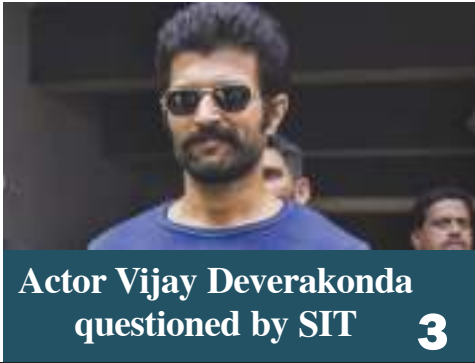




EC failed to ensure a fair poll, alleges BRS

2



Actor Vijay Deverakonda questioned by SIT

3



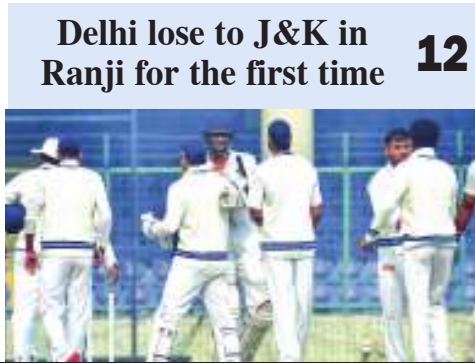
SC seeks EC response to pleas challenging SIR

4



Senate approves Bill to end shutdown

8



Delhi lose to J&K in Ranji for the first time

12

## PIONEER IN SHORT

### 'CONSPIRATORS BEHIND DELHI BLAST WILL NOT BE SPARED'

The conspirators behind the Delhi car blast will not be spared as the probe agencies investigating it will get to the bottom of the case to bring those responsible for it to justice, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday. In an address at an event at Changlimethang Stadium to mark the 70th birth anniversary of Bhutan's former king Jigme Singye Wangchuck, Modi said he came to Thimpu with a "heavy heart" in view of the incident in Delhi.

FULL REPORT ON P2

### NORTH EAST CONNECT FILM FEST TO SHOWCASE 12 REGIONAL FILMS

As part of the "North East Connect" programme, a special film festival will be held on November 21 and 22 at IMAX Theatre, Hyderabad. Films will be screened on Screen 4 and Screen 5, showcasing cinematic diversity from across the country, informed Ch Priyanka, VC&MD, Film Development Corporation. A total of 12 films - including 8 from North Eastern states and 4 Telugu films - will be screened during the festival.

FULL REPORT ON P3

### 12 KILLED, 36 INJURED IN SUICIDE ATTACK OUTSIDE ISLAMABAD COURT

A suicide bomber on Tuesday detonated his explosives near a police vehicle outside a court in Pakistan's capital, killing at least 12 people and wounding 36 others, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said. Naqvi, who visited the site of the blast, said the attacker wanted to enter the court complex, but on failure, he detonated his explosives near a police vehicle at the gate of the building in the G-11 area...

FULL REPORT ON P8

### VIHAAN TO CAPTAIN INDIA U19 A IN TRIANGULAR SERIES

Rising talent Vihaan Malhotra was on Tuesday named captain of the India U19 A squad for an upcoming triangular series also featuring India B and Afghanistan's U19 teams. Hyderabad's Aaron George will lead the India B U19 side in the competition that will be held at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence...

FULL REPORT ON P12

## QUOTE OF THE DAY



WE ARE ALLOCATING FIVE ACRES OF LAND TO THE MINORITY RESIDENTIAL JUNIOR COLLEGE AND WILL ALSO SANCTION THE NECESSARY FUNDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF ITS OWN BUILDING

— GADDAM PRASAD KUMAR, TELANGANA STATE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY SPEAKER



# JH sees disappointing voter turnout

■ Witnesses a meagre 48.47% polling

- Bye-poll peacefull, says Chief Electoral Officer
- Cases were registered against three sitting MLAs
- BRS alleges 'bogus voting'



PNS ■ Hyderabad

The by-election to the Jubilee Hills Assembly constituency here, crucial for the ruling Congress and also BRS, was held peacefully on Tuesday with a meagre 48.47 per cent of voters exercising their franchise.

State Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) C Sudharshan Reddy said that the polling was peaceful. Asked about the complaints received from the Congress and BRS, he said they were reported to the police, who acted on them immediately.

Police cases were booked against MLAs and other leaders for the violation of the Model Code of Conduct, he said. The BRS and Congress submitted complaints to the CEO against each other with allegations of violating the MCC.

The BRS leaders said that non-local Congress leaders, who were camping in the constituency, were trying to influence voters, according to a party release.

The Congress stated that the BRS candidate Maganti



## Exit polls predict Cong win

PNS ■ Hyderabad

While the pre-poll surveys gave a complete edge to the Bharata Rastra Samithi (BRS) in the high-stakes Jubilee Hills bye-elections, the exit poll surveys heralded an altogether different picture. All the surveys, conducted after the completion of polling on Tuesday, gave an edge to the ruling Congress party, relegating the BRS to second place, and gave third place to the BJP.

Though there were 58 contestants for the prestigious seat, the keen contest has been confined to the three main contenders. Maganti

	Cong	BRS	BJP
Naganna Survey	47%	41%	8%
JANMINE Survey	42.5%	41.5	11.5
Smart Poll	48.2	42.1	
Chanakya Strategy	46	41	6
People's Pulse	48	41	6
HMR Survey	48.3	43.18	5.84

Sunita (BRS), Naveen Yadav (Congress), and Lankala Deepak as the BJP candidates in the fray for grabbing the seat. Exit poll predictions have become a tradition whenever key elections are held. The survey predictions may or may not be true or depict the final result, but

still, they could give some information as to what is possibly going to happen. They have predicted a possible victory for the Congress with 47 percent voting. Some agencies have said that BRS got 41 percent of the vote.

CONTINUED ON >> P2



Sunita held a press conference on polling day in violation of rules and that former BRS MLAs K Chander and Dasyam Vinay Bhaskar, who are not residents of Jubilee Hills, were campaigning and influencing voters.

Hyderabad Police said cases were registered against three sitting MLAs and two former MLAs for allegedly violating the MCC during the polling.

Two cases were registered at the Madhuranagar Police Station against Congress MLAs Beerla Ilaiah, Ramachandranayak, and Ramdas, a police release said.

One case has been registered at the Borabanda Police Station against former BRS MLAs Dasyam Vinay Bhaskar and others.

Hyderabad Commissioner of Police V C Sajjanar inspected the polling progress of the bypoll from the Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) and also monitored the situation at various polling stations using drones.

CONTINUED ON >> P2

Source	NDA	MGB	OTH
JVC'S POLLS	135-150	88-103	3-6
MATRIZE	147-167	70-90	2-10
PEOPLE'S INSIGHT	133-148	87-102	3-6
PEOPLE'S PULSE	133-159	75-101	2-13
DAINIK BHASKAR	145-160	73-91	5-10

## Exit Polls predict a big win for NDA in Bihar polls

■ 0-5 seats for PK's Jan Suraaj

PNS ■ New Delhi

As polling came to a close in high-stakes Bihar, Exit Polls on Tuesday predicted a big victory for the NDA with the Mahagathbandhan coming in a distant second.

They also predicted a disappointing show by Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaj in its debut outing, forecasting a range of 0-5 seats for it in the 243-member Assembly. The Bihar polls were conducted in two phases on November 6 and 11, and the results will be announced on November 14.

While the NDA, comprising the BJP, JD(U), and LJP (Ram Vilas) as the major alliance partners, is looking to return to power in Bihar, the opposition INDIA bloc, which has the RJD, the Congress, and the Left parties as the main constituents, is looking to form the government with RJD's Tejashwi Yadav its chief ministerial face.

The majority mark is 122. The People's Insight predicted 133-148 seats for the NDA, 87-102 for the Mahagathbandhan, and 0-2 for Jan Suraaj. The People's Pulse gave 133-159 seats to the NDA, 75-101 for the Mahagathbandhan, and 0-5 for Prashant Kishore's party.

Exit poll projections are made by election survey agencies based on interviews of voters as they come out after casting their votes. These may vary widely from the actual results.

## Miraculous escape for 29 passengers as fire guts bus in Telangana

■ Alert driver averts major mishap

PNS ■ Hyderabad

A private bus caught fire on the Hyderabad-Vijayawada national highway in Nalgonda district of

Telangana in the small hours of Tuesday, police said.

However, none of the 29 passengers were injured in the incident that occurred in Chityal mandal at around 1.45 AM when the bus was proceeding to Kandukur in Andhra Pradesh from Hyderabad.

The bus driver noticed smoke emanating from the engine, stopped the vehicle immediately, and asked the passengers to alight. Moments after they got off the bus was



engulfed in flames, Nalgonda District Superintendent of Police Sharath Chandra Pawar said..

A police team reached

the spot and two fire tenders doused the flames, the SP said.

The exact cause of the fire is being investigated, police said.

## NIA to probe Red Fort blast

■ Pulwama doctor was driving car, had links to terror module:officials

PNS ■ New Delhi/Srinagar

The probe into the deadly car blast near the Red Fort was on Tuesday handed over to the premier anti-terror agency NIA as investigators zeroed in on a doctor from Pulwama in south Kashmir with suspected links to an inter-state "white collar" terror module.

Dr Umar Nabi was driving the i20 car that exploded on Monday evening and is believed to be one of the 12 people killed, officials said. Jammu and Kashmir police took a DNA sample from his mother to match with the parts found at the scene of the blast, an official said in Srinagar.

As the Delhi police filed an FIR calling the explosion "a bomb blast" and invoked sections relating to conspiracy and punishment for a



terror attack under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act,

After two security review meetings, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said he has instructed security agencies to hunt down every culprit behind the Delhi blast—the first attack in the national capital after 13 years. "Everyone involved in this act will face the full wrath of our agencies," Shah wrote on X.

Officials involved in investigations said they did not

rule out the possibility of the explosives in the car detonating accidentally, as Umar may have panicked.

It has emerged during investigations that Umar waited in the Sunehri Masjid parking lot near the Red Fort for nearly three hours while scouring the internet for updates regarding his associates' arrest in Faridabad. The investigators have also managed to establish an 11-hour trail of Umar's vehicle.

CONTINUED ON >> P2



## 6 Naxals killed in encounter

PNS ■ Bijapur

Six Naxalites were killed in an encounter with security personnel in Chhattisgarh's Bijapur district on Tuesday, police said. Chief Minister Vishnu Deo Sai lauded the operation, describing it as another step towards the eradication of the Maoist menace. The gunfight broke out at around 10 am in the Indravati National Park area when a joint team of security personnel was out on an anti-Naxalite operation based on inputs about the presence of senior Maoist cadres in the region, Bijapur Superintendent of Police Jitendra Yadav said.

## Ande Sri laid to rest with state honours

PNS ■ Hyderabad

Renowned Telangana poet Ande Sri, who died following a brief illness, was laid to rest with police honours at Ghatkesar near here on Tuesday.

Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy carried the bier and took part in the burial as a mark of respect. He was accompanied by several ministers who paid floral tributes to the poet and consoled his grieving family members.

Earlier, Reddy, State Congress president B Mahesh Kumar Goud and other leaders participated in the funeral procession. Leaders



from various parties, fans and well-wishers attended the funeral, raising slogans in praise of the poet.

Speaking to reporters, Reddy

described Ande Sri's death as a personal loss and said the state government would write to the Centre recommending the Padma Shri award for him.

"The state government had written to the Centre last year requesting the Padma Shri for Ande Sri, but no positive response was received," he

said, urging Union Ministers G Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay Kumar to support the proposal. Reddy announced that 'Jaya He Telangana' would be included in the school curriculum. The government will also set up a park in Ande Sri's memory and provide a government job to one of his family members, he said.

Describing the poet's work 'Nippula Vaagu' as "a guide like the Bhagavad Gita, Bible and Quran for those fighting for Telangana's people," Reddy said 20,000 copies would be published and distributed to libraries across the state.

CONTINUED ON >> P2

## Govt releases ₹12.99 crore as relief for flood victims

PNS ■ Hyderabad

The Telangana government has released Rs. 12.99 crore as immediate relief to families affected by recent floods and rains in various districts of Telangana.

The Revenue Department issued orders to provide Rs. 15,000 each to families whose homes were damaged in the floods.

According to reports from district collectors, 8,662 homes were damaged in 15 districts, and the government has released funds to support these families.

The funds will be direct-



ly credited to the bank accounts of the affected families.

Heavy rains lashed several districts from October 27-30, affecting 16 districts, including Warangal, Hanmakonda, Vikarabad, and others.



# ‘Govt will strive to improve edu sector’



PNS ■ Hyderabad

Telangana Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar emphasized the importance of education and praised the state government's efforts to improve the education sector. He participated in the National Education Day celebrations at the Minority Residential Junior College for Girls in Vikarabad on Tuesday. On the occasion, he announced that the government would allocate five acres of land for the

college and provide funds for building construction. He highlighted the government's initiatives, including increasing diet and cosmetic charges for students, providing free electricity to government schools, and establishing Integrated Residential Schools. Prasad Kumar also praised the government's focus on minority welfare, citing the allocation of Rs. 3,591 crore in the state budget and the inclusion of Mohammad Azharuddin in the ministry.

## ‘Growth of AI may emit 24-44 mn metric tonnes of carbon dioxide’

PNS ■ New Delhi

A study has estimated that the current rate of AI growth in the US may put 24-44 million metric tonnes of carbon dioxide in the air yearly -- emissions similar to those from adding five to 10 million cars to US roads. The study, published in the journal Nature Sustainability, projects growth in AI usage to take up 731 to 1,125 million cubic metres of water every year, estimated to equal the yearly water usage in the households of 6-10 million Americans. Researchers from Cornell University said the cumulative toll of AI use on the environment could put the industry's targets of achieving net-zero emissions out of reach. "Artificial intelligence is changing every sector of society, but its rapid growth comes with a real footprint in energy, water and carbon," lead researcher Fengqi You, professor in energy systems engineering in Cornell University's college of engineering, said. "Our study is built to answer a simple question: Given the magnitude of the AI computing boom, what environmental trajectory will it take? And more importantly, what choices steer it toward sustainability?" You said. The researchers started compiling data related to varied aspects of financial, marketing, and manufacturing sectors to understand how the AI industry is expanding. The data was combined with location-specific information on power systems and resource consumption, and how they relate to climate change.

## EC failed to ensure a fair poll, alleges BRS

PNS ■ Hyderabad

BRS Parliamentary Party Deputy Leader and Raj Sabha Member Vaddiraju Ravichandra said the Congress party has misused its power in the Jubilee Hills by-election, with its goons and rowdies indulging in violence and creating chaos near polling stations. Raju criticised the Election Commission for failing to ensure a fair election, despite multiple complaints of irregularities and attempts to cast bogus votes. He alleged that BRS leaders, including KTR and Harish Rao, had met the Chief Electoral Officer and submitted evidence of these irregularities, but no action was taken.



Raju stated that BRS leaders, including candidate Sunitha and himself, were attacked by Congress goons when they visited a polling station in Yusufguda. He accused the police of supporting the ruling party and failing to maintain law and order. Raju condemned the Election Commission's inaction and announced that the BRS would file a complaint with the DGP and the Election Commission, seeking action against the erring officials and police personnel.

## CONGRESS CONFIDENT OF HUGE MAJORITY

PNS ■ Hyderabad

PCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud expressed satisfaction with the smooth conduct of the Jubilee Hills by-election, stating that the people have overwhelmingly supported Congress candidate Naveen Yadav. Goud thanked everyone who worked hard for the Congress candidate, particularly Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, who regularly monitored and guided the campaign. He also appreciated the efforts of Deputy Chief Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, ministers, MPs, MLAs, and other leaders who worked tirelessly to promote the government's welfare schemes and ensure the success of the Congress candidate. Goud expressed confidence that Naveen Yadav would win with a huge majority, citing the positive response from the people and the effective campaigning by the Congress party.

# ‘Conspirators behind Delhi blast will not be spared’

PNS ■ Thimphu

The conspirators behind the Delhi car blast will not be spared as the probe agencies investigating it will get to the bottom of the case to bring those responsible for it to justice, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Tuesday. In an address at an event at Changlimethang Stadium to mark the 70th birth anniversary of Bhutan's former king Jigme Singye Wangchuck, Modi said he came to Thimphu with a "heavy heart" in view of the incident in Delhi.

The prime minister said throughout Monday night, he was in touch with the probe agencies investigating the blast. Twelve people were killed on Monday evening after a car exploded near the Red Fort.

Modi said India and Bhutan have shared a deep spiritual and cultural bond for centuries, and it was his commitment to participate in this "important occasion".

"But today I come here with a very heavy heart. The horrifying incident that took place in Delhi yesterday evening has left us all deeply distressed. I understand the suffering of the families who have suffered this loss. The nation stands united with them in grief and support," he said.

"I was in contact all night long with all the agencies and key officials related to the case. Discussions were ongoing, and the pieces of information were being put together," he said in Hindi.

"Our agencies will get to the bottom of this conspiracy. The perpetrators behind



I was in contact all night long with all the agencies and key officials related to the case. Discussions were ongoing, and the pieces of information were being put together

it will not be spared," he said.

The prime minister then switched from Hindi to English and declared:

"All those responsible will be brought to justice."

King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck led a prayer in the presence of thousands of Bhutanese at the Changlimethang stadium for the victims of the Delhi blast. The Bhutanese leadership conveyed their heartfelt condolences on the tragic loss of precious lives in the explosion in Delhi and offered special prayers for all those affected by the blasts, Indian officials said.

In Delhi, investigators were probing the blast as a possible terror attack and zeroed in on a Pulwama doctor, who was driving the car that exploded.

Dr Umar Nabi is believed to have died in the blast. The Jammu and Kashmir police has already taken a DNA sample from his mother to establish the connection.

The Delhi Police last night said nine people were killed in the blast and several others sustained injuries. The death toll went up to 12, with three people succumbing to their injuries, it said on Tuesday.

In his address at the event in Thimphu, Modi conveyed warm wishes of the people of India to the former king and to the people of Bhutan.

The prime minister highlighted the fourth king's transformative tenure that saw the emergence of Bhutan as a "modern nation-state" and as a constitutional democratic monarchy.

Under the fourth king's leadership, Bhutan introduced the unique concept of gross national happiness, blending economic growth with sustainability, Modi said.

The fourth king of Bhutan is a confluence of wisdom, simplicity, courage, and selfless service to the nation, Modi said.

## Trump’s \$1B lawsuit threat casts a shadow over BBC

PNS ■ London

President Donald Trump's threat to bring a billion-dollar lawsuit against the BBC has cast a shadow over the British broadcaster's future, but it could also be a bluff with little legal merit. The president's lawyer sent the threat to the BBC over the way a documentary edited his Jan 6, 2021, speech before a mob of his followers stormed the US Capitol.

Trump's history of suing news media companies — sometimes winning multi-million-dollar settlements — is part of a long-running grievance against the industry he describes as "fake news" that has often focused a critical eye on his actions.

But Trump faces fundamental challenges to getting a case to court, never mind taking it to trial. He would also have to deal with the harsh glare of publicity around his provocative pep

## NDA hails exit poll win forecast

■ INDIA bloc: 'Far from reality'

PNS ■ Patna

The ruling NDA in Bihar hailed exit polls that projected a decisive victory for the Nitish Kumar-led alliance, while opposition INDIA bloc leaders termed such forecasts as "far from reality".

The exit polls conducted by various organisations on Tuesday predicted a return of the NDA government in the state, a poor show for the opposition 'Mahagathbandhan' (INDIA bloc in local parlance), and a disappointing performance for former poll strategist Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraj.

State minister and Hindustani Awam Morcha (HAM) leader Santosh Suman told PTI video, "The NDA is going to form the government with a thumping majority. The number of seats which the NDA will win will be more than what is being projected in the exit polls".

While the Matrise Exit Poll forecast the NDA likely getting between 147-167 seats, the 'Mahagathbandhan' 70-90, and the Jan Suraj between 0-2 seats, Dainik Bhaskar predicted 145-160 seats for the NDA and 73-91 for the 'Mahagathbandhan'.

While the People's Insight predicted 133-148 seats for the NDA, 87-102 for the opposition bloc and 0-2 for Jan Suraj, the People's Pulse gave 133-159 seats to the NDA, 75-101 to the INDIA bloc, and 0-5 to Prashant Kishore's party.

# FROM FERTILISER TO FIREBALL

## Chemistry that turns everyday compounds into explosives

PNS ■ New Delhi

The investigation into Monday evening's blast near Red Fort that killed 12 people has turned the spotlight on the massive seizure of 2,900 kg of explosive materials in Faridabad -- a cache that, according to experts, could be a highly volatile mix of oxidisers, fuels and sensitisers, the same chemical principles that make up most industrial explosives.

