturday by Adilabad Combined District MLC Dande Vittal, Asifabad MLA Kova Lakshmi and District Collector K. Haritha. The State Government has introduced the scheme with the objective of providing financial protection and security to families across Telangana. Under the scheme, eligible families will receive life insurance coverage of ₱5 lakh.

The primary objective of the initiative is to extend financial assistance to families in the event of the untimely death of the head of the household, ensuring that they do not face severe financial hardship following the loss of their primary earning member.

Speaking on the occasion, the leaders said that the Telangana Government was committed to strengthening the financial security of poor and middle-class families through various welfare initiatives. They stated that the scheme reflected the government's commitment to ensuring that welfare benefits reach every household and provide financial support to families during difficult times.

Close Monitoring of Welfare and Development

Mohd Baleegh Ahmed, Nizamabad:

Nizamabad District Collector Ila Tripathi advised All India Services officers to closely study government welfare schemes and development programmes being implemented at the grassroots level as part of their training.

A team of 14 All India Services officers arrived in Nizamabad district on Saturday for field-level observation as part of their training programme. They will undertake field visits from November 21 to 28.

The officers paid a courtesy visit to Collector Ila Tripathi at the Integrated District Office Complex and introduced themselves. The Collector welcomed and congratulated the officers — Alok Singh, Lokesh Manohar Patil, Manish Parihar, Praveen Kumar, Sachin Goyal, Shivam, Romel Bijalwan, Abhishek Parihar, Deepak Sharma, Nihal Chand, Pooja Meena, Shubham Shubh, Vikas Yadav and Nidhi Karanwal.

The officers were divided into two teams, with one village allotted to each team for field-level observation. One team was assigned to Ankapur village in Armur Division, while the other was allotted Bhulakshmi Camp in Bodhan Division.

Before their departure for the field visits, the officers met the Collector, who offered them several important suggestions and outlined the district's key features. She explained that Nizamabad is predominantly an agriculture-based district, with nearly 70 per cent of its population depending on agriculture for their livelihood. She highlighted the importance of the Sriram Sagar Reservoir.



District Collector Dr. Satya Sharada on Thursday evening visited MGM Hospital in Warangal and conducted an inspection of medical services being provided in various departments.

Mayor Organises Mass Wedding for Eight Poor Girls



Mohd Baleegh Ahmed, Nizamabad:

Continuing his annual tradition of social service, senior Congress leader, Nizamabad's First Mayor and District Munnur Kapu Sangam President Dharampuri Sanjay organised mass marriages for eight deserving girls at Munnur Kapu Sangam, Pragati Nagar, in the city.

Of the eight couples, two were Muslim and six were Hindu. The marriages were solemnised in accordance with their respective religious customs and traditions. On behalf of Dharampuri Sanjay, the newlywed Muslim brides were presented with gold nose rings and silver anklets, while the Hindu brides received mangalsutras and silver anklets. Clothes and other essential household items were also presented to all the brides and grooms.

In addition, a Hyderabad-based real estate development company presented Rs. 11,000 in cash to each couple, while Glamour Hotel, Nizamabad, gifted a pressure cooker to every newlywed couple.

Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President Mahesh Kumar Goud attended the programme as the chief guest. Directors and CEOs of various companies from Hyderabad, along with prominent political, social and religious personalities.

MBBS Students Protest Lack of Facilities at Kothapalli Medical College

Munsif Desk
Karimnagar:

MBBS students of the Government Medical College located in Kothapalli, Karimnagar, staged a protest outside the college, expressing strong resentment over the lack of basic facilities. They voiced their displeasure against the Telangana Government, Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy, local ministers and public representatives for allegedly neglecting their grievances.

According to the students, nearly 400 students are pursuing medical education at the college, but several essential facilities remain inadequate. They pointed out that only two buses are available for the entire college. Similarly, there are just six toilets and bathrooms collectively for around 400 male and female students. They also complained about the lack of proper sanitation and hygiene facilities. The students further stated that only two laboratories were available for nearly 400 students, making it difficult for them to gain adequate practical training and experience.

They also highlighted the shortage of accommodation facilities in the hostel, alleging that six students were being accommodated in a single room. They said that proper arrangements should be made to accommodate only two students in each room.

Raising concerns over the online teaching system, the students demanded that regular offline classes be conducted instead of online classes, particularly for an important professional course like MBBS, which requires practical learning and hands-on training.

The students further alleged that despite meeting local Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar and bringing their problems to his notice, no effective action had been taken. They said they had neither received a satisfactory response nor any concrete assurance regarding the resolution of their grievances.

Pension Sanction Documents Distributed to 32 Beneficiaries in Taiba Nagar Colony

Munsif Desk, Kagaznagar:

Pension sanction documents approved by the Telangana State Government for 32 eligible beneficiaries were distributed in Taiba Nagar Colony, Ward No. 19, under Kagaznagar Municipality.

On the occasion, Ward Councillor G. Swapna personally handed over the pension approval documents to the beneficiaries and congratulated them on receiving the sanction.The approval of pensions brought much-needed relief and happiness to poor families, elderly persons and other eligible beneficiaries who had been awaiting government assistance for a long time.

Expressing their happiness and gratitude, the beneficiaries said that the monthly pensions would provide significant financial support and help them meet their daily expenses and essential needs. They thanked the Telangana State Government for extending pension benefits to deserving families after considering their needs.

STATEWATCH | Where Telangana Speaks.

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

Govt rolls out norms for ₹5 lakh household life insurance scheme

(NSS), Hyderabad:

The state government has issued operational guidelines for the Indiramma Kutumba Jeevitha Bima Padhakam (IKJBP), a flagship social security initiative aimed at strengthening financial protection for vulnerable households. Under the scheme, nominees will receive an insurance cover of ₹5 lakh upon the death of an insured member.

Clarifying the status of existing welfare programmes, the government stated that all ongoing state-run insurance schemes will continue without disruption but will be consolidated under the unified IKJBP umbrella.

Eligibility Criteria

Only one member per household—ordinarily the primary breadwinner, as declared by the family—is eligible for enrolment.

Applicants must be between 18 and 59 years of age at the time of registration (specifically, individuals born between November 19, 1967, and November 18, 2008).

Eligibility will be verified strictly against the date of birth recorded on the applicant's Aadhaar card. If an Aadhaar card lists only the year of birth, the date will be officially recorded as July 1 of that respective year.



Citizens with incorrect birth dates on their Aadhaar must first update their details at a designated Aadhaar centre before applying.

KTR slams Youth Congress vandalism at Meta office, warns



(NSS), Hyderabad:

Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) working president K.T. Rama Rao on Saturday condemned the protest and alleged vandalism by Telangana Youth Congress workers at Meta's office in Gachibowli, warning that such incidents undermine global investor confidence in the city.

In a post on X, KT Rama Rao expressed concern over the ruling party's conduct, stating that the incident did not merely damage property, but also eroded the trust and credibility Hyderabad had built among global investors over decades.

Love Marriage Ends in Tragedy as Husband Brutally Murders Wife

(NSS), Bhainsa:

A love marriage ended in tragedy after a husband allegedly murdered his wife by attacking her with a knife in Bhainsa town on Friday evening.



According to preliminary information, the incident took place at a house near a local junction. The accused, who had married the woman after a love affair, allegedly attacked his 28-year-old wife with a knife following a dispute between them.

The attack resulted in severe injuries, causing heavy blood loss. The victim was shifted to a hospital for treatment. However, the circumstances surrounding the incident led to a police investigation.

On receiving information, police personnel rushed to the spot, inspected the scene and began collecting evidence. The victim's body was sent for post-mortem examination.

Police have registered a case and launched an investigation to ascertain the exact circumstances and motive behind the murder. Further details are awaited.

Congress Rule in Telangana Nears End: Harish Rao



(NSS), Hyderabad:

BRSLP deputy floor leader T. Harish Rao on Saturday claimed that the Congress government's days in power in Telangana were numbered and asserted that the BRS would return to power soon. He claimed that the steady influx of leaders into the party at Telangana Bhavan reflected growing public support for the BRS.

Harish Rao welcomed Congress leaders Praveen and Srinath from Khairatabad, along with several others, into the BRS by draping them with pink scarves at the party headquarters.

Addressing the gathering, he claimed that surveys indicated a BRS comeback and alleged that growing discontent within the Congress was evident from criticism of Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy by his own party MLAs, who were also accusing the government of corruption. Referring to the disqualification of Danam Nagender, he said the High Court had acted against him for defecting from his party. He alleged that Hyderabad's international reputation, built during the KCR regime, was being damaged under the Congress government.

He said the city, which earlier enjoyed uninterrupted drinking water and power supply, was now facing water shortages, dependence on tankers, power cuts and mosquito menace. He also alleged that nearly half of the 10 lakh CCTV cameras installed during the BRS regime were not functioning and accused the government of failing to maintain law and order.

CM Revanth Reddy to Inaugurate Poultry India Expo 2026

(NSS), Hyderabad:

Hyderabad, Nov.21 (NSS): Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy will inaugurate the 18th edition of Poultry India Expo 2026, scheduled to be held here at HITEX Exhibition Centre from November 25 to 27.

