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Road accident claims lives of three, including two doctors



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



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



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



India's Jay Shah takes over as new ICC chairman

Dubai: The BCC I's outgoing secretary Jay Shah on Su nday took charge a s the chairman of the International Cr icket Council, beco ming the fifth Indi an to head the global body. The 36-ye ar-old Shah, who has been the BCCI secretary for the la st five years, was the (Cont.on P2)



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

Washington, Dec 1 (The Capital News): Presidentelect 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)



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

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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



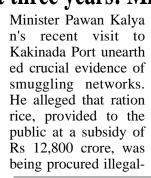
ment will also gather public opinions on new policies like the free sand policy and the liquor sales policy. The IVRS system will extend its reach to assess the performance of civil services, inclu ding departments such as revenue, municipal services, and electricity. If public dissatisfaction is identified, the government will analyze the underlying

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

Vijayawada, Dec 1 (The Capital News): Andhra Pradesh Gover nment Civil Supplies Minister Nadendla Ma nohar has said that larg e-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 irregulari-



ties 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



ly 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)

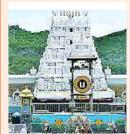
AP cabinet meeting rescheduled to December 3

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 Chandraba bu Naidu. The Chief Secretary has directed all departments to submit proposals for discussion by 4 pm on December 1. The Cabi net is set to deliberate on critical issues, inclu ding, issuance of ratio



message to cadre quoting TDP activist Srinu's death

Amaravati: Mini ster for IT and HRD Nara Lokesh expres sed profound sorro w over the tragic de ath of a Telugu Des am Party (TDP) acti vist, Srinu, who w as known for his un wavering dedicati on to the party and Lokesh himself. Th e minister lamented that Srinu, who was always proactive in (Cont.on P3)



No political or hate speeches near Tirumala temple: TTD

Tirupati: The Tir umala Tirupati Dev asthanams, custodian of Lord Venkates wara Swamy temp le, has banned poli tical and hate speec hes at Tirumala. Th e decision comes in response to recent incidents where ind ividuals including political leaders m ade (Cont.on P2)

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 Res ponse System (IVRS). This initiative aims to directly involve citizens in assessing the implementation of government schemes and programs, enabl ing the administration to make informed deci sions based on public feedback. The govern-

ment will make computer-based phone ca lls to beneficiaries of

key welfare schemes such as door-to-door pensions and the Dee pam scheme, which provides free gas cy linders. Beneficiaries will be asked questions about the quality of services, ease of acc ess, and any difficulties they face. Feed back will guide adjustments and enhancements to these sche mes. Public opinion on policies, services In addition to welfare schemes, the govern-

Indian film 'Maharaja' makes waves in China; earns Rs 16 crore at box office



Beijing, Dec 1 (The Capital News): Tamil movie "Maharaja", the first Indian film to be released in China after the last month's accord to normalise ties between the two coun-



box office in China. Ahead of its release, the film scored a high rating of 8.7/10 on Chinese movie review site Douban and is regarded as "one of the (Cont.on P3)

reasons and take corrective measures to ensure better service delivery. Chief Mini ster N. Chandrababu Naidu emphasized that government operations should reflect public (Cont.on P2)



Cyclone 'Fengal crosses coast near **Puducherry**

Amaravati: Cyclo ne 'Fengal', which for med in the Bay of Ben gal, has crossed the co ast, reaching near Pud ucherry between 10: 30 PM and 11:30 PM on Saturday. The cyc lone is expected to mo ve slowly towards the west-southwest and gradually weaken. As a result, heavy rains are forecasted for the south coast and Raya laseema on Sunday, according to Ronamki Kurmanath, Managing Director of the AP Dis aster Management Aut (Cont.on P4)

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 between Greyhounds, an elite anti-naxal force of Telangana Police and the ultras, police said. "Seven

among the weapons seized from the scene. maoists were killed in Among (Cont.on P2) the exchange of fire",

Master plan review for Kanaka Durga temple development



Vijayawada, Dec 1 (The Capital News): A key meeting regarding the development of Vijayawada the 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 act ive participation from Vijayawada MP Kesin eni Sivanath, who ma de 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 ye ars. MP Kesineni Siva nath proposed the construction of waiting halls (Cont.on P3)

a senior police official

told PTI, adding two

AK 47 rifles were

es, the state's sand policy, analysis of the current political scenario in Andhra Prade sh, fulfillment of election promises and foc us 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 n cards to the underformer Chief Minister privileged, progress Y S Jagan Mohan Red and implementation of dy. The issue has garthe Super Six schem nered (Cont.on P2)

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

of the Delhi Assembly polls, the BJP will ta ke out 'Parivartan Yat ra' from December 8 across all 70 constitue ncies in the city, state unit party president Virendra Sachdeva sai d on Sunday. The 'Pari vartan 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 Pol ar Satellite Launch V ehicle (PSLV) will bla st off from Sriharikota spaceport in Andhra Pradesh on December 4 carrying ESA's Prob a-3 mission, the India n space agency said on Sunday. The European Space Agency's (ES A) Proba-3 Mission is happening in collaboration with ISRO's co mmercial arm NewSp ace (Cont.on P2)











ANDHRA PRADESH - TELANGANA

THE CAPITAL • VIJAYAWADA • SUNDAY • 1 DECEMBER 2024

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 Pat h," aimed to promote awareness about HI V 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 con cerning increase in new cases among thi s demographic. Effo rts to combat HIV include the establish ment of ART (Ant iretroviral Therapy) centers, ensuring th at no person is more than 50 kilometers away from one. The State's ambitious go al is to eliminate HI V by 2030, with continuous efforts towar d spreading awareness and providing accessible treatment options.

