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## PIONEER IN SHORT

### CINE TWIST TO JUBILEE HOPES!

Far from the election campaigns and high-decibel claims of political parties about the support of thousands of cine workers, there is still nothing that indicates their preference. No party could gauge the pulse of the frustrated cine workers, disenchanted by the failed promises given by the same parties that come to seek their vote again in the Jubilee Hills bye-elections.

FULL REPORT ON P2

### ROAD WIDENING WORK BEGINS ON HYD-BIJAPUR HIGHWAY

The work on widening the 46 km stretch of the Hyderabad-Bijapur National Highway from Telangana Police Academy to Manneguda, which has become dangerous, began on Wednesday. It is known that 19 people were killed and 34 injured in a fatal accident on this road at Mirajguda on Monday when a gravel tipper hit an RTC bus. The accident occurred due to the lack of road widening.

FULL REPORT ON P3

### PRESIDENT TO VISIT ANGOLA, BOTSWANA

President Droupadi Murmu will undertake a six-day visit to Angola and Botswana beginning Saturday with a broader aim to further expand India's development partnership with the African continent. In the first leg of her trip, Murmu will visit Angola from November 8 to 11. From Angola, she will travel to Botswana, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). "The President of India will be paying a state visit to Angola and Botswana from November 8 to 13. This will be the first-ever state visit by an Indian..."

FULL REPORT ON P4

### TMC CADRES CONTROL BLOS IN BENGAL: OPPOSITION

Trinamool Congress cadres tended to take control of the Booth Level Officers (BLOs)—appointed by the Election Commission of India (ECI) to conduct special intensive revision of electoral rolls—booth after booth, constituency after constituency, while the booth level agents (BLAs) nominated by the Opposition parties, mainly the BJP and the Left, were forced to 'retire hurt'. Opposition parties cutting across party...

FULL REPORT ON P5

### QUOTE OF THE DAY



THE CONGRESS PARTY DECEIVED THE PEOPLE OF TELANGANA. IT CAME TO POWER WITH A PROMISE TO IMPLEMENT SIX GUARANTEES. BUT DURING ITS TWO-YEAR RULE, THE PARTY HAS NOT IMPLEMENTED ANY OF THE ASSURANCES

— KISHAN REDDY, UNION MINISTER AND BJP SENIOR LEADER

## PHASE 1 POLLS

# Bihar records highest-ever turnout in its history

PNS ■ New Delhi

Bihar recorded its "highest-ever" voter turnout in the first phase of polling for the Assembly election on Thursday, with 64.66 per cent of an electorate of more than 3.75 crore turning up at polling stations to exercise their franchise.

In a statement issued here, the Election Commission (EC) said the first phase of the Bihar polls concluded peacefully, with the "highest-ever voter turnout of 64.66 per cent" recorded in the history of the state.

A total of 121 constituencies in 18 districts went to polls in the first phase, with an electorate of more than 3.75 crore.

During the first Bihar Assembly polls in 1951-52, the recorded turnout was lowest in the state's history at 42.6 per cent.

The previous highest voter



Voter turnout in the first phase of polling **64.66**

turnout in Bihar was recorded in 2000 at 62.57 per cent.

In the 2020 Assembly polls held under the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic, the polling percentage was 57.29.

CONTINUED ON >> P2



## Cong laid the foundation for IT revolution in Hyd

■ Minister says PV Expressway alone equals 50 flyovers

PNS ■ Hyderabad

Telangana Roads & Buildings and Cinematography Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said Hyderabad's IT and infrastructure growth was rooted in the Congress era. "If lakhs of IT professionals are employed today, it's because Congress laid the foundation for that ecosystem. We built the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport, Outer Ring Road, and promoted IT and Pharma sectors that made Hyderabad a global hub."

Continuing his door-to-door campaign in support of Congress candidate Naveen Yadav at the Rahmathnagar division as part of the Jubilee Hills bye-election, Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy said that Hyderabad's comprehensive development happened only during the Congress regime.

Interacting warmly with residents during the campaign, the Minister urged voters to support the Congress and vote for the hand symbol to ensure continued welfare and development. The campaign drew an enthusiastic response, with youth and residents thronging to take selfies with the Minister.

Accompanied by Minister Jupally Krishna Rao, Government Whip Beerla Ilaiiah, and local Congress leaders, Komatireddy held an extensive campaign across several bastis, explaining to people how a Congress victory would directly benefit them.

CONTINUED ON >> P2

## 'Make Owaisi offer prayer at temple'

■ Union Minister Sanjay challenges CM

PNS ■ Hyderabad

Slamming Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and Congress leaders for wearing skullcaps during the campaign for the November 11 Jubilee Hills assembly bypoll, Union Minister Bandi Sanjay Kumar on Thursday said the CM should answer whether the Owaisis ever offered prayers at the Bhagya Lakshmi temple here.



If Reddy has courage, he should get AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi to perform 'arti' at the temple, he said.

Observing that the Constitution and Election Commission are the same for all, Kumar urged the EC to check faces before voting, referring to 'burqa-clad women'.

CONTINUED ON >> P2

## Mass singing of Vande Mataram today

PNS ■ Hyderabad

The Telangana government on Thursday directed district Collectors to organise mass singing of Vande Mataram in the Collectorate, all government offices and educational institutions on November 7 to mark the 150th anniversary of the national song.

"The 7th of November marks the 150th anniversary of the writing of National Song of India - Vande Mataram by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee. In order to commemorate this occasion in a befitting manner across the State, the instructions are issued for strict compliance," the Chief Secretary said. All district Collectors shall organise mass singing of the authorised version of Vande Mataram at 10 am on

November 7 in the Collectorate and all government offices in the district, he said in the communication.

In Hyderabad, the event would be held in the Mahabubia government girls high school in Abids. State Transport Minister Ponnampalapati Prabhakar and Tourism Minister Jupally Krishna Rao would attend the programme, an official release said.



## Uttam: Focused on welfare delivery and inclusive growth

PNS ■ Hyderabad

Irrigation and Civil Supplies Minister Capt N. Uttam Kumar Reddy on Thursday said the Congress government was committed to welfare delivery and inclusive development, highlighting strong progress in the Jubilee Hills constituency, including pending civic and service works at Kolluru.

He was addressing residents at Kolluru as part of the by-election campaign for Congress candidate Naveen Yadav, where he outlined the government's welfare

record and promised to complete the remaining works in a phased manner. Uttam Kumar Reddy said Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's government was focused on ensuring that the benefits of welfare schemes reached every household.

The minister said that under the present Congress government, 14,230 new ration cards had been issued in the Jubilee Hills constituency within two years, enabling 67,354 additional people to receive free ration rice every month.

CONTINUED ON >> P2

## Min: Gig workers' welfare act likely to get Cabinet nod

PNS ■ Hyderabad

Telangana minister for labour and employment Vivek Venkataswamy on Thursday announced that the draft for Telangana Gig and Platform Workers (Registration, Social Security and Welfare) Act, 2025, might be approved in the next cabinet meeting on November 12.

The minister held a stakeholder consultation meeting in Hyderabad, attended by various unions, platform



companies, experts, and worker representatives, including Telangana Gig and Platform Workers' Union

(TGPWU) founder and national general secretary Shaik Salaudhin.

CONTINUED ON >> P2



## Cong is committed to social justice: Ponnampalapati

PNS ■ Hyderabad

The Minister emphasised that the development of Jubilee Hills is only possible with the Congress party in power. He highlighted the party's commitment to social justice and its efforts to empower the weaker sections of society. The Congress party's candidate, Naveen Yadav, has received support from various social groups, including the Kamma, Kapu, and Gowda communities, in the Jubilee Hills by-election.

The community leaders praised Naveen Yadav's educational background and his efforts to develop Jubilee Hills.

The Gowda community also held a meeting to support Naveen Yadav, with Minister Ponnampalapati Prabhakar urging them to vote for the Congress party candidate. The community leaders assured that they would work towards the victory of Naveen Yadav.

Film actor Suman, who has been campaigning for Naveen Yadav, expressed his support for the candidate and praised his commitment to the welfare of the people.

The Telangana state Kamma association president, Boddur Ravi Shankar Rao, announced that 60 Kamma associations would support Naveen Yadav.

CONTINUED ON >> P2

## Written communication for grounds of arrest mandatory: Supreme Court

PNS ■ New Delhi

In a landmark verdict, the Supreme Court on Thursday held that every arrested person must be furnished with the grounds of arrest in writing and in a language they understand, irrespective of the nature of the offence or statute involved.

In the verdict that strengthens constitutional protection for personal liberty, the top court held that non-supply of grounds of arrest in writing to the arrestee before or immediately after arrest would not vitiate such arrest if the same is "supplied in writing within a reasonable time and in any case two hours before the production of the arrestee before the magistrate for remand proceedings".

A bench comprising Chief Justice B R Gavai and Justice Augustine George Masih delivered the judgment in the Mihir Rajesh Shah vs State of Maharashtra case that arose from the high-profile Mumbai BMW hit-and-run incident of July 2024.

Justice Masih, writing a 52-page judgment for the bench, ruled that the constitutional mandate under Article 22(1) of the Constitution, which guarantees that an arrested person



must be informed "as soon as may be" of the grounds of arrest, is not a procedural formality but a fundamental safeguard of personal liberty.

"This court believes that to achieve the intended objective of the constitutional mandate of Article 22(1) of the Constitution of India, the grounds of arrest must be informed to the arrested person in each case without exception and the mode of the communication of such grounds must be in writing in the language he understands," the verdict said.

"The constitutional mandate of informing the arrestee of the grounds of arrest is mandatory in all offences under all statutes, including offences under IPC 1860 (now BNS 2023)," it held.

"The grounds of arrest must be communicated in writing to the arrestee in the language he/she understands, and in case(s) where the arresting officer/person is unable to communicate the grounds of arrest in writing on or soon after arrest, it be so done orally."

CONTINUED ON >> P2



# Revanth indulging in Muslim appeasement, alleges BJP chief

PNS ■ Hyderabad

Telangana BJP president N Ramchander Rao on Thursday alleged that Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy was indulging in Muslim appeasement to gain the votes of the community in the November 11 bypoll to Jubilee Hills Assembly constituency here.

Revanth Reddy, who was also wearing a cap, has become "Revanth Uddin" during his campaign, for the sake of votes of 20 per cent of Muslims, he claimed.

"It is clear that his (Reddy) comments are vote bank politics. He says Muslims get respect because of Congress. Congress did not ensure respect for Muslims. In fact, Congress hurts respect of Muslims by treating them as vote bank. It is important whether Congress is ensuring



education, medical facilities, livelihood opportunities and housing to Muslims or not," Rao told PTI Videos. The BRS

is also following the same policies and both parties are ignoring 80 per cent Hindus for the sake of 20 per cent

votes of Muslims, he alleged. Addressing a campaign rally here on Thursday, the CM criticised Union Coal Minister G

Kishan Reddy for opposing the recent induction of former cricketer Mohammad Azharuddin into the Council of Ministers. What is Kishan Reddy's problem if a leader belonging to minorities was made a minister, he had asked.

"Congress government provided many opportunities to minorities. It was only Congress that gave big posts to the minorities. Congress means Muslims and Muslims means Congress," Revanth Reddy had said.

The bypoll is necessitated due to the death of BRS MLA Maganti Gopinath in June this year, following a heart attack. While the BJP has fielded Deepak Reddy, Gopinath's widow Sunita is the BRS candidate. The ruling Congress' candidate is also supported by the Asaduddin Owaisi-led AIMIM.

## Veteran actor, singer Sulakshana Pandit dies at 71

PNS ■ Mumbai

Veteran playback singer and actor Sulakshana Pandit, known for movies like "Uljhana" and "Chehre Pe Chehra", died on Thursday due to cardiac arrest, her brother Lalit Pandit confirmed the news. She was 71.

Sulakshana was being taken to Nanavati Hospital when she breathed her last.

"She passed away due to cardiac arrest around 7 pm. She had complained of breathlessness and seemed a bit unwell. We were taking her to Nanavati hospital, but she died before we could reach the hospital," Lalit Pandit said.

Sulakshana debuted with "Uljhana" in 1975 opposite Sanjeev Kumar and then went on to work with almost all the top stars of her era, including Rajesh Khanna, Shashi Kapoor, and Vinod Khanna.

Her other major movies are "Sankoch", "Hera Pheri", "Khandaan", and "Dharam Khanta".

She also had a parallel and equally impressive career as a playback singer and sang hits like "Tu hi saagar tu hi kinara", "Pardeesiya tere desh mein", "Bekar dil tut gaya", "Baandhi re kahe preet", and "Somvaar ko hum mile".



## Both Cong, BRS neglected JH, slams Kishan Reddy

PNS ■ Hyderabad

Union Minister and BJP senior leader Kishan Reddy has stated that both Congress and BRS have done nothing for the development of the Jubilee Hills constituency.

Participating in a road show as part of an election campaign on Thursday, Kishan Reddy slammed the ruling Congress for not implementing the promises given to people.

"The Congress party deceived the people of Telangana. It came to power with a promise to implement six guarantees. But during its two-year rule, the party has not implemented any of the assurances," Kishan said.

The Chief Minister proudly said that the government is

giving fine rice to people, but 80 per cent of the rice quantity is being supplied by the central government, the union minister revealed in the campaign.

To substantiate his point and the facts regarding the fine rice supply, he posted a card on his social media account.

He warned that the people would teach a lesson to the Congress party for its Muslim appeasement.

Coming down heavily on the BRS for neglecting the Jubilee Hills constituency during its rule, he alleged that the party is hoping to come to power in the guise of sympathy, warning that the voters are ready to teach a lesson to BRS in the coming elections.

## ACB arrests civil supplies official over ₹75K bribery

PNS ■ Hyderabad

The ACB on Thursday said a district manager at the Office of the Civil Supplies here was caught red-handed while "demanding and accepting" a Rs 75,000 bribe. According to the statement from the Anti-Corruption Bureau, the officer in Asifabad district, Telangana, demanded a bribe from a complainant to do an official

favour, specifically "allowing the complainant's three lorries loaded with PDS rice from his rice mill to be transported to the Civil Supplies godown without conducting a quality check of the rice." Earlier, on the instructions of the accused officer, a technical assistant (outsourcing) had also demanded the bribe from the complainant, the statement said.

## RJD, Cong have soft corner for infiltrators, alleges PM

PNS ■ Bhagalpur/Araria

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday charged the opposition RJD-Congress combine in Bihar with having a soft corner for infiltrators, but "dislike" for Lord Ram and "Chhathi Maiya" because of vote bank politics. Addressing back-to-back rallies in Bhagalpur and Araria districts, Modi also alleged that the reluctance of opposition leaders to visit Ayodhya to have 'darshan' of shrines dedicated to Nishad Raj, Mata Shabri and Maharshi Valmiki was indicative of their "hatred" for Dalits and backward classes.



"Bihar saw zero development during the 15 years of 'jungle raj'. No highways and bridges were built, nor any centres of higher learning were set up. The NDA under the leadership of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has worked very hard to bring the state out of that era," he said. "Today, Bihar has so many expressways, bridges over rivers, as many as four central



## Cine twist to Jubilee hopes!

■ Parties unable to gauge the pulse of workers

PNS ■ Hyderabad

Far from the election campaigns and high-decibel claims of political parties about the support of thousands of cine workers, there is still nothing that indicates their preference.

No party could gauge the pulse of the frustrated cine workers, disenchanted by the failed promises given by the same parties that come to seek their vote again in the Jubilee Hills bye-elections.

During elections, every vote matters. That is the reason why political leaders conduct door-to-door campaigning not to miss even a single vote. In the present Jubilee Hills bye elections, the leaders of the contending parties are leaving no stone unturned to please the voters in support of their candidates. For general voters, their appeals may or may not work.. but what about the bulk voters.. like cine workers?

It is said there are 15,000 cine workers in the Jubilee Hills constituency, and out of them, 12,000 people are eligible to vote. The workers are fighting for the resolu-

IN THE PRESENT JUBILEE HILLS BYE ELECTIONS, THE LEADERS OF THE CONTENDING PARTIES ARE LEAVING NO STONE UNTURNED TO PLEASE THE VOTERS IN SUPPORT OF THEIR CANDIDATES

tion of their problems that have been pending for years. Now, with the Jubilee Hills bye-elections, the ruling Congress, BRS, and BJP are making every to garner their support, but still there is not even an iota of indication about their possible preference.

The BRS leader late Maganti Gopinath had good relations with the film industry, and he even produced three movies. Because of this reason, it is said that the cine workers are in favour of the BRS candidate Maganti Sunita. And the Congress, on its part, tried to attract the workers by promising health cards to them TheThe

Chief Minister addressed them in a public meeting held recently.

During his speech, he praised the services rendered by great actors NTR, ANR, Krishna, and others. Both the Congress and BRS leaders are claiming the support of cine workers. The cine workers' support matters a lot for the parties as most of them reside in the areas that come under the constituency. Despite the parties claiming the support of cine workers, there are some reported instances of the workers questioning the leaders about the promised house sites for them. Not only the house site issue, there are other issues, including the wage hike, that need immediate redressal.

Against this backdrop, no party is very certain of its support, as the assurances given by them in the past were not implemented. Frustrated by the delay in the redressal of their long-pending demands, as of now, nobody knows which party the cine workers prefer, as there are conflicting indications in this regard.

## Singer Chinmayi complains of abusive remarks online

PNS ■ Hyderabad

A case was registered by the Cyber Crime Police Station here after singer Chinmayi Sripaada appealed to Hyderabad Police Commissioner V C Sajjanar to initiate action against individuals who allegedly made abusive remarks at her during a discussion on a social media platform. Sripaada tagged the Commissioner on Wednesday and wrote: "Respected @SajjanarVC Sir Please take cognisance of this. I am sick and tired of this everyday abuse and women deserve better in Telangana. If they don't like an opinion they can ignore and leave. I am happy to file a complaint



and even if this case takes 15 years let law take its course. These men are basically saying my kids should die.

Please help. Sajjanar directed the Cyber Crime Police to inquire into it. The Cyber Crimes wing of Hyderabad Police in a post on 'X', on Thursday said: "Dear @Chinmayi, we've noted your concern and are looking into it." A case was registered, a police official said.

### Bihar records...

In the first Lok Sabha polls in 1951-52, Bihar recorded a voter turnout of 40.35 per cent -- the lowest.

In the 1998 parliamentary polls, the state recorded its highest ever turnout of 64.6 per cent. Officials said Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar has congratulated the voters of Bihar for the historic voter turnout in the first phase of Assembly polls since 1951.

The CEC has also thanked the voters for expressing their complete faith in the EC and turning out to vote in such large numbers with fervour and enthusiasm.