Organised by the Indian Poultry Equipment Manufacturers Association (IPEMA), the international exhibition is expected to attract over 51,000 industry delegates from 125 countries, with more than 550 companies showcasing the latest products, technologies and innovations. The exhibition will be preceded by Poultry Knowledge Day on November 24 at HICC-Novotel, Hitech City. Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and Panchayati Raj, Prof. S.P. Singh Baghel, will inaugurate the programme. The Knowledge Day will feature discussions on poultry health, scientific nutrition, feed management, vaccination, farm automation, Artificial Intelligence and sustainable production practices.

T-BJP Chief Calls for Drug-Free India, Urges Youth Protection

(NSS), Hyderabad:

Hyderabad, Nov.21 (NSS): Telangana BJP president N. Ramchander Rao has called upon people from all sections of society to unite against the growing drug menace, stating that protecting the country's youth from addiction is a collective responsibility. Addressing a "Nasha Mukt Bharat" conference at Sri Sathya Sai Nigamagamam here on Saturday, Rao expressed concern over the increasing availability and use of narcotic substances, alleging that organised attempts were being made to weaken the country by drawing its youth into drug addiction. He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched the "Nasha Mukt Bharat" resolution with the objective of safeguarding young people and ensuring a secure future for coming generations.

Uniforms Distributed to Students of Govt Junior College



Munsif Desk, Bhainsa:

Uniforms provided by the Telangana Government were distributed among students of the Government Junior College in Bhainsa.

The distribution programme was organised on the college premises in the presence of the college principal and teaching staff.

Speaking on the occasion, the college representatives stated that the government was taking steps to provide educational facilities and support to students. They emphasised the importance of ensuring equal educational opportunities for all.

The programme was attended by college staff, students and other dignitaries.

Note: The names of the persons involved in the first incident and some details in the original image are not sufficiently clear to reproduce confidently.

AI Can Enhance Efficiency in Daily Office Work: BRAOU VC

(NSS), Hyderabad:

Artificial Intelligence (AI) can significantly improve efficiency in everyday office work, enabling employees to accomplish more in less time, said Prof. Ghanta Chakrapani, Vice-Chancellor of Dr B.R. Ambedkar Open University here on Saturday. He was addressing a gathering at the concluding ceremony of a six-day training programme on 'AI for Office Administration', organised by the University's Centre for Staff Training and Development (CSTD) and Centre for Online Education Learning (COEL).

Prof. Chakrapani said employees should learn to use relevant AI tools effectively to improve productivity and administrative efficiency. However, he cautioned against excessive dependence on AI and stressed the need for responsible use, awareness of its risks and continuous skill development.

University Registrar Dr L. Vijaya Krishna Reddy, who attended as guest of honour, stressed the importance of upgrading skills in line with technological advancements. He said applying the knowledge gained through such training programmes would improve administrative efficiency and work quality.

Prof. K. Sridevi, Director of CSTD, said University employees had undergone training in two batches over the past 15 days. More programmes would be organised for non-teaching and technical staff, she added. Certificates were distributed to participants who completed the training.

YS Jagan Alleges Widespread Rigging in AP Local Body Polls

(NSS), Amaravati:

Former Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and YSR Congress Party president YS Jagan Mohan Reddy has launched a scathing attack on the ruling Telugu Desam Party (TDP) government, alleging large-scale manipulation of local body elections and claiming that democratic institutions in the state have been systematically weakened.

In a strongly worded post on social media platform X, Jagan accused the government led by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu of rigging elections at every level, from Zilla Parishad and Mandal Parishad polls to the recently concluded Gram Panchayat elections.

He alleged that even elections that are traditionally conducted above party politics were no longer free and fair.

"Whatever the election, democracy itself is being rigged," Jagan said, describing the current political situation in Andhra Pradesh as "Naracracy", a term he used to allege that democracy was being replaced by the rule of a single political leadership.

The YSRCP chief claimed that candidates were prevented from filing nominations and that, in some cases, nominations already submitted were allegedly torn up.



He further alleged booth capturing.



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At a Glance



21 Injured in Rajasthan Cylinder Fire at Condolence Meet

(IANS) Jaipur, 21 people suffered burns when a leaking gas cylinder caught fire during a condolence gathering in Badhmilkpur village of Rajasthan's Kotputli-Behror district on Saturday.

The fire broke out around 11 a.m. when a woman lit a stove to prepare tea. Fifteen injured people were referred to Jaipur, while six are being treated at Kotputli District Hospital.

SMS Hospital acting superintendent Dr Rashim Kataria said most victims had burns over 20 to 40 per cent of their bodies, while some suffered burns over 50 per cent.

Eight injured as vehicle carrying wedding guests overturns in Bihar's Munger

(IANS) Patna, Eight people, four critically injured, were hurt when a vehicle carrying wedding guests overturned into a roadside ditch near Kamarganj on the Munger-Mirzachauki highway around 4 a.m. on Saturday.

The driver reportedly dozed off, lost control and veered off the road. The group was returning to Farda village after attending a wedding in Makanpur, Sultanganj.

Local residents rescued the passengers and took them to Munger Sadar Hospital. Dr Faiz Uddin said four were admitted to the ICU. Six injured are from Farda village. A teenager was also injured.

Bihar found good governance under Nitish Kumar's leadership, says PM Modi in Vaishali



(IANS) Vaishali, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated the six-lane 'Nitish Setu' over the River Ganga in Vaishali, crediting former Chief Minister Nitish Kumar with bringing good governance to Bihar.

Addressing a gathering at Jafarpatti, Modi said Bihar's development was being driven by the mantra of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'. He described Vaishali, known for its democratic legacy, as a fitting venue to mark one year of the NDA government's current term.

"Nearly three decades ago, Bihar chose a new path of hope and trust. Bihar, which had endured decades of hardship, found the assurance of good governance under the leadership of the respected Nitish ji," Modi said.

He added that Nitish Kumar had served the state as Chief Minister for many years and that Samrat Choudhary and his team were now carrying the mission forward.

The Prime Minister also extended his greetings to NDA constituent parties, party workers and the people of Bihar. Referring to the recently concluded Chhath festival, he said the state was celebrating the "festival of development" with the blessings of Chhathi Maiyya.

During his visit, Modi inaugurated and laid foundation stones for development projects worth around Rs 34,470 crore across Bihar. The projects cover roads, energy, urban infrastructure, water resources, education, healthcare and transport.

The highlight was the inauguration of the Kachchi Dargah-Bidupur six-lane bridge, named Nitish Setu. Built at an estimated cost of Rs 4,280 crore, the 19.7-km project comprises a 9.7-km main bridge and nearly 10 km of approach roads. It connects Kachchi Dargah in Patna district with Bidupur in Vaishali district.

The bridge is expected to improve connectivity between Patna and north Bihar, ease pressure on the Mahatma Gandhi Setu and JP Setu, and provide better access to Patna for residents of Raghopur Diara.

At the event, Modi inaugurated projects worth over Rs 15,600 crore and laid foundation stones for schemes valued at around Rs 14,450 crore. He also flagged off 100 PM e-buses and announced initiatives linked to industrial development. A Grih Pravesh ceremony was also held for over 26,900 PMAY (Urban) beneficiaries.

Amit Shah Presents President's Police Colour to Arunachal Force



(IANS) Itanagar, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday presented the President's Police Colour, the highest honour bestowed upon a police force in India, to the Arunachal Pradesh Police in recognition of its distinguished service.

The ceremony was held at the Police Training Academy in Banderdewa, near Itanagar. Dharma Gurus recited sacred mantras ahead of the conferment, followed by a march-past by various units of the force.

Chief Minister Pema Khandu, State Home and Inter-State Border Affairs Minister Mama Natung and DGP Rajesh Kumar accompanied Shah. Union Minister Kiren Rijiju, Deputy Chief Minister Chowna Mein, Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan and senior officials also attended.

The honour recognises exceptional service, professional excellence and contributions to law and order and public safety.

The conferment follows the force's 54th Raising Day celebrations last week. Leaders highlighted its growth into an organisation with more than 16,500 personnel and stressed the need for accessible, transparent, accountable and people-oriented policing.

The force's origins date to 1967, when the Union government sanctioned the initial strength of the Civil Police. IPS officer L.B. Sewa played a key role in establishing a full-fledged force around 1971-72. The Police Training Centre was established at Banderdewa in 1973.

Known as the 'Architect of Arunachal Police', Sewa took charge as Assistant Inspector General in Shillong in 1971. Personnel began taking up their positions in 1972, alongside officers deputed from the Assam Police.

From modest beginnings, the force has developed into a major law enforcement organisation, maintaining law and order, safeguarding state borders and protecting people.

The honour recognises generations of personnel for their service with pride.

Why Was Guru Gobind Singh's Name Dropped? Congress Targets Bihar Government Over Nitish Setu



(IANS) Patna, Congress spokesperson Pawan Khera questioned the naming of the Kachchi Dargah-Bidupur Ganga bridge as 'Nitish Setu', asking why an earlier proposal to name it after Sikh Guru Gobind Singh was dropped.

In a post on X, Khera shared a document related to the proposal and also questioned the omission.

RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav had earlier sought to name the bridge after freedom fighter Akshaywat Rai and raised the issue of Guru Gobind Singh's name being omitted.

A Road Construction Department letter dated February 10, 2026, said a proposal to name the bridge after Guru Gobind Singh had been received. Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary announced on November 13 that it would be named Nitish Setu.

Yadav claimed a section of the bridge had already opened to traffic and said construction began on January 31, 2016, under the Grand Alliance government.

He claimed the project was funded through state funds and loans, and sought details of contributions from the BJP and Centre.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the bridge on Saturday.

Rajasthan panchayat polls: 17 state ministers, 3 Union ministers fail to hold their ground

(IANS) Jaipur, The BJP suffered setbacks in constituencies and home districts associated with 17 Rajasthan ministers and three Union ministers in the panchayat elections, raising questions about its grassroots influence under Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma.

Despite ministers' campaigning, the party failed to turn their presence into victories.

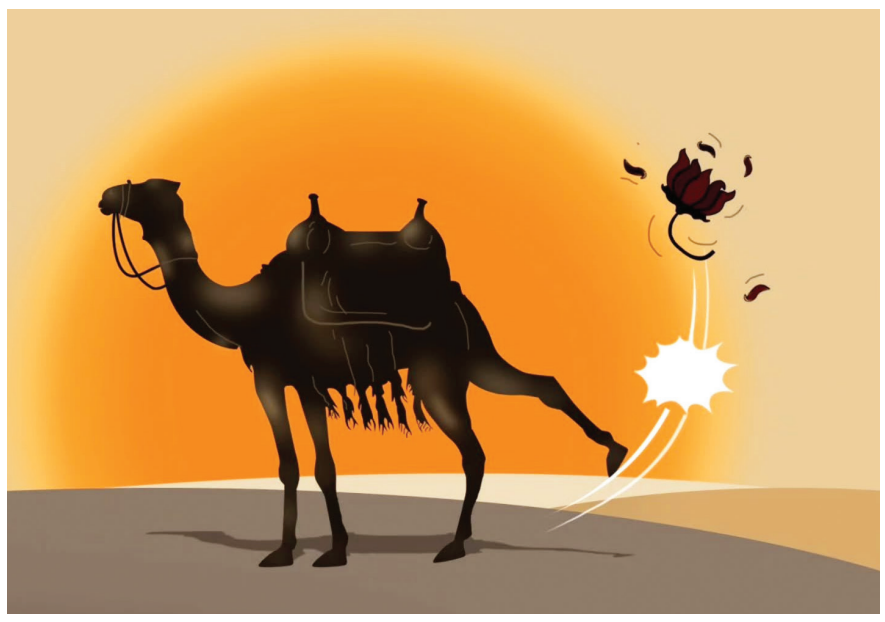
In Dudu, represented by Deputy Chief Minister Premchand Bairwa, the BJP finished third across three Panchayat Samitis and failed to win in Phagi. Four candidates associated with Urban Development and Housing Minister Jhabar Singh Kharra's family, including his son and brother's wife, lost.

In Lohawat, part of Health Minister Gajendra Singh Khimsar's constituency, no BJP candidate won.

Agriculture Minister Kirodi Lal Meena could not ensure a strong showing in Sawai Madhopur. The party won six of 23 wards and suffered a setback in the Zila Parishad elections.

In Jhadol, represented by Tribal Area Development Minister Babulal Kharadi, the BJP won five of 15 wards. It also faced defeats in Jaitaran, Sumerpur, Luni, Lunkaransar, Badi Sadri, Nagar and Ajmer Rural, represented by ministers Avinash Gehlot, Joraram Kumawat, Jogaram Patel, Sumit Godara, Gautam Kumar Dak, Jawahar Singh Bedham and Suresh Rawat.

Public Health Engineering Minister Kanhaiyalal Choudhary won in Malpura, but the BJP lost in two other Panchayat Samitis. In Jhotwara, represented by Industries Minister Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore, it won only one of 15 wards.



The party also fared poorly in districts associated with three Union ministers. In the home district of Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, it won eight of 41 Zila Parishad wards. In Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat's home district, it secured eight of 43 wards. In Alwar, associated with Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav, the BJP won four of 39 wards.

Party workers cited local dissatisfaction, organisational weaknesses and a disconnect between ministers, MLAs and voters. They also pointed to concerns over the UGC Act, EWS-related issues and health scheme implementation.

The results point to challenges in grassroots mobilisation and public outreach across rural constituencies. It also lost ground in Shrimadhopur and Ajitgarh, too.

Campaign to add names to electoral rolls underway in Noida today



(IANS) Noida, The Election Department has launched a four-day campaign to update electoral rolls in Gautam Buddh Nagar under the Special Summary Revision-2027.

The first phase is being held on November 21 and 22, with the second scheduled for November 28 and 29. Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will be available at polling stations from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Deputy Collector and Assistant District Election Officer-in-charge Pradeep Kumar Singh said the revision followed Election Commission of India guidelines, with January 1, 2027, as the qualifying date. The draft roll was published on November 17, and claims and objections are being accepted.

The district has three Assembly constituencies: 61-Noida, 62-Dadri and 63-Jewar. Eligible residents missing from the draft can apply for inclusion using Form 6. Young people eligible to vote by the qualifying date can also register.

Form 7 can seek removal of entries relating to deceased persons, duplicate registrations or people who have shifted permanently. Form 8 is for correcting a voter's name or address and updating details after relocation.

Applications can be submitted to the BLO or Electoral Registration Officer. Online applications are also available through the Election Commission's website and mobile app.

The administration has urged residents to verify their details in the draft roll and submit claims or objections in the prescribed forms. The exercise aims to keep the electoral roll accurate ahead of the next election.

1,822 Sikh pilgrims to visit Pakistan gurdwaras tomorrow; group expresses joy

A total of 1,822 Sikh pilgrims have received visas to visit historic gurdwaras in Pakistan. The group is scheduled to depart from the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) office on Sunday.

The SGPC had submitted 1,828 passport applications to the Pakistan Embassy. Six applications were rejected. Devotees arrived at the SGPC office on Saturday to collect their passports.

The pilgrims will travel through theAttari-Wagah border and visit historic Sikh shrines, including Sri Nankana Sahib, Gurdwara Sri Panja Sahib, Gurdwara Sri Dera Sahib in Lahore, Gurdwara Sri Rori Sahib and Gurdwara Sri Sacha Sauda. They are scheduled to return to India on December 1.



Speaking to IANS, devotees expressed happiness at the opportunity to pay obeisance at the birthplace of Guru Nanak Dev Ji and other shrines. One pilgrim said the group was leaving with enthusiasm and devotion after waiting a long time for the visit.

Another devotee said the pilgrims had prayed for an opportunity to visit Sri Nankana Sahib, Sri Panja Sahib and other historic gurdwaras.

A pilgrim described the atmosphere as emotional and joyful, and acknowledged the efforts of the Delhi Sikh Gurdwara Management Committee in facilitating the journey.

Another devotee expressed excitement about visiting Lahore and thanked the Almighty and the committee for helping secure the visas with gratitude.



Quad firms to meet in early 2027, says Rubio

(IANS) Washington, Leading companies from India, the US, Japan and Australia will meet early next year to explore commercial deals, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said.

Speaking after President Donald Trump returned from Asia, Rubio said the Quad business forum would help find buyers for American goods and create US jobs. Prime Minister Narendra Modi joined Trump and the Japanese and Australian leaders at Tuesday's summit in Manila, where they agreed to deepen cooperation on economic security and supply chains.

Rubio did not name companies or specify a date or venue, but said Washington hoped the meeting would produce commercial agreements.

Trump said the Quad leaders had launched an initiative on advanced artificial intelligence, but he wanted most of the work to take place in the US. He warned that American companies building data centres abroad could face a substantial tax, without giving a rate or start date.

Rubio cited the Philippines as an example of US commercial diplomacy in Asia. Trump said deals worth more than $17 billion had been secured during his meetings with Southeast Asian leaders. They included 20 Boeing 787 Dreamliners with General Electric engines for Philippine Airlines. The Philippines and Malaysia had also agreed to use US technology and services for cloud infrastructure.

The Quad leaders also agreed to expand cooperation on maritime security, surveillance, cybersecurity and undersea cable protection. Rubio linked trade to US security ties.

THAILAND TO SCRAP TARIFFS ON US GOODS, SAYS TRUMP

(IANS) Washington, US President Donald Trump has said Thailand has agreed to eliminate tariffs on all American products and indicated that it wants to purchase $2.6 billion worth of US agricultural goods annually.

"Thailand signed an agreement to eliminate all tariffs on American products," Trump told a White House news conference after returning from a four-day visit to Asia. He also said Thailand had removed non-tariff barriers but did not specify the measures or when the tariff cuts would come into effect.

Describing the $2.6 billion figure as an initial indication of Thailand's intended annual purchases, Trump said the US would seek a higher amount. "That's just a preliminary number. We're going to ask for more than that, $2.6 billion," he said. He did not identify the agricultural commodities involved or provide a breakdown of the proposed purchases.

The Thai agreement was one of two trade



arrangements Trump announced during his Asian tour. The other was a framework agreement with the Philippines. He said both deals would benefit American farmers, although his demands on the two countries differed.

