TRICOLOUR ESTATE

THE NEWS THAT MATTERS

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CBI books Ozone, Vivansaa in homebuyer fraud; raids 12 sites

New Delhi / Bengaluru



The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday registered five new criminal cases against real-estate developers and unidentified officials of financial institutions, and searched 12 locations in Bengaluru, Mumbai and Pune, in the Supreme Court-monitored probe into alleged cheating of homebuyers.

Four cases have been registered against Ozone Group and related entities over projects in Bengaluru and Mumbai. The fifth case names M/s Vivansaa Baalsam for its Bengaluru project. Unknown bank and housing-finance officials have also been named. The Bengaluru cases against Ozone relate to the group's large integrated township at Kannamangala in Devanahalli taluk, near Kempegowda International Airport. The development, marketed as Ozone Urbana, includes residential components such as Ozone Urbana Avenue, Ozone Urbana Aqua and Aqua 2.

The township was launched more than a decade ago as an 1,800-unit project spread over about 185 acres, with possession originally projected around 2018. Buyers have alleged incomplete construction, delayed handover, subvention-scheme defaults and, in some instances, multiple allotments of the same unit. The Mumbai cases concern Ozone Group projects in the city, including Ozone The Autograph at Wadala.

The group also has other Mumbai developments such as Ozone The Gateway in Andheri West and Ozone Mirabilis in Santacruz East, which investigators are examining as part of the alleged builder-lender nexus. The Vivansaa case relates to Vivansaa Baalsam, a residential project on Sarjapur-Attibele Road in S. Medahalli, Bengaluru, offering apartments and villas.

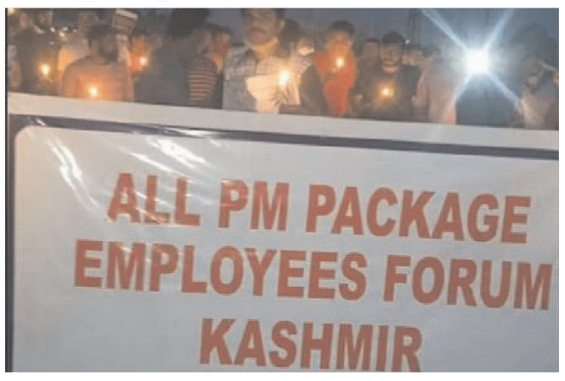
Buyers had approached the Supreme Court alleging fraud and financial irregularity in the project. The five cases allege criminal conspiracy, cheating, criminal breach of trust and criminal misconduct by officials of financial institutions.

CBI said the complaints point to developers collecting buyer and loan funds against promises of timely possession, often under "no pre-EMI till handover" schemes. Meanwhile, lenders continued disbursals and later pressed buyers for repayment even after construction stalled. Searches on Thursday covered offices and other premises linked to these projects. Documents, digital devices and other material were seized and are under examination.

The agency said the operation aims to trace alleged diversion of project receipts, irregular lending and fraudulent practices. CBI had earlier registered 50 cases against builders on the Court's orders. With Thursday's action, the total stands at 55. Ozone Urbana Infra Developers had already been named in an earlier CBI case and chargesheet over a Bengaluru housing project.

In August, the Supreme Court directed a thorough probe into additional representations on Ozone Group projects in Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, and Vivansaa in Bengaluru. Case registration and searches do not establish guilt. Authorities will analyse the seized records before taking further legal steps. For affected buyers in Ozone Urbana, The Autograph and Vivansaa Baalsam, the criminal inquiry runs alongside separate claims for possession, refund or compensation.

Fresh threat letter targets PM package employees in Kashmir



Jammu

A fresh threat letter, the sixth in the last 40 days, targeting Prime Minister's Package employees in Jammu and Kashmir, featuring photographs of protesting staff and an image of an AK-47, has once again created a flutter in the security establishment in the Kashmir valley.

The communication, dated September 10 and attributed to an outfit calling itself the United Liberation Council (ULC), has once again attempted to intimidate the PM Package employees. Speaking on behalf of affected employees, Rakesh Handoo, in a post on X, said that the PM Package employees had faced repeated threats in recent weeks, but no arrests have been made so far.

He said the latest message had raised the intimidation to a new level by using photographs of employees who had recently protested for safer accommodation and security. Some of those images, he said, were of staff whose interviews had been shown on television a day earlier.

The threat letter branded PM Package employees "white-collar terrorist migrant Pandits" and "MHA-backed protesters," claimed to possess details of their whereabouts, families and daily movements, and warned that they could be struck "at will."

"This is not merely a threat on paper. When photographs of employees are circulated with a gun image and the perpetrators claim to possess information about their whereabouts, families and daily activities, it raises extremely serious questions about their safety and the possible misuse of personal data," Handoo said. He urged the Jammu and Kashmir Police and other security agencies to take immediate cognisance of the communication, register a case under relevant law and identify those behind it. He also called for an immediate security assessment of employees whose photographs appeared in the message.

"The government must urgently assess the threat perception of these employees and take whatever security measures are necessary to protect them. Waiting for an actual attack before acting would be a grave mistake," he said.

Handoo sought a thorough inquiry into the alleged circulation of personal information of PM Package employees on social media and other digital platforms. "If individuals with terror links are claiming to possess phone numbers, addresses, family details, movements and other personal information of employees, the source of this information must be investigated. Any unauthorised access, leakage or circulation of such data cannot be ignored," he said.

Nation Focus



INS Mysore reaches Malaysia for Naval exercise

As part of the Indian Navy's operational deployment, its ship INS Mysore arrived at Lumut, Malaysia, on Wednesday to participate in the 4th edition of the bilateral maritime exercise 'Samudra Laksamana' between the Indian Navy and the Royal Malaysian Navy, the defence ministry said here on Thursday.

Exercise Samudra Laksamana comprises of professional engagements in harbour and at sea, including cross-deck visits, operational interactions and sporting engagements. These activities will provide opportunities for personnel of both navies to exchange professional experiences, enhance interoperability and foster greater mutual understanding.