AP Govt to.. (From Page 1)

opinion, stating, "What the people sa y is final." Leveragi ng technology for better governance T his approach follows successful instances where the IVRS system was used effectively, including can didate selection during elections and inf orming the public about assistance during the Vijayawada floods. The governm ent now plans to use this method extensively across all sche mes and services. Urging public participation, Chief Minist er Naidu said, "The one or two minutes spent by citizens on these calls will help us deliver the best go vernance and quality services." He called upon the people to actively contribute to shaping a more tra nsparent and accoun table administration.

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

New Delhi, Dec 1 (The Capital News) AAP national convenor Arvind Kejriwal on Sunday targeted the BJP-led central government over alleged inaction on law and or der issues here, claiming that instead of taking action against cri minals, an attack was orchestrated on him

during his November

30 padyatra in the

city. The BJP is yet to

respond to the allega-

tions.Speaking at a

press conference, Kejr

iwal 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 com-

plainants, rather than



offenders, will face arrest.Criticising the arrest of AAP MLA Naresh Balyan, Kejir wal 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 attac ked 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 aske d, urging Shah to take responsibility for add ressing the city's crime crisis.The AAP supremo further challenged the Union home minister, saying, "If you have the courage, arre st 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 upcomi ng 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 25year 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 businessmen few 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 their for needs. According to the Priyanka schedule, 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 Mukkam 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 transform ed under the leadership of Bharatiya Janata Party but opposition pa rties 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 coun-

try. 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 Vidapan akal in the Uravakonda constituency, claiming the lives of three individuals, including two doctors, and leaving another severely injur ed. The incident took place early Sunday mo rning 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



occurred when the (53), died on the spot. vehicle, while travel-Amar Goud (55), the ing on a snow-covered third doctor traveling road at dawn, became with them, sustained uncontrollable. The serious injuries. The snow and the driver's group was returning to speed contributed to Bellary after a vacatio the fatal crash. The car n in Bangkok and had was severely damaged, departed from Bengalu and the bodies of the ru airport around 1:30 deceased fell to the am. The accident 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.

Seven Maoists.. (From Page 1)

those killed was Kursam Mangu alias Bhadru, Secretary of Telangana State Co mmittee (Yellandu Narsampet) of the banned CPI (Maois t), 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 (NS IL). "This mission will place ESA's PR OBA-3 satellites (5 50kg) into a unique highly elliptical orb it, reinforcing PSLV 's reliability for com plex orbital deliveries," ISRO said in a post on 'X'. Accordi ng to ISRO, the sat ellite will take off at 4.08 pm on Wedn esday. The ESA said Proba-3 is the worl d's first precision fo rmation flying mission. It will study the solar corona, the ou termost and hottest layer of Sun's atmosphere

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. Expre ssing 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 Rail way 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 rank ed 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 developmen t", 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 Minist er Ashwini Vaishnaw, 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 expre ssed by Jena."Srikanta 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 revenuegenerating 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.Meanwhil e, BJD MLAs Goutam Buddha Das and Sarad a Jena have raised the issue in the Odisha Assembly and alleged that the 'double eng ine" government has been meting out "injus tice 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 Ca pital 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 coura ge, 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, dis rupting the spiritual peace, it said in a social med ia post on Saturday. Urging all visitors to respect the decision, the TTD warned of legal action agai nst 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.









NATIONAL - INTERNATIONAL

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

Sambhal (UP), Dec 1 (The Capital News) Amid tight security, members of a judicial commission on Sund ay visited the Shahi Ja ma Masjid here and other areas which witnessed violence over a court-ordered survey of the Mughal-era mos que.Panel head retired Allahabad High Court judge Devendra Kum ar Arora and retired IP S officer Arvind Kum ar Jain were the two members of the threemember Commission which visited the areas that witnessed violence on November 24. The panel's third member, ex-IAS officer Amit Mohan Prasa d, was not present during Sunday's visit.The Commission members, however, did not respo nd to any media quer

ies during the visit in the morning hours. They were accompanied by Moradabad Di visional Commissioner Aunjaneya Kumar Sin gh, DIG Muniraj G alo ng with the Sambhal District Magistrate Raj endra Pensiya and Sup erintendent of Police Krishan Kumar.Later, speaking to reporters, the Moradabad Divisio nal Commissioner sa id, "Today, the chairperson of the inquiry commission and one other member visited the site. Their primary purpose was to inspect the location. They visited the areas where the disturbance occur red, examined the site and the structure, and spoke to some of the people present there. The team will visit again, and a complete