Trump said he had urged Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. to ensure that the country purchased all its agricultural imports from American farmers from January 1. He noted that the Philippines had been buying substantial quantities from Brazil and linked closer economic ties with Washington to the Philippines' security concerns involving China.

Trump valued the commercial deals secured during his meetings with Southeast Asian leaders at more than $17 billion. These included an order by Philippine Airlines for 20 Boeing 787 Dreamliners powered by General Electric engines. He also said the Philippines and Malaysia had agreed to use US technology and services for their cloud infrastructure.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, who attended the news conference, said Washington had a direct economic interest in participating in Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) summits. He said the region offered markets for American-made goods, supporting employment in the US.

Trump also spoke about his discussions with the leaders of Thailand and Cambodia over the conflict between the two countries.

He said the Thai Prime Minister had thanked him for his intervention and informed him that Thailand had written to the Nobel committee about his role. Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Manet had also told him that the fighting would have continued without his intervention, Trump said.

However, Trump did not indicate that the tariff agreement was conditional on further action by either country to resolve the conflict.

Thailand was among the five founding members of ASEAN, established in Bangkok in 1967. The Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore were the other founding members.

Vance sidesteps question on Iran war's poll cost

(IANS) Washington, US Vice President JD Vance on Friday declined to say whether the decision to go to war with Iran was worth the Republicans losing control of the Senate, while defending the objective of preventing Tehran from acquiring nuclear weapons. President Donald Trump, standing beside him, said he would make the same decision again.



At a White House news conference following Trump's return from Asia, a reporter asked Vance whether he would argue that the war was worth the potential political cost, referring to a post he had written after the midterm elections.

Vance responded by warning of the dangers of Iran acquiring a nuclear weapon. Describing Iran as the largest state sponsor of terrorism, he said Tehran could use such a weapon to exert pressure or launch an attack that could kill thousands.

"The goal of keeping Iran from getting a nuclear weapon is absolutely what we need to be doing," Vance said.

He added that the decision rested with Trump and that his responsibility was to support the President. Vance did not assess the war's contribution to Republican electoral losses or say whether he would have made the same decision.

Trump denied reports that he was unhappy with Vance's earlier statement or had asked him to amend it. He described the post as accurate but said he would have added his own position.

"Absolutely, the answer is yes, because we cannot allow Iran to have a nuclear weapon," Trump said, adding that members of his administration were entitled to their opinions.

Trump acknowledged that the war had pushed up fuel prices, though less than he had anticipated. He said he had expected oil prices to reach $300 a barrel, while the price on Friday was close to $80. He also claimed that US petrol prices had fallen by 60 cents a gallon in a month.

He said the outlook for motorists would partly depend on whether Washington reached an agreement with Tehran.

Trump also said Iran's nuclear programme had featured in discussions with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin in Shenzhen. However, he announced no specific agreement with either leader on the issue.

In 2018, Trump withdrew the US from the nuclear agreement reached three years earlier between Iran and six world powers. The deal had restricted Tehran's nuclear activities in exchange for sanctions relief.



US reports nearly 5,840 confirmed measles cases in 2026, highest since 1991

(IANS) Los Angeles, The United States has reported 5,838 confirmed measles cases in 2026, the highest annual total since 1991, according to the latest data from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

As of Thursday, 5,820 cases had been recorded across 47 US jurisdictions, while 18 involved international visitors, the CDC said on Friday. A total of 646 patients, or about 11 per cent, had been hospitalised.

About 96 per cent of confirmed cases involved people who were unvaccinated or whose vaccination status was unknown, the CDC said. Pennsylvania, among the hardest-hit states, had reported 1,631 cases and eight measles-associated deaths as of Friday.

The CDC recommends two doses of the measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine for protection. However, vaccination coverage among US kindergarten children has declined in recent years.

The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) said the United States, Mexico and Bolivia had lost their measles elimination status after sustained transmission was re-established.

Following a review from November 10 to 13, a regional monitoring commission found that the same measles virus genotype and lineage had circulated continuously for at least 12 months in each country, meeting the criteria for endemic transmission.

PAHO Director Jarbas Barbosa accepted the commission's recommendation to withdraw their elimination status.

The Americas became the first WHO region to eliminate measles in 2016 and regained that status in 2024, after transmission was interrupted in Venezuela and Brazil. The region lost its verification as free from endemic measles in November 2025 after sustained transmission returned in Canada.

PAHO said the latest losses further complicated efforts to restore elimination across the region. It urged countries to strengthen vaccination, surveillance and outbreak response, stressing that at least 95 per cent coverage with both vaccine doses in every community is essential to close immunity gaps and prevent further spread globally.

UNSC deadlocked over next secretary-general despite 40-day deadline

(IANS) United Nations, The UN Security Council remains deadlocked over choosing a successor to Antonio Guterres, with only 40 days before the new secretary-general takes office.



UNCTAD chief Rebecca Grynspan led Friday's informal poll with 10 positive votes, the only one of eight candidates to cross the nine-vote threshold. However, two veto-wielding permanent members opposed her.

Former Guyanese foreign minister Carolyn Rodrigues-Birkett ranked fourth with six positive votes and two negative votes from permanent members. Argentina's IAEA chief Rafael Grossi was second with eight positive votes and three negative votes.

UAE Minister of State Lana Nuseibeh ranked third with seven positive votes and three negative votes from permanent members.

The ninth anonymous poll used colour-coded ballots.

US Permanent Representative Mike Waltz urged candidates receiving "very little encouragement" to withdraw.

Latin American and Caribbean countries want the next secretary-general to come from their region. No one from the region has held the post since Javier Perez de Cuellar completed his term in 1991. Waltz said Washington would welcome a Latin American candidate, but accept one from elsewhere if able to secure Council support. "We also want the best candidate to emerge," he said.

The five permanent members hold veto powers. The US, Russia and China will play decisive roles in choosing the head of the 193-member organisation, which also faces financial strain.

Guterres has ruled out serving in an interim capacity after January 1.

After Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold was killed in 1961, France vetoed U Thant. Thant was appointed to complete the remaining 17 months of Hammarskjold's term and elected the following year after France dropped its opposition.

In 1996, the US vetoed a second term for Egyptian secretary-general Boutros Boutros-Ghali. With 18 days left, the Council elected Ghana's Kofi Annan on December 13.

The General Assembly endorsed him four days later, and he served a second term.

Saudi airstrikes kill 41 in Yemen, say Houthis; claims strikes on Saudi power plant, port

(IANS) Sanaa, At least 41 people, including 11 children and seven women, were killed and 28 injured in airstrikes attributed to Saudi Arabia in Yemen in the past 24 hours, Houthi-run al-Masirah TV reported, citing health authorities. The figures could not be independently verified, and Riyadh made no comment.

Houthi spokesperson Yahya Sarea said the group targeted the Al-Shuqaiq power plant and Jazan port,



claiming direct hits. The claims could not be independently verified.

Sarea said the attacks were retaliation for reported Saudi strikes on power stations in Saada province and Mocha, and an earlier attack on Hodeidah port. He warned further attacks on Yemeni ports or power facilities would invite retaliation against similar Saudi sites.

The Saudi-led coalition said its air defences intercepted and destroyed two ballistic missiles targeting Jazan. Shrapnel fell in Al-Shuqaiq, where authorities were responding. It gave no details of casualties or damage.

The exchanges come amid fighting between the Houthis and government forces backed by the coalition. Yemen's conflict began in late 2014, when the Houthis seized Sanaa and much of the north. Saudi Arabia intervened in 2015 in support of the internationally recognised government.

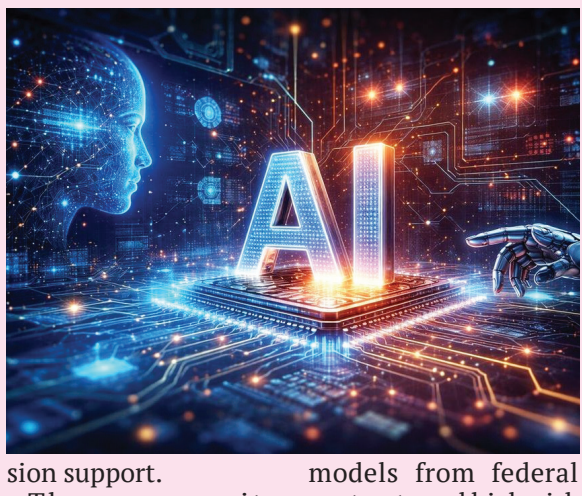
China's military sought DeepSeek for cyber drills

(IANS) Washington, China's military sought DeepSeek for cyber training and planned to use it with Alibaba's Qwen in a command system, according to procurement records cited in a US congressional report.

Two House committees said people linked to a Chinese military cyber unit had visited AI developer Zhipu's Beijing headquarters several times, most recently in August. The committees said they had "moderate confidence" the visits indicated a channel between the unit and the company, but gave no details of the discussions.

A July 10 notice specified DeepSeek for a military cyber range. A January 2026 request sought servers for a command system supporting Qwen and DeepSeek. Another notice named DeepSeek, Qwen, Moonshot AI's Kimi and MiniMax models for use on an internal network without internet access.