Building upon the momentum generated by recent bilateral engagements, including the 12th India – Malaysia Sub Committee Meeting held in July this year, the visit underscores the strong and enduring maritime partnership between India and Malaysia and reflects the expanding scope of cooperation between the two navies. (PTI)



Former Punjab minister Bhagat Chunni Lal passes away

Former Punjab minister Bhagat Chunni Lal passed away on Thursday, his son and Cabinet minister Mohinder Bhagat said. The 93-year-old Lal breathed his last at his home in Jalandhar.

"Chunni Lal Bhagat ji is no longer with us. We are deeply saddened by his demise," Mohinder Bhagat, who is the Horticulture minister in the AAP Government, said.

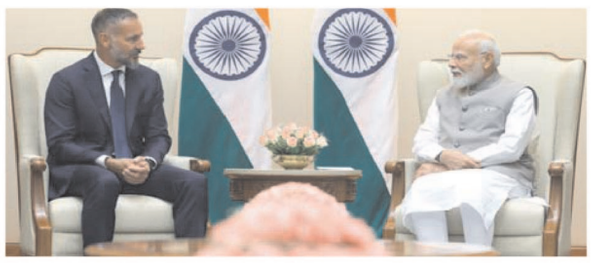
His cremation will take place in Jalandhar at 5 pm on Thursday.

The Punjab Government declared a half-day holiday in view of Lal's demise.

Lal was a cabinet minister in the erstwhile SAD-BJP Government in 2012. He held the portfolios of Local Government and Medical Education and Research in the then Parkash Singh Badal Government. (PTI)

Prince Rahim Aga Khan V, PM discuss development partnership

New Delhi



Prince Rahim Aga Khan V, 50th Imam of the Ismaili Muslims, held discussions with Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on Thursday on India's partnership with the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN) in agriculture and rural development, among other areas.

Prince Rahim Aga Khan V is visiting India from September 9 to 15 following an invitation from Vice President CP Radhakrishnan.

"Happy to meet His Highness Prince Rahim Aga Khan V. Fondly recalled his father, the late Aga Khan IV and his enduring contributions to development efforts. Discussed ways to further strengthen our partnership with the Aga Khan Development Network in healthcare, agriculture, rural development, youth and women empowerment," Modi said in a post on social media.

Prince Rahim Aga Khan V will be visiting Ahmedabad, Mumbai and Hyderabad, where the AKDN is involved in various development and community initiatives. This is his first visit to India since his accession as the 50th Imam of the Ismaili community.

Vice President Radhakrishnan and Prince Rahim Aga Khan discussed further strengthening cooperation between India and the network in sectors such as sports and education.

In a social media post, the Vice President Secretariat said both leaders reaffirmed the need to eradicate radicalisation and underscored that dialogue remains the path to peace, stability and shared prosperity. The 50th hereditary Imam of the Ismaili Community met Radhakrishnan at the Vice President's Enclave here.

The two leaders discussed the Aga Khan Development Network's contributions to water and sanitation, women-led self-help groups, education and community development, and appreciated its impactful initiatives in East Africa and Afghanistan.

Karnataka Govt orders singing of only two Vande Mataram stanzas at State programmes



Bengaluru

The Congress government in Karnataka has ordered that only the first 2 stanzas of Vande Mataram be sung at its programmes, except those attended by the president, vice-president, prime minister or governor.

The order follows a decision taken by the state Cabinet on the playing or singing of Vande Mataram at government programmes and functions held in the state. In January, the Union Home Ministry directed that all 6 stanzas of Vande Mataram be sung before the National Anthem, Jana Gana Mana, when both are played together. The directive was issued as the Centre marked the 150th year of Vande Mataram.

However, the Congress Working Committee decided on August 19 to abide by its 1937 resolution on Vande Mataram, under which only 2 stanzas of the National Song would be sung at party events.

The decision came after the BJP accused Congress leaders of insulting Vande Mataram by not singing its full version at party events.

The preamble to the state government order dated September 8 said Vande Mataram had played a significant role in fostering nationalism, unity and patriotism during the Indian National Movement.

It said the Union Home Ministry had issued guidelines on the official version of the National Song and the protocol for singing or playing it at various government and public functions.

The guidelines specify occasions for playing and mass singing of the National Song, it said.

The state government said the order aimed to ensure uniformity, dignity and adherence to appropriate protocol while singing or playing Vande Mataram at government programmes and functions in Karnataka, depending on the occasion.

"In view of the matters explained in the preamble, it is hereby ordered that, in programmes organised by the state government, only the first two stanzas of the song Vande Mataram shall be sung, except at programmes attended by the president, vice-president, prime minister and governor," the order said.

The opposition BJP in Karnataka on Thursday lashed out at the Congress government, terming the decision "appeasement politics".

Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R Ashoka said the Congress had no limits to its "appeasement politics", not even when it came to Vande Mataram.

Fortress Capital: 30,000 guards, separate hotels and sealed convoys for Xi, Putin and Pezeshkian

New Delhi

The national capital has been transformed into a tightly controlled security fortress ahead of the 18th BRICS Summit, with nearly 30,000 personnel deployed across airports, hotels and the sprawling Bharat Mandapam complex as Chinese President Xi Jinping, Russian President Vladimir Putin and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian prepare to arrive. Security teams from China and Russia are already on the ground.

In the luxury hotels located in Chanakyapuri, where the leaders will be lodging, security teams have been placed and armed with specialised equipment and weapons. Personnel are stationed on all floors, from the presidential suites to the roof levels and the ground floor. The routes for the convoys have been determined, traffic corridors have been closed off, and multiple layers of protection extend from Palam Air Force Station to the summit venue.

Putin is due to arrive on Friday, September 11, and Xi on Saturday, September 12; both will land at Palam and be taken under heavy escort to their respective hotels. Iranian President Pezeshkian will stay at a different hotel. Each leader has a separate security team assigned.



National flags of the various countries participating in the BRICS Summit displayed at the gate of Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi PANKAJ KUMAR

The Delhi Police Special Cell is providing security for President Xi. At Putin's hotel, one additional deputy commissioner and two assistant commissioners are on rotating shifts. Half of the 30,000 personnel are from the Delhi Police, and the other half are from the paramilitary forces. The area is split into sectors, each headed by a senior officer to maintain control. The security plan includes anti-drone systems, rooftop surveillance, and secure routes, and officials say it is more comprehensive than the security arrangement at the 2023 G20 summit.

