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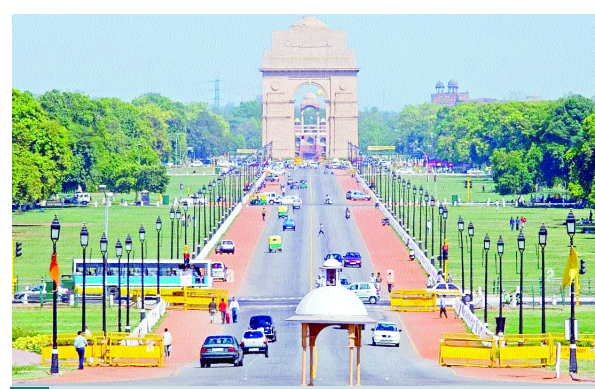
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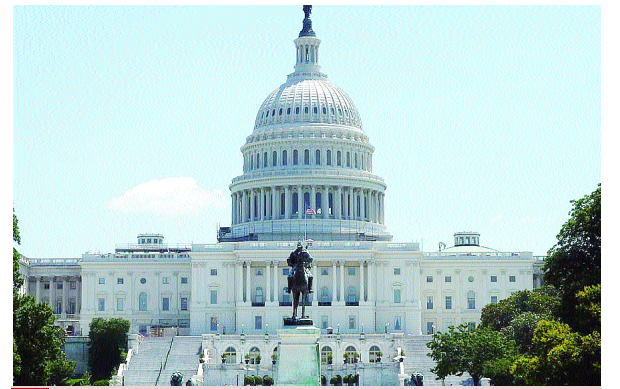
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3 Judicial panel members visit Sambhal, inspect areas where violence broke out



5 Trump threatens BRICS countries of 100% tariff if they drop dollar as currency

## IN BRIEF



India's Jay Shah takes over as new ICC chairman

Dubai: The BCCI's outgoing secretary Jay Shah on Sunday took charge as the chairman of the International Cricket Council, becoming the fifth Indian to head the global body. The 36-year-old Shah, who has been the BCCI secretary for the last five years, was (Cont.on P2)



Nara Lokesh message to cadre quoting TDP activist Srinu's death

Amaravati: Minister for IT and HRD Nara Lokesh expressed profound sorrow over the tragic death of a Telugu Desam Party (TDP) activist, Srinu, who was known for his unwavering dedication to the party and Lokesh himself. The minister lamented that Srinu, who was always proactive in (Cont.on P3)



No political or hate speeches near Tirumala temple: TTD

Tirupati: The Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams, custodian of Lord Venkateswara Swamy temple, has banned political and hate speeches at Tirumala. The decision comes in response to recent incidents where individuals including political leaders made (Cont.on P2)

## Trump says he'll nominate Kash Patel as FBI director to remake agency

Washington, Dec 1 (The Capital News): President-elect Donald Trump's stunning announcement on Saturday night that he will nominate Kash Patel as FBI director sets the stage for a fresh round of turbulence at a law enforcement agency tasked with protecting the homeland and investigating federal crimes. Patel, a steadfast Trump ally with plans to shake up the institution he's been tapped to lead, is a study in contrasts from the current tight-lipped director who preaches a "keep calm and (Cont.on P4)



TEXT ARIZONA TO 8802 TRUMP

## 3.25 Lakh HIV cases in AP, Aims to eliminate by 2030

Vijayawada, December 1 (The Capital News): On the occasion of World AIDS Day, Dr. A Siri, the project director of AP SAX, highlighted alarming statistics regarding HIV infections in Andhra Pradesh. An estimated 3.25 lakh people are currently living with HIV in the State, with new cases predominantly affecting the youth. Speaking at a large-scale awareness event organized by AP SAX in Vijayawada, Dr. Siri stressed the urgency of the situation. "Approximately 2.75 lakh individuals (Cont.on P2)



## AP Govt to seek public feedback through IVRS for enhanced governance



Amaravati, Dec 1 (The Capital News): In a bid to improve governance and deliver quality services, the Andhra Pradesh government has decided to conduct a public opinion poll using the Interactive Voice Response System (IVRS). This initiative aims to directly involve citizens in assessing the implementation of government schemes and programs, enabling the administration to make informed decisions based on public feedback. The govern-

ment will make computer-based phone calls to beneficiaries of key welfare schemes such as door-to-door pensions and the Deepam scheme, which provides free gas cylinders. Beneficiaries will be asked questions about the quality of services, ease of access, and any difficulties they face. Feedback will guide adjustments and enhancements to these schemes. Public opinion on policies, services in addition to welfare schemes, the govern-

ment will also gather public opinions on new policies like the free sand policy and the liquor sales policy. The IVRS system will extend its reach to assess the performance of civil services, including departments such as revenue, municipal services, and electricity. If public dissatisfaction is identified, the government will analyze the underlying reasons and take corrective measures to ensure better service delivery. Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu emphasized that government operations should reflect public (Cont.on P2)



