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The food regulator cited hygiene and regulatory violations at five nutraceutical firms, including two previously scrutinised.
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Fraser Stewart says political directives are beyond MCC's control, though the club expects respect between players during matches.
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Foam on Manjeera Triggers Calls for Pollution Tests



SANGAREDDY (Munsif Desk): Thick white foam covered stretches of the Manjeera near the Sarafpally check dam in Sangareddy district on Monday, evoking similar scenes on Delhi's Yamuna during Chhath Puja and raising concerns about water pollution.

Much of the foam is believed to arrive through Nakkavagu, a tributary crossing Patancheru's industrial belt and residential settlements before joining the Manjeera near Chowtakur. Industrial units, including breweries along the river, have also been accused of releasing untreated effluents.

The Manjeera flows past Ghanpur Anicut towards Nizam Sagar and supports drinking-water supplies to Medak, Kamareddy, Sangareddy and Hyderabad. A local report estimated that nearly 33 per cent of Hyderabad residents depend on the system, although the figure was not independently confirmed.

Sangareddy MLA Chintha Prabhakar demanded immediate water-quality testing, new treatment facilities and stricter Pollution Control Board action against violators. CPI(M) leader Athimela Manik called for sewage-treatment plants in residential communities.

Earlier this month, reporting on Pollution Control Board assessments indicated continuing contamination in the Manjeera. No publicly available test result has yet established the foam's chemical composition or whether treated drinking water is affected.

Supreme Court Orders Priority Hearing of Deleted Voters' Appeals

Election Commission told to expand tribunals as millions of electoral-roll disputes remain unresolved ahead of municipal polls.

Munsif News Desk, New Delhi:

The Supreme Court on Monday directed tribunals hearing appeals arising from West Bengal's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls to prioritise cases filed by voters seeking restoration of deleted names, amid concerns that prolonged delays could deny eligible citizens their voting rights.



A bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant directed that appeals challenging the inclusion of voters be deferred for now.

According to figures submitted by the Election Commission, approximately 38.31 lakh appeals were filed, including 22.21 lakh seeking restoration of deleted names and 16.10 lakh challenging inclusions.

During the hearing, advocate Prashant Bhushan submitted that only slightly more than one lakh appeals had been decided, highlighting the enormous backlog.

The court directed the Election Commission to increase the strength of the existing 19 appellate tribunals in consultation with the Chief Justice of the Calcutta High Court.

It also ordered priority consideration for appeals involving voters in the Kolkata Municipal Corporation area, where civic elections are approaching, and sought more accessible tribunal premises.

The interim directions aim to accelerate decisions on wrongful exclusions. However, their effectiveness will depend on whether expanded tribunals can resolve genuine claims before polling deadlines, ensuring electoral-roll accuracy without denying eligible citizens the opportunity to vote.

Murtaza Pahalwan Killed in Knife Attack; Around 10 people Brutally Attacked Him

HYD: Former history-sheeter and AIMIM leader Murtaza Ali, popularly known as Murtaza Pahalwan, died following a knife attack near Himayat Sagar Road in Rangareddy district on Monday.

Reports said eight to ten unidentified assailants attacked him with sharp weapons, causing serious injuries to his face and neck. He was taken to Germanten Hospital, Attapur, where supporters gathered, creating tension.

Police have registered a case and are searching for the attackers. Investigators are examining old rivalries, but the motive remains unconfirmed.

Murtaza had earlier been named in the investigation into Asad's 2015 murder near Mir Alam Tank. Reports also refer to a suspected plot to kill him in 2021. Police have not linked either episode to Monday's attack.



RBI Proposes Trusted-Person Approval for Bank Transfers

New Delhi: The Reserve Bank of India on Monday proposed allowing customers to nominate a trusted adult to approve electronic transfers above a limit chosen by the account holder. The optional facility aims to protect customers, particularly elderly people vulnerable to impersonation and coercion.

Under the draft rules, banks would also provide a "Stop Switch" to block further outgoing payments and controls for setting limits or disabling digital channels. A transfer requiring trusted-person clearance would be rejected if approval is refused or not received in time.

The proposals are not yet binding. RBI has invited feedback until December 14 and envisages most safeguards taking effect from July 1, 2027. The draft would also widen the definition of bank negligence where prescribed safeguards fail.



ACB Flags Rs 66 Lakh in Questionable NIMS

Hyderabad (Munsif Desk): Telangana's Anti-Corruption Bureau has flagged suspected billing and procurement irregularities at Nizam's Institute of Medical Sciences (NIMS), raising questions over safeguards for publicly funded treatment.

Findings disclosed Monday relate to inspections on October 29 and November 2, not fresh raids. Officials identified about Rs 66 lakh in billing entries recorded after patients were discharged during July–September. Some bills were reportedly processed months after patients died, including under Aarogyasri.

Inspectors also found implants worth approximately Rs 5 crore stored by vendors near five operation theatres without authorisation. Records listed 800 pairs of gloves for one patient in a week. The bureau reported canteen hygiene violations and lapses involving manpower and security contracts.

Officials seized documents to examine possible improper payments, public losses and oversight failures.

Air India Extends Saudi Flight Suspension to November 30

Munsif Desk, New Delhi:

Air India and Air India Express on Monday extended flight suspensions to and from Jeddah, Riyadh and Dammam until November 30, citing regional security concerns. Jeddah's earlier deadline was November 24, while Riyadh and Dammam already had November 30 deadlines.

The disruption affects Indian expatriate workers, families, business travellers and people planning Umrah, increasing the need for clear updates and alternatives.

Under the airlines' advisory, passengers with confirmed bookings issued on or before November 23 for travel through November 30 can reschedule free of charge, subject to availability, or obtain a full refund. Rescheduled journeys may be completed by December 14.

Air India travellers may switch to an operational Saudi airport. Air India Express passengers may use an operational airport in Saudi Arabia or Bahrain. Travellers should check their booking status and contact airline support before heading to the airport.

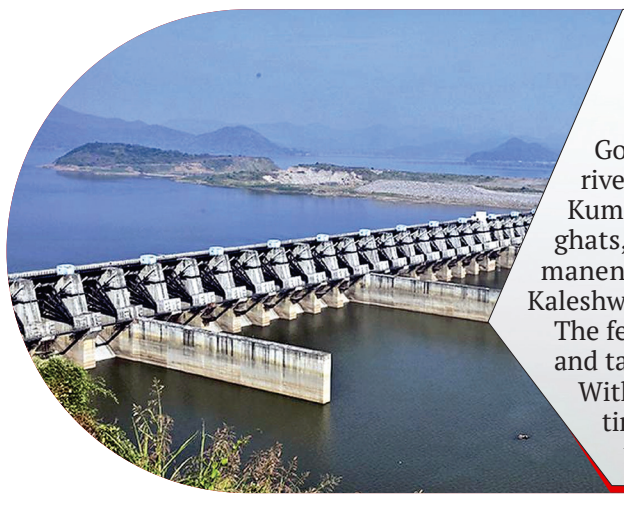
Nine Delhi Police Personnel Injured in Knife Attacks; Suspect Shot

Five wounded inside Jama Masjid station, four during attempted arrest in Chitli Qabar

New Delhi: Nine police officers were injured in two alleged knife attacks in central Delhi on Monday, police said, revising an earlier count of five.

The suspect, Nabeel, had been summoned to Jama Masjid police station over a family dispute. Around 2.30 pm, he allegedly stabbed five officers before fleeing on a snatched two-wheeler. Three reportedly suffered serious injuries.

Police traced him to Chitli Qabar, where four more officers were injured during an attempted arrest. Officers fired eight rounds, six striking Nabeel's legs, Deputy Commissioner Rohit Rajbir Singh said. He was arrested and hospitalised.



TELANGANA DETAILS RS 1,115CR GODAVARI PROJECT

Telangana has allocated Rs 1,115 crore for Godavari Pushkaralu 2027 infrastructure at 74 riverfront locations, Irrigation Minister N. Uttam Kumar Reddy said Monday. Works cover bathing ghats, roads, sanitation, drinking water and permanent temple development, including Basara, Kaleshwaram and Bhadrachalam.

The festival runs from June 26 to July 7, 2027. Logo and tagline entries close at 5 pm on November 30. With huge pilgrim crowds expected, public scrutiny of construction schedules, safety inspections and facilities remains important.

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

Cancer Drug Racket: Over 15,000 Patients Cheated Across Six States

PTI, Bengaluru, Amravati: The investigation into the cancer drug racket has revealed that the accused, led by alleged kingpin R. Prashanth Babu, sold free cancer medicines given by Karnataka government and private companies, to patients at exorbitant prices, cheating more than 15,000 patients across Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Himachal Pradesh, police said on Monday.

The racket, operated through private hospitals and multiple pharmaceutical outlets, primarily across South India. Investigators have found that medicines supplied free of cost by the Karnataka government and private companies were allegedly diverted and sold to cancer patients at high prices, generating crores of rupees for the accused. According to the investigation, the accused allegedly exploited a scheme under which patients purchasing two cancer injections worth around Rs 5 lakh were entitled to receive one additional dose free of cost. However, the accused allegedly concealed this benefit and sold even the free injections to patients at the original market price.

The investigation has also revealed that when a patient died before using the medicines, the accused allegedly bought back the unused injections at cheaper rates and resold them to other patients at their original prices.

The Special Investigation Team (SIT), which is probing the racket, is now focussing on establishing the total volume of cancer injections diverted and sold illegally.



GWMC Commissioner Urges Timely Indiramma Insurance Registration; 150 Applications Per Centre Daily

Munsif Desk, Warangal: Greater Warangal Municipal Corporation (GWMC) Commissioner T. Venkanna has directed officials to complete the Indiramma Family Insurance registration process within the stipulated deadline through systematic and well-planned efforts. He instructed them to ensure that at least 150 applications are registered daily at each designated centre.

On Monday, the Commissioner held a review meeting with officials at the Council Hall of the GWMC Head Office to assess the progress of Indiramma Family Insurance registrations, tax collection, drinking water supply and building permissions. He issued several key instructions to the concerned departments during the meeting.

Commissioner Venkanna directed officials to expedite the registration process being undertaken at 66 centres across the GWMC limits. He instructed them to continuously monitor the progress of registrations division-wise in accordance with the areas assigned to Revenue Inspectors (RIs).