Kumar has also thanked the entire election machinery for working with full transparency and dedication.

More than four lakh polling-related staff had reached their respective polling stations by Wednesday night. Mock polls were completed by 7 am on Thursday in the presence of more than 67,902 polling agents appointed by 1,314 contesting candidates and polling began peacefully at all 45,341 polling stations simultaneously.

More than 90,000 "Jeevika Didis" (women volunteers), along with one central police personnel for each polling station, were deployed for the identification of "purdahnashen" (burqa or ghunghat-clad) women.

### 1 ophthalmologist...

Dr Praveen Vashist, Professor and Officer In-Charge of Community Ophthalmology at RP Centre, said the study highlighted that the distribution of ophthalmological services in India is highly uneven.

The situation is comparatively better in the states of South and West India, while there is a severe shortage of doctors in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Jharkhand, and West Bengal.

Out of the 8,790 eyecare institutes enrolled as part of the study, 7901 institutes completed the questionnaire (response rate 89.9 per cent), he said.

The eye institute population ratio for the entire country was one per 1,64,536 population, with better ratios in the Southern and Western states, compared to Northern, Eastern, and Northeastern states.

### Uttam: Focused on...

"Today, 2,39,886 beneficiaries in Jubilee Hills are getting six kilograms of fine-quality rice each," he said.

Drawing a sharp comparison with the previous Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) regime, he remarked, "In ten years of BRS rule, not a single new ration card was issued in Jubilee Hills. They distrib-

uted only 13,880 metric tonnes of coarse doddu biyyam, while our government has already supplied 17,648 metric tonnes of fine-quality rice. This shows the difference between empty promises and genuine governance."

Uttam Kumar Reddy described the Congress administration as "people-centric and welfare-oriented," adding that its approach was based on social justice and equitable growth. He said the government was implementing the 200-unit free electricity scheme for lower and middle-income households and would ensure that all eligible families in the constituency benefited from it.

Referring to the Kolluru two-bedroom housing complex, he said the government was aware of the residents' concerns regarding basic amenities and had already sanctioned ten ration shops, of which five were functional. "All ten will become operational shortly, and the remaining civic works - related to housing, water, and power supply - will be completed soon," he assured.

The minister said that the Congress government believed in results, not rhetoric. "Whatever we promise, we fulfil. The government's credibility rests on delivery, and Jubilee Hills

will be a reflection of that commitment," he said.

### Cong laid the...

"Congress stands for welfare and inclusive progress -- the only party that genuinely protects the poor," he told locals, assuring them that all pending civic issues would be addressed collectively under CM Revanth Reddy's leadership.

"BRS leaders boast of building a few small flyovers -- but during Y.S. Rajasekhara Reddy's tenure, Congress built the 14-km-long PVNR Expressway, which equals 50 of their flyovers," Komatireddy quipped. He lambasted BRS for selling the 71 lakh crore ORR for a mere 77,000 crore just before elections, calling it the biggest betrayal of public assets.

"Now, under CM Revanth Reddy's vision, we are taking up the Regional Ring Road with an investment of 730,000 crore, and works will begin by February 2026. We are also developing radial roads connecting ORR and RRR to boost connectivity," he revealed.

Referring to skyrocketing land values in Kokapet and Rajendranagar areas, he said, "Plots fetching 7200 crore per acre are proof of the Congress government's foresight and policies. The upcoming Future City will make Hyderabad one of the

most advanced cities in the world."

"\*KCR didn't attend Assembly -- how will he come back to power?\*"

Slamming BRS for resorting to false propaganda and emotional narratives in Jubilee Hills, Komatireddy said, "After realizing their defeat, BRS leaders have turned to sentiment politics and personal attacks. The Congress government has been in power for less than two years, with three more to go. Yet KTR claims KCR will return in two years -- how can a leader who doesn't even attend the Assembly return to power?"

Urging voters not to fall for BRS's sentimental tricks, the Minister said, "People who believe their lies will only suffer later. Think wisely -- we promise to deliver twice the development in Jubilee Hills that we're already achieving in Cantonment."

Minister Komatireddy Venkat Reddy's strong field presence and assertive campaign message have further energized the Congress cadre in Jubilee Hills, reinforcing the confidence of a decisive victory for candidate Naveen Yadav.

### Min: Gig workers'...

The TGPWU founder presented his demands of a minimum wage guarantee, legal recognition of workers

to make sure they are covered under all welfare provisions, and a tripartite board structure with equal representation for workers, platforms, and government.

The union has also asked for algorithmic transparency from platform companies to ensure fairness in task allocation, payments, and account deactivations, and the creation of a welfare fund with contributions from platforms, the government, and worker inputs.

The Telangana government is moving towards tabling the gig workers' welfare bill in the cabinet soon.

### Written communication...

The said grounds be communicated in writing within a reasonable time and in any case at least two hours prior to production of the arrestee for remand proceedings before the magistrate," it directed.

In case of non-compliance, the arrest and subsequent remand would be rendered illegal, and the person would be at liberty to be set free, it said.

The top court directed its registry to send a copy of the judgment to all the registrars general of the high courts and the chief secretaries of all the states and Union territories.

The verdict dealt with two issues, and the first one was

"whether in every case, even arising out of an offence under IPC now Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, would it be necessary to furnish grounds of arrest to an accused either before arrest or forthwith after arrest".

The second issue was whether, even in exceptional cases, where on account of certain exigencies, it would not be possible to furnish the grounds of arrest either before arrest or immediately after, the arrest would be vitiated.

Referring to earlier verdicts, it said, "Mere communication of the grounds in a language not understood by the person arrested does not fulfil the constitutional mandate under Article 22 of the Constitution of India. The failure to supply such grounds in a language understood by the arrestee renders the constitutional safeguards illusory and infringes a person's ability to comprehend the basis of the allegations levelled against him and it can only be realised when the grounds are furnished in a language understood by the person, it added.

### Cong is committed to...

He stated that the Kamma community would cast 40,000 votes in favor of the Congress party candidate.

The leaders of the Kamma community praised the gov-

ernment's efforts to implement a 42% reservation for backward classes and appealed to the people to support Naveen Yadav and the Congress party.

### 'Make Owaisi offer...

Addressing a rally here on Thursday night in favour of BJP candidate L Deepak Reddy, Kumar said the Hindus in Jubilee Hills should become a "vote bank" and ensure victory. If the Congress or BRS candidates win, the Hindus can't celebrate festivals, he said.

Revanth Reddy, who was wearing the skullcap, should make Azharuddin recite a prayer and have a 'tilak', the union minister said.

"Bhagya Lakshmi temple is there in the old city. Did Akbaruddin Owaisi or Asaduddin Owaisi ever have 'darshan' there and break a coconut or offer 'arti'. Revanth Reddy should think about it and answer. They don't pray or have a 'tilak'. Shamelessly, these people (Congress leaders) wear caps and are greedy for their votes," Kumar said.

Recalling that Hindus were killed after being identified by their religion in the Pahalgam terror attack, he said it should be checked whether the Congress leaders wearing skullcaps are real Hindus or have Pakistan in their DNA.





Man dies of suspected drug overdose in Hyd

PNS ■ Hyderabad



A 28-year-old man died in a flat here, allegedly after consuming an overdose of narcotic drugs, police said on Thursday.

Police said the man, a mobile phone technician, had allegedly consumed narcotic drugs along with a woman and another individual at Rajendranagar on Wednesday.

He died later that night due to the "excess consumption of the drug", a police official said, citing preliminary investigation.

Based on a complaint filed by the man's father, a case has been registered.

Further investigation is underway, police added.

Triple fine if vehicles violate speed lock

PNS ■ Hyderabad

Speeding beyond the limit is taking lives. The investigation by the authorities revealed that the tipper was also responsible for the recent fatal accident near Chevella. Not only this, many road accidents have also occurred in the past due to heavy vehicles speeding beyond the limit and many lives have been lost. Although there are clear guidelines regarding the speed control of heavy vehicles, most of them are not being implemented. However, in the wake of the serious road accidents that took place in Chevella and earlier in Kurnool in AP, the state government has alerted the transport department officials.

In the wake of the fact that excessive speed is the main cause of road accidents, State Transport



Minister Ponnam Prabhakar said that the authorities have been instructed to impose triple the fine if vehicles violate the speed lock. Officials have been instructed to create awareness about the need to cover the load with a tarpaulin cover when transporting sand, gravel, dust, and bricks.

With this, the officials have paid special attention to the speed of heavy vehicles as well as overloading. According to the rules, the

maximum speed of a tipper is 60-80 kilometers per hour, the maximum speed of lorries and other goods vehicles is 80 km per hour, and the maximum speed of buses is only 90 km per hour. Also, speed governance devices must be installed in every vehicle. However, the transport department officials found during these inspections that most of the heavy vehicles are moving at a speed exceeding the limit without speed locks.

More than half of the vehi-

cles were found to be missing speed governance devices. Also, unfit vehicles and vehicles travelling with overload are also being identified and action is being taken as per the law. In fact, vehicle inspections are a continuous process, said a senior official of the Transport Department. He said that 1,15,321 cases have been registered across the state from January 1 to November 3 this year. He said that extensive inspections are being carried out.

As part of this, the authorities seized 3 vehicles travelling with an overload during the inspections carried out in Nagole on Wednesday. One tipper was carrying 5.6 tonnes of sand, another tipper was carrying 7.5 tonnes of bricks, and another vehicle was carrying 4.2 tonnes of gravel, said Joint Commissioner of Transport Ramesh Chidura.



Raju Epuri



Rajesh Nagulakonda



Sivaji Tallavajhula

Strokes in Black & White

PNS ■ Hyderabad

Celebrating the art of drawing, six renowned artists have come together to present an art show entitled 'Between Black & White' for a week at Icon Art Gallery in Banjara Hills, Road No. 12 from November 7th to 16th. The artists are Sivaji Tallavajhula, Raju Epuri, Shankar Pamarthy, Srinivas Ram Makineedu, Moshe Dayan and Rajesh Nagulakonda.

Sivaji Tallavajhula has been painting since more than three decades on paper and canvas in water colours, acrylics and mixed medium, a blend of stylised forms and contemporary images. Some of his works are in the USA, England and in Newzealand. He lives in Hyderabad and has a studio at Chanda Nagar. Raju Epuri, a Hyderabad-based artist, has been immersed in painting for over 25 years. He has held several solo shows and participated in numerous group exhibitions, particularly in Hyderabad and Bangalore, earning presti-



Sankar Pamarthy



Sreenivaram Makineedu



Moshe Dayan

Police bust inter-state drug syndicate; six arrested



PNS ■ Hyderabad

Police on Thursday said they busted an interstate drug syndicate involved in the supply and distribution of MDMA and ganja, arresting six persons.

Based on credible intelligence, police teams first intercepted a group of drug suppliers near Aramghar Road. Following their interrogation, three consumers were later apprehended at Rajendranagar, Deputy Commissioner of Police (Rajendranagar zone) Yogesh Goutam said in a release.

Police seized 18 grams of MDMA, 130 grams of ganja, and five mobile phones from the accused.

The value of the drugs has not yet been disclosed.

The suppliers are residents of Kakinada and Rajahmundry in Andhra Pradesh, as well as Bengaluru, while the con-

sumers include an IT employee, according to the police.

On the modus operandi of the syndicate, police said, "The accused had established contact with an unidentified drug supplier through a social media platform, who coordinated with interstate peddlers for the delivery of narcotics."

The suppliers transported 18 grams of MDMA and 130 grams of ganja from Bengaluru to Hyderabad, concealing the contraband in bags, police added.

Upon reaching Aramghar Road, they were intercepted and apprehended by police. Acting on their confession, three consumers were later arrested, police said.

All six accused have been remanded to judicial custody. Efforts are underway to trace and apprehend the absconding supplier, police added.

TRAINING PROGRAMME FOR DSPs

Network very important for policing, says DGP

PNS ■ Hyderabad

The training programme for 115 DSPs selected in Group 1 has begun. DGP Shivdhar Reddy inaugurated the programme on Thursday. The DGP, who reached TGPA, was welcomed with a salute by TGPA Director Abhilasha Bist. Training will be given to probationary Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs) at TGPA in Rajendranagar. Speaking on the occasion, DGP Shivdhar Reddy said that



this is the largest DSP batch with 115 people.

Integrity, empathy, professional excellence... these three should be especially recognised. He said that these 100 people should be in contact not only during training but also after assum-

ing charge. On this occasion, DGP Shivdhar Reddy said that network is very important for policing.

He said that these 10 months will be very difficult. He hoped that they will face everything and stand effectively. He directed that they should be able to win the hearts of the people while performing their duties as police officers. He said that the newly recruited women DSPs should be role models for the coming generation. He advised them to be friendly during training.

Road widening work begins on Hyd-Bijapur highway

PNS ■ Hyderabad

The work on widening the 46 km stretch of the Hyderabad-Bijapur National Highway from Telangana Police Academy to Manneguda, which has become dangerous, began on Wednesday. It is known that 19 people were killed and 34 injured in a fatal accident on this road at Mirjaguda on Monday when a gravel tipper hit an RTC bus. The accident occurred due to the lack of road widening.

This narrow road has become known for frequent accidents. After receiving criticism from the locals due to the recent fatal accident, the authorities have taken steps to start the road widening work. MEIL, which has been awarded the construction work, has started work from the Police Academy to Moinabad, Chevella and Manneguda with 20 machines. Thorny trees are being removed and flattened on both sides of the BT Road. With this, the



road looks wider.

Even after 10 years of approval for the widening of this road, the construction work is progressing as if one step forward and two steps back. The Centre has sanctioned Rs 956 crore for the

widening of the road from Telangana Police Academy to Manneguda for 46 km into four lanes. The tender for this work was won by 'Megha Infra' for Rs 786 crore.

Land acquisition has almost been completed and

work has started in some places. However, the work was stopped after environmentalists approached the National Green Tribunal over the removal of trees on the roadside. Recently, the government agreed to change the road alignment to protect 765 banyan trees and relocate 150 more trees, after which the 'Save Banyans of Chevella' organisation withdrew the case. With this, the NGT recently lifted the stay and gave the green signal for the work.

MDMA drugs seized, four arrested in Hyd

PNS ■ Hyderabad

Despite the police's efforts to make Telangana a drug-free State, drugs are still being seized somewhere or the other. Frequent drug seizures in Hyderabad and Cyberabad have been causing a stir. The police have been arresting members of a gang supplying drugs and seizing a large amount of drugs.

It is also known that recently, after receiving solid information that drug parties were being held secretly, the SOT police conducted lightning raids and arrested many people. Along with those taking drugs, drug sellers were also arrested. Now, once again, the SOT police have busted a drug gang.

The police have arrested four people supplying drugs in Rajendranagar. It was found that the drugs were brought to Hyderabad from Bengaluru. The youths took the drugs in a dead drop method from Nigeria. Based on solid information, the SOT police have arrested four youths who were coming to Hyderabad from Bengaluru in a bus carrying drugs. Drug supplier Sangadi Santosh along with Gandhi Sandeep Kandepalli, Shiva Palaka and Sai Babu were arrested. The SOT police seized a large quantity of MDMA drugs from the four.

Woman dies by suicide over fear of ants



PNS ■ Hyderabad

Police said a 25-year-old woman allegedly died by suicide at her home in Sangareddy district, due to a fear of ants (myrmecophobia), on Thursday.

The incident took place on November 4. The woman, who was married in 2022 and had a three-year-old daughter, was found hanging from a ceiling fan with a sari, police said.

Police said they were informed that the woman had been afraid of ants since childhood and had previously received counselling at a hospital in her native Mancherial town.

Earlier that day, the woman had dropped her daughter off at a relative's house, telling them she would pick her up after cleaning their home.

Her husband, who had gone to work in the morning, returned in the evening to find the main door locked from the inside. With help from neighbours, he broke open the door and found his wife hanging from the ceiling fan, police added.

A suicide note recovered from the scene read: "Sri, I am sorry, I cannot live with these ants. Take care of (daughter). Be careful. Annavaram, Tirupati Rs 1,116... don't forget Yellamma vadi biyyam." (rice offering).

"It appears she might have noticed ants while cleaning and, out of fear, took the extreme step," police said.

A case has been registered at Ameenpur police station, and further investigation is underway.

Kodanda Reddy donates land worth Rs 4 cr to Agri Dept

PNS ■ Hyderabad

As promised, Farmers Commission Chairman Kodanda Reddy has registered his own land with the State government. On Thursday, he officially registered it with the Agriculture Department at the Ibrahimpatnam Sub-Registration office. Two months ago, he announced that he would register a 2,000-yard plot of land worth Rs 4 crore in his native Aina Yacharam village, and the building in it, to the Agriculture Department. It is very useful for storing the produce grown by the farmers of Yacharam mandal, other



agricultural equipment and tools. Kodanda Reddy said that he took this decision with the idea that if it is to be useful to the farmers permanently, it would be better to register it with the government.

He himself explained this matter to Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao earlier. However, the official reg-

istration process related to it ended on Thursday. The registration was done under the auspices of Ibrahimpatnam Sub-Registrar Harshan. Rangareddy District Agriculture Officer Usha, ADA Sujatha, AO Ravinadh, and Commission Officer Harivenkata Prasad participated in this process on behalf of the Agriculture Department.

A UNIQUE INITIATIVE BY TGSPDCL

Electricity officials to visit people three days a week

PNS ■ Hyderabad

The Southern Power Distribution Company of Telangana Limited (TGSPDCL) has launched a unique programme titled "Currentolla Praja Baata" across its operational districts (combined) - Nalgonda, Medak, Mahabubnagar, Ranga Reddy, and the twin cities of Hyderabad. This programme was formally inaugurated on Wednesday at Parigi by Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka Mallu in a public meeting.

As part of the Praja Baata initiative, officials and staff from the CMD to the artisan level - visit the field every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday to inspect the power network and directly interact with consumers to collect feedback and complaints.

On this occasion, Chairman & Managing Director Musharraf Faruqui, stated that around 9,500 employees, including Directors, Chief Engineers (CEs), Superintending Engineers (SEs), Divisional Engineers (DEs), Assistant



Divisional Engineers (ADEs), Assistant Engineers (AEs), Line Inspectors, and Linemen, are participating

in this programme. They will personally interact with consumers, gather suggestions and feedback,

As part of the Praja Baata initiative, officials and staff - from the CMD to the artisan level - visit the field every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday to inspect the power network and directly interact with consumers to collect feedback and complaints

and prioritise the resolution of complaints registered under the Praja Baata initiative.

As part of this programme, officials will inspect thousands of kilometers of LT / 11 kV / 33 kV lines, distribution transformers, AB switches, and other electrical equipment, ensuring that any identified issues are resolved immediately.