The two-day meeting of the leaders, held on September 12 and 13, takes place as the enlarged group of 11 members faces tension. Ongoing conflicts in West Asia and Ukraine, strain on energy routes, and diverging member interests have tested BRICS unity. Since it is India's turn to act as chair with the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability", it is attempting to reach an agreement on the New Delhi Declaration while the negotiators are working on the wording concerning the Middle East conflict.

President Xi's presence is particularly important, as this is his first visit to India in seven years and is seen as a careful step toward improving relations between New Delhi and Beijing. Putin is making his second visit in less than a year, and this is Pezeshkian's first trip as Iran's president. On Friday, Putin and Pezeshkian will hold bilateral talks before the formal summit programme begins.

Black SUV key to Odisha orangutan probe, 55 CCTV cameras checked

Bhubaneswar

Odisha Police's STF and the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) on Thursday intensified their probe into the mystery surrounding the rescue of five baby orangutans from a forest in Balasore district and launched a search for a black SUV reportedly seen in the area.

Investigators suspect an international wildlife trafficking network could be behind the presence of the animals in the state, officials said. The forest department rescued the orangutans from Bichitrapur forest under Bhograi block on Tuesday morning.

Investigators are now focusing on a black SUV reportedly seen near Badapahi village in the area on Monday night. The STF has so far examined footage from 55 CCTV cameras installed in Bhograi and nearby Digha in West Bengal.

"We have verified the vehicles' movement on Monday night in both places, but so far there has been no breakthrough," a senior police officer said, adding that the SUV could provide a major clue.

Forest and Environment Minister Ganesh Ram Singh Khuntia said villagers had reported seeing a black SUV in the area where the orangutans were rescued.

"The CCTV footage also confirmed that such an SUV had passed the area around 11.25 pm on Monday. But the footage could only capture the upper portion of the vehicle and not its registration number. Therefore, it is important to locate the mysterious SUV," he told reporters.

The forest department has restricted public entry to Bichitrapur forest as investigators suspect that evidence could otherwise be disturbed or destroyed, sources said.

Police have also recovered face masks from a black polythene bag in the area and suspect they may have been used by those who released the orangutans in the forest.

Local residents have denied any connection with the masks, a police official said.

Regional Chief Conservator of Forests (RCCF) Prakash Chandra Gogineni, who is also director of the Similipal Tiger Reserve, said circumstantial evidence indicated that the animals could have been brought into Balasore from West Bengal through the Digha-Chandaneswar and Bhograi route.



An official feeds baby orangutans, who were recently rescued from Balasore district in a quarantine cell at the Nandankanan Zoological Park, in Khordha district, Odisha PTI

"The circumstantial evidence strongly indicates that the orangutans were brought to Balasore district from West Bengal side using the Digha-Chandaneswar and Bhograi route, which passes through rural areas. The wildlife traffickers deliberately avoided national highways and instead used interior village roads to transport the animals," he said. Based on the forest department's assessment, STF personnel examined CCTV footage from rural roads, including cameras installed at the Kalaghat toll plaza in West Bengal, an official said.

Gogineni said the presence of the animals pointed to a possible international trafficking link, as orangutans are not native to India and cannot be legally bred or kept locally.

He said the animals could have been trafficked from Myanmar through the Northeast into eastern India, taking advantage of the region's geography.

ODISHA WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO BECOME ROUTE FOR WILDLIFE TRAFFICKING: CM



Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi on Thursday ordered a probe into the circumstances under which five baby orangutans were brought to the state, saying Odisha will not be allowed to become a transit route for illegal wildlife trafficking.

Majhi, who is on a five-day business tour of the UAE, expressed deep concern over the rescue of the five baby orangutans from a jungle in Balasore district on Tuesday, a statement issued by the Chief Minister's Office said.

Despite his busy schedule in Dubai, the chief minister has been closely monitoring developments in Odisha and has directed officials to ascertain how the animals reached Balasore and uncover the background of the incident, it said.

Majhi has also ordered an investigation into the route used to bring the rare animals to Odisha, how they entered the state, the people involved in their transportation and the purpose for which they were brought, according to the statement.

"Odisha will never be allowed to serve as a transit route for the illegal trafficking of exotic wildlife. If any network is found to be involved in this illegal transport, it will be identified, and strict action will be taken in accordance with the law," Majhi said.

The chief minister directed the authorities concerned to investigate the matter in coordination with the Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) and other agencies of the Centre. (*PTI*)

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EDITORIAL

All eyes on RBI: Will it cut rates to prop up growth?

The Union Budget 2025-26 has finally met the long-awaited demand of the middle class, pinned down as it is by a persistent inflation, particularly of food items, and stagnancy in wages despite a record surge in the after-tax profits of corporates. FM Nirmala Sitharaman did not waver at the outgo of Rs 1 lakh crore due to tax exemption for up to Rs 12 lakh, saying the tax base itself is small and reposes trust in the middle class loosening their purse strings to boost private consumption – a critical factor amid RBI lowering GDP forecast to 6.6% from 7.2%, and govt lowering it to 6.4%. Also Read - Centre mulls new IT Act for tech-driven taxpayers Even as the dust has settled and analysts are poring over allocations for critical sectors, the euphoria among the middle class is spilling over and all eyes are now on the Reserve Bank of India if it will also cheer them by easing interest rates. The next RBI Monetary Policy Committee meeting is scheduled from February 5 to 7. There are keen expectations from the common man and the industry alike for lower rates. Following a budget booster to private consumption, in view of slackness in investments by industry and businesses, people feel enthused about the new RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra recognising the need to support growth rather than status quo for fear of stoking inflation further. They feel the onus is on the RBI to further stimulate the demand generation. Also Read - Govt creating new Income Tax Act for techdriven taxpayers, scrapping convoluted older law In recent weeks, the RBI undertook certain measures to infuse liquidity in the system, despite the inflation ruling above its target (4% with +/- 2%). For more than four years, it has shunned easing the repo rate from 6.5%. The repo is the rate that the RBI lends to commercial banks. RBI also uses cash reserve ratio or CRR, the percentage of a bank's deposits that it must keep in reserves with the RBI. By raising or lowering the CRR, the central bank affects liquidity in the economy. In December 2024, the RBI slashed the CRR by 50 basis points to 4% to influse ?1.16 lakh crore into the banking system. Also Read - Budget caters to every section of society:CM It is true that interest rate cuts won't increase disposable incomes of consumers, unlike fewer taxes or more direct benefit transfers; but, they will lead to more investments and less unemployment. A cut in repo rate will lead to lower loan interest rates, paving way for more borrowing and spending in the economy. But there are as many sceptics as hopefuls. They point out that with the inflation not showing any signs of abatement, the central bank may not be willing to risk making borrowing any less expensive for banks. If done, it will increase money supply in the system, making it difficult to cool down inflation. They are pouring water on high expectations of interest rate cuts in wake of record depreciation in the rupee value, by as much as 3%, due to external pressures and a slowing economy.