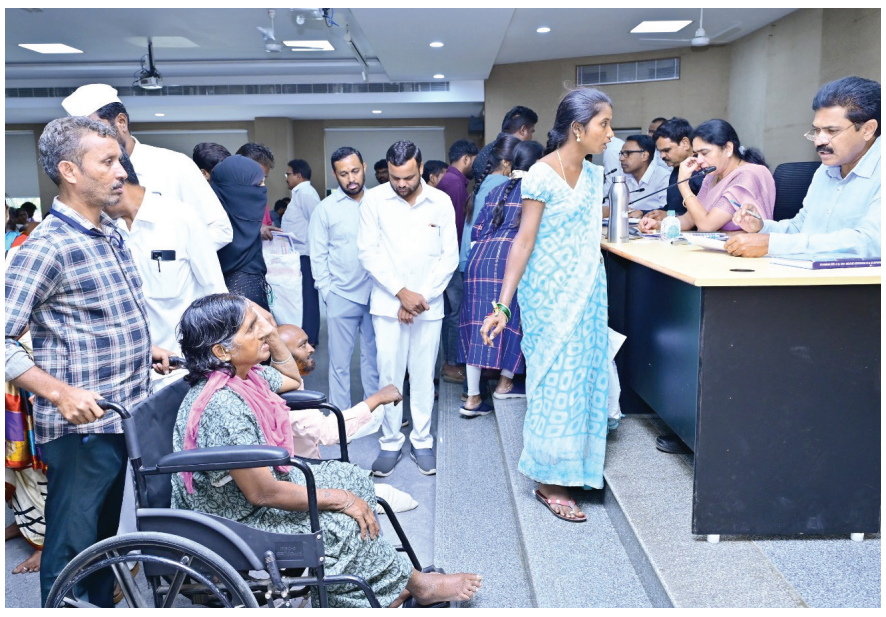
In line with the directions of the GWMC Special Officer and District Collector, Revenue officials, Ward Officers and Bill Collectors were instructed to give special attention to property tax and water connection tax collection, alongside insurance registrations. He emphasised that additional working hours should be arranged during evenings.

131 Complaints Received in Prajavani

Mohd Baleegh Ahmed, Nizamabad: Additional Collectors Rajagoud and Bhujanga Rao instructed the officials to give priority to the Prajavani programme and resolve complaints swiftly.

131 complaints were received in the Prajavani programme held on Monday in the meeting hall of the Integrated District Offices Complex. Complainants from various parts of the district submitted petitions presenting their problems to the Additional Collectors along with DRO Geetha, DRDO Sayanna, ZP CEO Sayagoud, and Bodhan ACP Srinivas.

Meanwhile, the Additional Collectors instructed the officials to examine the petitions from time to time without keeping them pending, and resolve them quickly. Officials of various departments participated in this programme.



Additional Collectors Rajagoud and Bhujanga Rao instructed the officials to give priority to the Prajavani programme and resolve complaints swiftly. 131 complaints were received in the Prajavani programme held on Monday in the meeting hall of the Integrated District Offices Complex.

Naini Challenges KTR to Contest from Warangal West

Munsif Desk, Warangal: Warangal West MLA Naini Rajender Reddy, Warangal MP Dr. Kadiyam Kavya and Wardhannapet MLA K.R. Nagaraju strongly criticised the previous BRS government, alleging that Telangana was pushed into a massive debt burden during its ten-year r ule and that people were deceived in the name of development.

Addressing a media conference at the District Congress Committee (DCC) office in Hanumakonda on Monday, the Congress leaders highlighted what they described as the failures of the previous BRS regime.

Naini Rajender Reddy's Remarks

MLA Naini Rajender Reddy alleged that former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao had deceived people with numerous false promises. He said people were no longer prepared to forgive him, even if he apologised repeatedly.

He stated that the ten-year BRS rule was largely confined to laying foundation stones, conducting ceremonial inaugurations and installing commemorative plaques. Questioning the previous government's development claims, he asked why people had voted the BRS out of power if it had genuinely delivered development.

He said the Congress government was systematically completing projects left unfinished by the previous administration.

Interstate Black Magic Fraud Gang Busted; Five Arrested

Abdul Aleem, Adilabad: Echoda police have busted an interstate gang that cheated innocent people by promising to double their money through black magic and special rituals, arresting five accused in connection with the case. Police seized ₹3.74 lakh in cash, three cars and four mobile phones from their possession.

Addressing a press conference at the district police headquarters on Monday, Adilabad District SP Akhil Mahajan, IPS, disclosed the details of the operation.



The arrested accused were identified as Athram Parashuram (40), Mandali Bakanna (47), Nougade Shekhar (39), Mandali Shailesh (27) and Shaik Aleem (36), all hailing from different areas of Adilabad and Komaram Bheem Asifabad districts.

According to the SP, complainant Thokala Raju had visited Adilabad on work along with his acquaintance Sripathi Shankar a week ago. During their visit, they met the accused near the bus stand.

Jobs and Village Development Top Priorities: Seethakka

Munsif Desk, Mulugu: State Minister for Panchayat Raj, Rural Development, Rural Water Supply, Women and Child Welfare, Danasari Anasuya Seethakka, has stated that the government's primary objective is to ensure comprehensive village development and provide employment opportunities to rural people. She called upon every Sarpanch to work with commitment and responsibility to transform their respective villages into model villages.



On Monday, the Minister participated as the chief guest at an awareness meeting held at the conference hall of the Integrated District Offices Complex in Mulugu. The meeting was organised for Sarpanches, MPDOs and officials from various departments to discuss the action plan for implementing works under the Viksit Bharat Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) scheme. She issued several directions to elected representatives and officials regarding the implementation of the programme.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister Seethakka said there was no shortage of funds for village development and instructed officials to effectively utilise the available resources for projects that directly benefit the people. She stressed the need to generate more employment opportunities in rural areas while prioritising the creation of permanent assets.

Electric Shock Leaves Youth Disabled; Family Gets Rs. 1 Lakh Aid

Munsif Desk, Jangaon: Thatikayala Bhaskar, a resident of Wade Gudem village in Jafargadh mandal of Jangaon district, suffered severe injuries after accidentally receiving an electric shock. Doctors have reportedly stated that he may no longer be able to walk due to serious spinal injuries.

Bhaskar is survived by his wife and three children, including a daughter and two sons. With the family's breadwinner now confined to bed, the household is facing severe financial and emotional difficulties. After the matter came to the notice of District Collector Sandeep Kumar Jha, he directed officials to extend support to the affected family.

Electric Shock Leaves Youth Unable to Walk; Family Gets Rs. 1 Lakh Aid

Mohd Baleegh Ahmed, Nizamabad: Jangaon, November 23 (Munsif News Bureau):

Thatikayala Bhaskar, a resident of Wade Gudem village in Jafargadh mandal of Jangaon district, suffered severe injuries after accidentally receiving an electric shock. Doctors have reportedly stated that he may no longer be able to walk due to serious spinal injuries.

Bhaskar is survived by his wife and three children, including a daughter and two sons. With the family's breadwinner now confined to bed, the household is facing severe financial and emotional difficulties.



After the matter came to the notice of District Collector Sandeep Kumar Jha, he directed officials to extend support to the affected family.

Following the Collector's instructions, Collectorate Administrative Officer Y. Ravi Kiran and Jafargadh Tahsildar Srinivas provided financial assistance of Rs. 1 lakh to the family on Monday.

The initiative reflects the district administration's commitment to standing by families facing hardships, boosting their morale and extending necessary assistance on humanitarian grounds.

33 Complaints Received at Nizamabad Prajavani

Mohd Baleeg Ahmed, Nizamabad: Nizamabad Police Commissioner P. Sai Chaitanya, IPS, conducted the Prajavani public grievance programme at the District Police Headquarters on Monday and received 33 petitions from complainants belonging to various parts of the district.

During the programme, the Commissioner personally heard the grievances of the petitioners and issued necessary instructions to the concerned police officers to resolve their problems in accordance with the law.

For the speedy disposal of the petitions, he contacted the respective Sub-Inspectors (SIs) and Circle Inspectors (CIs) over the phone and sought details regarding the nature of the complaints, their present status and the steps being taken for their resolution.

He directed the officers to take prompt action on the grievances.

Speaking on the occasion, Commissioner P. Sai Chaitanya said the district police department was committed to maintaining peace and security while bringing police services closer to the public.

Sircilla Collector Gifts Wheelchair to Elderly Woman

Munsif Desk, Rajanna Sircilla : Rajanna Sircilla District Collector Garima Agrawal displayed compassion and humanitarian concern by responding promptly to the difficulties faced by an elderly woman with mobility challenges.

On Monday, Konda Lalithamma, an elderly resident of Padma Nagar in Sircilla town, visited the Collectorate. Noticing her difficulties, Collector Garima Agrawal personally approached her, spoke to her warmly and enquired about her problems and circumstances.

Understanding her plight, the Collector immediately instructed District Welfare Officer Lakshmi Rajam to arrange a wheelchair for Lalithamma. Officials promptly made the necessary arrangements, and the Collector personally handed over the wheelchair to the elderly woman.

Lalithamma expressed her gratitude to Collector Garima Agrawal for understanding her difficulties and arranging the wheelchair without delay.

STATEWATCH | Where Telangana Speaks.

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

Vangaveeti Radhakrishna Takes Charge as Vijayawada Mayor

(NSS), Vijayawada:

Vangaveeti Radhakrishna was sworn in as the new Mayor of Vijayawada Municipal Corporation on Monday, along with 85 ward members, at a grand ceremony held at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Kalavedika.

District Collector and District Election Officer Dr. G. Lakshmi, who presided over the proceedings, administered the oath of office to the Mayor and ward members. All members, except 32nd Ward member Shailaja Surabhi, took the oath in alphabetical order. Subsequently, a special meeting was convened to elect the Deputy Mayor. TDP corporator Chennupati Kantishree, representing Ward 12, was proposed for the post by Ward 48 member Ukti Venkateswara Rao and seconded by Ward 4 member Nandipati Devanand Kumar.

With no other candidate in the fray, the Presiding Officer declared Kantishree unanimously elected as Deputy Mayor.

Collector Inspects SIR, Insurance Camp and Pushkar Ghat Works

(NSS), Peddapalli:

District Collector Koya Sri Harsha conducted a field inspection of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, the Indiramma Family Insurance registration camp and the ongoing construction works at Manthani Godavari Pushkar Ghat.

The Collector directed the concerned officials to ensure that accurate details of eligible beneficiaries and their nominees were collected under the State government's Indiramma Family Life Insurance Scheme so that every eligible family could avail the benefit.

On Monday, the Collector inspected the ongoing SIR process and the registration camp established under the Indiramma Family Insurance Scheme at the Pannur Gram Panchayat office premises in Ramagiri mandal.

Later, he visited the Godavari Pushkar Ghat at Manthani and reviewed the progress of development and construction works being undertaken in view of the Godavari Pushkaralu scheduled to be held in 2027.

Revanth blames previous BRS govt for Krishna water injustice, Palnadu grid

(NSS), Hyderabad:

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy on Monday accused the Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) of spreading misinformation regarding river water sharing and the Palnadu Water Grid project, stating that his government would counter their claims with documentary evidence. Addressing a press conference in Hyderabad, the Chief Minister said BRS leaders were attempting to malign the Congress government through "falsehoods and half-truths" by alleging that the current administration had permitted the construction of the Palnadu Water Grid.