Police are suspecting that ammonium nitrate, potassium nitrate and sulphur were among the recovered substances from Faridabad, while invoking terror-related charges under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

The Delhi Police FIR describes the incident as a "bomb blast", while forensic



ADDING AMMONIUM NITRATE TO POTASSIUM NITRATE AND SULPHUR PRODUCES A HIGHLY-VOLATILE AND SENSITIVE MIXTURE – MUCH MORE PRONE TO DETONATION THAN BLACK POWDER ITSELF

experts are now analysing whether the materials seized from Faridabad match the chemical signature of the Red Fort explosion. "All explosive compounds can broadly be classified into three components – fuel, oxidiser and

sensitiser," Manish Jain, professor in the department of applied chemistry at the Delhi Technological University, said. "Ammonium nitrate and potassium nitrate act as oxidisers, supplying oxygen for combustion, while

elements such as sulphur and carbon serve as fuels. "When a sensitiser is added, the mixture becomes easier to initiate and can rapidly transition from burning to detonating," he said.

Ammonium nitrate (AN) is one of the most common oxidisers used in fertilisers and in controlled industrial explosives such as ANFO (ammonium nitrate-fuel oil). However, when mixed improperly or with additional fuels, it can become dangerously unstable.

"Adding ammonium nitrate to potassium nitrate and sulphur produces a highly-volatile and sensitive mixture – much more prone to detonation than black powder itself," Jain said. Anand Prakash, assistant professor in the department

of chemistry, Rajdhani College, University of Delhi, called the recovery "deeply concerning".

"Ammonium nitrate is a powerful oxidiser, potassium nitrate supplies oxygen to sustain combustion, and sulphur lowers ignition temperature and helps the reaction spread. Together, these dramatically raise the sensitivity and destructive potential of a mixture," Prakash said. Officials said that among the seized materials, around 360 kg was inflammable and suspected to be ammonium nitrate. Investigators suspect that the cache is linked to a white-collar terror module involving the Jaish-e-Mohammed and Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind networks spanning Kashmir, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh.

## FROM PAGE - 1

### JH sees disappointing...

Sajjanar said this is the first time in the country that the voting process is being supervised using drone technology for this election.

He said a total of 150 drone cameras were used as per the directions of the Election Commission.

Meanwhile, BRS candidate Maganti Sunita held a dharna at a polling booth at Krishna Nagar, alleging that Congress workers were casting votes using fake identity cards.

However, the Grand Old Party submitted a complaint to the CEO alleging that Sunita and other BRS leaders threatened party leaders who were at the office of Congress candidate Naveen Yadav.

BRS MLC Savan Dasoju alleged that the Congress government is misusing power and indulging in "bogus voting" due to fear of losing the bypoll.

Voters were sent inside a polling booth at Shaikpet without voter identity cards being verified, he claimed.

The bypoll was necessitat-

ed due to the death of BRS MLA Maganti Gopinath in June this year.

The BJP fielded L Deepak Reddy, while Gopinath's widow, Sunita, is the BRS candidate. The ruling Congress candidate Naveen Yadav enjoys the support of Asaduddin Owaisi-led AIMIM.

Though the bypoll result would have no bearing on the stability of the Congress government, the outcome would be seen as a referendum on CM Revanth Reddy's performance.

The election outcome is crucial as the ruling Congress is steadfast in its goal to further strengthen its electoral hold.

The main opposition Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) is looking to retain the seat and make a bounce back after its rout in the 2023 Lok Sabha polls, preceded by its shock defeat in the 2023 assembly polls.

The BJP was keen on emerging as an alternative to the BRS and Congress.

The counting of votes will

be taken up on November 14.

### Exit polls predict...

The final result will be announced on the 14th of this month.

Several surveys have announced the winner through their exit polls. All predicted that Congress would win. Congress candidate Naveen Yadav is expected to win with around 47 to 48 percent of the votes, while BRS candidate Maganti Sunita is expected to come in second with 41 percent of the votes.

The Congress party posted on its official Twitter handle that the Congress candidate is going to win over the BRS candidate with a majority of 15 thousand to 20 thousand votes. The counting of votes to determine the final winner will be held on the 14th of this month. The polling process for the Jubilee Hills Assembly by-election, which will have an impact on Telangana politics, ended at 6 pm. 4.01 lakh voters got the opportu-

nity to exercise their right to vote.

### NIA to probe Red...

There was no clarity yet on how many people were in the car during the blast. While initially there were claims that there were three people, another account said only Umar, who was on the run after the busting of the Faridabad terror module, was the lone occupant.

At his review meetings, Shah instructed the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) to match the samples collected from the bodies in the car, sources said.

The powerful explosion not only shattered Delhi's calm but also tore through homes hundreds of kilometres away, where families are now struggling to come to terms with the sudden loss of their loved ones.

From the quiet lanes of Shravasti and Deoria to the bustling streets of Meerut, Amroha, and Shamli, all in Uttar Pradesh, the victims

were everyday people -- drivers of taxi and e-rickshaw, cosmetic store owners, DTC bus conductors, and all working to support their families, their dreams for better lives.

Among the victims was 32-year-old Dinesh Mishra of Ganeshpur village in Shravasti district, who had been working at a printing press in Delhi's Chawri Bazar to support his wife and three children.

His father, Bhure Mishra, recalled that Dinesh had returned home for Diwali.

"He was a hardworking man. He wanted to give his children a good education. We still can't believe he is gone," Bhure said, his voice breaking as neighbours gathered to console the family.

The blast occurred hours after eight people, including three doctors, were arrested and 2,900 kg of explosives seized with the uncovering of a "white collar" terror module involving the Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Ansar Ghazwat-ul-Hind and span-

ning Kashmir, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh. Among those arrested on Monday were Dr Muzammil Ganaie and Dr Shaheen Sayeed, both connected to the Al Falah University in Faridabad, from where 360 kg of ammonium nitrate was recovered.

According to investigators, Shaheen was leading the Jaish-e-Mohammed's women recruitment wing in India. She headed the Jamaat-ul-Mominat, the group's female wing. Umar, who hailed from Lethpora in Pulwama district, allegedly carried explosives, possibly ammonium nitrate, in the car, officials said. Muzamil, his sister-in-law, said Umar had been an introvert right from his childhood and focused on his studies and work.

Preliminary findings suggest ammonium nitrate, fuel oil, and detonators may have been used in the blast that ripped through the slow-moving car near a traffic signal.

As investigations into the blast and the terror module continue, officials said a man

named Tariq from Pulwama district had given the I-20 to Umar and is now under arrest.

Teams from Delhi Police, NIA, and intelligence agencies have fanned out across Delhi and Kashmir. Four people have been detained in the raids in Kashmir. Of the four, two have been shifted for joint interrogation for their role in the Delhi blast as well as the interstate terror module.

Raids are also being conducted at multiple locations in Delhi. The national capital has been placed on high alert with strict vigil being maintained at the airport, railway stations, and bus terminals.

Police said CCTV footage of the car that exploded shows a "masked man" driving the car. Multiple teams have been deployed to scan CCTV from the vicinity of the Red Fort and adjoining routes, officials added.

There was chaos outside the LNJP Hospital in Delhi as family members huddled at the gates, either heartbroken after identifying bodies of

their kin killed in the blast or holding on to hope while waiting anxiously for word about their loved ones.

The mortuary gates of the hospital remained under tight security, with only authorised personnel allowed entry. Some could be seen pleading with hospital staff for information about missing family members, while many broke down in tears as ambulances kept arriving and departing.

### Ande Sri laid to rest...

Ande Sri, the author of Telangana's iconic state song 'Jaya Jaya He Telangana', died in Hyderabad on Monday at the age of 64.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Union Ministers G Kishan Reddy and Bandi Sanjay Kumar, BRS chief K Chandrasekhar Rao and other leaders condoled his death.

Kishan Reddy and several leaders paid floral tributes to the poet on Monday.





## Five acres allocated to Minority Residential Junior College

PNS ■ Hyderabad

Telangana State Legislative Assembly Speaker Gaddam Prasad Kumar was the chief guest at the National Education Day at the Vikarabad Minority Residential Junior College (Girls) on Monday.

Speaking on the occasion, Prasad Kumar said, "We are allocating five acres of land to the Minority Residential Junior College and will also sanction the necessary funds for the construction of its own building. My best wishes to the students, teachers and parents participating in the programme being celebrated on the birthday of Bharat Ratna late Maulana Abul Kalam Azad."

"Abul Kalam Azad actively participated in the development of the education system of this country after the independence of India. In memory of his services, we celebrate his birth anniversary as National Education Day. The purpose of celebrating National Education Day is that everyone should get education and everyone should study. Abul Kalam Azad brought many modern reforms for the development of education with the aim that the



country and society can develop only through education," the Speaker said.

"Following in the footsteps of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, the Telangana State government under the leadership of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy is giving utmost priority to education, which is why Telangana Residential Schools are an ideal for the country. Eight lakh students are getting accommodation in government hostels and gurukuls in the State. The children studying in gurukuls are the children of the government, that is, our children, just as you are to us," he added.

District Collector Prateek Jain, local public representatives, teachers and students were present.

## North East Connect Film Fest to showcase 12 regional films

PNS ■ Hyderabad

As part of the "North East Connect" programme, a special film festival will be held on November 21 and 22 at IMAX Theatre, Hyderabad. Films will be screened on Screen 4 and Screen 5, showcasing cinematic diversity from across the country, informed Ch Priyanka, VC&MD, Film Development Corporation.

A total of 12 films - including 8 from North Eastern states and 4 Telugu films - will be screened during the festival. Directors and prominent personalities from the film industry will participate in the celebrations. The VC&MD and officials inspected the IMAX Theatre on Tuesday and reviewed the arrangements. She instructed officials and theatre management to ensure smooth screenings and comfortable arrangements for invitees and audiences.

As part of the "North East Connect - A Techno Cultural Festival 2025", various IT and cultural programmes will also be organised across



multiple venues. The film screenings are being coordinated under the supervision of Telangana State Film Development Corporation. The inspection was attended by LLR Kishore Babu, Director, I&PR; CIE Radha Kishan; Deputy Directors Yasa Venkateswarlu; IMAX Theatre General Manager Venkata Prasad; Qube representative Raghuram; UFO representative Sanjay; and Machiraju Sai Prasad, among others.

### Films to be screened at IMAX Theatre

- 1) Yawing (Tripuri)=1.35 hrs
- 2) Tara- The lost star Sikkim( Nepali )=1:30 Hrs
- 3) Kooki ( Hindi ) =1:55 Hrs
- 4) Onaatah: Of the Earth: Meghalaya (Khasi)=1:48 Hrs
- 5) Anur(Assami)=2:42 Hrs
- 6) Boomba Ride (Assami)=1:16 Hrs.
- 7) Eikhogi Yum (Manipuri):1.29 Hrs.
- 8) Rador, Pakhi (Assami)=2.09 Hrs.
- 9) Balagam (Telugu)=2:11 Hrs
- 10) Naa Bangaru Thalli ( Telugu )=2:29 Hrs
- 11) Pottel (Telugu)=2:00 Hrs.
- 12) Mallesham (Telugu):2:11 Hrs.

## Hyd airport issues advisory due to heightened security

PNS ■ Hyderabad

Hyderabad airport, which is officially known as Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA), has issued a passenger advisory due to heightened security measures.

The advisory comes after a powerful explosion ripped through a slow-moving car at a traffic signal near the Red Fort metro station on Monday evening. In the advisory that was issued on the X handle of the airport, it is mentioned that passengers may expect



longer airport wait times due to heightened security. Passengers have been asked to arrive at the airport earlier than usual, allowing ample time for security checks.

It has also been advised to check airlines for the latest flight information status.

## Police arrest three, seize 19 stolen bikes

PNS ■ Hyderabad

Police in Amberpet arrested three persons accused of multiple automobile theft cases, with a total of 19 TVS XL Moped bikes seized, following a report of a stolen vehicle on October 7.

Sakthavarthi Sharvan, 28, a vegetable vendor from Chatrinaka, Kalia Raju, 38, and Sakath Mukender, 40, both labourers from Bibi Nagar and

Medchal, were booked under 303(2) (Punishment for theft) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). A complaint was lodged in Prem Nagar by a cook reporting theft of his TVS XL. The police promptly searched through CCTV cameras to identify the accused.

The three accused allegedly stole 19 of those TVS XL mopeds from April to early November across several locations in Hyderabad.

### ONLINE BETTING APP CASES

## Actor Vijay Deverakonda questioned by SIT

PNS ■ Hyderabad

Actor Vijay Deverakonda on Tuesday appeared before the Telangana government's Special Investigation Team (SIT) here in connection with the cases related to promoting online betting apps, police said.

Deverakonda was questioned by the officials, a senior police official said.

The Telangana government had constituted the SIT under the overall supervision of the Additional Director General of Police, CID, to curb illegal betting activities and for thorough investigation of the online betting app cases.

The SIT took up investigation of four cases which were registered against the organ-



isers of online betting platforms and other similar applications, police earlier said.

Cases were registered against illegal betting apps and promoters in March this year following complaints that the applications lured youth and general public to

make easy money and eventually leading them into complete financial and psychological distress, and even suicides.

Managements of the illegal betting apps, few film actors and several social media influencers were booked for allegedly promoting online

betting apps through social media platforms under various provisions of the Telangana State Gaming Act, 2017, BNS and IT Act.

Earlier, Deverakonda appeared before the Enforcement Directorate (ED) here in August this year as part of an investigation into a money laundering case linked to illegal online betting and gambling by certain platforms.

He had then said he "was doing an endorsement for a gaming app. There is no connection between gaming apps and betting apps."

Deverakonda, the Hyderabad-born actor, debuted with the 2011 Telugu film 'Nuvvila' and shot to fame with the 2017 blockbuster 'Arjun Reddy'.

## Srirangacharya bags Telugu varsity award

PNS ■ Hyderabad

Renowned literary figure Dr Srirangacharya has been conferred with the Suravaram Pratap Reddy Telugu University Founder's Day Special Award this year.

The award will be presented to him at a special programme to be held on the occasion of the university's Founder's Day on December 2, University Registrar Professor Hanumantha Rao said. The award carries a cash prize of



Rs 1 lakh and a citation. Born in Chandupatla in Nalgonda district, Dr Srirangacharya served as a teacher and principal of Palem Oriental

College in Nagarkurnool district for three decades.

Srirangacharya, who actively participated in the early Telangana movement, brought to light the works of six generations of poets who were not recognised in Telangana and gave them life. Srirangacharya, who brought to light an inscription from the time of Ranirudrama Devi in Chandupatla, introduced many poets and scholars of Nalgonda district to the society.

## T-SAT State-level students' annual competitions



PNS ■ Hyderabad

T-SAT CEO Bodanpalli Venugopal Reddy said that competitions are being organised under the name 'Students' Annual Competitions-2025' to recognise the talent of students studying in government schools in Telangana.

Details of the programmes were announced in a press release released on Tuesday. Quiz, essay-writing and elocution competitions were organized for students studying in government schools in the State from Class 6 to Class 10 from the Mandal level to the zonal level. He said that these competitions started on November 4 and will end with celebrations at the T-SAT level on December 13th. About 22,000 students participated in the competitions held in more than 600 mandals and 33 districts of the State.

He said that merit certificates were given to 10,000 students in this programme. About 100 students will participate in the State-level final competitions to be held at T-SAT on November 12 and 13 in the quiz, essay and oratory categories, and they will be presented with merit certificates and mementos.

CEO Venugopal Reddy said that Duddilla Sridhar Babu, will be the chief guest of the closing ceremony and will present prizes to the winners.

## Film producer booked for encroachment

PNS ■ Hyderabad

Film producer Bellamkonda Suresh was booked over alleged land encroachment in Hyderabad on November 9.

According to the police, Suresh was booked for land encroachment based on a complaint by Shiva Prasad. Prasad, a resident of Road number 7, Film Nagar, had locked his house and gone to stay with relatives for some time. When the complainant returned about a few days ago, the complainant reportedly found that the lock on his house had been broken, several household items and walls were damaged. There were signs of an attempt to encroach on the property.

In his complaint, Prasad alleged that Bellamkonda Suresh and his associates were responsible for the damage and attempted encroachment.

## ‘Arrested terrorist conspired to kill people by poisoning’

PNS ■ Hyderabad

Sensational revelations are coming to light in the investigation of arrested terrorist Dr Syed Moinuddin. It is known that the Gujarat ATS team arrested Moinuddin in Rajendranagar area.

According to information, it has been revealed that Moinuddin has hatched a conspiracy to kill by poisoning on a large scale. The police said that he was making a deadly chemical called resin. It seems that this poison has been mixed in the water tanks of temples and public water tanks and a conspiracy has been hatched to kill people on a large scale. The Gujarat ATS has seized several chemicals used in the manufacture of resin from Moinuddin.

The investigation revealed



that Moinuddin is making this poison on the orders of a handler from Pakistan. Officials said that digital evidence related to this has also been found. Syed Moinuddin completed his MBBS in China and returned to Hyderabad

it has been revealed that Moinuddin has hatched a conspiracy to kill by poisoning on a large scale. The police said that he was making a deadly chemical called resin

and is providing medical services in the name of online treatment. The Gujarat ATS has arrested four people along with him. A special team is conducting an investigation to find out more details from Moinuddin.

## RTC to ply 60 more EV buses in city by Dec

PNS ■ Hyderabad

The TGSRTC is working to reduce the number of diesel buses in the city and increase the number of EV buses. It is preparing plans with the aim of running 3,000 electric buses in two years.

The RTC, which already runs 265 EV buses in the Greater Hyderabad Zone, is gradually increasing their number. While 35 electric buses were brought in November, 10 buses were allocated to the Hayatnagar-2 depot two days ago. With this, the number of EVs in that depot has increased to 55. Officials say that more buses will be run: five on the Patancheru route, two on the Mehidipatnam route, and three on the Borabanda route.

They said that another 25 electric buses will be available in the Greater Zone by the end of this month.

## CM Prajavani will be replicated in all the districts: Officials



PNS ■ Hyderabad

A team of officials from various departments of the Telangana government visited CM Prajavani on Tuesday. The team, comprising officials from 33 districts, visited the Mahatma Jyotiba Phule Praja Bhavan to observe the functioning of CM Prajavani.

The officials were impressed by the effective problem-solving approach of CM Prajavani and expressed their commitment to adopt similar methods in their respective districts. They met with Dr G Chinna Reddy, Incharge of CM Prajavani and Vice-

Chairman of the State Planning Board.

During the meeting, the officials discussed the implementation of CM PrajaVani and the approach taken to resolve public grievances. The officials, who are undergoing training at the Dr Marri Channa Reddy Human Resource Development Institute, appreciated the coordination and problem-solving mechanisms of CM Prajavani and pledged to replicate the model in their districts.

The coordination officers of CM Prajavani, Rakesh Reddy, Jagamohan Reddy and Laxminarayana, were also present during the visit.

## Osmania varsity to hold TG-SET from Dec 10 to 12

PNS ■ Hyderabad

Osmania University will hold the 2025 Telangana State Eligibility Test (TG SET) for 29 subjects on December 10, 11, and 12 for those seeking eligibility as assistant professors or lecturers.

The last date to apply has been extended till November 14, as submission of the online application form is compulsory to appear for the test. The hall tickets for the computer-based examination will be available from December 3. The hall tickets will include details of the comprehensive schedule, subject dates,



time, and centre locations, the University stated.

For complete details regarding the application process, visit [www.telanganaset.org](http://www.telanganaset.org) or the University website [www.osmania.ac.in](http://www.osmania.ac.in)

The State-level eligibility test for academic professionals is conducted to maintain a uniform standard of teaching specific to the State.

## ‘Tribal youth should travel around the world’

Madhuyashki Goud at Tribal Youth Conference

PNS ■ Hyderabad

The youth from tribal villages should work hard towards their chosen goal and rise to higher positions, said TPCC Campaign Committee Chairman and former MP Madhuyashki Goud.

The 17th Tribal Youth Exchange Programme (Tribal Youth Conference) to be held for a week under the auspices of Mera Yuva Bharath with the courtesy of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports began at TGCAB - CTI in Rajendranagar. Tribal

youth from the states of Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh attended.

Madhuyashki Goud, who was the chief guest, said that the youth should not only pursue goals like IAS, IPS, doctors and lawyers but also get involved in politics. He said that the Constitution has provided reservation for tribal youth and 33% reservation for women will also be implemented. He wanted them to take advantage of the opportunity to contest from village sarpanch to MP.

He said that it is sad that many tribal villages still lack health centres, schools, buses and road facilities. He said that the role of tribals in the construction of the country is great, but they do not get enough wealth for their hard work. He said that the youth of those areas are heading towards socio-economic inequality and Naxalism. That is why it is necessary for tribals to get a share of wealth in the states of Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Jharkhand.



He advised the tribal youth not to stop at the village level... to travel the world, along with their growth...

to lead the areas where they were born and raised towards development in all fields.

He advised them to share their views in the Tribal Youth Exchange Programme being held in Hyderabad city and to pave new paths for their lives with new innovations.

Retired IAS officer Ajay Mishra, Mera Yuva Bharat State Director Anshuman Prasad, retired director P Vaidyanath Rao, Hyderabad District Youth Officer Kushboo Gupta and NSS Youth Officer Saida Nayak were among those who participated in the programme.





