

President Kovind to visit Myanmar from Dec 10-14

Agency
New Delhi, Dec 4

President Ram Nath Kovind will visit Myanmar from December 10 to 14 during which he will hold talks with his counterpart U Win Myint and state counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, an official statement said Tuesday. Several agreements are expected to be signed during the visit, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said

in the statement. "Through this visit, the president will reaffirm India's commitment to developing its important partnership with Myanmar. This is a country where India's Act East and Neighbourhood First policies intersect. It is also the only ASEAN member state that is both a land and maritime neighbour of India," it said. In the past three years,

political, economic and defence ties with Myanmar have been on upswing with the visits of top leaders to the respective countries. The armies and navies of the two countries also participate in bilateral military drills. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had visited Myanmar last year, while Aung San Suu Kyi visited India this January for the India-ASEAN commemorative Summit.

Revanth Reddy, Telangana Congress Candidate, Detained Ahead Of KCR Rally

Agency
Kodangal, Dec. 4

Revanth Reddy, a top Congress leader in Telangana and the party's candidate from Kodangal, was detained before dawn today for threatening to stop a public meeting of caretaker chief minister K Chandrashekar Rao in the constituency. A police team barged into Revanth Reddy's home around 3 am, when the family was sleeping, according to his wife. "Around 3 am some people knocked on our door and broke it open and forced themselves in. My husband and I were sleeping in the room along with our daughter. Are we terrorists that they should treat us like this?" said Geetha Reddy. With two days left in campaigning for polls on Friday, Mr Reddy has reportedly been shifted to a jail around 90 km from his constituency Kodangal. The Congress alleged intimidation by the ruling Telangana Rashtra Samithi of Chief Minister Rao, also known as KCR.

"It's highly condemnable that Telangana Police arrested Congress Working President & Kodangal MLA Revanth Reddy at 3am today because CM K. Chandrashekar Rao is holding a rally there," Shivakumartweeted. "We appeal to EC that such intimidation goes against the spirit of free & fair elections." In a notice to the Congress party, the state election body accused Mr Reddy of calling for a protest to stop KCR's campaign rally in Kodangal today. The poll body said there could be trouble as Mr Reddy's supporters could try to disrupt the rally. Large gatherings have been banned in the constituency as a precaution, said Rajat Kumar, the state poll body chief told NDTV. Last week Mr Reddy and his associates' homes were raided. The Telangana Chief Election Officer said that Rs. 51 lakh was seized during the raids. Mr Reddy lashed out at his political opponents and alleged

that he was facing "politically-motivated persecution." In the run-up to the polls in Telangana, this is the second time Mr Reddy faced action. He was one of the five politicians served notice after the poll body received various complaints accusing them of violating the Model Code of Conduct. Warning notices were issued to Irrigation Minister T Harish Rao, Congress leader Revanth Mr Reddy, Telugu Desam Party (TDP) leaders Vanteru Pratap Reddy and Revuri Prakash Reddy Mr Reddy, who was earlier with the TDP of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, was caught on camera in May allegedly offering money to a lawmakar in the cash for votes case. Mr Reddy had even gone to jail and is now facing Income Tax cases. Results of voting in Telangana's 119 constituencies will be declared on December 11, along with four other states where elections are on.