The military also sought DeepSeek or Qwen for medical records and clinical decision support.



The committee chairmen urged Washington to extend federal restrictions beyond DeepSeek, bar Chinese-developed models from federal contracts and high-risk infrastructure, and require suppliers to disclose the models used in their products amid concern.

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

IN FOCUS | WORLD FISHERIES DAY 2026

India's Fisheries Sector Eyes Sustainable Growth and Inclusive Development

India's fisheries sector is emerging as an important driver of economic growth, employment and sustainable livelihoods, with renewed emphasis on technological innovation, infrastructure development and inclusive participation.

The National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB), in association with the Department of Fisheries, Government of India, observed World Fisheries Day 2026 on November 21 in Hyderabad.

The programme brought together over 6,000 stakeholders from more than 530 locations across nearly 34 States and Union Territories, including fishers, fish farmers, Self-Help Groups, government officials and fisheries experts.

The celebrations followed the theme announced by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO): **"Empowering People for Change: Advancing Decent Work in Fisheries and Aquaculture, particularly for Youth and Women."**



Addressing the gathering, NFDB Chief Executive Dr B.K. Behera highlighted the fisheries sector's annual growth of approximately 9–10 per cent over the past decade, describing it as an important source of employment and economic opportunity.

He emphasised the need to enhance inland fish production through species diversification, promote export-oriented varieties such as Pangasius and Tilapia, and strengthen domestic consumption.

Modern processing facilities, integrated value chains and improved marketing infrastructure were identified as essential for sustaining growth.

Dr Behera also stressed the importance of empowering women, young entrepreneurs and Self-Help Groups through technology adoption, entrepreneurship and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Gunjan Krishna, Joint Secretary (Inland Fisheries), Department of Fisheries, highlighted the importance of quality fish seed and feed in improving productivity and strengthening India's export potential.

She called for improved traceability systems, fisheries clusters, infrastructure development and climate-resilient production practices.

Dr Shubhadeep Ghosh, Assistant Director General (Marine Fisheries), ICAR, highlighted advances in precision aquaculture, innovative technologies and species diversification.

He emphasised the potential of marine species such as Cobia and Pompano, alongside seaweed cultivation for sustainable aquaculture and food products.

Successful initiatives by fish farmers from Jammu and Kashmir, Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh demonstrated how government support, technology and entrepreneurship can strengthen rural livelihoods.

The programme also highlighted government schemes supporting productivity, infrastructure and fisheries-based enterprises.

The discussions underscored the importance of coordinated institutional efforts, sustainable resource management and wider participation in strengthening India's Blue Economy.

The central message was clear: the future of fisheries development depends not merely on increasing production, but on creating sustainable livelihoods, encouraging innovation and ensuring economic opportunities reach communities across the country.

IN FOCUS | HISTORY, CULTURE & HERITAGE

MONTREAL: CANADA'S SECOND-LARGEST CITY

Montreal, the largest city in Canada's Quebec province and the country's second-largest city by population, is renowned for its cultural diversity, historical significance and economic importance. Situated on the Island of Montreal along the Saint Lawrence River, the city combines European architectural traditions with modern North American urban life.



The city's name originates from Mount Royal, the prominent hill overlooking Montreal. French explorer Jacques Cartier visited the region in 1535, when Indigenous communities inhabited the area. In 1642, French settlers established Ville-Marie, which subsequently developed into Montreal.

During the French colonial period, Montreal emerged as an important centre of trade and commerce, particularly through the fur trade. Following the British conquest in 1760, the city entered a new political and economic phase. Montreal received municipal incorporation in 1832 and later served as the capital of the Province of Canada from 1844 to 1849.

The nineteenth century witnessed substantial industrial and commercial expansion. Improvements in transportation, including canals, railways and port facilities, strengthened Montreal's position as a major trading centre. The opening of the Saint Lawrence Seaway in 1959 further transformed regional shipping and transportation.

For many decades, Montreal remained Canada's leading commercial and financial centre. However, economic restructuring, changing political circumstances and the growing importance of Toronto gradually altered this position.

Montreal gained international recognition through Expo 67, the celebrated world's fair, and the 1976 Summer Olympic Games. These events highlighted its cultural identity and strengthened its global reputation.

The city is also distinguished by its educational institutions, including McGill University and Université de Montréal, which contribute to research, innovation and academic excellence.

French remains Montreal's principal language, although English and numerous immigrant languages are also widely represented. Its multicultural population includes communities of European, Asian, African and Middle Eastern backgrounds, reflecting generations of immigration.

According to Canada's 2021 census, Montreal's municipal population exceeded 1.76 million. Its religious and cultural landscape includes Christian, Muslim, Jewish and other communities, alongside residents with no religious affiliation.

The city's climate features cold, snowy winters and warm summers. Mount Royal, approximately 232 metres high, remains one of its most recognisable geographical landmarks.

Montreal's appeal lies equally in its historic neighbourhoods, cultural festivals, museums, educational institutions and architectural heritage.

"Montreal's enduring charm lies in its remarkable ability to preserve history while embracing cultural diversity and modern progress."

Today, Montreal continues to represent an important centre of Canadian culture, education, commerce and international exchange.

Its journey from a historic settlement to a modern metropolis illustrates how centuries of immigration, economic transformation and cultural interaction can shape a city's distinctive identity.



ATHENS: The Ancient City That Shaped Civilisation

From the birthplace of democracy and the magnificent Acropolis to the revival of the Olympic Games, Greece's historic capital reflects more than 3,000 years of cultural, intellectual and political heritage.

Athens, the historic capital and largest city of Greece, occupies a remarkable position among the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities. Renowned for its ancient monuments, philosophical traditions and architectural splendour, Athens represents an extraordinary meeting point between classical civilisation and modern European life.

Situated in the Attica region of southeastern Greece, the city is surrounded by mountains and extends towards the Saronic Gulf. Its distinctive landscape, Mediterranean climate and rich historical inheritance have made it one of Europe's most celebrated cultural destinations.

Athens derives its name from Athena, the ancient Greek goddess associated with wisdom and warfare. According to Greek mythology, Athena became the city's patron deity, and her influence remains visible in the temples and monuments that continue to dominate its historic landscape.

The origins of Athens extend into prehistoric times, with evidence of settlement dating back several millennia. By the fifth century BCE, the city had emerged as an influential centre of political thought, philosophy, literature, architecture and artistic achievement.

Athens is particularly remembered for its contribution to the development of democracy. Under the leadership of statesmen such as Cleisthenes and Pericles, the ancient city-state developed institutions through which eligible male citizens could participate directly in political decision-making. Although this system excluded women, enslaved people and foreigners, it represented an important stage in the historical evolution of democratic governance.

The city's intellectual influence was equally profound. Great philosophers such as Socrates, Plato and Aristotle helped establish traditions of philosophical inquiry that continue to shape education, ethics, political theory and scientific thought.

Their teachings encouraged systematic reasoning, critical questioning and the pursuit of knowledge, contributing significantly to the intellectual foundations of subsequent civilisations.

Athens also became a distinguished centre of drama, literature and the arts. The works of ancient playwrights such as Aeschylus, Sophocles, Euripides and Aristophanes established theatrical traditions that remain influential throughout the world.

Among its architectural treasures, the Acropolis occupies the most prominent position. Rising above the city, this ancient fortified hill contains some of the most celebrated monuments of classical Greece.

The Parthenon, dedicated to Athena, was constructed during the fifth century BCE and remains an outstanding example of ancient Greek architecture. Its marble columns, harmonious proportions and intricate sculptural decoration demonstrate the artistic and engineering achievements of classical Athens.

The Acropolis complex also includes the Erechtheion, the Temple of Athena Nike and the monumental Propylaea entrance. Recognising their exceptional historical and cultural significance, UNESCO inscribed the Acropolis of Athens on the World Heritage List in 1987.

These monuments have survived centuries of warfare, political upheaval, natural deterioration and changing religious traditions, remaining enduring symbols of ancient civilisation.

Athens experienced numerous transformations following the decline of its classical political power. The Peloponnesian War against Sparta, which began in 431 BCE, weakened the city's position and contributed to a prolonged period of political instability.

Subsequently, Athens came under Macedonian influence before becoming part of the Roman world. Despite losing political independence, the city retained considerable prestige as a centre of philosophy, education and cultural learning.

During the Byzantine period, Christianity became increasingly influential, transforming the religious and architectural character of the city. Several ancient structures were adapted for Christian worship, reflecting changes in religious and political authority.

Athens later came under Ottoman rule during the fifteenth century. Its architectural landscape continued to evolve, incorporating structures associated with different cultural and religious traditions.

One of the most destructive episodes in the city's history occurred in 1687, when Venetian forces bombarded the Acropolis during their conflict with the Ottoman Empire. An explosion caused extensive damage to the Parthenon, permanently altering the appearance of the ancient monument.

The Greek War of Independence, beginning in 1821, marked another decisive turning point. Following the establishment of the modern Greek state, Athens was selected as its capital in 1834.

At that time, Athens was a relatively small settlement surrounding its ancient ruins. However, its exceptional historical importance made it a powerful symbol of the newly independent nation's cultural identity.