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## Order Order

### Delhi court rejects plea by Lalu, Rabri Devi for daily trial in IRCTC scam case



A Delhi court on Tuesday rejected the plea by former Bihar Chief Minister and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) President Lalu Prasad Yadav and his wife Rabri Devi's against holding day-to-day trial in the IRCTC scam case in which they have been charged with criminal offences. Special Judge (PC Act) Vishal Gogne of the Rouse Avenue Courts said that their prayer was not maintainable, practicable or justified.

The fast track court said that the Constitutional courts have asked trial courts to expedite cases against Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs), avoid adjournments and record evidence on a day-to-day basis. "The court is therefore disinclined to bind and restrict its future daily orders by introducing a negative direction inter alia "not listing the matter before one week after each hearing", as prayed by the applicants," Judge Gogne said.

The CBI charge is that Yadav and his family accepted prime land and shares as bribe for awarding contracts to a private firm when he was the Union Railway Minister.

### Former TDB president N Vasu arrested in Sabarimala gold case

The SIT probing the missing gold from the Sabarimala temple arrested former Travancore Devaswom Board president N Vasu on Tuesday, sources said here. Vasu, who had also served twice as Commissioner of the TDB before being appointed its president, was arrested following his interrogation, they said. The arrest of Vasu, who is reportedly close to the top leadership of the State Government, is one of the high-profile arrests in the case. The Kerala High Court is monitoring the SIT probe.

He is an accused in the case relating to the disappearance of gold from the door frames of the sreekovil (sanctum sanctorum) of the hill shrine, sources said.

## SC seeks EC response to pleas challenging SIR

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ New Delhi

The Supreme Court (SC) on Tuesday sought separate responses of the Election Commission of India (ECI) on pleas filed by DMK, CPI(M), West Bengal Congress and Trinamool Congress leaders challenging the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal respectively.

A bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi asked the poll panel to respond to the fresh petitions in two weeks.

The Supreme Court asked the Madras and Calcutta High Courts to keep in abeyance any proceedings on petitions challenging the SIR exercise in Tamil Nadu and West Bengal.

It also allowed the listing of an intervention application filed by the AIADMK in support of the SIR in Tamil Nadu.

During a brief hearing, senior advocate Kapil Sibal, appearing in the court for the ruling DMK in Tamil Nadu, said the exercise is being done hurriedly, without following the due process, and different sets of documents are being sought from voters.

He said the northeast monsoon in Tamil Nadu is always heavy during November-December and the coastal districts experience heavy to very heavy rains during this season.

"According to the meteorological department, this year, heavier rain than usual is predicted. Because of this, the common people will be preparing for the same and the revenue officials who are enlisted as BLOs, EROs, AEROS



will have to manage the flood relief as well. Hence, practically, this is not a conducive time for conducting the above exercises," Sibal said.

Justice Kant said in a country as big as India, some states will always face natural calamities. Sibal said there is very poor connectivity in certain areas of the southern state and there will be difficulties in uploading documents.

"Similarly, in West Bengal also, rural connectivity is very poor and much bad with regard to Tamil Nadu," he said. The bench said, "It appears that the case being projected before us is that for the first time, electoral rolls are being prepared. We also know the ground realities. There is a constitutional authority which is doing the

exercise and it is mandated to do it. Earlier also, it has been done."

Justice Kant said the problem is that everybody wants "status quo". Sibal said the petitioners want the EC to do its work but not in this fashion and hurriedly. The bench said political parties should not be apprehensive of the exercise and the EC will give all details related to it.

"If we are satisfied that there is something wrong, we will annul the entire exercise," the court said.

On the argument that different modalities are being adopted in Tamil Nadu, compared to what was followed in Bihar during the SIR exercise, the bench said it means that the EC has rectified its mistakes. Sibal said the Bihar SIR has nothing to do with the

exercise in Tamil Nadu and the situation and conditions are different in the two states.

Senior advocate Rakesh Dwivedi, appearing in the court for the EC, sought to file replies to the fresh petitions.

Senior advocate Kalyan Banerjee, appearing for Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader Dola Sen, said they too have filed the petition challenging the SIR in West Bengal.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing in the matter for NGO Association for Democratic Reforms, questioned various "procedural irregularities" on the EC's part like issuing a machine-readable voter list in Bihar.

The bench said notices are being issued to the EC on all the fresh petitions and the

court will look into the pleas after the poll panel's response. It told the EC, "You should adopt the best practice and experience of the Bihar SIR in exercises which are to be conducted in other states. However, you should always keep in mind the local conditions."

The court listed the matter for further hearing on November 26 and 27, and said it will hear the arguments on the interim relief sought by different political leaders, such as a stay on the SIR.

Besides Sen, West Bengal Congress leader Shubhankar Sarkar, DMK's RS Bharathi, CPI-M's P Shanmugam and other leaders have filed separate petitions challenging the SIR in Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Puducherry.

In his plea filed through advocate Vivek Singh, Bharathi has claimed that the exercise is violative of Articles 14, 19 and 21 (rights to equality, freedom of speech and life) and other provisions of the Constitution, the Representation of the People Act and the Registration of Electors Rules of 1960.

The CPI(M) has challenged the constitutional validity of the EC's directive to conduct the SIR in Tamil Nadu, terming the process "arbitrary, illegal and unconstitutional".

Meanwhile, the AIADMK has supported the poll panel's decision to conduct the SIR in the southern State, calling it a "legitimate and necessary" exercise to uphold the sanctity of elections and prevent voter fraud. On October 27, the EC announced the conduct of the second phase of the SIR in 12 States and Union territories between November and February next year. These states and Union territories are — the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Kerala and West Bengal are scheduled to go to polls in 2026. The EC has said for Assam, where polls are also due in 2026, the revision of the electoral rolls will be announced separately.

The second phase of the SIR exercise began on November 4 and will continue till December 4. The EC will release the draft electoral rolls on December 9 and the final electoral rolls on February 7.

## Stubble burning worsening Delhi-NCR air quality levels, SC told

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
■ New Delhi

Stubble burning has commenced in a big way with impunity in Punjab and Haryana leading to further worsening of air quality levels in Delhi-NCR, the Supreme Court was told on Tuesday.

A bench headed by Chief Justice BR Gavai, which is scheduled to hear the air pollution case on Wednesday, was urged by senior advocate Apurajit Singh, who is assisting the bench as an amicus curiae, that a

response be sought from the Governments of Punjab and Haryana.

Singh referred to NASA satellite images to buttress her point that stubble burning in these two states has commenced and it is contributing to already severe air pollution levels in Delhi-NCR. "The Supreme Court orders are being flouted with impunity," she said, adding that these states should respond to the present situation. "We will pass some orders on Wednesday," the CJ said. Earlier on November 3, the

Supreme Court directed the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) to file an affidavit detailing the steps it has taken so far to prevent air pollution in Delhi-NCR from peaking further. The bench, also comprising Justice K Vinod Chandran, was hearing the MC Mehta case and had said that the authorities must act proactively and not wait for pollution levels to reach a "severe" stage.

Amicus curiae Singh had flagged media reports indicating that several air quality monitoring stations in

Delhi were not functioning during the Diwali period. "There are newspapers after newspapers saying that monitoring stations are non-functional. If the monitoring stations are not even functioning, we don't even know when to implement GRAP (graded response action plan)... Out of 37 monitoring stations, only nine were functioning continuously on the day of Diwali," she said.

The amicus urged the bench to ensure that CAQM submits clear data and an action plan. She said the earlier orders mandated pre-

emptive measures, rather than reactive steps, once pollution worsened. "The CAQM is required to place on record an affidavit as to what steps are proposed to be taken to prevent the pollution from turning severe," the bench said in its order. The counsel for the CAQM said that the Central Pollution Control Board is responsible for monitoring data. However, Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhat assured the bench that the agencies concerned will file the required report.

## R Venkataramani: India's Attorney General for tumultuous times

J GOPIKRISHNAN  
■ New Delhi

When the President of India issued a notification on 26 September 2025 extending Ramaswamy Venkataramani's term as the Attorney General for India for another two years, it was more than a bureaucratic decision: it was a reaffirmation of trust in a man known for his quiet competence, sharp intellect and unimpeachable integrity. The extension, valid until 30 September 2027, signals the Government's faith in his ability to steer the nation through an increasingly complex and politically charged legal environment.

R Venkataramani's journey to the highest law office of the land is a story of perseverance, scholarship and deep respect for the rule of law. Enrolled as an advocate with the Bar Council of Tamil Nadu in 1977, he began his career with humility and hard work, soon moving to New Delhi to practice in the Supreme Court of India in 1979. His early years were shaped by his apprenticeship under the eminent constitutional expert, late PP Rao, Senior Advocate, whose influence left a lasting imprint on his legal philosophy. By March 1982, Venkataramani qualified as an Advocate-on-Record at the Supreme Court and in 1997, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the legal profession, he was designated a Senior Advocate by the Supreme Court.

Appointed as Attorney General for India on 28 September 2022, Venkataramani brought with him decades of experience, deep constitutional insight and a reputation for restraint and clarity. His reappointment in 2025 comes at a time when the legal challenges facing

the Government are multifaceted, spanning constitutional disputes, international arbitration, political litigation, and the fast-evolving interface between law, technology and governance.

Today's legal landscape is no longer confined to conventional courtroom arguments. It extends into the realm of governance, diplomacy and public perception. The Attorney General's office, as the principal legal advisor to the Government of India, stands at the intersection of law and politics.

Every legal opinion or court submission has the potential to shape not only judicial outcomes but also political narratives. Venkataramani's modesty and meticulous approach make him ideally suited for this high-stakes environment. His style, measured, reasoned and devoid of spectacle, has earned him both respect and trust in equal measure.

The coming years will test his ability to navigate the complex and often turbulent waters of Indian politics and governance. The Modi administration, though led by one of the strongest political personalities in recent memory, currently operates as a minority Government. This makes the role of the Attorney General especially critical, as he must delicately balance legal propriety with political pragmatism. In such circumstances, the Attorney General becomes more than just a lawyer; he becomes the moral compass of the administration's legal strategy, ensuring that the pursuit of political objectives remains within the bounds of constitutional discipline.

Venkataramani's challenge extends beyond domestic politics. On the international



front, India faces increasing scrutiny over its compliance with trade pacts, investment treaties and environmental and human rights obligations. As global corporations and international bodies become more litigious, the Attorney General must not only defend India's interests in global forums but also ensure that its legal positions align with the principles of fairness and justice that have long defined its constitutional ethos. Acting as both lawyer and diplomat, he must maintain India's credibility abroad while safeguarding its sovereignty.

Within India, a surge of politically sensitive cases has blurred the line between law and ideology. The courts have become arenas where political battles are fought by other means. From electoral disputes and constitutional amendments to the validity of administrative actions, the Government faces legal challenges that can have profound implications for its longevity and legitimacy. Venkataramani's calm temperament and deep constitutional grounding will be indispensable in such moments.

Many in the legal community had anticipated a change of guard at the top law office earlier this year. Solicitor

General Tushar Mehta, known for his aggressive courtroom style and articulate advocacy, was widely seen as the front-runner for the post.

However, sources reveal that when the decision reached the Prime Minister's desk, Narendra Modi preferred continuity and composure over confrontation. The choice of R Venkataramani over a more flamboyant alternative reflects Modi's instinct to rely on steady, unassuming competence, particularly crucial in a phase when legal stability underpins political survival.

Behind Venkataramani's quiet demeanor lies a formidable intellect and an unwavering commitment to the institution of justice. Those who have worked with him describe him as a "lawyer's lawyer", deeply committed to the purity of legal reasoning, yet pragmatic enough to appreciate the compulsions of governance. His professional conduct, coupled with his personal simplicity, has earned him the confidence of both the judiciary and the executive. Venkataramani, since his student days, has held a reflective admiration for American legal institutions, attorneys and jurists who shaped them. Names such as John Marshall,

Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr, Hugo Black, Earl Warren, Louis Brandeis, Benjamin Cardozo, Felix Frankfurter, William Storey, Thurgood Marshall, William Brennan, and, more recently Antonin Scalia, represent for him a wide philosophical spectrum where judicial reasoning is not merely technical but rooted in social conscience, moral clarity and constitutional faith.

He regards Attorney Generals like Robert F Kennedy, Elliot Richardson and Edward Levi as figures who demonstrated how law, when anchored in democratic values, can remain both principled and transformative.

For Venkataramani, the appeal of the American legal traditions lies not in replication but in the seriousness with which it attempts to balance liberty, accountability and judicial independence through interpretative discipline and institutional design. India, with its civilisational depth, constitutional vision, and the responsibility of delivering justice to over a billion people, requires legal systems that are transparent, humane and responsive to social complexity.

He has often emphasised that legal thinking must remain compassionate, historically aware, and connected to the lived experiences of ordinary citizens, rather than confined to academic abstraction. This belief continues to guide his intellectual and institutional engagements.

His aspiration is to foster thoughtful dialogue between legal cultures through comparative research programs, shared judicial training, and collaborative professional networks. Such engagement, in his view, does not weaken India's legal identity; rather, it

strengthens it by encouraging clarity, public trust and ethical responsibility.

Thus, his admiration for American juristic traditions is part of a broader commitment to renew and reinforce India's constitutional order, ensuring it remains resilient, purposeful and deeply anchored in the rights and aspirations of its people.

In an era when the credibility of the legal profession is under strain, amid allegations of politicisation, judicial activism, and media trials: the Attorney General's role assumes symbolic importance.

He is the guardian of the Government's legal conscience, the voice that must uphold reason even in the heat of political rhetoric. For Venkataramani, this means ensuring that the Government's actions are not merely defensible in court but also justifiable in principle.

An insider in the Government recently remarked that it is Venkataramani's quiet professionalism and unassuming personality that have inspired the Prime Minister's confidence. In times when the country's legal institutions are often pulled between competing pressures from within and outside its borders, his steady hand offers reassurance.

R Venkataramani's reapPOINTment, therefore, represents more than administrative continuity: it symbolises the Government's faith in sobriety over showmanship, diligence over drama, and principle over personality. As India's foremost law officer embarks on his extended tenure, the nation will look to him not only for legal guidance but also for moral steadiness amid the clamour of courtroom and political battles.

### GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL DEPUTY COLLECTOR, I.A., HYDERABAD AIRPORT METRO LIMITED, HYDERABAD.

#### FORM-F Notification by the Collector (I.A.), HAML (See rule 7 (c))

File No.: GB/1/2025-LHS Dated: 10-11-2025  
Whereas the following notifications were issued and Gazettes were published for the Public purpose for Hyderabad Airport Metro Limited, Phase-I, from MGBS to Chendrayyapeta, Condo-II, situated at Shore-E-Hyderabad Village, Bahadurpura Mandal of Hyderabad District.

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 are as follows:

S. NO.	NOTIFICATION NO. & DATE	GAZETTE NO. & DATE		
1.	No.CB/213/2024 - LHS (401 to 425)	HAML No.49 dated 14-02-2025		
Name and address		Sketch No.	Premises No.	Extent in Sq. yds.
1		2	3	4
1. Sri. Om Prakash Heda S/o. Late. Jethmal R/o. 4-5-908 / B & C Nampally, Badi Chowdi, Hyderabad- 500085.				
2. Sri. Surander Heda S/o. Late Narsing Das Heda, R/o. 18-4-554, Shamsheregunj, Hyderabad.		411 LHS	18-4-551 to 554	32.16
3. Sri. Mukesh Heda S/o. Late Purushotham Das Heda R/o. 4-5-908 / B & C Badi Chowdi Sultan Bazar, Hyderabad - 500027.				

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

Sd/- Special Deputy Collector, I.A.,  
HAML, Rasoolpura, Hyderabad.  
Place: Hyderabad  
Date: 10-11-2025. DFR No.819/LA/PPADVT/AGENCY/2025-26

### HYDERABAD METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY Swarnajayanti Complex, Amrpet, Hyderabad - 500038.

#### PUBLIC NOTICE Planning Department

No. 003420/HMDA/00986/SWFL/MDL2/2025  
It is to inform that, Sri. M. Sudhakar and M/s. Gouthashipri Constructions Pvt.Ltd has filed an application for approval of Residential Layout with Housing Under Gated Community (With Compound Wall) Layout in Survey No. 117,118,119,120,121,122,123,124 of Devarayampet Locality, Devarayampet Village, Shamirpet Mandal, Medchal Malkajgiri District vide File No. 003420/HMDA/00986/SWFL/MDL2/2025.

Therefore the Flatplots owners/Purchasers/Agreement holders of Residential Layout with Housing Under Gated Community (With Compound Wall) Layout in Survey No. 117,118,119,120,121,122,123,124 of Devarayampet Locality, Devarayampet Village, Shamirpet Mandal, Medchal Malkajgiri District vide File No. 003420/HMDA/00986/SWFL/MDL2/2025, may file their objections/ suggestions in writing within 15 days to the office from the date of Publication of this notice with regard to the application for approval of Residential Layout with Housing Under Gated Community (With Compound Wall).

If no objections / suggestions are received within the stipulated period, the request of the applicant for approval of Residential Layout with Housing Under Gated Community (With Compound Wall) Layout in Survey No. 117,118,119,120,121,122,123,124 of Devarayampet Locality, Devarayampet Village, Shamirpet Mandal, Medchal Malkajgiri District vide File No. 003420/HMDA/00986/SWFL/MDL2/2025 will be considered basing on the material papers available with this office.

For Metropolitan Commissioner  
HMDA.  
Divisional Accounts Officer-I,  
Medchal Zone, HMDA.  
R.O. No. : 826-PPCL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2025-26



States Focus



BRING PERPETRATORS TO JUSTICE: SHIVAKUMAR URGES CENTRE

Karnataka Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Tuesday urged the Central Government to ensure that the perpetrators behind the blast, near the Red Fort in Delhi that left 12 people dead, are brought to justice.

He also asserted that the country needs to be "careful" about terror activities. Not willing to indulge in any political blame game in connection with the blast, for now, he said, this is not the time for it and pitched for measures across the country to ensure peace and that the lives of people are protected. Speaking to reporters, he said the Congress party condemns the incident and urged the Central Government to investigate and arrest those behind it.



MP CM PAYS TRIBUTES TO DELHI BLAST VICTIMS

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Tuesday directed officials to maintain strict vigil in the State in the wake of the blast in Delhi that killed at least 12 persons.

Yadav visited the "situation room" at Mantralaya (State Secretariat) and reviewed the law and order situation virtually by interacting with the district collectors.

Later, Yadav paid tributes to the persons killed in the Delhi blast by observing a two-minute silence at the Panch Sarpanch Mahasammelan. "We have faith in our PM Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah, and culprits (of Delhi blast) won't be spared", the CM said.

Mamata flags off 110 'mobile medical units' to cater patients in remote corners

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
Kolkata

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday flagged off 110 'mobile medical units', which would cater to patients in remote rural areas of the State.

Banerjee, who is also the State's health minister, launched the units at a programme organised by the health department at the 'Swasthya Bhawan', after returning from a north Bengal visit. Describing it as a milestone in the State's efforts to expand medical access, she said the move reflects her government's commitment to ensuring that *Maa, Mati, Manush* receive quality healthcare regardless of geographical or socio-economic barriers.

"A total of 210 mobile medical units have been readied. Today, I'm flagging off 110. These units have facilities for blood test, chest X-ray apart from 35 other clinical examinations free of cost. There are over 29 equipment inside these units. This is like *duare swasthya* (healthcare services at doorstep)," the CM said.

Each MMU functions as a self-sufficient health clinic on the wheels, staffed with doctors, nurses, pharmacists, and technicians, she said.

"These vehicles are designed to reach the most remote corners of the state, including hilly terrains, tribal areas, and backward regions, offering maternal and child care, general consultations, and a wide range of diagnostic tests," Banerjee said.

Several MMUs deployed in regions like the Sundarbans will also have ultrasonography machines to provide prenatal care and other diagnostic services, she said.

The West Bengal Government has spent ₹84 crore on procuring these vehicles, with around ₹2.5 crore per month required for operational expenses, the Chief Minister said.

Delhi blast: TMC slams Shah for security lapse

SAUGAR SENGUPTA  
Kolkata

The top Trinamool Congress leadership hit out at Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Tuesday for what they called a "severe (security) lapse" that led to 12 deaths in Monday's terror attack in Delhi.

"My heartfelt condolences go out to the bereaved families, and my prayers are with those recovering from their injuries. It is extremely distressing that such an incident has taken place in the heart of our national capital, Delhi," TMC general secretary Abhishek Banerjee said, holding the Union Home Ministry responsible for the tragic deaths.

The Diamond Harbour MP, who is also the nephew of Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, said that, as the Delhi Police, which functioned under the Union Home Ministry, was primarily responsible for maintaining law and order of the Capital, it was the Home



Minister to should explain the lapses in security.

"How then, are such grave lapses in security being allowed to occur?" he asked, referring also to the seizure of huge quantity of explosives from Faridabad in Haryana earlier on Monday raising, "alarming questions about internal security and the evident decline in vigilance," and demanding "an impartial, time-bound investigation," into the Delhi blast to fix accountability.

Demanding Shah's resignation, another senior MP, Kalyan Banerjee, said, "What is going on in the name of security management? Who is handling the security system, and what does Amit Shah have to say about the duty he was entrusted and the duty that he failed to perform? He should accept responsibility for the security lapses and resign."

