

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 Indra 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. Baltej Pannu, AAP's media in-charge in Punjab, alleged that Mann was kept waiting at the airport under the pretext that his luggage was still arriving and being checked. "When Mann returned from Paris and arrived at the Delhi airport,



he was deliberately detained for three hours. Excuses were made that 'your luggage is still arriving' and 'your luggage is still being checked'," Pannu said in a statement.

He further claimed that officials approached Mann just as he was about to leave the airport after loading his luggage into a vehicle. "After three hours, when Mann was allowed to leave and was about to depart after placing his luggage in a vehicle, officials came running after him and said that they were under 'tremendous pressure from above'," Pannu alleged.



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".

Congress will remain in power till 2039, says Mahesh Goud

- No urgency to appoint a BC Chief Minister
- Congress will make a BC leader CM in future
- Rahul Gandhi's vision drives the BC agenda
- BJP yet to appoint a BC state president

VENKATESHWARLU KOLISHETTY HYDERABAD

TELANGANA Pradesh Congress Committee (TPCC) chief B Mahesh Kumar Goud stated that, thanks to the performance of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, the Congress party will win the upcoming elections, and Revanth Reddy will continue as Chief Minister. He added that there is no rush for a change in leadership, noting that a person from a Backward Class (BC) community will eventually

become the Chief Minister in the future.

Expressing confidence, the TPCC chief asserted that, given the welfare schemes implemented by the government and the governance of Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, the Congress party will remain in power not just until 2034, but potentially until 2039. He reiterated that a BC individual will certainly become the Chief Minister of the state, and that this will be made possible only by the Congress party.



Emphasised that while a BC individual will one day lead the state as Chief Minister; Mahesh Kumar Goud, while speaking to a section of media, said that there is no urgency or set deadline regarding this transition.

He remarked that in the Congress party, one can never predict what might happen or when. He also noted that the focus on the BC agenda stems from the vision of Rahul Gandhi. Regarding Revanth Reddy's statement that he would

remain Chief Minister until 2034, Goud explained that it was intended to instill confidence among the party cadre, and there is nothing wrong with that.

He questioned whether the BRS party could ever make a BC person the Chief Minister. Furthermore, he pointed out that the BJP, which claims it would appoint a BC Chief Minister if it came to power, is currently unable to even appoint a person from a BC community as its own state unit president.

He stated that while BC leader Bandi Sanjay held the position of state president, Kishan Reddy took over that role—just as he had previously taken the seat once held by Bandaru Dattatreya.



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. Earlier, CJP leaders withdrew their petition before the Delhi High Court challenging a special executive magistrate's decision to extend their judicial custody. Das and Ranka were taken into custody on October 13 after they allegedly climbed over a locked gate to enter Jantar Mantar, which had earlier been denotified as a designated protest site. CJP founder Abhijeet Dipke expressed solidarity with the group's co-convenors, saying they could not be with their families during the festive season.

Agri pumpsets jump 38% in 12 yrs

Continued from P1

According to him, the farmers are depending on ground water for farming as irrigation projects cannot immediately meet the increasing irrigation needs. He suggested that proper maintenance of the projects and judicious use of the available water would help meet the irrigation needs, instead of forcing farmers to fall back on pumpsets.



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

Will fill all vacant posts in police wing by 2028: CM

Continued from P1

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 cru-

cial for the development of the state, the Chief Minister said, the state government is giving top priority to strengthen the Police Department.

Revanth Reddy highlighted the initiatives taken to strengthen the police wing. "We are leveraging modern technology in the Police Department to effectively address new challenges. Besides, the human-centric approach

of the police force must remain unchanged, the Chief Minister said. The Telangana Standards Authority for Food and Essential Drugs (TG SAFE) unit had been established to take a firm and uncompromising stance against food adulteration, he underlined.

Remembering the martyrs of the Police Department who had laid down their lives

while discharging their duties, the Chief Minister said: "Discipline is police strength and integrity is their honour. The sense of security police provide to the public is the greatest recognition to the cops. Police are not alone in their grief. The state government stands with the bereaved family and the entire society of Telangana also stands with you".



US Secretary of State Marco Rubio, US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor, 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

Foreign forces behind regime change narrative: BJP

NEW DELHI: The BJP on Wednesday alleged that a "clear nexus" had emerged between forces within and outside India that were opposed to the country's growing global influence. Party national spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi accused them of seeking to destabilise the country by creating social divisions and attacking its cultural and religious traditions.