Parliamentary Delegation From Russia Calls On President Murmu



New Delhi: A parliamentary delegation from the Russian Federation, led by H.E. Vyacheslav Volodin, Chairman of the State Duma of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation, called on the President of India, Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan on Monday.Welcoming the delegation, the President said that exchanges of this nature among public representatives not only foster stronger cooperation but also allow the partnership to remain contemporary and updated. She stated that the positive impact of regular contacts is also evident in the broader 'India-Russia Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership', which continues to benefit significantly from the ongoing interaction at various levels.The AAP dispensation in Delhi refused central assistance out of fear that the credit would go to the Narendra Modi-led Union government, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh claimed on Sunday.The Defence Minister addressed three election rallies in the national capital -- at Rajendra Nagar, Laxmi Nagar and Chandni Chowk. Stating that Delhi has had either Congress or AAP in power in the last 26 years, the veteran leader said the BJP should get a turn this time.Speaking at one of the rallies, Singh said India's economy had grown under the BJP government, but Delhi did not benefit from it. "The BJP has not had an opportunity to serve Delhi in a long time. Delhi did not get the development it deserves," he said.Non-governmental organisation Sharaka brought this week the first delegation of intellectuals, influencers, professionals, and academics from India to Israel under its flagship programme 'India-Israel Maitri Project' (IIMP) to promote awareness and understanding through Holocaust education and exposure to the Israeli society.We are honoured to host this Indian delegation. The delegates represent the great diversity and talents of a rising Indian civilisation. There is enormous untapped potential in Israel-India relations, and the knowledge and experiences that they will gain on this visit will lay the foundations for the future of our relations for many years to come," Amit Deri, chairman and co-founder of Sharaka, said at the start of the visit on India's Republic Day."We are excited to host this senior delegation in Israel of Muslim, Hindu, and Christian leaders from India. Although Indians have a general affinity to Israel and vice versa, our societies are not deeply familiar with each other and this presents an opportunity to build on this relationship with the largest democracy, home to one of the largest Muslim communities in the world," Dan Feferman, Executive Director of Sharaka, said.During their six-day visit concluding on January 31, the delegation visited the historic holy sites of Jerusalem, met experts and diverse community leaders, held dialogues with Israeli Arabs and connected with local academics and public policy intellectuals.They also toured the sites impacted by the October 7, 2023 attack carried out by Hamas on Israel, which left around 1200 people dead and 251 others taken as hostages, to get a sense of the current war and geopolitical picture.Their visit included a seminar at Yad Vashem (also referred to as The Holocaust Museum) where participants engaged in discussions on the Holocaust, extremism, genocides in modern history, and how to promote coexistence in societies.The group also attended a Sharaka event in commemoration of 80 years since the liberation of Auschwitz with Holocaust survivor Rena Quint."During this extraordinary visit, an intense and enlightening immersion I would call it, we learned so much not only about Israel or its current conflict with its enemies such as Hamas, but about the almost limitless possibilities of Indo-Israeli friendship and cooperation", Dr Makarand R. Paranjape, noted author, educator, and influencer, told PTI at the conclusion of the visit.The Indian delegation is visiting Israel at a time when there is a visible spike in anti-Israel sentiments in many parts of South Asia because of the war in Gaza.The Delhi High Court on Thursday sought the NIA's stand on a plea by Jammu and Kashmir MP Rashid Engineer seeking interim bail in a terror-funding case to attend Parliament.Justice Vikas Mahajan said, "Let the needful be done before the next date of hearing." Rashid said he wished to attend the upcoming budget session of Parliament, which begins on January 31 and concludes on April 4.Senior advocate Sidharth Luthra, appearing for the NIA, said he would seek instructions on the issue. In the alternative, Rashid sought custody parole during the budget session. The plea forms part of his pending petition on the issue of granting him bail in the case by the NIA.His main petition urges the high court to either direct the expeditious disposal of his pending bail plea by the trial court or decide the matter itself. During the hearing, Luthra said the high court administration filed a plea before the Supreme Court for clarification on the issue.On December 24 last year, additional sessions judge Chander Jit Singh -- who requested the district judge to transfer the case to a court designated to try lawmakers as Rashid was an MP -- dismissed his plea asking for an order on the pending bail application in the NIA case.With the matter sent back to him by the district judge, the trial judge said in his decision that he could only decide the miscellaneous application and not the bail plea.In the high court, Rashid's lawyer said the MP was left without any redressal as the court hearing the bail plea "suddenly" took the view that it could not hear his case and the MP/MLA court did not have the jurisdiction to hear NIA cases.He argued the pendency of the bail plea was resulting in Rashid's constituency being left unrepresented during the parliamentary sessions owing to his continuing custody.The NIA counsel said the probe agency in November wrote to the registrar general of the high court on the issue of designation of a trial court to hear the case but he was not aware of the status of the request.Rashid was elected from the Baramulla constituency in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and has been lodged in Tihar Jail since 2019 after the NIA arrested him under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act in the 2017 terror-funding case.The ED filed a money laundering case against the accused persons on the basis of the NIA's FIR, which accused them of "conspiring to wage war against the government" and fomenting trouble in the Kashmir valley.Cases of the NIA and the ED also involve Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba chief and 26/11 Mumbai attack mastermind Hafiz Saeed, Hizbul Mujahideen leader Syed Salahuddin and others.Jammu and Kashmir's financial liabilities have increased so much that the chief minister Omar Abdullah was compelled to say that the coffers of his treasuries were empty. The empty coffers have put the contractors, pensioners, retired employees and public into dire straits as they find it hard to run their daily chores.Omar in an interview to a news channel admitted that the financial situation of the UT was dire but hoped that the Government of India will bail out his government."From the situation of the last 35 years, our financial situation has not been good. However, the Government of India has supported previous governments and the LG administration also," he said.Omar said the treasuries of the Union Territory were empty and it was very difficult for his government to pay salaries and pensions. "For development, there are not many hindrances in funding. But for paying salaries and pensions, filling the gap becomes very difficult for us when coffers are empty," he said.The situation has become more urgent and grave for redressal as only two months are left in the ongoing financial year 2024-2025. Official sources told ETV Bharat the liabilities of the government towards contractors, pensioners and General Provident fund of retired employees are piling up due to dry treasuries."The government owes more than 3000 crore rupees to the contractors, 1000 crore as GP Fund and other benefits to the retired employees. In the development sector, out of more than 40 thousand crores, only 50 percent funds have been released yet by the centre. The central government must have released 90 percent of the funds till now for the Capex budget so that the pace of development work and projects could have increased," an official in the finance department told ETV Bharat.Jammu and Kashmir Central Contractors Coordination Committee general secretary, Farooq Dar, told ETV Bharat that out of the Rs. 1.18 lakh crore budget for the financial year, approximately Rs. 22,600 crore had been allocated for developmental works, but 40% of these funds will lapse due to time constraints and sluggish, inefficiency of officers and additional charges in the engineering departments.Faced with dire financial situation, Omar rushed to New Delhi on January 6 where he met Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and sought additional financial support to the UT to clear liabilities from the last financial year (2023-2024), which have mounted to Rs 10,000- Rs 12,000 crore."The Prime Minister, Home Minister and Finance Minister have assured us of more financial support," Omar said, hoping to get it soon to decrease his government's financial burden.Opposition Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) is targeting the Omar-led government for the "severe cash crunch" in government treasuries, and said the crisis is leaving contractors, government employees, and pensioners in dire financial straits."With treasuries running dry, the public is suffering. The files of pensioners about retirement benefits remain unattended in administrative offices. GP Fund cases of government employees have been piling up for months without clearance. Retirees are being denied their rightful gratuity, leave salary, and pensions. Contractors from key departments like Roads and Buildings and Jal Shakti are waiting months for payments for completed projects," PDP's Naeem Akhtar said.