Party MP from Krishnagar, Mahua Moitra, too attacked Shah, saying the Delhi blast itself proved that India needed a capable Home Minister. Moitra wrote on social media, "India needs a

capable Home Minister, not a full-time Hate Campaign Minister. Isn't it... Amit Shah's duty to protect both our borders as well as our cities? Why is he failing so spectacularly on all counts?"

Meanwhile, Kolkata was on high alert ahead of the India-South Africa test match, which would begin on Friday, with security agencies conducting random Naka checks around the city. This was in response to the Cricket Association of Bengal's request to the Kolkata Police for additional forces to be deployed in and around Eden Gardens, where the match would be held.

Kolkata Commissioner of Police Manoj Verma, who took stock of the security system at the venue on Tuesday, said that "things are fine and all appropriate steps have been taken to ensure a foolproof security and nothing will be compromised, rampant checking is being conducted everywhere."

Andhra CM urges release of ₹695 crore under PM-RKVY

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
Jammu

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Tuesday urged Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan to release additional funds of ₹695 crore under the PM Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana.

According to its website, the scheme was launched in 2007 as an umbrella programme to ensure the holistic development of agriculture and allied sectors by allowing States to choose their development activities based on district and State agriculture plans.

Chouhan called on the chief minister at his camp office, accompanied by Minister of State for Rural Development P Chandrasekhar.

"CM Chandrababu Naidu requested ₹695 crore for fiscal 2024-25 and 2025-26," said a press release.

Naidu also sought the release of the Centre's share of ₹100 crore under

the market intervention scheme extended for Totapuri (called 'Bengalura') mango farmers.

The chief minister discussed agriculture and minor irrigation in the state and briefed Chouhan on the devastation caused by cyclone 'Montha'.

Earlier in the day, Chouhan and Chandrasekhar participated in the launch of 'Watershed Mahotsav' in Guntur, marking the national celebration of community-led water rejuvenation, soil health enhancement and sustainable rural development.

The union minister lauded Andhra Pradesh's active participation in watershed initiatives and expressed satisfaction over the successful completion of the Vengalayapalem project.

He also announced that the Centre has sanctioned ₹380 crore for road construction works in the State.

Actor Dharmendra stable, under observation; family requests privacy

TN RAGHUNATHA  
Mumbai

Amid false rumours about his deteriorating health spread across Mumbai and elsewhere in the country in the early part of the day, the family members of veteran actor Dharmendra — who has been admitted to Mumbai's Breach Candy hospital — said on Tuesday that he was "stable and under observation" at the hospital.

On a day when the country's commercial capital woke up to strong rumours about the 89-year-old actor, Dharmendra's wife and senior actress Hema Malini took to micro-blogging site "X" slammed the "responsi-

ble" television channels for putting out "false news about a person who is responding to treatment and is recovering".

"What is happening is unforgivable! How can responsible channels spread false news about a person who is responding to treatment and is recovering? This is being extremely disrespectful and irresponsible. Please give due respect to the family and its need for privacy," Hema Malini wrote on "X".

Her daughter and actress Esha Deol also rubbished the news circulating in a section of the media and also the social media about Dharmendra. "The media seems to be in overdrive and spreading

false news. My father is stable and recovering. We request everyone to give our family privacy. Thank you for the prayers for papa's speedy recovery," Esha Deol wrote on "Instagram".

"Mr Dharmendra is stable and under observation. Further comments and updates will be shared as available. Kindly don't indulge in spreading false rumours regarding his health. Request everyone to pray for his speedy recovery and respect the family's right to privacy," a PR team of the Deol family said.

On October 31, Dharmendra was hospitalised for his routine check-up. He has been undergoing treatment at the Breach



Candy Hospital since then.

On Sunday night, Sunny Deol was seen arriving at Breach Candy Hospital to check on his father. The who's who of Bollywood, including wife Hema Malini, Salman Khan, Shah Rukh Khan, Ameesha Patel, among others, visited the hospital on Monday.

In his six-decade-long career, Dharmendra has acted in more than 300 films. He is known for his memorable performances in films such as Aaye Milan Ki Bela, Phool Aur Patthar, Aaye Din Bahar Ke, Seeta Aur Geeta, Raja Jani, Jugnu, Yaadon Ki Baaraat, Dost, Sholay, Pratigya, Charas, Dharam Veer, among others.

Karnataka to set up five aerospace, defence parks: CM

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
Bengaluru

Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday announced that the state Government is developing five world-class aerospace and defence parks in strategic locations across Bengaluru, Belagavi, Mysuru, Tumakuru and Chamarajanagar.

He said the parks will offer "plug-and-play" facilities to drastically reduce setup time for industries.

"We are developing five world-class Aerospace & Defence Parks in strategic locations — Bengaluru, Belagavi, Mysuru, Tumakuru and Chamarajanagar. These parks will offer 'plug-and-play' facilities to drastically reduce setup time for industries," Siddaramaiah said.

He was speaking after inaugurating the Collins India Operations Centre developed by Collins Aerospace at the KIADB Aerospace Park in Devanahalli. The Chief



Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah addressing a press conference in Mysuru, Karnataka

Minister said the new 26-acre facility marks a major milestone in Karnataka's journey as a global hub for advanced aerospace manufacturing.

"The decision by Collins Aerospace, a global major with over a century of aviation legacy, to establish this comprehensive centre in Bengaluru is a powerful endorsement of Karnataka's robust industrial ecosystem and its future potential," he said. "Collins Aerospace is investing \$25 million in Karnataka. This new facility will create over 2,000 skilled jobs in research, development and advanced manufacturing. Karnataka contributes nearly 65 per

cent to India's aerospace and defence sector," Siddaramaiah was quoted as saying in a statement.

He described the centre as a "shining example" of a successful public-private partnership that aligns with the state's goals and the national 'Make in India' mission. Siddaramaiah said more than 2,000 small and medium enterprises are engaged in the aerospace and defence sectors across the State.

"Companies such as Mahindra Aerospace and Rangsons have made substantial investments, and 48 agreements have been signed in this sector. Rangsons, in partnership with Boeing, is investing ₹2,915 crore. The state aims to attract ₹45,000 crore in investments and create 60,000 jobs over the next five years," he said.

Inviting global aerospace leaders to invest in Karnataka, the Chief Minister added, "Our policies, our people and our proven track

Gehlot calls for deep probe into Delhi blast

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
Jaipur

Former Rajasthan chief minister Ashok Gehlot on Tuesday called for a thorough investigation into the Delhi Red Fort blast and alleged large-scale cash distribution in the Bihar election.

Speaking to reporters at his residence in Jaipur, Gehlot, about the blast, said any such incident, regardless of location, was "tragic and deeply disturbing."

"As I said yesterday, the Delhi incident must be investigated thoroughly. It is important that the truth comes out before the country. Many such incidents have taken place in the past where inquiries were announced but never completed," he said.

The Congress leader also alleged that money was openly distributed to influence voters in Bihar.

"We are hearing that

₹10,000 were distributed to women. This has never happened before. The Election Commission of India is sitting with its eyes closed while money is being transferred even as the polling happened," Ashok Gehlot said.

He claimed that despite such tactics, people, especially women voters, were wise and would vote independently. "Women are smart; they will not be influenced by money. Bihar is a politically aware State, and we hope voters will make a fair choice."

Gehlot criticised the EC for "failing to act" despite clear violations of the Model Code of Conduct.

"When Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government was in power, even signboards on national highways were removed after the code of conduct was enforced. But now, despite cash being distributed, no one is taking action," he said.

HC takes serious note of deteriorating condition of roads in Madhya Pradesh

GIRISH SHARMA  
Bhopal

The Madhya Pradesh High Court has taken serious note of the deteriorating condition of roads and the alarming rise in fatal accidents across the State, issued notices to the Central and State Governments as well as major road agencies. The court's intervention follows a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) alleging gross negligence and administrative apathy in maintaining road infrastructure, which has resulted in thousands of preventable deaths.

A division bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjeev Sachdeva and Justice Vinay Saraf has directed the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), the Madhya Pradesh Road Development Corporation (MPRDC), and

the Madhya Pradesh Rural Road Development Authority (MPRRDA) to submit detailed reports within two weeks. The reports must outline measures taken to repair critical road stretches, fill potholes, and strengthen road safety mechanisms.

The PIL, filed by retired Indore banker Rajendra Singh and argued by advocate Abhinav Malhotra, paints a grim picture of the state's road safety record. Citing official data, the petitioner stated that Madhya Pradesh reported 5,840 road accidents in 2023, resulting in 2,161 deaths—a sharp 31.4 per cent increase over the previous year.

The petition described the state's highways and district roads as "death traps," where poor maintenance, lack of signage, and unregulated construction have turned commuting into a daily gamble with life.

During the hearing, the High Court expressed deep concern over the systemic neglect and observed that the "poor condition of roads is not merely an inconvenience but a serious public safety hazard." The bench questioned how such widespread deterioration could occur while toll collection and maintenance contracts continue unabated. "The State cannot abdicate its constitutional responsibility to protect lives," the court observed, adding that recurring accidents reflect both governance failure and administrative indifference.

The court's directive mandates a status report identifying accident-prone stretches, ongoing repairs, and accountability for lapses in supervision. The bench has fixed December 15, 2025, as the next date of hearing.

The PIL also highlighted

multiple instances where newly constructed roads developed cracks and potholes within months, indicating substandard material use and weak quality control. It sought judicial intervention to ensure that officials and contractors responsible for such lapses face penalties under the Prevention of Damage to Public Property Act and related provisions.

Officials from the PWD and MPRDC have claimed that inadequate budget allocations and delays in contract renewals have hampered timely repairs. However, the court's tough stand is expected to trigger stronger accountability and tighter monitoring mechanisms across departments.

For citizens across the State — from Bhopal to Betul and Gwalior to Guna — the court's notice has come as a step toward safer travel.

Ensure timely implementation of solar programme: Andhra chief secretary

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
Tirupati

Andhra Pradesh Chief Secretary K Vijayanand on Tuesday directed the distribution companies to ensure timely and effective implementation of the NABARD-ADB backed solar rooftop investment programme.

The chief secretary reaffirmed that the State Government is committed to accelerating the rollout of rooftop solar systems to promote clean, affordable, and sustainable energy with financial support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

"Ensure timely and effective implementation of the NABARD-ADB supported Solar Rooftop Investment Programme (SRIP) across Andhra Pradesh," said

Vijayanand in an official release. While reviewing the power distribution companies (DISCOMS) along with the representatives of ADB and NABARD, he checked the progress of SRIP under Pradhan Mantri Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (PM-SGBY) through the Utility-Led Aggregator (ULA) model.

NABARD has been onboarded as the financial intermediary to provide concessional financing to the state DISCOMS. According to the chief secretary, Andhra Pradesh has accorded high priority to rooftop solar power adoption as part of its broader commitment to clean and sustainable energy.

He said the State has been actively promoting solar energy deployment across residential, institutional, and Government sectors to ensure affordable and reliable power for all.

Emphasising that rooftop solar power is a key pillar in achieving the state's renewable energy targets and reducing dependence on conventional power, Vijayanand said it contributes to empowering consumers through decentralised power generation.

"The State Government remains fully committed to supporting DISCOMS and collaborating with development partners like ADB and NABARD to make Andhra Pradesh a leader in rooftop solar (power) implementation in the country," he said.

Delving on the Government's special focus on solarisation of the Kuppam constituency, represented by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, Vijayanand stated that the southern state aims to make it a 100 per cent solar and net zero constituency.





Editor's

TAKE

## Delhi bears the brunt of an explosion once again

The explosion is a grim echo of Delhi's violent past. It is a moment not for panic, but for resolve – to ensure such tragedies never repeat

Delhi is in a state of shock. Just when the people thought that Delhi was safe from explosions, a powerful blast near the Red Fort shattered that sense of security. Whether it was a terror attack or a technical glitch that caused the CNG tank in the car to explode, the effect was horrendous. In either case, complacency in governance cannot be ruled out.

For Delhi, it was a heartbreakingly familiar scene – one that revived the discomforting memories of past terror attacks that once shook the national capital. Preliminary reports suggest the blast originated from within the car, though at this point it is not clear what exactly caused the explosion – a bomb or a cylinder blast. Whether it was a mechanical failure, an accidental CNG explosion, or a deliberate act of terror remains unclear. Yet, the timing and intensity of the explosion – coming just hours after the recovery of nearly 2,900 kilograms of explosives in neighbouring Haryana – point towards the possibility of sabotage. Investigative agencies have not ruled out the involvement of a terror module. For Delhiites, this tragedy reopens old wounds. Delhi has endured a long and painful history of bombings – from the serial blasts of 2005 to the 2011 High Court explosion that claimed dozens of lives. Those incidents briefly united the city in grief and outrage, only to give way to complacency, allowing the lessons learned to blur. The capital remains vulnerable to old methods of destruction. If it was an act of terror, it was meticulously planned. The location of the blast - near the Red Fort – a site symbolic of India's independence and national pride, makes the act even more devastating, striking not just at human lives but at the country's collective sense of security. Beyond grief and anger, this moment demands action. The first step must be a transparent, meticulous investigation. Every piece of evidence – from the vehicle's remnants to surrounding CCTV footage – must be examined with scientific precision. The people of Delhi have a right to know – regular, credible updates, not speculation or secrecy. This is essential not only for justice but for restoring confidence in the state's ability to protect its people.

Equally important is a re-evaluation of urban security. High-density zones like Old Delhi, with their narrow lanes and chaotic traffic, require tailored strategies – stricter parking norms, periodic scrutiny of vehicles, and stronger inter-state coordination in monitoring suspicious movements. Public awareness campaigns, emergency drills, and citizen participation can make a significant difference.

Finally, there is a need for emotional and civic healing. As Delhi mourns the dead, it must also reaffirm its spirit – the unbreakable resolve of a city that has seen empires rise and fall, yet never surrendered to fear. The explosion near the Red Fort must not become another entry in the long list of tragedies that fade with time. It must become an incident where the city's vigilance was restored and people feel safe once again.

# Faith, power, and nationhood in conflict

From British colonial manipulation to Partition, the story of India has been shaped by cycles of conquest, accommodation, and awakening. The roots of today's anxieties lie deep in this complex past



PRAFULL GORADIA

Questions such as whether our Constitution is secular or whether "Vande Bharat" is a patriotic or political slogan are not merely contemporary concerns; they are rooted in centuries of Indian history. To understand current controversies, one must go back to AD 1194, when Mohammad Ghori defeated Prithviraj Chauhan in the Second Battle of Tarain. Some trace the origins even further. Qaid-e-Azam Jinnah once claimed that Pakistan was born the day the first Hindu converted to Islam in the subcontinent. Muslims came to India as conquerors, guests, or converts-few could claim native descent. Among the rulers, some were benevolent, others harsh, and a few destructive. The brightest phase came under Emperor Akbar, whose long and liberal reign brought a rare harmony to India. In contrast, Aurangzeb's intolerance marked the darkest chapter of Mughal rule.

A puzzling feature of Indian history is the absence of a united Hindu resistance to the Sultans and Badshahs of Delhi. Shivaji stands out for his courage and statecraft, yet his influence remained confined to the Deccan. Maharana Pratap, too, fought heroically against Akbar, but his struggle was limited to Mewar. A pan-Indian uprising never materialised. By the mid-18th century, the declining Mughal order gave way to new powers. The reckless Nawab of Bengal, Siraj-ud-Daulah, alienated his own officers and merchants, pushing them into alliance with the East India Company. Their support ensured Robert Clive's victory at Plassey in 1757, which opened the gates of Bengal to British domination. Subsequent British victories-over Tipu Sultan in 1799 and the annexation of Awadh under Dalhousie-completed the dismantling of Muslim authority.

The Revolt of 1857 briefly shook British confidence. For a year, large parts of North India were aflame, but the uprising ended in defeat. In 1858, Queen Victoria assumed direct control, and two decades later, in 1877, she was proclaimed Empress of India. The British concluded that Muslims had been the principal instigators and punished them more severely than Hindus.

This perception deepened Muslim resentment and nostalgia for lost power. Sir Syed Ahmad Khan, founder of the Aligarh Movement, even argued that when the British eventually left, they should return India to the Muslims from whom they had taken it. Whether this was foresight or delusion remains debatable. Ironically, the Indian National Congress-offer branded a "Hindu party" – was not formed by Hindus at all. It was founded in 1885 by a retired English



"VANDE MATARAM" SHOULD NOT DIVIDE INDIANS; IT SHOULD REMIND THEM OF THEIR SHARED SOIL AND DESTINY. HISTORY MAY BE SCARRED BY CONQUEST AND DIVISION, BUT THE FUTURE MUST REST ON REASON AND RECONCILIATION

civil servant, Allan Octavian Hume. Yet, by 1906, Muslims had established their own political platform-the All-India Muslim League-reinforcing the belief that while Hindus were traders and cultivators, Muslims were natural rulers. This sentiment persisted even after Mahatma Gandhi entered the scene in 1915. Gandhi's early political strategy was curious. To bridge Hindu-Muslim divides, he supported the Khilafat Movement, launched by the Ali brothers – Mohammad and Shaukat – to restore the Ottoman Caliphate after World War I. Astonishingly, Gandhi even became President of the Khilafat Committee, formed to defend a Turkish sultan thousands of miles away. Many observers saw this as proof that political power in India still revolved around Muslim leadership. Gandhi's satyagraha, though morally compelling, appeared to many as nothing more than a moral appeal, not really a political challenge to imperial rule.

In 1940, at Lahore, Jinnah declared that Hindus and Muslims were "two distinct nations." No strong Indian voice publicly disputed this claim. When the premiers of Punjab and Bengal initially opposed Partition, Congress leaders quietly welcomed their stance, believing Jinnah's plan would fail. Yet, by May 1947, Mountbatten announced the Partition, confirming that Jinnah's vision had prevailed. Once again, Muslim political will had triumphed. Partition's aftermath was tragic and uneven. In Pakistan's western wing, Hindus and Sikhs were virtually wiped out by 1948. The eastern wing (now Bangladesh) saw its Hindu population fall from 33 per cent to barely 8 per

cent. Migration was overwhelmingly one-sided-millions of Hindus fled Pakistan, but few Muslims left India. The imbalance revealed the persistent perception that power and initiative in the subcontinent lay largely with Muslims, not Hindus.

This historical backdrop helps explain why, even today, debates such as the one surrounding "Vande Mataram" evoke old anxieties. Some Muslim leaders continue to act as if their community still sets the terms of national discourse. Such illusions are not merely harmless-they perpetuate misunderstanding and hinder social harmony.

India's past is too complex to be reduced to communal binaries. Both Hindus and Muslims have shaped its destiny, for better and for worse. Yet, national progress demands a sober recognition of facts, not romanticised memories of lost empires or imagined privileges. True secularism lies not in appeasement but in equal accountability. The maturity of a nation is measured not by the volume of its grievances but by its capacity to face history without distortion.

In the final analysis, "Vande Mataram" should not divide Indians; it should remind them of their shared soil and destiny. History may be scarred by conquest and division, but the future must rest on reason and reconciliation. Every citizen-Hindu, Muslim, or otherwise-must realise that the power to shape India's tomorrow lies not in nostalgia for the past, but in unity of purpose and respect for truth. Only then can the spirit of Vedanta-of oneness and universality – truly prevail.

The writer is a well-known columnist, author, and former member of the Rajya Sabha

 Prafull Goradia  
 @prafullgoradia  
 The Pioneer

# The Ostrich Effect cripples classroom progress



SAKSHI SETHI

## 2ND OPINION

THE PIONEER

In classrooms across the country-urban or rural, elite or modest – there exists a peculiar breed of educators who have perfected the art of selective blindness. These are the practitioners of what might be called the Ostrich Effect: the time – honoured skill of ignoring inconvenient truths while claiming to see everything else with hawk-like precision. They can catch a whispered secret from the last bench with uncanny accuracy, yet fail to notice that half the class has mentally checked out. They spot a passing chit instantly but seem blissfully unaware that their lesson plan, crafted in the pre-smartphone era, now holds the relevance of a typewriter at a coding boot camp.

The Ostrich Effect isn't just a teaching quirk – it's a full-

blown lifestyle choice. For some, every issue in the classroom is blamed on a supposed "decline in student discipline." When test results disappoint, the stars are at fault-Mercury's retrograde, Jupiter's misalignment, or, of course, the mythical "loss of moral values." Anything but the possibility that their own approach might need an update. Why explore creative methods or technology-enhanced learning when one can cling to the comforting familiarity of dictation drills and the age-old threat of "I'll call your parents"? The phenomenon shines brightest during classroom observations. Where reflective educators see feedback as a ladder for growth, the ostrich-style teacher perceives it as a personal attack. Suggest a more student-led activity, and the reaction is pure drama: "But this is how I've always taught!" they protest, mistaking longevity for excellence. It's the educational equivalent of bragging about 25 years of driving experience while routinely ignoring traffic lights. Experience, after all, means little without evolution.