## Cyclone 'Fengal' crosses coast near Puducherry

Amaravati: Cyclone 'Fengal', which formed in the Bay of Bengal, has crossed the coast, reaching near Puducherry between 10:30 PM and 11:30 PM on Saturday. The cyclone is expected to move slowly towards the west-southwest and gradually weaken. As a result, heavy rains are forecasted for the south coast and Rayalaseema on Sunday, according to Ronamki Kurmanath, Managing Director of the AP Disaster Management Authority (Cont.on P4)

## Rs 48,537 crore Rice smuggled from Kakinada port alone in last three years: Minister Manohar

Vijayawada, Dec 1 (The Capital News): Andhra Pradesh Government Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Manohar has said that large-scale of rice smuggled through Andhra Pradesh's ports, claiming that an astonishing 1.3 crore metric tons of rice, valued at approximately Rs 48,537 crore, were exported from Kakinada Port alone. Speaking to the media in Vijayawada on Sunday, the minister detailed irregularities in the distribution and export of ration rice and linked these activities to security threats and systemic corruption during the previous YSRCP government. The minister said that Deputy Chief



Minister Pawan Kalyan's recent visit to Kakinada Port unearthed crucial evidence of smuggling networks. He alleged that ration rice, provided to the public at a subsidy of Rs 12,800 crore, was being procured illegally at meager rates and smuggled out of the country. Inspections in Kakinada reportedly uncovered discrepancies in weights, leading to the seizure of 51,427 metric tons of rice. Cases were filed against (Cont.on P3)

## Seven Maoists killed in gunfight with police in Telangana

Hyderabad, Dec 1 (The Capital News): Seven Maoists were killed in an exchange of fire (EoF) with the police in a forest area in Mulugu district of Telangana on Sunday. The incident occurred during a combing operation in the forest area of Eturnagaram, an elite anti-naxal force of Telangana Police and the ultras, police said. "Seven maoists were killed in the exchange of fire",



a senior police official told PTI, adding two AK 47 rifles were among the weapons seized from the scene. Among (Cont.on P2)

## Master plan review for Kanaka Durga temple development



Vijayawada, Dec 1 (The Capital News): A key meeting regarding the development of the Vijayawada Kanaka Durgamma Temple's master plan was held at the Trust

Board office under the leadership of Minister for Endowment Anam Ramanarayana Reddy. The meeting saw active participation from Vijayawada MP Kesineni Sivanath, who made valuable suggestions for enhancing the temple's facilities. The primary objective outlined during the meeting is to develop the temple in a way that addresses the needs of the next hundred years. MP Kesineni Sivanath proposed the construction of waiting halls (Cont.on P3)

## AP cabinet meeting rescheduled to December 3

Amaravati, Dec 1 (The Capital News): The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet meeting, originally scheduled for December 4, has been advanced to December 3 (Tuesday), as per the latest orders issued by chief secretary Nirabh Kumar Prasad. The meeting will be held in the first block meeting hall of the Velagapudi Secretariat under the chairmanship of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu. The Chief Secretary has directed all departments to submit proposals for discussion by 4 pm on December 1. The Cabinet is set to deliberate on critical issues, including, issuance of ration cards to the underprivileged, progress and implementation of the Super Six schem



es, the state's sand policy, analysis of the current political scenario in Andhra Pradesh, fulfillment of election promises and focus on Key Issues and Allegations. The meeting is expected to hold detailed discussions on sensitive topics, such as the alleged Adani power purchase bribery case, including the allegations over the involvement of former Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy. The issue has garnered (Cont.on P2)

## Delhi polls: BJP to launch 'Parivartan Yatra' on Dec 8

New Delhi: Ahead of the Delhi Assembly polls, the BJP will take out 'Parivartan Yatra' from December 8 across all 70 constituencies in the city, state unit party president Virendra Sachdeva said on Sunday. The 'Parivartan Yatra' will be launched simultaneously in all seven Lok Sabha constituencies in Delhi and cover all assembly segments till December 20, said Satish (Cont.on P3)

## ISRO to launch ESA's Proba-3 mission on Dec 4

Bengaluru: ISRO's trusted workhorse Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) will blast off from Sriharikota spaceport in Andhra Pradesh on December 4 carrying ESA's Proba-3 mission, the Indian space agency said on Sunday. The European Space Agency's (ESA) Proba-3 Mission is happening in collaboration with ISRO's commercial arm NewSpace (Cont.on P2)



**3.25 Lakh HIV..**  
(From Page 1)

are receiving treatment for HIV, but there are still about 50,000 people who are not yet on treatment," Siri stated. The event, themed "Take the Right Path," aimed to promote awareness about HIV prevention, treatment, and the importance of regular testing. Dr. Siri revealed that nearly 20,000 young people in the State are infected with HIV, with a concerning increase in new cases among this demographic. Efforts to combat HIV include the establishment of ART (Antiretroviral Therapy) centers, ensuring that no person is more than 50 kilometers away from one. The State's ambitious goal is to eliminate HIV by 2030, with continuous efforts towards spreading awareness and providing accessible treatment options.

