



PM to attend IAF's air show at Varanasi

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit his parliamentary constituency, Varanasi, on October 25. During his visit, Modi will inaugurate a factory in Sevapuri and attend the Indian Air Force's (IAF) aerial display at Namo Ghat. Modi will attend the air show alongside Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath and other officials. The event, titled 'Indian Air Force Aerial Display 2026', will showcase the force's combat capabilities, advanced technology and flying skills under the theme 'Wings Over Ganges'.

Putin agrees to resume trilateral talks on Ukraine war

MOSCOW: President Vladimir Putin agreed Wednesday to resume trilateral negotiations with Washington and Kyiv on ending the war in Ukraine, a Kremlin official said. The Russian leader has agreed "in principle" to resume the talks after November 10, Putin's foreign affairs adviser Yuri Ushakov told reporters following a meeting in St. Petersburg between Putin and US President Donald Trump's envoy Steve Witkoff. The trilateral talks will focus on "building a security system for Russia and Ukraine after the conflict ends," Ushakov said.

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eMudhra's security code compromised



NEW DELHI: Indian digital certification authority eMudhra has revealed that private keys associated with its certificates have been compromised, which verify trusted digital assets and ensure secure online data transmission, according to an advisory from the cybersecurity watchdog Cert-In. Noting that eMudhra operates its Indian services, including eSign, and a global certificate business, government sources said that the problem arose in the global business, and that the impact on India is expected to be "limited".

IRREGULAR by MANJUL

Believe me, the India-US trade deal is just weeks away. I've been telling you this for years. Don't you remember?

AS IRRIGATION PROJECTS REMAIN A PIPEDREAM... Agri pumpsets jump 38% in 12 yrs

- ▶ Medium, large farmers go for multiple crops
- ▶ Small farmers have no hopes of available water reaching them
- ▶ Number of pumpsets could go up to 35 lakh over 3 yrs

PATAN AFZAL BABU
HYDERABAD

ALTHOUGH successive governments have claimed that the irrigation facilities in the state have "improved" and cite the construction of new projects and completion of existing projects, particularly after the formation of Telangana state in 2014, the galling reality is that most farmers are inexorably

PM reviews state of economy with FM, EAC-PM members

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday held a meeting with permanent members of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Finance ministry officials to discuss the state of the economy, sources said.

"The meeting was on the current state of the Indian economy. How to navigate the economy amid external uncertainties, enhance ease of doing business and revisit existing policies to attract more investment were some of the key topics of discussion," they said. The meeting also came ahead of preparations for the Union Budget 2027.

FM Sitharaman said last week that India had managed to sustain its growth despite global headwinds and had been the fastest-growing major economy over the past four to five years.

Increased from 19 lakh in 2014 to 30.60 lakh now; Rise in paddy output linked to rise in no. of pumpsets

dependent on agricultural pumpsets for the farming needs. No wonder, the number of active pumpsets has increased from 19 lakh to a whopping 30.60 lakh in just 12 years. Over the last two years alone, two lakh new pumpsets have been sanctioned for meeting farming needs.

As per official data, the total number of agricultural pumpsets in December 2023, when the Bharatiya Rashtra Samithi stepped down from power, was 28,69,441. A total number of 30,60,821 pumpsets were functioning in the state as of August 2026. More than 10,000 applications are still pending with the Energy Department for clearance.

In all, 15,65,981 pumpsets



were given connection with free power supply by the TGNPDCL (Northern Power Distribution Company Limited) to farmers in old Warangal, Karimnagar, Adilabad,

Nizamabad and Medak districts. The TGSPDCL is supplying free power to as many as 14,94,840 pumpsets in old Nalgonda, Khammam, Rangareddy, Mahbubnagar, and

some parts of Hyderabad. Officials of the Energy Department attributed several reasons for the increasing number of pumpsets, more so after the formation of the

Telangana state. The medium and large farmers, owning more than five acres of agricultural land, are focusing on cultivating more crops by using pumpsets. Many of these farmers are adopting multi-crops, along with paddy, during the dry season. This could be the main reason for the increasing use of pumpsets. The small farmers too, worried over the decreasing prospects of available irrigation water reaching their end, prefer pumpsets, instead of waiting indefinitely for completion of various irrigation projects.