CMD Musharraf Faruqui added that this initiative will significantly improve the quality and reliability of power supply, while reducing consumer complaints, strengthening the network and minimising power losses across the TGSPDCL.





## IN FOCUS



BJP leaders and workers take part in a torch march on the eve of the 150th anniversary of 'Vande Mataram' in Jaipur

# India has too few diplomats: Argentine envoy

**ABHINAV KUMAR JHA**  
■ New Delhi

India's global rise is not matched by the number of diplomats it has, Argentine Ambassador Mariano A. Caucino said on Thursday. Speaking at the Observer Research Foundation's (ORF) Diplomat Diaries series in the national Capital, he said India and Argentina have almost the same number of diplomats, though India's population is nearly 30 times larger.

"India has almost 1.5 billion people, and Argentina has less than 50 million. Yet we have the same number of diplomats," Caucino said at the Latin America Roundtable held at the Dr Ambedkar International Centre. "I heard that India is recruiting many new diplomats this year. That is good news," he added.

The session was moderated by Professor Harsh V Pant of ORF. It featured Argentine Ambassador Caucino and Chilean

Ambassador Juan Angulo. Both envoys spoke about their countries' growing ties with India and the region's changing role in global politics.

Ambassador Caucino said Latin American nations face a "paradox". Politically, the region belongs to the Western Hemisphere. But economically, it is now more connected to Asia.

"Our trade partners are mostly in Asia. India is already among the top ten," he said. "We share democratic values with the West, but our economic future lies in Asia," he added. He said India's economic growth has opened new areas of cooperation. "India is already the fifth-largest economy. It will soon be third. Many Indian companies are investing in Argentina's lithium and food sectors," he said. But he warned against depending only on natural resources. "Countries develop when they add value and invest in technology," he said.

Chilean Ambassador Juan



Chile Ambassador Juan Angulo, Ambassador Mariano A Caucino at the Diplomat Diaries series organised by the Observer Research Foundation in the national Capital on Thursday. The session was moderated by Professor Harsh V Pant of ORF and the topic of discussion was Latin America Roundtable

PIONEER PHOTO

Angulo said small economies like Chile must stay flexible. "We are takers of global rules, not makers," he said. "We cannot choose

sides in big power rivalries. We must adapt," Angulo remarked. He further said Chile is trying to add value to its exports and use tech-

nology to improve productivity. "We don't want to export raw rocks of lithium. We want to be part of the battery value chain," he

said. "In agriculture, we use artificial intelligence for packing and shipping. Innovation is the only way to compete," he added.

Angulo said Latin America remains a "zone of peace" but faces internal challenges. "There are no wars between our countries. But we have problems like crime, drugs, and weak institutions," he said. "People are also losing faith in democracy because it is not meeting their needs."

Caucino agreed that Latin America's political values remain democratic but said the region must do more to turn economic links into opportunities. "With India, our economies are complementary, not competitive," he said. The envoys said India's limited diplomatic presence makes it harder to engage with faraway regions like Latin America.

Many Indian missions in the region cover multiple countries. Ambassador Angulo summed it up: "The distance is large, but the opportunities are larger."

## President to visit Angola, Botswana

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**  
■ New Delhi

President Droupadi Murmu will undertake a six-day visit to Angola and Botswana beginning Saturday with a broader aim to further expand India's development partnership with the African continent.

In the first leg of her trip, Murmu will visit Angola from November 8 to 11. From Angola, she will travel to Botswana, according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA). "The President of India will be paying a state visit to Angola and Botswana from November 8 to 13. This will be the first-ever state visit by an Indian head of state to Angola and Botswana," Secretary (Economic Relations) in the MEA, Sudhakar Dalela, said. India's engagement with the African continent is growing and President Murmu's visit to the two nations should be seen in the larger context of India's priority in expanding the partnership with the African region, he said at a media



briefing. Dalela said India's trade with the African region is reaching almost \$100 billion.

"India's growing engagement with Africa is also in consonance with the government's priority of strengthening partnerships with countries in the Global South," he said. Dalela said President Murmu will hold bilateral talks with her Angolan counterpart and attend the 50th

anniversary celebrations of the African nation's independence.

She is also scheduled to address the Angolan parliament and interact with members of the Indian community in that country, he said. Angolan President Joao Manuel Goncalves Lourenco is currently holding the chairship of the African Union, an influential bloc that comprises 55 African member states.

## Nagrota by-polls: Omar's message lost as mic fails

**MOHIT KANDHARI**  
■ Jammu

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday failed to send a 'loud and clear' message to voters gathered at an election rally after the public address system went off, forcing him to abruptly wind up his speech in support of the party candidate ahead of the November 11 by-elections in the Nagrota Assembly constituency.

A large number of party leaders, including Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary and senior MLAs, addressed the meeting without facing any technical glitches. Ironically, when Omar started addressing the gathering, his mike abruptly went off.

Omar waited patiently for over two minutes, but when the sound engineers, working behind the stage, failed to rectify the glitch in time, Omar, apparently, lost his cool. He was also seen making gestures, pointing fingers towards the party organisers.

Sporting a Dogra turban, Omar stepped down without



addressing the party supporters. However, before leaving, Omar made a passionate appeal to the voters to support the party's candidate on November 11 by turning up in large numbers at the polling booths. Omar refused to use the mike, offered to him by the party candidate standing next to him in front of the electorate.

This was Omar Abdullah's first election meeting in Jammu after completing one year in office. The Bharatiya Janta Party candidate Devyani Rana, daughter of deceased BJP MLA Devender Singh Rana, and Shamim Begum of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference are locked

in a straight contest.

After Chief Minister Omar Abdullah received a rousing reception in Jammu on the day of the reopening of the Durbar move offices, the provincial National Conference leaders extended an invitation to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to address an election meeting to boost the morale of party workers.

The Nagrota Assembly Constituency, represented by Devender Singh Rana in 2014, was won by the National Conference. Rana, a close aide of Omar Abdullah, was appointed Omar's political advisor between 2009-2011.

## CAG approves centralised cadres to boost expertise

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**  
■ New Delhi

The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) on Thursday announced the creation of two centralised cadres to build deeper professional expertise and further improve the quality of audit of central Government finances. The CAG has accorded in-principle approval for the creation of specialised cadres — Central Revenue Audit (CRA) Cadre and Central Expenditure Audit (CEA) Cadre — within the Indian Audit and Accounts Department, DAI (HR, IR, CDN) K Subramaniam said at a media briefing here. The scheme will be operationalised from January 1, 2026.

At present, the audit of central receipts and expenditure is undertaken by 9 Director General (Audit)/Principal Director (Audit) offices and exclusive offices with cadre control dispersed across multiple state civil audit offices and independent CCAs. Subramaniam said the centralisation will unify cadre management, consolidating multiple fragmented cadres into two specialised streams. The new cadres will consolidate over 4,000 audit professionals at the senior audit officer and assistant audit officer levels. He further said the CRA cadre will promote specialisation in auditing government revenue collections, and the CEA cadre will focus on audit in government expenditure. Explaining the benefits of centralisation, Subramaniam said specialisation in the cadre of CRA and CEA will lead to deeper domain expertise in revenue and

THE NEW CADRES WILL CONSOLIDATE OVER 4,000 AUDIT PROFESSIONALS AT THE SENIOR AUDIT OFFICER AND ASSISTANT AUDIT OFFICER LEVELS

expenditure audits. It will also reduce the number of cadre-controlling authorities from 16 for CRA and 19 for CEA to a single central authority for each vertical.

He said all-India transfer liability within larger, unified cadres enables transparent rotation and improves the likelihood of periodic postings near homes, while meeting organisational needs.

"Everybody would have 2-3 opportunities in life to be closer home or in a place which is proximate," Subramaniam said. To build domain expertise, two separate SAS examination streams will be introduced, one each for CRA and CEA. Officers in both cadres will be liable for all-India transfers with their respective domains. A transfer and posting board will be constituted to ensure transparent and equitable policies based on organisational needs and career progression considerations. The move is expected to professionalise auditing to specialise in central government finances. Officers in the new cadres will receive specialised training tailored to revenue and expenditure audits, enhancing their technical skills. The consolidation will also help in faster decision-making and uniformity in audit practices across the country.

## ED raids human hair export firms

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**  
■ New Delhi

In an export business of human hair to Tunisia and Italy. Enforcement Directorate carried out search operations at seven premises across Nagaland, Assam and Tamil Nadu, the agency said on Thursday. The raids were carried on October 4, for violations of the provisions of Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999. The agency sleuth received information that Imsong Global Suppliers Co — based in Nagaland — claimed to be engaged in the export of human hair to entities based in Tunisia

and Italy received ₹50 crore foreign remittances suspiciously.

During the searches, crucial evidences, documents and digital devices relating to the foreign remittances received by the entity Imsong Global Suppliers Co. have been seized. The company, despite considerable lapse of time, had failed to submit requisite export documentation such as shipping bills, export invoice copies amongst others to the authorised dealer bank within prescribed timelines. "Such non-compliance of export obligations and suppression of documentary evidences constitute con-

traventions of the provisions of the FEMA vis a vis several directions issued by RBI from time to time," the agency said. During investigation, it was found that the foreign remittances received by Imsong Global Suppliers Co. were further diverted to Inchem India Private Limited on the pretext of purchase of human hair.

The agency found that Inchem India Private Limited, which had remained dormant or inactive for a considerable period, was re-activated in 2015. This coincides precisely with the period when Imsong Global Trading Co commenced receipt of large foreign remit-

## CAG to present transport report in next monsoon

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**  
■ New Delhi

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) will submit its report on 'Multi-Modal Transport and Logistics Initiatives', being prepared in consultation with IIM Mumbai as knowledge partner, in Parliament in the next Monsoon session. The CAG has constituted an Integrated Audit Group (IAG) to carry out coordinated audit work across various audit verticals, including railways, infrastructure, ports, shipping, and waterways.

Giving details, ADAI (Railways) Pravir Pandey said the Railway Audit Wing is conducting the audit of 'Multi-Modal Transport and Logistics Initiatives', with particular emphasis on 'First Mile Last Mile' connectivity with logistics hubs and (Origin-Destination) O-D pairs in 2025-26.

## Rajinder, Sat Paul take oath as Rajya Sabha MPs

**PIONEER NEWS SERVICE**  
■ New Delhi

Newly elected members of the Rajya Sabha, Rajinder Gupta and Sat Paul Sharma, were administered the oath of office by Vice President CP Radhakrishnan on Thursday. Gupta of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) was elected an MP from Punjab. Sharma of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) took oath as an MP representing Jammu and Kashmir. Gupta took the oath at a brief function in Parliament House in Punjab, while Sharma did it in Hindi. Gupta, an industrialist, was nominated by the AAP, which is in power in Punjab.

Sharma is the president of the Jammu and Kashmir unit of the BJP. He is a chartered accountant by profession and has earlier served as a cabinet minister in the J-K government. He was elected a member of the Legislative Assembly from the Jammu West constituen-



Vice President and Rajya Sabha Chairman CP Radhakrishnan administers the oath to AAP leader Rajinder Gupta as an elected Member of the Rajya Sabha at Parliament House in New Delhi

PTI

cy in 2014, when he won by 51,000 votes, the biggest margin then.

BJP President JP Nadda and Union Minister Jitendra Singh were present at the swearing-in ceremony, besides the BJP's Jammu and Kashmir in-charge, Tarun Chugh. The families of both MPs were present at the oath-taking. Gupta was elected unop-

posed to the Rajya Sabha from Punjab as he was the lone candidate in the fray. The AAP, which nominated Gupta as its candidate for the October 24 RS bypoll, enjoys an overwhelming majority with 93 members in the 117-member state assembly.

The seat fell vacant after AAP's Sanjeev Arora stepped down from the Upper House following his election to the

state assembly. He has since been inducted into the Punjab Cabinet.

Gupta, the chairman emeritus of Trident Group, recently resigned as vice-chairman of the state economic policy and planning board, and as chairperson of the Kali Devi temple advisory committee. Sharma won one of the four RS seats which went to polls in J-K.

**GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA**  
OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL DEPUTY COLLECTOR,  
LA, HAMM, HYDERABAD

**FORM-F**  
Notification by the Collector (LA), HAMM  
(See rule 7 (c))

File No.: C6/427/2025 - LHS (447-473) Dated: 06-11-2025

Where as the following notifications were issued and published in the Gazettes for acquisition of the land under Extension of Metro Rail Project, Hyderabad Airport Metro Limited, Phase-II, from MGBS to Chandrayangutta, Corridor-VI, situated at Bandlaguda (Village & Mandal) of Hyderabad District for the Public purpose...

In response to the said Notifications the following affected person (Property owners and others) have come forward to settle their claims through Negotiations.

The details of the willing affected persons/Land Owners are as follows:

S.NO	NOTIFICATION NO. & DATE	GAZETTE NO. & DATE
1	No. C6/427/2025 - LHS (447-473)	HAMM No.58, Dated 04-06-2025

S. N O	Name and address	Sketch No.	Premises No.	Extent in Sq.Yds
1	Ghulam Khader S/o Late Ghulam Mohammed H.No. 18-2-506/1 Near Ryth Bazar Jangammet Falaknuma.	LHS-454	18-2-506 /1	28.82
2	Mahmooda Begum D/o Late Ghulam Mohammed H.No. 18-2-504 Near Ryth Bazar Jangammet Falaknuma.	LHS-455	18-2-504	49.04

It is hereby notified calling for claims and objections if any, to be filed before the District Collector, Hyderabad District/Special Deputy Collector, LA, HAMM, Rasoolpura, Hyderabad within the Seven days of publication of this Notification.

Sd/-  
Special Deputy Collector, LA, HAMM, Rasoolpura, Hyderabad.

Date: 06-11-2025

DIPR No. 809/LA-PP/Advt/Agency/2025-26

**GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**

**'E' PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE**  
NIT.No. 15/ZCTO/CRZ/GHMC/2025-26.  
Dt. 06.11.2025 Item No.1 to 6

Nature of the Work : Engaging of additional 6 Tonnor capacity vehicles (with Labour) and JCB (Back Hoe Loader) for a period of 15 days for upkeep of sanitation in various circles of Charminar Zone, GHMC. Estt. Cost (Rs in Lakhs) : 36.25. Start Date / Last Date & Time for Receipts of Bids : Download Start Date : 07.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M. Last Date Receipt of Bids : 11.11.2025 at 11.00 A.M. Name & Address Officer, Cell No: Smt. G Hari Kishore, ZCTO, CRZ, GHMC, Hyderabad. Ph. No. 9849906768. For further details can be seen at e-procurement @ www.tender.eprocurement.gov.in. Note : 1% EMD should be obtained after the date of tender notice. Sd/-, ZCTO, CRZ, DIPR.No. 10332-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26, Dt: 06.11.2025 GHMC.

**GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION**

**NOTICE FOR OBTAINING QUOTATIONS**  
Notice No.13/Sealed Quotations/EE-30/SQZ/GHMC/2025-2026. Dt. 06.11.2025

Sealed Quotations are invited from Manufacturers, Fabricators, Authorized dealers/Agencies etc. for the below mentioned items: Name of the work: Sealed Quotations are invited for 'Renovation of Metropolitan Surveillance Unit Hyderabad at 5th floor NTPC Building in Ward 149-Begumpet, Secunderabad Zone, GHMC'. ITEMS REQUIRED: Certain Civil items, Partition items, Plumbing items, Furniture items, Electrical items and other miscellaneous items. Document Download Start Date & Time /Quotations Submission Closing Date & Time: Quotations Start Date & Time - 07.11.2025 @ 10.30 AM. Submission Closing Date & Time-10.11.2025 @ 11.30 AM. Name & Address Officer Cell.No: Sealed quotation can be submitted in the O/o. E.E., Circle-30, GHMC, Secbad on or before 10.11.2025 @ 11.30 AM. Cell No. 7995468096 /7331181428. Note: Rate shall be proposed with units. Address of the officer concerned Executive Engineer, Circle-30, and the Head Draftsman, Circle-30, Secbad Zone, GHMC. Further details and complete specification for the above items can be obtained from GHMC web site: https://www.ghmc.gov.in/Tenderspage.aspx. Quotations may be submitted through online Email ID: eec30reports@gmail.com. Sd/-, Executive Engineer, DIPR.No. 10394-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26, Dt: 06.11.2025 Circle-30, Begumpet.



States Focus



KEJRIWAL SLAMS WARRING OVER CASTEIST REMARK

AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal Thursday slammed Punjab Congress chief Amrinder Singh Raja Warring over his "casteist" remarks against former union home minister, late Buta Singh, saying it shows the Congress's "mentality." Kejriwal was campaigning for the Aam Aadmi Party candidate Harmeet Singh Sandhu for the November 11 Tarn Taran Assembly Bypoll. Without naming Warring, Kejriwal said a "big leader" of the Punjab Congress made a wrong comment against Buta Singh. The word the Congress leader used, he cannot repeat here, he said.



ASSAM CIC BHASKAR JYOTI MAHANTA RESIGNS

Assam Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta, whose brother Shyamkanu has been arrested in Zubeen Garg's death case, on Thursday resigned from his post after an RTI was filed seeking data related to government funds given to his younger sibling. In a long post on Facebook, Mahanta, also the former DGP of Assam, announced his resignation and said that he has already forwarded the letter to the Governor.

Women clash with police over puja attempt at mausoleum

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ Fatehpur

A group of women carrying diyas and other material tried to perform puja at a disputed mausoleum site on Kartik Purnima, clambering over barricades and clashing with police when they were stopped, officials said on Thursday.

Police registered an FIR against 20 women after the clashes on Wednesday evening, tension flaring up once again over the centuries-old Nawab Abu Samad mausoleum.

On August 11, members of Hindu rightwing outfits had allegedly created a ruckus while demanding permission to offer prayers there, claiming that the structure was a temple of 'Thakurji' with a 'Shivling'.

They alleged that the mausoleum was constructed after demolishing an ancient temple. Videos from that time purportedly showed vandalism and hoisting of a

POLICE REGISTERED AN FIR AGAINST 20 WOMEN AFTER THE CLASHES, TENSION FLARING UP ONCE AGAIN OVER THE CENTURIES-OLD NAWAB ABU SAMAD MAUSOLEUM

saffron flag at the site, triggering communal tension in the area. Following the agitation, the district administration sealed the premises, put up barricades and imposed restrictions.

On Wednesday, a few women allegedly tried to remove or climb over the barricades, prompting police to restrain them, officials said.

An argument ensued between the women and Station House Officer (SHO) Tarkeshwar Rai, during which the women accused the police of misconduct and preventing them from offering their prayers.