"The project was launched by then Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy in 2022, when K. Chandrashekar Rao (KCR) was the Chief Minister of Telangana," Revanth Reddy said. He noted that the previous Andhra Pradesh government had issued a Government Order (GO) for the ₹1,200-crore project under the Jal Jeevan Mission with a 2024 completion target, yet KCR never raised an objection. According to Revanth Reddy, it was only after the Congress assumed office that the issue was flagged before the Krishna River Management Board (KRMB), alongside a formal complaint lodged with the Centre by Irrigation Minister N.



Uttam Kumar Reddy.

The Chief Minister further alleged that former Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao and former Minister T. Harish Rao had compromised Telangana's rightful share of Krishna river waters.

Wife arrested for allegedly burning husband alive in Sangareddy

(NSS), Hyderabad:

The Kangti police, who cracked the murder case of a man, found his wife to be the accused. According to Inspector Venkat Reddy, the charred body of Gune Jarappa (46) was found on his bed on the premises of his house in Degulwadi village. During the investigation, the police identified his wife, Bujjamma (36), as the accused.

The police said Jarappa, who was addicted to liquor, used to harass his wife after consuming alcohol almost every day. Unable to bear the harassment, Bujjamma allegedly doused him with petrol and set him on fire while he was in deep sleep. The accused, who was produced before a court, was remanded.

Following the complaint, police registered a case, formed special teams and arrested Shiva within 24 hours. They recovered the stolen mobile phone and the knife allegedly used in the murder.

Kavitha Slams Revanth Over Krishna Water Issue

(NSS), Rajamahendravaram:

Telangana Rakshana Sena (TRS) president Kalvakuntla Kavitha has accused Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy of allowing Krishna water to flow to Andhra Pradesh due to his alleged negligence and failure to protect Telangana's water interests.

Speaking to the media during her visit to Rajamahendravaram on Monday, Kavitha said people in Telangana were questioning their own Chief Minister over his alleged inaction and helplessness rather than blaming Andhra Pradesh leaders. She said both Telugu states should follow the rules and procedures laid down by the Apex Council for equitable distribution of water after bifurcation. Proper sharing of water resources, she observed, would help maintain cordial relations between the two states.

Kavitha urged the Andhra Pradesh government to distribute water in accordance with the AP Reorganization Act and appealed to Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu to



cooperate in resolving the issue. She also alleged that Andhra Pradesh was diverting Krishna water without obtaining the required permission.

Kavitha said that despite the division of the states, people of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh should continue to maintain unity and friendly relations.

Hospitals Partner with Cyberabad Police to Ease Traffic

(NSS), Hyderabad:

Cyberabad Police and the healthcare sector have joined hands to address growing traffic congestion and promote sustainable urban mobility. As part of "Cyberabad Moves 2026", an exclusive interaction titled 'Hospital Heads Connect' was organised at the Cyberabad Commissionerate Auditorium on Monday, bringing together hospital heads and healthcare representatives to discuss practical solutions.

Cyberabad Commissioner of Police and SCSC Chairman Dr. M. Ramesh highlighted the widening gap between the growing number of vehicles and available road infrastructure. He said infrastructure expansion alone would not solve the problem and called for collective responsibility, staggered institutional schedules, greater use of public transport and priority movement for emergency vehicles.

SCSC CEO Naved Alam Khan said Cyberabad witnesses nearly 25 lakh vehicles on its roads daily, with around 2,500 new vehicles being added every day. He pointed out that congestion not only affects commuters but also delays critical emergency services, including ambulances. He outlined initiatives such as road widening, scientific junction improvements, the Convergence Centre and a pilot contraflow BRTS corridor to improve traffic flow.

Explaining the objectives of Cyberabad Moves, Srinivas Alavilli stressed the need to strengthen public transport, reduce unnecessary private vehicle trips and introduce staggered OP timings at hospitals. He also expressed concern over pedestrian fatalities, stating that around five pedestrians lose their lives every week in Hyderabad.

DCP Kukatpally Ritiraj called upon hospitals to demonstrate civic responsibility and adopt practical measures to reduce traffic. He cited initiatives such as Omega Hospitals incentivising patients to use public transport.

Hospital representatives suggested introducing early morning OP timings, offering incentives for public transport users, scheduling essential services on weekends and promoting a weekly 'Green Cyberabad Day' to encourage electric vehicles, cycling and public transport. Other proposals included carpooling, sector-wise traffic management and deploying traffic marshals.

The meeting also stressed stronger hospital participation in the SCSC Health Council.

Four Probationary DSPs Begin Training in Nizamabad



Mohd Baleeg Ahmed
Nizamabad:

Four probationary Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs), who have arrived in Nizamabad district for six months of training under the Nizamabad Police Commissionerate, met and formally reported to Police Commissioner P. Sai Chaitanya, IPS, on Monday.

On the occasion, the Police Commissioner advised the probationary officers to gain comprehensive practical knowledge of various aspects of police administration during their training period.

He stressed the importance of understanding district police administration, maintenance of law and order, crime prevention, investigation of cases, identification of criminals, redressal of public grievances, functioning of police stations, court-related duties, traffic management, cybercrime investigation and the protection of women and children.

Telangana ACB Nabs 125 Officials in Anti-Bribery Drive

(NSS), Hyderabad:

Demanding a bribe from a citizen for performing an official duty could itself attract criminal action, even if the money is not ultimately accepted, in light of a recent Supreme Court ruling.

While dealing with a case involving a Rajasthan police head constable, the Supreme Court clarified that demanding illegal gratification for an act unconnected with a public servant's official decision or recommendation was a criminal act and did not enjoy the protection of prior approval under Section 17A of the Prevention of Corruption Act. The legal position has added significance to the anti-corruption drive in the State, where nearly 125 government employees have been caught in Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) trap cases this year following complaints from citizens.

The ACB has intensified action against officials allegedly demanding money for providing services that citizens are legally entitled to receive. Several employees from different departments have been arrested and remanded in judicial custody. ACB sources said that, following a complaint against an officer regarding bribe demands, necessary fact verification was carried out. Based on the complaint and the circumstantial and digital evidence available, the official was booked and taken into custody.

Police personnel reportedly account for the highest number of officials caught in bribery cases, followed by revenue department employees. Among the prominent cases, Keesara police station Inspector Anjaneyulu and Sub-Inspector Gnanender Reddy were arrested on September 16 for allegedly demanding Rs 8 lakh and accepting Rs 5 lakh to grant station bail in a Public Distribution System (PDS) rice transportation case.

Bandi Sanjay Accuses Congress of Politicising SIR

(NSS), Karimnagar:

Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar accused Congress leaders of politicising the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and unnecessarily criticising the BJP-led Central government. He asserted that the BJP was certain to come to power in Telangana.

Speaking to the media during his visit to Karimnagar on Monday, Bandi Sanjay questioned Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's claim that Congress would win 90 Assembly seats.

He asked whether the party could secure such a mandate without fulfilling its poll promises, including unemployment allowance and financial assistance of Rs.2,500 to women.

He said people had already decided to bring the BJP to power in Telangana.

Questioning Congress's opposition to SIR, he asked whether removing the names of deceased persons and alleged anti-national elements from electoral rolls was wrong.



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At a Glance

Schoolchildren Injured as Car Rams E-Rickshaw in Bihar

(IANS) Patna, Several schoolchildren were injured when a speeding car hit an e-rickshaw carrying around a dozen children on the Araria-Raniganj road (NH-327E) in Bihar on Monday, officials said. The accident occurred near the Electricity Department office after an oncoming car allegedly went out of control and rammed the vehicle.

Locals took the injured to Araria Sadar Hospital. One child's arm was severed and trapped in the vehicle. Doctors said 15-year-old Md Akram and a 10-year-old boy were critical and referred them to a higher medical centre. Seven-year-old Abu Hamwad, driver Md Abid, 30, and other children were being treated. Reports of one child's death remained unconfirmed.

Police are investigating and trying to identify the car and its driver.

Free Cancer Drugs Sold to 15,000 Patients

(IANS) Bengaluru, Karnataka's cancer drug racket allegedly cheated over 15,000 patients across six states, police said. Free cancer injections supplied by the state government and private companies were allegedly diverted and sold at high prices through private hospitals and pharmacies.

Investigators said the accused concealed a scheme under which patients buying two injections worth about Rs 5 lakh were entitled to a third dose free. Unused injections were allegedly bought back at lower rates and resold. The SIT is tracing supplies, hospitals and money flows.

Alleged kingpin R. Prashanth Babu has also been taken into Delhi Police custody in a separate Rs 2-crore cheating case over a promised medicine supply, registered in Delhi recently.

PM Modi highlights how India's fight against poverty is changing lives



(IANS) New Delhi, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday shared an article by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, highlighting how India's fight against poverty is changing lives across the country.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman wrote about how PM Modi's leadership has shifted the focus from temporary relief to addressing the barriers that perpetuate poverty.

"Through access to housing, healthcare, clean water, banking and entrepreneurship, she traces the progress made by crores of households and the growing economic participation of rural women", PM Modi remarked.

"From necessities to new livelihood opportunities, India's fight against poverty is changing lives across the country," the Prime Minister said in a post on X.

In an essay titled "The Decade India Turned the Tide on Poverty" published on LinkedIn, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman cited the World Bank's 'October 2026 Poverty & Equity Brief' on India to argue that the country's approach over the past decade shifted from temporary relief to removing structural barriers that perpetuate deprivation.

Sitharaman noted that nearly 50 crore Indians moved above poverty thresholds between 2011 and 2023. According to the October 2026 World Bank brief (using 2021 purchasing power parity), the share of Indians below the $4.20/day lower-middle-income line fell from 57.7 per cent to 16.1 per cent, while extreme poverty at $3/day dropped from 27.1 per cent to 2.6 per cent.

She wrote that poverty is not merely a lack of income, pointing out that households without secure housing, clean water, sanitation, or healthcare remain vulnerable to slipping back—such as when a medical emergency wipes out savings.

Sitharaman credited targeted welfare programmes, financial inclusion (such as Jan Dhan accounts), Direct Benefit Transfers (DBT), and women's self-help group initiatives (including Lakhpati Didis she met in Kiphire, Nagaland) for driving lasting change.

She stated that the next challenge is lifting those still at the bottom while ensuring newly risen households sustain their gains without sliding back, supported by employment, education, skilling, and digital economy opportunities toward Viksit Bharat.

'No One Can Take a Mother's Place': CM Yogi Pays Emotional Tribute to Savitri Devi



(IANS) New Delhi, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday paid an emotional tribute to his late mother, Savitri Devi, recalling her unconditional love, the values she instilled in him and an encounter after he embraced renunciation.