schedule for the team's visit will be announc ed. They are certain to return.""The situation here is gradually return ing to normal, and it is being closely monitored. Conditions are stabilising rapidly. As of now, the district magistrate's orders rem ain in effect until Dec ember 10, and after that, there will be no restrictions on anyone. We are in the process of collecting evidence and have so far identi-

fied 400 individuals involved," he said.He was referring to an order that prohibits entry of outsiders, including politicians, social organisations, or public representatives, in the violence-hit district till December 10 without permission fro m competent authority in order to maintain law and order. After the judicial team visited the Shahi Jama Masjid, its Imam Aftab Hussain Warsi said,

"The team stayed for about 15 minutes and inspected the mosqu e."Mosque's secretary Masood Farooqui said, "The team did not ask us anything. They mentioned that they were only here to see the Jama Masjid and visited the site of the incident. They said they would take statements later." Arora and Jain had reached Moradabad a day ago while Prasad was expected to join them in Sambhal, the divisional commissioner had said on Saturd ay.Violence erupted in Sambhal on November 24 during a courtordered survey of the Shahi Jama Masjid, killing four persons and injuring many others.The survey was linked to a petition

claiming that a Harihar temple once stood at the site of the mosq ue.The Commission formed via a notification on November 28 has been directed to complete its probe within two months. Any extension of this timeline will require government approv al. The panel has been entrusted with the task of examining whether the clashes were spontaneous or part of a well-planned criminal conspiracy, as well as the preparedness of the police and the administration in handling the situation.The Comm ission will also analyse circumstances the leading to the violence, and recommend measures to prevent similar incidents from recurring in the future.



Man posing as Army jawan held in Gujarat's Porbandar

Porbandar, Dec 1 (The Capital News) Police have arrested a 30-year-old man posing as an Army solider in public in Gujarat's Porbandar city allege dly with an intention to deceive people, an official said on Sunday. The accused, Sanjay Dodia, resident of Shapar Veraval in Rajkot district, was apprehended from Kamla Baug area of Porbandar city on Saturday and later released on bail, he said.Despite not being in the Army, the accused was found wearing the soldier's uniform with the intention to make it appear that he was a military jawan, the official from Kamla Baug police station said.He was booked under section 168 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, which prohibits a person from wearing or carrying items that look like military garb or tokens, such as badges or medals, with the intent to deceive others into thinking the person is a member of the military, he said.The non-cognisable offence invites a jail term of up to three months or a fine of up to Rs 2,000 or both.

HI names 20-member Indian junior women's squad for Asia Cup

New Delhi, Dec 1 (The Capital News) Hockey India on Sund ay named a strong 20member squad, led by Jyoti Singh, for the up coming women's Junio r Asia Cup to be held in Muscat, Oman, fro m December 7 to 15.A s 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 Hock ey Junior World Cup 2025. The host nation for the event is yet to be determined. The co mpetition will feature 10 teams divided into two pools.India are p laced in Pool A alongside China, Malaysia,

(From Page 1)

highest-rated Indian films in

recent years". Directed by Nit

hilan Swaminathan, "Mahar

aja" also stars Anurag Kashya

p, Mamta Mohandas and Natty

Natraj. The film follows Maha

raja (Sethupathi), a barber in

Chennai, who goes to the

police station to retrieve his st

olen dustbin only for the poli

ce officers to find his inten-

tions to be something else.

"Maharaja" opened to a great

response when it hit Indian scr

eens on June 14, earning over

Rs 100 crore at home. It is the

first Indian film to be screened

in China after both the coun-

tries firmed up an agreement

on patrolling and disengage-

ment of troops along the Line

of Actual Control (LAC) in eas

tern Ladakh, in a major break-

through to end the over four-

year border standoff. Prime

Minister Narendra Modi and

Chinese President Xi Jinping

at their meeting in Kazan in

Russia on the sidelines of the

BRICS summit on October 23

endorsed the agreement and

issued directions to revive var-

ious bilateral dialogue mecha-

nisms and normalise ties that

were hit by a deadly military

clash in 2020 at Galwan Vall

ey. Indian films "Three Idiots",

"Dangal" and "Secret Supersta

r", all starring Aamir Khan, we

re some of the major box of

fice successes in China in rece

nt years. China has about 86,0

00 theatres all over the coun-



Thailand, and Banglad al Phalke, Sunelita Top esh, while Pool B conpo, Ishika, Rajni Kerke sists of South Korea. tta, Sakshi Rana, and Japan, Chinese Taipei, Khaidem Shileima Ch anu.India will rely on Hong Kong China, and Sri Lanka.Sakshi Rana Deepika, Beauty Dung has been named the dung, Kanika Siwach, Mumtaz Khan, and vice-captain.Nidhi and Lalrinpuii to lead the Aditi Maheshwari will provide a strong presattack.Binima Dhan ence in the goal, while and Himanshi Sharad the defence will be Gawande have been marshalled by Manis named as reserve playha, Jyoti Singh, Laltha ers.Deepika, Vaishnavi ntluangi, Pooja Sahoo, Vitthal Phalke, Suneli

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."