**AP Govt to..**  
(From Page 1)

opinion, stating, "What the people say is final." Leveraging technology for better governance, his approach follows successful instances where the IVRS system was used effectively, including candidate selection during elections and informing the public about assistance during the Vijayawada floods. The government now plans to use this method extensively across all schemes and services. Urging public participation, Chief Minister Naidu said, "The one or two minutes spent by citizens on these calls will help us deliver the best governance and quality services." He called upon the people to actively contribute to shaping a more transparent and accountable administration.

**Seven Maoists..**  
(From Page 1)

those killed was Kursam Mangu alias Bhadrhu, Secretary of Telangana State Committee (Yellandu Narsampet) of the banned CPI (Maoist), he said.

**AP cabinet..**  
(From Page 1)

significant attention and is likely to be a central agenda item.

**ISRO to ..**  
(From Page 1)

India Limited (NSIL). "This mission will place ESA's PROBA-3 satellites (550kg) into a unique highly elliptical orbit, reinforcing PSLV's reliability for complex orbital deliveries," ISRO said in a post on X. According to ISRO, the satellite will take off at 4.08 pm on Wednesday. The ESA said Proba-3 is the world's first precision formation flying mission. It will study the solar corona, the outermost and hottest layer of Sun's atmosphere

**Raised law and order issues hoping for action from Centre, I was attacked instead: Kejriwal**

New Delhi, Dec 1 (The Capital News) AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday targeted the BJP-led central government over alleged inaction on law and order issues here, claiming that instead of taking action against criminals, an attack was orchestrated on him during his November 30 padyatra in the city. The BJP is yet to respond to the allegations. Speaking at a press conference, Kejriwal said, "The liquid thrown on me was harmless, but it could have been dangerous. This is the third attack on me in the last 35 days." The former chief minister also accused Union Home Minister Amit Shah of sending the message that complainants, rather than



offenders, will face arrest. Criticising the arrest of AAP MLA Naresh Balyan, Kejriwal claimed that it sent a message to the people of Delhi and the city's gangsters that those who raise their voices against crimes would face jail while the gangsters themselves would be protected. "Instead of taking action against the criminals, Amit Shah and the BJP have attacked me and arrested my MLA," Kejriwal said, stressing that his criticisms were about

the worsening security situation in Delhi, not political gamesmanship. The AAP leader also questioned how the people of Delhi could rely on the central government for their safety when their concerns were being dismissed. "After all, to whom will the people of Delhi go for their safety? Will they be safe by arresting me and attacking my MLA," Kejriwal asked, urging Shah to take responsibility for addressing the city's crime crisis. The AAP supremo further challenged the Union home minister, saying, "If you have the courage, arrest the gangsters who are terrorising Delhi. Arrest those who are committing murders, rapes and extortion. The people of Delhi

want concrete action against the criminals who have taken over the city." In a security scare on Saturday, a man splashed some liquid on Kejriwal during his 'padyatra' in south Delhi's Malviya Nagar. Targeting the saffron party, AAP leaders alleged that the BJP was resorting to dishonest means as it fears a third consecutive defeat in the upcoming Delhi assembly polls. With the Delhi assembly elections due in February next year, political tensions between AAP and the BJP over law and order are intensifying. AAP is eyeing a third consecutive term after its resounding victory in 2020 and the BJP is looking to end its 25-year exile from power in the national capital.

**Our fight is for the spirit of our country, says Congress leader Priyanka**

Wayanad Dec 1 (The Capital News): Congress MP Priyanka Gandhi Vadra on Sunday launched a scathing attack against the BJP-led Centre, saying today the fight is against the force that is weakening the rights of the people, and handing over them to a few businessmen friends. Addressing a meeting in Mananthavady here, she said, "Today we are fighting for the spirit of our nation, soul of India." Beginning the second day of her visit to the hill constituency, she said, "We are fighting against a force that is doing everything in its power to destroy the institutions upon which our country was built." She promised to be with the people of Wayanad, fighting



shoulder to shoulder for their needs. According to the schedule, Priyanka will also address gatherings at Sulthan Bathery at 12:15 pm, and Kalpetta at 1:30 pm. Priyanka, who is on a two-day Wayanad visit, accompanied by Rahul Gandhi, participated in public meetings at Mulkam in Thiruvambadi, Kaulai in Nikambur, Wandoor and Edavanna in Kozhikode and

Malappuram districts which falls under the Wayanad Lok Sabha segment on Saturday. Priyanka had scored her maiden electoral victory by winning the Wayanad Lok Sabha bypoll with a huge margin of 4,10,931 votes, which is bigger than the lead her brother Rahul secured when he won from the constituency during the Lok Sabha general elections held early this year.

**Country has transformed under BJP leadership, but Oppn has not: Nadda**

Indore, Dec 1 (The Capital News) The country has transformed under the leadership of Bharatiya Janata Party but opposition parties have not changed yet, Union Minister JP Nadda said on Sunday. He was speaking at an event organised in Indore in Madhya Pradesh to mark World AIDS Day. "I do not want to indulge in politics today, but many people say nothing has changed in the country. I just tell them that your status has not changed, everything else has changed. You are in opposition and will stay like this in



future also," the BJP president said. He cited India's successful campaign against COVID-19 and asserted that strong medical infrastructure has been developed in different areas of the country under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "If

someone can see how the country changes, it is a very good thing. I often say that I can improve your eyesight, but I can't give you vision. Now if someone does not have vision, what should I do? Intelligence is required for vision," the Union health and family welfare minister emphasised. Taking a swipe at previous governments, Nadda said it took 40 years for tetanus medicine to come to India, 20 to 25 years for TB medicine, 20 years for diphtheria medicine and 100 years for Japanese encephalitis medicine.