Unable to reach the disput-

ed spot, the women eventually performed their prayers and aarti from a nearby lane, facing the structure.

A case has been registered at the Kotwali police station under Sections 121(1) (obstructing or assaulting a public servant in discharge of duty), 351(2) (criminal intimidation), and 352 (use of criminal force otherwise than on grave provocation) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), the ASP said.

The FIR, lodged on the complaint of Constable Manju Singh, named 20 unidentified women, including the wife of a local identified as Pappu Singh Chauhan.

In her complaint, Constable Singh said she and other personnel were deployed near the disputed mausoleum when, around 6 pm, a group of women led by Chauhan's wife allegedly tried to push through the barricades, used abusive language and threatened police with false accusations. Videos purportedly showing the women arguing

with police and performing puja from a distance have surfaced on social media, though their authenticity has not been independently verified.

So far, no arrests have been made in the matter, and extra vigilance is being maintained in the area, where heavy police force has been deployed. Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Mahendra Pal Singh informed PTI that local intelligence units have been instructed to monitor the situation.

He confirmed that the situation is currently peaceful, with no law and order issues reported.

Earlier, BJP district president Mukhlal Pal had warned that he and members of Hindu organisations would perform prayers at the site, citing carvings of a trident and lotus inside the structure as evidence of its Hindu origins.

Officials said the matter is sub judice and strict orders have been issued to prevent any activity that could disturb public order.

SIR of electoral rolls in MP hit by delays

GIRISH SHARMA  
■ Bhopal

The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, currently underway across Madhya Pradesh, has been hit by delays in several districts. While some areas have completed the initial phase of distributing voter enumeration forms, many regions are still waiting for the process to begin, raising concerns about meeting the Election Commission's deadlines.

Under the SIR drive, Booth Level Officers (BLOs) are tasked with door-to-door verification to ensure that the names, addresses, and details of all eligible voters are accurately recorded ahead of the 2025 final publication of electoral rolls.

However, progress has been hampered by technical glitches in the mobile application designed for online data entry and verification.

Many BLOs have reported app crashes, poor network connectivity, and data upload failures, forcing them

PROGRESS HAS BEEN HAMPERED BY TECHNICAL GLITCHES IN THE MOBILE APPLICATION DESIGNED FOR ONLINE DATA ENTRY AND VERIFICATION

to temporarily switch back to manual record-keeping methods. Field reports from Bhopal, Indore, Jabalpur, Gwalior, Sagar, Rewa, and Chhindwara suggest that while some wards have completed the distribution of forms, several others are still waiting to receive them.

In a number of constituencies, BLOs have been assigned multiple polling stations, creating heavy workloads and uneven progress across districts. Officials supervising the campaign admitted that although the work is being carried out on a 'war footing', practical hurdles have slowed down implementation.

Shah slams Rahul Gandhi for seeking caste, religion data of army jawans

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ Banka/Jamui/Gayaji

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday lambasted Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for seeking to know about the caste and religion of army jawans. Shah said the country does not discriminate among military personnel on the basis of caste or creed.

"Rahul Gandhi should be ashamed for seeking to know about the caste and religion of Army jawans. We do not discriminate among military personnel on the basis of caste or creed," he said.

Addressing back-to-back election rallies in Madhubani,

West Champaran and Motihari districts, Shah also took up the issue of illegal Bangladeshi immigrants, saying that these people snatch jobs and pose security threats to the country. He also asserted that the Bihar assembly elections are for making the eastern state "infiltrator-free".

Gandhi, while addressing public rallies in Bihar on Tuesday, claimed that lower castes, tribal communities and minorities have little representation in the armed forces besides private firms, the judiciary and the bureaucracy and said that 10 per cent of the population controls



these institutions.

Shah alleged that the RJD indulged in massacres and rapes while in power, while asserting that there is no

place for 'bahubalis' (strongmen) in the NDA Government.

Hitting out at the Mahagathbandhan, he said

Champaran would turn into 'mini-Chambal' if 'thagbandhan' comes to power in Bihar.

Asserting that only the pair of Narendra Modi and Nitish Kumar can prevent 'jungle raj' in Bihar, he alleged that Lalu Prasad and Rahul Gandhi were trying to pave the way for infiltrators.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi established Makhana

Board... If 'Lalu & co' come to power, 'infiltrator ghusao board' will be set up," he alleged.

"Bihar waged a war against Indira Gandhi's corruption, opposed the Emergency, but now Congress is seeking to rule the state with RJD's help," he added. "Neither Lalu Prasad nor Rahul Gandhi can prevent the construction of a grand Sita temple in Sitamarhi within two-and-half years," he added.



Congress to culminate first phase of *Vote Chor, Gaddi Chhod* campaign on November 8

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ New Delhi

Congress would hold flag-off events at all state headquarters across the country on November 8 to mark the culmination of first phase of its 'Vote chor, gaddi chhod' campaign against the BJP.

AICC general secretary (organisation), KC Venugopal, said that so far, the Congress has collected over five crore signatures of people expressing their anger and resentment against "vote chori" by the BJP in "collusion" with the Election Commission.

The signatures of people expressing resentment against this "murder of democracy" would be handed over to the President of India later, Venugopal said in a statement.

He said that at a meeting of party general secretaries, PCC presidents, and other office bearers held on Wednesday, it was unanimously decided



AICC general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal

that the first phase of the campaign will culminate with flag-off events at all state headquarters on Saturday (November 8).

These programmes will be attended by senior leaders and party functionaries, symbolizing the collective unity and determination of the Congress party in this national struggle to safeguard democracy, he said.

"So far, over five crore signatures have been collected nationwide - a powerful tes-

timony to the anger, apprehension, and deep concern among ordinary citizens about the naked murder of democracy through manipulative practices such as duplicate voting, fake voter entries, and fraudulent addresses in the electoral rolls," Venugopal said.

He said the Congress has been consistently raising serious concerns about alleged electoral roll manipulation and electoral "fraud", undermining the sanctity of

India's democratic process. The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, has repeatedly exposed the dangerous "vote chori", saying it is a direct assault on the people's mandate.

As part of the Congress' nationwide movement to defend democracy, the party launched the 'Vote chor gaddi chhod' (Vote thief, vacate your seat of power) signature campaign, a public outreach and door-to-door initiative to mobilize citizens against alleged electoral fraud.

Beginning on September 15, 2025, following the successful culmination of the 'Vote chor, gaddi chhod' state-level rallies, the campaign has seen participation from lakhs of citizens across districts, blocks, and mandals, Venugopal said, adding that party functionaries, community leaders, professionals, and the public joined hands to register their protest against this "subversion of democratic norms".

Revenue official suspended over ₹300-crore land deal in Pune

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ Pune

The Maharashtra Government has suspended a revenue official over a ₹300-crore land deal in Pune, allegedly involving Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar's son Parth Pawar, and set up a high-level committee to investigate it, officials said on Thursday.

Additional Chief Secretary (Revenue) Vikas Kharge will head the probe committee, formed on the instructions of Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, they said.

Fadnavis has termed the land transaction "prima facie serious". Tehsildar Suryakant Yewale from Pune has been suspended with immediate effect over the controversial deal that has prompted the Opposition to target the ruling Mahayuti, comprising the BJP, Ajit Pawar's NCP and Eknath Shinde-led Shiv Sena.


According to an official, 40 acres of "Mahar Vatan land belonging to the govern-

ment" in Pune's upmarket Mundhwa area was sold to Amadea Enterprises LLP, in which Parth Pawar is a partner, for ₹300 crore, and the stamp duty on it was waived. Being government land, the plot cannot be sold to a private firm, he said.

Inspector General of Registration Ravindra Binwade said that the high-level committee will find out how the government land was sold to a private firm and ascertain whether the exemption was given as per the norms.

"The documents submitted to claim the exemption will be checked. The committee will also see what sort of documents were produced during registration. But as an immediate action, we have suspended a sub-registrar-rank official. If it is government land, the registration should not have taken place," he said.

Sources in the revenue department claimed that on the '7/12 extract', a key prop-

 The purchase of land by the company of Parth Pawar, son of Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Ajit Pawar, must be investigated in a transparent manner  
—VIJAY WADETTIWAR, CONGRESS LEADER

erty document, the land is in the name of 'Mumbai Sarkar'.

Besides Parth Pawar, Digvijay Patil, in whose name the registration has taken place, is the co-partner in the firm. Talking to reporters in Nagpur earlier in the day, Fadnavis said, "Prime facie, the issue looks serious. I've sought all information concerning the case from the relevant departments. Orders have been given to conduct a probe. I can speak about it and the action to be taken after getting all the details."

According to RTI activist Vijay Kumbhar, the land parcel was allegedly purchased for about ₹300 crore by a company linked to Parth Pawar despite its market rate being "considerably higher". He also claimed that

"the stamp duty of ₹21 crore on this deal was waived". "Why are some people more equal than others?" he asked in a social post on Wednesday.

Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule had said in the morning that his department would examine the alleged land deal only after receiving a complaint. He said activist Anjali Damania had called to inform him about the alleged transaction, and that she would file a written complaint with him by November 11. The Opposition attacked the BJP-led government over the land deal.

Senior Congress leader Vijay Wadeettiwar demanded a judicial inquiry into the transaction, claiming it was

done in violation of the law.

"The purchase of land by the company of Parth Pawar, son of Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Ajit Pawar, must be investigated in a transparent manner," he claimed.

He said the file related to the deal moved "at rocket speed" through government departments. "Within hours, the Directorate of Industries not only approved the transfer of land to the company for an IT park and data centre but also waived stamp duty of ₹21 crore," he claimed.

"Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar, who often questions how long farmers will get things for free, has now ensured free land and tax waivers for his son's firm," Wadeettiwar said, further claiming that "similar land deals in Pune could amount to a ₹1 lakh crore scam".

Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Ambadas Danve claimed that the land bought by the private company is worth ₹1,800 crore.

Congress takes dig at Centre as Trump repeats 'India-Pakistan peace' claim

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ New Delhi

With US President Donald Trump again repeating his claim that India and Pakistan "made peace" after he threatened them with snapping trade deals, the Congress on Thursday took a swipe at the Modi government and said "this makes it 58 times" this has been stated.

Congress general secretary in-charge communications Jairam Ramesh attacked the government with the poser –what unites Washington DC, Riyadh, Doha, London, The Hague, Sharm-al-Sheikh, Tokyo, the US President's Air Force One plane, and now Miami. "These are all places where President Trump has declared that he used trade and tariffs to stop Operation Sindoor. This makes it 58 times since the evening of May 10th – when the very first announcement of the end to Operation Sindoor was made

CONGRESS ON THURSDAY TOOK A SWIPE AT THE MODI GOVERNMENT AND SAID "THIS MAKES IT 58 TIMES" THIS HAS BEEN STATED

from Washington DC," Ramesh said on X. He also shared the video clip of Trump's remarks in Miami.

Ramesh's remarks came after Trump said that India and Pakistan "made peace" in May after he threatened the two nuclear-armed neighbours to snap trade deals with them if they continued their military conflict, a claim he has repeated several times since then.

"In eight months I ended eight wars, including Kosovo and Serbia, and Congo and Rwanda, that were going on for a long time... Pakistan and India," Trump said in his address at the America

Business Forum in Miami on Wednesday.

"You know, I was in the midst of a trade deal with both of them (India and Pakistan), and then I read on the front page of a certain newspaper... I heard they were going to war. Seven planes were shot down, and the eighth was really badly wounded... Eight planes were shot down essentially," Trump said.

He added, "I said, this is war, and they are going at it. And they are two nuclear nations. I said, 'I'm not going to make any trade deals with you guys unless you agree to peace.'"

"The two nations said 'No way. This has nothing to do...' I said, 'It has everything to do (with it). You are nuclear powers. I'm not trading with you. We're not making any deals with you if you're at war with each other.'"

"A day later, I get a call saying, 'We made peace.' They stopped.



Editor's  
TAKE

## New York elects hope over hate

Zohran Mamdani's election as New York mayor signals that the arc of democracy, however bent by demagogues, still leans towards justice, inclusion, and hope

In what can be termed a personal defeat for Donald Trump, Zohran Mamdani has been elected as New York City mayor. And the reason for this binary is simple: Mamdani stands for everything that Trump wants to dismantle – socialism, environment, migrants, fair trade, and, above all, ethics in public life. He has defeated a Trump-supported candidate and decimated his narrative of polarisation and the politics of fear, a victory of reason over rhetoric. Indeed, there are many firsts in his win - the 34-year-old socialist, son of Indian parents and born in Uganda, defeated the establishment's stalwart, Andrew Cuomo, and the right-wing provocateur, Curtis Sliwa, to become New York's first Muslim, first South Asian, first Africa-born, and youngest mayor in over a century. Mamdani's meteoric rise from an obscure state assemblyman to the most prestigious post of New York City is not just a personal triumph; it is an ideological milestone. His victory represents a sharp rebuke to Trump-style politics - a politics built on division, spectacle, and the demonisation of the "other." At a time when Donald Trump continues to dominate America's conservative narrative with populist outrage and cultural onslaught, Mamdani's win shows that voters, at least in New York, are ready to turn the page towards empathy, inclusion, and economic fairness. When Mamdani launched his campaign in late 2024, few took him seriously. Analysts dismissed him as a fringe socialist with radical ideas about housing and taxation. Yet, through persistence, creativity, and an authentic connection with working-class New Yorkers, Mamdani redefined what a grassroots movement could look like. His campaign was powered not by corporate donors but by volunteers, community organisers, and an entirely digital-first strategy. From witty TikTok videos to multilingual street interactions, he reached voters who had long been ignored – immigrants, tenants, gig workers, and young families crushed by Trumponomics. His policy proposals – from rent freezes and social housing to free buses, universal childcare, and a \$30 minimum wage - may sound radical, but resonated deeply in a city increasingly unaffordable to its own people. They reflected lived experience, not ideological abstraction. His empathy – born from proximity to struggle – infused his politics with rare moral clarity. Yet his journey was far from smooth. His unapologetic Muslim identity, his vocal support for immigrant rights, and his criticism of Israel's actions in Gaza invited fierce backlash. Cuomo accused him of "fueling antisemitism," while Trump labelled him a "communist lunatic." But Mamdani's response was firm and dignified: he neither diluted his principles nor distanced himself from his roots. It reminds America that leadership can still be built on empathy rather than ego, and that politics can still be a moral pursuit, not a marketplace of outrage. No doubt Mamdani will face enormous tests. But for now, his win signals a larger message – reason will always prevail in the end, come what may!

# The climate reality we cannot outrun

The absence of a unified climate law in India limits effective action, with the background of it being among the most vulnerable nations facing compound climate extremes such as landslides, floods, and heatwaves



PRIYANKA CHATURVEDI

Every year, as winter arrives in Delhi, so does the inevitable reality of toxic haze, so does the discussion to prioritise healthy air. After huffing and puffing, literally and figuratively, for a few days, it is work as usual till the next Diwali/farm fire season. The great Indian apathy to demand better governance continues. However, this is no more a seasonal nuisance but a major public health and policy crisis unfolding. For the crores of residents, breathing has become an act of endurance. The norm of pollution has disillusioned the citizens about the need for immediate action by their chosen representatives. While most cities would shut down at an AQI of over 500, Delhi continues to function as if the choking air were normal, with the Government even hosting fitness events amid it all. Worse still, the Government's response only further enhances its wilful apathy, as rather than fighting pollution, it chooses to manipulate the data measuring it. The remarkable "triple-engine government" in Delhi has been accused of taking cosmetic measures, such as allegedly spraying water near AQI sensors, rather than tackling pollution at its source. According to the data submitted to the Supreme Court, on Diwali, only 9 out of 37 sensors were functioning, even as authorities claimed to be monitoring air quality closely. Various examples will tell you that a call for a ban on anything seldom works, rather makes the proposition more interesting. Similar was the case of the firecracker ban, and once that was lifted by the highest court of the land under the label of 'green crackers', welcomed by the Government, the NCR saw the return of the fire-crackers with a vengeance. Yes, of course, this isn't the only cause but one of the major causes of what makes the capital of the country choke with poisonous air. Then there is the elephant in the room-the stubble burning by farmers. Punjab alone has already recorded over 1,200 farm fires since September. To add salt to the wound, when India's AQI scale has been capped at 500, international apps have shown readings over 1,000. While this is not new, it remains unaddressed by the Government, and much of the population remains unaware. Around such conditions, many parts of the city will adopt work-from-home policies, yet what about the citizens who cannot afford to work from home, nor afford to buy a purifier like the Chief Minister? The new-age capitalism has brought along the need to buy clean air for survival. This is no more a seasonal problem. According



THE UNITED STATES' RENEWED WITHDRAWAL FROM THE PARIS AGREEMENT UNDER TRUMP, THE ROLLBACK OF CLIMATE GRANTS, AND THE RETREAT OF MAJOR CORPORATIONS AND BANKS FROM CLIMATE ALLIANCES REFLECT A DANGEROUS TREND OF WILFUL DENIAL BY THOSE MOST RESPONSIBLE

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to the 2025 Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change, India now accounts for 26 per cent of global deaths caused by air pollution-over 17 lakh deaths annually-a 38 per cent rise since 2010. The very air that every single citizen of the country breathes is also what is slowly killing them. Even still, the Environment and Health Ministries continue to deny any direct correlation between air pollution and mortality. This silence should itself be a clarion call for decisive and coordinated action. Delhi's smog is a symptom of a deeper policy vacuum on pollution. On one hand, cities like Mumbai get away thanks to the sea winds, which also blow away accountability, against unchecked construction and industrial activity. On the other hand, northern cities dominate global pollution rankings in the top 50 of the world's most polluted cities. This inaction is not India's alone; it mirrors a wider failure of global leadership. Even as India ranks 10th in the Climate Change Performance Index, global leadership continues to falter. The United States' renewed withdrawal from the Paris Agreement under Trump, the rollback of climate grants, and the retreat of major corporations and banks from climate alliances reflect a dangerous trend of wilful denial by those most responsible. The developed world is not yet seeing the worst consequences of climate change, now endured by the Global South. Addressing this crisis requires not just short-term measures but systemic

reform. That is why, in 2021, I introduced the Climate Change Council Bill-a Private Member's Bill-to establish a comprehensive legal framework to guide India's response to climate change; a framework we currently lack. The absence of a unified climate law in India limits effective action, with the background of it being among the most vulnerable nations facing compound climate extremes such as landslides, floods, and heatwaves. By integrating environmental, ecological, and developmental aspects, the Bill seeks to ensure focused mechanisms for the assessment, adaptation, and mitigation of climate change impacts. Still, policy cannot succeed without public will. These persisting conditions across various North Indian states will drive the majority of the public health emergencies not only for the present but for future generations as well. Every citizen, regardless of occupation or income, deserves the right to breathe clean air.