The nineteenth century witnessed extensive urban redevelopment. New roads, public institutions, government buildings and educational establishments gradually transformed Athens into a modern European capital.

Neoclassical architecture became an important feature of this transformation, particularly in prominent public buildings and academic institutions.

The modern Olympic Games added another distinguished chapter to Athens' international history. In 1896, the city hosted the first Olympic Games of the modern era, reviving a sporting tradition whose origins lay in ancient Greece.

The Panathenaic Stadium, reconstructed in marble, became a memorable symbol of this revival. Athens subsequently hosted the Summer Olympic Games again in 2004, strengthening its international profile and encouraging significant improvements in transportation and urban infrastructure.

The twentieth century also brought considerable hardship. During the Second World War, Athens experienced occupation, economic distress and severe human suffering. The subsequent Greek Civil War further affected national stability and development.

Later decades witnessed rapid urban expansion, industrial growth and substantial changes in the city's population. Greece's accession to the European Economic Community in 1981 marked an important stage in its integration with European institutions.

Today, Athens combines historic neighbourhoods with modern commercial districts, educational institutions, cultural centres and extensive transportation networks.

Its historic Plaka district, situated beneath the Acropolis, remains particularly admired for its narrow streets, traditional buildings, restaurants and lively atmosphere.

Syntagma Square, home to the Greek Parliament, forms an important centre of political and civic activity. The National Archaeological Museum, Acropolis Museum and numerous other cultural institutions preserve invaluable collections representing different periods of Greek history.

The city also offers remarkable natural scenery. Mount Lycabettus provides panoramic views across Athens, while nearby coastal areas attract residents and visitors seeking recreation and relaxation.

Athens International Airport, named after former Greek Prime Minister Eleftherios Venizelos, serves as the principal international gateway to the capital.

The city's economy is supported by commerce, tourism, financial services, education, transportation and other modern industries. Its universities and research institutions contribute significantly to intellectual and scientific development.

Athens remains an attractive destination for international visitors seeking to explore the origins of classical philosophy, democracy, architecture and Western literary traditions.

Its cultural identity is further enriched by traditional Greek cuisine, music, festivals and contemporary artistic expression.

The coexistence of ancient ruins, Byzantine churches, Ottoman-era traces and modern buildings reflects the many civilisations and historical transformations that have shaped the city.

"Athens stands as a timeless reminder that the achievements of ancient civilisations continue to inspire the modern world."

1st Test: Rahul, Gill, Padikkal, Pant propel India to 118-run lead over New Zealand



Wellington, (IANS): KL Rahul's superb 136, Shubman Gill's 98, Devdutt Padikkal's 80 and Rishabh Pant's unbeaten 55 powered India to 486/4 at stumps on day three of the first Test against New Zealand at the Basin Reserve on Saturday, giving the visitors a 118-run lead.

India, resuming at 159/1, enjoyed a productive day with the bat, as all four top-order batters crossed the 80-run mark. Rahul anchored the innings with a patient 13th Test century, while Padikkal and Gill kept the momentum going with impressive knocks. Pant, returning after recovering from a side strain, accelerated late in the day with an aggressive half-century.

Rahul reached his century in 207 balls, becoming the first Indian opener to score Test centuries in all four SENA countries (South Africa, England, New Zealand and Australia). He also became the third Indian, after Sunil Gavaskar and Surinder Amarnath, to score a hundred in his first Test innings in New Zealand.

Rahul and Padikkal shared a 165-run partnership for the second wicket before Kyle Jamieson dismissed the left-hander for 80. Gill then took charge, striking boundaries at regular intervals, but fell on 98 to Jacob Duffy in the final over of the day.

Pant, meanwhile, raised his 22nd Test half-century off 55 balls, taking the attack to Duffy with a flurry of boundaries and sixes. India ended the day firmly in control, with nightwatchman Anshul Kamboj yet to open his account. With two days remaining and India holding a 118-run lead, New Zealand face an uphill task to turn the match around.

Brief Scores: New Zealand 368; India 486/4 (KL Rahul 136, Shubman Gill 98, Devdutt Padikkal 80, Rishabh Pant 55 not out). India lead by 118 runs.

The day's play also saw India achieve a rare batting feat, with all five top-order batters scoring half-centuries or more in an away Test innings. Gill and Pant additionally crossed the 3,000-run milestone in World Test Championship history, becoming the first two Indian players to reach the landmark.

'We've achieved nothing yet': Babar Azam after Pakistan's Test series win over Sri Lanka



Rawalpindi, (IANS): Pakistan captain Babar Azam has urged his team to remain focused on long-term goals despite ending a two-year wait for a Test series victory with a win over Sri Lanka, saying the side has "achieved nothing yet" and must aim for sustained success in the World Test Championship (WTC).

The series victory marked Pakistan's first Test series win in two years and their maiden triumph in the ongoing 2025-27 WTC cycle. Babar, however, said a single series win was not enough and that the team should aspire to reach the WTC final and consistently remain among the top sides.

The series also offered promising signs from Pakistan's younger players. Saqib Khan finished as the leading wicket-taker with nine scalps across the two Tests, while Aamer Jamal claimed six wickets on his comeback and contributed with the bat. Tayyab Arif, Azan Awais and wicketkeeper Ghazi Ghouri also showed encouraging form.

Babar said the team management had decided to introduce younger players following the 0-3 series defeat in England, and their performances against Sri Lanka had been encouraging. He stressed that gaining experience in different conditions and handling pressure would be crucial to their development.

Pakistan's bowling attack proved decisive in the second Test, dismissing Sri Lanka for just 98 in the first innings. Although Saqib's injury tested the bowling resources in the second innings, Mohammad Abbas, Razaullah and Aamer Jamal stepped up, sharing eight wickets after bowling the bulk of the 95 overs.

Babar praised the bowlers for their resilience and commitment, saying the first-innings performance played a key role in securing the victory.

Bhavika Ahire to lead India U-19 women against England

New Delhi, (IANS): The BCCI has named Bhavika Ahire captain of the 15-member India U-19 women's squad for the five-match T20 series against England, with Anaadi Tagde as vice-captain. The series will be played in Vadodara and Surat from November 26 to December 6 as preparation for the 2027 U-19 Women's T20 World Cup. India will aim for a third consecutive title.

The World Cup will be hosted by Bangladesh and Nepal from January 21 to February 6.

India squad: Bhavika Ahire (C/WK), Ira Jadhav, Nidhi Mahto, Purva Siwach, Mehek Narwase, Maitri Maniar, Ishwari Awsare, Deeya Yadav, Shreya S Chawan (WK), Samaira Raghav, Kumari Palak, Uma Kashvi, Achsah Parmar, Anaadi Tagde (VC) and Palak Singh.

Messi event scam: SIT to name Kerala ex-minister, former footballer

Kochi, (IANS): The SIT probing the alleged fraud over a proposed visit by Lionel Messi and Argentina's national team to Kerala will submit its report to a Kochi court on Monday. Former Sports Minister V. Abdurahiman, his former private secretary C. Sathyapalan and ex-footballer U. Sharafali have been named as accused.

The case involves alleged sponsorship fraud, with investigators accusing Abdurahiman of misusing his official position and email ID. The SIT will name former Kerala Sports Minister V. Abdurahiman and two others as accused in the alleged Messi event scam.

Shubman Gill becomes first Indian to 3000 WTC runs, Rishabh Pant follows suit



Wellington, (IANS): Shubman Gill became the first Indian batter to score 3,000 runs in World Test Championship (WTC) history, while Rishabh Pant joined the milestone club during India's batting dominance on day three of the opening Test against New Zealand at the Basin Reserve on Saturday.

Gill reached the landmark with a six off Glenn Phillips in the 115th over. He went on to score 98 before being bowled by Jacob Duffy, missing his century by just two runs.

Pant became the second Indian to cross 3,000 WTC runs, achieving the milestone with a boundary in the 123rd over, which also brought up his 22nd Test half-century. He is also the first wicketkeeper worldwide to reach 3,000 runs in WTC history. India's batting display was further highlighted by KL Rahul's 136, Devdutt Padikkal's 80 and Yashasvi Jaiswal's 85, marking the first time the country's top five batters scored half-centuries in an away Test innings. India ended the day at 486/4, taking a 118-run lead over New Zealand, who scored 368 in their first innings.

Gill and Pant became the first two Indian batters to cross the 3,000-run mark in WTC history, with Pant also becoming the first wicketkeeper worldwide to achieve the feat.

Rizwan, Masood, Ayub left out as Pakistan announce central contracts

Lahore, (IANS): Former captains Mohammad Rizwan and Shan Masood and young all-rounder Saim Ayub were left out as the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) on Saturday announced the central contracts for 38 men's cricketers.

The contracts were announced by Pakistan Head Coach Mike Hesson and PCB Director High Performance Aqib Javed during a press conference in Lahore.

The Board announced contracts for 38 players and overhauled the structure, while awarding the contracts based on formats. The contracted players are divided into five categories: Tests and ODIs; Tests-only; ODIs and T20Is; T20Is only; and development contracts.