Rahul, Priyanka Hold Final Roadshows In Delhi Ahead Of Assembly Polls



New Delhi: Congress leaders Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Monday made their last-ditch efforts to sway the voters ahead of the February 5 Delhi Assembly polls by holding roadshows in key constituencies of the national capital. The Gandhi siblings held roadshows in the Kasturba Nagar and Kalkaji constituencies, aiming to bolster support for the Congress candidates on the last day of the campaigning. Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi led the roadshow at Kasturba Nagar, appealing for votes and support for Congress candidate Abhishek Dutt, who is pitted against the ruling Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) Ramesh Pehalwan and Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) Neeraj Basoya. The member of Parliament from Kerala's Wayanad greeted the people of the constituency during her roadshow.Rahul Gandhi campaigned at Kalkaji, accompanied by Congress candidate Alka Lamba. The former Congress chief's roadshow took place in the Govindpuri area of the constituency and was aimed at energising the voters to support Lamba in her contest against Chief Minister and AAP candidate Atishi and former south Delhi MP Ramesh Bidhuri, who has been fielded by the BJP.The Congress, which ruled Delhi for 15 years from 1998 to 2013, with Sheila Dikshit heading its government in the capital, has seen a dramatic decline in its electoral fortunes in the last 10 years. The grand old party has not had a single MLA in the 70-member Assembly in the said period, with the AAP ruling the capital for the last two tenures.Months after an MQ-9B Sea Guardian drone crashed into the Bay of Bengal, the Indian Navy has received a replacement for the high-altitude long-endurance surveillance platform from its US-based manufacturer General Atomics, authoritative military sources said on Sunday.One of the two MQ-9B drones that the Indian Navy had taken on lease was lost in a "controlled ditching" at sea following a technical snag in mid-September last year. General Atomics has sent a replacement for the drone that crashed into the sea as per contract obligations, the sources told .The MQ-9B drones are capable of remaining airborne for over 35 hours and can carry four Hellfire missiles and around 450 kgs of bombs. In 2020, the Indian Navy took the two MQ-9B drones on lease for a period of one year. However, the lease period was extended subsequently.In a significant shift in diplomatic posture, Bangladesh has announced its intention to adopt a more assertive stance during the upcoming director general-level talks between the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and India's Border Security Force (BSF), scheduled from February 17 to 20 in New Delhi.This development comes amid escalating tensions over India's construction of a single-row fence along the Indo-Bangladesh border, a project that has faced objections from the BGB."Our tone (during the talks) will be different," the Daily Star quoted Home Adviser of the Bangladesh interim government Lt Gen (Retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury as saying during a press briefing following an inter-ministerial preparatory meeting in Dhaka on Wednesday.Jahangir, according to the report, stated that "the killing of unarmed Bangladeshi civilians by BSF personnel and Indian miscreants at the border must end"."This is unacceptable under any circumstances," he said. "We'll strongly press India to take effective measures to stop border killings."BGB Director General Major General Mohammad Ashrafuzzaman Siddiqui also said that Bangladesh will not make any concessions on issues where it feels deprived in its dealings with India."We will not compromise on the matters where we believe we have been deprived," the Dhaka Tribune quoted Siddiqui as telling the media.The biannual talks between the heads of BSF and the BGB that were tentatively scheduled to be held in New Delhi between November 18 and 22 last year had to be postponed due to a change in plans in Dhaka.The Bangladesh side had informed that it was working on an "early date" for the talks. The talks between the two forces also include officials from the home and external affairs ministries, and anti-narcotics, customs and some other federal agencies from both the countries that have a stake in border management.The BSF guards a 4,096-km-long international front with Bangladesh on India's eastern side. The DG-level border talks were held annually between 1975 and 1992 but were made biannual in 1993 with either side alternatively travelling to the respective national capitals of New Delhi and Dhaka.The 54th edition of the border talks between India and Bangladesh was held from March 5 to 9 last year in Dhaka and focused on enhancing border security and cooperation, with delegations led by India's then BSF Director General Nitin Agrawal and Siddiqui.One of the primary concerns discussed was reducing violent incidents involving cross-border criminals. Both sides agreed to implement increased joint patrols, especially during late-night hours, to reduce incidents of assault against security personnel and civilians. Enhanced public awareness initiatives along the border were also emphasised, aiming to promote a safer environment for communities on both sides.Additionally, infrastructure and environmental issues were part of the agenda. Bangladesh raised concerns about the ecological impact of wastewater from Agartala, India, and proposed a water treatment plant. Discussions also included cooperation in water resource management and infrastructural development within 150 yards of the border, with mutual agreement on joint management measures.The postponement of the next round of talks came after the ouster of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the wake of a mass uprising in Bangladesh in August last year.Now, given the