Parent-teacher meetings provide yet another stage for this performance. These sessions-ideally moments for collaboration-often turn into exercises in intellectual gymnastics. Faced with poor test scores or unfinished work, some teachers twist and turn until blame lands squarely on the parents. "Your child lacks discipline at home," they declare, conveniently forgetting their own ungraded assignments or absence of meaningful feedback. The

student sits there silently, still unsure about integers, hoping someone notices. But that would mean lifting one's head out of the sand, and we can't have that, can we? Even professional development workshops-those rare chances to refresh and reimagine teaching-are treated by some with theatrical disinterest. Arms crossed, faces blank, they endure new ideas as if attending a lecture on the history of paper-clips. Student engagement strategies? Emotional intelligence? Digital tools? Surely, they must be fads. After all, if chalk-and-talk worked forty years ago, why change now?

Yet, beneath the stubbornness lies something human: comfort. Familiar methods feel safe. Reflection feels risky. Acknowledging blind spots takes humility and humility is rarely comfortable. But education cannot thrive in comfort zones. Today's learners think, question, and process information differently. They need classrooms that evolve as quickly as the world around them.

If teaching is truly about preparing students for the future, then teachers must model adaptability, curiosity, and courage. The classroom is not a museum of traditions but a living ecosystem. It needs gardeners, not ostriches-educators who nurture growth, tend to changing needs, and take responsibility for what they cultivate. And, unlike ostriches, gardeners keep their heads up.

The writer is an educator and councillor

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## COP30: Turning promises into action

The 30th United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP30), being hosted in the Amazonian city of Belém, is expected to deliberate on critical issues such as climate financing, the transition to green fuels, and the escalating global warming crisis. From catastrophic wildfires in California to recurring disasters across the Himalayan ecosystem, the spiralling effects of climate change have become deeply alarming. In this context, host nation Brazil's call to prioritise the implementation of earlier commitments-such as COP28's pledge to phase out fossil fuels-rather than introducing new targets-appears both timely and pragmatic.

Key initiatives like the "New Collective Quantified Goal" (NCQG) and the "Loss and Damage Fund," launched in previous summits, remain severely underfunded and largely non-binding. Furthermore, the earlier withdrawal of the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement, with former President Trump dismissing climate change as a "hoax," continues to cast a shadow over global unity.

A sharper focus on mitigation strategies, carbon trading mechanisms, and the timely achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will be essential to respond meaningfully to the urgent appeals of climate activists like Greta Thunberg.

PRASUN KUMAR DUTTA | WEST BENGAL

## A grim reminder of terror's state links

The primary question was answered in the affirmative-if this was someone else's operation executed using Pakistani nationals, then who was the real mastermind behind this terror attack? The truth soon came into the open. The moot point remains that terrorism is not merely religious; it often functions as an instrument of state policy, forming an integral part of statecraft and diplomacy between nations.

Pakistan-based co-conspirators, long involved in orchestrating devastating terror strikes such as the 2008 Mumbai attacks, now appear to have turned their focus elsewhere after Operation Sindhoor. Around 6:52 pm, a slow-moving car halted at a red light outside the Red Fort and exploded moments later. The powerful blast damaged nearby vehicles and triggered a fire that engulfed several others, causing casualties and chaos in the bustling area. Emergency services, including the Forensic Sciences team and the National Investigation Agency, rushed to the site, with the situation closely monitored. Fortunately, the Red Fort's light and sound show, *Jai Hind*, which dramatises India's journey from the 17th century to the present day, was closed for its weekly off. Had it been operational, the toll in human lives could have been far higher.

MANI RAMANI JAYANTHI | UTTAR PRADESH

## Chronic kidney disease threatens India

Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) is rising rapidly across India, yet reliable national data remain unavailable. Experts are calling for a National Mission for Prevention and Early Detection to ensure timely diagnosis and treatment. Recent data from South Asia reveal that nearly 16 per cent of the population is affected-a grave public health concern.

India, now home to over 1.4 billion people, faces multiple health challenges, with CKD emerging as a major threat. Contributing factors include the high prevalence of diabetes and hypertension, pollution, toxic chemicals, and the country's hot climate.

Modern lifestyles have worsened the problem-diets high in sugar and salt, sedentary routines, and poor sleep due to work pressure and constant digital exposure all increase the risk. In some cases, genetic factors also play a role.

Currently, dialysis and kidney transplantation remain the only treatments for kidney failure. Dialysis facilities are limited and costly, while organ shortages make transplants difficult. Although understanding of CKD is improving and modern medicines can slow its progression, many doctors are still unclear about when transplantation should be done.

YASH PAL | DELHI

## PIC TALK



A captivating scene of gulls flying over the Narmada River at Gwarighat, Jabalpur, enlivening the sky. PHOTO: PTI

## DIGITAL EXPERIENCE



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## NATION GRIEVES AFTER RED FORT TERROR EXPLOSION

India is in mourning following the horrific car explosion near the Red Fort Metro Station in Delhi, which claimed over ten lives and left several injured. The powerful blast tore through a Haryana-registered vehicle parked near Gate No 1, leaving behind a trail of devastation. Flames engulfed nearby cars, shattered streetlights, and sent waves of panic through one of the capital's busiest heritage zones.

Emergency services responded swiftly, rushing the injured to Lok Nayak Jai Prakash (LNJP) Hospital, with several victims in critical condition. Authorities have since declared a high alert across Delhi, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Mumbai, tightening security at metro stations, markets, and religious sites. The attack serves

as a grim reminder of the continuing threat posed by terrorism and the fragile calm that often follows such violence. This tragedy must not be politicized. It's imperative that all parties rise above partisan divisions and stand united in confronting those who seek to spread fear and destruction. Only through solidarity, vigilance, and decisive action can the nation uphold peace and safeguard its citizens. In times of grief, unity must prevail over division, for national resilience is the greatest answer to terror.

May the victims find peace, and may the nation stand stronger in the face of adversity. Together, we must remain vigilant and committed to protecting the safety and harmony of our communities.

BHAGWAN THANDI | MUMABI

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



# Sustainable future through knowledge and innovation

The future will be shaped not just by what we know, but by how we choose to use that knowledge. Science gives us the tools; wisdom determines their purpose. When guided by ethics and inclusivity, science becomes a bridge between human aspiration and planetary well-being

FIRST  
Column



SATENDRA  
SINGH

Science has always been the light that guides humankind through the darkness of the unknown. It is far more than a collection of data, laboratories, and formulae — it is a mindset, a way of looking at the world with curiosity, logic, and creativity. As the world celebrated 'World Science Day for Peace and Development' on November 10, 2025, under the theme "The Role of Science in Sustainable Societies," we are reminded that science shapes not just our technologies but our destiny — a destiny rooted in peace, equity, and sustainability.

## Science as the Foundation of Human Advancement

From the moment humans discovered fire to the decoding of the human genome, the story of civilisation has been powered by science. It has been the engine behind every leap in understanding and innovation, but at its core, science is not merely about invention — it is about improving lives and ensuring that progress does not rob future generations of their right to thrive.

The United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a blueprint for global well-being, from eradicating poverty to ensuring clean energy and combating climate change. Every one of these 17 goals depends on science. Whether it is increasing agricultural productivity through biotechnology, designing vaccines that save millions, or creating cleaner energy systems, science provides the evidence-based tools needed to turn vision into reality. A truly sustainable society is one that listens to scientific insight and applies it wisely — growing food without degrading the soil, building cities without choking the air, and meeting human needs without harming the planet.

## Science as the Key to a Sustainable World

Science allows humanity to understand how the Earth's systems — air, water, forests, and biodiversity-interconnect. It gives us the means to predict weather, conserve resources, and prepare for natural disasters. India stands as a powerful example. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)



THE THEME OF  
WORLD SCIENCE  
DAY FOR PEACE  
AND  
DEVELOPMENT  
2025 — "THE  
ROLE OF  
SCIENCE IN  
SUSTAINABLE  
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REMINDS US  
THAT THE  
FUTURE WILL BE  
SHAPED NOT  
ONLY BY WHAT  
WE KNOW, BUT  
BY HOW WE  
CHOOSE TO USE  
THAT  
KNOWLEDGE

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Executive Director of the  
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Disaster Management

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has launched satellites that monitor monsoons, cyclones, and forest fires, while the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has significantly improved forecasting accuracy-saving countless lives.

Agricultural science, too, has evolved through innovations like climate-resilient crops and efficient irrigation systems. Initiatives like NICRA (National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture) by ICAR are helping millions of farmers adapt to extreme climate changes and secure food for future generations. Renewable energy offers another shining example. India's transformation from a fossil-fuel-dependent economy to a renewable energy leader-through solar, wind, and green hydrogen-demonstrates how science and policy can together turn environmental challenges into opportunities.

## Blending Traditional Wisdom with Modern Science

The path to sustainability is not limited to high-tech laboratories. It also runs through the fields, forests, and villages where generations have practised indigenous science. Traditional knowledge systems-such as organic farming, rainwater harvesting, and herbal medicine-have long sustained communities in harmony with nature. Today, modern science is rediscovering

and validating this wisdom. Farmers combine traditional practices with digital weather forecasts and satellite-based advisories. Ayurveda and modern biomedicine are being integrated to offer holistic health solutions. When traditional knowledge and modern science work together, they create ecosystems that are both resilient and deeply rooted in culture.

## Science and Climate Action: A Global Responsibility

Climate change is the defining challenge of our time — and science is our most powerful ally. From uncovering the human causes of global warming to developing mitigation and adaptation strategies, scientific research has guided international action. Global collaboration has strengthened this effort. Nations share satellite data, co-develop early warning systems, and exchange knowledge about disaster preparedness. This is science diplomacy — where cooperation replaces conflict and shared understanding becomes the foundation for peace. India has been an active player in this movement. Initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance (ISA) and partnerships under SAARC and BIMSTEC showcase how scientific collaboration can build regional resilience. When nations connect through science, they build trust-and trust builds peace.



# The Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses at 60: The making of strategic thought



UTTAM  
KUMAR SINHA

When India faced its defining strategic crisis in the early 1960s, it was compelled to rethink what security truly meant. The 1962 War with China exposed not only military shortfalls but also an absence of intellectual preparedness. The young republic, still discovering the grammar of power, realised that ideas could be as critical to defence as armies or arsenals. From that period of national introspection emerged an institution that would shape India's strategic imagination - the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, now the Manohar Parrikar IDSA. Its establishment in 1965 marked India's decision to think systematically about power in a turbulent world.

The Institute's origins lie in a series of encounters abroad. In May 1964, Defence Minister YB Chavan and Defence Secretary PVR Rao travelled to Washington, DC, seeking ideas to modernise India's defence planning. There, they encountered the RAND Corporation — an institution that applied mathematical precision to questions of war and strategy. RAND's systems-analysis methods, championed by Robert McNamara's "whiz kid" Alain Enthoven, demonstrated how data and models could inform complex military decisions. Soon after, Enthoven was invited to New Delhi, where he proposed that India should establish its own RAND. Almost simultaneously, Alastair Buchan, the founding director of London's Institute for Strategic Studies (now IISS), arrived with a very different idea. Buchan viewed strategy as conversation — an exercise in context, interpretation, and policy dialogue rather than equations. Between these two approaches, India chose the latter. Lacking the resources for RAND's computational rigour but drawn to the British tradition of policy debate, it adopted the IISS model. That decision gave the Institute its defining temperament — conceptually rich and intellectually vibrant, yet marked by a persistent absence of quantitative rigour that continues to shape its analyses even today.

The mid-1960s were a charged moment in Indian politics. With Nehru gone and Lal Bahadur Shastri navigating post-war anxieties, national confidence required renewal. The 1965 War with Pakistan revived military

morale but also exposed the need for coherent strategic planning. It was in this environment — uncertain yet purposeful — that the idea of an autonomous research body took form: one that could advise, critique, and think alongside the state while remaining independent of it.

On November 11, 1965, IDSA was formally registered as a society, with Major General Som Dutt — fresh from a fellowship at the IISS and formerly Commandant of the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington — as its first Director. During his London tenure, he authored two notable Adelphi Papers: The Defence of India's Northern Borders and India and the Bomb. In the latter, written soon after China's detonation of three atomic devices in 1966, he argued that India might one day need its own nuclear capability to maintain Asia's strategic balance.

Within three years, the Institute launched its first publication — the IDSA Journal. In his foreword, Home Minister YB Chavan captured the spirit of a changing era: "In this nuclear age, traditional principles of military operations begin to be in doubt... previous tenets of national security have to be re-examined and fresh ones evolved." It was a declaration of intellectual independence - questioning, analytical, and unafraid. The inaugural issue featured PVR Rao's essay on "National Defence Policy and the Higher Direction of War" and Lieutenant General GG Bewoor's study on "High Altitude Mountain Warfare," laying the groundwork for India's emerging defence discourse. Bewoor would later become the Army's eighth Chief of Staff.

Under K Subrahmanyam, IDSA began to forge a distinct intellectual identity within India's strategic community. A civil servant, Subrahmanyam returned in 1968 after a stint at the London School of Economics and a study tour of US institutions — joining first as Director (Programme) and soon after as Director.

At a time when open debate on national security was rare, he transformed IDSA into a forum of rigorous inquiry, insisting that it hold no official line but embrace diverse viewpoints. He often remarked that the Institute's true strength lay in its ability to sustain disagreement with dignity.

That ethos was tested almost immediately. In 1968, as the world's major powers - the United States, Soviet Union, and United Kingdom — advanced the draft of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), India faced a critical policy dilemma. At IDSA, the debate was both intense and illuminating. Some argued that accession to the NPT would com-

promise India's sovereignty and erode its strategic autonomy, while others viewed participation as a constructive step towards reinforcing global norms of nuclear restraint. The Institute, true to its founding ethos, refrained from adopting an institutional position, allowing individual scholars to articulate their analyses independently. This pluralism of thought not only enriched the discourse but also underscored IDSA's enduring commitment to intellectual freedom and analytical integrity.

Among those who advanced this legacy were PR Chari and Jasjit Singh, who deepened IDSA's analytical influence through their scholarship and policy engagement. Later, K Santhanam brought a markedly different sensibility to the Institute. A nuclear scientist by training, Santy, as he was fondly known, had been part of the quartet that orchestrated India's 1998 nuclear tests alongside R Chidambaram, Anil Kakodkar, and APJ Abdul Kalam. When he took over as Director from 2001 to 2004, he infused into IDSA a scientist's discipline — rooted in modelling, systems thinking, and quantitative analysis — dimensions the Institute had long underplayed. If Subrahmanyam, the civil servant-scholar, had endowed IDSA with conceptual depth and a culture of debate, Santy sought to complement it with empirical precision. Both exemplified a shared conviction that India's strategic thought must remain informed, autonomous, and unswayed by political expediency.

This intellectual autonomy yielded a substantial corpus of scholarship. In 1977, Strategic Analysis was launched as a monthly journal, later transitioning into a peer-reviewed quarterly in 2002 and, in partnership with Routledge, into a bi-monthly publication in 2007. Over the decades, it has become a principal forum for India's security discourse, publishing influential analyses on nuclear policy, regional strategy, intelligence reform, and military modernisation.

Sixty years on, the Institute's founding purpose endures. Yet, despite its considerable contributions, IDSA has been slower to integrate quantitative and interdisciplinary methodologies into its research framework. This methodological gap continues to constrain the infusion of empirical rigour and analytical precision into India's strategic studies — a limitation that future scholarship must consciously address.

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AJAY S  
JASRA

Two breakdowns in aviation rarely occur together by chance; it's like lightning striking the same place twice. When Delhi's Automatic Message Switching System (AMSS) failed recently, slowing air traffic operations to a crawl, several pilots also reported GPS anomalies over northern India-signals suggesting possible spoofing of satellite navigation data. Though officially unconnected, the two events are uncomfortably close in time. In a world where both digital and satellite networks can be disrupted-intentionally or indirectly-this coincidence warrants deeper investigation rather than a quick technical explanation.

The AMSS is the nerve centre of air traffic communication, routing flight plans and operational messages between control towers, airlines, and radar units. It functions much like the WhatsApp of aviation, instantly linking every element of the airspace network. When it fails, controllers revert to manual procedures-typing and reading flight data line by line-slowing traffic and increasing workload. Around the same time, aircraft over India and nearby regions reported intermittent GPS errors and position shifts, classic signs of spoofing. Reports of GPS interference near the India-Pakistan border further strengthen the possibility of deliberate interference by state or non-state actors. Pilots flying along certain northern corridors have noted erratic readings, and the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has reinstated traditional Instrument Landing Systems at Delhi to ensure redundancy when satellite signals are unreliable. In this context, the overlap of a major ground-system failure and a navigation disturbance cannot be dismissed as mere coincidence. The geopolitical proximity to conflict-sensitive regions makes the possibility of spill-over interference entirely plausible. Spoofing, unlike simple jamming, does not block a signal but imitates it. Fake satellite transmissions trick onboard computers into accepting false coordinates, distorting position data. For pilots, this may cause the aircraft symbol to drift on the navigation display, the map to jump, or warnings of "position disagree" to appear.

Such interference has become a global hazard. Data compiled by the international pilot and controller forum OPSGROUP shows a dramatic rise in spoofing incidents-from roughly 300 daily flight disruptions in early 2024 to about 1,500 per day by mid-year. Over one month last summer, more than 41,000 flights worldwide were affected by navigation deception or signal loss. Independent

analytics by Aireon and WTW also confirm that cases of jamming and spoofing have risen by more than 60 per cent since 2021. The surge aligns closely with regions under military tension-particularly the Middle East, the Black Sea, and parts of Eastern Europe-where electronic warfare systems are routinely deployed to mislead drones or missiles, with civil aircraft becoming collateral victims. International regulators have long warned of this trend. The European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) has documented the spread of GNSS interference and urged a unified European response. Its 2024 advisory called for centralised monitoring networks and pilot training in recognising spoofing symptoms.

The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) recently highlighted GNSS disruption as a rising "safety-of-flight risk" and urged continuous reporting by air navigation service providers. OPSGROUP identified multiple safety concerns and operational risks, noting that spoofing is now common and often impacts several aircraft simultaneously. The Delhi incident reveals broader systemic vulnerabilities, as increased automation in aviation, while efficient, creates dangerous dependence on complex technology. A simultaneous failure of ground networks and satellite links greatly reduces the chances for human intervention. The way forward globally is being defined: ICAO, EASA, and IATA advocate creating real-time GNSS interference monitoring cells-akin to weather centres-to issue alerts swiftly. Airlines are advised to train crews to cross-check navigation sources, maintain proficiency in radio-based navigation, and log interference systematically. Airports are reinforcing conventional aids (VOR, DME, ILS) for non-satellite redundancy.

Crucially, regulators must treat simultaneous system failures as credible scenarios, not hypotheticals. With dense airspace, overlapping civil-military operations, and proximity to high-tension borders, India cannot afford to treat GNSS disruptions as distant or occasional events. A joint civil-military monitoring cell under the DGCA and the Airports Authority of India should integrate pilot reports, satellite analytics, and ground data into a real-time alert network. Strengthening indigenous navigation systems such as NavIC and the GAGAN satellite-based augmentation system will also reduce dependence on foreign GPS signals, enhancing both safety and self-reliance. Delhi's recent turbulence may be a temporary hiccup, but the lesson endures. "Coincidence" isn't an adequate explanation for the simultaneous failure of two critical aviation systems in an era of hybrid warfare. The silence carries an urgent question: what truly happened when India's messages stopped and its satellites started lying?



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FROM THE

WORLD

TAIWAN

Evacuation ahead of storm

Taiwan evacuated more than 3,000 people from vulnerable areas and closed schools and offices on Tuesday ahead of the arrival of tropical storm Fung-wong, which killed at least 18 people and displaced more than 1.4 million in the Philippines after making landfall.

Fung-wong was classified as a typhoon but is losing intensity while approaching Taiwan and is expected to make landfall Wednesday afternoon or evening near the southwestern port city of Kaohsiung. On Tuesday morning, the storm had maximum sustained winds of up to 108 kph and gusts of 137 kph and is expected to sweep across the island and exit from its northeastern side Wednesday evening or early Thursday, Taiwan's weather agency said.

BOTSWANA

Murmu ends 4-day visit

President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday left for Botswana on the second leg of her two-nation State Visit after concluding her trip to Angola, where she held discussions on expanding the economic ties beyond the traditional energy business. On the last day of her four-day State Visit to Angola, President Murmu attended the country's 50th Independence Day celebrations before moving to the Angola International Airport, where she was given a ceremonial farewell. Giving details of the visit, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Sudhakar Dalela, said Angola has come forward to partner with India in some "very critical" areas like renewable energy, wildlife conservation and management, and biofuels, which are "very significant" outcomes of the president's visit to the African nation.

# Senate approves Bill to end shutdown

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
■ Washington

The Senate passed legislation on Monday to reopen the Government, bringing the longest shutdown in history closer to an end as a small group of Democrats ratified a deal with Republicans despite searing criticism from within their party.

The 41-day shutdown could last a few more days as members of the House, which has been on recess since mid-September, return to Washington to vote on the legislation. President Donald Trump has signalled support for the bill, saying on Monday that "we're going to be opening up our country very quickly."

The final Senate vote, 60-40, broke a gruelling stalemate that lasted more than six weeks as Democrats demanded that Republicans negotiate with them to extend health care tax credits that expire January 1.