We must expand public transport; prioritise walking and cycling through safer streets; enforce vehicle and construction emission standards; and embed air quality goals into urban planning. Clean air must be a collective national guarantee. It is not a woke agenda, as many dismiss it, but an urgent health hazard agenda which needs to be tackled on a war footing. The citizens of India deserve better. When fate comes knocking, it will not distinguish between wealth and geography. By then, no nation will be immune to the consequences of its own-and our collective-inaction.

The Pioneer  
SINCE 1865

# Meditation: The mind's antidote to modern stress



RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR NIKUNJ JI

2ND OPINION  
THE PIONEER

In the last about 50 years or more, it has been increasingly realised by medical professionals that many ailments are caused by stress or trauma, resulting in more and more deaths. Isn't it surprising that a few years back, something like stress, about which we were not so serious, has today become a part of our everyday life? Today, there is a flood of literature available on stress-related diseases and their treatment, and it has become almost a fashion nowadays to talk or write on the effects of stress on modern men and women. Although we all talk about stress, it often isn't clear what stress is really about. Even though WHO, in its well-

known definition of health, has taken into account the social, moral, and spiritual aspects of health, some very important aspects of stress have, up to now, been missed, overlooked, or at least underemphasised by doctors, social scientists, criminologists, administrators, historians, and others. Many people feel that stress is something that happens to them during an event such as physical injury, emotional heartbreak, or some family feud, etc. Some people say that stress is a feeling experienced by our mind and body in response to an event like a terror attack, rail accident, or plane crash. However, experts believe that while stress does involve events and our responses to them, these are not the most important factors causing it. Our thoughts about the situations in which we find ourselves are more critical compared to other reasons mentioned above. We need to understand that when something happens to us, we automatically evaluate the situation mentally and decide if it is really threatening to us, how we need to deal with the situation, and what skills we can use. So, if we feel that the demands of the situation outweigh the skills we have, then we treat the situation as stressful. On the other hand, if we feel that our coping skills outweigh the demands of the situation, then we don't see it as stressful. According to psychologists, stress in

small quantities is good and at times necessary because it motivates a person and helps him or her to become more productive. However, an excess of it, or a strong response to it, can be fatal. Hence, the way in which we deal with a stress-provoking event would determine its impact on our health. The basic idea is to understand ourselves and our reactions towards stressful events, thereby learning to handle them more effectively. One should understand that stress management is not about avoiding or escaping the pressures and turbulence of modern living. No! In the actual sense, it is about learning to appreciate how the body reacts to external pressures and developing skills that enhance the body's adjustment. The *Gita* states that man can be his own best friend or his own worst enemy. To be my best friend, I must spend time with myself – learning to love and respect myself so I can do the same for others. By watching what goes on in my mind, I can gently guide it back on the right track. If I allow negative or wasteful thoughts, meditation becomes difficult; but if I clear my mind and keep my thoughts positive, it's easier to experience peace. It isn't enough to just read about it – get up and start meditating today!

The writer is a spiritual educator & popular columnist

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Delhi choking on neglected air

Apropos "Delhi's deadly air: A public health emergency" (Nov. 6), the capital's toxic air stands as a grim reminder of how environmental neglect can slowly suffocate a city's health and spirit. Each winter, Delhi turns into a gas chamber, yet the response remains disappointingly routine – a mix of temporary bans, political blame, and public resignation. The crisis is structural, not seasonal. Vehicular fumes, industrial emissions, and construction dust, coupled with weak enforcement and fragmented governance, have created a calamity that transcends class and geography. What worsens the situation is the erosion of accountability. Governments announce short-term plans; citizens complain but persist with polluting habits, and industries evade scrutiny. China's willingness to share its smog-control experience is instructive – proof that leadership, strict regulation, and civic participation can change the air we breathe. Beijing's example shows that progress follows when political will aligns with scientific planning. Clean air must not remain a campaign slogan or seasonal privilege; it is a fundamental right defining the quality of life in any modern city. Delhi must commit to transparent, collective, and sustained action before its skyline becomes a permanent haze of indifference.

AVINASHIAPPAN MYILSAMI | TAMIL NADU

### A victory beyond American borders

Zohran Mamdani's victory in New York represents far more than an electoral win; it is a triumph for the working class and a reminder that politics can still serve ordinary citizens. His immediate statement – "Let's get back to work today" – reflects commitment to building a city that is affordable and inclusive. At a time when chauvinism and racism dominate American discourse, Mamdani's success offers hope. America has thrived on the contributions of immigrants, whose labour and creativity have shaped its cities and economy. Yet, this truth is often undermined. The Republicans continue to ignore these sacrifices, resorting instead to divisive rhetoric. Change, however, is constant and New York itself is living proof: a city built on the sweat, capital, and dreams of the masses. Its rewards must belong to everyone, not merely the super-rich. Seeing a young leader of Indian origin succeed in American politics reinforces the belief that democracy thrives when diverse voices are heard. His victory symbolises justice, equality, and shared prosperity. Zohran Mamdani's victory in New York marks a defining moment for inclusive politics, celebrating working-class strength, immigrant contribution, and the enduring power of diversity in democracy.

K ANANTH RUPESH | ANDHRA PRADESH

### Equality in compassionate job rules

Apropos the report, "HC bins petition of adopted son seeking job in KSRTC on compassionate grounds," the headline is misleading. The Karnataka High Court rejected the plea not because the petitioner was adopted, but because he applied five years after his foster father's death. Rules stipulate that an application must be made within a year. Even a biological son's plea would have been dismissed. However, discrimination between adopted and biological children in compassionate appointments is unjust. If KSRTC's policy excludes adopted children, it is flawed and violates equality. The Court rightly ruled that there can be no distinction between adopted and biological offspring. Denying an adopted child such consideration defeats the purpose of adoption itself. The Government should reconsider its rule limiting applications to one year from the employee's death. Earlier, minors could apply within a year of attaining majority, which was fairer. Compassionate appointments may not erase grief, but they can ease hardship. Restoring the earlier rule would be a humane gesture-better than distributing unsustainable freebies. Political parties must pledge to remove such inequities and uphold compassion in governance.

KV SEETHARAMAIAH | BENGALURU

## INDIA'S YOUTH SUFFOCATING UNDER UNKEPT PROMISES AND INEQUALITY

The current regime in India has plunged the nation into a spiral of economic distress and social despair, with every section of society hit from all sides over the past decade. Students, youth, farmers, labourers, workers, shopkeepers, employees, and traders are struggling, and not a single section appears content with this Government amid rising prices, shrinking opportunities, and deepening inequality. Inflation has skyrocketed, the rupee has lost its sheen, and the gulf between the rich and the poor has widened dangerously, making life increasingly difficult for the poor and middle-class families. Unemployment has become a matter of grave concern. According to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy

(CMIE), India's unemployment rate climbed to 7.5 per cent in October 2025-the highest in the past six months. Lakhs have lost jobs across sectors, including construction, IT, and banking. More than 90 lakh people are jobless in the construction industry alone, while 25 lakh salaried positions have vanished. Such frightening figures have become routine, yet the Government seems unmoved. It appears that those in power remain in constant election mode, crafting slogans instead of solutions. The time has come for citizens to question why leaders continue to campaign even as the nation gasps under the weight of unemployment and inequality

BHAGWAN THADANI | MUMBAI

Please send your letter to the [info@dailypioneer.com](mailto:info@dailypioneer.com). In not more than 250 words. We appreciate your feedback.





# Hapless citizens, helpless Governments

In recent months, a series of fatal incidents across Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bangladesh, Burma, and Sri Lanka has exposed the fragility of their transportation systems. Overcrowded buses tumbling off narrow mountain roads, trains derailing due to outdated tracks, and air mishaps blamed on technical negligence have become grimly routine

FIRST  
Column



PRASHANT  
TEWARI

Transportation is the lifeline of any nation, facilitating economic growth, social interaction, and national integration. From bustling highways to vital railway networks and expanding aviation routes, the efficiency and safety of transport systems determine a country's progress and global competitiveness. However, across much of Southeast Asia, this lifeline is fraying.

The region has witnessed an alarming rise in man-made transportation accidents on roads, rails, and in the air and water, underscoring deep-rooted systemic failures.

Despite repeated warnings from experts and recurring tragedies, safety remains a neglected priority. The real crisis lies not merely in poor infrastructure, but in governance deficits, corruption, and a culture of complacency that have made such disasters almost predictable.

### Current Situation

India, with one of the world's largest road networks, records the highest number of road fatalities globally: a tragic distinction that reflects the dire state of safety enforcement. In Pakistan and Bangladesh, poorly maintained public buses and lax driving standards contribute to frequent road tragedies. In Nepal, a combination of treacherous terrain and vehicle overloading continues to claim lives. Even air safety, which demands the highest precision, has been compromised by negligence and inadequate oversight.

What ties these incidents together is not just infrastructural decay but institutional corruption.

Funds earmarked for road repairs, rail modernisation, and aviation safety audits are too often siphoned off by corrupt officials or misused due to poor planning. Substandard materials are used in construction projects, safety inspections are perfunctory or skipped altogether, and regulations exist more on paper than in practice.

At the state level, the rot runs deep. Many regional governments lack the political will or administrative capacity to enforce safety standards. The issuance of driving licences, for instance, is notoriously casual. In several countries, licences can be



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obtained without proper training or testing, sometimes through bribery or political influence. This results in untrained, reckless drivers operating vehicles on already hazardous roads—a recipe for tragedy.

Moreover, there is little to no culture of periodic vehicle inspection. Buses, trucks, and private vehicles continue to ply despite being mechanically unfit, emitting toxic fumes and posing constant danger to commuters. Corrupt local officials often overlook such violations in exchange for small bribes, perpetuating a cycle where accountability is absent and public safety is compromised.

The consequences of such governance

failures are devastating. Every day, citizens across the region risk their lives merely by commuting.

Road fatalities rob families of their breadwinners; rail and air disasters inflict collective trauma that scars entire communities. The loss is not merely statistical but deeply human: children orphaned, parents grieving, families shattered by entirely preventable tragedies.

The economic cost is equally severe. Repeated accidents deter investment, disrupt trade, and drain public resources on rescue operations and compensation. Yet, beyond economics, the larger tragedy lies in the erosion of public trust.

When citizens realise that their lives are endangered not by fate but by the corruption and indifference of those meant to protect them, faith in institutions collapses.

### Call to Action

Governments across Southeast Asia must recognise that transportation safety is not a luxury; it is a fundamental right of every citizen. The first step towards reform lies in tackling corruption head-on.

Transparency in infrastructure spending must be made non-negotiable. Every rupee or taka allocated for road safety, railway upgrades, or aviation oversight must be accounted for and subject to public scrutiny.

Second, state governments must institutionalise rigorous and periodic inspections of vehicles, tracks, and aircraft. Independent safety commissions—insulated from political influence—should be empowered to enforce compliance and penalise violators.

Third, the process of issuing driving licences must be overhauled. Stringent testing standards, computerised assessments, and continuous driver education should replace the current system that too often rewards bribery and negligence. Road safety education, starting from schools, can help cultivate a culture of responsibility and awareness that endures over generations.

Finally, civil society and the media must play a proactive role in demanding accountability. Each preventable death on the road or in the air must be treated not as an isolated incident, but as evidence of systemic failure that demands redress.

Transportation should connect lives, not end them. The tragic frequency of man-made transportation disasters in Southeast Asia is a stark reminder that progress without integrity is hollow. Unless corruption is rooted out, regulations are enforced, and human life is valued above political expediency, the region will continue to pay a heavy price in blood and broken trust.

Governance, after all, is not measured by how quickly roads are built or airports inaugurated, but by how safely and honestly citizens are allowed to travel upon them.

Human life, and indeed all living life, must be treated as sacred by those in power. There has to be a limit to the suffering a society can endure before its conscience revolts. Yet, indifference has become our silent companion; we mourn briefly for the dead and then move on, believing tragedy belongs to someone else.

But fate has a cruel way of closing distances: it is someone else's loss today, it could be your loved one tomorrow. Those who sit in positions of authority must remember that no shield of privilege can protect them forever from the pain they choose to ignore.

When a life is lost to negligence, it is not just an accident; it is a moral failure of the entire system, a wound that bleeds into the collective soul of a nation.

## Rethinking modern technology: When progress defies nature and dharma



ATUL  
SEHGAL

The technologies of modern times are full of gleam and glitter. They are declared to be the products of painstaking and pathbreaking research. They are touted to be the result of great discoveries of the scientific principles operating in the vast universe and revolutionary inventions based thereon. They are hailed as the harbingers of great beneficial changes in the lives of billions of humans inhabiting this planet Earth.

They are supposedly stated to be instruments of further economic development and growth of the 193 nations holding a population of 8 billion human beings in the world. But what if I were to tell you that most of the so-called modern technologies are crude, cruel, and inferior? What if I were to call them technologies based on incomplete or even, in some cases, incorrect understanding of material nature? What if we were told that almost all modern technologies in various domains of human endeavour are environment-polluting and nature-unfriendly? Furthermore, how will you take the insinuation that most of the above technologies are also devoid of human values?

They are, unfortunately. We have to go to the fundamentals of material nature. We have to go to the original, time-less knowledge base provided in the Vedic scriptures by the omniscient, divine creator of the universe. All humans are His creation, and He handed down to the earliest humans at the dawn of creation, more than 1.96 billion years ago, all knowledge in coded and cryptic form. That fundamental knowledge is embodied in the universal, timeless, and cosmic scriptures called the Vedas.

It stands to reason that the master and creator of the universe knows best how humans created by Him should live and behave—what type of technologies they should develop and use for preserving peace, stability, and health. He provided to humans a set of coded principles or values called Dharma for assiduous adherence by humans. Dharma is the code of righteous living and includes, in its broad ambit, pure, unsullied, true knowledge which even covers all sciences and technologies. Let us see how today's technologies are harsh on all the primordial elements of Mother



Nature called out in Vedic scientific literature—air, earth, fire, water, and ether.

Today's surface transport vehicles are air-polluting and earth (soil)-polluting. These include automobiles and aeroplanes. Many parts and components of these vehicles, including electric batteries, are bio non-degradable after use. All modes of electricity generation—coal or diesel-based thermal, hydropower, nuclear power, and even solar and wind power—are not without well-known deleterious effects on the environment. Solar panels are largely bio non-degradable after a lifespan run of 25 years. Wind power turbines pose hazards to birds.

Chemical process industries are heavily air-polluting. Petroleum and petrochemical industries are both earth-polluting and air-polluting. Oil-digging and extraction activities create big holes below the earth which, apart from upsetting the proportion of natural substances underground, disturb the disposition of the earth's tectonic plates.

The baneful effects of the release of factory pollutants, even after treatment by chemicals, into rivers and seas contaminate natural water bodies, thus adversely affecting aquatic flora and fauna.

Continuous use of chemical fertilisers and genetically modified seeds is leading to erosion of soil fertility and undermining the intrinsic, natural quality and flavour of cereals, fruits, and vegetables.

Ether, the other prime element of Mother Nature, is being heavily defiled by electromagnetic radiation in the form of microwaves emanating from mobile telephony towers and other wireless communication equipment. This important aspect needs more elaboration. The microwaves are not low-frequency waves; they have a high frequency, falling between radio waves and infrared on the electromagnetic spectrum. They are of a frequency higher

than radio waves but lower compared to visible light. Microwaves have frequencies from approximately 300 MHz to 300 GHz and are used for applications like radar, cell phones, and cooking.

The content of microwaves in natural background radiation is being increased by extensive generation of microwave energy for these applications. This is disturbing the natural proportion of microwaves in the ethereal space and hence polluting it.

And global warming is eloquently exhibiting that our fancied technologies are violating the subtle primeval element of fire (Agni) of Mother Nature. The most recent technological wonders are computer hardware, computer software, and artificial intelligence.

These are primarily intended for increasing gross economic output or replacement of humans by machines or computing algorithms. This is going to exploit more and more of natural materials, including rare earth metals, and leave post-usage residual substances that are only partially recyclable, and their recycling processes are also environment-degrading.

We now come to human values that are supposed to go with technologies and their usage. A Vedic derivative text—Maha Upanishad—carries the message that the world is one family and all humans are connected through fraternal bonds, being children of the one creator.

This divine message indirectly conveys that humans, cutting across nations and continents, should treat other humans as members of one global family and design institutions, systems, and even technologies and technology-based processes accordingly.

Further, moderation (non-greed), compassion, honesty, and truthfulness are values that must be adhered to in both development and usage of technological implements. They should be conducive to equitable wealth creation and distribution. Simply stated, our technologies should not only be environment-friendly but also aligned with eternally relevant, divine human values. Our scientists, engineers, and, most of all, political leaders should become alive to the above stark truths and take corrective action before it is too late.

Let us not wait to face the powerful, retributive fury of Mother Nature, some of the milder symptoms of which are already being seen in the form of climate change, flooding of cities, cracking of roads, melting of snow peaks, violent landslides, and crumbling hillsides.

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SURYA  
SARATHI RAY

The Rajasthan government has chalked out a long-term plan to transform the state from a resource-driven economy to a \$4.3 trillion innovation-led powerhouse by 2047. According to the recently unveiled Developed Rajasthan @2047 vision document, the state, currently the seventh-largest economy with a Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) of approximately \$197 billion, aims to increase the GSDP to \$350 billion by 2028-29 and, by 2047, reach an ambitious \$4.3 trillion.

The vision document has identified five sectors — manufacturing, renewable energy, mining, tourism, and services — to drive the economy forward. Aware that achieving the target will not be easy and will require a mix of industrial diversification, private investment, technology adoption, and policy reforms, the state has prioritised plans to create jobs, empower small businesses, and modernise industries. It proposes to turn the state into one of India's most investment-friendly destinations.

The vision document emphasises that "economic progress must reach people," signifying that growth would not be limited to big cities — rural clusters, small towns, and border districts will also become engines of opportunity. Rajasthan's economic blueprint puts technology and sustainability at its core. The government aims to make the state a hub for digital innovation and green manufacturing. From solar energy to hydrogen projects, renewable power will be the backbone of Rajasthan's future economy.

Rajasthan is already India's largest producer of cement, zinc, marble, and solar power. It now wants to move beyond raw production to value-added industries. MSMEs remain central to the plan and will be strengthened with easier financing, skill support, and e-market access. Technology and sustainability will be at the core of the transition.

In its efforts to ensure the ease of doing business, the state government is keen on simplifying clearances, digitising compliance, and reducing red tape.