In a post on X, Adityanath described motherhood as the world's most beautiful emotion. He said a mother could take everyone's place, but no one could take hers, and called her the "Mother of the Universe".

Recalling mothers in religious traditions, he referred to Mata Kaushalya blessing Lord Shri Ram before his exile and Lord Krishna being taken from Mathura to Gokul at his mother's wish. He said a mother's values could shape children such as Dhruva and Prahlad.

Adityanath described a mother's death as the loss of emotional security, unconditional love and the shelter of a home. He remembered Savitri Devi as his first teacher, who introduced him to the world of letters.

He recalled returning to his ancestral home in Panchur, Uttarakhand, more than three years after embracing renunciation. Dressed in saffron robes, he stood outside and called for alms, as required by a ritual in the monastic tradition.

His mother came out but struggled to believe what she was seeing. She asked why he had taken to begging when nothing was lacking at home. Adityanath said he told her renunciation was his duty and a yogi's hunger could be satisfied only through alms. He had come not to stay, but to seek alms.

He said his mother's affection ultimately respected his resolve to become a monk. He added that Sanatan values were nurtured by reverence for mothers and that some debts could never be repaid, though responsibilities could be fulfilled.

He said he was trying to fulfil this duty towards the women of Uttar Pradesh. He urged people to support neglected and deprived mothers, understand their pain and bring a smile to those who were suffering.

Savitri Devi, 91, died on Friday at her ancestral village of Panchur in Uttarakhand's Pauri Garhwal district.

TN CM Vijay to meet alliance MLAs today; Left parties also to attend meeting



(IANS) Chennai, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, C. Joseph Vijay, will meet legislators from the TVK's alliance partners and the two Left parties that support his government on Monday. It will be his first meeting with the MLAs as a group since he took office and comes days after he held a similar interaction with legislators from his own party.

The meeting is scheduled for 2 p.m. at Pamani Illam, the Chief Minister's camp office on Greenways Road in Chennai.

Senior TVK sources said Vijay wants to hear directly from the legislators about their grievances and assure them that they can approach him whenever they have an issue to raise.

The Congress, the Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) and the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) have received invitations.

CM Vijay, who is also the TVK president, has extended the invitation to MLAs of the Communist Party of India (CPI) and the Communist Party of India (Marxist), or CPI(M).

Both Left parties support the TVK government from outside. A senior TVK leader confirmed that their legislators would attend.

The participation of the Left MLAs gives the meeting particular significance. The CPI and the CPI(M) had jointly stayed away from the two previous meetings of the TVK-led Secular Social Justice Victory Alliance, in keeping with their decision to keep out of the coalition's formal deliberations.

Monday's meeting will be the first time since the government took office that legislators of the two parties will interact with CM Vijay together.

TVK sources described the gathering as a courtesy meeting at which the legislators would have an opportunity to speak with the Chief Minister.

One of the messages Vijay intends to convey, they said, is that they need not wait for another collective meeting to take up a concern with him. They can seek a meeting with him directly as and when an issue arises.

The meeting comes amid reports that the Opposition is considering another no-confidence motion against the government.

TVK sources said there were no plans to discuss those reports on Monday. A broader review of the political situation was also outside the scope of the interaction, they said.

FSSAI Action Against Bisleri Linked to Single Goa Sample



(IANS) Jaipur, Bisleri said FSSAI's action relates to a water sample collected at its Goa facility in September 2025. Of six samples, five met standards; one showed bromate at 12 micrograms per litre, above the 10-microgram limit.

The company said referral and FSSAI-approved laboratory tests found bromate within limits, though the referral lab detected polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).

FSSAI said the sample was unsafe due to PAHs and approved prosecution proceedings. Bisleri said it submitted test results in February 2026 and received no further communication. It maintained its products are safe and would cooperate with the regulator.

Rahul Gandhi To Visit Jaipur On Dec 9, Kharge To Inaugurate Training Camp For New National Secretaries



(IANS) Jaipur, Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi will visit Jaipur on December 9 to attend the concluding session of a 10-day training camp for the party's newly appointed National Secretaries.

The camp will begin on November 30 at Bada Padampura, about 35 km from Jaipur. Congress National President Mallikarjun Kharge will inaugurate it. The schedules of both Kharge and Rahul Gandhi have been finalised. Senior Congress leaders will train the newly appointed National Secretaries over the 10-day programme.

On November 19, the party appointed 81 National Secretaries, assigning them responsibilities as co-in-charges of various states. The Congress has begun preparations for the training camp at Bada Padampura. KC Venugopal, the party's General Secretary (Organisation), is scheduled to visit Jaipur on November 25 to review the arrangements and oversee preparations.

Bada Padampura has previously hosted several national and regional-level training programmes organised by the Congress. In 2003, the party organised a three-day national training camp at the venue, which was attended by senior leaders, including Sonia Gandhi.

Several regional-level training camps have also been held there. The Congress has introduced an initiative to train newly appointed office-bearers before assigning them responsibilities in different states.

The party's training cell regularly organises such programmes for its leaders. An earlier training camp was organised in Mount Abu.

Participation in these programmes is restricted to selected leaders. During the 10-day camp, the National Secretaries will receive training on various aspects of party functioning, including strengthening the organisational structure, political strategy and developing a political narrative in favour of the Congress.

The newly appointed National Secretaries from Rajasthan are Hem Singh Shekhawat, Rehana Riyaz, Dheeraj Gurjar, Dungarram Gathar, Danish Abrar and Jagdish Jangid. The Congress removed all three co-in-charge secretaries of its Rajasthan unit from their positions on November 20 and appointed four new leaders in their place.

While six leaders from Rajasthan were appointed as National Secretaries, three leaders, including MP Sanjana Jatav and Divya Maderna, were removed from their posts.

India remains world's largest producer of black tea, 3rd-largest tea exporter

(IANS) New Delhi, India remains the world's largest producer of black tea and the third-largest tea exporter, with shipments reaching 282.11 million kg worth $988.13 million in 2025-26, according to the government.

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal chaired an interaction with tea industry stakeholders in Kurseong, West Bengal, organised by Tea Board India. Discussions focused on reviving the Darjeeling tea industry, improving the auction system, strengthening research, enhancing quality, promoting exports and ensuring the welfare of tea workers.

An official statement said participants held discussions on making the tea auction system faster, more efficient and responsive to the industry's needs. They stressed technology-driven reforms, transparency, operational efficiency and reducing transaction-related difficulties.

"Ease of Doing Business emerged as a key priority, with emphasis on simplifying processes, improving efficiency and creating a more enabling environment for stakeholders across the tea value chain," the statement said.

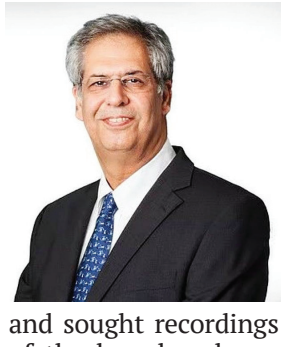
The meeting focused on strengthening Indian tea exports through targeted promotion and effective use of opportunities under the government's Export Promotion Mission (EPM). Stakeholders suggested measures to expand India's presence in international markets, improve market access and strengthen the global positioning and competitiveness of Indian tea.

The statement said coordinated efforts by the government, Tea Board India and industry stakeholders would be important to promote Indian tea in both traditional and emerging markets.

The welfare of tea plantation workers and their families was discussed. The interaction gave stakeholders an opportunity to raise concerns, offer suggestions and consider practical measures for the development of the tea sector.

India's tea exports during 2025-26 stood at 282.11 million kg, valued at $988.13 million, highlighting the sector's contribution to the country's agricultural economy and export earnings.

Tata Sons postpones board meeting as Noel Tata seeks weeks' notice



(IANS) Mumbai, Tata Sons has postponed its November 26 board meeting after Noel Tata sought the statutory one-week notice and advance circulation of the agenda, according to an NDTV Profit report

The meeting was to discuss the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) insistence that Tata Sons meet listing rules for upper-layer non-banking financial companies (NBFCs). Noel Tata wants the board to consider a restructuring plan to help the company avoid listing.

He reportedly objected that the agenda and papers were uploaded only on November 22, giving directors four days to study them. He said board documents were usually circulated seven days in advance.

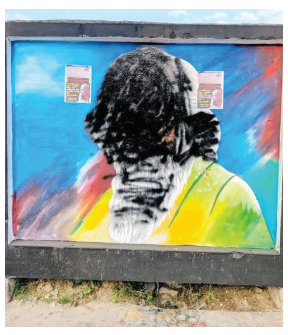
The RBI classified Tata Sons as an upper-layer NBFC in September 2022, triggering a listing requirement within three years. It rejected the company's bid to exit the core investment company framework in September 2026. On November 16, the RBI reiterated that Tata Sons must comply with listing norms.

Noel Tata's proposal involves merging Tata Electronics Systems Solutions (TESS) and Tata Consulting Engineers (TCE) into Tata Sons to alter its structure. The plan needs regulatory approvals.

Another dispute concerns Chairman N. Chandrasekaran's reappointment for five years. Directors backed it on September 17, while Noel Tata opposed it. He questioned the process and sought recordings of the board and one committee meeting.

He has now cited an alleged conflict of interest involving nominee director Venu Srinivasan. Tata Sons says there was no conflict and matters were disclosed.

Tagore's Portrait Defaced Again in Bangladesh



(IANS) Dhaka, A wall portrait of Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore at Khulna Railway Station in Bangladesh was defaced with black ink again on Sunday, just days after it was restored following an earlier act of vandalism, local media reported.

The portrait is part of a series of murals painted opposite the Khulna Development Authority building under an urban beautification initiative of Khulna City Corporation (KCC). The murals also feature Kazi Nazrul Islam, Fakir Lalon Shah, SM Sultan and Michael Madhusudan Dutt. However, only Tagore's portrait was targeted.

Khulna Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Lokman Hossain told The Daily Star that police personnel were being sent to the spot to investigate the incident and identify those responsible.

Earlier this month, unidentified miscreants had defaced the same portrait, triggering protests from residents and cultural activists.

KCC Administrator Nazrul Islam Manju condemned the act, saying it reflected a narrow-minded and sick mentality.

Cultural activist Shariful Islam Salim alleged that an organised group was behind the repeated incidents and called for those responsible to be identified and brought to justice.

Last month, a Tagore mural outside the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in Dhaka was also defaced. At least 37 prominent Bangladeshi citizens subsequently expressed concern, warning that such incidents could encourage religious extremism and deepen communal tensions.

Nepal Step Up Connectivity Push, Focus On Hydropower



(IANS) New Delhi, India and Nepal have agreed to strengthen bilateral trade and economic ties through improved air, rail and road connectivity, expanded energy cooperation and cross-border infrastructure projects following talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepalese counterpart, Balendra Shah, in New Delhi on Monday.

