

IN BRIEF

**AICC secretary Jetty Kusum Kumar rules out elections, says his focus is on party organisation**

Hyderabad, Nov 13 (UNI) : Newly appointed AICC Secretary Jetty Kusum Kumar on Thursday made it clear that he has no plans to contest direct elections, saying his interest lies firmly in national politics and organisational work for the Congress.

Speaking to the media at Gadha Bhavan, he said the party leadership has entrusted him with responsibilities in both Odisha and Telangana, and specifically asked him to focus on GHMC-level organisational strengthening.

Kusum Kumar expressed confidence that Congress would win the Jubilee Hills by-election, adding that once EVMs arrive, "there will be no chance of rigging." He said the party would also ensure its flag flies high in the upcoming Greater Hyderabad elections.

Calling his appointment as AICC Secretary a moment of pride, he thanked all those who supported him and said the move reaffirmed that "in Congress, those who work hard get recognised." He also predicted that Congress would form the government in Odisha, and praised the Revanth Reddy government in Telangana for implementing promises that were not even listed in the manifesto.

**Minimum temperatures to dip below normal in Telangana over next two days: Met Dep**

Hyderabad, Nov 13 (UNI) : Minimum temperatures in isolated pockets of Telangana are likely to fall 3 to 4 degrees Celsius below normal over the next couple of days, the Meteorological Centre said on Thursday. In its daily weather report, the department noted that Adilabad recorded the lowest minimum temperature of 10.7 degrees Celsius on the intervening night of Wednesday and Thursday. Dry weather is expected to prevail across Telangana for the next seven days, and similar conditions were reported over the state in the past 24 hours, the report added.

CM seeks major investments in urban projects in state



Hyderabad/ New Delhi, Nov 13 (UNI) : Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy's pitch for major investments in Telangana as part of his \$1 trillion state economy vision by 2034 and \$3 trillion SGDP by 2047 found great support and applause at the annual conclave of the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) at New Delhi on Thursday.

Former CEO of Cisco, and tech legend John Chambers described Revanth Reddy's vision for Telangana as "bold, clear,

very achievable", and promised his fullest support.

Chambers said that Mr Reddy's description of game-changer projects and their social impact was very impressive.

Dr. Mukesh Aghi, CEO and President, USISPF, said, "in response to the invitation of Telangana CM to our members, most of us will try to attend the Telangana Rising Global Summit being organised by the state on December 8 and 9 in Hyderabad to unveil and showcase the

comprehensive vision for the state." Earlier, speaking at the forum, The Chief Minister spoke of the extraordinary opportunities that await global investors in Telangana. "We have had several governments for a decade run by the Congress, or other parties, but we have all supported investments and investors for the last 35 years." "I represent India's youngest, most exciting and successful states, Telangana. Hyderabad is located centrally. It has no major security risks. It has

great weather, and world-class infrastructure. We are the gateway to entire Indian market, and major destination for GCCs. Come and invest in my state," he said. Listing the achievements of the Congress government in the last 23 months, he said, "my biggest focus for the future includes economic empowerment of women, best education and skills and urban development, particular making Hyderabad a truly world-class city, with best amenities and highest

quality of living." Inviting top global academic institutions, Revanth Reddy said, "Once Harvard, Stanford or Oxford sets up an offshore campus in Hyderabad, many students from the Global South can attend these ivy league programs because of easier visa rules and lower costs."

Pitching top projects like Bharat Future city and River Musi rejuvenation, he said, "Bharat Future City will be India's most developed, world-class city, in 30,000 acres. After rejuvenation, Musi river riverfront will match the experience of London, Tokyo, Dubai or Seoul. It will add night economy cycle for the city."

Besides explaining the projects to create a dry port and Hyderabad metro rail, regional ring road and radial roads, and manufacturing zone between RRR and ORR, Mr Reddy said, "Telangana is aiming to become the global answer to the China 1 alternative."

In his concluding speech, the CM said "we will name important roads in Hyderabad after corporates. In India, most roads are named after political leaders. Let us change that in Hyderabad to have Google or Meta or TCS Infosys Street."



Compassion, not control': Maneka Gandhi criticises SC order on stray animals

Branding the Supreme Court's recent directive to remove and relocate stray animals to shelter homes as "impractical," animal rights activist Maneka Gandhi on Thursday urged the adoption of a more compassionate and humane approach towards the country's stray population. The former union minister was addressing the media while announcing the first edition of CineKind, a collaboration between Film Federation of India (FFI) and People for Animals (PFA), to honour acts of kindness and humane storytelling in Indian cinema.

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Congress slams govt over Red Fort blast, asks Shah to own ....



The Congress party on Thursday launched a scathing attack on the union Government's handling of the deadly car bomb blast near the Red Fort, which claimed 13 lives, terming it as a major intelligence failure and a worrying delay in official response. The party has demanded that Home Minister Amit Shah take responsibility for the security lapse.

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US State Secy Marco Rubio says 'some concern' in Washington



US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has said "there's some concern" among officials in Washington with regard to the recent spate of settler violence in the West Bank between Jewish nationalists and Palestinians, voicing worries over the possible fallout that could unravel in its aftermath,

(See on page 5)

Deafalympics becoming more competitive: Diksha Dagar



Professional golfer Diksha Dagar, who is part of the Indian contingent that will participate at the upcoming Deafalympics in Tokyo, feels that the games are becoming more competitive and stressed that the Deaf should take up sports as a healthy lifestyle.

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NDA set for landslide victory in Bihar: Today's Chanakya

New Delhi, Nov 13 (UNI) : The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) is poised to secure a landslide victory in the Bihar Assembly elections, with a predicted 160 ± 12 seats, according to a projection by Today's Chanakya, a political research organisation. The RJD-led Mahagathbandhan alliance is expected to win 77 ± 12 seats, while other parties are likely to secure 6 ± 3 seats. The analysis is based on a caste-wise breakdown of voter preferences, which shows the NDA leading among Brahmins, Baniyas, and Rajputs (63 percent), Scheduled Castes (58 percent), and OBCs and EBCs (55 percent). The RJD-led alliance is expected to dominate among Yadavs (67 percent) and Muslims (69 percent). The vote share projections indicate that the NDA is likely to secure 44 percent ± 3 percent of the votes, while the RJD-led alliance is expected to get 38 percent ± 3 percent. The margin of error for the seat projections is ± 12 seats for the NDA and RJD-led alliances, and ± 3 seats for other parties.

Earlier on Tuesday, most exit polls painted a clear picture of a comfortable victory for the NDA, led by Chief Minister

Nitish Kumar and the Bharatiya Janata Party. According to multiple exit polls, the NDA was projected to win between 130 and 167 seats, with the Mahagathbandhan (MGB), led by Tejashwi Yadav's Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and the Congress, trailing behind with 70-108 seats.

The exit polls, conducted by various agencies including Matriz-IANS, People's Insight, and Peoples Pulse, indicate that the NDA's stronghold in Bihar remains intact, with the alliance securing a significant majority in the 243-member Assembly. Exit Poll Projections: Matriz-IANS: NDA 147-167, MGB 70-90, Others 2-6 People's Insight: NDA 133-148, MGB 87-102, JSP 0-2, Others 3-6 Peoples Pulse: NDA 133-159, MGB 75-101, JSP 0-5, Others 2-8 NDTV: NDA 145-160, MGB 73-91, JSP 0-3, Others 5-7 Times Now: NDA 135-150, MGB 88-103, Others 3-7 The exit polls suggest that the NDA's victory is largely driven by its strong performance in the first phase of voting, where it secured a significant lead in several constituencies. The final results of the Bihar Assembly Elections 2025 are slated to be announced on November 14.

Actor Nagarjuna withdraws defamation case against Minister Konda Surekha

Hyderabad, Nov 13 (UNI) : Forest Minister Konda Surekha received relief on Thursday after film actor Akkineni Nagarjuna withdrew the defamation case he had filed against her in the Nampally People's Representatives Court.

The controversy began when the minister, while criticising BRS working president K T Rama Rao, made remarks referring to the divorce of actors Naga

Chaitanya and Samantha. Taking serious objection, Nagarjuna filed a defamation case, which has been under judicial examination.

On Tuesday night, Konda Surekha issued a public apology on Twitter, expressing regret for her comments about the Akkineni family.

She clarified that her remarks were not intended to hurt, embarrass or damage the family's

reputation. She stated that if her words had caused any distress, she sincerely withdrew them.

Following her apology, Nagarjuna informed the court of his decision to withdraw the case. The matter came up for hearing on Thursday, though it had earlier been adjourned to December 2. With Nagarjuna's withdrawal, the controversy appears to have come to an end.

Tummala urges Centre to relax procurement norms for soybean, maize & cotton farmers

Hyderabad, Nov 13 (UNI) : Agriculture Minister Tummala Nageswara Rao has once again written to the Central Government highlighting the problems faced by farmers in procuring soybean, maize and cotton, urging the Centre to provide special relaxations in view of the severe crop losses caused by cyclones, unseasonal rains and unpredictable weather across Telangana.

The minister said soybean was cultivated in 3.66 lakh acres this season with an average expected yield of 7.62 quintals per acre, but the crop suffered extensive damage during harvest due to heavy rains.

Issues such as seed discoloration and wrinkling have left large quantities of the produce outside existing FAQ norms.

Tummala appealed to union Ministers Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Giriraj Singh to relax the quality norms and direct NAFED and NCCF to procure soybean under revised standards so farmers are not left without support.

On maize, he said the crop covered 6.74 lakh acres, with production estimated at 16.85 lakh metric tonnes. However, market prices have fallen to Rs 1,959 per quintal, well below the Centre's MSP of Rs 2,400, forcing the state government to begin direct

procurement. So far, the state has procured 48,757 MT, benefiting 14,519 farmers.

The minister urged the Centre to permit NAFED and NCCF to procure the full 16.85 lakh metric tonnes under MSP.

Tummala also raised concerns over the Cotton Corporation of India's decision to limit procurement to 7 quintals per acre, calling it a severe blow to farmers already struggling with losses from the Montha cyclone.

He said CCI's restrictions, combined with issues in the L1, L2 and spot booking systems, have compounded farmers' distress.