**Road accident claims lives of three, including two doctors**

Anantapur, Dec 1 (The Capital News): A tragic road accident occurred near Vidapanakal in the Uravakonda constituency, claiming the lives of three individuals, including two doctors, and leaving another severely injured. The incident took place early Sunday morning when a speeding car lost control due to snow-covered roads and collided with a tree. The victims, identified as Dr. Yogesh (52), Dr. Govindaraju (54), both doctors from the OPD Government Hospital in Bellary, Karnataka, and their



driver, Venkata Naidu (53), died on the spot. Amar Goud (55), the third doctor traveling with them, sustained serious injuries. The group was returning to Bellary after a vacation in Bangkok and had departed from Bengaluru airport around 1:30 am. The accident

occurred when the vehicle, while traveling on a snow-covered road at dawn, became uncontrollable. The snow and the driver's speed contributed to the fatal crash. The car was severely damaged, and the bodies of the deceased fell to the road due to the impact.

Local motorists alerted emergency services, and the police arrived quickly at the scene. Amar Goud was immediately rushed to Bellary in critical condition. Authorities are investigating the cause of the accident, which has shocked the local community.

**Odisha Cong leader writes to PM, opposes delinking of Waltair railway division from ECoR**

Bhubaneswar, Dec 1 (The Capital News) Former union minister and Congress leader in Odisha Srikant Jena on Sunday wrote to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, opposing the central government's move to merge the Waltair division of ECoR with the new South Coast Railway (SCoR) zone. He also urged the PM to take steps to fortify the East Coast Railway (ECoR), instead of dismantling its structure. The BJD also opposed the Centre's move to delink the Waltair division of ECoR and merge it with the new railway zone, while the ruling BJP in Odisha claimed that the state would continue to have three divisions as earlier. "I earnestly request your (PM) intervention to reconsider this decision and take steps to fortify ECoR rather than dismantle its core structure. I also appeal to you to ensure equitable treatment for Odisha by granting a more comprehensive railway zone in line



with the demand of the people of Odisha," Jena wrote to the prime Minister. Expressing deep concern over the plan to delink the Waltair division, Jena said this move has serious implications on the operational and financial viability of ECoR. The East Coast Railway has three divisions - Khurda Road, Sambalpur and Waltair. However, the authorities have planned to merge the Waltair division with the South Coast Railway (SCoR). The Congress leader said since its establishment in 1996, the ECo

R has consistently ranked among the highest revenue contributors to Indian Railways. The removal of the Waltair division will significantly "weaken ECoR, potentially jeopardising its operations and its critical role in Odisha's development", he alleged. Jena also advocated merger of Sundargarh, Balasore, and Mayurbhanj districts into the East Coast Railway (ECoR) by establishing a new railway division in northern Odisha. "It is disappointing that the current Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav, a Rajya Sabha MP

from Odisha, has taken such steps, which are totally against Odisha's interests and question his commitment to the state he represents," the Congress leader said. However, the BJP rejected the apprehensions expressed by Jena. "Srikant Jena is doing petty politics. He is trying to draw attention so that he may be appointed as PCC (Pradesh Congress Committee) president of Odisha," BJP spokesperson here Anil Biswal said in a statement. Stating that "not a single inch of railway tracks from Odisha is going to other states", the BJP leader said that the proposed Rayagada division has already been sanctioned and tender has been floated for its establishment. "Therefore, the East Coast Railway will continue to have three divisions - Rayagada, Sambalpur and Khurda Road," Biswal said. The BJP leader also said that the highest revenue-generating railway line KK (Kothavalasa-K

irandul) line of the ECoR will be shifted to the Rayagada division. "So, there is no loss of revenue for the East Coast zone," Biswal said. The BJP alleged that neither the BJD nor the Congress had opposed the formation of the South Coast Railway zone when the Andhra Reorganisation Bill was passed by the UPA government. Meanwhile, BJD MLAs Goutam Buddha Das and Saradha Jena have raised the issue in the Odisha Assembly and alleged that the "double engine" government has been mulling "injustice to Odisha" by delinking the Waltair division from the East Coast Railway. The term "double engine" is used by BJP leaders to refer to the party being in power at the Centre as well as in a state. "We are surprised that 20 BJP MPs from Odisha in the Lok Sabha remained silent even as the Centre moves with its plan to delink the Waltair division from the ECoR zone," Das said.