statement of Home Adviser Jahangir about Bangladesh intending to change its tone during the BSF-BGB talks, there are speculations about what signal is Dhaka sending to Delhi.Experts, however, dismiss the statement as purely political."They (the interim government) are just trying to impress the people in Bangladesh," an Indian expert on the politics and economy of Bangladesh told ETV Bharat on the condition of anonymity. "They want to show that they are not like former Prime Minister Hasina who was seen as a friend of India."The expert explained that the agenda for BSF-BGB talks are formalised well in advance."They have a set agenda," the expert said. "This is the first bilateral meeting between the two sides after the foreign office consultations during Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri's visit to Dhaka in December last year."The foreign office consultations were held at a time when bilateral ties between India and Bangladesh were poised delicately following the regime change in Dhaka last year. On August 5, 2024, Hasina, considered a close friend of India, was ousted from power following a mass uprising in protest against what people called her authoritarian style of governance. Three days later, Bangladesh President Mohammad Shahabuddin installed an interim government headed by Nobel laureate Muhammad Yunus as Chief Adviser .With Hasina taking refuge in India, relations between the two South Asian neighbours have since been tense. Meanwhile, the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) of Bangladesh has ordered the extradition of Hasina, who has taken refuge in India, and many of her associates who fled the country after the upheaval in August.Saifur Rahman Tapan, a Dhaka-based journalist, concurred with the Indian expert's views."Jahangir is just trying to reflect the sentiments of the interim government's supporters," Tapan told ETV Bharat over phone from Dhaka. "They (the interim government) know that they are facing crises on different fronts like rise in prices of essential commodities, law and order, and unemployment."Tapan further explained that the ousted Awami League of Sheikh Hasina and the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) have now come almost on the same page as secular forces in the country's political landscape."The interim government is trying to extend its power which was originally expected to last at the most for two years," he said. "Due to its failure in conducting state affairs, the people are increasingly in favour of holding early parliamentary elections."Tapan also said that the interim government is trying to give access to Bangladesh for Pakistan.

TRICOLOUR ESTATE
THE NEWS THAT MATTERS

Saturday, 12.9.2026, Jagitial

Uttam announces mega job mela...

the erstwhile Nalgonda district, Khammam and other areas. Responsibilities should be clearly divided among teams for coordinating with companies, mobilising candidates and managing the event.

The C.C. Reddy Convent at Kodad has been finalised as the venue. The Minister said its 32 rooms could accommodate interview panels of individual companies, while arrangements would be made on the ground and adjoining areas to accommodate a large number of additional recruiters. He directed the organisers to make comprehensive arrangements for registration, interviews, parking, food and other facilities. Food should be provided to all participating candidates irrespective of the turnout, he said. The recruitment process would begin in the morning and, if necessary, continue into the evening until candidates who had turned up were given an opportunity to attend interviews. Uttam Kumar Reddy emphasised that the Mega Job Mela was being organised as a government programme following prescribed protocols, and directed officials of all concerned departments to participate actively and treat its success as a collective responsibility.

BGUS GEARING UP FOR GRAND IMMERSION

110 baby ponds are being developed

150 designated immersion points, including Vinayak Sagar, Saroornagar and Kapra lake, are being readied

I HYDERABAD



The Bhagyanagar Ganesh Utsav Samithi)BGUS– on Thursday announced that preparations for the 47th Samuhik Ganesh Utsav are nearing completion, with Ganesh idol installations beginning on September 14 and the grand mass immersion scheduled for September 25, Anantha Chaturdashi.

The Samithi, at a press conference, urged devotees not to be confused about the immersion date and said preparations have been underway for the past three months in coordination with the police and various government agencies.

More than 150 designated immersion points, including Vinayak Sagar, Saroornagar and Kapra lake, are being readied, besides around 110 baby ponds. BGUS expects more than 50 lakh devotees to participate across Bhagyanagar and called for adequate police, traffic and civic arrangements to ensure safe and smooth immersion.

BGUS stressed the need for stronger field-level coordination among the GHMC, police, traffic authorities and other civic agencies. It expressed concern over the casual conduct of a GHMC coordination meeting and the absence of a Hyderabad Police Commissioner-level coordination meeting.

The Samithi urged the government to conduct an immediate high-level review, warning that any lapses in public safety, traffic management, immersion arrangements or other essential services would be the responsibility of the concerned government agencies.

BGUS also appealed for traditional devotional and cultural programmes to be facilitated within applicable rules and opposed 'unnecessary' restrictions on DJ bands and sound systems, citing their importance to celebrations and livelihoods.

The Samithi called upon devotees to promote Swadeshi and locally produced goods, including Khadi, and said the economic activity generated by the festival should benefit local artisans, traditional occupations and cultural talent.