According to a joint statement, both sides agreed to make the existing Kathmandu-Bhairahawa-Lucknow B345 air route bidirectional. Technical consultations will be held to finalise the arrangements. India also announced access to Deendayal Port at Kandla for Nepal's transit trade, with access to Paradip Port to follow after the required infrastructure is developed.

The leaders flagged off the inaugural Sarayu-Kamala Express between Ayodhya and Janakpur to promote connectivity and religious tourism along the Ramayana Circuit. They also agreed to explore links for Buddhist and Shiv-Shakti tourism circuits.

The field location survey for the proposed electrified broad-gauge Raxaul-Kathmandu railway line has been finalised. Both countries will also cooperate in developing Nepal's East-West Railway. A new motorable bridge connecting Dharchula in India with Darchula in Nepal was inaugurated to improve cross-border movement.

In the petroleum sector, the leaders dedicated Phase II of the Motihari-Amlekhgunj pipeline to the people of Nepal and virtually laid the foundation stone for a petroleum terminal at Jhapa. They also called for early work on the Siliguri-Jhapa pipeline and agreed to explore gas pipeline cooperation.

Hydropower emerged as a key area of cooperation. Both sides welcomed the participation of Indian companies in Nepal's power sector and agreed to expedite ongoing projects. The leaders virtually laid the foundation stone for the 669 MW Lower Arun Hydroelectric Project.

They also directed the Pancheshwar Development Authority and the Joint Committee on Water Resources to finalise the Detailed Project Report of the Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project at the earliest. Work on the DPRs of the Saptakoshi and Sunkoshi multipurpose projects will also be accelerated to harness water resources and mitigate floods.

The two sides welcomed progress on joint ventures for cross-border transmission lines linking Inaruwa with New Purnea and Dododhara with Bareilly.

In another initiative, India will establish an offshore campus of the Indian Institute of Technology in Nepal to support higher education and employment generation.

Former NSA Sullivan says Shenzhen summit delivered no practical gains for US



(IANS) Washington, Former US National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan has said President Donald Trump's summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin produced no practical gains for Washington and sent a troubling message to its democratic allies.

Speaking on CNN's Fareed Zakaria GPS on Sunday, Sullivan, who served under former President Joe Biden from 2021 to 2025, said the meeting yielded no tangible results for the United States.

"Did the United States get anything out of it? I would say no. Were there any practical results? No," he said.

Trump, Xi and Putin met in Shenzhen on November 19. Their joint declaration pledged dialogue on reducing nuclear risks and preventing proliferation, reaffirming that "a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought". However, it announced no agreement to limit nuclear arsenals.

Sullivan said the summit suggested that Washington was moving closer to the authoritarian leaders of Russia and China than to its democratic allies. He said Xi benefited from hosting the meeting, while Putin used it to project the influence of major powers over smaller countries, potentially undermining Ukraine's confidence.

Describing Trump's participation as a "vanity project", Sullivan said the US President wanted to sit with leaders he considered his equals.

He also warned about China's expanding nuclear arsenal, estimating that its stockpile had grown from fewer than 300 weapons to around 600, with the potential to reach 1,000 or even 1,500 and beyond. He attributed Beijing's earlier reluctance to engage in nuclear talks to its desire to expand its arsenal.

However, Sullivan acknowledged the importance of involving China in nuclear risk-reduction discussions, saying communication was essential to prevent accidental escalation.

On Ukraine, he criticised Trump's approach to ending the war, arguing that Washington appeared willing to negotiate a settlement with Moscow that Kyiv would have to accept. He said continued European assistance and US intelligence-sharing would be crucial for Ukraine.

Sullivan also questioned whether a blockade targeting Iran's energy revenues would force Tehran to capitulate. He said Iran retained the ability to threaten Gulf energy infrastructure, US military facilities and shipping, while keeping fuel prices elevated.

He urged Washington to end the war, regroup and adopt a different strategy.

South Korea monitoring troop activities after North Korean vessel marked 'coast guard' spotted near NLL



(IANS) Seoul, South Korea's military said on Monday it is monitoring North Korean troop movements near the maritime border following a media report of a North Korean vessel marked "coast guard" spotted near the Northern Limit Line (NLL) in the Yellow Sea.

Earlier in the day, a local newspaper reported the vessel marked "coast guard," the first North Korean ship seen bearing those words, was spotted last week near the de facto maritime border between the two Koreas.

The vessel was equipped with what appeared to be 76-millimetre-calibre naval artillery, the report said, noting it appeared to be monitoring Chinese fishing boats nearby, Yonhap News Agency reported.

"Our military is closely monitoring and following the activities of North Korean forces," Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) spokesperson Captain Jang Do-young told a press briefing.

"The activities of North Korean vessels in the front-line maritime areas are under real-time monitoring of our military's surveillance systems," Jang said, without elaborating on the role and purpose of the spotted vessel.

North Korean leader Kim Jong-un unveiled plans in March to introduce a police system in a nation where public security forces have traditionally carried out policing roles.

The move was widely seen as part of efforts to project itself as a normal nation by adopting police systems commonly adopted by most others.

The goal, Kim told a session of the newly elected Supreme People's Assembly on March 23, is "further solidifying and developing our legal and social systems by revamping legal regulations and establishing more effective and practical organisational systems to guarantee national security and social stability."

Calling a police system "essential" to running the state, he urged the country to step up efforts to maintain public order.

Kim also ordered thorough preparations to turn social security forces into police forces once the police system is formally established, suggesting the Ministry of Social Security, which oversees public order, could be converted into a police body.

Delta Restores System After 1,000-Plus Flight Delays



(IANS) Washington, Delta Air Lines restored an automated aircraft-loading system on Sunday after a technical failure disrupted flights across the United States at the start of the Thanksgiving travel rush, according to US news reports citing the airline.

The problem affected calculations used to determine an aircraft's weight and balance before departure. Crews relied on manual procedures while technicians worked to restore the system.

The Wall Street Journal reported that more than 1,000 Delta flights were delayed during the day and that the airline confirmed the system was working again on Sunday afternoon.

At Delta's Atlanta hub, the disruption prompted restrictions on departures intended to prevent congestion. The airline requested a ground stop, which was subsequently replaced by a ground-delay programme, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported.

A ground stop holds affected flights at their departure airports. A ground-delay programme spaces out departures to manage the number of aircraft arriving at a congested airport.

Both restrictions were lifted before noon, the newspaper reported, citing Federal Aviation Administration advisories. Delta announced that the automated calculations were working again shortly before 4 p.m.

The FAA said the disruption did not involve its own air traffic systems, according to the newspaper. The problem therefore differed from the nationwide air traffic stoppage earlier this month.

Delta apologised to affected passengers and said it was arranging alternative itineraries, with meals and hotel accommodation where necessary, Atlanta television station WSB-TV reported. Passengers whose flights were cancelled and who no longer wished to travel would receive refunds, the airline said, according to the station.

About 5,000 Delta and Delta Connection flights were scheduled for Sunday. The airline attributed approximately 70 per cent of its delays and cancellations to the automation problem, with the remainder linked to bad weather and associated air traffic restrictions in New York and the wider northeastern United States, WSB-TV reported.

Those figures distinguish the system failure from other disruptions affecting the airline's schedule.

"Delta teams are focused on completing the remainder of today's schedule," the airline said in the statement reported by WSB-TV.

Hundreds of schools in Germany receive bomb threats



(IANS) Berlin, Hundreds of schools across Germany received bomb threats on Monday morning, prompting precautionary evacuations at some institutions, although police said there were no indications of any concrete danger.

The threats were reported across several federal states, including Freiburg and Hamburg, German public broadcaster ARD's Tagesschau reported.

In Thuringia, several educational institutions received identical threatening emails, police said in a press release. Authorities said they did not consider the threats serious at present and advised schools against evacuations, recommending that normal operations continue.

The incidents come amid similar threats in other European countries. Earlier this month, three schools in France were evacuated following bomb alerts on November 12. The alerts, reported in Marseille, Morez and Laon, were later found to be false.

French President Emmanuel Macron said the country was remaining vigilant amid what he described as an "epidemic of bomb alerts and threats". He said there was insufficient evidence to identify those responsible or establish any involvement of foreign powers.

On November 11, hundreds of schools across Italy also received bomb threats through emails sent to school administrations. At least 300 institutions were affected, according to broadcaster La7, which cited Education Minister Giuseppe Valditara.

Indonesian Navy seizes Bangladesh-bound ship carrying 405 tonnes of explosive-making material



(IANS) Jakarta, The Indonesian Navy has seized a Comoros-flagged vessel carrying 405 tonnes of sodium perchlorate from China to Bangladesh in coastal waters off Belawan, local media reported.

The vessel, MV Star Line, was detained on November 7 after naval personnel noticed suspicious activity while it was anchored off Belawan for refuelling, Indonesian media outlet Waspada.id reported.

Rear Admiral Denny Septiana, commander of the Indonesian Navy Regional Command-1 (Koarmada I), disclosed details of the operation at a press conference on November 20.

He said patrol personnel aboard KRI Sigalu-857 became suspicious after noticing that the vessel was sailing outside its designated route. Subsequent checks revealed discrepancies in its documents and cargo, prompting a detailed inspection.

According to Denny, the ship was carrying 36 containers, 15 of which were declared to contain 405 tonnes of sodium perchlorate, a powerful oxidising chemical used in industrial applications and the manufacture of certain explosives.

Investigators also found that although the ship's documents showed an expiry date of October 8, 2027, their validity status was marked as suspended.

Denny said the discrepancy was being investigated to establish the vessel's administrative compliance, the legality of its voyage and whether regulations governing the transportation of dangerous goods had been followed.

The Indonesian Navy said authorities were questioning individuals linked to the incident as part of the ongoing investigation.

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

India fully committed to UK trade pact, seeks fix for Scotch whisky tariff issue

India on Monday rejected suggestions that it was reneging on tariff concessions for Scotch whisky under the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA), saying the issue relates solely to the correct classification of imported bulk Scotch whisky under the customs tariff schedule.

Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said the government's commitment under the trade pact remains unchanged and has been clearly communicated to the UK government as well as industry stakeholders.

"The commitment is as given under CETA. There is no pullback or pushback," Agrawal told reporters, adding that discussions with UK importers and companies had been constructive.

He said he met representatives of British importers around two weeks ago and they were satisfied with the engagement and the proposed way forward. According to Agrawal, India negotiated tariff concessions on the understanding that bulk Scotch whisky would be imported under Harmonised System of Nomenclature (HSN) code 220830.

However, authorities later found that some bulk Scotch imports were also entering under HSN code 220890, a residual category covering a wide range of products and carrying a different tariff treatment.

The complication stems from a series of court rulings dating back several decades. Agrawal said importers had challenged the revenue department's classification of the product under code 220830, with judgments from the Bombay High Court in 1991 and the Delhi High Court in subsequent years supporting the industry's position. Those rulings were later upheld by the Supreme Court.