**PM hails BSF on its raising day**

New Delhi, Dec 1 (The Capital News): Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday lauded the Border Security Force on its raising day, saying it stands as a critical line of defence, embodying courage, dedication and exceptional service. "Warm wishes to the Border Security Force on their Raising Day! The BSF stands as a critical line of defence, embodying courage, dedication and exceptional service. Their vigilance and courage contribute to the safety and security of our nation," Modi said in a post on X. The BSF is deployed on India's borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh.



**India's Jay Shah..**  
(From Page 1)

unanimous choice of ICC's Board of Directors and replaced New Zealand attorney Greg Barclay, who didn't wish to continue for a third consecutive term. Before Shah, businessman late Jagmohan Dalmiya, politician Sharad Pawar, lawyer Shashank Manohar and industrialist N Srinivasan had all headed the world cricket body. Shah, the son of India's Home Minister Amit Shah, will have his task cut out as the ICC needs to find an acceptable solution to implement the 'Hybrid Model' for the Champions Trophy originally scheduled in Pakistan.

**No political or..**  
(From Page 1)

political or inflammatory statements before the media near the temple premises after Darshan, disrupting the spiritual peace, it said in a social media post on Saturday. Urging all visitors to respect the decision, the TTD warned of legal action against violators. The board emphasises its commitment to preserving Tirumala's divine and serene environment. LV Subrahmanyam, former Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh, who also worked as Executive Officer of TTD told PTI that the rule has been in place for a long time and there were instances where violators were pulled up.











# Trump threatens BRICS countries of 100% tariff if they drop dollar as currency

Washington, Dec 1 (The Capital News): President-elect Donald Trump on Saturday warned BRICS countries against any move to replace the US dollar and has sought a commitment from the nine-member group that includes India, Russia, China, and Brazil. BRICS, formed in 2009, is the only major international group of which the United States is not a part. Its other members are South Africa, Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia, and the United Arab Emirates. Over the past few years a few of its member countries, in particular Russia and China, are seeking an alternative to the US Dollar or create own BRICS currency. India has so far not been part of the move. On Saturday, Trump warned BRICS nations

against such a move. "The idea that the BRICS Countries are trying to move away from the Dollar while we stand by and watch is OVER," the president-elect said in a post on Truth Social, a platform owned by him. "We require a commitment from these Countries that they will neither create a new BRICS Currency, nor back any other Currency to replace the mighty U.S. Dollar or, they will face 100% Tariffs and should expect to say goodbye to selling into the wonderful U.S. Economy," Trump warned.

"They can go find another 'sucker!' There is no chance that the BRICS will replace the US Dollar in International Trade, and any Country that



tries should wave goodbye to America," he said. At the 2023 summit in South Africa, BRICS countries committed to study the feasibility of a new common currency. A proposal in this regard was made by the Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula de Silva. India, an important pillar of BRICS, has said it is against de-dollarisation. "...ask you

about de-Dollarization as a possibility for the world. At times India has expressed interest in alternative currency. It can serve as a reserve mechanism. I wonder how do you see that right now what you see as the role of the dollar and these discussions about your national policy? India's External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said during his appearance at the

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace this fall. "I think you have us confused for someone else because we have never actively targeted the dollar. That's not part of either our economic policy or our political or our strategic policy. Some others may have," Jaishankar said.

"What I will tell you is a natural concern there. We often have

trade partners who do not have dollars to take. So, we now have to look at whether we forgo dealings with them or do we find some settlement which works otherwise. So, there's no, I can say malicious intent vis-a-vis the dollar in business. WE are trying to do our business," he said. "Sometimes you make it difficult in the use of dollars. We have some trade partners with whom trade in dollars becomes difficult because of your policies. We have to obviously look for workarounds. But for us, as we spoke about rebalancing, we spoke about multiple obviously all of this is also going to reflect on currencies and economic needs," said the External Affairs Minister on October 1 this year.

## Southwest Airlines to end cabin service earlier on flights to reduce chance of injury



Washington, Dec 1 (The Capital News): Southwest Airlines says it is ending cabin service earlier on flights, requiring passengers to do the usual pre-landing procedures such as ensuring their seatbelts are fastened and returning their seats to an upright position earlier than before. Beginning on Dec 4, a company spokesperson said, flight attendants will start preparing the cabin for landing at an altitude of 18,000 feet (5,486 meters) instead of 10,000 feet (3,048 meters). The change in procedure is designed to "reduce the risk of in-flight turbulence injuries" for crew members and passengers, the company said. While turbulence-related fatalities are quite rare, injuries

have piled up over the years. More than one-third of all airline incidents in the United States from 2009 through 2018 were related to turbulence, and most of them resulted in one or more serious injuries but no damage to the plane, the National Transportation Safety Board reported. In May, a 73-year old man died on board a Singapore Airlines flight when the plane hit severe turbulence over the Indian Ocean. The airline had also previously announced other changes. Starting next year, Southwest will toss out a half-century tradition of "open seating" — passengers picking their own seats after boarding the plane.