The vision document predicts that by 2047, Rajasthan's young workforce will be among the most skilled in India. Training centres and industry-linked courses will prepare young people for modern sectors, including robotics, data analytics, clean technology, and digital marketing. Rajasthan is quietly scripting one of India's most remarkable green transformations. Under the

leadership of Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma, the state is positioning itself as the country's renewable energy capital — where solar fields stretch across the horizon and windmills turn the desert breeze into power. Special mention is deserved for the state's clean energy front.

With more than 300 days of sunshine each year and vast stretches of land ideal for clean energy projects, Rajasthan has a natural advantage. A shift is taking place — from being a producer of energy to building a green economy, where factories, farms, and cities all run on sustainable power. Guided by the Viksit Rajasthan @2047 roadmap, the Chief Minister aims to make Rajasthan a hub for solar, wind, and green hydrogen.

The plan focuses on expanding renewable energy capacity, encouraging private investment, and linking clean power to job creation and industrial development. From the blazing sun of the Thar to the corridors of Jaipur, Rajasthan's renewable revolution is gathering pace — turning sunlight into strength and vision into reality.

While solar parks are already lighting up homes across Bikaner, Jaisalmer, and Barmer, wind projects are also being scaled up in western districts, with hybrid systems combining both sources to ensure round-the-clock supply. By 2047, more than 70 per cent of the state's electricity is expected to come from renewables. The Bhajan Lal Sharma government is also steering Rajasthan towards the next frontier — green hydrogen.

With pilot projects underway in Jodhpur and Barmer, the state plans to produce clean hydrogen fuel using renewable electricity. Partnerships with private companies and global investors are in motion, positioning Rajasthan as a potential exporter of green fuels in the coming decade. By 2047, Rajasthan envisions itself not just as an energy supplier but as a model of sustainable living. The vision is to combine ecological balance with economic expansion — ensuring that development never comes at the cost of nature. Another defining feature of Sharma's plan is its emphasis on inclusivity.

The renewable energy push is reaching villages, where locals are being trained to manage small solar parks and microgrids. Women's cooperatives are adopting solar-powered equipment for irrigation and food processing. By 2047, Rajasthan aims to be not only a supplier of clean energy but also a model for how development and ecology can coexist. Under Bhajan Lal Sharma's leadership, the desert state is showing that sustainability is not a slogan — it is a strategy for growth.

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FROM THE

WORLD

PAKISTAN

TTP commander killed in Khyber

A commander belonging to the banned terror outfit Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) was killed on Thursday in a joint operation with the Counter Terrorism Department in the restive Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province of Pakistan on Thursday, police said. The intelligence-based operation in the Amberi Kalla area of Karak, in southern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, turned into a fierce gun battle that lasted for nearly four hours leading to the death of Hakeem Nisar, the TTP commander. During the exchange of fire, three police personnel sustained injuries and were immediately shifted to a nearby hospital for treatment. Security officials described Hakeem Nisar as a high-value target involved in multiple acts of terrorism, including attacks on security forces and targeted killings in the region.

NEPAL

Border security stepped up

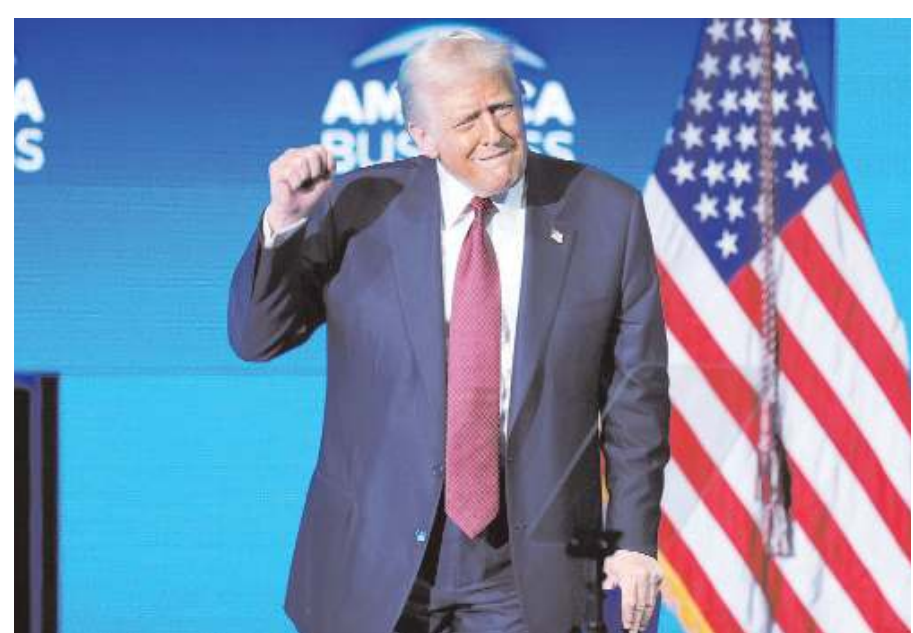
Nepal has stepped up security along its border with India in the wake of Assembly elections in Bihar, officials said on Thursday. Authorities from both countries increased surveillance at the Jatahi border checkpoint, which was closed during the day as part of intensified security, they said. The closure of the border and tightened security were aimed at checking any untoward incidents during the election, they added. Security personnel from Nepal and India have been engaged in patrolling the area. According to the Deputy Superintendent of Police of Dhanusha, Ganesh Bahadur Bam, Nepal Police personnel collaborated with India's SSB to reinforce border checks. The Indo-Nepal border in Dhanusha is being closely monitored.

Eight planes shot down during India-Pakistan conflict: Trump

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New York

Known to make inconsistent comments, US President Donald Trump now claims that eight planes were shot down during the war between India and Pakistan in May, once again without specifying who they belonged to. Addressing the America Business Forum in Miami, Florida, on Wednesday, President Trump, updated the number of planes downed between the two countries to eight from seven. Until now, the US President has been maintaining that seven planes were shot down during the conflict. "Pakistan and India. I was in the midst of a trade deal with both of them, and then I heard they were going to war. Seven planes were shot down, and the eighth was really badly wounded. Eight planes were shot down essentially," Trump said. Trump also reiterated that India and Pakistan "made peace" after he threatened the two nuclear-armed neighbours with snapping trade deals if they continued their military conflict, a claim he has repeated several times since then. "I said, this is war. I'm not going to make any trade deals with you guys unless you agree to peace". The two nations said, "No way. This has nothing to do." I said, 'It has everything to do. You are nuclear powers. I'm not



President Donald Trump on stage after speaking at the America Business Forum

trading with you. We're not making any deals with you if you're at war with each other," Trump claimed. "A day later, I get a call saying, 'We made peace'. They stopped. I said, 'Thank you. Let's do trade'. Isn't that great? Tariffs did that... Without tariffs, that would have never happened," Trump said amid applause. He said that in eight months, he ended eight wars, including Kosovo and Serbia, and Congo and Rwanda, that were going on for a long time. Since May 10, when Trump announced on social media that India and Pakistan had agreed to a "full and immediate ceasefire" after a "long night" of talks mediated by Washington, he has repeated his claim over 60 times that he "helped settle" the tensions between the two neighbouring countries. India has consistently denied any third-party intervention. India launched Operation Sindoor on May 7, targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in retaliation for the April 22 Pahalgam attack that killed 26 civilians. India and Pakistan reached an understanding on May 10 to end the conflict after four days of intense cross-border drone and missile strikes. In his remarks in Miami, Trump went on to add that he helped solve the conflict between Israel and Iran, Egypt and Ethiopia, Armenia and Azerbaijan and Cambodia and Thailand. "All of them were in war... Some of the wars were 32 years old. One was 38 years old. I got some of these settled in an hour. No help from the United Nations at all," Trump said. He added that around the world, America is making peace through strength "because they know they're not going to mess around with us. Nobody's going to mess around with us". "All great economic deals, great for everybody," the US president said.

Pakistan, Afghanistan to resume talks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Islamabad

Pakistan and the Afghan Taliban were set to resume peace talks in Istanbul on Thursday, aiming to tackle the issue of cross-border terrorism and avoid further escalation between the two sides. Clashes broke out between the border troops on October 11, resulting in casualties on both sides. Pakistan claimed that at least 206 Afghan Taliban and 110 Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan operatives were killed, while Pakistan suffered the loss of 23 soldiers. A ceasefire was agreed between the two sides on

October 15, which had been extended during the two rounds of talks held on October 19 in Doha and October 25 in Istanbul. The temporary truce is still holding, but mutual acrimony is evident on social media and in the statements of officials from both sides. The Istanbul talks were heading towards failure, but the situation was saved by Turkiye, and another round was agreed for which officials of the two countries have reached Istanbul. For the third round, being facilitated jointly by Turkiye and Qatar, Pakistan's delegation is being led by Lt Gen Asim Malik, director general of the Inter-Services Intelligence and national security advisor, and includes senior officials from the military, intelligence agencies, and the Foreign Office. The Afghan Taliban's delegation includes General Directorate of Intelligence (GDI) chief Abdul Haq Waseq, Deputy Interior Minister Rehmatullah Najib, Taliban spokesperson Suhail Shaheen, Anas Haqqani, Qahar Balkhi, Zakir Jalali and Afghanistan's chargé d'affaires in Ankara. The talks are expected to continue for two days. A joint statement was issued by the Turkish foreign ministry, following the last round of talks, stating that

"all parties have agreed on continuation of ceasefire" and "to put in place a monitoring and verification mechanism that will ensure maintenance of peace and impose a penalty on the violating party". It also stated that "the principals" from both sides would reconvene in Istanbul on November 6 to discuss implementation. Early this week, Pakistani military spokesman Lt Gen Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry accused Kabul of harbouring the TTP fighters, saying that stopping attacks from Afghan soil was a demand of Pakistan on which there would be no compromise.

Typhoon Kalmaegi moves toward Vietnam

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Nha Trang (Vietnam)

Typhoon Kalmaegi headed toward Vietnam, with heavy rains battering the coast and strong winds uprooting trees ahead of expected landfall late on Thursday, forecasters said. Earlier, the typhoon left more than 100 people dead and dozens missing in the Philippines. An unusually strong storm for the region in November, it was packing sustained wins of about 183 kph with gusts reaching up to 220 kph over the South China Sea as it approached Vietnam, said forecasters. It was likely to make landfall between Quang Ngai and Gia Lai provinces in central Vietnam, they said. Vietnam's central provinces are already reeling from floods due to record-breaking rains. Kalmaegi is forecast to dump more than 600 millimetres of rain in some areas.



Vehicles are stacked on top of each other due to flooding caused by Typhoon Kalmaegi in Liloan on Thursday

Bracing for Kalmaegi

In coastal cities like Danang, waves up to 3 metres high battered the coast and strong winds uprooted trees in Dak Lak province. Many homes in Quy Nhon, also a coastal city, were left without power for hours. The country's financial hub, Ho Chi Minh City, faces a height-

ened risk of severe floods. High tides were also expected on the Saigon River, and authorities warned up to 100 millimetres of expected rainfall could inundate low-lying areas. Across the central Philippines, Kalmaegi killed at least 114 people and left 127 missing in what was the dead-

liest natural disaster to hit the country this year. Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr declared a state of emergency on Thursday. After sowing death and destruction in the Philippines, especially in the hard-hit central province of Cebu, the tropical cyclone blew out of the archipelago on Wednesday into the South China Sea. In Cebu's town of Liloan, Krizza Espira went to the mortuary on Thursday, where the bodies of her husband and three children, killed when their roof collapsed, were held ahead of a wake. She said four other of her family members — including her mother and aunt — remain missing. "I hope someone can help speed up the search," she said. The typhoon displaced more than 560,000 villagers in the Philippines, including nearly 450,000 who were evacuated to emergency shelters, the Office of Civil Defense said.

Ukraine claims it has hit major Russian oil refinery with drones

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kyiv

Ukrainian drones struck a major oil refinery in Russia's Volgograd region for the second time in almost three months, Ukraine's general staff said on Thursday. Russian officials did not confirm the attack, although the local governor said drones started a fire at an unspecified industrial facility in the region. Ukraine's general staff said in a statement that the attack took place the previous day. The refinery is the largest producer of fuel and lubricants in Russia's Southern Federal District, processing more than 15 million tons of crude annually — about 5.6 per cent of the country's total refining capacity, according to Ukrainian officials. Russia and Ukraine have traded almost daily assaults on each other's energy infrastructure as US-led diplomatic efforts to stop the nearly four-year

war make no impact on the battlefield. Ukraine's long-range drone strikes on Russian refineries aim to deprive Moscow of the oil export revenue it needs to pursue its full-scale invasion. Russia wants to cripple the Ukrainian power grid, seeking to deny civilians access to heat, light and running water in what Kyiv officials say is an attempt to "weaponise winter." Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said foreign countries are helping Kyiv in its efforts to keep the power grid operating amid Russia's onslaught. "Practically every day, our power engineers, repair brigades, and the State Emergency Service of Ukraine are carrying out restorations on-site after attacks: hits keep occurring across various points, especially in our communities, and especially near the Russian border and close to the front," Zelenskyy said late Wednesday.

Cameroon's president Paul Biya sworn in again

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Yaounde (Cameroon)

Cameroon's long-time leader Paul Biya was sworn in on Thursday for a new seven-year term following his victory in last month's presidential election, which his opposition rival has described as "a constitutional coup." Speaking to Parliament, the world's oldest president promised to stay faithful to the confidence of the Cameroonian people and vowed to work for a "united, stable and prosperous" country. The 92-year-old incumbent, who is Africa's second-longest serving leader, took the oath of office during a session of parliament in what residents describe as the heavily militarised and partially deserted capital, Yaounde. Priscilla Ayimboh, a 40-year-old seamstress in Yaounde, doesn't see a new term for Biya as likely to change anything. "I'm tired of Biya's rule and I no longer care whatever he does. It's a pity. I wonder what will become of Cameroon in the next seven years: there are no roads, water, and jobs," she said. Munjah Vitalis Fagha, a senior politics lecturer at Cameroon's University of Buea, told The Associated Press that Biya's inauguration was "taking place in a tense yet controlled political atmosphere, marked by deep divisions between the ruling elite and a growingly disillusioned populace." Fagha added, "The ceremony occurs amid calls for political renewal, ongoing security challenges in the Anglophone regions, and widespread concerns over governance and succession." Cameroon's top court on October 27 declared Biya the winner of the election, with 53.66 per cent of the vote, ahead of his formerly-tuned-challenger Issa Tchiroma Bakary, who scored 35.19 per cent. There were protests in several parts of Cameroon days after the October 19 vote, followed by a three-day lockdown this week after Tchiroma claimed victory and alleged vote tampering. The government has confirmed that at least five people were killed during the protests, although the opposition and civil society groups claim the figures are far higher. Tchiroma insists Biya was awarded a "fraudulent" victory in the election. "The will of the Cameroonian people was trampled that day, our sovereignty stolen in broad daylight," Tchiroma wrote on Wednesday night. "This is not democracy, it is electoral theft, a constitutional coup as blatant as it is shameful." Biya came to power in 1982 following the resignation of Cameroon's first president and has ruled since following a 2008 constitutional amendment that abolished term limits.

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA

FORM - VII

PRELIMINARY NOTIFICATION

OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL DEPUTY COLLECTOR (LA), IPT & RAILWAYS, KHAMMAM

(See sub-rule (1) of rule-25 and section -19(1) of the Act-30/2013)

District Gazette No. A3/48/2025 Dt. 30-10-2025.  
District Collector, Khammam R.No. G1746/2025 Dt. 29-10-2025  
LA/DSCC (LA), IPT & Ry, Khammam R.No. D03/2025 Dt. 27-10-2025

Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/District Collector, Khammam District that to an extent of Acs.0.34 Gts Patta/Govt land is required in the Mahadevapuram (Rayapatnam) village of Madhira Mandal of Khammam District Sub Total extent of Acs 0.34 Gts for public purpose, namely for the purpose formation of 4L Iluru minor canal of Damuluru Major canal under Bonasak branch canal of Nagarajuna Sagar Left Branch Canal at Mahade vapuram H/o Rayapatnam Village of Madhira Mandaland the Declaration is issued under Section 19(1) of the Right Fair Compensation and Transparency in land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act-2013 and the Publication is Made as shown in the below schedule. There are no families, which are likely to be displaced due to the land Acquisition.

Therefore, Declaration is made it is notified that for the above said project in Mahadevapuram (Rayapatnam) village of Madhira Mandal of Khammam District a piece of land measuring an extent of Acs. 0.34 Gts of standard measurement, whose detail description is as following, is under acquisition.

SCHEDULE

Village: Mahadevapuram Mandal: Madhira District: Khammam H/o Rayapatnam									
Sl. No.	By as per S3 Bhar DRI	By per Shu	Type of Land	Type of Acqis ition (A.C. Gts)	Area under Acqis ition (A.C. Gts)	Name of the Enjoyer	Struct ured Trees	Boundaries	
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	10	
1	280 Q 1/	280 Q 1/	Patta Dry	0.34	Putambaka	Putambaka Sd Kshirina Prasad S/o Durgash	NA	E:Narsing Sona's land W:Vierkata Rao's Land N:Vadranapu Gopi's land S: Nallipu Siva's land	
Total Extent					0.34				

This declaration is made after verifying the no objections are received from interested persons as provided U/s 15 of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement, Act-2013. As none of the families are displaced under this land acquisition. Therefore, the families which likely to be displaced due to this land acquisition are to be treated as "Nil".

Mines of Coal, iron-stone, slate or other minerals lying under the said land or any particular portion of the land, except such parts of the mines and minerals which may be required to be dug or removed or used during the construction phase of the project for the purpose of which the land is being acquired are not needed.

A plan of the land may be inspected in the office of the District Collector, Khammam\AO and Special Deputy Collector (LA), IPT Railways, Khammam on any working day during the working hours.

Sd/- Special Deputy Sd/-Additional Sd/- District Collector (LA), Collector, Collector, IPT & Railways, Khammam Khammam Khammam

DIPR RO.NO: 806/LA/PP/Advt/Pub/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA

IRRIGATION AND COMMAND AREA DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

Sl. No.:1. Tender No. & Date : 26/SE/CAGdu/2025-26, Dt: 03.11.2025.

Name of the Work : "Repairing and replacing the lifts in the high towers on the left and right sides of PJP at Revulapali Village in Dharur mandal of Jogaamba Gadwal District with new lifts. Value of work in Rs. : 55.87.

Tender Document Available Date: 13.11.2025 at 11:00 AM to 27.11.2025 at 03:00 PM. Tender receipt date: 13.11.2025 at 11:00 Am to 27.11.2025 at 06:00PM. Contact Address of the Concerned Superintending Engineer: Superintending Engineer, Irrigation Circle, Gadwal. For further details, please visit the Telangana State 'e-Procurement Marketplace: https://tender.telangana.gov.in/ Sd/- Superintending Engineer

DIPR.NO. 10314-PP/CIADVT/1/2025-26, Dt: 06.11.2025 Irrigation Circle, Gadwal-509125.