## Court orders FIR against ex-MLA Geeta Jain for slapping MBMC engineer

Mumbai, Nov 13 (UNI): A local court in neighbouring Palghar district on Thursday directed police to register an FIR against former MLA Geeta Jain for slapping a junior engineer of Mira-Bhayander Municipal Corporation in 2023 during a demolition drive to remove illegal hutments. As the then sitting MLA of the area, she opposed the drive on the ground that the poor residents there would be rendered homeless just before the monsoon season exposing them to inclement weather. The court directive was given in response to a private complaint filed by activists of the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) based on video evidence that had gone viral showing her

slapping the engineer Subham Patil and grabbing his collar. This was objectionable as even though she was the area MLA, Jain had no right to slap civic employees publicly and humiliate them. The complaint submitted that the MLA can use all her power and initiate action against government employees if they fail in their duty but she had no right to slap employees publicly. After hearing the complaint, the court directed the local Kashimira Police to register a case under Sections 323, 352, 353, 504, and 506 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) pertaining to intentionally causing hurt, intimidation of public servants and obstructing them while

performing their duties besides provoking violence against them. The video shows her venting her anger against two municipal engineers who were carrying out the demolition of illegal huts in the slum area near Kakkad Building in the Penkar Pada locality. Many residents including women and children were stranded on the roadside after the destruction of their homes. She questioned officials asking why the civic body was carrying out the action despite government orders against demolitions during monsoon season in the light of various court rulings on humanitarian grounds. Apparently provoked by the engineer Patil's smile as he replied, she went into a fit of rage slapping him.

## Rotary Launches Bold Initiatives Empowering Women and Expanding Access to Healthcare



(Standard Post Bureau) Mumbai, Nov 13 : Rotary District 3141 created a recent history with a powerful showcase of service and empowerment, graced by the august presence of Rotary International President Rtn. Francesco Arezzo along with Rotary District Governor Dr Manish Motwani and other Rotary Dignitaries. At a grand event in Mulund, President Arezzo flagged off 10 “Pink Autos” under Rotary’s pioneering PINK AUTO INITIATIVE, a project that is changing lives by empowering women from modest backgrounds to become self-reliant entrepreneurs. Each beneficiary receives 50% funding support from Rotary for the vehicle down payment, with the balance arranged through state-run bank loans. Beyond financial assistance, the

program ensures holistic empowerment — offering training in driving, commercial skills, customer service, and self-defense, along with assistance in obtaining licenses and vehicles. The initiative is already being hailed as a transformative step toward women’s economic independence and dignity, with ripple effects expected to uplift entire families for generations. Speaking on the occasion, Rotary District Governor Dr Manish Motwani said, “Rotary’s mission is to create lasting change — in individuals, in communities, and across the world. The presence of our International President today adds great inspiration to our journey of service.” In another momentous first for the 80 years in Mumbai, Rotary announced the launch of

two Rotary District Hospitals — a Multi-Specialty Heart Hospital in Deonar and an Eye Hospital in Mulund — both set to revolutionize access to affordable healthcare in Mumbai. Both of these are part of the vision and dream projects of the District Governor, Dr Manish Motwani. Planning had started two years ago and coming to fruition now. The Deonar Heart Hospital, located amidst underserved communities, will become a major regional hub offering advanced cardiac care, including pediatric heart surgeries for underprivileged children. The Mulund Eye Hospital will spearhead citywide screening and awareness campaigns aimed at eliminating avoidable blindness — particularly cataract-related — through timely intervention and education.

## 'Abki Baar, AQI 400 Paar': AAP attacks Delhi govt over rising pollution

New Delhi, Nov 13 (UNI) The Municipal Corporation of Delhi’s (MCD) monthly meeting turned chaotic on Thursday as Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) councillors staged a protest inside the House, wearing black masks to condemn the city’s deteriorating air quality and alleged inaction by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led administration. Led by Leader of Opposition (LoP) Ankush Narang, AAP members raised slogans of “Abki Baar, AQI 400 Paar” as they accused the BJP

government of neglecting Delhi’s worsening pollution crisis. “Despite a so-called ‘four-engine’ government, the residents of Delhi are forced to breathe toxic air,” Narang said, adding that children and the elderly are falling ill while authorities “sit silent.” As per the statement of Narang, air quality in several parts of Delhi, including the mayor’s own ward of Timarpur, has crossed the ‘severe’ category with AQI levels above 700. “Every Delhiite is

inhaling pollution equivalent to smoking 15.5 cigarettes a day,” he claimed. “Three out of every four families are battling pollution-related illnesses.” The LoP accused Mayor Raja Iqbal Singh of evading accountability after adjourning the session instead of holding a discussion on the crisis. “When the Aam Aadmi Party sought a debate on this life-threatening issue, the Mayor chose to run away. Is this how a responsible government behaves?” Narang asked.

## Seven rescued from Sahastrakund waterfall in Nanded

Nanded, Nov 13 (UNI): Seven persons were rescued on Thursday after being stranded at the Sahastrakund waterfall located in Kinwat tehsil of Nanded district in Maharashtra. According to official sources, all rescued persons, four women and three children, are residents of Ekamba village in Umarkhed tehsil. Around 3:15 pm the group entered the waterfall area under the mistaken assumption that water levels were low. Despite receiving warnings from local residents about potential dangers, the group continued further into the stream. Their situation became dangerous when water currents gathered strength leaving them trapped and unable to return to safety. Upon receiving information, the District Disaster Management Authority immediately activated rescue operations. Authorities contacted the irrigation department with instructions to stop water release promptly to reduce flow intensity. The rescue team explored multiple options, including requesting helicopter support for aerial assistance. Simultaneously, a ground rescue team was assembled comprising police personnel, revenue department staff, local volunteers, and experienced young men from the Bhoi community known for their water rescue capabilities. Through coordinated efforts of all involved agencies and community members, the operation concluded successfully by 5:15 pm with all seven brought to safety.

## AIIMS Nagpur PG student commits suicide

Nagpur, Nov 13 (UNI): A postgraduate medical student at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Nagpur allegedly died by suicide at her private apartment, police said on Thursday. The deceased has been identified as Dr. Samruddhi Krishnakant Pandey (25), daughter of CRPF Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Krishnakant Pandey, who is posted in Pune. According to the police, the incident took place on the evening of Wednesday at Manjira Apartments in the Shiv Kailash Nagar area of the city, where the student was residing. Dr. Pandey was a first-year postgraduate student in the Department of Dermatology at AIIMS Nagpur. Her flatmate, Dr. Suhani Sanjay Jaiswal, found the door to their shared apartment locked from inside. On entering through the rear door, she discovered Dr. Pandey hanging from the ceiling fan and immediately informed the college administration and the police. A team from Sonagaon Police Station reached the spot, conducted an inquest, and sent the body for post-mortem examination at a government hospital.

## Delhi cabinet okays new policy for compassionate employment to dependants of anti- Sikh riot victims

New Delhi, Nov 13 (UNI) The Delhi Cabinet, in its meeting chaired by Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, has approved a policy to provide compassionate employment to the dependants of those who lost their lives in the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. Announcing details of the Cabinet decision, Gupta has said that the new policy marks a concrete step towards expediting long-pending cases of employment assistance that remained unresolved since the cabinet decision of 2007. According to the CM, a key feature of the new policy is that dependants of the victims, who are now

above 50 years of age and unable to take up employment will have the option to nominate a member of the next generation such as a son, daughter, daughter-in-law, or son-in-law for the job. This provision ensures that the benefit of employment genuinely reaches the family and that the intended purpose of assistance is effectively fulfilled. The clause has been introduced in recognition of the fact that many eligible dependents have now grown elderly. CM has said that for the past 18 years, the process could not be completed due to various administrative

reasons, and to end this prolonged delay, the government has now introduced a clear, structured, and time-bound policy, to ensure that eligible families receive employment assistance promptly. The CM further stated that necessary relaxations in age and educational qualifications have also been incorporated into the policy, and all the provisions will comply with the directions of the Delhi High Court and the prescribed legal framework. Additionally, a transparent and well-defined mechanism has been established for

verification, grievance redressal, and departmental allocation to ensure that the process of appointments is fair, accountable, and efficient, she added. Gupta emphasised that this decision reflects her government’s deep empathy for the victim families and its unwavering commitment to their dignity, justice, and economic rehabilitation. “Our government is determined to ensure that no eligible family faces further delays. By extending employment opportunities to the next generation, we aim not only to provide financial support but also to restore the self-respect of these families,” she said.

## PIB Imphal Holds “Vartalap” Workshop to Bridge Gap Between Government and Media

(Standard Post Bureau) Imphal, Nov 13 : The Press Information Bureau (PIB), Imphal, organised a one-day media workshop, “Vartalap”, on Thursday to enhance awareness among local journalists about various Central government schemes and policies being implemented in Manipur. The programme, held at the Sangai Hall of Hotel Imphal, formed part of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting’s media outreach initiative aimed at fostering a closer interface between the government and the public through the media. The workshop brought together over 40 journalists from different media houses across the state. The event commenced with the collective singing of Vande Mataram and was graced by Director of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Government of Manipur, Ngangom Uttam Singh, as the chief guest. Dr. Engam Pame, IIS, Director of PIB Imphal, presided over the function, while Asem Bhakta Singh, President of the All Manipur Working Journalists’ union (AMWJU), and Yumnam Rupachandra Singh, General Secretary of the Editors’ Guild Manipur, attended as guests of honour. Uttam Singh lauded PIB Imphal for organising the workshop, describing it as an effective platform for dialogue between the media and the government. He emphasised that journalists must possess in-depth knowledge of government schemes and policies to ensure accurate dissemination of

information at the grassroots. “Misinformation and incomplete information are dangerous,” he cautioned, urging media professionals to uphold their role as facilitators of truth and transparency. Dr. Engam Pame highlighted the pivotal role of the media in building public awareness and trust in government programmes. He stated that the success of any policy depends on the active participation of the people, which can only be achieved when citizens are well informed. “Vartalap seeks to create an interface between government stakeholders and the media, developing a smooth information flow and empowering journalists with authentic data,” he said. Dr. Pame further noted that this was the 11th Vartalap organised by PIB Imphal and that the initiative is part of a broader effort to counter misinformation and strengthen factual communication in the digital era. He observed that false or misleading information poses serious challenges in today’s media environment and urged journalists to lead the fight against disinformation through verification and fact-checking. Pushpa Maibam, Media and Communication Officer of PIB Imphal, delivered the keynote address and welcomed the dignitaries and participants. She expressed confidence that Vartalap would serve as a meaningful platform for government departments and media professionals to engage in constructive discussions aimed at

ensuring that welfare schemes reach their intended beneficiaries. The technical session that followed the inaugural ceremony featured three resource persons who presented papers on diverse subjects, ranging from cultural preservation to sports development and cyber security. G. Dharmadas Sharma, Joint Director of Art and Culture, Government of Manipur, elaborated on the department’s efforts to promote cultural harmony and preserve the rich heritage of the state. He underscored the role of the Manipur State Kala Akademi in fostering artistic excellence and spoke about the various Central and state-level schemes providing financial assistance to artists and cultural organisations. Dr. Mayengbam Veto Singh, Director of Youth Affairs and Sports, highlighted Manipur’s outstanding achievements in sports, noting that the state has produced 19 Olympians, including three medalists — the highest in the Northeast. He said that the Khelo India Centre of Excellence at Khuman Lampak Sports Complex is playing a vital role in nurturing future champions and strengthening the sporting ecosystem. He added that the department continues to create better infrastructure, training facilities, and employment opportunities for sportspersons, with support from both the state and Central governments. On the theme of cyber awareness, Dr. Angom Buboo Singh, Scientist-E at

NIELIT Imphal, delivered a presentation on “Cyber Security.” He defined cyber security as the practice of protecting computer systems, networks, and data from digital attacks and emphasised that journalists, being custodians of sensitive information, are often high-value targets for hackers. He cautioned that in an age of increasing digital surveillance, journalists must prioritise both digital and physical security. Dr. Angom also highlighted NIELIT Imphal’s initiatives in promoting cyber safety awareness in schools, colleges, and law enforcement agencies, including cyber forensic training for police personnel. The presentations concluded with remarks from Moirangthem Rustum Singh, Assistant Director, Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Field Office Chandel, who summarised the discussions and reiterated the importance of collaboration between the media and the government in ensuring the effective implementation of welfare policies. Through Vartalap, PIB Imphal reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening the government-media partnership by fostering informed journalism and countering misinformation. The workshop underscored the crucial role of the media as the “fourth pillar of democracy” in bridging the communication gap between the government and the people, ensuring that policies not only reach the public but also resonate with their needs and aspirations.