## Trump meets Trudeau at Mar-a-Lago; discusses trade, border security, drug crisis



Washington, Nov 30 (The Capital News): US President-elect Donald Trump has met Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida, where they discussed key bilateral issues, including trade, tariffs, border security, and drug trafficking. In a social media post on Friday, Trump described the meeting as "productive", highlighting Trudeau's commitment to address these issues. However, there was no indication of any resolution of the differences between the incoming US administration and the Canadian government. "I just had a very productive meeting with

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada, where we discussed many important topics that will require both countries to work together to address," Trump said. The topics include Fentanyl and drug crisis due to illegal immigration, fair trade deals that do not jeopardise American workers, and the massive trade deficit the US has with Canada, he said. Trump emphasised his administration's commitment to tackling the drug epidemic. "The US will no longer sit idly by as our citizens become victims to the scourge of this drug epidemic, caused mainly by drug cartels, and Fentanyl pouring in from China," he said. "Too much death and hardship! Prime Minister Trudeau has made a commitment to work with us to end this ter-

rible devastation of US families. We also spoke about many other important topics like energy, trade, and the Arctic. All are vital issues that I will be addressing on my first days back in office, and before," Trump said. According to The New York Times newspaper, the dinner meeting between the two leaders on Friday included senior Canadian officials and Trump's close aides. Prominent among them were North Dakota Governor Doug Burgum, Trump's nominee for interior secretary; Howard Lutnick, his pick for commerce secretary; and Mike Waltz, his choice for national security adviser.

Washington, Dec 1 (The Capital News): US President-elect Donald Trump on Saturday nominated New York real estate developer Charles Kushner as his envoy to France. Kushner is the father of Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner. Jared played a key role in the first term of the Trump Administration including the Israel-Palestine peace plan. He is married to Ivanka Trump, daughter of President-elect Donald Trump. "I am pleased to nominate Charles Kushner, of New Jersey, to serve as the US Ambassador to France. He is a tremendous business leader, philanthropist, & dealmaker, who will be a strong advocate representing our

## Trump nominates New York real estate developer Charles Kushner as his envoy to France



Country & its interests," Trump announced. "Charlie is the Founder & Chairman of Kushner & Companies, one of the largest & most successful privately held Real Estate firms in the Nation. He was recognized as New Jersey Entrepreneur of the Year by Ernst & Young, appointed to the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, & served as a Commissioner, & Chairman, of the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey, as well as on the Boards of our top institutions, including NYU," he said. "Congratulations to Charlie, his wonder-

ful wife Seryl, their 4 children, & 14 grandchildren. His son, Jared, worked closely with me in the White House, in particular on Operation Warp Speed, Criminal Justice Reform, & the Abraham Accords. Together, we will strengthen America's partnership with France, our oldest Ally, & one of our greatest!," Trump said in a social media post. Charles Kushner was convicted of preparing false tax returns, retaliating against a cooperating witness, and making false statements to the Federal Election Commission in 2005. He served over 16 months in prison. He was pardoned by Trump in 2020.

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## 7 militants killed in anti-terror operations in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

Peshawar, Nov 30 (The Capital News): At least seven militants were killed on Saturday during a joint operation by security forces, supported by helicopter gunships, targeting militant hideouts in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, police said. The operation, conducted at Bakka Khel area in Bannu district, was part of a broader response to the fresh wave of attacks against security forces in the province's southern districts. Seventeen terrorists were killed on Friday in two separate intelligence-based opera-

tions in Bannu and North Waziristan districts. In the Baka Khel area of Bannu, 12 terrorists linked to the Hafiz Gulbahadur group were killed as helicopter gunships targeted their compound. In another operation in the Hasso Khel area of Mir Ali in North Waziristan, five militants were killed. A significant cache of weapons and ammunition was recovered during the operations, with security forces releasing images of the neutralized militants. Security forces have deployed reinforcements, and the operations are expected to continue.

Perth, Dec 1 (The Capital News): Every 30 seconds, someone in the world will experience a flare-up of their asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) symptoms. For decades, the standard treatment for these potentially life-threatening episodes has remained unchanged — treatment with steroids, such as prednisolone. Unfortunately, these drugs don't work for everyone and they have significant levels of serious side-effects. Nearly one-third of patients treated with steroids will see their symptoms worsen again within a month, requiring more treatment and increasing the risk of side-effects. But what if there was a better option? Our lat-

est study, published in The Lancet Respiratory Medicine, has revealed that a drug called benralizumab — administered as an injection — may be the breakthrough that we have been waiting for. The results suggest that this treatment, administered at the time of a flare-up, is highly effective and spares patients the side-effects of steroids. Inflammation caused by a type of white blood cell called eosinophils is a key driver of flare-ups in many people with asthma and some people with COPD. Eosinophilic inflammation plays a role in at least half of asthma and one-third of COPD flare-ups. For these people, targeting eosinophils when



symptoms worsen is a promising strategy. Benralizumab, a monoclonal antibody, is already used for the long-term management of eosinophilic asthma, with studies still evaluating the effect for long-term management in eosinophilic COPD. However, the potential to manage critical moments, when symptoms suddenly worsen, had not been studied before. In the trial, 158 patients experiencing asthma or COPD flare-ups were recruited from two UK hospitals. Participants were