Pakistan minister visits office of Hafiz Saeed's banned JuD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Lahore

A Pakistani minister and close aide to Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Thursday visited the office of the Pakistan Markazi Muslim League (PMML), a political face of Hafiz Saeed's banned Jamaat-ud-Dawah (JuD), in Punjab and met its leaders. Minister of State for Interior Senator Tala Chaudhry visited the PMML House, Faisalabad, some 130 km from Lahore, where he was received by PMML leaders. His visit is seen as an "official patronage" of the Shehbaz regime to Saeed's political outfit. Saeed, the Mumbai attack mastermind, has been in Lahore's Kot Lakhpat jail since 2019 after he was convicted in multiple terror financing cases. In a statement, the PMML said that during the visit, Chaudhry held a detailed meeting with the party leadership.



# US airports among 40 targeted by shutdown-related flight cuts

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
■ Washington

Airports in New York, Los Angeles and Chicago along with hubs across the US are among the 40 that will see flights cut starting Friday due to the Government shutdown, according to a list distributed to the airlines and obtained by *The Associated Press*.

The Federal Aviation Administration announced Wednesday that it would reduce air traffic by 10 per cent across 40 "high-volume" markets to maintain travel safety as air traffic controllers exhibit signs of strain during the ongoing Government shutdown.

The airports impacted cover the busiest across the US — including Atlanta, Denver, Dallas, Orlando, Miami, and San Francisco. In some of the biggest cities — such as New York, Houston and Chicago — multiple airports will be affected.

The FAA is imposing the flight reductions to relieve pressure on air traffic controllers who are working without pay during the Government shutdown and have been increasingly calling off work. Controllers already have missed one pay-check and are scheduled to again receive nothing next week as the shutdown drags on and the financial pressure on them mounts.

The FAA has already been delaying flights at times when airports or its other facilities are short on controllers.



Airlines said they would try to minimize the impact on travellers. United Airlines said it would focus the cuts on smaller regional routes that use smaller planes like 737s.

Passengers should start to be notified about cancellations Thursday. The AAA recommended that travelers download their airline's app and turn on notifications. United Airlines and Delta Air Lines both said they will offer refunds to passengers who opt not to fly — even if they purchased tickets that aren't normally refundable.

Experts predict hundreds if not thousands of flights could be canceled. The cuts could represent as many as 1,800 flights and upwards of 268,000 seats combined, according to an estimate by aviation analytics firm Cirium. "I'm not aware in my 35-year history in the aviation market where we've had a

situation where we're taking these kinds of measures," Bedford said Wednesday. "We're in new territory in terms of Government shutdowns."

Air traffic controllers have been working unpaid since the shutdown began Oct. 1. Most work mandatory overtime six days a week, leaving little time for side jobs to help cover bills and other expenses unless they call out.

Mounting staffing pressures are forcing the agency to act, Bedford said.

"We can't ignore it," he said, adding that even if the shutdown ends before Friday, the FAA wouldn't automatically resume normal operations until staffing improves and stabilises. Bedford and Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said Wednesday that they would meet with airline executives to figure out how to safely implement

the reductions. Major airlines, aviation unions and the broader travel industry have been urging Congress to end the shutdown, which on Wednesday became the longest on record.

The shutdown is putting unnecessary strain on the system and "forcing difficult operational decisions that disrupt travel and damage confidence in the US air travel experience," said US Travel Association President and CEO Geoff Freeman in a statement.

Duffy warned on Tuesday that there could be chaos in the skies if the shutdown drags on long enough for air traffic controllers to miss their second full paycheck next week. Duffy said some controllers can get by missing one paycheck, but not two or more. And he has said some controllers are even struggling to pay for transportation to work.

## Indian-Americans hail new era in US politics

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ New York

Members of the Indian-American diaspora have hailed the victory of New York City Mayor-elect Zohran Mamdani, describing his win as historic and a sign that immigrant stories are now shaping the narrative in the US.

"Last night felt like the dawn of a new era. With Zohran Mamdani's historic win, in the same moment New York welcomes its first Indian-origin mayor, we are witnessing a shift in how this city understands identity, belonging, and power," Founder and CEO of NYC-based educational and cultural organisation The Culture Tree Anu Sehgal told PTI on Wednesday.

She said Mamdani's victory speech reflected a pro-immigrant conviction that New York is built by those who arrive, strive, and rise. "It was filled with cultural Easter eggs only our community would recognise... From quoting Nehru to closing to the beat of Dhoom," Sehgal said.

Acknowledging that challenges lie ahead, Sehgal said what is undeniable is that "South Asian and immigrant stories are no longer just part of the narrative, they are shaping it".

South Asian community leader and former Deputy Comptroller of Nassau County, Dilip Chauhan, congratulated Mamdani and said he was delighted to see a fellow South Asian American devoted to

public service and committed to his vision for the city. Chauhan, an early supporter of Mamdani, said the mayor-elect's victory reflected people's trust in his leadership.

"He inspires hope for a brighter future and stands as a role model for every immigrant. Wishing him all the best in continuing to serve and uplift our communities," Chauhan said.

Indian American Impact Fund, a community organisation, said the results of Tuesday's election "proved that whether it's city council, mayor, or statewide office, South Asian Americans are part of the political future of this country".

It said that 19 of its endorsed candidates across the US won elections, including Virginia's first-ever South Asian woman elected to statewide office, Lt Governor-elect Ghazala Hashmi, and New York's first South Asian mayor Zohran Mamdani. Other notable wins included the re-election of Cincinnati Mayor Aftab Pureval and the election of Joe Khan as District Attorney of Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

Chintan Patel, Executive Director of the Indian American Impact Fund, congratulated all endorsed candidates who won and lauded those who ran for office.

"We can only ensure positive change happens by building community and being at the table where decisions are made," Patel said.

## Trump says he will not attend G20 Summit in South Africa



ASSOCIATED PRESS  
■ New York

US President Donald Trump has said he will not attend the G20 Summit to be held in South Africa later this month, questioning the country's membership in the grouping of major economies.

South Africa, which assumed the year-long G20 Presidency on December 1, 2024, will host the Summit in Johannesburg from November 22 to 23, the first time the meeting of G20 leaders will be held on African soil.

"I am not going. We have a G20 meeting in South Africa. South Africa shouldn't even be in the Gs anymore because what's happened there is bad. I'm not going. I told them I'm not going. I'm not going to represent our country there. It shouldn't be there," Trump said while addressing the America Business Forum Miami in Florida on Wednesday.

The US will take over the G20 Presidency from South Africa on December 1, 2025, and will chair the grouping until November 30, 2026.

## British Army chief meets Pakistani counterpart



PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ Islamabad

British Army chief Gen Charles Roland Vincent Walker on Thursday met his Pakistani counterpart Asim Munir and the two officers discussed ways to boost bilateral defence cooperation.

During the meeting at General Headquarters (GHQ) in Rawalpindi, matters of mutual interest, regional security and measures to further enhance bilateral defence cooperation were discussed, according to a statement by the Pakistan Army. The two sides also reiterated the need for continued collaboration to ensure peace and stability in the region.

General Walker appreciated the Pakistan Army's achievements and sacrifices in the fight against terrorism

and its efforts for regional peace and stability.

Earlier, upon arrival at GHQ, General Walker laid a floral wreath at Yadgar-e-Shuhada. He was presented with a guard of honour. The military officials of the two countries regularly interact with each other. Munir last met General Walker during his five-day official visit to the UK in February, where he delivered a keynote address at the annual 7th Regional Stabilisation Conference at the Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst.

In May 2024, then-CGS General Sir Patrick Sanders paid a visit to Pakistan, where he met Munir, with General Walker present as well as the CGS-designate. Munir and then-CGS General Sanders also met in May 2023 as the latter visited Rawalpindi.

## Attackers board ship after firing grenades

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
■ Dubai

Attackers firing machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades boarded a ship, en route to South Africa from India, off the coast of Somalia on Thursday, officials said, likely the latest assault by resurgent Somali pirates operating in the region.

The British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations centre issued an alert over the attack, warning ships in the area. The private security firm Ambrey also said that an attack was underway, saying it targeted a Malta-flagged tanker heading from Sikka, India, to Durban, South Africa.

Ambrey added that it appeared to be an assault by Somali pirates, who have been reported as operating in the area in recent days and who seized an Iranian fishing boat to use as a base of operations. Iran has not acknowledged the fishing boat's seizure, called the Issamohamadi. Details of the attacked vessel correspond to the Hellas Aphrodite, which changed its track and slowed down at the time of the attack. The ship's owners and managers could not immediately be reached for comment.

Another maritime security firm, the Diaploous Group, said the attacked tanker had a crew of 24 mariners, all of whom reportedly locked themselves into the ship's citadel for safety during the attack. The vessel did not have an armed security team aboard it, the firm added. The European Union's Operation Atalanta,

a counter-piracy mission around the Horn of Africa, did not immediately respond to a request for comment. That EU force has responded to other recent pirate attacks in the area and had issued a recent alert to shippers that a pirate group was operating off Somalia and assaults were "almost certain" to happen.

Thursday's attack comes after another vessel, the Cayman Islands-flagged Stolt Sagaland, found itself targeted in a suspected pirate attack that included both its armed security force and the attackers shooting at each other, the EU force said. Piracy off the Somali coast peaked in 2011, when 237 attacks were reported. Somali piracy in the region in 2011 cost the world's economy some \$7 billion, with \$160 million paid out in ransoms, according to the Oceans Beyond Piracy monitoring group.

The threat was diminished by increased international naval patrols, a strengthening central government in Somalia, and other efforts. However, Somali pirate attacks have resumed at a greater pace over the last year, in part due to the insecurity caused by Yemen's Houthis launching attacks in the Red Sea corridor over the Israel-Hamas war in the Gaza Strip.

In 2024, there were seven reported incidents off Somalia, according to the International Maritime Bureau. So far this year, multiple fishing boats have been seized by Somali pirates.

## Israel identifies latest hostage remains as student

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
■ Jerusalem

Israeli authorities confirmed on Thursday that the remains of a hostage returned the previous day from Gaza are of a Tanzanian agricultural student in Israel who was killed on October 7, 2023, in the Hamas-led attack that started the war.

The development was the latest step forward under the US-brokered ceasefire. The office of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the remains were identified as those of Joshua Loitub Mollel and that his family has been notified.

Mollel, 21, had arrived at

kibbutz Nahal Oz only 19 days before the attack, after finishing agricultural college back home and looking to gain experience in Israel he could apply in Tanzania. He is survived by two parents and four siblings in Tanzania.

"Joshua's return offers some comfort to a family that has endured unbearable uncertainty for over two years," the Hostages and Missing Families Forum Headquarters said in a statement. There are now six bodies of hostages that remain in Gaza. Militants have released 22 bodies of hostages since the ceasefire began last month. Among the six bodies still in Gaza is

that of Sudthasak Rinthalak, agricultural worker from Thailand, the only non-Israeli.

Hamas returned 20 living hostages to Israel on October 13. The subsequent exchanges of the dead are the central component of the initial phase of the deal which requires Hamas return all hostage remains as quickly as possible. The exchanges have gone ahead even as Israel and Hamas have accused each other of breaching other terms of the agreement.

Israel has handed over 285 bodies, according to the International Committee of the Red Cross, which handles the exchanges.

Health officials in Gaza have said identifying the remains handed over by Israel is complicated by a lack of DNA testing kits. Israel has not disclosed how many bodies it is holding or where they were recovered, but has been returning 15 each time the remains of an Israeli hostage are returned from Gaza.

Hamas has said that recovering bodies is complicated by the widespread devastation in the coastal enclave and has returned one to three bodies every few days. Israel has pushed to speed up the returns and in certain cases has said the remains were not those of hostages.

## Jewish community feels insecure in Singapore, says Minister

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ Singapore

Members of the Jewish community in Singapore have faced "unpleasant incidents, hostility, both online and offline", amid global tensions over the Israel-Hamas conflict, Minister for Home Affairs K Shanmugam said as a warning to a multi-ethnic society of over six million. Speaking at the Chessed-El Synagogue on Thursday during its 120th anniversary celebration, Shanmugam said Jewish residents now feel "less secure".

"I came here today because there has been feedback from the Jewish community about how reactions in Singapore. To events overseas have impacted the lives of some members of the Jewish community," the Channel News Asia quoted the Minister as saying.

Shanmugam, who is also Coordinating Minister for National Security, cited several recent incidents. In September, toilets in some international schools in Singapore were vandalised with anti-Israel vulgarities. Jewish students are enrolled in these schools, according to the Channel report.

Last month, a passing motorist shouted "free Palestine" at a member of the Jewish community who was wearing a skullcap, or kippah, on the way to the synagogue at Waterloo Street, a more than a century-old holy place for the Jews in the central business district of the prosperous city State.

"In Singapore, followers of any faith who wear visible markers of their religion. Should never be made to feel targeted based on their religion," said Shanmugam.

## Bangladesh approves law prescribing death penalty for perpetrators of enforced disappearance

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ Dhaka

Bangladesh's interim Government on Thursday approved a draft ordinance prescribing the death penalty for perpetrators of "enforced disappearance", amid the ongoing trial of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina and 15 serving military officers over crimes against humanity.

"This is a landmark law. It will ensure that enforced disappearances never occur again in the country," press secretary of Chief Adviser Yunus, Shafiqul Alam, said at a press conference after the advisory council, effectively the cabinet, approved the draft.

He said the law criminalises the establishment of secret detention centres such as "so-called

Aynaghar" and obligates courts to conduct trials under the proposed law within 120 days of the filing of charges. After President Mohammad Shahabuddin's assent, the ordinance will likely be enforced in the case of 15 army officers, Hasina and several of her colleagues in the ousted Government, including the former police chief.

Bangladesh International Crimes Tribunal's chief prosecutor on October 16 sought the death penalty for deposed premier Sheikh Hasina, alleging that she was the "mastermind and principal architect" behind the crimes against humanity committed during the mass protests last year.

Hasina, 78, faces multiple cases in Bangladesh after being ousted in August last year following the mass

student-led agitation in the country. According to a UN rights office report, up to 1,400 people were killed between July 15 and August 15 last year as Hasina's government ordered a security crackdown on protesters.

Hasina is facing the trial in absentia at Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT-BD) along with several ministers of her government, while 15 serving military officers also appeared on the dock from the cantonment, complying with the tribunal's arrest warrant.

The military officers' court appearance on October 22 came amid widespread speculations and unease over their trial in a civil court under a newly amended ICT-BD law instead of a military court under the Army Act.

The ICT-BD prosecutor earlier warned the army of

declaring 15 of their officers "fugitives" unless they were produced on the dock on the due date. The third amendment to the ICT-BD law, originally enacted to try hardened collaborators of Pakistani troops during the 1971 Liberation War, suggested that people charged under the law would be immediately disqualified to hold public offices and government services.

But the military officers charged under the law to be tried in the ICT-BD still hold their position, and the prosecution too called them as serving officers, creating a dilemma over their status.

Bangladesh army on Thursday said the government was yet to issue a clear directive regarding the job status of the officers, but added the issue demanded a legal explanation.



## Police investigate swastikas painted with blood in Germany

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Hanau (Germany)

Police in Germany said on Thursday they were investigating the appearance of swastikas painted with human blood and smeared on dozens of cars, some mailboxes and building facades in the central town of Hanau. Police spokesman Thomas Leipold said officers were alerted Wednesday night when a man reported that he noticed the shape of a swastika applied in a reddish liquid on the hood of a parked car.

A special test quickly revealed that the substance was human blood. Police said that in total, almost 50 cars had been defaced in a similar way. "The background is completely unclear," Leipold said, adding that investigators did not know if specific cars, mailboxes and buildings were targeted or if the swastikas were applied randomly.



## Indian envoy in Shanghai felicitates Raagi of Amritsar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Beijing

Consulate General of India in Shanghai, Pratik Mathur on Thursday met the visiting Raagi from Golden Temple in Amritsar, Bhai Maninder Singh ji and felicitated him. "CG Mathur met revered Bhai Maninder Singh ji, eminent Raagi from Sri Darbar Sahib (Golden Temple), Amritsar, on the auspicious occasion of Prakash Utsav of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji," the Consulate in Shanghai said in a post on X.

Raagi, a Sikh musician, performs kirtan or the devotional hymns from the Guru Granth Sahib.

"Warm exchange of greetings on #Gurupurab, reflecting on Guru ji's eternal message of Ek Onkar, equality, honest living and selfless service to humanity", Mathur said.

CG expressed deep gratitude for Bhai Sahib's visit to Shanghai and appreciated his global efforts.





Prantika Das



Curtain Raiser-Date Announcement of Hilife Exhibition all set to present its November Fashion Special Edition on 14th, 15th, 16th November 2025 at HICC - Novotel, Hitech City, Hyderabad. Actress Prantika Das, Amiksha, Preetie and Fashion Lovers at Banjara Hills in Hyderabad on Thursday.



Yasaswini



Jabilli



Amiksha



Nirupama



Preeti Sunder



Gayatree

PARTY

Photos by- SV Chary



Indus International School Hyderabad made a remarkable mark at the 7th ISSO Athletics National Meet 2025, held at Gachibowli Stadium, Hyderabad. Several Indus athletes also earned selection for the SGFI Nationals, including Vihaan Chowdavaram, Suhaas Varma, Parth M, Shiriyal Tanneeru, Tanvi Reddy Lokireddy, Gogineni Nikhil Nanda, Abhinav Nandhikonda, Shrika Reddy Myla, and others — a proud moment for the institution. On the occasion, Farida Faraz, Principal of Indus International School Hyderabad, expressed immense pride.



Lloyds Offshore Global Services Pvt Ltd, the technology and innovation hub of Lloyds Banking Group, proudly announces a major milestone in its commitment to community welfare. On November 6, 2025, the organization set a new benchmark for corporate philanthropy by donating an unprecedented 100,000 kilograms (one lakh kg) of rice in a single day to multiple non-governmental organizations (NGOs) across Hyderabad. Shrisha Voruganti, Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director, Lloyds Technology Centre, commented on the achievement.

Jyotsna Kompalli, Program Director, Tandanana - Annamacharya International Music Competition 2025; Dr. Shoba Raju, Founder - President, Dr. Nanda Kumar, Subba Rao, Program Advisor, at a Press Conference being hosted by Annamacharya Bhavana Vahini, Grand Finale of TANDANANA - Annamacharya International Music Competition 2025, celebrate the timeless beauty of Indian devotional music and the legacy of the great saint-composer, Sri Tallapaka Annamacharya at Annamacharya Bhavana Vahini, Annamayyapuram.