## Delhi BJP condemns Saurabh Bharadwaj's alleged 'costume' remark on plaster cast of person injured in blast

New Delhi, Nov 13 (UNI) Hitting- out at AAP leader Saurabh Bharadwaj over his remark related to an injured being treated at the LNJP hospital following the blast near Red Fort, Delhi BJP spokesperson Praveen Shankar Kapoor on Thursday criticized the AAP leader's statement accusing him of questioning the doctors of the hospital, by calling a 'plaster cast' a 'costume.' Kapoor strongly condemned a post on social media platform X, made by the AAP leader Bharadwaj, where he shared photographs of a person said to have been injured due to the blast near Red Fort. According to Kapoor, one picture was from November 10 and another November 12, and in a post on X, Delhi BJP spokesperson stated that, "Saurabh, you have been posting many political posts against BJP leaders till date, but this one is shameful." Kapoor stated, "by calling a plaster cast" a costume, you are also questioning the credibility of the doctors." The BJP leader mentioned that it takes some time in some cases to determine the right line of treatment, and

he mentioned that back in 2022, he had got injured, and the doctor had decided to put a plaster cast on his leg after three days. The BJP leader has sought explanation from Bharadwaj, asking on what medical basis did he call the plaster cast on the injured patient's hand on November 12 a "costume." Sharpening his attack on the party, Kapoor alleged that only AAP leaders like him can mock a victim in this way, like earlier AAP national president Arvind Kejriwal had demanded proof of army's valour. Kapoor said that Bharadwaj, who is a political follower of Kejriwal, who once demanded proof of the Army's bravery, has now posted two photos of an injured patient taken on different days, insinuating that the patient was made to wear a "costume." The spokesperson further said that by making such a low comment about one of those who got injured due to the Red Fort blast, Bharadwaj has not only cast aspersions on the character of the patient, but also tarnished the reputation of the doctors at the LNJP hospital.







STANDARD POST

Public health of Indians at risk due to substandard imports of PVC Resin

Extensive dumping of poor quality PVC resin, containing carcinogenic compounds, in India, poses a significant risk to public health, the Centre for Domestic Economy Policy Research (C-DEP.in), has said.PVC (Poly-vinyl chloride) is a synthetic resin commonly used in plastic products. It is hazardous throughout its lifecycle, from production, through usage, and as a waste product. Resins are used in varnishes, adhesives, food additives, incenses and perfumes. PVC resins can cause severe health problems, including cancer, endocrine disruption, endometriosis, neurological damage, birth defects, impaired child development and reproductive and immune system damage.

PVC currently contributes nearly 30 percent of India’s economy, with widespread use across water, sanitation, irrigation, healthcare, construction and infrastructure.The C-DEP.in, in a report highlights how high levels of Residual Vinyl Chloride Monomer (RVCM), a Category 1A carcinogen (as per Internation Agency for Research on Cancer) continue to be present in PVC resin brought into the Indian market, with concentration up to five times higher than globally accepted safety limits.

The report titled “Balancing Growth and Public Health Safety: Criticality of PVC QCO in India” was launched at IIT Delhi on Thursday.

“The Modi government has been championing the Zero Defect, Zero Effect by adopting Quality Control Order (QCO). Such a policy step by the government is strengthening consumer safety and industrial standards while promoting exports from India that are dependable and of high quality,” Dr. Jaijit Bhattacharya, President of C-DEP.in, said.

The report notes that the proposed Quality Control Order (QCO) on PVC resin was notified by the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals (DPCP) in August 2024, and subsequently deferred thrice. The order is now scheduled to be enforced in December.

“Quality Control Orders (QCOs) should not be limited to finished goods alone. It is equally or more important to cover raw materials as the quality of a final product is only as strong as the materials that go into it. To truly protect public safety and establish fair competition for domestic producers, QCOs must encompass the entire value chain, ensuring quality and accountability at every stage of production.” Anil Sharma, of The Swadeshi Jagran Manch, said at the launch of the report.

Anil Sharma said the Swadeshi Jagran Manch (SJM) is committed to achieving a self-reliant India.

“We are focused on prioritizing the protection of domestic industries and actively encouraging the use of indigenous products. Our mission is to influence policy, thereby strengthening national economic independence and ensuring Indian businesses are successfully positioned in the global market,” he added.C-DEP research indicates that over 39 overseas players have already procured the required BIS certification for exporting to India making BIS-certified capacity at 3.4 times the current domestic demand for PVC. Full enforcement of the standard, therefore, would not disrupt supply, instead, it would strengthen predictability, trust, and quality assurance across the manufacturing chain.

Moreover, the proposed framework aligns with international best practices. The European union and countries like the United States and Thailand regulate Residual Vinyl Chloride Monomer (RVCM) levels in PVC resin within a stringent range of 0.5 ppm to 3 ppm, ensuring safety in water and food-contact applications.

India, however, does not yet have a binding national limit on RVCM which has allowed imports of PVC resin from China with concentrations reported between 5 ppm and 10 ppm.This difference in quality benchmarking has resulted in continued inflow of lower-grade resin into the domestic market, reinforcing the need for timely implementation of the PVC QCO to ensure Indian standards are at par with global safety benchmarks.

In this context, the report’s release contributes to the ongoing dialogue on quality standards, consumer safety and public health in India.

Children’s Day: More Than Celebration ; A Commitment for future

(A.Ibrahim Sheriff IRPFS/ Standard Post Bureau)

Every year, 14th November is celebrated as Children’s Day in India, commemorating the birth anniversary of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, a leader who cherished children and believed in nurturing them as the architects of India’s future. On this joyful day, schools resound with laughter, parks fill with colour, and communities gather to celebrate the spirit of childhood. But amidst the festivities, there exists a silent, vigilant force ‘one that works round the clock, not with balloons or sweets, but with courage and compassion ‘to protect the innocence of children in one of the busiest public spaces in the world ie. the Indian Railways’. We are talking about the Railway Protection Force (RPF), the unsung heroes who safeguard more than just passengers and railway property.

“The children of today will make the India of tomorrow.”

– Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

RPF protect dreams and they protect children. But in the corners of railway platforms, under staircases, in waiting rooms and on moving trains, are thousands of children who know nothing of this celebration. Children who are trafficked in broad daylight, unseen by rushing crowds, Children who have run away from abuse, only to fall into another trap, Children who are abandoned, lost, or coerced into child labour, their innocence stolen long before its time. For these forgotten faces, Children’s Day is not a celebration, it is a plea for help. The group answering this call are men and women in khaki of the Railway Protection Force (RPF).

RPF: Where Duty Meets Compassion

While the RPF is known for its role in railway security, many are unaware of its pivotal contribution to child protection. Railway stations, often overcrowded and chaotic, can become danger zones for children, places where they may get separated from families, fall prey to traffickers, or simply go unnoticed in distress. It is here, in these very spaces,



A.Ibrahim Sheriff IRPFS, DIG-Cum-CSC, RPF/Southern Railway

that RPF personnel become lifelines, stepping in not just as law enforcers, but as guardians, mentors, and caregivers.

The RPF: From Property Protectors to Child Rescuers:

The RPF, established in 1957, was originally mandated to safeguard railway property and further entrusted with the responsibility to ensure passenger security. But over the years, it has evolved into something more powerful, a lifeline for thousands of endangered children moving through India’s massive railway system.

Why the Railways? Because traffickers, child labour agents, and abductors prefer trains. They offer anonymity amid large crowds. They cross state lines quickly, complicating jurisdiction. They provide access to remote rural sources and large urban destinations of exploitation. The Indian Railways with over 67,000 km of track, 12,000+ trains and 7,000 stations is both a miracle of public transport and tragically, a corridor of vulnerability for children. That’s where the RPF steps in as India’s first line of defence against child trafficking, child labour, and exploitation on the rails.

Operation Nanhe Farishte: Hope in Khaki

The RPF’s nationwide initiative, Operation Nanhe Farishte, is a shining example of child focused policing. In 2017, Indian Railways launched a transformative initiative under the RPF called Operation Nanhe Farishte - literally meaning “Little Angels”. Its mission to To rescue, rehabilitate and protect children in distress on railway premises.

Since its inception, Operation Nanhe Farishte has rescued over 1.6 lakh children, including thousands trafficked for labour, marriage or abuse.

Prevented untold numbers of potential child trafficking and child labour cases. Partnered with Childline (1098), District Child Protection Units, and NGOs for rehabilitation.

Created Child Help Desks at key stations -Child Help Desks: Small Booths with Big Hearts

At major stations, Child Help Desks have become havens for vulnerable children. Operated jointly by RPF, police, 1098 and NGOs to offer- Immediate shelter, food, and medical care,Registration into child protection systems, Connection to Child Welfare Committees and legal aid and tracking of missing child complaints. Children rescued here are not just “handed over.” They are cared for, comforted and heard. Thousands of RPF personnel trained in child rights, trauma care and soft skills in this context. But behind every number is a story, a life, a child with a name and a constable with a conscience.

Children at Risk: Why the Indian Railways Is Ground Zero

India is home to over 472 million children and a large number of them belong to economically and socially vulnerable families. In this environment, children fall prey to Trafficking for bonded labour in factories, eateries, construction sites and homes. Sexual exploitation including being sold into prostitution. Forced begging as part of organized rackets. Early and illegal marriages, especially of girls. Neglect and abandonment due to poverty, addiction or family conflict.

The vast railway network becomes the route through which these illegal transitions take place and the RPF becomes the last hope for interception. On the frontlines, real life heroism by RPF include:- Bangalore, 2022:

A routine patrol on the Yesvantpur platform led to the rescue of 8 boys aged 10–14, who had been promised jobs at a garment factory. In truth, they were destined for bonded labour. Their freedom was restored before it was taken away.