randomly assigned to one of three groups: standard treatment with prednisolone tablets, a single injection of benralizumab alone, or a combination of the two. Striking results The main outcome we were interested in was the "rate of treatment failure", defined as the need for further therapy, hospitalisation or death, within 90 days. The results were striking: 74% of those treated with prednisolone alone experienced treatment failure within 90 days. Failure rates dropped to 47%

with benralizumab alone and 42% with the combination therapy. Pooled data from the benralizumab-treated groups showed that only 45% of patients experienced treatment failure, compared with 74% in the prednisolone group. For every four patients treated with benralizumab, one treatment failure was prevented. The benefits of benralizumab extended beyond treatment failure rates. Patients treated with benralizumab reported faster symptom recovery and improved quality of life. For example, patients were able to breathe better and had less discomfort. Benralizumab also had a better safety profile compared with prednisolone. Side-effects

commonly linked to prednisolone, such as high blood sugar, were absent in patients who received benralizumab alone. This makes the therapy especially promising for people who face significant risks from repeated prednisolone use, such as older adults and those with diabetes or osteoporosis. While a lower dose of benralizumab is already approved for long-term asthma management, it is not yet licensed for use during flare-ups at the dose used in this study. For that to happen, phase 3 trials will be needed, involving more diverse and international populations. (Phase 3 is the final phase of testing in humans before a drug is approved.)



## Pruthvi-Sai, Tanisha-Dhruv end as runners-up at Syed Modi International

**Lucknow, Dec 1 (The Capital News):** The Indian men's doubles pair Pruthvi Krishnamurthy Roy and Sai Pratheek K, along with the mixed doubles team of Tanisha Crasto and Dhruv Kapila, concluded their campaigns with runner-up finishes at the Syed Modi International badminton tournament here on Sunday. Pruthvi and Sai displayed grit and flashes of brilliance in a 71-minute men's doubles final before falling 14-21, 21-19, 17-21 to China's Huang Di and Liu Yang. Earlier, fifth seeded Tanisha and Dhruv squandered an opening game advantage before losing 21-18 14-21 8-21 to Thailand's sixth-seeded pair Dechapol Puavaranukroh and Supissara Paewsampran in mixed doubles finals. Pruthvi and Sai stayed toe-to-toe with the Chinese pair until 8-8 in the opening game, but the opponents pulled ahead to grab the first game. The Indians rallied in the second, holding an 11-7 lead at the break and fending off a late surge to level the match. In the decider, the duo showed fighting spirit, recovering from 1-5 to tie at 7-7, with Sai unleashing powerful



smashes. However, despite narrowing the gap to 17-18, the Chinese pair held its nerves to clinch the match. In the mixed doubles summit clash, Tanisha and Dhruv surged to a 6-0 lead but saw their advantage slip as the Thai pair recovered to edge ahead 14-12. What ensued was a neck-and-neck battle, with both pairs trading points up to 18-18. However, Tanisha stepped up when it mattered the most, capitalizing on a weak return to dazzle at the front court and secure two game points for the Indians. The opening game was sealed when a mistimed shot from the

Thai pair sailed wide, handing Tanisha and Dhruv the upper hand in the match. Dechapol and Supissara bounced back to take a 11-6 advantage in the second game and kept their nose ahead to take the match to the decider. The Indians were tentative and erratic in the third game as the Thai pair sustained the momentum to eke out a 11-5 lead at the break. The Indians gathered three quick points on resumption but lacked consistency as Dechapol and Supissara seized 12 match points. The Thai pair sealed the contest when Tanisha found the net.

## Hockey India names 20-member Indian junior women's squad for Asia Cup



**New Delhi, Dec 1 (The Capital News):** Hockey India on Sunday named a strong 20-member squad, led by Jyoti Singh, for the upcoming women's Junior Asia Cup to be held in Muscat, Oman, from December 7 to 15. As the defending champions, India enter the tournament with high hopes after securing their maiden title last year, defeating South Korea 2-1. This tournament serves as a qualifier for the FIH Hockey Junior World Cup 2025. The host nation for the event is yet to be determined. The competition will feature 10 teams

divided into two pools. India are placed in Pool A alongside China, Malaysia, Thailand, and Bangladesh, while Pool B consists of South Korea, Japan, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong China, and Sri Lanka. Sakshi Rana has been named the vice-captain. Nidhi and Aditi Maheshwari will provide a strong presence in the goal, while the defence will be marshalled by Manisha, Jyoti Singh, Lalthantluangi, Pooja Sahoo, and Mamata Oram. The midfield features a talented lineup comprising Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke, Sunelita Toppo, Ishika, Rajni

Kerketta, Sakshi Rana, and Khaidem Shileima Chanu. India will rely on Deepika, Beauty Dungdung, Kanika Siwach, Mumtaz Khan, and Lalrinpuii to lead the attack. Binima Dhan and Himanshi Sharad Gawande have been named as reserve players. Deepika, Vaishnavi Vitthal Phalke, Sunelita Toppo, Mumtaz Khan and Beauty Dungdung have represented the Indian women's senior national team and will bring valuable experience. Coach Tushar Khandker said, "We are excited to embark on our title defence at the women's Junior Asia Cup. This is a special group with a great balance of experience and young talent. Many of our players have already showcased their skills on the senior stage, and their presence will be crucial in guiding the team. "Our focus is on playing an aggressive, disciplined game and taking it match by match. We are confident in our preparation and believe this squad has the potential to defend the title and make the country proud again."