The Republicans never did, and five moderate Democrats eventually switched their votes as federal food aid was delayed, airport delays worsened and hundreds of thousands of federal workers continued to go unpaid.

House Speaker Mike Johnson urged lawmakers to start returning to Washington "right now" given shutdown-related travel delays, but an official notice issued after the Senate vote said the earliest the House will vote is Wednesday afternoon.

"It appears our long national nightmare is finally coming to an end," said Johnson, who has kept the House out of session since mid-September, when the House passed a bill to continue Government funding.

After weeks of negotiations, A group of three former governors — New Hampshire Sen. Jeanne Shaheen, New Hampshire Sen. Maggie Hassan and Independent Sen. Angus King of Maine — agreed to vote to advance three bipartisan annual spending bills and extend the rest of Government funding until late January. Republicans promised to hold a vote to



Senate Majority Leader John Thune speaking to reporters after final Senate passage of the stopgap funding bill

Wednesday afternoon.

"We had reached a point where I think a number of us believed that the shutdown had been very effective in raising the concern about health care," she said, and the promise for a future vote "gives us an opportunity to continue to address that going forward."

The legislation includes a reversal of the mass firings of federal workers by the Trump administration since the shutdown began on

October 1. It also protects federal workers against further layoffs through January and guarantees they are paid once the shutdown is over.

Tim Kaine of Virginia, home to tens of thousands of federal workers, also voted Sunday in favor of moving forward on the agreement. Illinois Sen. Dick Durbin, the Number 2 Democrat, Pennsylvania Senator John Fetterman and Nevada Sens. Catherine Cortez Masto and Jacky Rosen also voted yes. All other Democrats, including Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer of New York, voted against it. The moderates had expected a larger number of Democrats to vote with them

as 10 to 12 Democratic senators had been part of the negotiations. But in the end, only five switched their votes — the exact number that Republicans needed. King, Cortez Masto and Fetterman had already been voting to open the Government since October 1.

Schumer, who received blowback from his party in March when he voted to keep the Government open, said he could not "in good faith" support it after meeting with his caucus for more than two hours on Sunday. "We will not give up the fight," Schumer said, adding that Democrats have now "sounded the alarm" on health care."

Chris Murphy.

## 12 killed, 36 injured in suicide attack outside Islamabad court

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ Islamabad

A suicide bomber on Tuesday detonated his explosives near a police vehicle outside a court in Pakistan's capital, killing at least 12 people and wounding 36 others, Interior Minister Mohsin Naqvi said.

Naqvi, who visited the site of the blast, said the attacker wanted to enter the court complex, but on failure, he detonated his explosives near a police vehicle at the gate of the building in the G-11 area of the capital at 12.39 pm.

The minister said that 12 people were killed and 27 others injured, including

security personnel and a lawyer, in the blast near the Islamabad District Judicial Complex. No group or individual claimed responsibility for the attack, but such strikes are usually carried out by the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistani (TTP). "Our first priority is to identify the attacker. Whenever the attacker is identified, we will share with the media," Naqvi said as he vowed to bring the perpetrators to justice. Naqvi said that the process of identifying the victims has been going on. He said that those sponsoring militants in Pakistan had increased their funding by threefold.

"We are linking today's

blast with many factors. Things will be clear in the coming hours. There are several messages of it," he said. "I don't want to say anything at this point, as often the Indians do (start blaming soon after such incidents). We will come with full evidence and details."

Naqvi said Pakistan is clear that Afghanistan should stop terrorism coming from their soil, "otherwise we will have to take action against them."

Both President Asif Ali Zardari and Defence Minister Khawaja Asif termed the attack a "suicide blast".

Defence Minister Asif said the Afghan Taliban has sent a message through the

bombing. "The rulers of Kabul can stop terrorism in Pakistan, but bringing this war all the way to Islamabad is a message from Kabul, to which - praise be to God - Pakistan has the full strength to respond," he said in a message on X to express his reaction to the attack in Islamabad.

"In this environment, it would be futile to hold out greater hope for successful negotiations with the rulers of Kabul," he said. The minister warned that Pakistan was in a state of war.

"Anyone who thinks that the Pakistan Army is fighting this war in the Afghan-Pakistan border region and

the remote areas of Balochistan should take today's suicide attack at the Islamabad district courts as a wake-up call: this is a war for all of Pakistan, in which the Pakistan Army is giving daily sacrifices and making the people feel secure."

President Zardari strongly condemned the suicide blast and expressed deep condolences to the bereaved families. He also prayed for the early recovery of the injured. Earlier, State-run Pakistan Television (PTV) reported that the rescue authorities retrieved 12 bodies from the site of the blast and transferred them to the Pakistan Institute of Medical Sciences Hospital.

## Iraqis vote in parliamentary election marked by tight security and major political boycott

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
■ Baghdad

Iraqis headed to the polls on Tuesday to vote in a parliamentary election marked by tight security and a boycott by a major political bloc.

A total of 8,703 polling stations were open across the country for the general election. Members of the security forces and displaced people living in camps cast their ballots in early voting on Sunday.

Turnout was sparse in the early hours of Tuesday at polling stations visited by Associated Press journalists. Initial results were expected on Wednesday.

Only 21.4 million out of a total of 32 million eligible voters updated their information and obtained voter cards ahead of the



polling, a decrease from the last parliamentary election in 2021, when about 24 million voters registered.

The election is taking place against the backdrop of major shifts in the region over the past two years — including the wars in Gaza and Lebanon after the

October 7, 2023, Hamas-led attacks on southern Israel, the Israel-Iran war in June, and the fall of Syrian President Bashar Assad last December. These developments come as US pressure intensifies on the Iraqi Government to curb the influence of Iran-aligned

armed factions, some of which have candidates participating in Tuesday's vote. Prime Minister Mohammad Shia al-Sudani, who is running for a second term, arrived at a polling station in Baghdad to cast his vote, along with his mother.

## Bangladesh Islamists demand charter referendum

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
■ Dhaka

Islamists in Bangladesh rallied on Tuesday to demand the interim Government legalise a national charter proposed after the ouster of the previous regime, saying that there is no possibility of holding a general election without a legally binding roadmap for political reforms.

Thousands of supporters of the largest Islamist party Jamaat-e-Islami and seven other political parties who gathered in the capital, Dhaka, also demanded that the next election — expected to be held in early 2026 — be held under a proportional representation system.

The key demand is for a referendum on the "July National Charter", which is

named after the national uprising that began in July 2024 and led to the fall of former Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina following a 15-year rule that critics said had become increasingly autocratic. But the charter is currently non-binding, and the parties say a referendum is needed to make it legally binding and a part of the constitution. Only a Parliament can bring changes to the constitution in Bangladesh, a parliamentary democracy of 170 million people.

The roadmap for political reform was proposed by the interim Government headed by Nobel Peace Prize laureate Muhammad Yunus who took over three days after Hasina's ouster in a mass uprising on Aug 5 last year.

## G-7 Canada summit amid Trump tensions

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
■ Toronto

Top diplomats from the Group of Seven industrialised democracies are converging on southern Ontario as tensions rise between the US and traditional allies like Canada over defence spending, trade and uncertainty over President Donald Trump's ceasefire plan in Gaza and efforts to end the Russia-Ukraine war.

Canadian Foreign Minister Anita Anand said in an interview with The Associated Press that "the relationship has to continue across a range of issues" despite trade pressures as she prepared to host US Secretary of State Marco Rubio and their counterparts from Britain, France, Germany, Italy and Japan on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Anand also invited the foreign ministers of Australia, Brazil, India, Saudi Arabia, Mexico, South Korea, South Africa and Ukraine.

She said "15 foreign ministers are coming from around the world to the Great White North and funnily enough on the week of our first large snowfall."

"The work that Canada is doing is continuing to lead multilaterally in an era of a greater movement to protectionism and unilateralism," Anand said. "And in an era of economic and geopolitical volatility."

Canada's G7 hosting duties this year have been marked by strained relations with its North American neighbour, predominantly over Trump's imposition of tariffs on

Canadian imports. But the entire bloc of allies is confronting major turbulence over the Republican president's demands on trade and various proposals to halt worldwide conflicts.

One main point of contention has been defence spending. All G7 members except for Japan are members of NATO, and Trump has demanded that the alliance partners spend 5 per cent of their annual gross domestic product on defense. While a number of countries have agreed, others have not. Among the G7 NATO members, Canada and Italy are furthest from that goal.

There have also been G7 disagreements over the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, with Britain, Canada and France announcing they would recognise a Palestinian state even without a resolution to the conflict. With the Russia-Ukraine war, most G7 members have taken a tougher line on Russia than Trump has. The two-day meeting in Niagara-on-the-Lake on Lake Ontario near the US border comes after Trump ended trade talks with Canada because the Ontario provincial Government ran an anti-tariff advertisement in the US that upset him.

That followed a spring of acrimony, since abated, over Trump's insistence that Canada should become the 51st US state.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney apologised for the ad and said last week that he's ready to resume trade talks when the Americans are ready.

GREATER HYDERABAD MUNICIPAL CORPORATION	
NTT No. & Date: 25-DB/EE/Circular/Corporation/2025-26, Dated: 11-11-2025.	
Name of the Work: Maintenance of BT Roads, CC Roads and Storm Water Drains & Laying of CC Road. Estimate Amount in Lakhs: 28.50 Lakhs. Start Date & Time: 12.11.2025, 11.00 A.M. Last Date & Time for receipts of Bid: 19.11.2025, 11.00 A.M. Tender inviting Authority details with Mobile No: Executive Engineer, Cell No: 9701385503, Head Draughtsman Cell No: 7337557259. Further details can be seen at e-procurement@www.tender.telangana.gov.in. Sd/- Executive Engineer, DIPR.NO. 10471-PP/CL/ADVT/11/2025-26, Dt: 11.08.2025. Circular/Corporation/25, GHMC.	

GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA REVENUE (LA) DEPARTMENT FORM- VII [See sub rule (1) of rule - 25 and Section -19(1) of the Act- 30/2013] DECLARATION									
LAQ/RDO, KORUTLA No. E/32-10/2023						Dt. 31-10-2025.			
COLLECTOR, JAGTIAL No. G1/292-10/2023						Dt. 31-10-2025.			
Whereas it appears to the Government of Telangana/Collector, Jagtial that a total of <b>Ac.5.06<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub></b> Gts. of land of <b>Dammannapet Village of Kathalapur Mandal, Korutla Division</b> of Jagtial District is required for total land as specified in the schedule below for the public purpose of construction of Right Main canal from KM 18.895 to KM 19.400 to Rudrangi Tank (Kalkota Suramma Cheruvu), Sripada Yellampalli Project Stage-II Phase-I Canal Network Package-II.									
Therefore declaration is made that piece of land measuring more or less total <b>Ac.5.06<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub></b> Gts. of standard measurement under acquisition for the above said project in Dammannapet Village of Medipalli Mandal, Korutla Division of Jagtial District whose detail description is as following.									
SCHEDULE									
Village: DAMMANNAPET					MANDAL: MEDIPALLI			DISTRICT: JAGTIAL	
Sl. No.	Sy. No.	Type of Title land	Type of land	Area under Acquisition in Acres	Name & Address of person interested	Boundaries			
						Nor th	East	South	West
1	2	3	4	5	6	7			8
1	76	Patta	Dry	0.20 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	Adigatta Laxmanayyasa S/o Venkanna	77	VB	75	VB
						Thin Sheds with (04) Rooms Compound Wall (Cement Bricks) Paper Trees (42) Neam Trees (10)			
2	77	Patta	Dry	2.17	Flood Flow Canal	73	76	75, 76	114, 109
3	78	Patta	Dry	1.29	Flood Flow Canal	79	77	66	109
4	109	Patta	Dry	0.20	Flood Flow Canal	104	114, 79, 78	110, 78	112
Total Extent :				5.06 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>					
This declaration is made as per the section 19(1) of the Act, as no objections have been received on the issues mentioned in the section 15(1) of the Act No. 30/2013 from the persons interested. Because of Land Acquisition none of the family has been displaced and livelihood affected. Therefore Rehabilitation & Resettlement is not applicable.									
Mines of coal, iron-stone, slate or other minerals lying under the said land or any particular portion of the said 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 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 Land Acquisition Officer & Revenue Divisional Officer, Korutla on any working day.									
Sd/- Land Acquisition Officer & Revenue Divisional Officer, Korutla					Sd/-Additional Collector, Jagtial			Sd/- District Collector, Jagtial	
DIPR RO.NO: 814/LA/PP/Advt/Pub/2025-26									

## Africans returned home via EU programme

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
■ Conakry (Guinea)

When Oumar Bella Diallo boarded a plane home to the West African nation of Guinea in July, the weary 24-year-old thought his migration ordeal was over.

He had spent almost a year trying to reach Europe. He said he was attacked by police and scammed for money as he crossed Mali, Algeria and Niger, at one point limping past corpses in the desert. After seeing fellow migrants die from hunger and exhaustion, he gave up.

He is among tens of thousands of Africans returning home with the help of the International Organisation for Migration, as Europe spends millions of dollars to deter migrants before they reach its shores. The European Union-funded IOM program pays for return flights and promises follow-up assistance.



## German politician attack caller arrested in Berlin

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
■ Berlin

A man accused of calling for attacks on German politicians and officials, seeking cryptocurrency donations to be used as a reward for their killing and publishing instructions on how to build explosives has been arrested, prosecutors said Tuesday. The suspect, a German-Polish dual citizen identified only as Martin S. In line with German privacy rules, was arrested in Dortmund on Monday evening, federal prosecutors said in a statement. He is suspected of terror financing, giving instructions on carrying out a serious act of violence and dangerous dissemination of personal data. Prosecutors allege that the man had been calling for attacks on politicians, officials and other figures in German public life on the darknet since at least June.



# Call for Taiwan’s substantive participation in INTERPOL



CHOU  
YEW-WOEI

Founded in 1923, INTERPOL currently has 196 member states, making it the world's second-largest international organisation after the United Nations. INTERPOL is an essential platform for global law enforcement cooperation. It closely monitors transnational criminal activity including terrorism, cybercrime and organised crime, and conducts exchanges with law enforcement agencies worldwide through its network of National Central Bureaus.

INTERPOL's mandate is to ensure and promote the widest possible mutual assistance between all criminal police authorities. Yet, for more than four decades, Taiwan has been unjustly excluded from the organisation for political reasons.

Taiwan's law enforcement authorities have extensive experience and expertise in crime prevention, public safety and international cooperation. They have achieved significant success in areas such as combating drug smuggling and cyberfraud, earning Taiwan a strong reputation in the international community. However, Taiwan

is unable to access INTERPOL's databases, participate in its events, and share information with other countries in real time. This hampers Taiwan's ability to counter transnational crime, encourages criminals to expand cross-border activities and undermines the security of Taiwan, the Indo-Pacific and the rest of the world.

Globalisation has accelerated the transnational development of crime. Criminals and illicit assets can move swiftly across borders, meaning that drug smuggling, human trafficking, cybercrime, and other illegal activities are not confined to individual countries or regions, but are challenges facing the whole international community. At a time when crime is becoming increasingly globalised and sophisticated, it is imperative for the world's police to work together to build a seamless and inclusive global security network. Enhanced international cooperation is needed to effectively combat cross — border illegal activity and safeguard global stability.

Taiwan's participation in INTERPOL would enable countries to coordinate their efforts in an unimpeded manner, confront common threats and uphold public safety and order.

## Taiwan's strong capabilities in combating crime

According to the Numbeo global data-

base, Taiwan ranks fourth in safety among 147 countries worldwide. Taiwan's high placement is due to its low crime rate, strong sense of community, effective law enforcement and close civic cooperation with the police. Taiwan's crime rate is just over 1,200 reported incidents per 100,000 people, with homicide at only 2.3 per 100,000 far below the global average.

This internationally recognised public safety record sets an important benchmark for law enforcement policymakers around the world, and makes Taiwan an attractive destination for international travelers.

As a responsible member of the international community, Taiwan is ready to play a full part in fighting transnational crime, contributing to criminal investigations, and working with partner countries to protect the safety and property of people around the world.

## Supporting Taiwan to close the gap in the global security network

Taiwan has had success in combating telecom fraud, drug trafficking, and other cross-border crimes. In the fisheries sector, it has long-term experience in identifying vessels involved in human trafficking; forced labor; and illegal, unreported, and unregulated fishing.

But without access to INTERPOL's I-24/7 global police communications system, Taiwan cannot share urgent

information and join coordinated enforcement efforts in real time.

Delays in reporting can lead to loss of evidence, failure to apprehend suspects, and unnecessary suffering of victims. Taiwan's absence undermines the international law enforcement framework and creates a significant gap in global security. This should be recognized as a matter of serious concern.

## Taiwan is a reliable law enforcement partner for countries worldwide

In recent years, fraud and other financial crimes have become increasingly transnational. Scam syndicates have shifted operations to such countries as Cambodia, Thailand, Myanmar, and Laos. Victims from around the world have been lured to the region through false promises of travel and employment, only to be trapped in scam centers where they are forced to carry out financial crimes.

Some are even sexually exploited, sold to other criminal groups, or trafficked for organ harvesting. A crime trend update published by INTERPOL on June 30 warned of the globalization of human trafficking-fueled scam centers.

The report noted that as of March, people from 66 countries across all five continents had been trafficked into such operations, with the estimated

number of victims running into the hundreds of thousands.

Taiwan's police have the experience, expertise, and capacity to assist in combating and preventing such crimes. In 2024, Taiwan broke up an online forum for large-scale distribution of child sexual exploitation materials called the Creative Private Room.

The message board, which had over 5,000 members, enabled the easy exchange of child sexual exploitation content, using cryptocurrency payments to evade detection by law enforcement agencies. The platform's mastermind, known online as Lao Ma, was based in China.

The case involved encrypted communications, anonymous networks, cryptocurrency laundering, and cross-border coordination—all key challenges that the international community faces in combating online abuse of children.

The investigation highlighted Taiwan's determination and capacity to tackle cybercrime as well as underscoring its commitment and readiness to cooperate with the international community to protect children and combat transnational sexual exploitation.

## Global call for Taiwan's substantive participation in INTERPOL

In an article published on September 5, titled "Taiwan's INTERPOL Exclusion

Undermines Global Policing Efforts," Dr. John Coyne of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute argued that Taiwan was an important and capable partner in the Indo-Pacific region.

He pointed out that its ports, airlines, and banking system were prime targets for transnational criminals. Dr Coyne stated that Taiwan's exclusion led to delays in intelligence sharing and apprehension efforts, limiting the effectiveness of international joint action.

Faced with a growing epidemic in transnational crime, the international community must strengthen intelligence exchange and deepen partnerships to improve cross-border law enforcement.

We urge all countries to support Taiwan's bid to participate as an observer in the INTERPOL General Assembly and to meaningfully engage in INTERPOL meetings, mechanisms, and activities, so that Taiwan and INTERPOL's member states can engage in unhindered interactions.

Taiwan remains committed to strengthening communications and cooperation with countries worldwide and working with the international community to combat transnational crime.

Author is a Commissioner  
Criminal Investigation Bureau

# PM Modi's Bhutan visit focuses on connectivity, border infrastructure and clean energy cooperation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE  
Thimphu/New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday reaffirmed India's commitment to deepening its partnership with Bhutan through improved connectivity, enhanced border infrastructure, and expanded clean energy collaboration.

His two-day visit to Thimphu highlights the growing synergy between the two Himalayan neighbours, particularly in the fields of transport, trade, and renewable energy. During the visit, Prime Minister Modi, welcomed by Bhutanese Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay, attended a special event commemorating the 70th birth anniversary of former King Jigme Singye Wangchuck.

Modi praised the former monarch for his vision in promoting democracy, peace, and sustainable development in Bhutan, and for laying the foundation of the two nations' enduring friendship.

A key highlight of the visit is the inauguration of a 1,020-megawatt hydroelectric power plant, a major milestone expected to boost Bhutan's hydropower capacity by about 40 per cent.

The project is part of the broader Indo-Bhutan energy partnership that has made Bhutan a leader in renewable energy and the world's first carbon-negative country. Modi also confirmed that work would soon resume on



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Bhutan King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck offer prayers at the holy relics of Lord Buddha, at the Grand Kuenrey Hall in Tashichhodzong, Thimphu, Bhutan

another long-pending hydro project and announced new joint efforts in solar energy. Emphasizing the role of connectivity in economic growth, Modi said the new rail links between Gelephu and Samtse in Bhutan and India's rail network would open new trade opportunities for Bhutanese industries and farmers. "Improved connectivity creates new pathways for prosperity," he noted. India will also assist in developing infrastructure for Bhutan's ambitious Gelephu Mindfulness City, an economic and cultural hub envisioned by King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck.

To facilitate smoother cross-border travel and

investment, Modi announced that India would set up an immigration checkpoint near Gelephu. New Delhi has allocated ₹10,000 crore for Bhutan's current five-year development plan, supporting initiatives in roads, healthcare, agriculture, and financial services.