Current Test captain Babar Azam and former T20I skipper Salman Ali Agha are the only two players in the Test and ODI contract category, while the Test category has young Test batter Azan Awais, veteran speedster Mohammad Abbas, veteran spinner Sajid Khan and middle-order batter Saud Shakeel.

The third category - the ODI and T20I - has 50-over skipper Shaheen Shah Afridi, Abrar Ahmed, Arafat Minhas, Fakhar Zaman, Faheem Ashraf and Haris Rauf. The T20I list features new T20I skipper Sahibzada Farhan, Hasan Nawaz, Maaz Sadaqat, Mohammad Salman Mirza, Naseem Shah, Shadab Khan and Usman Tariq.

19 other players feature in the development category. This includes Naseem's brothers Ubaid Shah and Hunain Shah and recent Test debutant Saqib Khan, among others.

The contracts run from July 2026 to June 2027. The Pakistan players were without central contracts after their deals expired in June this year.

Contract (Test and ODI):

Babar Azam and Salman Ali Agha

Contract (Test):

Azan Awais, Mohammad Abbas, Sajid Khan and Saud Shakeel

Contract (ODI and T20I):

Abrar Ahmed, Arafat Minhas, Fakhar Zaman, Faheem Ashraf, Haris Rauf and Shaheen Shah Afridi



Contract (T20I):

Hasan Nawaz, Maaz Sadaqat, Mohammad Salman Mirza, Naseem Shah, Sahibzada Farhan, Shadab Khan and Usman Tariq

Contract (Development):

Abdul Samad, Abdullah Fazal, Ahmed Daniyal, Ali Raza, Farhan Yousaf, Hunain Shah, Mohammad Taha, Mohammad Tayyab Arif, Muhammad Ghazi Ghori, Muhammad Imran Randhawa, Razaullah, Saad Baig, Saad Masood, Sameer Minhas, Saqib Khan, Shahzaib Khan, Shamyl Hussain, Sufyan Moqim and Ubaid Shah.

Cricket Australia backs Pat Cummins as captain amid renewed Sandpaper Gate controversy



Syedney, (IANS): Cricket Australia (CA) has unanimously backed Pat Cummins as national men's team captain amid renewed scrutiny of the 2018 ball-tampering scandal, firmly rejecting suggestions that his integrity has been compromised.

Following a board meeting on Friday, CA chairman David Boon and CEO Todd Greenberg met Cummins in Sydney to discuss his welfare, team support and preparations for the upcoming series against New Zealand. The board also announced plans for an independent forum where players and support staff involved in the 2018 South Africa tour can share their experiences.

Cummins welcomed the board's support and said he would fully participate in the forum. He added that leading Australia in the upcoming Perth Test would remain his immediate priority.

The controversy resurfaced after former Australia opener Cameron Bancroft wrote a 4,000-word article claiming that the bowling group knew sandpaper was being used on the ball during the 2018 Cape Town Test. Former players Usman Khawaja and David Warner have also made comments about the team's knowledge of the incident.

The scandal erupted when Bancroft was caught on camera using sandpaper to alter the ball during the Test against South Africa in March 2018. Steve Smith and David Warner received 12-month suspensions, while Bancroft was banned for nine months.

Cricket Australia said the proposed independent forum would help address the events of the 2018 tour, with details to be announced later. Australia are scheduled to face New Zealand in Perth from December 9.

Fox Cricket removes Khawaja, Warner from commentary amid Sandpapergate row



Melbourne, (IANS): (IANS) Former Australia openers Usman Khawaja and David Warner have been temporarily removed from Fox Cricket's commentary roster amid renewed controversy over the 2018 ball-tampering scandal.

Fox Sports managing director Steve Crawley said both commentators would be rested from broadcasts over the next few weeks to shield them from mounting pressure. However, no date has been announced for their return.

The controversy resurfaced after Khawaja's autobiography, Sabr, claimed that knowledge of the plan to use sandpaper during the Cape Town Test extended beyond the three players banned over the incident — Warner, Cameron Bancroft and Steve Smith.

Australia captain Pat Cummins dismissed the claims as "complete and utter nonsense". Bancroft subsequently alleged in an article for The West Australian that the wider squad knew about the ball-tampering plan and that bowlers, including Cummins, had discussed the condition of the ball.

The renewed allegations have placed Cummins' captaincy under scrutiny. However, Cricket Australia has backed him to continue as Test captain. Australia will begin their home Test summer against New Zealand in Perth on December 9.

KKR to strengthen batting at IPL 2027 auction: Nayar

New Delhi, (IANS): Kolkata Knight Riders head coach Abhishek Nayar said strengthening the batting line-up will be the franchise's main priority at the IPL 2027 mini auction.

KKR have retained 17 players, including Rinku Singh, Sunil Narine and Cameron Green, and will enter the December 16 auction with a purse of Rs 41.65 crore and eight slots available.

Nayar said the team was satisfied with its bowling unit but wanted more batting firepower to improve its overall balance.

Talent should matter, name shouldn't: AIMIM questions Siraj's exclusion from India playing XI



New Delhi, (IANS): The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) on Saturday questioned Mohammed Siraj's exclusion from India's playing XI for the first Test against New Zealand, saying team selection should be based on talent and performance rather than a player's name or identity.

AIMIM national spokesperson Waris Pathan questioned the selection decisions, pointing out that Siraj, despite being India's leading wicket-taker in the ongoing World Test Championship cycle, was left out of the team. He also referred to the exclusion of other players, including Sarfaraz Khan and Mohammed Shami. Pathan said Siraj had consistently delivered whenever the team needed him, particularly in the absence of Jasprit Bumrah. He questioned why players with strong performances were not being considered for selection and stressed that merit should be the deciding factor.

The controversy follows Congress MP Imran Masood's remarks alleging that Siraj was overlooked because of his religious identity. Meanwhile, India's batting coach Sitanshu Kotak defended the selection, saying the playing combination was considered the strongest possible by the captain and team management. India opted for Anshul Kamboj in the pace attack alongside Jasprit Bumrah, Prasidh Krishna and Akash Deep, while Siraj was placed among the reserves.

BRAOU PG Classes from Nov 22

Hyderabad (NSS) : Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Open University will conduct counselling classes First and Third semesters of Post-Graduation (M.A., M.Com., M.Sc., MBA, BLISc, MLISc and Master of Social Work (MSW) commence from November 22, 2026.

The students who are admitted in PG programmes during the academic year 2026–27 is advised to their respective study centres for counselling classes.

For further, students are advised to visit the university portal www.braouonline.in or contact their respective study centre.

Several injured in four-car collision on Hyderabad ORR

Hyderabad (NSS) :

A four-car pile-up on the Outer Ring Road (ORR) near Himayath Sagar, within the limits of Rajendranagar police station in Hyderabad, left several people injured.

The accident occurred on the Gachibowli–Shamshabad stretch when a speeding car rammed into a vehicle moving slowly ahead, triggering a chain collision involving two other cars.

Several people sustained injuries and were shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment. ORR authorities later cleared the damaged vehicles from the accident site.

Safran eyes 4,000 crore expansion in Telangana; MoU likely at Global Summit



Hyderabad (NSS) : Telangana is poised to attract a fresh investment of ₹4,000 crore from French aerospace major Safran Aircraft Engines, following high-level discussions held by Deputy Chief Minister Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka at the company's Evry-Corbeil facility near Paris.

The proposed expansion, currently in the pipeline, is expected to be formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the upcoming Invest Telangana Summit in December 2026, with a senior delegation from Safran's Paris headquarters scheduled to attend.

Visiting France as part of the State government's investment roadshow, the Deputy Chief Minister, accompanied by Commissioner of Industries Nikhil Chakravarthi, was received by Safran Aircraft Engines' Senior Vice President (Industrial and Supply Chain) Laurent Mazoué and Director (Industrial Centre of Excellence for Rotating Parts) Julien D'Orazio.

The visit began with a briefing on Safran's global ecosystem—detailing its design, manufacturing, and support operations for civil and military aircraft engines across its international network.

The Telangana delegation subsequently toured the shop floor at Evry-Corbeil, which serves as both the company's headquarters and a principal production site, observing advanced machining and assembly processes for high-precision rotating engine components.

During bilateral talks, both sides explored avenues to significantly expand Safran's existing manufacturing footprint in Telangana.

Highlighting Hyderabad's edge in the sector, Bhatti Vikramarka said, "Safran's presence in Hyderabad shows what Telangana offers global aerospace manufacturers: skilled talent, ready infrastructure, and a government that moves quickly. We had a very productive meeting today and look forward to welcoming the Safran team from Paris to the Invest Telangana Summit in December."

The Industries & Commerce department will continue engagements with Safran's leadership over the coming weeks to finalise the contours of the agreement ahead of the summit.

Pulse Polio drive to cover over 18 lakh children in five TG districts today



Hyderabad (NSS) : Over 18 lakh children below the age of five will be administered Pulse Polio drops across five districts in Telangana on Sunday as part of the Sub-National Immunisation Day (SNID)-2026.

Aimed at sustaining the State's polio-free status, the drive will be conducted in Hyderabad, Rangareddy, Medchal-Malkajgiri, Sangareddy, and Hanumakonda districts. Health officials have targeted 18,01,698 children to receive two drops of the bivalent Oral Polio Vaccine (bOPV).