Hindu groups call for fast-track courts for Mathura and Kashi temple disputes

Mathura (UP), Dec 1 (The Capital News) Hindu nationalist organis ations participating in a convention here have raised the dema nd for expedited hearin gs of disputes concerning temples in Mathura and Kashi through fas t-track courts. The convention was organised by the Hindu Janajagr uti Samiti in Vrindava n, Mathura district, on Saturday. The event al so focused on two addi tional demands -- impl ementing a complete a nd effective ban on the issuance of illegal hal al certifications across India and taking decisive action to address alleged atrocities and



vention saw the participation of representatives of several Hindu organisations.Dr Charudatta Pingale, na tional guide of the Hin du Janajagruti Samiti, said, "Establishing a Hindu Rashtra (Hindu nation) is essential to preserving India's cultural identity and integ rity."Citing a report by the Pew Research Cen

population.Pingale also raised concerns ab out alleged threats, including efforts to cre ate separate Christian nations in Manipur and Mizoram, and the misuse of Waqf laws for what he referred to as "land jihad".Anurag Krishna Pathak, a spiritual speaker, said, "Th ere is a need for fasttrack court hearings for temple-related disputes in Mathura and Kashi."Pawan Sinha of the Pawan Chintan Dh ara Ashram supported the Uttar Pradesh government's decision on regulating halal certifications and advocated for a nationwide ban on illegal halal certificerns over the plight of Hindus in Bangladesh and urged the Indian government to pressu re the interim government in the neighbouring country to safeguard the human rights of its Hindu minority.The Hindu Janajagr uti Samiti announced an online petition to advocate for the establishment of fast-track courts for temple disputes in Mathura and Kashi.Pathak said the convention was attended by over 120 represe ntatives, including see rs, lawyers, intellectuals, temple trustees, ed itors, entrepreneurs an d RTI activists, of 54 Hindu nationalist grou ps from Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Ma dhya Pradesh, Harya n a, Uttarakhand and Jammu.

and Mamata Oram.T he midfield features a talented lineup comprising Vaishnavi Vitth

Oram.T ta Toppo, Mumtaz Kh atures a an and Beauty Dungd o comvi Vitth the Indian women's

Indian film..

try, the highest in the world. Chinese film critics say "Maha raja" is expected to do very well. The strength of the film lies in its distinctive cultural expression and unique narrative techniques, Wang Peiyu, a Douban film critic, told staterun Global Times previously. As a suspense film, "Mahara ja" uses editing techniques to cleverly conceal the key actio ns of the protagonist, interspersing numerous subplots to confuse the audience. Through cross-cutting, it creates a feeling of simultaneity and carefully constructs a labyrinthine narrative, he noted. Wang said many Chinese moviegoers have expressed that the film's theme, which deliberately misguides the audience and reveals the truth towards the end, leaving watchers stunned, can break through language and cultural barriers to resonate with Chinese audiences. He pointed out that this subversive narrative approach not only gives the film a strong sense of sophistication but also makes it a standout in its genre, positioning it as a true blockbuster. A viewer surnamed Li, who has watched the pre-screening of "Maha raja", said the movie continues the tradition of recent Indian films, which focus on social issues, while also incorporating religious beliefs and moral concepts from Indian culture. For Chinese audiences, such

films not only provide intellectual stimulation but also offer a cha nce to understand Indian culture from a different perspective, Li told the daily. In recent years, Indian films have established a strong presence in the Chinese market. From "Dan gal" to "Secret Superstar", the se films have sparked discussions among audiences with their sincere emotions and social issues, she added. Wang said Indian films have not only performed well at the box off ice but have also consistently won over Chinese audiences with their distinct themes and profound social issues. Films like "Maharaja" often have a strong moral core, which is clo sely related to traditional India n values. This is one of the key differences when compared to the more secular or individualistic narrative styles found in many Western films, said Wa g. He pointed out that in contrast, many Western suspense films focus more on psychological elements, dealing with themes of betrayal and justice, and rarely delve into cultural backgrounds. Compared to Hollyw ood blockbusters like "Gladiat or II", which attract attention with their global influence and epic production, films like "Maharaja" offer a different kind of appeal in the international market through their unique regional and philosophical elements, he said.

persecution of Hindus in Bangladesh.Held at the Balaji Dham temple complex, the con-

(From Page 1)

allowed the rice to be released

after the companies paid the pre-

scribed amounts. Manohar accus

ed former Chief Minister YS

Jagan Mohan Reddy of enabling

these irregularities by centraliz-

ing control over Kakinada Port

and purchasing 969 vehicles for

door-to-door delivery of ration

rice at a cost of Rs 16,000 crore.