Modi reiterated that the prosperity of Bhutan and India is "intertwined through geography, culture, and shared progress." Digital and youth collaboration also featured prominently in the discussions. The two sides are expanding India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) services in Bhutan, while young innovators from both countries continue to collaborate

in space technology, education, and entrepreneurship—including the development of a joint satellite. Modi also underscored the importance of cultural bonds, citing the opening of the Royal Bhutanese Temple in Rajgir, India, and announcing that land has been provided in Varanasi for a Bhutanese temple and guesthouse.

Closing his address, Modi lauded Bhutan's guiding philosophy of Gross National Happiness, saying it continues to inspire nations worldwide to measure progress through well-being, not just wealth. "Our friendship stands on the solid foundation of trust, respect, and shared values," he said.

# Ukraine detains 5 in energy sector graft investigation

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ KYIV

A Ukrainian anti-corruption agency said on Tuesday it has detained five people and identified seven other suspects in a major graft investigation that centres on alleged kickbacks worth some \$100 million in the country's energy sector.

The National Anti-Corruption Bureau did not name the suspects in its statement but said they included a businessman believed to be the scheme's mastermind; a former advisor

to the country's energy minister; and an executive of the national atomic energy company Energoatom.

The statement came a day after the agency revealed some details of a 15-month investigation into suspected energy sector corruption, including at Energoatom.

Large amounts of Ukrainian and foreign funds have flowed into the energy sector as infrastructure is repeatedly repaired following relentless Russian aerial attacks. Ukraine's Energy

Ministry said Tuesday that Russia attacked energy infrastructure in the Kharkiv, Odesa and Donetsk regions overnight and that scheduled power outages were in place in most regions of Ukraine.

The Anti-Corruption Bureau is tasked with rooting out entrenched corruption, which is widely regarded as an impediment to Kyiv's efforts to obtain membership in the European Union. It targets high-level corruption, particularly cases involving senior officials and state-

owned enterprises. It has previously been reported that uncovered a major graft scheme involving inflated military procurement contracts and the embezzlement of millions of dollars' worth of funds earmarked to buy mortar shells for Ukraine's efforts to foil Russia's all-out invasion. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy welcomed the latest probe.

"Any effective action against corruption is an urgent need," he said in his Monday night address to the nation".

# US close to seal trade deal with India: Trump

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ New York/Washington

The US is "pretty close" to reaching a "fair trade deal" with India, President Donald Trump has said, adding that he will lower the tariffs imposed on Indian goods at "some point".

This is the second time in less than two weeks that the US president held out hope to seal the proposed bilateral trade deal with India. It is not immediately clear whether it was Trump's usual hyperbole or there was some progress in the negotiations for the much-awaited deal between the two sides.

"We're making a deal with India, a much different deal than we had in the past. So right now, they don't love me, but they'll love us again," Trump said on Monday without elaborating. He made the remarks during a ceremony in the Oval Office where Sergio Gor was sworn in as the US Ambassador to India by Vice President JD Vance. "We're getting a fair deal, just a fair trade deal. We had pretty unfair trade deals. They're very good negotiators, Sergio, so you have to take a look at that, if you would please," Trump said.

"But we're getting close. Scott, I think we're pretty



Donald Trump shaking hands with US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor in the Oval Office in Washington

close to doing a deal that's good for everybody," Trump said to Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, who was present at the ceremony. "That's right," Bessent responded to Trump. "In the old days, do you think (former US President Joe) Biden would ask that question? I don't think so. 'How are we doing with India?' He didn't know about India. He didn't know a damn thing. That's okay," Trump said.

Trump was asked about the trade deal with India and whether he is willing to consider lowering the current tariff rate imposed on India. "Well, right now the tariffs are

very high on India because of the Russian oil, and they've stopped doing the Russian oil.

It's been reduced very substantially. Yeah, we're going to be bringing the tariffs down," Trump said. "At some point, no, at some point, we're going to be bringing them down. Without tariffs, this country would be in such trouble as they were for many years."

Relations between New Delhi and Washington have been reeling under severe stress after Trump imposed 50 per cent tariffs on India, including 25 per cent for New Delhi's procurement of Russian oil.

India had described the US action as "unfair, unjustified and unreasonable" while maintaining that its energy policy is guided by its own national interest.

Five rounds of talks have been completed so far for the first phase of the bilateral trade agreement between the US and India. Last month, an official had said in New Delhi that the two countries are "very near" to concluding the proposed bilateral trade agreement, as both sides are converging on most of the issues. The official had said that the two countries are sorting out the language of the agreement."

# Pak PM Sharif calls upon world to stand united in promoting peace

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ Islamabad

Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Tuesday called upon the world to stand united in promoting peace, advancing sustainable development and strengthening collective security. "Pakistan has always advocated for peace through dialogue and diplomacy. We firmly believe that peace and security form the foundation of sustainable national and regional development," Shehbaz said while addressing the Inter-parliamentary Speakers' Conference here.

He noted that the true value of peace is most pro-



foundly understood when "we are confronted with the conflicts that continue to plague our world," according to state-run Radio Pakistan. He mentioned that Pakistan, too, has faced this turbulence both directly and indirectly. "However, we have remained steadfast in our

commitment to maintaining peace and tranquility," he said. Pakistan believes in a peaceful neighbourhood and has been striving hard for this purpose, but militant groups continue to imperil peace not only within Afghanistan but also beyond its borders, he said.

# Subianto to visit Australia

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
■ Melbourne

Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto will visit Australia on Wednesday for the first time since taking office last year.

Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese announced the visit Tuesday, but provided few details.

Prabowo most recently visited Australia as minister of defence and president-elect in August last year.

He was inaugurated that October. Albanese met Prabowo in Jakarta in May this year for the Australia-Indonesia annual leaders' meeting during the prime minister's first overseas trip following his reelection that month.

# Thailand demands apology from Cambodia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Bangkok

Thailand said it has indefinitely paused implementation of a US-brokered ceasefire until Cambodia apologises for a land mine explosion on Monday that injured four Thai soldiers at their border. Thai Prime Minister Anutin Charnvirakul visited the injured troops at the border on Tuesday as the Thai army accused Cambodia of laying new mines in violation of the truce agreement Thailand and Cambodia signed last month. Territorial disputes between the Southeast Asian neighbours led to five days of combat in late July that killed dozens of soldiers and civilians. Others have been injured by land mine explosions before and after July's combat, and tensions have simmered despite the truce. The Thai army said one soldier lost his right foot after stepping on a land mine.



# Marionette festival defies militants threats

ASSOCIATED PRESS ■ Bamako

In a residential neighbourhood in Mali's capital, a parade of giant marionettes marched through the streets as motorcycles and taxis squeezed through the busy road, stopping at intervals to give way for the puppets. Rendez-Vous Chez Nous, which translates to "come to us" or "meet at our place" in French, was a three-day festival organised by the Nama marionette and dance group. The ninth annual edition of the event, held in Bamako Nov. 6-8, featured dance performances, concerts and plays. But the spectacle of colours, raucous music and merriment belied the fear that Bamako residents have lived with in recent weeks. The city of more than 3 million people is being squeezed by al-Qaida-backed jihadi militants who have imposed a monthslong blockade on fuel imports.





● Shazia Bakal



● Sushila Bakodia



● Mittal



● Vibha



The Glam Squad Ladies Club by Shazia Bakal hosted their monthly event at the vibrant venue Rage The Club, and it was nothing short of spectacular! The evening carried a chic corporate theme, with everyone dressed to impress in elegant business attire. Members enjoyed delicious food, danced to lively tunes, and soaked in the amazing ambiance. It was truly a night filled with laughter, style, and great company!



● Ishrath



● Nehar



● Shaily



● Sara



● Shazia, Geeta and Neelu

PARTY

Photos by- SV Chary



The Telangana State Show Jumping Championship 2025, under the aegis of the Telangana State Equestrian Association, concluded on Nasr Polo & Equestrian Academy, Hyderabad, with outstanding performances by young and talented riders — Mir Najamuddin Azam, Khaled Ali, Saurayam Varma Indukuri, and Mohammed Amaan Ali. The Prize Distribution Ceremony brought the championship to a grand close, with officials of the Telangana State Equestrian Association, Nasr Polo management, and esteemed guests presenting trophies and medals to the deserving winners.





The Government of Telangana has conferred the prestigious Maulana Abul Kalam Azad National Award 2025 upon renowned educationist and Founder-Chairman of MS Education Academy, Mohammed Lateef Khan, in recognition of his three decades of dedicated service in the fields of education, social welfare, and minority upliftment. The award was presented by Mohammed Azharuddin, Minister for Minority Welfare, during a grand ceremony organized by the Telangana Urdu Academy at Ravindra Bharathi, Hyderabad, on the occasion of National Education Day. Lateef Khan received the honour comprising a cash prize of Rs. 2,25,000, a citation, and a memento.

Experts urge India to integrate robotic rehab in post-stroke care for fastest recovery Over 50 leading neurologists, neurosurgeons, and rehabilitation specialists came together at a scientific session in Hyderabad to discuss one of the most neglected yet critical aspects of healthcare — but rehabilitation is where lives are truly rebuilt," said Dr. BSV Raju, Senior Consultant Neuro Surgeon, Yashoda Hospital. "In stroke, every day counts. Dr. Gaurav Thukral, Co-Founder & President, HCAH, said, "We recently launched Telangana's most advanced robotic rehabilitation lab, equipped with AI-powered exoskeletons and motion-tracking systems.



### India's education sector remains a prime cyberattack target

India's education sector is experiencing an unprecedented digital transformation, driven by the Government of India's revolutionary initiatives and schemes. However, this digital shift in the sector has also led to a surge in cyberattacks, now averaging over 7095 weekly attacks per organization. Recent industry reports underscore the urgency, identifying the education sector as one of the most targeted globally when it comes to cyber threats. In August alone, schools and universities in India experienced a 13% year-on-year increase in cyber incidents, with attacks ranging from data breaches and ransomware to phishing and system shutdowns. Gaurav Sood, CEO & Managing Director, Messe Stuttgart India, said, "At Messe Stuttgart India, we are committed to sparking global conversations that are not only aimed at empowering business and economies but also intend to impact lives and communities. Aditya Gupta, CEO, India Didactics Association, said, "As education embraces digital transformation at an unprecedented pace, ensuring the safety, the international events, Didac India 2025 & Didac Skills, will create a powerful, unified platform that integrates education and skills under one roof, driving the next wave of transformation for India's learning and skilling ecosystem. The co-located events will be held from 18-20 November 2025, at Yashobhooni (India International Convention & Expo Centre), Delhi, India's newest and most advanced global convention venue.

### JioHotstar to exclusively live stream SS Rajamouli's 'globetrotter' first look and teaser launch on 15th November

JioHotstar is all set to exclusively livestream the grand premiere event of SS Rajamouli's upcoming action-adventure Globetrotter on Saturday, 15th November, starting at 7:00 pm. In a first-of-its-kind digital launch, the event promises an unforgettable cinematic celebration with electrifying performances and the global debut of the film's teaser. The mega event will take place at Ramoji Film City, Hyderabad, where over 50,000 attendees are expected to join the grand celebration. Setting new benchmarks for scale and spectacle, the teaser and first look will be unveiled on a massive 130 ft x 100 ft screen — the largest ever in India, creating a breathtaking visual experience unlike any other. The evening will also feature a special performance of the movie's title track by Shruti Haasan and Divine, followed by the much-awaited unveiling of a stunning three-minute teaser introducing Mahesh Babu's character, filmed against the breathtaking backdrop of the Masai Mara. To mark the moment, Mahesh Babu will make a grand entry, leading into the teaser reveal, which will culminate in a spectacular fireworks show lighting up the skies over Ramoji Film City.

FUN

ARCHIE



I JUST CAN'T GET STARTED ON DAYS LIKE THIS!

I HEAR YA! I CAN'T EITHER!



"DAYS LIKE THIS?" WHAT KIND OF DAYS ARE "DAYS LIKE THIS?"

3-20



SCHOOL DAYS!

HENRY SCARABELLI CROIS BOLOMAN

CALVIN AND HOBBS



I'M HUNGRY.

WELL, YOU CAN'T CATCH ANYTHING IN MY TERRITORY. THAT'S WHAT THE BOOK SAYS.



WHAT DO TIGERS EAT IN THE WILD ANYWAY?

THEY CATCH BIG GROSS CATERPILLARS LIKE THAT ONE.



ENWW. IT'S GOT LITTLE SPIKES ALL OVER HIM. TIGERS REALLY EAT THESE?

BY THE TRUCK LOAD, THEY'RE GREAT.



LET ME SEE THE BOOK.

WHO ARE YOU GOING TO BELIEVE, SOME SILLY WRITER OR A REAL TIGER?

GARFIELD



HOW, EXACTLY, DO BEES MAKE HONEY?



MAKE HONEY?!



I'VE BEEN BUYING IT AT THE STORE

IDIOT

NANCY



IS THERE ANYTHING YOU'RE AFRAID OF?

NOT NOTHING! NOT NO ONE!



NOT BULLIES?

NO

NOT VAMPIRES?

NO

NOT ALIENS?

NO



ZOMBIES?

DELIVER ZOMBIE DISINFECTION KIT

GINGER MEGGS



IF YOU EAT ALL OF YOUR VEGETABLES, YOU CAN HAVE SOME ICE CREAM.



HOW 'BOUT IF I EAT ALL MY ICE CREAM, I CAN HAVE SOME MORE ICE CREAM?



EVER WONDER HOW POLITICIANS START OUT?

REALITY CHECK



UH-OH... ANOTHER HOT FLASH, HON?

SPEED BUMP



SO AS YOU CAN SEE, THE SHORTEST DISTANCE BETWEEN TWO POINTS IS A STRAIGHT LINE.

BUT TWO SHORTEST DISTANCES BETWEEN TWO POINTS ARE A GOBLIN.

CROSSWORD

### JUNIOR CROSSWORD 772

1	2			3	4	5
			6			
7			8			
	10					
11					12	
		13				15
16					17	
18					19	

### ACROSS

- Connected together
- Mix black and white to make this colour
- Shift
- Ottawa is the capital city of this country
- Very unusual
- Baby cats
- Funny circus performers
- Munch on
- Painful to touch
- Almost

### DOWN

- Leap
- Ask to come
- Use a book

### SOLUTION 771

FORGOTTEN
ROO
SUGAR NIGHT
U A S G H O
TINY BUTTER
HEADS SHORE
RAISE HELLO
K A O V
PERMITTED

### SUDOKU

	4			9	7		8	
8	7				2			3
					4		2	
	2	5			6			1
4								7
1			4			9	5	
	8		7					
6			2				7	8
	9		6	5			1	

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

### Yesterday's solution

7	3	1	4	2	9	8	5	6
9	4	2	8	5	6	1	7	3
6	5	8	3	1	7	4	9	2
8	9	4	6	7	1	3	2	5
2	1	5	9	3	8	6	4	7
3	6	7	2	4	5	9	8	1
1	8	3	7	9	2	5	6	4
4	7	9	5	6	3	2	1	8
5	2	6	1	8	4	7	3	9

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.





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BLASÉ CAPITAL

WHIRLING POOL



Private-equity firm Advent International is reportedly interested in buying a 31 per cent stake in Whirlpool of India, and take over the company. If a deal is clicked, it may mark a pivotal shift in the large-appliances segment. The billion-dollar purchase may trigger an open offer to the existing shareholders, and make Advent a majority owner. Whirlpool of India will undergo a strategic reset, as the global parent moves away from operational control to focus on licensing arrangement, brand management, and technology agreement.

The new majority owner, if it achieves this objective, will bring higher capital, hopefully sharper focus on India-specific products, closer alignment with local consumers, and faster-paced innovation. But a private equity player will need to access technology, and product lines from the parent, or through partnerships with competitors. There is a signal that the global Whirlpool may be interested in the Indian market, but does not want a solid footing.

An important emerging and crucial factor in the appliances segment is the acceleration of the upgrade cycle. Valued at more than \$75 billion, the business is likely to grow at a compounded annual rate of more than seven per cent. As the Indian consumers move from basic models to inverter-compressor refrigerators, fully-automatic smart washing machines, larger capacity units, and connected appliances brands need to refresh line-ups, launch India-specific models, and introduce new features regularly and quickly.

A change in Whirlpool of India's ownership may set the stage for faster product roster, which will perhaps include shifting from global templates to local-market priority models. The new products may emphasise features such as Wi-Fi connectivity, energy-efficiency, smart-diagnostics, and penetration into smaller cities and towns. The deal can open new doors of manufacturing and localisation. In India, appliances remain in a phase of structural opportunity with rising urbanisation, increasing electricity access, e-commerce channel growth, and policy support for local manufacturing.

Whirlpool has an existing manufacturing footprint, which may expend under the new ownership. There can be efforts to drive cost efficiencies, reduce import dependence, and speed up time-to-market. This is critical as competitors are doing the same. Haier Appliances India, for example, recorded revenues of ₹8,900 crore in 2024, and hopes to add another ₹2,500 crore in 2025. It plans to have a new manufacturing facility in the south India.

The Whirlpool deal, therefore, may enhance these broader shifts in the segment, with global players willing to either step up local manufacturing, or step back a bit, and hand over control to either capital-specific, product-specific, or tech-specific players. For the consumers, these moves may translate into faster introduction of premium models, stronger service networks, even in the smaller cities, and improved spare-parts and maintenance support.

Private equity players have shown considerable in select Indian sectors in the recent past. They bring in capital, but have the ability and flexibility to forge constructive partnerships with existing businesses. The opportunities exist as the appliance market is under-penetrated in many categories such as large-capacity fridges, and smart washers, and is ready-and-steady for heady growth. The entry of structured investments suggests that the capital-focused players believe that there is an intrinsic value to unlock.

The strategies can be varied or multi-disciplinary, and include operational improvement, product differentiation, and distribution expansion. For instance, Reliance Retail acquired the Kelvinator brand from Sweden's Electrolux as part of its push into consumer durable. Reliance and other Indian firms wish to buy a slice of the Haier India, which may be valued at two billion dollars, or more. The market is in a phase of consolidation, global-local re-balancing, and feature-led competition, rather than volume-led growth.

On the demand side, consumers are ready for the next wave of technology-led home appliances. The urge to upgrade, higher disposable incomes, faster replacement cycles, and expansion in smaller cities create a favourable backdrop. But there are likely to be execution risks for the companies. Hence, new owners need to deliver on manufacturing, product roll-outs, service networks, pricing discipline, and consumer trust. In markets like India, this is not easy. The practicality of the potential is invariably a question-mark.

Powerful brands like LG and Samsung lead in the premium segments, and advertise AI features, smart-home integration, and large-door configurations. Whirlpool of India's financials are not-so-good, as indicated by its second quarter results in this fiscal year. Revenues from operations were down almost four per cent, net profits declined by more than 20 per cent, and EBIDTA margins squeezed from over five per cent to 3.5 per cent. The last suggests "challenges in maintaining its operational efficiency during the quarter."

The stock price of the company indicates pressures, and decline in investors' interest. Although the returns over the past one month were over seven per cent, the figure for six-month returns was a negative two per cent, more than 30 per cent year-to-date, more than 35 per cent in the past 12 months, and more than 40 per cent in the past five years. The 52-week high and low has wildly fluctuated between ₹900 and more than ₹2,000. On November 11, 2025, the share price slipped from ₹1,290 to ₹1,248. For investors, the question is whether the financial and stock fortunes will change with the change in ownership. If yes, the Advent-Whirlpool deal can spur the launch of next-generation appliances in India.

# Expectation, solution, governance

The numbers are a revelation. A recent McKinsey study on ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) finds that such corporate concerns are on the rise. Among 89 large firms in the survey, the ESG-related KPIS (Key Performance Indicators) have increased to 100, a 30 per cent rise in seven years. Media mentions of ESG have soared more than 50 times in a decade (2014-24), even as venture capital and private equity investments in ESG measurement businesses took off by 37 times. "Yet, the rapid proliferation of ESG checklists has crowded out CEO agendas, leading to ESG fatigue," states the survey. Firms are being pulled in opposing directions.

One of the major problems that the global firms face is to find opportunities that align with solutions to local-social issues. Some of the them overstretch, and take on too many issues, which is visible among Indian firms CSR (Corporate Social responsibilities) activities, which may be distinct from, but related to, ESG. Finding solutions require specific tailor-made partnerships that are hard to find, difficult to execute, or tough to sustain. Expectations are generally short-term among the firms, which limit the options. Returns on ESG investments materialise over a long period.

Criteria related to capabilities, and incentives determine the role played by a specific firm. Hence, the ESG fit includes alignment with products, services, and supply lines. Viability is crucial, and in cases where the end users cannot pay directly, there is a need for third-party support. The regulatory and policy environment can impact the environment and ecosystem of a company. Such issues require clarity, streamlined permitting, or cross-sector coordination. In most instances, among the three factors stated, there is a mismatch. Companies that meet the first (capabilities) but not the second (viability) need narrower focus, better collaborations, and long-term outlook. "Conversely,

when all three factors align, business-led solutions flourish rapidly," states the report.