The Commerce Secretary said negotiators were unaware that bulk Scotch whisky had been entering under the residual tariff line because the category covers hundreds of products and import patterns under it are not routinely tracked.

He added that the issue does not appear to have been raised during negotiations by the UK side either and only came to broader notice later through industry representations.

"We are not getting into negotiations again. We are trying to find a fix to this challenge," he said, adding that legal opinions are being sought to ensure any resolution is consistent with existing court orders.

After bird flu concerns impact egg exports from Namakkal, TN



Oman's ban on egg imports from Namakkal over bird flu concerns has left six crore eggs stranded in the Tamil Nadu poultry hub, prompting farmers and traders to urge the Centre and the state government to declare the region a special egg export zone.

Oman normally takes about half of the eggs exported from Namakkal, which accounts for more than 90 per cent of India's egg exports.

The suspension has hit poultry farmers and exporters in Tamil Nadu as well as importers in Oman who rely on supplies from the region.

The president of the Namakkal Livestock and Agricultural Farmers and Traders Association said poultry farms across the region follow strict biosecurity practices. He argued that the measures in place at local farms should be taken into account when decisions are made on whether shipments from Namakkal can continue after bird flu is detected elsewhere.

The association wants the central and state governments to secure separate recognition for Namakkal as an egg export zone. Its immediate concern is that an outbreak in another poultry-producing region could interrupt trade for Namakkal farmers even when their own flocks are unaffected.

The proposed designation, the association said, would help protect the industry against such disruptions.

The Namakkal poultry belt extends across Namakkal, Salem, Erode and Coimbatore and has more than 1,000 poultry farms. Together, they raise about eight crore laying hens and produce roughly seven crore eggs a day. The six crore eggs now awaiting sale represent nearly a full day's production across the belt.

Farms in the region supply eggs to the Tamil Nadu government's nutrition programme and to markets across the state.

Traders also send consignments to several other Indian states. Overseas buyers include Saudi Arabia, Iran, Iraq, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, besides Oman, and the region also supplies eggs to some African countries.

Despite that spread of buyers, Oman alone usually buys about as many eggs from Namakkal as all its other overseas markets combined.

For farmers who continue to collect eggs each day, the immediate issue is finding buyers for the accumulated stock.

The association has urged both governments to address the wider question of how to keep exports moving from Namakkal when disease restrictions are imposed in response to outbreaks in other parts of the country.

'Fatty liver-free campaign' in Ranchi from Nov 23, MoS Sanjay Seth to take lead

In a one-of-its kind initiative, Minister of State (MoS) for Defence Sanjay Seth is set to unveil 'Fatty Liver-Free Ranchi Campaign' for addressing the growing menace of fatty liver and spread public awareness about its adverse impact on health.

MoS Seth, the Parliamentarian from Ranchi, has called upon people for greater participation and urged them to take the pledge for uilding healthier lives and cities.

The campaign will be inaugurated on Monday at the CCL Auditorium in Ranchi.

The Ranchi MP, addressing a press conference on Sunday, outlined the campaign's framework and objectives.

He noted that the initiative will be conducted under the guidance of renowned hepatologist and Director of the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS), Padma Bhushan S.K. Sarin, with support from the ILBS and Ranchi's Sadar Hospital.

He also said that the initiative has been inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a 'Developed India' (Viksit Bharat) by 2047, which includes the goal of building a healthy and disease-free nation.

The campaign aims to raise awareness about the timely detection, prevention, and treatment of fatty liver—a health issue that is becoming increasingly serious.

The inauguration ceremony is expected to be attended by the Jharkhand Governor Santosh Gangwar; Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya; S.K. Sarin; and Rajya Sabha MP and State BJP President Aditya Prasad Sahu.

According to the campaign's framework, clinics will be established across 18 blocks and subdivisions in the Ranchi district and surrounding areas.

About 1,000 healthcare workers will undergo training.

Plans are also in place to deploy mobile vans to 500 locations to ensure healthcare services reach as many people as possible.

Through these channels, large-scale screening and awareness activities will be conducted.

Special emphasis has been placed on the participation of the youth.

The campaign aims to engage 50,000 students from around 40 colleges and another 50,000 students from about 60 schools.

He said that by raising awareness among youth and students, health-related messages can be disseminated to families and a broader segment of society.

The project will be reviewed every three months.

The MoS also took to his official X account for urging people for their support to the campaign.

"Our aim for the 'Fatty Liver-Free Ranchi Campaign' is to turn awareness of fatty liver into a people's movement. I appeal to all citizens of Ranchi, doctors, social organisations, educational institutions, young people and parents to join this campaign," MoS Seth said in the X post.

Coal Ministry extends accreditation validity for prospecting, mining plan agencies to five years

The Ministry of Coal on Monday notified the Mineral Concession (Third Amendment) Rules, 2026, introducing a key reform that extends the validity of accreditation for Accredited Prospecting Agencies (APAs) and Mining Plan Preparing Agencies (MPPAs) from three years to five years.

The amendment, notified through G.S.R. 999(E) dated November 17, 2026, is intended to simplify regulatory processes and improve efficiency in the coal sector.

"The Ministry of Coal has notified the Mineral Concession (Third Amendment) Rules, 2026 vide G.S.R. 999(E) dated 17 November 2026," it said.

"Subsequently, the accreditation cycle has been extended from three to five years for Accredited Prospecting Agencies (APA) and Mining Plan Preparing Agencies (MPPA)," the ministry added.

With the longer accreditation period, agencies involved in preparing geological reports and mining plans will face fewer periodic assessments and re-accreditation requirements.

The ministry said the change will help save time and resources that were previously spent on repetitive compliance procedures.

"The reform will reduce the number of periodic assessments and re-accreditations, thereby saving the time of accredited agencies on repetitive assessment and accreditation," it noted.

"The longer validity of accreditation will ensure continuity in the preparation of geological reports and mining plans, which are prerequisites for operationalization of coal and lignite blocks," the ministry stated. The reform is also expected to provide greater continuity in the preparation of geological reports and mining plans, both of which are mandatory for the development and operationalisation of coal and lignite blocks.

India Explores Drug Development Through Space Research



India is looking to leverage its growing space capabilities to unlock new opportunities in pharmaceutical innovation, with scientists, biotechnology companies and startups exploring how research conducted in microgravity could help develop next-generation medicines, a report has said.

The possibility of manufacturing and testing drugs in space was a key topic of discussion at the Bengaluru Tech Summit, which concluded on November 19, where researchers, policymakers and entrepreneurs examined how India's future space infrastructure could support biotechnology research, according to Channel News Asia report.

India, widely known as the "pharmacy of the world" for supplying affordable medicines and vaccines globally, is seeking to combine its strength in biopharmaceutical manufacturing with advances in the country's space programme.

Scientists believe that microgravity, a condition in which objects appear weightless, could offer unique advantages for pharmaceutical research, as per the report.

The scientific interest stems from the way gravity affects the formation of protein crystals on Earth.

In the near-weightless environment of space, some protein crystals can grow more uniformly, allowing researchers to study their structures in greater detail.

Such insights could help improve drug formulations and potentially accelerate the development of new therapies, the report noted.

Leading biopharmaceutical company Biocon sees significant opportunities emerging from space-based research. The company's Executive Chairperson, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, said that space technologies could help modify molecular structures, leading to the creation of new intellectual property, novel molecules and enhanced functionalities for drug development. The interest in orbital biotechnology comes at a time when the International Space Station is expected to retire around 2030, prompting governments and private companies around the world to pursue commercial space laboratories.

India is aiming to establish its presence in this emerging field through the proposed Bharatiya Antariksh Station, which is expected to be fully operational by 2035, as per the report.

Experts at the summit's space bio symposium discussed how the planned station could eventually serve as a hub for international biotechnology and pharmaceutical research.

However, some scientists argue that meaningful microgravity experiments can begin even before a permanent orbital facility becomes operational, the report noted.

India's textile industry could touch $350 billion by FY31

India's textiles and apparel industry can grow to $350 billion by fiscal 2031, including $100 billion in exports, if manufacturers improve accelerate manufacturing scale, productivity and global competitiveness, a report said on Monday.

The report from Boston Consulting Group (BCG) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) said India's textiles and apparel industry is at a pivotal stage supported by a large domestic market, an established manufacturing base and a substantial workforce, with an opportunity to strengthen its position as a leading global manufacturing and export hub. The industry is currently valued at about $190-200 billion and employs over 45 million people, with women accounting for around half the workforce and also contributes 13 per cent of India's industrial output, around 11 per cent of manufacturing gross value added and 12 per cent of total exports.

India's domestic textiles and apparel market, estimated at nearly $157 billion, accounts for nearly 80 per cent of the overall industry and is expected to grow at 9–10 per cent annually through FY31, the report forecasted.

Tamil Nadu opens final round of AYUSH medical admissions on Nov 22

The Tamil Nadu government on Saturday announced that online applications for the second phase of final counselling to fill vacant undergraduate AYUSH medical seats in government and self-financing colleges across the state will open on Sunday.

The Directorate of Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy said the special counselling process would cover vacancies in Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery (BAMS), Bachelor of Siddha Medicine and Surgery (BSMS), Bachelor of Unani Medicine and Surgery (BUMS) and Bachelor of Homoeopathic Medicine and Surgery (BHMS) courses for the 2026–27 academic year.

According to an official notification, the fresh admission exercise follows the completion of three rounds of online counselling and the first phase of final counselling.

The authorities have decided to conduct another round to ensure that seats remaining vacant under different admission categories are filled. The counselling will cover available seats under the government quota, government-surrendered seats, management quota and All India quota in government and self-financing AYUSH medical institutions across Tamil Nadu. \

Candidates who have completed their higher secondary education in the science stream and secured the prescribed qualifying marks in NEET-UG 2026 will be eligible to apply for the five-and-a-half-year undergraduate medical programmes. The online registration process will begin on November 22 and close at 5 p.m. on November 23.

Applications must be submitted exclusively through the official admission portal, www.tnayushselection.org.

The directorate has clarified that candidates seeking admission under government, All India and management quotas must submit separate applications for the respective categories. For government quota admissions, candidates belonging to the Open Competition (OC), Backward Classes (BC), Backward Classes Muslim (BCM) and Most Backward Classes/Denotified Communities (MBC/DNC) categories must pay an application fee of Rs 500.

Candidates belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Caste Arunthathiyars and Scheduled Tribes are eligible for the prescribed fee concession.

However, applicants seeking seats under the All India and management quotas must pay Rs 1,000, irrespective of their community category. The authorities have made online payment mandatory for application fees, counselling charges and advance tuition fees.

Applicants have been advised to download and carefully examine the vacancy position, counselling timetable and information brochure available on the official website before submitting their applications.