He alleged that this delivery net-

13 companies, but court orders

tre in the US, he warne d that by 2050, India is projected to have the world's largest Muslim

e cation practices.Acha s rya Mahamandaleshw e ar Pranavanand Sara n swati expressed con-

Rs 48,537 crore..

potentially dangerous contraband. The minister further alleged that the previous administration ignored these issues, questioning whether Jagan's government was complicit or simply incompetent. He criticized YSRCP leaders for their silence on the matter and accused them of threatening Aurobindo Pharma to relinquish control of the port, creating an atmosphere conducive to corruption and smuggling. Highlighting the severity of the issue, Manohar claimed that during the COVID-19 pandemic, Rs 6,300 crore worth of

ration rice was smuggled using manipulated systems and authorities. He expressed determination to dismantle the so-called "ration mafia" and eliminate middlemen exploit government who schemes. Manohar also emphasized the support of Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu and Deputy CM Pawan Kalyan in tackling these irregularities. He assured that the coalition government is committed to eradicating corruption in the civil supplies system and protecting the resources meant for the State's poor.

Nara Lokesh.. (From Page 1)

addressing the concerns of others, never shared his own struggles. Lokesh's Tweet : "Anna.. Anna... you used to call me. You always reached out to help others in trouble and celebrated my pe rsonal milestones like festivals. Why didn't you share your pain with me? You've made a mistake that can't be undone, brother. I miss you deeply. As soon as I heard about your tragic suicide atte mpt through social media, I tried my best to save you. Sorry, Sri nu. You never told me about your struggles or the losses you fac ed. While you're no longer here, I promise to stand by your famil y as a brother and fulfill my responsibilities towards them. To all TDP workers, fans, and social media activists: whether it's debt, illness, pride, or family problems, please share your struggles with family, friends, or those within the party. Every problem has a solution. Let's value life and support each other. Please don't make such irreversible decisions."

Master plan.. (From Page 1)

to ensure that devotees do not face undue hardships while waiting in long queues, making their visit more comfortable. Additionally, MP Sivanath emphasized the importance of securing funding for the temple's development through the central government's 'Prasadam' scheme, urging the Trust Board to explore avenues for financial support. The proposed changes aim to improve the temple's infrastructure while ensuring it meets the increasing needs of the growing number of devotees.

work was manipulated to facilitate smuggling, turning Kakinada into a hub of illegal activities, including the export of rice and **Delhi polls..** (From Page 1) Upadhyay, convener of a committee formed to supervise the campaign. The yatras will commence from prime religious places in assembly constituen-

yatras will commence from prime religious places in assembly constituencies at 10 am and conclude at 8 pm, he said. Top national leaders of the BJP and Union ministers will take part in these yatras along with leaders and wor kers of the Delhi unit, said Upadhyay. Each day, the leaders will begin the foot march to meet the people of Delhi. These will be followed by interactions with prominent locals, women, representatives of social-religious organisations and resident welfare associations from 2 pm to 5 pm. In the evening, again a foot march will be taken out in prominent localities of the assembly constituencies, Upadhyay said. Out of power in Delhi since 1998, the BJP is making all-out efforts to wrest power from the AAP. In the 2015 and 2020 Delhi Assembly polls, the AAP won 67 and 62 seats respectively.









PHOTO FEATURE

THE CAPITAL • VIJAYAWADA • SUNDAY • 1 DECEMBER 2024

Waqf bill: Parliamentary panel seeks details of properties in 'unauthorised' occupation of state govts

New Delhi, Dec 1 (The Capital News) The parliamentary co mmittee scrutinising the Waqf (Amendme nt) Bill has sought details from various sta te governments about the veracity and updated details of Waqf pro perties which, according to the Sachar committee, they had occupied in an unauthorised manner, sources said.T he parliamentary committee, whose tenure has been extended by Lok Sabha till the last day of the next Budget Session, has also sou ght from the states deta ils of the properties claimed by Waqf boar ds exercising Section 40 of the Waqf Act. Section 40, an amendment effected during the Congress-led UPA government's tenure in 2013, is one of the

most hotly contested features of the existing law as it has given Waqf boards the power to decide if any property belongs to the Waqf or not.The proposed law, which has faced flack from opposition parties and various Muslim groups for its alleged attempts to interfere in religious matters, has sought to curb this power while making a slew of other changes in the existing Act.The sources said parliamentary the panel has decided to get an update on the points made by the Sachar committee on the Waqf properties that are allegedly in unauthorised occupation of state governments or their official agencies.The Sachar committee was info rmed by various state