This three-cornered adjustment is dubbed by McKinsey as "horses for courses." The horses are, of course, the companies that can enhance their innovating and scalability only if matched to the right issue, or course. The survey concludes that large companies account for 30 per cent of the value at stake in accelerating progress across 18 issues, and this roughly equal to their share of the global GDP. This is dependent on the share of value-added that provides more of the goods and services. The same is true of negative externalities like emissions, which too is measured in terms of the share of the total.

In 10 out of the 69 industries analysed, there were capabilities to make them the leading candidates to progress on four or more of the 18 issues, and 41 industries had the skills to address merely 1-3 issues. This forces firms to focus narrowly on some issues, which impact the industry in a distorted manner compared to its size. This is the need of the day. "For example, healthcare providers generate just four per cent of revenues across large companies overall, but they could account for 35 per cent of the progress to improve maternal and neonatal health, 25 per cent to reduce non-communicable diseases, 25 per cent to improve mental health, and eight per cent to reduce communicable diseases," states the report.

Such effects can be large relative to the industry's size in dollar terms. In non-communicable diseases, the intervention investments can be \$1 trillion over and above the recent historical rate, of which roughly two-thirds is linked to pharma efforts. This represents a business opportunity that is 40 per cent of the current revenues of large pharma companies. In transportation infrastructure, the additional money required is \$70 billion, of which a quarter goes

to the construction and engineering firms. This is one per cent of current revenues for the large firms in these two segments. The figure is modest but represents significant opportunities.

Obviously, the main hurdle to find the investment sources. McKinsey finds that to enhance progress on the 18 issues to the levels in nations that made the most progress requires \$6 trillion, which is three times the profits earned by Fortune Global 500 companies in 2024. This is an "insurmountable hurdle," unless the society and nations decide to allocate massive public funds, and other resources. Governments need to intervene actively, as do state-owned entities, as the benefits far outweigh the costs in the long run. In essence, the efforts do pay off admirably, but "often only over decades."

Thus, the think tank pinpoints nations where an issue of the 18 is most prevalent, and clustered them around the prevailing economic contexts such as nations being exiting poor, accelerating empowerment, and transforming mature systems. However, the benefit-to-cost ratios can vary widely between the different contexts, with the issues with the highest annual costs being most prevalent in the high-income nations. Such ratios can help guide the policy-makers, and the firms. The metrics cannot capture everything, especially non-economic factors, and discount rates used. A five per cent rate can be ideal, though it is high for social investments, and low for corporate money. But no standards exist.

"A capabilities-based, horses-for-courses approach requires identifying where and how companies are best suited to address social issues. History is chockablock with examples of the many ways in which companies find business opportunities, all of which have structural similarities when it comes to advancing innovation, and scaling or making business models work in the interests of the societal needs, to help society under many different circumstances. In some cases, companies can act immediately. In others, policy interventions and collaborations are required to adjust the conditions, and enable private-sector participation. Whether to do so is a societal choice about funding, regulation, and coordination," the study concludes, and leaves the crucial questions open.

One of the successes cited in the study is that of Reliance Jio, which began the 4G rollout in 2013. Within two years, India launched the Digital India initiative, which aimed to connect 250,000 villages. The next year, Jio went live nationwide, and offered six months of free 4G data and voice services. In 2017, the Government reduced inter-company charges, which lowered mobile plans. JioPhone was priced at \$20, and 80 million units were sold. By 2021, interconnection charges were abolished. In 2023, JioPhone Next, built with Google, and costing less than \$50, was targeted at 500 million users. There was an additional \$12 version of the model for the poor. Thus, "expanding Internet access rapidly... was spurred by a dynamic iteration of improved technology... and government policy, resulting in low-cost option that delivered access to hundreds of millions."



## Should India cope or cop-out?



Most people say that Belem, which hosts COP30 multilateral meet, is a spectacularly beautiful place in Brazil. The event marks the 30th edition of a global alliance, which wants to mitigate the effects of Climate Change, and tackle the looming crisis. Predictably, soon after he was elected for a second term, the US President Donald Trump withdrew his country from the 2015 Paris Agreement. He did the same during his first tenure. Nevertheless, the Brazilian event will continue, even as it struggles to find solutions.

Like most institutions, which are either governed directly or indirectly by the United Nations, its future faces challenges. For India, events like COP30 are of extreme importance for various factors. One, they trigger old and haggard arguments about the double standards, and hypocrisy of the West in Climate Change issues. Two, there is the growing pressure from global activists, actively aided and abetted by what I would call the brown sepoys. Three, although India is successful, particularly since the signing of the Paris Agreement, to grow its share of renewable production, and consumption increases rapidly, it faces stark choices.



Sutanu Guru  
Author, Journalist  
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Despite the successes, the pressures are mounting. In an article, Anurabha Ghosh, a leading activist, wrote, "The time for promises is now over. COP30 must mark the shift from a bank of promises to a bank of actions where delivery not declarations mark progress. Nowhere is this more important than in South Asia, a region on the front lines of clear climate crisis.... For India, climate action is both a necessity and an opportunity.... But for it to succeed, the world must come together through smarter, more inclusive multilateralism."

Of course, as is the case with global activists, the voice is eloquent, articulate, and passionate. But India's choices cannot be dictated only by the western or global concerns. For example, take the case of the increasing pressure to reduce the use of thermal energy, or of electricity generated by coal. In contrast, the European nations, which are not openly hostile to the Paris Agreement like the US, adopt a peculiar stance on energy sources. As far as they are concerned, natural gas is

good, but coal is dirty, old, and polluting.

It is ironic that gas, like coal, is a fossil fuel, and no matter how one spins it, or liquefies it, gas remains a polluting fuel. One cannot condone the use of one, and condemn the other. Obviously, everyone does not buy the argument. An environmentalist, Sunita Narain of the Center for Science and Environment, pertinently asks: "Why single out coal? Why not natural gas, which is also a fossil fuel, and emits gases that contribute to global warming? I know, I am asking an inconvenient question. But bear with me. I do so, knowing that we need to drastically cut greenhouse gas emissions, and fast. But we need clarity on what we are doing and why?"

Now, Narain is not a fan of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, or the ruling regime. She is not a fan of coal, or Trump. When the US president says that Climate Change is a hoax, and a fraud, Narain asks the reasons to single out coal vis-à-vis gas. She is merely harping on the

fact that it is unjust, and cruel to impose restrictions on energy use on the third world countries.

Narain has pointed that the average electricity consumption of an American is 36 times that of an average Indian household. Hence, as the Indian economy grows rapidly, emerges as the fastest-growing major economy in the world, millions will walk out of a life of poverty and destitution, and become part of the new aspirational Indian middle-class generation. These are families that have never used a refrigerator, mixer, or microwave oven, forget about a washing machine, dishwasher, or other gadgets. They need electricity, whatever may be the source, and coal is most obvious one in India.

But the brown sepoy of the global activists have other arguments. They want India to give up coal, adopt gas in the interim period, and accelerate the production and use of renewables, and green energy. While this may be

a fine argument for the Europeans, and even the US, which have access to gas, it does not suit India. While India sits comfortably vis-à-vis targets for green sources, its energy demand is high. At least for the next decade or so, it cannot give up on coal.

At present, India produces a billion tonnes of coal a year, and imports 200 million tonnes. India has the fifth largest reserves of coal in the world, and half of the power and electricity generated is based on coal. This figure is likely to remain the same till 2030. Hence, it is virtually impossible for India to forsake coal, and choose gas and green sources, if it wishes to maintain high GDP growth. Even if one agrees with the argument, where will the gas come from?

Most of the coal is locally produced, but the country has minimal gas sources. Hence, it will need to import huge quantities every year. Apart from the infrastructure costs, and issues of energy security, it will distort the current account deficit, and balance of payments. Just imagine the dollar value of importing gas equivalent a billion tonnes of coal! No government can take such a decision. It is economic harakiri, and political suicide for a ruling political party.

Well, the next level of argument is that India needs to be a global poster boy, and reduce energy use through efficiency, and efficacy. For example, in heated discussions that the author has had with activists, the latter contend that there is no need to supply electricity to the poor and dark areas by using coal. Let these old, pristine communities live the way they do. Push more welfare schemes, and provide them with social security. Make sure that they get the basic amenities like food and drinking water, apart from healthcare and education, and higher incomes, minus the electricity.

I find it strange. Well, I may not matter, but the Indian policy-makers will need to juggle with this kind of arguments, and activism, which may seem to border on the unusual. This explains why each time a coal mine licence is given, or a thermal plant construction begins, there are waves of protests. But then India cannot afford to let its guard down, and needs to ensure its economic interests. Global activists, and their brown sepoy backers will continue to question.

The author has worked for leading media houses, authored two books, and is now Executive Director, C Voter Foundation





BRIEFLY

SHUBHANKAR TIED 6TH AT DP WORLD QUALIFYING SCHOOL



Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma was placed tied sixth after the fourth round of the DP World Tour Final Stage Qualifying School at Infinitum's Lakes and Hills courses. With rounds of 70-69-66-67 he was 14-under but eight shots behind the leader, Zander Lombard. There are two more rounds left in the six round final stage of the Q-School.

Australian Connor McKinney (67) is solo second at 16-under, while the trio of Quentin Debove, Benjamin Follett-Smith and Matthew Baldwin are tied third at 15-under.

Sharma, who has had a difficult 2025 season in the DP World Tour this year has previously been ranked as high as 64th on OWGR. This year he missed 17 consecutive cuts after the Hero Indian Open held in March. The season saw him lose his tour card and return to the Q-School in a bid to retain playing privileges.

The 29-year-old who has previously won two titles on the DP World Tour stated during the DP World India Championships that he has struggled with equipment changes through the year and has yet to find a combination that works for him.

Things have looked better this week, though 36 holes remain to be played.

DEEPIKA, DHIRAJ LEAD INDIA AT ASIAN ARCHERY



Star archers Deepika Kumari and Dhiraj Bommadevara were back to their best after missing out on the team berths, as India secured at least three individual medals in recurve events of the Asian Archery Championships here on Tuesday.

Top-ranked Indians Deepika and Dhiraj, who had failed to make the team events after finishing last among their compatriots in qualification round on the opening day, bounced back strongly when the individual eliminations got underway.

Deepika stunned Shanghai World Cup gold medallist Lee Gahyun of Korea 7-3 to storm into the women's recurve semifinals, where she will face compatriot Ankita Bhakat. Ankita, meanwhile, produced one of the biggest upsets of the day, toppling top seed and former world champion Jang Minhee of Korea 6-4.

Sangeeta too joined the party, defeating Iran's Zare Reyhane 7-1 to enter the last-four, where she will meet Korea's Nam Suhyeon. With Deepika, Ankita and Sangeeta all in the semifinals, India stand a strong chance of completing a clean sweep in the women's recurve individual category.

Vihaan to captain India U19 A in triangular series

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ New Delhi

Rising talent Vihaan Malhotra was on Tuesday named captain of the India U19 A squad for an upcoming triangular series also featuring India B and Afghanistan's U19 teams.

Hyderabad's Aaron George will lead the India B U19 side in the competition that will be held at the BCCI's Centre of Excellence, Bengaluru, from November 17 to 30. Malhotra was handed captaincy, even as his two superstar teammates Vaibhav Sooryavanshi and Ayush Mhatre remain occupied with other engagements. Wicketkeeper



Abhigyan Kundu will be Malhotra's deputy in the three-nation tournament, while Vedant Trivedi has been named vice captain of the India U19 B squad.

Mhatre was not considered for selection as he is currently playing the Ranji Trophy, while Sooryavanshi was not considered as he is picked for

the India A squad for the ACC Rising Stars Asia Cup. All the three young players were part of the successful India U19 tour of Australia recently.

Germany seeks compensation for players switching national teams

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
■ Berlin

The German soccer federation (DFB) wants compensation when players opt to represent other countries after representing Germany at youth levels.

"It simply makes no sense to me why a player who has been coached primarily at his club for five years but also by the federation as a junior partner should be able to switch national associations for free," DFB managing director Andreas Rettig told news

agency dpa on Tuesday.

German-born Juventus star Kenan Yildiz is a Turkish international, having played for Turkey's youth teams. Eintracht Frankfurt forward Can Uzun also turned down Germany in favor of Turkey.

Former Hertha Berlin forward Ibrahim Maza, now playing for Bayer Leverkusen, plays for Algeria after appearing for Germany at youth levels. German youth internationals Muhammed Damar and Nicolò Tresoldi are reportedly being courted by Turkey and Italy, respective-

ly, and the Frankfurter Rundschau daily newspaper reported on Sunday that Nuremberg defender Fabio Gruber has chosen to represent Peru. "We're currently checking whether there's a possibility of coaching compensation when players switch national associations," Rettig said. "This issue has not yet been addressed extensively. But coaching must be worthwhile for both sides, the player and the coach."

Germany has long seen players with one or two parents born abroad opt to

represent their country of their roots, while the country has also benefited from immigration as players such as Ilkay Gundogan, Mesut Ozil, Sami Khedira and Gerald Asamoah have contributed to the national team's success.

Cologne teenager Said El Mala was last week called up for Germany's World Cup qualifiers this week and at least 12 players in the latest squad could have chosen to represent other countries.

The injured Jamal Musiala chose Germany after playing for England youth teams.

India adds two silver through Aishwary, Esha and Rana

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ Cairo

Olympian Aishwary Pratap Singh Tomar equalled the qualification world record and then won his first-ever individual World Champ-ionship medal by settling for silver in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions final on Tuesday.

Newly-crowned air pistol world champion Samrat Rana and defending champion Esha Singh also ended with a silver medal in the 10m air pistol mixed team competition, after they went down 10-16 in the gold



medal match to China's Kai Hu and Qianxun Yao. Before that Aishwary, the two-time Olympian, managed 466.9 in the 45-shot final to finish behind China's reigning Olympic champion Liu

Yukun, who ended 0.2 ahead with 467.1. India continued to hold the second position in the medal tally behind China with three gold, five silver and three bronze in their kitty.



"In Germany 43% of children under five years of age hold dual citizenship. When they're 10 or 12 years older they can decide, do I prefer the (German) eagle or, for example, the (Turkish) crescent moon?" Rettig said.

"We analyzed the squad lists from the under-15s to the under-21s within the federation. The percentage there is significantly higher than the aforementioned 43%. There are age groups in which seven or eight players in the starting 11 have dual nationality.

MP BEAT GOA BY THREE WICKETS IN TENSE RUN CHASE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ Porvoria (Goa)

Middle-order batter Saransh Jain held firm with a solid 82 not out to help Madhya Pradesh beat Goa by three wickets after a tense run chase on the final day of their Ranji Trophy Group B match here Tuesday.

Madhya Pradesh, who had conceded a 97-run first innings lead to Goa, started the final day at 21 for 1 in pursuit of 328, and wickets fell at regular intervals.

Arriving at 176 for 4, Jain anchored the MP run chase with some support from the lower order.

His unbroken eighth-wicket stand of 65 with Arshad Khan (25) turned it around for MP.

Jain hit nine fours in his 132-ball unbeaten innings. Captain Shubham Sharma got 72 off 134 balls, while Harsh Gawli contributed 54.

The other two matches of Group B — Kerala vs Saurashtra, and Karnataka vs Maharashtra — ended in draws. In Pune, Karnataka took three points and Maharashtra one after the drawn match.

Delhi lose to J&K in Ranji for the first time

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ New Delhi

Delhi cricket hit a new low on Tuesday after a spirited Jammu and Kashmir thrashed them by seven wickets for their first-ever Ranji Trophy victory over the formidable opposition that was powered by opener Qamran Iqbal's superb hundred.

After four games, Delhi coached by Sarandeep Singh, are sixth among eight teams in Group D with seven points and it will take a miracle to qualify for the knockouts with only four points from three home games.

Questionable selections, poor strategies, absence of smart captaincy and a state unit in which teams have suffered due to factionalism and infighting has brought about the team's downfall.

Since 1960, Delhi and Jammu & Kashmir have met 43 times and 37 of those games have ended in outright wins for the seven-time champions.



Players of Jammu & Kashmir and Delhi greet each other at the end of their Ranji Trophy 2025-26 cricket match at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in New Delhi PTI

Chasing a target of 179 for victory, J&K needed 124 runs on the final day with opener Iqbal (133 not out off 147 balls) at the crease with night-watchman Vanshaj Sharma (8 off 55 balls).

What looked like a difficult pitch suddenly became placid as Iqbal took it upon himself to use his long levers and big stride to negate any turn off the surface.

The roughs and indents were created on both sides of the track and Delhi's spin-

ners Mannan Bhardwaj and Hrithik Shokeen didn't attack the stumps as much, trying to bowl too fast which also didn't get them any purchase.

Towards the end, Iqbal was hitting one-handed slog swept sixes and lofted boundaries. Even 40-year-old skipper Paras Dogra, the former doyen of Himachal Pradesh cricket, played his part with a first innings hundred.

In his 22nd first class

season, Dogra only second to Mumbai stalwart Wasim Jaffer in terms of runs in Ranji Trophy, scored tons against both Mumbai and Delhi this season.

For Delhi, retaining Sarandeep as the head coach after a disastrous last season due to alleged pressures from a strong DDCA lobby has only ensured that there was no consistency in selection. Skipper Ayush Badoni is scoring some attractive half-centuries but no team in

domestic cricket is in awe of him. Arpit Rana, a top scorer in DPL, has been found wanting against quality seam bowling as Aujib Nabi with his seaming deliveries exposed his poor technique.

A positive opening batter like Priyansh Arya was benched in first two games only to be played out of position at number 4.

Worse, with two good keeper batters in Tejasvi Dahiya and Pranav Raghuvanshi on the bench,

Anuj Rawat, a player with less than 30 average across eight seasons keeps on playing.

After this defeat, DDCA president Rohan Jaitley is expected to crack the whip.

In the last group match to finish on Tuesday, Hyderabad earned three points for taking a first-innings lead after the contest against Rajasthan ended in a draw on the fourth and final day in Hyderabad.

Hyderabad, who had put 364 on board batting first,

Brief scores:

**At New Delhi:** Delhi 211 and 277 J&K 310 and (target 179) 179/3 (Qamran Iqbal 133 not out).

**At Hyderabad:** Hyderabad 364 and 244/9d in 78 overs (Rahul Singh Gahlaut 59; Mahipal Lomror 4/51) drew with Rajasthan 269 & 207/3 in 57 overs (Salman Khan 79; Tanay Thyagarajan 2/72).

Rekhade seals Vidarbha's 100-run win; Jharkhand-Baroda draw

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ Nagpur

Left-arm spinner Parth Rekhade returned with a five-wicket haul as Vidarbha registered a 100-run win over Odisha to move to the top of Group A in the Ranji Trophy on Tuesday.

Chasing 345 for victory, Odisha were bowled out for 244 in 84 overs after a promising 100-run opening stand between Swastik Samal (65) and Gourav Choudhury (47). Vidarbha now lead the table with 19 points, while Odisha remain second from bottom with just one point.

Resuming at 44 for no loss, Samal and Choudhury added 56 more runs before Rekhade provided the breakthrough in the 24th over, trapping the latter leg before wicket.

Samal too became his victim soon after, while Sandeep Pattnaik's painstaking 27 off 105 balls ended



when he was trapped in front by Praful Hinge in the 38th over. Skipper Subhranshu Senapati (28) and Govinda Poddar (46) tried to steady the chase but failed to convert their starts, as Odisha kept losing wickets at regular intervals. Rekhade (5/80) led the bowling effort with Hinge (3/41) providing able support, while Nachiket Bhute (1/50) also chipped in.

In Vadodara, opener Shikhar Mohan struck an unbeaten 102 as Jharkhand reached 226 for four in their second innings before agreeing to a draw with Baroda.

Jharkhand, who bagged three points for their first-innings lead, are placed second in the group with 18 points. Baroda settled for one to be at fifth spot with a total of 9 points.

Denish, Sibsankar salvage draw against Tripura

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
■ Agartala

Skipper Denish Das and senior batter Sibsankar Roy struck defiant centuries to help Assam salvage a draw against Tripura on the fourth and final day of their Ranji Trophy Group C match here on Tuesday.

Resuming on overnight 78 for 3 in their second innings and facing a huge deficit, Assam showed remarkable grit to bat through the day, ending at 367 for 7 when the teams agreed to call off play in the final session.

Captain Denish Das (103 off 197 balls) anchored the innings with a composed century, guiding Assam out of trouble after a shaky start.

He found solid support from wicketkeeper Sumit Ghadigaonkar (54 off 161) as the duo steadied the innings with a 150-run partnership for the fourth wicket.



Assam's Denish Das celebrates his century during Ranji trophy cricket match between Tripura and Assam in Agartala, Tripura PTI

After Denish's dismissal, Roy took charge, batting fluently for an unbeaten 101 off 141 balls, which was decorated with 17 fours and two sixes. His counterattacking approach ensured Assam not only avoided an innings defeat but also batted Tripura out of the contest.

Lower down, Ayushman Malakar (21 not out) provid-

ed valuable resistance as the visitors stretched their lead past 100 before stumps were drawn.

For Tripura, Ajay Sarkar was the pick of the bowlers, claiming 3 for 70, while Swapnil Singh (2/88) and Rana Dutta (2/34) also chipped in with wickets but couldn't bowl out Assam as the pitch eased out.