Officials said that changing weather conditions over the last five years and the far-reaching threat of the dry season over the last two years, could be the

main reason for the spike in the number of pumpsets by two lakh.

Farmers have been getting regular alerts on the rains and the El Nino condictions in recent times. Fearing non-availability of irrigation facilities during the dry spell, officials said, farmers were knocking on the doors of the Energy Department for new agricultural pumpset connections.

Energy wing officials have warned that the number of pumpsets could increase to 35 lakh over the next three years if weather conditions don't turn conducive

Energy expert and member of the State Advisory Committee to Telangana Electricity Regulatory Commission M Venugopala Rao said that the increasing number of pumpsets is the result of the increasing agriculture-related activities.

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All vacant posts in police wing will be filled by 2028: CM

PATAN AFZAL BABU
HYDERABAD

TELANGANA Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy has declared that all the vacant posts in the state Police Department will be filled by 2028.

Addressing a gathering at the Police Commemoration Parade in Hyderabad on Wednesday, the Chief Minister said that the government had already issued notification to fill 5,000 vacancies in the Police Department. The recruitment to fill 112 DSP posts was unprecedented in the history of Telangana state, he mentioned. Besides, the government was appointing transgenders as traffic assistants and thus enhancing their self-respect and dignity in society.

The Chief Minister also declared that the ex gratia amount being paid to home guards who die in service would be increased to Rs 10



lakh from Rs 5 lakh. The Chief Minister instructed Director-General of Police CV Anand to take steps towards increasing the ex gratia payable to home guards.

Calling upon the police to deal with the cases involving women and children with greater sensitivity, Revanth Reddy emphasised that there should be no delay in delivering justice to victims. "Ensuring the safety of women is not solely the responsibility of the Police Department. Every individual in society should also take the responsibility

of women's safety." The Chief Minister expressed his concern over the drug menace and appealed to the police to ensure that youth do not fall victim to the drug abuse. He commended the 'Eagle Force' for their unstinted efforts in curbing drug trafficking and appreciated the DGP's endeavour in this regard. Since the maintenance of law and order is crucial for the development of the state, the Chief Minister said, the state government is giving top priority to strengthen the Police Department. Continued on Page 5

India, US trade deal to be much different: Trump

WASHINGTON

US President Donald Trump said that India and the US are "pretty close" to reaching a trade deal, which will be much different than the earlier pacts.

Speaking to reporters at the Oval Office on Tuesday, Trump said India and the US were pretty close to making a trade deal. "They want to make a deal. We're going to make a deal. Pretty close, yeah," Trump said in response to a question. "It's going to be a much different kind of deal than we've done," the President said.

Trump's remarks came at a time Secretary of State Marco Rubio was visiting India and discussed further strengthening bilateral relations focusing on sectors such as trade, energy, technology, defence and people-to-people ties.

Earlier, Rubio also said Washington was "trying to finalise a trade deal with India" and was "very close to doing that."



US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, US Ambassador to India Sergio Gorr, Executive Director of Reliance Industries Limited Anant Ambani with wife Radhika Merchant and others during the former's visit to Reliance Industries' giant oil-refining complex in Jamnagar on Wednesday

Rubio pushes energy ties, Venezuelan crude

US Secretary of State visits Ambani's Jamnagar refinery

JAMNAGAR (GUJARAT)

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Wednesday visited Reliance Industries' sprawling Jamnagar complex, bringing Washington's push to deepen energy ties with India into focus at a time when the Trump administration is seeking greater access to the country's refining capacity, more purchases of American

energy and expanded investment by Indian companies in the United States. Rubio, accompanied by his wife, Jeanette Dousdesbes Rubio, toured the world's largest single-site oil-refining complex, the Vantara wildlife rescue and conservation centre, and Reliance's emerging clean-energy manufacturing hub, people familiar with the visit said.