Waqf boards during 2005-06 about the alleged unauthorised occupation. The parliamentary panel has been collecting information from states thro ugh the Union Minis try of Minority Affair s.Sources said the panel headed by BJP MP Jagdambika Pal has noted that there were 316 such properties in Delhi, 60 in Rajasthan and 42 in Karnataka reported to the Sachar committee in 2005-06.While 53

of them were in Ma dhya Pradesh, 60 were in Uttar Pradesh and 53 in Odisha. The committee has sought upda tes from all these six states, the sources said, adding that the panel has got information from several other states."The chief ministers of the above state s may kindly investigate in detail into the veracity of this information in the Sachar Committee Report... and update this Comm ittee in detail," a sou

rce said, citing the communication.State governments have also been urged to share details of the cases wh ere their agencies are involved in a legal dispute with Waqf boards over ownership or possession of any property, with the panel noting that the Sachar Committee had stated its list was not exhaustive.The UPA government constituted the Sachar Committ ee in 2005 to study the soci al, economic and educational status of the Muslim community in India.It submitted its re port in 2006 highlighting the poor status of Muslims on all these in dicators as it recomme nded a host of measures.Lok Sabha had on November 28 adopted a resolution to extend the tenure of the Joint Committee on the Waq f (Amendme nt) Bill till the last day of the Budget session of Parli ament next year. The parliamentary panel's meetings have become a political battlegro und, with the ruling BJ P and opposition members vociferously deb ating the changes proposed by the government.Opposition members had been calling for extending its tenu re, which was to end o n November 29, and th e committee took a un animous decision to se ek more time despite Pal's earlier assertion that he was ready with the draft report. He has asserted that he has ac commodated the views of every opposition member, rejecting their allegation of "bulldozing" the proceedings of the panel's meetings.



UP: Suspended PAC constable among 4 arrested in robbery case

Muzaffarnagar (UP), Dec 1 (The Capital News) Four people, including a suspended PAC constable, have been arres ted for robbing two persons of their motorcycle at gunpoint in Shamli district of Uttar Pradesh, police said on Sunday. The arrests we re made on Saturday, they said.On Novemb er 28, two persons we re travelling on a mot orcycle when they we re intercepted by the four accused -- Prades hik Armed Constabul ary (PAC) Constable Deepanshu alias Shek har, Akshay Kumar, V

ansh Keval and Vikra nt -- and their vehicle was looted at gunpoint near Bhenswak village under the Garhi Pukht a police station area, Superintendent of Poli ce (SP) Ram Sewak Gautam told reporters. A case was registered in the matter and the ac cused were arrested on Saturday evening, he said.During the interrogation, it was reve aled that PAC Consta ble Deepanshu was po sted in Meerut but was under suspension, poli ce said. The motorcycle and the car used in the robbery have been recovered, they said.

Bihar minister Ratnesh Sada, Saina Nehwal flag off 'Patna Marathon 2024'

Patna, Dec 1 (The Capital News) To make Bihar addictionfree and to raise aware ness against addiction, a large number of people participated in the 'Patna Marathon 2024' here on Sunday.Badm inton player Saina Neh wal and Bihar Prohibi tion, Excise and Regist ration minister Ratne sh Sada flagged off the marathon at Gandhi Maidan in the state cap ital. The theme of the Patna Marathon 2024 is 'Run for addictionfree Bihar'. The event was jointly organised by the state government's Prohibition, Ex



n senior citizens active ly participated in the marathon, which was held in four categories - full marathon (42.2k m), half marathon (21. 1km), 10 km and 5 km runs.Talking to reporte rs, the minister said, "A large number of yo uth, women and children are taking part in the event to make B₁h ar addiction-free, raise awareness against addi ction and promote a healthy society. Our

CM Nitish Kumar is committed to make Bi har addiction-free. In April 2016, the state government, under the leadership of our CM, implemented a complete state-wide prohibition on the sale, purchase, consumption,

and manufacture of alc ohol. It has got tremendous support from the people".Speaking on the occasion, Saina Nehwal said, "Such ev en ts help us stay away from diseases and stay fit and healthy. Such marathons should be regularly organised... a large number of people are participating in it shows their commitme nt and concern towards health and society."Tal king to reporters, Vino d Singh Gunjiyal, sec-

"conspirators"

retary of the prohibition, excise and registration department, sai d, "Participation of a large number of people in the event shows th eir commitment towar ds making Bihar an addiction-free state. Pe ople have come in support of prohibition and de-addiction. A loud and clear message has gone to the entire coun try through this marat hon... and the initiatives taken by the state government, under the leadership of our CM, on prohibition and deaddiction".The Patna Marathon started from Gandhi Maidan, passe d through Golghar, Ganga and Atal Paths, reaching Shivpuri foot over bridge (FOB), before returning.