Kanpur, 2023: RPF personnel, trained to spot suspicious behavior, noticed an

agitated 13-year-old girl with a man who claimed to be her uncle. A discreet inquiry and careful questioning revealed she was being trafficked for forced marriage. She was rescued, the trafficker arrested and she is now in school under state care.

Chennai Central, 2024:

A crying 2-year old was found abandoned near the vending stalls. Constable Praveena, a young woman RPF officer, held the child for hours, fed him milk and helped locate his family through CCTV footage. She is now fondly called “Amma” by the boy’s mother.

These are not cinematic tales. These are everyday miracles, performed by ordinary people doing extraordinary work.

Women RPF Personnel: Angels in Uniform

Perhaps the most impactful change in child protection by RPF has come through its increasing number of women constables and officers. With their presence and empathy, children feel safer and more comfortable opening up. Young girls, especially victims of abuse, receive nurturing care. The RPF presents a more balanced, humane face to victims. These women are not only protectors but also they are sisters, mothers and counselors rolled into one.

Whether it’s a constable calming a lost child on a crowded platform or an Inspector chasing down a suspected trafficker, these daily acts of heroism have brought hope and safety/ security to countless young lives. These stories rarely make it to primetime news, but they are testaments to the human spirit in uniform.

Child Labour: A Crisis Hidden in the Open

Even today, thousands of children are illegally employed, some as young as 8 years old. They are sweeping floors in stalls, stitching clothes in shops, washing utensils in trains/ hotels, Breaking bricks in remote sites. They are often transported by trains, their fate sealed before they even know the meaning of “labour.” The RPF, in partnership with labour enforcement authorities and police has rescued thousands of these children and ensured legal

action against exploiters.

Beyond Rescue: Rehabilitation and Hope

Saving a child is only the first step. The RPF also ensures proper documentation and FIRs to prosecute traffickers, Medical and psychological support for trauma recovery, Family tracing and safe return where possible, Long-term rehabilitation through government schemes and NGOs. In many cases, RPF personnel maintain contact with rescued children, witnessing their transformation from victims to confident young individuals.

The Silent War Against Child Trafficking

In India, child trafficking is a shadow crisis, often unnoticed by the public. Traffickers target children from rural or poor families and transport them by train, betting on the anonymity of crowded compartments. But the RPF, with heightened vigilance, intelligence networks andtech support, has emerged as a first line of defense. Special anti-trafficking drives are conducted regularly at stations identified as t r a f f i c k i n g hotspots. Traffickers often operate in silence, masking their victims under the guise of family or employment. The RPF has become adept at reading between the lines of lies and fear.

RPF Anti-Trafficking actions include, Functioning of Anti Human trafficking Units (AHTUs) at identified railway stations, Deploying plainclothes officers on suspicious trains, Monitoring high-risk routes and border states, Using CCTV, facial recognition, and passenger analytics to identify patterns. Questioning passengers when a child’s distress is visible even a tear is enough to intervene. In 2024 alone, over 9,000 children were rescued by RPF across India. Many were just hours away from being lost forever to factories, brothels, or criminal networks.

Empowering the Protectors:

Recognizing the importance of their role, the Ministry of Railways has invested in specialized child protection training for RPF personnel.

Recruitment of more women constables, especially in sensitive zones, strengthening station infrastructure with CCTV, signage and awareness campaigns, enhanced coordination with District Child Welfare Officers and juvenile justice boards. The aim is clear to make Indian Railways not just a transport network, but a safe corridor for every child.

The Children’s Day Message, We Must All Hear

It’s easy to celebrate Children’s Day with songs, balloons, and speeches. But the real tribute to children is ensuring their security, dignity, and future. Let us, this Children’s Day:-

Acknowledge the unseen children in distress on our railway platforms. Salute the RPF warriors who are rescuing lives, not just property. Let’s pledge to support and spread awareness of child rights and protection and encourage citizens to report suspicious cases by calling RPF Helpline 139 or Childline 1098.

The Railway Tracks of Hope

The Indian Railways may be built of steel, but it carries the dreams of India’s children. While it moves people across the nation, the RPF ensures that no child is moved into danger. This Children’s Day, let us remember:-

The childhood must never be lost in transit as long as the RPF is on duty, it won’t be. Let the world celebrate the beauty of childhood. Let the RPF continue safeguarding it - one child, one rescue, one future at a time.

The true strength of a nation is reflected in how it treats its most vulnerable. The RPF is not just a security force, it is a symbol of India’s conscience in uniform. By guarding railway platforms, they are guarding childhood itself. Through its tireless rescue efforts, anti-trafficking operations and empathetic outreach, the RPF ensures that no child is invisible, and no cry goes unheard.

The RPF steps in not just as security personnel, but as saviours.

Let us recognize, support andhonour their work- not just on Children’s Day, but every day.

Jai hind

India, Nepal Ink Deal to Boost Rail Trade Connectivity

New Delhi, Nov 13 (UNI) India and Nepal on Thursday inked a deal amending the Protocol to the Transit Treaty between the two countries facilitating movement of rail-based freight between Jogbani (India) and Biratnagar (Nepal).

At a meeting between Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and Nepal’s Minister for Industry, Commerce and Supplies, Anil Kumar Sinha, interchanged a Letter of Exchange (LoE).

This liberalization extends to key transit corridors- Kolkata-Jogbani, Kolkata–Nautanwa (Sunauli), and Visakhapatnam–Nautanwa (Sunauli), thereby strengthening multimodal trade connectivity between the two countries and Nepal’s trade with third countries.The LoE enables direct rail connectivity along the Jogbani–Biratnagar rail link for both containerized and bulk cargo, facilitating transport from the ports of Kolkata and Visakhapatnam to the Nepal Customs Yard cargo station located in Morang District, near Biratnagar in Nepal.

Mr. Satish Singh Honored with Dr. Vipul Trikha Memorial Sahitya Sadhna Award



(Standard Post Bureau)

On November 9, 2025, during a Kavi Sammelan and felicitation ceremony at RKSD College on Ambala Road, Kaithal, Haryana, Mr. Satish Singh from Mumbai, a banker, senior economic columnist, and literary figure, was awarded the “Dr. Vipul Trikha Memorial Sahitya Sadhna Award” by Sahitya Sabha, Kaithal.

Mr. Singh received the award from Dr. Chandra Trikha, Director of the Haryana Sahitya Akademi. Literary figures such as Dr. Pal Kaur, Sumedha Kataria, and K.K. Rishi also

attended. Currently, Mr. Singh is the Assistant General Manager at the State Bank of India’s Corporate Centre in Mumbai. He has been involved in literary pursuits for 30 years and in financial literacy for 17 years.

He has published over 2,500 articles, more than 60 stories, and more than 250 poems in newspapers and magazines. Additionally, seven of his music albums have been released on OTT platforms. Mr. Singh has received more than a dozen awards for his work in promoting financial literacy and the Hindi language. He has also published three books.



World Diabetes Day 2025 with a special programme titled “Madhumeha Vimarsha” on 14th November 2025.

According to officials for the Ministry, the one-day event will feature the ongoing research, clinical work, and outreach initiatives taken up by the institute in the area of Diabetes mellitus.

Outlining the current measures taken by the government to develop and implement, the ministry noted that the centre has taken an integrative approach for the prevention and management of diabetes through Ayurveda, Yoga, and lifestyle interventions. “So far, around 6,000

Drawing attention to institutions’ outreach efforts beyond clinical care, ministry officials said that the facility has strengthened outreach through digital health initiatives, benefiting over 6 lakh people via e-medical records, teleconsultations, SMS alerts, and information accessible on its website and social media platforms. Speaking ahead of the event, Dr Sulochana Bhat, In-charge, CARI Bengaluru, said, “Our focus has been on combining traditional wisdom with scientific research to address diabetes in a holistic yet evidence-based manner. The Centre’s initiatives reflect how integrative healthcare can

CSIR-CFTRI, Mysuru, and IISc Bengaluru on selected food products and Ayurvedic formulations. “An integrated framework for the prevention and management of Madhumeha has been developed and is in press, while a study on Prakriti and diabetic peripheral neuropathy is also under publication,” the statement noted. Underscoring the institution’s achievements in assessing diabetes risk, CARI has developed a machine learning-based predictive system. Once the validation is complete, a mobile app will be developed to enable individuals to monitor their health more effectively, the ministry noted.

She further highlighted the collaborative studies that are underway with CSIR-CFTRI, Mysuru, and IISc Bengaluru on selected food products and Ayurvedic formulations. “An integrated framework for the prevention and management of Madhumeha has been developed and is in press, while a study on Prakriti and diabetic peripheral neuropathy is also under publication,” the statement noted. Underscoring the institution's achievements in assessing diabetes risk, CARI has developed a machine learning-based predictive system. Once the validation is complete, a mobile app will be developed to enable individuals to monitor their health more effectively, the ministry noted.

Air Marshal Jeetendra Mishra, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Air Command, accompanied him on the historic flight on Wednesday.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has called the airbase, which is 13,700 feet above sea level and only 25 kilometres from China's Line of Actual Control (LAC), a "game-changer."

The facility, which was built at a cost of Rs 218 crore by the Border Roads

The airbase's activation follows a year after China and India resumed joint patrols in the Demchok sector, signalling a slow thaw in ties following the fatal clashes in 2020 that killed 20 Indian soldiers in the Galwan Valley and Pangong Tso region. Military deployment on both sides of the LAC has increased as a result of those clashes, which were brought on by disagreements over infrastructure development close to the Galwan River Valley.

ANDHRA PRADESH TANNERIES LIMITED						
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Extract of Statement of Uaudited Financial Results for the Quarter and Half Year ended 30.09.2025						
[Rs. In Lakhs Except EPS]						
Sr. No.	Particulars	Quarter ended 30.09.2025 (Unaudited)	Quarter ended 30.06.2025 (Unaudited)	Quarter ended 30.09.2024 (Unaudited)	Half Year ended 30.09.2025 (Unaudited)	Year to date 31.03.2025 (Audited )
1)	Total Income from Operations ( Net)	-	4.52	1.00	4.52	1.50
2)	Net Profit / (Loss) for the period after tax (after Exceptional and/or Extraordinary items#)	(2.94)	(1.35)	(9.58)	(4.29)	(27.29)
3	Total Comprehensive Income for the period [Comprising Profit / (Loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)]	(2.94)	(1.35)	(9.58)	(4.29)	(27.29)
4)	Paid up equity share capital- (Face value of Rs. 10/-each)	220.84	220.84	220.84	220.84	220.84
5)	Reserves (excluding Revaluation Reserve) as shown in the Audited Balance Sheet of the previous year	(1,509.96)	(1,507.02)	(1,490.54)	(1,509.96)	(1,505.67)
6)	Earnings Per Share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations) (Not Annualised)					
	(a) Basic	(0.13)	(0.06)	(0.43)	(0.19)	(1.24)
	(b) Diluted					
Note:						
1	The above result were reviewed by the Audit Committee and approved by the Board of Directors at its meeting held on 13th November 2025.					
2	The above is an extract of the detailed format of Quarterly filed with the Stock Exchanges under Regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing and Other Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015. The full format of the Quarterly are available on the Stock Exchange websites. (www.bseindia.com)					
Place : MUMBAI Date: 13.11.2025				By Order of the Board For ANDHRA PRADESH TANNERIES LIMITED Sd/- NARASIMHA REDDI AKKINENI DIN No. 09435476 WHOLETIME DIRECTOR		

"Unity in action, in the wake of adversity, is the need of the hour," Khera said, emphasizing that the terror attack necessitates a cohesive approach with all political parties and state governments.