BGUS confirmed that immersion at Vinayak Sagar, Saroornagar, Ameenpur and Kapra lakes would take place as usual. It also condemned the alleged physical attack and harassment of its Vice-President Govind Rathi by Bhagyanagar Police in connection with the Aagaman processions at Sultan Bazaar.

The festival will feature several devotional and cultural programmes, including observances associated with Vande Mataram, Telangana Liberation Day, Sant Ravidas and Pujya Ashok Singhal. BGUS appealed to devotees, organisers, volunteers, public representatives, police personnel and civic officials to cooperate in ensuring peaceful, disciplined and safe celebrations.

Promo of song from 'Crazy Kalyanam' released

I HYDERABAD



The makers of the upcoming film 'Crazy Kalyanam' have released the promo of the song 'Kaaka Dhoom Dhamaka'. The full lyrical version of the song will be unveiled on September 12. Crazy Kalyanam stars Naresh VK, Anupama Parameswaran, Tharun Bhascker, and Raj Weds Rambai fame Akhil Uddemari in the lead roles. The film is being produced by Boosam Jagan Mohan Reddy under the Yaaro Cinemas banner as Production No. 2, while Badrappa Gajula is directing the project.

The newly released promo hints at a high-energy wedding celebration track packed with mass dance moves performed during a traditional wedding procession. Composed by Suresh Bobbili, the song features lyrics by Kasarla Shyam and promises to entertain music lovers with its festive vibe.

'Haiku' teaser released, movie on October 23

I HYDERABAD



The teaser of Aegan-Sridevi-Femina George starrer 'Haiku', the upcoming entertainer from Vision Cinema House was unveiled by hero Harish Kalyan, offering audiences a glimpse into a love story that instantly catches the eye with its visuals and refreshing treatment. The film receives a major lift from Siddhu Kumar's music. His soothing background score complements the visual treatment and gives the teaser an enchanting musical texture. With its youthful casting and soulful music and refreshing treatment, Haiku is emerging as an appealing addition to the season's romantic offerings.

Haiku had already secured its post-theatrical digital streaming rights with Netflix even before the completion of its shooting. Written and directed by Yuvaraj Chinnasamy, Haiku is produced by Dr. D. Arulanandhu and Mathewo Arulanandhu under the banner of Vision Cinema House. The film stars Aegan, Sridevi and Femina George in the lead roles. Priyesh Guruswamy handles cinematography, Sakthi Pranesh takes care of editing and Prem is the art director. With its teaser offering a vibrant taste of its romantic world, 'Haiku' is slated for a worldwide theatrical release on October 23.



DCC bank holds cyber security awareness program

I NIZAMABAD

A cyber security awareness program was organised at the head office of The Nizamabad District Cooperative Central Bank Ltd. The session was led by Cyber Crime Department Sub-Inspector Ravi Naidu, who briefed bank staff on the rising incidence of cybercrimes and online frauds and the precautions needed to prevent them. He advised employees not to share OTPs, PINs, passwords or banking details with anyone; not to click on suspicious links, messages or emails; to use strong passwords; and to access banking services only on secure networks.

He also urged anyone who falls victim to cyber fraud to report it immediately to the National Cyber Crime Helpline on 1930.Bank CEO Nagabhushanam Vande felicitated SI Ravi Naidu and congratulated him on the programme. Senior officials, branch managers and head office staff attended the event.

Annadanam program held in Alwal by Arya Vysya Sangam

I HYDERABAD



The Alwal Arya Vysya Sangam organised an Annadanam)food distribution–program on the occasion of Amavasya. TPCC General Secretary, International Arya Vysya Federation)IVF–National Working President and Telangana State President Uppala Srinivas Gupta attended the program as the Chief Guest and distributed food to devotees and members of the public. Uppala Srinivas Gupta congratulated Aitha Satyam Gupta for inviting him to the program.

Describing Annadanam as a great form of charity, Gupta said providing food to people in need was one of the noblest forms of service. He expressed the hope that such spiritual and social welfare programmes would continue on a regular basis. VF State Vice-President Praveen Gupta, Ranga Reddy district president Chintala Rajinikanth, Medchal-Malkajgiri District Arya Vysya Mahasabha president Ramesh, IVF Alwal president Naresh Gupta, Venkatesh, and representatives, leaders and members of the Alwal Arya Vysya Sangam, along with devotees and local residents, participated in the program.

Narayanpet MLA meets CM, discusses constituency development issues

I HYDERABAD

Narayanpet MLA Dr. Chittam Parnika Reddy met Chief Minister Revanth Reddy at the Assembly on Thursday and discussed various issues concerning the constituency. Development works proposed by the MLA include sanction of a Junior College for Marikal Mandal, sanction of a new building for the dilapidated Junior College in Narayanpet town, sanction of an underground drainage system for Narayanpet town, sanction of a new building for the SP Office and proposal for sanctioning a new building for the Social Welfare Residential School at Damaragidda. The Chief Minister responded positively to the proposals put forward by the MLA and assured that he would take all necessary steps to promote the development of the constituency.





'Clean energy technologies are essential for sustainable development'

I DESHMUKHI

Professor K. S. M. S. Raghava Rao, Professor at IIT Tirupati and former Director of CSIR-CFTRI, Mysuru, emphasized the urgent need to shift away from conventional energy sources towards clean energy)green energy–to protect the environment and achieve sustainable development. A three-day national conference on "Harnessing Clean Energy Technologies to Drive Sustainability and Combat Climate Change Worldwide" was inaugurated on Thursday at Vignan's University, located at Deshmukhi Village, Bhudan Pochampally Mandal, Yadadri Bhuvanagiri District.

The conference is being organized under the 'AICTE-VAANI' scheme introduced by the All India Council for Technical Education)AICTE– to promote technical education in regional languages. Speaking as the Chief Guest, Professor Raghava Rao stated that green technologies are of immense importance to developing countries at a time when global warming is rapidly intensifying. Professor Ramesh K. Guduru of Pandit Deendayal Energy University)PDEU–, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, called upon students to reduce dependence on conventional resources and expand research on advanced green technologies. Advisor to Vignan's University and retired IAS officer Dr. Poonam Malakondaiah, University Director Prof. Y. V. Daseswara Rao, staff and students participated in the program.