Manipur: Funeral of 12 Kuki-Zo men to be held in Churachandpur on Dec 5

Churachandpur,

Dec 1 (The Capital News) The funeral of 12 Kuki-Zo men, including the 10 killed in a gunfight with CRPF in Jiribam, will be held in Manipur's Churachandpur district on December 5, a leading organisation of the community said.The Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum (ITLF) held an emergency meeting on Saturday, following which the announcement was made.Earlier, ITLF had decided that the funeral of the Kuki-Zo youths would not be conducted till their post-mortem reports



expert. According to the experts, the postmortem reports are satisfactory," the ITLF said in a public notice. The organisation, however, said it would continue to pursue the legal cases related to the deceased people." Our 12 martyrs will be

me for condolences will take place at Peace Ground in Tuibuong," it said. The ITLF also decided that on the day of the burial, a massive silent rally would be organised."Out of the 12 deceased, 10 were killed by CRPF in the gun battle. The other two were Kuki youths killed by Meitei militants when they were visiting their families," ITLF secretary Muan Tombing told PTI.Post -mortem examinations of the 10 Kuki-Zo men, whom the ITLF claimed as village volunteers against the Manipur government's

in Assam. The autopsy of one of the other two youths was conducted in Aizawl, while the remaining one was done at SMCH, Tom bing said.Announcing that there will be a total shutdown on December 5 as a mark of respect for the deceased youths, ITLF asked students' groups to arrange placards and banners for the rally. After the bodies reac hed Churachandpur, they were kept at the morgue of a local hospital.More than 250 people have been kill ed and thousands rendered homeless in ethnic violence between Imphal Valley-based Meiteis and adjoining hills-based Kuki-Zo groups since May last year.

cise and Registration department and SBI.A large number of colleg e students, young athletes, officials and eve

were handed to the families."The postmortem reports were examined together by a forensic and legal

laid to rest with the greatest of honour and respect on December 5, 2024. The program

assertion that they were militants, were conducted at the Silc har Medical College and Hospital (SMCH)

(From Page 1)

tackle hard" mantra. In selecting Patel over more conventional contenders, Trump is again testing his ability to get the Senate to bend to his will by confirming some of his more provocative nominees. What happens to the current FBI director? Christo pher Wray was appoi nted director by Tru mp in 2017 and technically has three years left on his 10-year tenure. That length of time is meant to ensure that directors of the nation's most prominent federal law enforcement agency can operate free from political influence or pressure. Presidents have typically but not always retained the director who was in place at the time they took office, as President Joe Biden has done with Wray. But it's also the case that all FBI directors serve at the pleasure of the president; indeed, Wray was nominated after Trump fired the FBI chief he'd inherited when he took office,

James Comey. The cism during his conannouncement means firmation hearings over his stated plans that Wray can either resign from the job, to rid the government consistent with Trum of p's apparent wishes, or against Trump, and wait to be fired once his claims that he would shut down the Trump takes office in FBI's Pennsylvania January. Either way, the selection of a suc-Avenue headquarters cessor is a clear indiin the nation's capital and send the thoucation that Wray's sands of employees days are numbered. Should Wray leave who work there to before Patel can be "chase down crimiconfirmed, the posinals" across the countion of acting director try. And while Trump would presumably be may have wanted a filled in the interim by loyalist willing to purthe FBI's current sue retribution against deputy director. Can his perceived adver-Patel be confirmed by saries, that perspecthe Senate? Republica tive is likely to give ns may have won conpause to senators who trol of the Senate, but believe that the FBI and Justice Departm his confirmation is not assured. There are no ent should operate free of political infludoubt lawmakers who ence and not be tasked support Trump's desi re for a radically overwith carrying out a hauled FBI, particupresident's personal agenda. Foreshadow larly following federal investigations that ing the potentially resulted in two sepabruising confirmation rate indictments fight ahead, Sen. against the president-Chris elect, and who share Delaware Democrat, his sentiment that fedwrote on social media eral law enforcement late Saturday: "Kash has been "weaponise Patel will be another d" against conservatest of the Senate's tives. But Patel is likepower of advice and ly to face deep skepticonsent. Patel needs

Trump says..

to prove to the Senate Judiciary Committee that he has the right qualifications and, despite his past statements, will put our nation's public safety over a political agenda focused on retribution." Trump has also raised the prospect of using recess appointments to push his nominees through the Senate. If Patel is confirmed, can he actually do what he's said he'll do? Patel has made a series of brash claims about his plans for the federal government, but most of those proposals would require backing and buy-in from other officials and would almost certainly encounter significant resistance. His claim that he would reduce the FBI's footprint and authority stands in contrast to the tack traditionally taken by leaders of the bureau, who invariably say they want more resources - not less. He's talked about trying to rid the government of "conspirators" against Trump and of going "after the

people in the media who lied about American citizens who helped Joe Biden rig presidential elections," whether criminally or civilly. Under the FBI's own guidelines, criminal investigations can't be rooted in arbitrary or groundless speculation but instead must have an authorized purpose to detect or interrupt criminal activity. And while the FBI conducts investigations, the responsibility of filing federal charges, or bringing a lawsuit on behalf of the federal government, falls to the Justice Department. Trump last week said he intended to nominate former Florida attorney general Pam Bondi to serve as attorney general. Patel's proposed crackdown on leaks of information by government officials to the media is an indication that he wants the Justice Department to undo its current policy prohibiting the secret seizure of reporters' phone records in leak investigations. That

policy was implemented by Attorney General Merrick Garland following an uproar over the revelation that federal prosecutors had obtained subpoenas for journalists' phone records. Patel has talked about disentangling the FBI's intelligence-gathering operations - now a core function of the from the rest of its operations. It's unclear whether he intends to carry through on that pledge or how it would be greeted at a time when the US is facing what officials say is a heightened threat of terrorism. He also says he wants to close down the FBI's storied Pennsylvania Avenue headquarters and send the employees who work there across the country. It's not clear if that's a hyperbolic claim simply reflecting disdain for the "deep state" or something he'd actually try to implement, but how that would look in practice remains a big question mark.