R Sudhakar, DDG (NER), NCB, emphasised the need for constructive discussions in formulating effective strategies and a comprehensive roadmap to tackle the drug problem in the Northeast, viewing the conference as an opportunity for the states to unite in this common cause.

"Ultimately, truth triumphs, though it may be a little delayed. The court , while preserving sanctity of the Constitution, especially the Tenth Schedule, has also left no doubt about the partisan attitude of the Speaker in deciding defection cases. I wholeheartedly welcome this historic judgment," the Nandigram MLA said.

Jointly organised by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) and the Nagaland government, participants from various central and state law enforcement, intelligence, and security agencies are in attendance.

At a day-long summit organised by the Department of Health

He chalked out a ten-step roadmap to achieve this vision, including measures such as strengthening primary healthcare through 1.8 lakh fully functional Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs), offering comprehensive packages for cancer, hypertension, oral health, and more, promoting

He said the drugs and drug money flowing through these routes feed the nexus of organised crime, insurgency, and narco-terrorism."Dismantling the

MANSOON TRADING COMPANY LIMITED						
Regd. Office: Office No.203, M-Space, 2nd Floor, Sitaram Patkar Marg, Goregaon (West), Mumbai-400 104, CIN : L99999MH1985PLC035905 E-mail: mansoonontradingltd@gmail.com, Website: www.mansoontrading.co.in <b>Unaudited Financial Results for the quarter and half year ended 30th September, 2025</b>						
	(Figures ' in Lacs except EPS)					
Particulars	Quarter ended 30.09.2025 Unaudited	Quarter ended 30.06.2025 Unaudited	Quarter ended 30.09.2024 Unaudited	Half Year Ended 30.09.2025 Unaudited	Half Year Ended 30.09.2024 Unaudited	Year Ended 31.03.2025 Audited
Total income from Operations (net) Net Profit/(Loss) for the period before Tax (after Exceptional / Extraordinary items)	743.38	1,202.37	691.83	1,945.75	1,262.07	2,704.85
Net Profit/(loss) for the period after Tax (after Exceptional/Extraordinary item)	298.06	772.93	272.90	1,070.99	538.04	1,087.39
Total Comprehensive Income for the period (Comprising of Profit/(loss) for the period (after tax) and Other Comprehensive Income (after tax)	243.06	722.93	231.90	965.99	455.04	973.48
Equity share Capital	(67.87)	534.09	501.49	466.22	100.48	583.22
Earning per share (of Rs. 10/- each) (for continuing and discontinued operations)	245.47	245.47	245.47	245.47	245.47	245.47
Basic & Diluted	-	-	-	-	-	13,116.93
	9.90	29.45	20.43	39.35	4.09	39.66



### IEA raises global oil demand growth forecast for 2025

Paris, Nov 13 (UNI/SPUTNIK) : The International Energy Agency (IEA) has upgraded its forecast for global oil demand growth in 2025 to 790,000 barrels per day, and now expects demand at 103.884 million barrels per day, the organization said in its fresh report on Thursday."Accordingly, the non-OECD is set to remain the key driver of a global 2025 consumption increase of 790 kb/d y-o-y," the report read.According to the updated data, global oil demand by the end of 2025 will amount to 103.884 million barrels per day.

### Turkish military plane crashed in Georgia without sending distress signal

Ankara, Nov 13 (SPUTNIK/UNI) : A Turkish military aircraft that crashed in Georgia did not send any distress signals prior to the crash, and its wreckage will be transported to the Erkilet airbase in Turkey's city of Kayseri for a technical investigation, the Turkiye pro-government newspaper reported on Thursday, citing unnamed sources.

On Tuesday, the Turkish Defense Ministry said that a Lockheed C-130 Hercules military transport aircraft had crashed in Georgia. Ankara is reportedly coordinating the search and rescue operation with Tbilisi. The investigation into the cause of the crash will be conducted with the utmost care, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's office stated. On Wednesday, Erdogan said that the bodies of 19 people killed in the crash had been found.

Videos, reportedly filmed by a shepherd and shared on social media, depict the aircraft's tail section detaching first. The main fuselage of the four-engine plane, emitting smoke, is then seen spiraling downward, as per the newspaper report.

An analysis of the crew's radio communications and data from the onboard black box is expected to reveal key details behind the incident, Turkiye reported. Eyewitnesses said there was no explosion or fire while the plane was airborne. The fire broke out only after the fall, accompanied by an explosion, the report added

### Israeli airstrikes target Beit Lahia in Northern Gaza

Jerusalem, Nov 13 (UNI/SPUTNIK) : Israeli aircraft have carried out new air raids on the city of Beit Lahia in the northern Gaza Strip and the eastern districts of Khan Yunis in the south, Al Jazeera broadcaster reported on Thursday.

According to the report, large-scale bombings of homes are underway in the city of Rafah in southern Gaza and in eastern Gaza City. No casualties were reported. Since the start of the truce, the Israeli military has violated the ceasefire over 280 times, resulting in 245 deaths, according to Gaza Strip authorities.

A ceasefire agreement between Israel and the Palestinian movement Hamas in the Gaza Strip came into effect on October 10.

Under the terms of the deal, Hamas released 20 hostages who had been held in Gaza since October 7, 2023, thereby freeing all remaining living captives. In response, Israel released about 2,000 Palestinian prisoners, including individuals convicted of terrorism and serving life sentences.

Following the announcement of the ceasefire, the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) have repeatedly carried out strikes on the Gaza Strip. According to IDF statements, these actions were taken in response to Palestinian ceasefire violations.

### Iranian military sharpens rhetoric, vows Israel's destruction

Tehran, Nov 13 (UNI) : Vowing Israel's total annihilation, Iranian military spokesperson Abolfazl Shekarchi, in a marked sharpening of Tehran's military rhetoric, said that Iran's core aim remains the extinction of the Jewish state.

Making his remarks at a ceremony marking the 14th death anniversary of former IRGC commander Hassan Tehrani Moghaddam, who was killed by the IDF in Nov 12, 2011, in an IRGC base explosion, the official said that the deceased commander had "carried the wish to see Israel wiped out," to his grave, adding "With God's help, this wish will be fulfilled."

Claiming that Tehran's aerospace forces have continued to become "more powerful by the day," he remarked that with each loss, the Islamic Republic becomes stronger, emboldened by the blood of martyrs.

"We never become weak — with every martyr we become more steadfast," he said, reports Iranian-Israeli media.Other senior commanders used the same gathering to revisit the 12-day June war with Israel. Deputy IRGC chief Ali Fadavi said "all the world stood with Israel but they did not succeed," adding that Iran had "acted on its duty" during the fighting and that "when duties are carried out, the promises of God are fulfilled."Vahid Azizi, head of parliament's national security committee, added that Tehran viewed the conflict as "an opportunity to understand the shortcomings and the needs" of the military, and will boost its capabilities in as per its findings, to "prepare for what may come next."The comments mark a deepening of Tehran's anti-Jerusalem rhetoric, as many senior political and military officials have spoken about the prospects of another war with its nemesis sometime in the future, which they have said will be far larger in scope and scale, than the recent one.

Israeli officials had likewise made similar comments, as PM Benjamin Netanyahu had called the Islamic Republic a lingering threat for the country, during a session at the Knesset, while IDF officials warned that any mischief by Iran will be met with a "far more destructive" disproportionate response by Tel Aviv.



People react as a convoy carrying the hostages released from the Gaza Strip arrives at a military base near Reim, southern Israel.

## Bangladesh to hold referendum on 'July Charter' alongside national polls in Feb 2026: Yunus

Dhaka, Nov 13 (UNI) : Bangladesh Chief Advisor Muhammad Yunus on Thursday said that the country will hold a national referendum on implementing its 'July Charter' and other reforms alongside the national elections on the same day in the first half of February 2026.

In a televised address to the nation, Yunus said the interim administration is preparing for an "inclusive, festive and fair" vote and will take the necessary legislative steps to enable the referendum.

He added that, in line

with the July Charter, the government has already framed the referendum questions to be placed on the ballot.

Yunus said the Council of Advisers have approved the 'July Charter Implementation Order 2025', and it will be implemented depending on the outcome of the referendum.

Yunus said that the 'July Charter Implementation Order provides for a referendum on constitutional reform proposals drawn from the July Charter and the subsequent establishment of a Constitutional Reform

Commission to implement amendments following the vote.The July Charter, which includes over 80 reform proposals, was drafted by a National Consensus Commission led by Yunus after consulting with several political parties, including the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of former prime minister Khaleda Zia and the Jamaat-e-Islami.

Later on Thursday, Bangladesh formally issued the July National Charter Implementation Order, 2025, with the government publishing the gazette.

The notification was

released by the Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, giving legal effect to the order.On October 17, the charter was signed by representatives of 24 political parties, including the BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami, at the South Plaza of the Jatiya Sangsad.

Later that day, the charter was also signed by the chair of the National Consensus Commission and Chief Adviser, Dr Muhammad Yunus, completing the political endorsement process.

## India assures Botswana of easy access to quality, affordable medicines, ARVs

Gaborone (Botswana), Nov 13 (UNI) : India has assured Botswana, a country in southern Africa that faces one of the highest HIV prevalence rates in the world, that it will provide it with easy access to quality and affordable medicines, most importantly ARVs or Anti-Retroviral therapy.

This assurance was given during the visit of President of India, Droupadi Murmu to Gaborone.

Speaking at a joint press briefing with her counterpart, President Duma Boko, President Murmu stated that Botswana and India have entered into an agreement to help “In providing easy access of good quality and affordable Indian medicines to the citizens of Botswana. I also conveyed to President Boko, India’s decision to send essential ARV medicines as

requested by Government of Botswana.”

The two countries have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for cooperation in the health space in response to the current medical supplies shortage in Botswana.