CARE Hospitals urges alertness to prostate cancer risk

I HYDERABAD

Prostate cancer can develop without noticeable symptoms in its early stages, making awareness of age, family history and individual risk particularly important for men over 50. During Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, doctors at CARE Hospitals are urging men not to wait for urinary problems to appear before discussing prostate health and appropriate evaluation with their doctor.



Dr. P. Vamsi Krishna , Clinical Director, Sr. Consultant & Head – Urology, Robotic, Laparoscopy & Endourology Surgeon, CARE Hospitals mentioned that one of the biggest misconceptions is that prostate cancer will always cause urinary symptoms. "Early prostate cancer may cause no symptoms at all. Men should not wait for symptoms to become troublesome before discussing prostate health with their doctor," he advised

Doctors emphasise, however, that urinary problems do not automatically mean prostate cancer and the absence of urinary symptoms does not rule out early disease. This Prostate Cancer Awareness Month, CARE Hospitals is reinforcing a simple message: prostate cancer may not give an early warning. Know your risk, do not ignore persistent changes and speak to your doctor about prostate health rather than waiting for symptoms to appear.

Photo caption: Dr P Vamsi Krishna, Clinical Director, Sr. Consultant & HOD - Urology, Robotic, Laparoscopy & Endourology Surgeon at CARE Hospitals.



Seminar on 'Integrating Commerce and Management' held

HYDERABAD

A National Seminar on the topic "Integrating Commerce and Management Through Technology for Sustainable Development" was conducted on Thursday at the Challa Somaraj Ram Auditorium in IIMC, under the joint auspices of the Indian Institute of Management and Commerce)IIMC–, Khairatabad and the Telangana Commerce Association)TCA–. The Convener of the seminar and Head of the Commerce Department of IIMC, Dr. Srihari stated that the college provided a platform for academicians, researchers, industry experts and students to share their research findings, ideas and experiences.

The Chairman of the college, Acharya Vangapally Viswanatham suggested that colleges need to organize seminars and conferences to provide new ideas and a research perspective to the students. The Chief Guest, Senior Professor of Osmania University and President of Telangana Commerce Association, Dr. Chennappa said that we are currently in an era where Artificial Intelligence)AI–revolution is taking place, and integration with technology in the commerce sector is very essential.

Later, in the valedictory session, three best research papers, one from each faculty, were selected and the Principal of the college presented each with a cash prize of Rs. 2,000 and a certificate of appreciation.

Ramappa in Danger?

socio-economic disruption for farming communities dependent on the lake, and erosion of the deep cultural and religious attachment of local populations to the temple and its waterscape. The mine is planned to extract an estimated 40.4 million tonnes of coal over approximately 19 years across forest, agricultural and assigned lands. SCCL has obtained certain clearances and paid compensation in parts of the area, still operations have faced repeated delays since the UNESCO inscription sparked the "Save Ramappa" movement. Recent developments underscore the continuing tension. In early September 2026, a PSDA meeting chaired by Mulugu Collector Borkhade Hemant Sahadevarao heard objections from the Kakatiya Heritage Trust and other members.

The Collector assured that conservation of the World Heritage Site remains the highest priority and that no decision on mining would be taken without comprehensive scientific studies, environmental safeguards, continuous monitoring and compliance with heritage norms. Officials from archaeology, irrigation, forests, tourism, ASI and SCCL participated. The Trust has circulated a lineament map showing the spatial relationship between the lake, temple and proposed pit to substantiate its geological arguments. Supporters of the project emphasise India's energy needs, the economic value of coal extraction, and technical mitigations such as controlled blasting. Opponents, including the Trust and political voices in the past, counter that the unique Outstanding Universal Value of the only World Heritage monument in the Telugu-speaking states, secured after more than a decade of collaborative effort by the Trust, ASI and Telangana's heritage department, must not be jeopardised for temporary mineral gains.

They call for a wider protective buffer and permanent withdrawal of the mining proposal. As the PSDA and higher authorities deliberate further assessments, the fate of Ramappa Temple—an enduring testament to Kakatiya engineering genius, artistic brilliance and hydraulic wisdom—hangs in the balance between heritage preservation and resource development. The coming scientific evaluations and administrative decisions will determine whether this 800-year-old marvel continues to stand resilient or faces irreversible risk from modern industrial activity only a short distance downstream.

It is high time that the government should immediately order a thorough inquiry by the experts, scholars and specialists in the field, conduct a in-depth study and take immediate measures to save Ramappa before it is too late.



Kamineni doctors warn against ignoring respiratory symptoms

I HYDERABAD

With the monsoon bringing high humidity, damp indoor environments and increased exposure to respiratory infections and allergens, pulmonologists at Kamineni Hospitals have cautioned that what begins as a routine cough, cold or viral infection can sometimes progress into more significant respiratory problems. Dr. Subhakar Kandi, Senior Consultant Pulmonologist, Kamineni Hospitals, said that as monsoon conditions can aggravate existing airway diseases such as asthma and COPD,e arly medical assessment can help prevent a manageable flare-up from progressing to a serious respiratory complication.

Dr. E. Ravindra Reddy, Senior Consultant Pulmonologist, Kamineni Hospitals, said that persistent cough following a viral infection should not always be dismissed as "just bronchitis". Dr. Ravindranath, Senior consultant Pulmonologist, Kamineni Hospitals, emphasized the importance of recognizing respiratory warning signs and protecting high-risk groups. Dr. D.S Sowjanya, Consultant Pulmonologist advised that patients with asthma or COPD should be particularly cautious and continue their prescribed inhalers and medications as advised.

A proper clinical assessment can help determine whether the symptoms are related to an infection, airway disease or another respiratory condition and guide appropriate treatment, added Dr. Bharath Janapati, Consultant Pulmonologist. The specialists advised residents to maintain good respiratory hygiene, adequate ventilation and indoor cleanliness, particularly in damp environments.

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