Cyclone 'Fengal..

hority. Residents in lo w-lying areas are advi sed to remain vigilant. Minister Atchannaidu has instructed officials to support farmers in the aftermath of the storm. He directed agr iculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, and fisheries department officials to be alert and take precautionary measures to mitigate loss of life and property. Farmers have been cautioned against entering their fields during this time. The Disaster Management Authority has warned that heavy rains are likely in the south coast and Rayalaseema due to the cyclone, increasing the risk of flash floods in low-lying regions. In Tirumala, continuous rain on Saturday has impacted the area severely. The Srivari temple vicinity, including Madaveedhulu, Akhilandam, Annaprasada Bhavan, Vaikuntam Q Complex, roads, cottages, the bus stand, and parks were inundated. Pilgrims faced cold winds and rain, leading many to remain confined to their accommodations. The Sahasradeepalankaran Seva ceremony, scheduled to take place in front of the temple, was relocated to the Vaibhavotsava Mandapam. Meanwhile, heavy rainfall from Cyclone Fengal has led to significant flooding in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. Continuous rain from Friday midnight through Saturday night caused widespread waterlogging in major areas, including T. Nagar. Public transport has been severely disrupted, and many roads have kneedeep water, making it challenging for pedestrians to navigate. The Meteorological Department has declared a holiday for schools in nine districts of Tamil Nadu from Friday due to the cyclone's advance. The sea has also become tumultuous, with wind speeds reaching 75-95 km/h causing damage to numerous homes in coastal areas. In some locations, sea waves have surged up to seven meters high. Local residents are alarmed as the sea water receded by 80 feet in Tiruchendur. In response to the situation, schools, government offices, and private institutions have been closed in Chennai. Authorities have deployed 30,000 police personnel and 18 NDRF teams for relief operations. Evacuations have taken place for residents in low-lying areas both in the city and along the coast. Unfortunately, there has been loss of life, with one person electrocuted in the Paris area of Chennai, and additional fatalities reported in Chengalpattu and Kanchipuram districts. A red alert has been issued for seven districts, including Chennai, along with an orange alert for nine districts.







Coons, a





NATIONAL - INTERNATIONAL

THE CAPITAL • VIJAYAWADA • SUNDAY • 1 DECEMBER 2024

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 new BRICS a 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.

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

 ind the Brazilian President
There Luiz Inacio Lula de nat the Silva.
ace the India, an important pilin lar of BRICS, has said
Trade, it is against de-dollariry that sation. "...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-avis 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 halfcentury 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): President-elect US Donald Trump has met Canadian Prime Justin Minister Trudeau at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida, where they discussed key bilateral including issues, trade, tariffs, border security, and drug trafficking. In a social media post on Trump Friday, described the meeting as "productive", high-Trudeau's lighting 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,"

sised 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-

Perth, Dec 1 (The

Capital News): Every

30 seconds, someone in the world will expe-

rience a flare-up of

their asthma or chronic

obstructive pulmonary

disease (COPD) symp-

toms. For decades, the

standard treatment for

these potentially life-

threatening episodes

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 treat-

ment and increasing

the risk of side-effects.

But what if there was a

better option? Our lat-

has

remained

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.

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

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 Presidentelect Donald Trump. "I



ests," Trump the U.S. Holocaust announced. "Charlie is Memorial Council, &

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.

5

Trump said. The topics of include Fentanyl and ca drug crisis due to illegal immigration, fair po trade deals that do not Cl jeopardise American m workers, and the massive trade deficit the Tr US has with Canada, co he said. Trump emphaam 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 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 & 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-



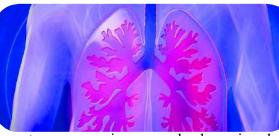
7 militants killed in anti-terror operations in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

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, militant targeting hideouts in Pakistan's Khyber restive 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 districts. southern 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.

First new treatment for asthma, COPD in half a century – new study

est study, published in Lancet The 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 flareups were recruited from two UK hospitals. Participants were

randomly assigned to one of three groups: treatment standard prednisolone with 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 benralizumabtreated 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.)









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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 sixthpair Dechapol seeded 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 placed in Pool A alongside on Sunday named a strong 20- China, Malaysia, Thailand, and member squad, led by Jyoti Bangladesh, while Pool B con-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 sists of South Korea, Japan, Chinese Taipei, Hong Kong China, and Sri Lanka. Sakshi Rana has been named the vicecaptain. 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."

Pushpa 2 Heading Towards \$3 Million Premiere



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.

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

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.

6

 \mathbf{T} ith just five days to 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 go until the North 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

Maharaja Roars in China!

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 intimated 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.

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.

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