This was revealed by President Advocate Duma Boko at the official talks with President Murmu, who is in Botswana on a three-day state visit.“India is one of the foremost manufacturers of pharmaceutical products, especially generic drugs, thus, we will strengthen the relationship and converge in many areas of mutual interest,” President Boko said.President Boko said Botswana was thankful for the two countries’ cooperation, particularly in the health sector as cemented by the signing of the MoU, which would, among others, facilitate

Botswana’s access to affordable and quality medicines.“We are confident that the agreement would be able to address some of the crises currently bedevilling our health system,” he added.

He therefore, commended India for the visit, citing that it afforded Botswana the opportunity to reaffirm its appreciation to India for the support in many aspects.

Notably, Botswana has made significant progress in its fight against HIV, becoming a global leader in treatment and prevention efforts, yet it continues to face one of the highest HIV prevalence rates in the world.The national HIV prevalence rate among adults (ages 15-49) is approximately 19.7-20.8%, one of the highest globally, with about 329,000 adults living with HIV. Females are disproportionately affected.

## US State Secy Marco Rubio says 'some concern' in Washington

Washington, Nov 13 (UNI) : US Secretary of State Marco Rubio has said "there's some concern" among officials in Washington with regard to the recent spate of settler violence in the West Bank between Jewish nationalists and Palestinians, voicing worries over the possible fallout that could unravel in its aftermath, potentially undermining all efforts being made at maintaining

the volatile ceasefire in Gaza."Certainly, there's some concern about events in the West Bank spilling over and creating an effect that could undermine what we're doing in Gaza," Rubio told reporters in a press briefing on Wednesday, adding that hopefully the recent bout of violence will not undermine the ceasefire.He further hailed the condemnations issued by Israeli President Isaac Herzog and other senior

IDF commanders against the settler violence, a day after dozens of Israeli nationalists launched a large-scale arson attack on the residing Palestinians in the region, targeting factories and farmland between the major cities of Nablus and Tulkarem, reports Times of Israel. Despite Herzog's remarks, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the rest of his coalition have declined to comment on the matter.

## US govt ends 43-day-long shutdown as Trump signs bipartisan deal

Washington, Nov 13 (UNI) : US President Donald Trump on Wednesday night signed into law a bipartisan funding bill to reopen the federal government, officially ending the 43-day shutdown — the longest in the country's history.

The House of Representatives passed the measure earlier in the day by 222 votes to 209, before sending it to the President's desk for signing the accord into effect.

Trump signed the bill during a ceremony at the White House, surrounded by senior Republican lawmakers, including House Speaker Mike Johnson.

"Shutting down the government is no way to run a country," the President said before signing, reports Axios. "I hope we can all agree that the government should never be shut down again."

The Wednesday vote marked the House of Reps' first session in 54 days, as lawmakers had been in recess throughout the shutdown. Following the end of the shutdown, lawmakers are expected to return to Washington by next week to address the massive backlog of legislative businesses.

The bill funds the government through

January 30, reverses thousands of federal worker layoffs that began after October 1, and provides full-year funding for several key federal agencies.

The shutdown — now concluded after nearly seven weeks — had left hundreds of thousands of federal employees without pay and disrupted essential services, from food assistance to air travel, across the country.

The vote also reflected deep divisions within both parties. Two Republicans, Thomas Massie (R-Ky.) and Greg Steube (R-Fla.), voted against the bill, joining the majority of Democrats.

Meanwhile, six Democrats — Jared Golden (D-Maine), Adam Gray (D-Calif.), Don Davis (D-N.C.), Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (D-Wash.), Tom Suozzi (D-N.Y.), and Henry Cuellar (D-Texas) — crossed the aisle to vote in favour of the deal.

The bill's passage came after eight Senate Democrats broke ranks to negotiate with Republicans and the White House, agreeing to reopen the government in exchange for a promise of a Senate vote in December on extending Affordable Care Act (ACA) tax credits before they expire at year's end.

## India performs better in emission cut goal than China and US

Belem (Brazil), Nov 13 (UNI) : India is making notable strides in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, particularly as global carbon dioxide (CO2) levels are expected to peak in 2025, said a vital report released at the Cop30 here on Thursday.

According to the latest Global Carbon Budget report, carbon emissions from fossil fuels are set to rise by 1.1% in 2025, hitting a staggering 38.1 billion tonnes in the world.

India's emissions are projected at 3.2 billion tonnes for 2025, contrasting sharply with China's anticipated 12.3 billion tonnes and the USA's 5 billion tonnes. The European union is expected to contribute the least, at 2.4 billion tonnes, as highlighted in the 20th Global Carbon Budget report issued by Future Earth and the World Climate Research Programme.Despite the legally binding commitments outlined in the Paris Agreement, global emissions have risen by 10% since its signing in 2015, indicating that developed nations are not on the right track.The report offers important insights, revealing that India's annual carbon emissions climbed to 3,193.5 million tonnes in 2024, with projections suggesting an increase to 3,229.3 million tonnes in 2025.Interestingly, amidst overall global emissions growth, China and India are projected to see relatively modest increases in emissions of only 0.4% and 1.4%, respectively, due in part to a significant uptake in renewable energy sources.

## Pakistan asked Taliban leader Hibatullah Akhundzada to issue fatwa declaring war against it 'illegal'

Kabul, Nov 13 (UNI) : A senior Taliban official said that the Pakistani delegation, during the two sides' recent talks in Istanbul had asked Taliban leader Hibatullah Akhundzada to issue a fatwa against the ongoing Afghan-Pakistan conflict, declaring any attacks on their fellow Islamic neighbour "illegal".

Rahmatullah Najib, head of Afghanistan's negotiation team and deputy interior minister in the Taliban administration, said the delegation rebuffed the request, telling Islamabad that Akhundzada "issues orders and decrees, not fatwas."""The Afghan Taliban cannot declare the war in Pakistan either legitimate or illegitimate," Najib said, adding that the conflict "does not belong to the Taliban."Additionally, in a mockery of the request, he told the Pakistani side to formally submit its desire for a fatwa issuance to the Taliban's Dar al-Ifta - its principle religious authority - if it was serious about the request.

He added that the Dar al-Ifta's rulings are impartial and "are issued according to Sharia principles, not political preferences," so Islamabad should not expect a biased ruling "tailored to its wishes."

Najib said one of the main topics discussed during the second round of the Istanbul talks was "control" of all the rogue elements on both sides of the border, with Kabul and Islamabad agreeing to restrain all elements considered "malicious" by authorities.The Afghan minister said that the Taliban presented their Pakistani counterparts with two very "clear and achievable" demands during the talks, both of which were "simple and practical," blaming Pakistan for the failure of all dialogue due to its "unrealistic expectations."The Taliban's demands included the elimination of all the ISIS camps operating in Pakistan along with the detention of all its leaders, and an end to Pakistani military's constant violations of sovereign Afghan airspace, amid the recent bombings by the PAF fighter jets in various civilian areas in Afghanistan.

Furthermore, spouting the same predictable rhetoric, Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, during the second round of talks announced that Islamabad was seeking Taliban's cooperation to curb Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) activity, and asked Afghanistan to officially designate the TTP as a terrorist organisation and expel its members from Afghanistan.

The Taliban has repeatedly denied harbouring any foreign fighters on its soil, stating that it won't allow Afghan soil to be used by any third country for nefarious purposes, and have so far refused to label the TTP a terrorist group, calling the group Pakistan's internal matter.



Shillong Lajong maintain dominance against Rangdajied by winning SSA Super Cup final!

Shillong, Nov 13 (UNI) : Shillong Lajong maintained their dominance over rivals Rangdajied United by winning the final of the inaugural SSA Super Cup 2025 3-1 at the SSA Stadium at First Ground, Polo, here on Thursday evening.

It was far from an easy contest as the local giants thrilled the thousands of spectators who packed into the stadium with a highly competitive match. To win, SLFC had to overturn a one goal deficit when Denelson Pyngrope (25') gave Rangdajied the lead. A penalty conversion by Iohrborang L.Lyngkhoh (45' 2') just before the break and two goals in the second half from Player of the Final Wilbert Marbaniang (55', 72') sealed the result in Lajong's favour. Chief Minister Conrad Sangma, Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Wailadmiki Shylla, Adviser to the Chief Minister Paul Lyngdoh MLA and SSA President Banteidor Lyngdoh MLA were among the dignitaries present. As champions, Lajong were awarded Rs 2 lakh while Rangdajied received Rs 1 lakh.

Meanwhile, the prize distribution ceremony that followed the final was also utilised to honour Langsning, who won the Shillong Premier League 2025 title last month. They were awarded Rs 6 lakh as champions, with Lajong, who were the runners-up, taking home Rs 3 lakh. An individual award was also presented to Loving Suting of Mawlai as the Top Scorer with seven goals.

The SSA was also honoured to have the Chief Minister present to officially unveil the trophy of the new SSA Champions Cup, the exciting league-cum-knockout tournament that will feature the top two teams from each of the SSA's five men's divisions. The tournament will start in the last week of November at the conclusion of the First Division.

Naisha wins back-to-back crown; Akshay wins U15 title in National TT Championship

Panchkula, Nov 13 (UNI) : Fourth-seeded K. Akshay Bhushan, the lone surviving seed in a demanding 128-player draw, rose to the occasion and clinched the Under-15 Youth Boys title at the fourth UTT National Ranking Table Tennis Championships at the Tau Devi Lal Multipurpose Indoor Stadium.

The Tamil Nadu paddler showcased composure and tactical maturity, overcoming Maharashtra's unseeded but impressive Nilay Pattekar with a 3-1 victory in the final.

In the Under-15 Girls category, top seed Naisha Rewaskar reaffirmed her dominance by successfully defending her title, securing back-to-back championships. The Maharashtra youngster delivered a commanding performance against second-seeded Ankolika



Harmanpreet Kaur, captain of Women's ODI World Cup 2025-winning Indian cricket team, interacts with students during a felicitation ceremony, at a school in Chennai

India gear up for Billie Jean King Cup battle

Bengaluru, Nov 13 (UNI) : The air in Bengaluru is charged with anticipation — and perhaps a touch of nervous energy — as India prepares to host one of its most important women's tennis showdowns yet.

The Billie Jean King Cup Playoffs are here, and Group G — featuring India, the Netherlands, and Slovenia — promises drama, emotion, and maybe even a few goosebumps.

At the SM Krishna Tennis Stadium, the tricolour will wave proudly as India chases history on home soil. They'll take on Slovenia on Saturday and then the Netherlands on Sunday. The reward for the group winner? A coveted place in the World Group qualifiers — tennis' version of the big league.

For India's captain Vishal Uppal, this isn't just another tie — it's something more.

"It's definitely an honour and very special for us to be playing the Billie Jean King Cup Playoff in Bengaluru," he said, with unmistakable pride. "India women's tennis is on the right path. Playing in India is a privilege, and we're very excited to be here."