ASIA CUP RISING STARS: TILAK VARMA'S CENTURY IN VAIN AS INDIA A LOSE TO PAKISTAN A

(IANS) Doha, Skipper Tilak Varma waged a valiant battle with a second successive century but could not prevent India A from slumping to a 48-run defeat against archrivals Pakistan A in the Asia Cup Rising Stars tournament at West End Park International Cricket Stadium, Doha, on Sunday.

Chasing a target of 314 in 50 overs, Varma scored 100 off 149 balls and raised hopes of acing a tough chase made Herculean by a batting collapse, raising 112 runs for the seventh wicket with Shahbaz Ahmed, who scored a half-century. However, it proved too good to be true, and Shahbaz's departure helped Pakistan A get back into the match.

India A were eventually all out for 265 in 49.1 overs, slumping to a 48-run defeat in their second match after starting the competition with a win against Nepal.

Despite a blazing 42-ball 70 by opener Abhishek Sharma (4x6, 6x6), India A were soon staring down the barrel at 129/5 at the halfway stage in the 50-over contest, with Ayush Badoni (0), Kumar Kushagra (2), Rinku Singh (6) and Suryansh Shedge (6) failing to fire. Opener Vaibhav Sooryavanshi managed only 11.

However, Varma found a willing partner in Shahbaz Ahmed as they repaired the innings and took India A to 241/7. Shahbaz got out in the 43rd over just when it looked like he and skipper Varma would script an unlikely miracle. Vipraj Nigam and Harshit Rana got out for zero each, and India's hopes were over but for the century by the skipper. Varma reached his century in 147 balls, hitting seven fours and one six, but in the end his heroics were not enough.

For Pakistan A, Ali Raza (3-56) and Hasan Nawaz (3-45) caused the maximum damage while Mohammad Imran (2-69) added to their misery with some fine pace bowling.

Earlier, electing to bat first, Pakistan A rode on half-centuries by Maaz Sadaqat, Hasan Nawaz and Farhan Yousaf to reach a challenging total of 313 before being all out in 49.2 overs.

Maaz Sadaqat struck 59 off 63 balls (4x6, 6x1) and shared a 66-run partnership with Shamyl Hussain, who blasted a 23-ball 33, for the opening wicket in just 7.2 overs. Rohail Nazir was out for a duck, but Hasan Nawaz top-scored with 79 in 82 balls (4x5, 6x4) and added 54 runs for the third wicket with Sadaqat.



Farhan Yousaf held the middle order together as he scored 56 in 48 balls, and Pakistan A crossed the three-hundred-run mark with Mohammad Imran giving the score some late push with a 14-ball 23 (4x1, 6x2).

For India A, Harshit Rana (2-72), Prince Yadav (2-60), Suryansh Shedge (2-55) and Vipraj Nigam (2-46) claimed two wickets apiece as the bowlers failed to contain the Pakistan A batters.

Brief scores:

Pakistan A 313 all out in 49.2 overs (Maaz Sadaqat 59, Hasan Nawaz 79, Farhan Yousaf 56; Vipraj Nigam 2-46, Suryansh Shedge 2-55) beat India A 265 all out in 49.1 overs (Tilak Varma 100, Abhishek Sharma 70, Shahbaz Ahmed 56; Ali Raza 3-56, Hasan Nawaz 3-45, Mohammad Imran 2-69) by 48 runs.

If edicts come from above, it's beyond our control: MCC's



(IANS) Sharjah, The Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) has admitted that it cannot stop players from skipping handshakes when politics is involved, even though it wants to protect the Spirit of Cricket.

The issue of handshake snubs in cricket centers primarily on India–Pakistan matches, where skipping the customary handshakes at the toss or after games became a recurring act after the April 2025 Pahalgam terror attack.

Though handshakes are a customary symbol of sportsmanship and the "spirit of cricket," they are not mandatory as per the ICC rules.

Avoiding handshakes between Indian and Pakistan sides has been across the men's, women's, and age-group fixtures, including the ACC Men's Asia Cup Rising Stars match between India A and Pakistan A in Doha on Sunday.

MCC Head of Cricket Fraser Stewart was asked if it is getting harder to protect the Spirit of Cricket when players refuse to shake hands; he replied that big political issues are bigger and out of his hands.

"I think that there are certain instances that transcend cricket and come from a level that's above my station to talk about geopolitical situations," Stewart said on the sidelines of ILT20 in Sharjah.

He explained that the MCC would like to see players shake hands, but its power only covers how players behave during the game.

"What we can control is on the field: the players respect each other, they respect the umpires and the authority of the umpires and the game. That's what we can control," he added.

Stewart further stated that if edicts from leaders tell players not to shake hands, the MCC cannot step in to change that.

"If there are edicts coming from above about handshakes, that's not something that MCC can control. We would like to see it, but we realise that there are bigger issues at play and that's something that's beyond anything we can control," he concluded.

Hockey: India finish unbeaten to clinch Century of Sporting Unity Series 1-0 in New Zealand

(IANS) Auckland, The Indian men's hockey team clinched the 2026 India/New Zealand Century of Sporting Unity Series 1-0 after completing an unbeaten three-match tour with a 2-2 draw against hosts New Zealand in the final encounter at the Lloyd Elsmore Hockey Stadium in Auckland on Sunday.



India finished the series with one victory and two draws, having opened their campaign with a 3-2 win on November 19 before playing out consecutive 2-2 stalemates in the remaining matches on November 21 and 22.

Captain Sanjay was India's standout performer across the series, finding the net in all three matches to finish as the team's leading goal scorer with three strikes.

In the series decider, New Zealand took an early lead through Dylan Thomas in the ninth minute, but India responded with two goals in quick succession. Sanjay converted a penalty corner in the 16th minute to restore parity before Karthi Selvam scored a field goal two minutes later to give the visitors a 2-1 advantage.

However, the hosts fought back in the final quarter, with Benji Culhane finding the equaliser in the 55th minute. Neither side managed to find a winner thereafter as the contest ended in a draw, confirming India's series victory.

Earlier, India had edged New Zealand 3-2 in the opening match. After Jonty Elmes put the hosts ahead in the 25th minute, Uttam Singh equalised in the same minute. Shardanand Tiwari (38') and Sanjay (43') then scored to put India 3-1 ahead, before Sam Hiha pulled one back in the 55th minute.

The second match also ended 2-2, with Angad Bir Singh (35') and Sanjay (57') scoring for India after Dylan Thomas (25') and Sam Hiha (56') had given New Zealand the lead.

The series also marked 100 years of sporting ties between India and New Zealand, dating back to 1926, when an Indian Army hockey team featuring the legendary Major Dhyan Chand became the first Indian team to tour New Zealand.

Alexandra Eala confirmed for third Abu Dhabi Open appearance



(IANS) New Delhi, Alexandra Eala will make her third appearance at the Mubadala Abu Dhabi Open in 2027, organisers have confirmed.

The 21-year-old, currently world No. 15, is the highest-ranked Filipina in WTA history. She played in the WTA 500 event in 2024 and 2026.

Eala climbed from No. 140 in 2025 to No. 15. She won her first WTA Tour-level singles title in Washington in August and reached the Wimbledon fourth round for the first time this year.

"I'm really looking forward to returning to Abu Dhabi for my third Mubadala Abu Dhabi Open," Eala said, praising the support of the Filipino community and UAE fans.

Tournament director Nigel Gupta welcomed her return, citing her recent milestones on the international stage. She expects strong support.

The fifth edition will be held from January 30 to February 6 at the International Tennis Centre, Zayed Sports City.

'Gunmaaster G9' maker Aditya Datt celebrates 30 years of friendship with Emraan Hashmi

(IANS) Mumbai, The director of Emraan Hashmi's next 'Gunmaaster G9', Aditya Datt, celebrated 3 decades of friendship with him through his latest social media post.

On Monday, Aditya Datt uploaded a couple of BTS photos with Emraan Hashmi on Instagram and fondly looked back on their 'Zeher' days.

The filmmaker also penned a nostalgic note that went, "Only if the others knew what stupidity we were laughing about...EMI... just looking back... fighting over one's share of food bills to sharing all our secrets... to once standing in the middle of the night (after seeing the first cut of Zeher), stressing about what "tomorrow" would bring us, to standing on a film set and laughing about that same "tomorrow"... from being a part of all celebrations, big or small, to somewhere knowing that one will always be there through it all... (sic)."



Aditya Datt further expressed his excitement that finally they were able to finish a film. Admitting that he has put Emraan Hashmi through a lot during the shoot, he added, "20 years later... we finally came together and finished a film... like you say, that one year of shooting with me felt like 20 years, considering all the torture I've put you and everyone through in the last year... (including @geneliad @apar-shakti_khurana @deepakmukut @realhimesh @hunarmukut and my fullllll crew!."

"5 DAYS FROM NOW, Gunmaaster G9 will be out there for the world to see. I know none of us can decide its fate from here on; it's entirely in the audience's hands. BUT... whatever the outcome, I know we can look back at this journey with immense pride, knowing we gave it absolutely everything we had. And no outcome can ever take that away from us! So @therealemraan cheers to 30 odd years of friendship & GUNMAASTER G9! 5 DAYS TO GO! 27th NOVEMBER 2026," the post further read.

Aditya Datt also joked that "The kids who were sent into their rooms in 2005 when Aashiq Banaya Aapne released are now adults. In 2026, they'll be telling their own kids, "Don't try these stunts at home!"."

'Gunmaaster G9' will be out on 27 November 2026.

KAREENA KAPOOR SHARES GLIMPSE OF 'SUNDAY MASTI' WITH FAMILY AS ARMAAN JAIN HOSTS FEAST

(IANS) Mumbai, Bollywood star Kareena Kapoor gave fans a glimpse of a fun-filled family Sunday as she shared a picture from an intimate get-together hosted by her cousin Armaan Jain.

Kareena took to her social media account and shared a group picture from the gathering, captioning it "Sunday Masti".

The picture features Kareena seated at the dining table alongside her sister Karisma Kapoor and Lok Sabha MP Supriya Sule, while Armaan Jain, his brother Aadar Jain and their mother Rima Jain and father can also be seen in the frame.

The family seems to have come together over an elaborate meal. Armaan, who is known for his passion for cooking, also shared glimpses of the Sunday gathering on his social media account.

In his post, Armaan shared pictures and videos from the family lunch, including clips of him preparing fried seafood. One video shows him frying battered seafood, while another captures him cooking marinated fish. He captioned the post, "Sunday family time and some good fried food".

The gathering also marked a special moment for Armaan, coming a year after the release of the Netflix documentary special Dining with the Kapoors.



The project, conceptualised and produced by Armaan and directed by Smriti Mundhra, brought many members of the Kapoor family together over food and memories as they celebrated the family's culinary traditions and the legacy of Raj Kapoor.