150th Birth Anniversary of Bharat Ratna and former Deputy Prime Minister Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, This commemorative event aims to honor Sardar Patel's monumental role in India's integration and his unwavering vision for national unity. The celebration will feature classical dance performances, musical presentations, Organized by Reet Kala Sangam, Hyderabad under the guidance of its Secretary P. Pattnaik, and Sponsored by Ministry of Culture, Government of India. The event will be held on November 4th and 5th 2025, at Telugu University and Ravindra Bharathi, Hyderabad.

## Kotak mutual fund launches the potential of rural india

Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company Ltd. (KMAMC) is pleased to announce the launch of the Kotak Rural Opportunities Fund, an open-ended equity scheme following Rural and allied theme. The scheme opens for public subscription from 6th November 2025 to 20th November 2025. The fund aims to generate long-term capital appreciation by investing predominantly in equity and equity-related securities of companies engaged in or benefiting from India's rural transformation. The benchmark index for the scheme will be the Nifty Rural Index (TRI). While launching the fund, Nilesh Shah, Managing Director, Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company Ltd. said, "Rural India is no longer just about agriculture, it's the new growth frontier of Bharat. Arjun Khanna, Fund Manager, Kotak Rural Opportunities Fund said, "Our outlook on the rural theme is structurally. From financial inclusion to digital connectivity and local manufacturing, rural India is witnessing a transformation driven by opportunity, aspiration, and policy. Rising rural income growth and consumption are now integral to India's macro story. The Kotak Rural Opportunities Fund aims to help investors participate in this shift one that aligns with India's journey toward inclusive and balanced economic development."

## BROOKFIELD ASSET MANAGEMENT ANNOUNCES LANDMARK \$12 BILLION

Brookfield Asset Management (NYSE: BAM, TSX: BAM) today announced its plan to invest \$12 billion in Andhra Pradesh's renewable energy sector over the next three years. This landmark commitment, one of the largest single overseas investments in India's green energy sector, underscores Brookfield's confidence in the state's growth potential and its long-term strategy for India. The investment is set to span the entire green energy value chain. Brookfield is exploring significant projects, including investments in Indosol's integrated manufacturing facility, Navayuga's renewable energy portfolio, and other large-scale manufacturing and green hydrogen projects. This comprehensive investment plan follows productive discussions between Andhra Pradesh IT and Electronics Minister Nara Lokesh and Brookfield's global and India leadership, including Global President Connor Teskey and Managing Partners Nawal Saini, Ankur Gupta, and Arpit Agrawal. The planned investments in Andhra Pradesh are a cornerstone of Brookfield's broader strategy to significantly expand its India portfolio from its current \$30 billion to \$100 billion by 2030. In addition to the \$12 billion clean energy commitment, Brookfield is planning further substantial investments in Andhra Pradesh's real estate and hospitality sectors.

## FUN

### ARCHIE



### CALVIN AND HOBBS



### GARFIELD



### NANCY



### GINGER MEGGS



### REALITY CHECK



### SPEED BUMP



### CROSSWORD



#### ACROSS

- 1 Completely quiet
- 3 Scheme
- 7 Plenty
- 8 A covering for fried fish
- 10 Begged
- 13 Inquisitive
- 16 Middle
- 17 Closed
- 18 Utters aloud
- 19 One third of ninety

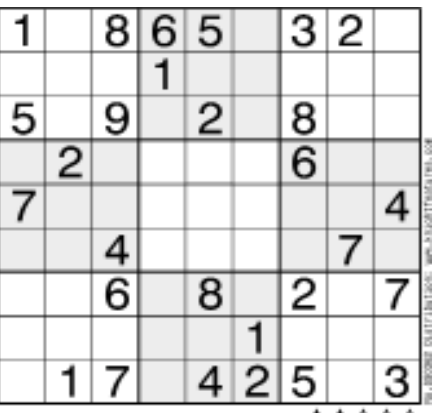
#### DOWN

- 1 Sprinkle this on food
- 2 Small
- 4 Overdue
- 5 Opposite of wide

6 A type of spear thrown by an athlete  
9 A month  
11 These tell the time  
12 The writer of a book  
14 Jealousy  
15 Don't go away



### SUDOKU



#### Rules

- Each row and column can contain each number (1 to 9) exactly once.
- The sum of all numbers in any row or column must equal 45.

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆







# Bowlers fire as India take 2-1 lead vs Australia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ Carrara (Gold Coast)

India defended a modest total with a stifling bowling performance for a 48-run win over Australia in the fourth T20 International to grab an unassailable 2-1 lead in the five-match series here on Thursday.

The architects of India's win were Axar Patel and Shivam Dube who shared two wickets each to put Australia on the backfoot in the run chase.

Washington Sundar struck thrice towards the end as India comfortably defended 168 with Australia folding up for 119 in 18.2 overs after being 91/3 at one stage.

The final T20 will be played in Brisbane on November 8. The opening match of the series was washed out in Canberra.

Opens Matthew Short (30 off 24) and Mitchell Marsh (25 off 19) got Australia off the blocks smoothly in the run chase but a flurry of wickets in the middle overs pushed the hosts to a point of no return. After Axar trapped Short in the powerplay, Dube removed Marsh and Tim David (14 off 9) in successive overs to make a telling impact on the game. The



Indian players celebrate after winning the T20 cricket international against Australia in Carrara, Australia

PTI

wicket of Marsh came off his second ball before he surprised David with a short ball in the following over.

Arshdeep Singh too picked a wicket in the middle overs and the game seemed done and dusted when Glenn Maxwell saw his exposed

stumps disturbed off the last ball of Varun Chakravathy's fourth over. The stellar performance came after a middling batting effort. India never got the momentum they needed after a wicket-less powerplay to end with an underwhelming

167 for eight.

Abhishek Sharma (28 off 21) and Shubman Gill (46 off 39) put on 56 for the opening wicket before India lost their way.

Promoted to number three to counter Adam Zampa, Shivam Dube (22 off 18) could

not make a big impact while skipper Suryakumar Yadav (20 off 10) departed after hitting a couple of sixes.

Pacer Nathan Ellis (3/21 in 4 overs) was the pick of the Australian bowlers, using his variations effectively.

Zampa leaked 45 runs in

his four overs but more importantly, he got three wickets including the dangerous Abhishek.

Abhishek stepped out to Zampa in the second ball of his opening spell and dispatched it down the ground for a maximum.

The southpaw tried to hit another one out of the park two balls later but was caught at long on.

Abhishek could have been out off the game's second ball by left-arm pacer Ben Dwarshuis but Xavier Bartlett grassed the early opportunity. Abhishek's friend and opening partner Gill, who is yet to make an impact in the series, had to work hard for his runs.

He released some pressure with a massive hit off Marcus Stonis in the cow corner region before falling to a back of the hand slower one from Ellis.

The wickets kept falling thereafter, robbing the innings of any flow. Axar Patel (21 not out off 11) got the much needed boundaries towards the end to push the total past 160.

India lost four wickets for 42 runs in the last five overs but a stellar bowling performance carried them over the line.

## NZ holds out West Indies by 3 runs in 2nd T20

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ Auckland (New Zealand)

Mark Chapman blasted 78 from 28 balls including a half-century from only 19 deliveries as New Zealand beat the West Indies by three runs and leveled the series at 1-1 on Thursday.

Chapman's assault saw New Zealand add 100 runs from the ninth to the 16th overs on the way to 207-5 after being sent in.

The West Indies struggled at first against New Zealand's three-pronged spin attack and was 94-6 after 13 overs.

But outstanding hitting by Rovman Powell, who made 45 from 16 balls, Romario Shepherd with 34 from 16 and Matthew Forde with an unbeaten 29 from 13 saw the West Indies reach



the last over needing 16 runs with three wickets in hand. Entrusted with the final over, Kyle Jamieson conceded fours from the first and third

balls, the second of which was a no ball. Powell was out to the fourth ball, caught by Chapman who took three catches in the innings to

complete a player-of-the-match performance.

The West Indies needed six from the last two balls but managed only three runs

and finished 204-8.

"The West Indies boys, they're so strong they're never really out of the game," Chapman said. "It was amazing that the boys held their nerve at the end." Chapman went from 12 off 10 balls to 65 off 22 balls. He hit 24 runs including three sixes in the 13th over, bowled by Shepherd, then four fours and a six in the 15th over bowled by Jayden Seales.

New Zealand went from 83-2 after 12 overs to 140-3 after 15 and at the end of the 16th over was 163-3.

The West Indies bowlers sent down 11 wides, many of them trying to put the ball out of Chapman's reach. It was reminiscent of the Toronto Blue Jays walking Shohei Otani during the World Series.

## Smart batting key to win: Suryakumar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ Carrara

India skipper Suryakumar Yadav credited his players' tactical awareness with bat and ball for his team's 48-run victory over Australia in the fourth T20 here on Thursday.

Axar Patel and Shivam Dube played pivotal roles as India defended a modest total of 168 with a disciplined bowling performance to take a 2-1 lead in the five-match series.

"I feel credit goes to all the batters. The way Shubman and Abhishek started, they knew this was not a 200-220 wicket. They batted very smartly. It was a complete team effort from the batters," Suryakumar said at the post-match presentation.

Defending a competitive score, the Indian bowlers produced a clinical display, with all of them among the wickets.

"The message is clear. Me and Gauti (Gautam Gambhir) bhai, we are on the same page. There was a little dew but the bowlers adapted quickly," he added.

All-rounders Shivam Dube (2/20) and Washington Sundar (3/3) made significant contributions with the ball, sharing five wickets between them. "Always good to have bowlers give you 2-3 overs. This combination suits us.

People chipping in, raising their hands, bailing their side is great," Suryakumar said.

Australia skipper Mitchell Marsh expressed disappointment at the loss but praised India's all-round performance.

"I thought 167 was par. It provided us with a few challenges. We failed to go over the line. Fair play to India and they are a world-class team," Marsh said. With the Ashes approaching, Australia have had to make several changes, with key players leaving the T20 squad to prepare for the upcoming Test series against England.

"It is great. You ideally want to have a full-strength side at all times but the boys have a big series coming up. We want to give more boys the opportunity. I think it's great especially in a high-pressure game like this," Marsh added.

Player of the Match Axar Patel said he focused on assessing the pitch conditions before making his move with the bat and looked to exploit the good length while bowling.

"I batted at No. 7 and had a chance to look at the wicket. There was some unexpected bounce, so I waited for my position and just hit," said the 31-year-old, who struck an 11-ball 21 to boost India's total.



India's Suryakumar Yadav bats during a T20 cricket international between India and Australia in Carrara, Australia

PTI

## Patil back at favourite ground as India gear up for ISSF World Championships

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ New Delhi

Three years after being crowned world champion, men's 10m air rifle shooter Rudranksh Patil will return to his favourite range in Cairo, aiming for more glory when the ISSF World Championships (Rifle/Pistol) begins on Saturday.

India has sent a strong contingent for the prestigious event, with the likes of double Olympic bronze-medallist in Paris, pistol shooter Manu Bhaker, the immensely talented Suruchi Inder Singh, 50m rifle stalwart Anjum Moudgil and the reigning Asian champion in 50m rifle 3-positions Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar being a part of the strong group. However, Rudranksh will be the marksman to watch, having made a huge impact at the 2022 World Championships in Cairo by becoming only the second Indian after Abhinav Bindra (2006, Zagreb) to win the 10m air rifle gold and showcase his exceptional talent.

The Thane shooter, who was still a teenager when he became world champion, is now among the country's leading 10m air rifle exponents.

After the disappointment of missing qualification for the Paris Olympics last year, he will be eager to reassert his dominance at a venue that has brought him immense success — having won the President's Cup gold in 2022 and two top-podium finishes in the men's individual and mixed team events at the 2023 ISSF World Cup.

## Pat Cummins aiming to return for second Ashes Test at Brisbane

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ Sydney

Australia captain Pat Cummins is on track to return for the second Ashes Test but admitted that he might not play all four remaining matches against England, given the short turnarounds between games.

Australia will be captained by Steve Smith as Cummins will miss the all-important Ashes opener due to a back injury and even though he expects to be bowling full tilt by the first Test, a decision on his return will be taken closer to the second Test starting December 4.

The 32-year-old, who has been sidelined by a lower-

back injury since July, was able to bowl a spell of eight overs without feeling any pain in his back on Wednesday. "That's the aim and we're building our plan to the second Test. It's probably not until you get a bit closer that you can really know where you're at," Cummins was quoted as saying by 'cricket.Com.Au' on Thursday.

"The good thing is that I'm pulling up well and the body is great. We're trying to keep that second Test as a live option. I'll have a really good bowl in Perth, and by then I'll know where I'm at," added Cummins.

Cummins, however, may not feature in each of the four Tests after missing the

opener at Perth starting on November 21 in order to manage his workload.

"I'm pretty keen to play as much as I can. But realistically, if we have a big game and bowl 40 or 50 overs and then there's a game that starts a few days later, it might be a bridge too far," he said.

While there is a long gap between the second and third Tests to be played at Brisbane and Adelaide from December 4-8 and December 17-21 respectively, the remaining three Tests will only have four-day gaps between them.

"I'm trying to get right, and if I get right then hopefully I'll try to play most of it as I can," Cummins said.

## Williams, Bharti join; new era for Indian football

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ New Delhi

In what could mark a new beginning for Indian football, the game's national federation AIFF has roped in two overseas-based players — Ryan Williams and Abneet Bharti — for the national camp ahead of the AFC Asian Cup qualifier against Bangladesh in Dhaka on November 18.

The move reflects a bold shift in approach by the federation, opening the door for Indian-origin players and those willing to give up foreign citizenship to represent the country.

The camp begins in Bengaluru on Thursday, with both players expected to join shortly.

If cleared, both players will join the squad in Dhaka for the November 18 qualifier in a development that could open the door for many more such aspirants and signal a new, inclusive phase for Indian football.

Williams, a 31-year-old midfielder born in Perth represented Australia at U-20, U-23 levels and the senior team as a second half substitute during a friendly against South Korea in 2019.



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Williams, a 31-year-old midfielder born in Perth represented Australia at U-20, U-23 levels and the senior team as a second half substitute during a friendly against South Korea in 2019.

He also represented English clubs Fulham and Portsmouth before joining former Indian Super League champions Bengaluru FC in 2023. Earlier this year, he expressed his desire to give up his Australian passport and take up Indian citizenship and he recently got his Indian passport.

AIFF president Kalyan

Chaubey said the idea was first brought up by Indian star Sunil Chhetri during the national camp in Kolkata in May this year.

"Sunil Chhetri gave the first information about Ryan Williams, who wants to play for India by giving up his Australian passport. From then on, the process started," Chaubey told PTI.

The federation then initiated the necessary paperwork with the government support. Chaubey credited the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, particularly Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviva, for fast-tracking the process.

"It's a collective effort for expediting Ryan Williams' passport process. Which usually takes lot of time (involving clearances from several Ministries and agencies)," Chaubey said.

## Dhruv Jurel's hundred propels India A to 255 against South Africa A

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ Bengaluru

Dhruv Jurel gave a scintillating demonstration of his technical nous with a fighting hundred, carrying India A to a respectable 255 all out after a top-order malfunction against South Africa A on the first day of the four-day match on Thursday.

Asked to bat first, India A were in serious trouble, some of their own making, at 126 for seven, but Jurel (132 not out, 175b, 12x4, 4x6) and Kuldeep Yadav (20, 87b) milked 79 runs for a doughty eighth-wicket stand to bail them out.

Jurel's innings stood out for its marvellous adherence to batting technique, helping him survive the vagaries of conditions, pitch and relentlessness of Protean bowlers under largely overcast skies.

His batting neither touches the vast expanses nor does it

have an element of derring-do, but it's based on stunning compactness that allows him to collect runs stealthily.

Even the six he hit off off-spinner Prenelan Subrayen over long on was not an explosive act, but more a melange of timing and precise ball placement.

Later his slog-swept six off Subrayen too was not a shot hit in anger, but testified his judgment and awareness of field setting around him.

On other occasions, he either leaned on his front-foot to smother the spin or waited late to turn the balls to on-side for risk-free singles.

The pacers Tshepo Moreki and Tiaan Van Vuuren (4/52) found steady bounce off the pitch here under overcast skies, but Jurel was quick to climb over the balls to guide them past the point fielder for boundaries.

Jurel flicked when the SA bowlers slanted the balls



onto his pads, and pulled out drives when they pitched up to him. On the day, his initial movement and foot-

work were so decisive that he seldom got stuck in no-man's land playing the shots.

The only time he looked

awful at the crease was when he attempted a lap shot in vain off Van Vuuren.

Soon the 24-year-old

JUREL'S INNINGS STOOD OUT FOR ITS MARVELLOUS ADHERENCE TO BATting TECHNIQUE, HELPING HIM SURVIVE THE VAGARIES OF CONDITIONS

etched his fourth first-class hundred with a single off Van Vuuren, much to the delight of his teammates and a few spectators who hung around the periphery of BCCI Centre of Excellence grounds.

It was also his third hundred in the last seven innings after going past three digits against Australia A at Lucknow and the West Indies at Ahmedabad.

Jurel has an equally unflappable companion in Kuldeep, who was dropped on four, in his rescue mission, as they batted 124 minutes and 173 balls across two sessions

to thwart the visitors' advance of.

He had a slight collision with SA wicketkeeper Connor Esterhuizen that required a medical check-up, and that was the lone discomforting moment during his long stay, until a mix-up with Jurel resulted in his run out.

Their partnership unfortunately did not have any top-order reflection as Sai Sudharsan (17, 52b), KL Rahul (19 off 40) and skipper Rishabh Pant (24 off 20) got out after getting starts.

Sudharsan was pinned on the back foot by Subrayen with a quicker one and Rahul's drive off Van Vuuren ended in the big gloves of Esterhuizen.

Pant was all aggression but the desire to dominate Moreki after getting hit on his left thumb forced him to slap the pacer straight to Marques Ackermann at mid-off.

Opener Abhimanyu

Easwaran did not even get a start, as he played all over an incoming delivery from Van Vuuren to be caught in front, and Devdutt Padikkal snicked the left-armer to Esterhuizen as India A withered quickly.

Despite the top-order collapse, Jurel's brilliance provided a solid platform for India A to rebuild.

His temperament and shot selection under pressure reaffirmed his growing reputation as a technically sound batsman. Kuldeep's support ensured that India A avoided a total collapse, giving them something to defend in the second innings.

The partnership highlighted the importance of composure and patience in challenging conditions. With such performances, India A can take confidence going into the remaining days of the four-day clash against a strong South Africa A bowling attack.