It's been months since the team last gathered in Pune, but the camaraderie hasn't dimmed. "We've

stayed in touch, tracking each other's progress," Uppal added. "Now, it's about becoming one cohesive unit and focusing on what we can control — our effort, our energy, and our attitude."

If his words sound measured, the vibe inside the camp is anything but subdued. There's a quiet confidence, and young star Sahaja Yamalapalli embodies it.

"It's great to have a team around you. You can fall back on each other, and it really changes the way you approach the game," she said, smiling as she spoke about the spirit that binds them. Meanwhile, the visitors have already settled in. The Slovenians, led by world No. 19 Tamara Zidansek, were the first to arrive, determined to acclimatise. "We came early because the conditions are unique — a bit of altitude, bouncy courts, and lively balls," Zidansek explained. "It's been great to get those extra days to adjust."

The Dutch, however, aren't here just to participate — they're here to stamp their authority. Ranked 14th in the world, the Netherlands arrive with confidence and experience, led by the assured Elise Tamela. "Every match is different, and last year gives

us confidence," she said. "But country ties are unpredictable — anything can happen. What matters is that we've prepared well, and we have."

The tone has been set. The courts are gleaming under the Bengaluru sun. The practice sessions have grown louder. India and Slovenia have been training since November 8, while the Netherlands joined on November 10 — all fine-tuning their strokes on the quick, high-bouncing hard courts. And now, the stage is ready for three afternoons of pure tennis theatre — starting tomorrow, when Slovenia and the Netherlands square off. India steps in on Saturday against Slovenia, before the grand finale on Sunday: India vs Netherlands, 3 PM.

It's more than just tennis. It's pride. It's home advantage. It's a shot at the world stage.

Squads: India: Sahaja Yamalapalli, Shrivalli Bhamidipathy, Ankita Raina, Riya Bhatia, Prarthana Thombare.

Netherlands: Suzan Lamens, Arantxa Rus, Anouk Koevermans, Demi Schuurs.

Slovenia: Tamara Zidansek, Kaja Juvan, Dalila Jakupovic, Nika Radisic.

also from Tamil Nadu, 11-3, 11-4, 11-4. Akshay advanced after a four-game fight against Rundranil Jana of West Bengal, winning 11-9, 10-12, 11-8, 11-6. Rishaan edged past Vatsal Duklan of Haryana in a tight five-game contest 11-6, 7-11, 9-11, 11-6, 11-9, while Nilay defeated Akash Rajavelu of Tamil Nadu 11-9, 6-11, 12-10, 11-8.

In the girls' category, Naisha and Ankolika sealed their spots in the championship match following contrasting semifinal encounters.

Naisha delivered one of the most dominant performances of the day, brushing aside Maharashtra's Myraa Sangelkar 11-1, 11-7, 11-5. Ankolika, meanwhile, had to dig deeper in her semifinal clash, defeating Sreejani Chakraborty of West Bengal 11-6, 12-10, 10-12, 11-5.

Esha & Manu Bhaker in contention for finals

New Delhi, Nov 13 (UNI) : Esha Singh and Manu Bhaker are in strong contention for a place in the final of the women's 25m Sport Pistol event at the ISSF World Championship Rifle/Pistol 2025, currently underway at the Olympic Shooting Range in Cairo, Egypt. After the completion of the Precision stage on Thursday, Esha stands fourth while Manu is placed seventh among the lineup of 85 shooters. Olympian Esha shot 294-11x (98, 97, 99) while double Olympic medalist Manu shot 292-11x (98, 96, 98) to keep herself within striking distance of the leaders. The third Indian in the fray, Rahi Samobhat, is currently placed 56th with 284-7x (95, 96, 93).

Currently leading the qualification is Turkey's Sevvall Ilayda Tarhan, who was flawless with a near perfect 299-12x (100, 100, 99), followed by Paris Olympic silver medalist Camille Jedrzejewski of France (98, 99, 98) and Iran's Haniyeh Rostamiyan (99, 99, 97) both with 295-13x, the French shooter taking second place on countback. Iran's Golnush Sebgatollahi and Mina Ghorbani are placed fifth and sixth respectively, both with 292-13x, while Lin Jou-Yu of Chinese Taipei completes the top eight with 292-9x (97, 97, 98).

The top eight shooters after the completion of the qualification rounds will advance to the medal round. The Rapid stage will take place tomorrow, followed by the final scheduled for Friday (Nov 14, 2025) at 4:30 PM IST.

Nikhat Zareen eyes World Boxing Cup finals gold at home

New Delhi, Nov 13 (UNI) : Buoyed by a 45-day-long national camp at the Sports Authority of India's Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports in Patiala, two-time world champion Nikhat Zareen is all geared up for the upcoming World Boxing Cup finals to be held from November 14 to 21 at Greater Noida's Shaheed Vijay Singh Pathik Sports Complex.

Nikhat is part of 20-member Indian contingent- 10 men and 10 women- that trained from October 1 to November 14 at SAINSNIS Patiala for the World Boxing Cup.

Nikhat, who lost in the 51 kg quarterfinals of the World Championships in

India U23 men's head coach Naushad Moosa announces 23-member squad for Thailand friendly

New Delhi, Nov 13 (UNI) : India U23 men's national team head coach Naushad Moosa on

Thursday announced the 23-member squad ahead of the side's travel to Thailand. The Blue Colts will play Thailand in a friendly match on November 15, at the Thammasat Stadium in Pathum Thani.

The All India Football Federation has taken up the initiative of arranging training camps and friendly matches for the India U23s during every FIFA International Window, as part of their preparations for the 20th Asian Games, to be held in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan, next year.

India U23 men's squad for Thailand friendly: Goalkeepers: Dipesh Chauhan, Kamaludheen AK, Mohanraj K.

Defenders: Harsh Palande, Joseph Justin, Raj Basfore, Ronney Kharbudon, Sumit Sharma Brahmachari mayum, Sanatomba Singh Yangleam, Yaipharemba Chingakhom.

Midfielders: Ayush Dev Chhetri, Lalrinliana Nhamte, Manglenthang Kipgen, Shami Singamayum, Vinith Venkatesh, Shivaldo Singh Chingangbam, Vibin Mohanan, Mohammed Aimen.

De Minaur had lost his

De Minaur bounces back to keep ATP Finals bid alive

Turin, Nov 13 (UNI) : Alex de Minaur recovered from "a dark place" to keep alive his hopes of progressing at the ATP Finals, while confirming Carlos Alcaraz's place in the knockout stages here.

Requiring a straight-set victory to remain in contention, Australia's De Minaur ended American sixth seed Taylor Fritz's tournament with an impressive 7-6 (7-3) 6-3 win on Thursday, according to a BBC news.

Spain's Alcaraz faces Lorenzo Musetti in the final match in the Jimmy Connors Group later on Thursday, when Italian Musetti will seek to deny De Minaur qualification for the semi-finals.

Although already qualified, Alcaraz will be highly motivated to achieve a third consecutive win - not only to top the group, but to also guarantee the year-end world number one ranking.

De Minaur will be among those willing Alcaraz to victory after maintaining his interest in the season-ending competition despite opening with back-to-back defeats. The 26-year-old was reluctant to trust the news that he would qualify with an Alcaraz win when he was initially informed in his post-match interview.

De Minaur had lost his

past 16 matches against top 10 players, and each of the five matches he had previously played at the ATP Finals.

A painful defeat by Musetti on Tuesday, in which De Minaur held a 5-3 lead in the deciding set before losing four consecutive games to concede the match, had rocked his confidence.

But, against an opponent whom he had lost the two previous meetings, De Minaur reset mentally to produce an inspired display against Fritz. "It means a lot. A couple of days ago I was in a pretty dark place," De Minaur told Sky Sports. "More than anything, I feel proud of my efforts. Not for just coming out and winning, but also the mindset. I made peace with what had happened and just committed."

Speaking in his post-match interview, he said on court: "I've dealt with a fair bit of heartbreak recently. "I've worked really hard, so it was good to get a positive reward for that.

"The loss to Musetti was a tough pill to swallow. I didn't overthink today, I just went out and committed to what I needed to do. I continued to back myself and, whether it worked or it didn't,

I was going to leave it all out there today."

Deafalympics becoming more competitive: Diksha Dagar

New Delhi, Nov 13 (UNI) : Professional golfer Diksha Dagar, who is part of the Indian contingent that will participate at the upcoming Deafalympics in Tokyo, feels that the games are becoming more competitive and stressed that the Deaf should take up sports as a healthy lifestyle. Diksha Dagar who suffers from hearing impairment and uses hearing aids, is looking forward to representing a country at the event.

In an exclusive chat with UNI on the sidelines of the Indian contingent's official jersey and kit unveiling ceremony at Jawaharlal Nehru stadium here, Diksha who has represented India at the Deafalympics on two occasions and the (able bodied) Tokyo Olympics in 2021, said competitive

intensity is different in Deafalympics compared to Olympics "Competitive intensity is different in Deafalympics compared to Olympics, obviously the latter is more competitive. But the Deafalympics are becoming more and more competitive. I played in the 2017 Turkey Deafalympics and then the Caxias do Sul (Brazil) Deafalympics in 2022, there was a marked difference. In India too, earlier people were not aware about the Deafalympics, now there is more awareness and more tournaments."

Diksha, the first golfer ever in history to have competed in both Olympics and Deaflympics, won a Silver for India at the 2017 Deafalympics. She claimed the gold medal in the women's individual event

during the 2021 Summer Deaflympics after defeating USA's Ashlyn Grace in the final. Diksha also spoke about her inspiration, Serbian tennis legend Novak Djokovic. "Apart from Golf another game that I follow is tennis, I find Novak Djokovic to be very inspirational. I have read his biography, how he struggled to cope with his breathing problems during childhood yet became a champion. He is mentally very tough, never gives up. His mother believed so much in him that she had had predicted in advance that her son would become a World champion." Stressing that the Deaf should take up sports as a healthy lifestyle she advised people to be patient and not expect immediate results.

Media in Patiala on Wednesday. "India is hosting the World Boxing Cup finals in Greater Noida, so I am very excited to participate in it. After 2023 World Championships, I am going to compete in India

for the first time, so competing in front of the home crowd is a different experience altogether. As there are lot of expectations from Indian fans, I want to give it my best to bring a smile on their faces," Nikhat said.

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# Central Railway realises over Rs.141 Crores as Penalty from 23.76 Lakh Cases of unauthorised and ticketless travellers during FY 2025-26



(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Nov 13 : Central Railway, in its unwavering commitment to provide a safe, smooth and comfortable travel experience to its valued passengers, has stepped up its efforts to curb unauthorised and ticketless travel across its network. "Through intensified and systematic ticket checking drives, Central Railway has achieved significant results during the financial year 2025-26 (April to October 2025)

During the FY 2025-26, Central Railway's dedicated ticket checking teams apprehended 23.76

lakh passengers travelling without ticket, with improper or invalid travel authority, as against 22.09 lakh passengers during FY 2024-25 which is an increase of almost 8% .