To ensure comprehensive coverage, the Health department has established 7,428 polio booths, along with 245 mobile teams and 245 transit points.

Following Sunday's booth-level immunisation, health workers will conduct house-to-house visits on November 23 and 24 to reach children who may have missed the initial round. The mop-up drive will extend to November 25 within Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) limits, as well as in Rangareddy, Medchal-Malkajgiri, and Sangareddy districts.

In a bid to boost public participation, the department has also rolled out a digital awareness campaign across GHMC limits. Polio awareness messages are being displayed for three days across 6,172 digital screens located in 1,165 gated communities, high-rise apartments, and residential complexes.

Highlighting that Telangana has maintained its polio-free status for the past 18 years, the Health Commissioner stated that the government has put all necessary logistical arrangements in place to ensure no eligible child is left out of the immunisation drive.

Komatireddy condoles death of Nalgonda youth in US road accident

Hyderabad (NSS) : Roads & Buildings and Cinematography Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy has expressed deep grief over the death of 25-year-old Sai Teja, a native of Munugode in Nalgonda district, in a road accident in the United States.

In a statement on Saturday, the Minister said Sai Teja had gone to the US for higher studies and had recently secured a job. He said it was heartbreaking that the family, which had celebrated his new employment just a week ago, was now facing such a tragedy.

The Minister conveyed his condolences to the bereaved family, prayed for strength to overcome the loss and wished peace for the departed soul.

Panel pushes for early recognition of Telangana movement activists

Hyderabad (NSS) : The committee constituted to identify and recognise Telangana movement activists has resolved to expedite the recognition process and launch a dedicated online portal at the earliest.

Chaired by K. Keshava Rao, the Telangana Movement Activists Recognition Committee met on Saturday at Minister Ponnam Prabhakar's residence in the Ministers' Quarters here on Saturday.

Alongside Keshava Rao and Ponnam Prabhakar, the meeting was attended by MLC Prof. M. Kodandaram, former MLC Ramulu Naik, Mote Shobhan Reddy, and Shyam Mohan.

During the meeting, members reviewed the progress achieved so far—including prior consultations with university activists, artists, and representatives from various sections of society—and chalked out pending measures to advance the exercise.

A primary focus of the discussions was the status and timeline of the proposed website designed for registering and recognising activists. Emphasising the need to make the portal accessible to the public without delay, the panel decided to accelerate its development.

The committee will reconvene shortly to review the portal's technical progress, following which an official announcement regarding its launch and the next course of action will be issued.

CHARMINAR EXPRESS RESTORED TO TAMBARAM TERMINAL FROM NOV 22



Hyderabad (NSS) : South Central Railway has restored Tambaram as the original terminal of the daily Charminar Express between Hyderabad and Tambaram following the completion of redevelopment-related arrangements in Chennai.

Train No. 12759 Tambaram–Hyderabad Charminar Express will resume its journey from Tambaram from November 23, while Train No. 12760 Hyderabad–Tambaram Charminar Express will terminate at Tambaram from November 22. The services were earlier operated from Chennai Beach due to redevelopment works.

As per the revised timings, Train No. 12759 will depart Tambaram at 5.30 pm, reach Chennai Egmore between 6.00 pm and 6.05 pm, and Chennai Beach between 6.18 pm and 6.20 pm.

In the reverse direction, Train No. 12760 will arrive at Chennai Beach between 6.33 am and 6.35 am, Chennai Egmore between 6.55 am and 7.00 am, and reach Tambaram at 8.00 am.

Passengers have been advised to take note of the revised terminal and timings while planning their journeys.

BJP Sees Fresh Influx of Professionals in Telangana



Hyderabad (NSS) : Telangana BJP State President N. Ramchander Rao said the party was witnessing a steady influx of intellectuals, professionals and community representatives from various fields, reflecting growing confidence in the BJP and its political vision.

Speaking to the media at the party headquarters after welcoming new members, he criticised Rahul Gandhi and the Congress leadership for allegedly tarnishing India's image abroad and undermining its democratic institutions. Terming the Congress-organised Bharat Summit an "anti-Bharat Summit", Rao questioned how Hyderabad could attract global investments when multinational companies such as Meta faced vandalism and intimidation of employees.

Responding to criticism by BRS president K. Chandrashekar Rao, former minister KT Rama Rao and Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, he said both Congress and BRS were apprehensive about the BJP's growing strength in Telangana and expressed confidence that the party would come to power in the State.

Alleging that Telangana was burdened with a debt of nearly Rs.10 lakh crore, he accused the Congress government of depending on land sales to meet its financial needs.

He vowed that a BJP government would conduct a comprehensive inquiry into alleged corruption and recover public money.

Among those who joined the BJP were RN Reddy, Madhusudan Reddy, Jayakumar, retired Army officer Col. Dr. Shaji Phani Kumar, Dr. N. Prasanna Lakshmi, N. Vijender Reddy, Venkateshwar Raju and several software professionals and youth.

AICC summons Rajagopal amid growing dissent in Telangana Congress



Hyderabad (NSS) : Stepping in to contain growing internal dissent within its Telangana unit, the All India Congress Committee (AICC) leadership has asked Munugode MLA Komatireddy Rajagopal Reddy to meet newly appointed state in-charge B.M. Sandeep on November 23. The directive was conveyed to the legislator over the phone by an AICC secretary. The intervention comes amid a sharp escalation in public criticism directed at the state government by party legislators. Responding to the controversy, Telangana Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) President Mahesh Kumar Goud remarked that there is "too much freedom" within the party.

He confirmed that the AICC is closely examining the recent statements made by Rajagopal Reddy and Jadcherla MLA Anirudh Reddy, adding that the high command will soon decide on appropriate disciplinary action.

The row was triggered by Rajagopal Reddy's recent veiled attack on the state leadership. Addressing a gathering, the Munugode MLA stated that neither the people of Telangana nor history would forgive rulers who "misuse power secured through sheer luck" to indulge in corruption while neglecting public welfare.

FOOD SAFETY RAIDS: TWO EATERIES CLOSED, FOUR LICENCES SUSPENDED IN HYD

Hyderabad (NSS) : The Telangana Standards Authority for Food and Essential Drugs (TG SAFE) has taken stringent action against several food establishments in Hyderabad following inspections conducted by eight enforcement teams based on consumer complaints.

The teams, comprising Food Safety Officers and police personnel, inspected nine restaurants, eateries and hostels across the CURE region.

The inspections covered The Spice Kitchen in Kukatpally, Raju Gari Biryani in Chaitanyapuri, Swaad Spicy in Nagole, Madhapur Bawarchi in Ayyappa Society, Mehfil Restaurant in Balkampet, Annapurna Caterers in Chandanagar, Mataam Al Yamani Arabian Restaurant and Al Kareem Bakers in Tolichowki, and Sri Lakshmi Luxury Men's Hostel in Gowlidoddy. Officials detected several violations, including unhygienic kitchens, cockroach and rodent infestations, clogged drains, damaged flooring, improper food storage, lack of segregation of vegetarian and non-vegetarian items and absence of mandatory records. Eight food samples were collected on suspicion of adulteration, while approximately 135 kg of food articles were seized or discarded.

Four establishments — Madhapur Bawarchi, The Spice Kitchen, Mataam Al Yamani Arabian Restaurant and Annapurna Caterers — had their FSSAI licences suspended and were directed to immediately stop business operations.

Al Kareem Bakers in Tolichowki and Sri Lakshmi Luxury Men's Hostel in Gowlidoddy were ordered closed for operating without valid FSSAI licences or registration under unhygienic conditions.

Officials said show-cause notices would be issued to Raju Gari Biryani and Swaad Spicy over serious violations. Further action, including penalties, would also be initiated against the establishments found violating food safety regulations.

HYD POLICE ARREST MAN FOR COLLECTING DEBIT CARDS USED IN CYBER FRAUD

Hyderabad (NSS) : Dabeerpura Police arrested a 25-year-old man for allegedly collecting debit cards linked to mule bank accounts used to route money generated through cyber frauds. Police seized five debit cards, four mobile phones and Rs.1,300 in cash from him.

The arrested accused was identified as Elle Bhoomesh (25), a catering worker from Gunfoundry, Abids. His alleged associate, Adaraveni Chandu, a cab driver from Karimnagar district, is absconding.

According to police, Bhoomesh was intercepted during visible policing at Talib Khundmiri Road, near Anjuman Function Hall, Chanchalguda, on November 20. During questioning, he allegedly revealed that he collected debit cards on Chandu's instructions and withdrew money from accounts linked to cyber frauds before handing it over to him for commission.

Police said Bhoomesh contacted people through Telegram to collect debit cards at different locations. He allegedly collected around 10 to 12 cards so far and destroyed them after transactions to avoid detection.

Police recovered five debit cards belonging to different banks, four mobile phones and Rs.1,300 in cash. The accused was arrested and produced before the court, while efforts are underway to apprehend Chandu.

A case has been registered under Sections 66(C) and 66(D) of the IT Act and Sections 318(4) and 319(2) of the BNS. Police are also investigating his possible involvement in other cybercrime cases.

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