The Kapoor's are also famous for their Christmas lunches over which the family members bond and unite. The documentary included Randhir Kapoor, Neetu Kapoor, Rima Jain, Riddhima Kapoor Sahni, Karisma Kapoor, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Ranbir Kapoor, Armaan Jain and Aadar Jain.

Rashmika Meets Her College Senior on Bigg Boss TV



(IANS) Mumbai, Actress Rashmika Mandanna met senior Mukesh Gowda on Bigg Boss Telugu 10. She appeared on the Nagarjuna-hosted show to promote her film Mysaa. Mukesh recalled that she was his junior in college.

Rashmika wished him luck and urged him to watch Mysaa after leaving the house.

POLICE TRACE BOMB THREAT EMAIL

Bomb Threat Email Traced to Temporary Account, Suspected Foreign VPN

Cybercrime Police register case after searches find no explosives; security tightened at public places

Munsif News Desk, Hyderabad:

Hyderabad Cybercrime Police are tracing a threatening email sent through a reportedly Europe-based virtual private network (VPN) and a temporary email account, after security searches found no explosives at two named locations. Police believe the message was a hoax but have registered a case to identify the sender.

The email reached the Police Commissioner's office on Saturday, November 21. It threatened attacks resembling the November 26, 2008, Mumbai terror strikes, which killed 166 people, naming Kacheguda Railway Station and Hotel Tourist Plaza. The sender claimed links to Lashkar-e-Taiba and threatened at least 300 deaths, purportedly to avenge the killing of operative Lateef Bhat in Jammu and Kashmir. Police have not verified the claims.

Investigators are examining internet protocol records and have sought information from service providers. The use of a disposable account and suspected foreign routing complicates identification; it does not establish where the sender lives.

Police strengthened security around railway stations, hotels, bus terminals, religious places and other crowded areas. Bomb-disposal squads and sniffer dogs inspected vulnerable sites without finding explosives.

Commissioner Mahesh Bhagwat urged residents to avoid rumours and report unattended objects or suspicious activity through emergency number 112. Enhanced checks continue while investigators establish the message's origin.



FSSAI Suspends Licences of Five Health Product Manufacturers

Fines up to ₹20,000 as Green Tankers deliver 11.07 lakh litres of recycled water for non-drinking purposes.

Munsif News Desk, Hyderabad: The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on Monday suspended licences of five nutraceutical and health product manufacturers with immediate effect, citing safety and regulatory violations.

The firms are Vedant Remedies, Lucid Healthcare Pvt Ltd, Ambico Ayurvedic Healthcare, Vitamedic Health Nutraceuticals and Adorreal Healthcare. Inspectors reported poor hygiene, damaged infrastructure, expired materials and inadequate separation of Ayurvedic and food products. Findings included non-operational licensed premises and unapproved changes of address.

Earlier this month, FSSAI initiated action against six manufacturers: Airen Herbals, Aquabliss Lifesciences, Raskam Healthcare, Supercure Biotech, Ambico Ayurvedic Healthcare and Vedant Remedies. The last two appear in both announcements, reflecting scrutiny.

The regulator has intensified checks on food businesses, e-commerce operators, and alcoholic beverage and energy drink manufacturers this year. The suspensions aim to protect consumers, but do not establish that every product sold was unsafe. Information about affected products remains essential.

Telangana Police Warn of 'Digital Arrest' Scams

Hyderabad (Munsif Desk):

Telangana Police have warned against "digital arrest" scams, issuing a poster identifying video calls, suspicious parcels, arrest threats and demands for secrecy as warning signs.

Fraudsters impersonate police or CBI officers, claiming parcels contain drugs or prohibited military items.

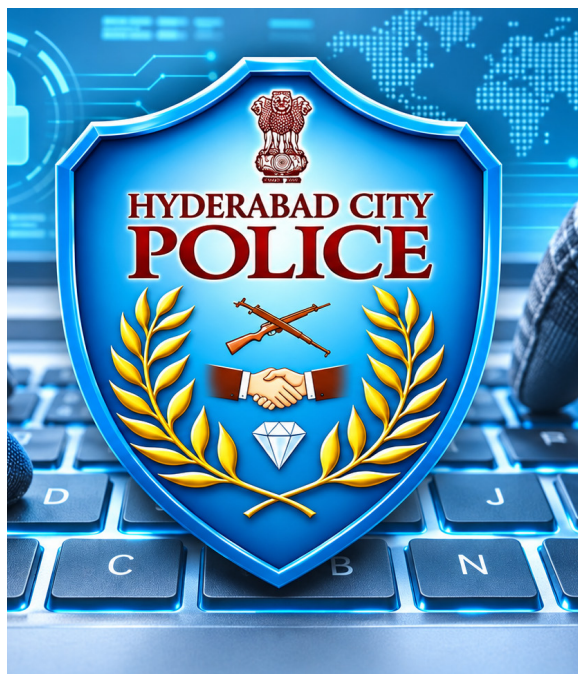
Others falsely say victims' children face detention and demand money for their release.

Police reiterated that no legal procedure permits arrest through a video call.

In August 2025, an 82-year-old retired Central government employee from Banjara Hills lost Rs 72 lakh to scammers impersonating investigators and judicial officials.

A Hyderabad banker reportedly lost Rs 1.42 crore in another case reported this month.

Residents should disconnect suspicious calls, discuss threats with relatives, never transfer funds or share banking credentials, and report attempted or completed fraud immediately on 1930 or cybercrime.gov.in.



Telangana High Court Rejects Doctors Bail Pleas in Egg Harves-ting Case

Hyderabad (Munsif Desk): The Telangana High Court on Monday rejected anticipatory bail pleas of doctors Padmaja Pala and Gedela Durga Rao in an alleged egg-harvesting case. A later report named Dr Pratik Anil Gaglani among those denied pre-arrest relief.

Justice Narsing Rao Nandikonda heard allegations that women recruited from other states were housed in hostels, given hormone injections and paid small sums for eggs collected by fertility centres. Defence counsel denied wrongdoing and disputed the doctors' involvement. The ruling concerns protection from arrest, not a finding of guilt.

The case has raised questions about informed consent and monitoring of fertility clinics. Health officials inspected 27 assisted reproductive technology centres and issued notices to seven over regulatory violations. Investigators must establish whether donor records, counselling and oversight safeguards were followed.

Telangana Dengue Death Records Reveal Major Reporting Discrepancy

2024 medical certificates contradict surveillance tally, raising questions over hospital reporting and disease monitoring

Hyderabad: A discrepancy in Telangana's dengue reporting has raised questions about whether surveillance captures hospital-recorded deaths.

The National Centre for Vector Borne Diseases Control listed 10,077 cases and no dengue deaths for 2024, while the Registrar General's medical cause-of-death records identified 47 fatalities attributed to the disease.

The mismatch concerns 2024 records, not fresh deaths this month. Across 2021–2024, medical certification data recorded 270 dengue deaths, compared with only one in surveillance figures.

Experts say different confirmation standards, missed reports from private hospitals and patients arriving late for treatment may contribute to the gap.

Director of Public Health B. Ravinder Naik said suspected deaths not confirmed would be examined, including through verbal autopsies.

The Health Department faces questions about how diagnoses, death certificates and disease reports are reconciled.

Publishing district-wise numbers, including Hyderabad, would help establish where gaps occur and whether outbreak planning and resources need adjustment.

Seven-Year Wait for Malakpet Metro–Rail Footbridge Continues

Pending railway-land clearance leaves commuters facing longer walks and difficult station access in Old Malakpet

Hyd: Nearly seven years after pillars were erected near Sri Krupa Market in Old Malakpet, a footbridge linking Malakpet Metro and railway stations remains unfinished, forcing passengers to take longer routes.

An RTI response indicates Railway Board approval is pending because the staircase would land on railway-owned property.

Residents say different departments have offered conflicting explanations, without providing a completion timetable.

The planned connection would provide another Metro entrance with stairs, an escalator and a lift. At the existing entrance on that side, commuters report frequent escalator breakdowns and no lift, making access difficult for elderly passengers, people with disabilities and those carrying luggage.

Malakpet railway station is undergoing redevelopment under the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme. Residents want authorities to identify the agency responsible for completing the bridge, disclose when the proposal was last submitted for approval and announce a clear deadline for opening the connection.

GHMC Plans AI Traffic Management

Osmania University given four weeks to prepare Rs 2.83-crore project report

Hyd: GHMC plans to link 429 traffic signals across Greater Hyderabad, Cyberabad and Malkajgiri through an AI-based system.

The civic body's standing committee approved Rs 2.83 crore for Osmania University's engineering department to prepare a detailed project report within four weeks. The system would respond to congestion and assist emergency vehicles.

Pilot testing will precede wider rollout; AI-controlled junctions are not yet operational. Authorities should disclose implementation costs, pedestrian safeguards and traffic-data protections.

Hyderabad Schools Declare Holiday on November 24

Guru Nanak Jayanti and Karthika Pournami coincide; December breaks vary by institution

Hyderabad: Several schools across Hyderabad have announced a holiday on Tuesday, November 24, for Guru Nanak Jayanti and Karthika Pournami. Telangana lists the date as a general holiday, though parents should check their individual school notices.

Guru Nanak Jayanti marks the birth anniversary of Sikhism's founder, Guru Nanak. Celebrations include prayers, devotional singing, processions and community meals called langar. Karthika Pournami, observed on the Kartika full moon, is marked by lamp lighting, temple visits, ritual bathing and prayers.

December brings four Sundays and Christmas-related holidays. Christmas Day, December 25, and Boxing Day, December 26, are general holidays; Christmas Eve, December 24, is optional. Hazrat Ali's birthday is also listed as an optional holiday on December 26. Missionary schools are expected to observe Christmas vacation from December 23 to 27. Other schools may follow different schedules, so families should confirm dates directly.



INTACH: CELEBRATES "WORLD HERITAGE WEEK 2026"

Architecture students examine Chalukyan inscriptions and traditional water systems in Moinabad

Hyd: INTACH's Ranga Reddy Chapter and JBR Architecture College organised a heritage documentation programme at Yenkapally village, Moinabad, on Monday, highlighting ancient Jain inscriptions and the Kalyani Chalukyan legacy.

Historian Sriramoju Hara Gopal explained how inscriptions and Tirthankara sculptures shed light on Jain monasteries, religious practices and land grants. Archaeological authorities had earlier begun documenting two inscriptions found on pillars in the village.

INTACH national member Veda Kumar Manikonda discussed the relationship between historic pillars, water bodies, catchment areas and full tank levels, stressing protection of traditional water systems.

Chapter convenor Prof. J. Gayatri led the initiative. Speaker Jagaraju urged architecture students to identify and preserve heritage structures. The programme combined field observation with expert discussions, linking historical conservation with ecological responsibility.


Photo: Syed Omar

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