A record amount of Rs.141.27 crores was realised as penalty during FY 2025-26 as against an amount of Rs.124.36 crores realised during FY 2024-25 which is an increase of almost 14 %

During the month of October- 2025, Central Railway ticket checking teams have apprehended 3.71 lakh passengers travelling without ticket, with improper or invalid travel authority as against



3 lakh passengers in October-- 2024 indicating an increase of almost 24%

A sum of Rs.24.81 crores have been realised as penalty from the offenders in the month of October-2025 as against Rs.12.74 crores in October-- 2024, indicating an increase of almost 95% .

Division wise details for the FY-2025-26 (April to October 2025) of passengers caught travelling without ticket / valid ticket and penalty amount realised from them are as follows:

- Bhusaval division Rs.51.74 crores from 6.07 lakh cases,
- Mumbai division

Rs.40.59 crores from 9.63 lakh cases,

- Nagpur division Rs.15.62 crores from 2.53 lakh cases
- Pune division Rs.15.57 crores from 2.67 lakh cases
- Solapur division Rs.6.72 crores from 1.41 lakh cases and
- Headquarters Rs.11.03 crores from 1.45 lakh cases

Central Railway adopts a multi-pronged strategy to detect unauthorised travel which includes station checks, ambush checks, fortress checks, intensive checks, and mega ticket checking drives. These operations

are conducted across Mail/Express trains, Passenger trains, Special trains, as well as Suburban trains in Mumbai and Pune divisions."

In addition Central Railway has introduced a dedicated AC Local Ticket Checking Squad to address issues related to irregular traveling in AC suburban trains on Mumbai Division. The Mumbai Suburban Network of Central Railway runs 1810 services daily including 80 AC local services. This special squad has been deployed to respond promptly to commuter concerns, aided by a dedicated 24/7 WhatsApp complaint number, 7208819987. The AC Local Ticket Checking Squad recovers an average amount of Rs.1.19 lakhs as penalty from approximately 368 cases of passengers travelling without ticket / without valid ticket daily.

Central Railway appeals to passengers to travel with dignity and responsibility by purchasing proper and valid tickets to avoid inconvenience and penalties. The Railway reiterates its zero-tolerance policy towards ticketless travel and remains committed to ensuring that passengers enjoy a comfortable and dignified journey.



## Ministry of Railways Sanctions Ferozepur–Patti Rail Link Project (25.72 km): S Ravneet Singh Bittu

(Standard Post Bureau)

Mumbai, Nov 13 : The Ministry of Railways has sanctioned the Ferozepur–Patti Rail Link Project, covering a total length of 25.72 km at an estimated cost of ₹764.19 crore, including ₹166 crore towards land acquisition to be borne by the Railways. Announcing this at a media briefing today, S. Ravneet Singh Bittu Union Minister of State for Railways and Food Processing Industries, said that the project holds strategic and economic importance, significantly reducing the distance between Ferozepur and Amritsar from 196 km to about 100 km, and shortening the Jammu–Ferozepur–Fazilka–Mumbai corridor by 236 km. It will serve as a crucial link between the Malwa and Majha regions of Punjab, enhancing regional mobility and logistics efficiency.

anking Hon' Prime Minister of India Sh. Narendra Modi ji, Home Minister Sh. Amit Shah ji, Railway Minister Sh. Ashwini Vaishnaw ji for this historic gift to Punjab, Bittu said that the new rail line will connect the Jalandhar–Ferozepur and Patti–Khemkaran routes, providing a direct and alternative connection close to the international

border. Passing through areas of strategic defence significance, it will facilitate rapid movement of defence personnel, equipment, and supplies.

Ravneet said that Beyond strategic benefits, the project promises significant socio-economic gains, benefiting nearly 10 lakh people and creating approximately 2.5 lakh employment opportunities. It will serve 2,500–3,500 daily passengers, particularly students, employees, and patients from nearby villages. The rail link will spur trade and industrial growth, reduce freight transportation costs, and improve access to agricultural markets, thereby boosting investment in education, healthcare, and essential infrastructure. It will also link Amritsar, a major commercial, educational, and religious hub attracting over one lakh tourists daily, with Ferozepur, ensuring faster connectivity and stronger regional integration. Importantly, the new alignment will revive a historic route lost during Partition, reducing the Ferozepur–Khemkaran distance from 294 km to 110 km.DRMAMBALAShri VinodBhatia, CPM / Construction Shri Ajai Varshney, CPM / RLDAShri BalbirSingh,ADRMFirozpurShri Nitin Garg and Shri Dhananjay Singh, EDPG, MOSR were also present there.

## International Academic Conference begins at MANUU : Prof. Purushottam Agrawal and Prof. Nile Green's address at the inaugural

(Standard Post Bureau)

Hyderabad, Nov 13 : Padmavat, a masterpiece of 16th century Sufi and romantic epic poem, written in Awadhi by Malik Muhammad Jayasi in 1540 is not a historical romance but an epic Sufi philosophy", said Prof. Purushottam Agrawal (JNU) today while delivering keynote address in the inaugural session of International Conference at Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU). The topic of his address is "Padmavat: A Glimpse into the Existential Universe of Early Modern India".

Prof. Syed Ainul Hasan, Vice Chancellor, MANUU presided over the inaugural session whereas Prof. Nile Green, Department of History, UCLA, USA delivered a keynote address online on the topic "The migration of a ritual: The wedding of the Saints between Anatolia and the Deccan".

A two day International Academic Conference on the topic "Urdu, Hindi, Arabic & Persian - Civilizational Consilience Across Linguistic, Literary,



Cultural and Intellectual Exchanges" was inaugurated at MANUU today.

Continuing his address, Prof. Purushottam Agarwal expressed deep regret that for today's young generation, the names of Allah and Ram have become battle slogans. The poem "Padmavat" is a symbolic interpretation of the journey from imaginary to real love which combines Hindu and Islamic mysticism. It believed in the unity of existence and believed presence of God in everything and considered love as the means of salvation for the human soul, added Prof. Purushottam Agrawal.

The other keynote speaker, Prof. Nile Green, in his insightful address said that there is a fundamental difference between Islamic culture and beliefs. According to him, beliefs are directly related to religion and customs, while Islamic culture is a cultural sphere that includes everything that has developed under the influence of Muslim rulers, traders, Sufis and intellectuals whether religious or not. According to Prof. Green, Sufism is a crossroads of land and religion. Monasteries were economic centers. Sufi saints used to settle land disputes, and cities have grown around Sufi shrines.

Prof. Syed Ainul Hasan in his presidential remarks said that Sufism is the bearer of the mixed civilization of India. Since the teachings of every Sufi mention about the heart, we all need to understand the only language of heart which is the heartbeat. According to Prof. Ainul Hasan, after listening to the keynote speeches of both the speakers, he learnt a lot and he hopes that all the participants and paper presenters can provide a platform of learning by ensuring a better and more effective academic exchange.

Earlier, the University Registrar, Prof. Ishtiaque Ahmed, delivered the

welcome address and briefed the aims and objectives of the conference. He said that this conference is an important milestone in the history of the university, where eminent scholars and experts of 4 different languages from all over the world are gathering on one platform.

The conference convener, Prof. Syed Imtiaz Hasnain and the Director, Prof. Alim Ashraf Jaisi, presented the conference features in English and Urdu respectively.

Prof. Gulfishaan Habeeb, Dean, School of Languages presented a vote of thanks and Prof. Mohammad Abdul Sami Siddiqui, Co-Convener conducted the proceedings of the inaugural session.

The valedictory talk "The necessity of bringing back humanism into the Language Sciences: Reflections on Civilizational Consilience" will be delivered by Prof. Sangeeta Bagga-Gupta, Jönköping University, Sweden on November 14, 7.00 pm at CPDUMT auditorium, MANUU.

## Waltair Division conducts intensive ticket checking drive : ECoR



(Standard Post Bureau)

Visakhapatnam, Nov 13 : Waltair Division of East Coast Railway conducted a massive ticket-checking drive across its jurisdiction. A total of 197 ticket-checking staff were deployed for the intensive operation covering major trains and stations under the division under the guidance of Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Shri K Pavan

Kumar.

During the drive, cases of ticketless travel, irregular tickets, and unbooked luggage were detected, resulting in the realization of Rs. 8,45,735/- from 1,586 cases. The drive aimed to curb unauthorized travel and ensure greater passenger discipline while safeguarding railway revenue.

In addition, during the month of October 2025, the division achieved a total

earnings of Rs. 2,41,10,000/- through ticket-checking activities, registering 46,930 cases. This marks a substantial increase compared to the corresponding month of October 2024, when the revenue stood at Rs. 2,05,55,000/- from 41,940 cases. The consistent growth in earnings reflects the division's sustained efforts and the consistent measures taken by its ticket-checking teams.

## Compassion, not control': Maneka Gandhi criticises SC order on stray animals

New Delhi, Nov 13 (UNI) Branding the Supreme Court's recent directive to remove and relocate stray animals to shelter homes as "impractical," animal rights activist Maneka Gandhi on Thursday urged the adoption of a more compassionate and humane approach towards the country's stray population.

The former union minister was addressing the media while announcing the first edition of CineKind, a collaboration between Film Federation of India (FFI) and People for Animals (PFA), to honour acts of kindness and humane storytelling in Indian cinema. "The Supreme Court

says remove the dog, remove the cat, remove the monkey, put it in a shelter, sterilise it, but no one can actually do this...it is impractical," Gandhi said, while also criticising the lack of coordination among civic bodies. "Compassion, not control, should guide India's approach to animals," she said while speaking on the issue.

Last week, the Supreme Court, expressing concern over the increasing number of dog bite cases in public places such as schools, hospitals, bus terminals, and railway stations, directed officials to relocate stray dogs to authorised shelter homes. The court further instructed

agencies, including the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), to clear highways and expressways of stray animals and cattle to ensure public safety. Announcing that the first edition of the CineKind Awards will be held in Kolkata on December 20, the minister said that from next year, they will be held in October at a new location. "CineKind will give awards every year to the most compassionate films. It will be held every year in October. Films change the culture of India, and they influence people. It is important to involve the whole of the film industry," she said. "When we watch a film, we laugh, we

cry -- we live the story. But imagine a story that asks: What about the voiceless? What about the creatures who share this world but cannot speak for themselves? With CineKind, we want to shine a light on those stories. Every picture, every scene that honours kindness matters," she went on to add. Recalling the era when animals were widely used in films, Gandhi noted that they often endured significant suffering because there were no proper regulations in place to protect them. "There was a time when cows, horses, and tigers used in movies would die during filming. Tigers were sedated, their teeth and claws pulled out," she said.