## Syed Mushtaq Ali T20: Surya to join Mumbai squad from Andhra game

**New Delhi, Dec 1 (The Capital News):** India's T20 skipper Suryakumar Yadav will be back in action for Mumbai's next Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy game against Andhra on Tuesday, December 3 after taking a short two-week break to attend a family function. Just like he has done in some earlier occasions, Surya might not lead the side with Shreyas Iyer in charge till now and will be one of the regular players. Surya, who led India to an emphatic 3-1 series win over South Africa will link up with the Mumbai squad in Hyderabad on Monday and is expected to turn up for the next game against Andhra. He had intimidated the Mumbai Cricket Association about his unavailability during the initial few group league games owing to a family function. It is understood that Surya is absolutely fine with Iyer continuing as the skipper and is ready to bat at any posi-



tion that the team management feels is suitable for 'SKY'. Playing for Mumbai across all domestic tournaments whenever he is available has been top priority for Surya and he would continue doing that. He will be playing the remainder of the SMAT for Mumbai and also in the Vijay Hazare Trophy starting December 21. The idea is to play

for India across formats. In a recent series against South Africa, the skipper relinquished his own set batting position at number three for Tilak Varma, who had requested his skipper for that particular slot. Tilak repaid the faith of his captain by getting two successive hundreds which contributed heavily in India's victory.

## 12th Fail Heroine Stuns in Sequins & Sass!



**M**edha Shankar, who rose to fame with her impactful debut in 12th Fail, turned heads at the GQ India event in a sizzling black sequined jumpsuit. The actress looked absolutely ravishing, exuding confidence and charm as she posed for the cameras. Her bold yet elegant look left fashion enthusiasts in awe! 12th Fail, which hit the screens last year, turned out to be a blockbuster, garnering both critical acclaim and audience love. However, 2024 seems to have been a quiet year for the talented actress, as no new projects followed after her big success. With her undeniable talent and striking screen presence, fans are hopeful that Medha Shankar's 2025 will be brighter.

## Pushpa 2 Heading Towards \$3 Million Premiere



**W**ith just five days to go until the North American premieres of Pushpa 2: The Rule, the film is already making waves at the box office. Pre-sale numbers for the movie are soaring, having already crossed \$1.9 million from 3,726 shows. The film is trending towards an impressive

\$2.75 million to \$3 million in pre-sale ticket sales, with more shows and locations expected to be added by Tuesday. The breakdown of the pre-sales is as follows:  
**USA:** \$1,778,798 from 3,635 shows across 990 locations, with 62,771 tickets already sold.  
**Canada:** \$130,576 from 91

shows in 23 locations, with 4,804 tickets sold. As the premiere approaches, excitement continues to build for the film. The film is poised to be one of the biggest South Indian releases in North America, with a strong fan base anticipating its arrival. With more shows being added across key locations, including the top two markets in the USA, Pushpa 2: The Rule is all set for a massive debut. The film's pre-sale performance signals strong momentum, and early projections suggest it will make a huge impact on opening weekend numbers. Stay tuned for further updates as Pushpa 2 gets closer to its highly anticipated premiere.

## Maharaja Roars in China!

**V**ijay Sethupathi's Maharaja is creating a storm in China, and the success of the film has left everyone in awe. While it's considered a big achievement for any film to release in China, Maharaja has taken things to an entirely new level. The film has been released in over 40,000 screens, and on its opening day alone, it earned over 16 crores, a figure that is nothing short of spectacular. Directed by Nithilan Swaminathan, this thrilling revenge drama has won the hearts of Chinese audiences. China boasts approximately 85,000 screens in total, and having a Tamil film featured on more than half of them is impressive enough. But the real achievement lies in how well the film has been received. Maharaja has struck a chord with the audience, with industry experts predicting that the film is set for a long run at the box office. Further adding to its success, the film has garnered an outstanding 8.7/10 rating on the Chinese review website Douban,



making it the highest-rated Indian film in recent years. This has led to widespread praise and acclaim. The fact that Indian films weren't released in China for some time—due to the border disputes between India and China—only makes Maharaja's success more significant. After four years of a hiatus in Indian film releases, the film became the first Indian movie to be released post the resolution of the border issues, with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping signing an agreement in Russia to restore relations. Even with fierce competition from Hollywood's Gladiator 2,

Maharaja has stood its ground in a remarkable manner. The plot, which revolves around an ordinary man seeking revenge for the assault on his adopted daughter, has been executed brilliantly on screen, captivating audiences. This has translated into an impressive global box-office collection of 100 crores, sparking global recognition. Now, with China responding positively, Maharaja's producers are preparing for a grand release in Japan soon, marking another milestone in the film's journey. It's clear that the subject matter of Maharaja has universal appeal, and its global success is a testament to its strength.