Addressing the media at the BJP headquarters, Trivedi said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Vijayadashami message had highlighted three defining characteristics of such forces: "loot after coming to power, division in society and hatred towards Indian culture and Hinduism".

He alleged that some groups were pursuing campaigns against Sanatan Dharma and "global Hindu-tva", while also questioning the credibility of Indian

institutions. Trivedi cited repeated allegations concerning the SBI, SEBI, vaccines, EVMs and electoral bonds as examples of what he described as a pattern of attempts to discredit institutions. Using the imagery of Ravana's multiple heads, Trivedi argued that such campaigns could not be understood merely through their individual demands. "Fulfil one demand and another demand will emerge," he said, arguing that the "real source" behind different protests and campaigns had to be identified.

He alleged that forces opposed to India's progress were using different "disguises" and that their stated demands were not their ultimate objective. Referring to calls for "regime change", he alleged that some of these forces ultimately sought to promote violent conflict, political destabilisation and social fragmentation.

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.

POTENTIAL FEDERAL HATE CRIME

US lawmakers urge FBI to probe temple shooting plot

WASHINGTON: A bipartisan-free Democratic-led group of 105 US lawmakers has urged the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to investigate an attempted mass shooting at a Hindu temple in Aurora, Illinois, as a potential federal hate crime, citing concerns over anti-Indian, anti-Hindu and broader anti-South Asian hostility. Alexandros Paporakis, 19, was arrested on October 11 for plotting a mass shooting at the Sri Venkateswara Swami (Balaji) temple.

Led by Indian American Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, the lawmakers sent a letter dated October 20 to FBI Director Kash Patel seeking details of the Bureau's investigation into the alleged plot at the Sri Venkateswara Swami (Balaji) Hindu temple.

They also called for greater scrutiny of credible online threats against Indian Americans, Hindu Americans, Sikhs and other South Asian communities.

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.

Rubio dismisses India protests as internal matter

MUMBAI: US Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Wednesday refused to comment on the recent protests against the Election Commission, terming it an "internal political matter." Rubio, currently in India on an official visit, was also dismissive of the reference to UN experts' criticism of the protests. According to a release issued by the Department of State on Wednesday, Rubio also said that the UN "experts are the oxymoron." "It's a domestic political matter.

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 Dousebes 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. He spent a few hours in Jamnagar before departing for the United States.

Almost the entire Ambani family, led by billionaire Reliance chairman Mukesh Ambani, welcomed the US delegation. Those present included his wife, Nita Ambani, daughter Isha Ambani and her husband, Anand Piramal, and younger son Anant Ambani and his wife, Radhika Merchant, along with Reliance Industries Executive Director PMS Prasad and US Ambassador to India Sergio Gor. Akash Ambani, Mukesh Ambani's eldest son and managing director of Jio Platforms, was overseeing the opening of the telecom giant's initial public offering (IPO). Rubio arrived in Jamnagar a day after describing India as a crude-refining "superpower" and urging it to process more Venezuelan

oil. Officials have described the Ambani-hosted programme as a "private visit", and neither side released details of the itinerary.

The visit comes as Washington seeks to increase sales of American energy to India, encourage the processing of Western Hemisphere crude and strengthen commercial ties with Reliance, a major buyer of internationally traded oil and a leading exporter of refined fuels. It also coincides with pressure on US diesel prices ahead of the midterm elections.

Gor said American liquefied petroleum gas had risen sharply as a share of India's imports. "Over the past year, India's imports of US LPG have surged from under 10 per cent to 67 per cent, making the United States India's largest LPG supplier," he said in a post on X. He also highlighted Reliance's planned investment in a new refinery in Texas as an opportunity to expand US energy production and create jobs.

Rubio told Reliance-owned Network18 that Washington wanted to work more closely with Reliance on refining energy from the Western Hemisphere, describing such cooperation as beneficial to both countries. Reliance's Jamnagar complex can process about 1.4 million barrels of crude oil a day and is a major supplier of diesel and other refined products to global markets.

Its ability to process a wide range of crude grades makes it strategically important as Washington seeks to encourage more Indian purchases of Venezuelan oil.

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.

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.