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Punjab CM detained at Delhi airport, fined ₹50K

NEW DELHI: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Tuesday alleged that Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann was detained for nearly three hours at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport after returning from Paris, before officials issued him a challan of Rs 50,000, claiming they were under "tremendous pressure from above".

The party has accused the Centre of deliberately



humiliating Mann and creating hurdles in Punjab's progress, linking the alleged incident to repeated denials of political clearance for the chief minister's foreign visits.

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FRENCH ARSON

Macron blasts Trump for stupid claims on riots

PARIS: President Emmanuel Macron said on Wednesday that foreign leaders - including those "on the other side of the Atlantic" - were seeking to exploit France's tense social climate for political gain following a weekend of street violence and looting.

Protests over soaring living costs have led to widespread rioting and looting that have drawn worldwide attention and shocked many French citizens.

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Run-up to TG's Global Summit '26

'CURTAIN RAISER' EVENTS MULLED IN METRO CITIES

PATAN AFZAL BABU
HYDERABAD

THE Telangana government has finalised an action plan for a focused multi-city campaign for three days leading up to the "Invest Telangana Global Summit 2026" starting December 7, including curtain-raisers in Hyderabad, Delhi, Mumbai and Bengaluru. Several film stars and big celebrities would be roped in for



Chief Secretary Sanjay Jaju

a campaign to make the summit, being attended by a large number of investors, a big success. A big Air show

is being planned to mark the finale of the summit on December 9. A glittering event would also be part of the summit to showcase Telangana's cultural grandeur to the world. The curtain-raiser events for the 'Invest Telangana Global Summit' are being organised on a grand scale particularly in Hyderabad on October 24 and in Delhi on October 29.

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Ashutosh Ranka (L) and Saurav Das

Court orders CJP leaders' release

NEW DELHI: A Special Executive Magistrate (SEM) on Wednesday ordered the release of CJP leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka following the expiry of their judicial custody in connection with the October 14 protest at Jantar Mantar. The two leaders were produced before the magistrate, where their surety documents were also submitted during the proceedings. Continued on P5

SBI probes suspected dark web exposure of 3,897 customer records

NEW DELHI

THE country's largest bank, SBI, on Wednesday said it is investigating the suspected exposure of 3,897 customer records containing personally identifiable information on the dark web, following alerts it received on October 16 from its threat intelligence service provider, the Defence Cyber Agency, and CERT-In.

A preliminary analysis of around 3.75 lakh records available on the dark web identified 3,897 customer records containing sensi-

tive information, including registered mobile numbers, dates of birth, names, gender, email addresses and residential addresses, State Bank of India (SBI) said in the regulatory filing on Wednesday.

The exposed information reportedly also included branch and Customer Information File (CIF) identifiers, lead IDs, and metadata associated with loan and lead records and other related files. It said a detailed investigation was required to establish the authenticity and completeness of the exposed



data, determine the potential source and extent of the exposure, and assess the associated risks to customers and the bank.

SBI said it had promptly

activated its cyber incident response and containment protocols. It had also engaged an independent cybersecurity agency empanelled by CERT-In to conduct

a comprehensive assessment and investigate the alleged compromise.

The incident has had no material impact on the bank's core business operations, financial performance or business continuity, the filing said, adding that its core business functions continued to operate normally without disruption.

A detailed assessment is underway, and the bank is implementing appropriate remedial and preventive measures, it said.

HDFC probe finds senior execs leaked confidential info

NEW DELHI: HDFC Bank's internal investigation has found evidence that two senior executives disclosed confidential business strategies and potentially market-sensitive information to outsiders. The investigation is still underway, with the bank examining whether the information was misused, according to the report. The

executives, who oversee key businesses and functions at the lender, have been formally informed of the findings. It was not immediately clear what disciplinary action would follow. An HDFC Bank spokesperson acknowledged the internal review but declined to comment on its findings or identify the executives involved. Continued on Page 5