Close call Rajasthan is still Congress' to lose

Agency
Jaipur, Dec. 4

Four suicides and an election—the four young friends who decided to end their lives in a mysterious suicide pact in Alwar this November could have never imagined its far-reaching repercussions on Rajasthan's forthcoming Assembly polls on 7 December. The suicides of Manoj Meena, Rituraj Meena, Satyanarayan, and Abhishek have jolted the desert state. With the first reports claiming the suicides were because of depression over unemployment, most political parties, especially the Congress, rushed to seize the moment. Although the boys' families have rejected the "unemployment" theory, saying they were too young to become disillusioned with joblessness and were under no plausible financial crunch, we are just days away from an election. Unemployment has indeed become one of the biggest poll issues in Rajasthan. With BJP's 2013 manifesto promise of 15 lakh jobs for the youth remaining unfulfilled, the disillusionment of the youth is palpable. There have been allegations and counter allegations about the actual employment generation in the state. Clearly, voters are upset. The funny thing is that despite the broken promises to the youth and farmers (more about that later), Rajasthan will vote with an air of uncertainty this time around. Although the desert state typically votes out the ruling party every five years, there is this feeling that both Congress and BJP have a tough fight on their hands. There are many who say that although Congress has an edge thanks to anti-incumbency, the grand old party has not been able to make full use of loss of popular support for the BJP. Remember, the BJP got a massive mandate in 2013, winning 163 out of 200 seats. The BJP's share of vote had risen from 34.27% in 2008 assembly polls to 46.03% in 2013 polls. That's why the BJP's mounting unpopularity is stumping many pollsters. What complicates matters is that much of the anger is directed at chief minister Vasundhara Raje—and not Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The popular slogan doing the rounds "Modi se bair nehi, Vasundhara teri khair nehi," seems to sum

up popular sentiment and indicate BJP's precarious position. Most analysts are guessing that Congress will garner around 115-120 seats this time around. In 2013, it could manage only 21 seats. Poll analyst and columnist Narayan Barath, however, is sceptical about Congress's chances. He says: "Congress could have built on factors like loss of popular support for BJP government, anti-incumbency, rise in mob lynchings, farmers' unrest, privatization of schools, health care, roadways, but failed to do its homework or any legwork to strengthen itself at the grassroots. Congress did not speak out during the mob lynching in Alwar, Dalit killings in Dangawas and lost many other such opportunities. BJP, on the other hand, may have lost popular support but is very strong at the grassroots. To break that chain will be difficult." That said, the BJP's popularity has been on the wane since the lynching of dairy farmers Pehlu Khan and Rakbar Khan. The state government's silence about the lynchings by cow vigilantes in April, 2017 and in July 2018, and failure to book the accused have put off many of their supporters. Twenty-three days after Pehlu Khan's death, when Raje finally tweeted that such incidents would not be tolerated in her state, it was thought to be vastly inadequate and too late. What happened did not go down well, more so when all accused in Pehlu Khan's case were let off. This polarization of politics in Rajasthan is here to stay. Take one instance to see how the ground has shifted. The RSS, which always shared an uneasy relationship with Raje, was irked when she gave the go-ahead for razing temples in walled city of Jaipur for the metro project in 2015. They formed the Mandir Bachao Sangharsh Samiti, which paralyzed the city with protests, and woke up the authorities. Now, the BJP managers camping in Rajasthan say that winning the desert state is important if they want to build the Ram temple in Ayodhya. Problem is, in the face of such blatant communal polarization, the secular Congress has not been able to counter it as aggressively as it should have. The Congress did not also protest when Jats flattened the homes of Dalits in Dangawas, Nagaur district in May, 2015. Four people were killed. This policy of appeasement and an attempt to keep all vote banks intact, including Jats, may backfire for the Congress. The party now has to manage Jats as well. Jats, who form 10% of the total state's population, were traditionally Congress voters. They shifted base to the BJP before 2013 Assembly polls.

Vajpayee told me Kashmir issue would have sorted if BJP had not lost 2004 polls: Imran Khan

Agency
Islamabad, Dec. 4

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan on Monday said war is not a solution to the Kashmir issue, which can be resolved through talks. In an interview to a group of television journalists here, Khan said unless there was a dialogue, various options on resolution of Kashmir cannot be discussed. When asked about the formula to resolve the Kashmir issue, Khan said there were two or three solutions, which have been in discussions. He, however, refused to share more details, saying it was "too early

to talk about them". Khan claimed he was informed by late prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and former foreign minister Natwar Singh during a conference that Kashmir would have been resolved if the BJP had not lost the 2004 Lok Sabha elections. "It shows that there is a solution of Kashmir and both countries were close to resolving it," the Pakistani prime minister insisted. Ruling out the possibility of any war with India, he said two nuclear-armed countries would not fight because "there are always unintended consequences".

Asserting that Pakistan was serious to develop peaceful ties with all its neighbours, Khan claimed India was not ready to hold talks with the country due to the upcoming general elections. Replying to a query on his views on the military's role in shaping of foreign policy in every country, including the US, he said, "Advice from the establishment is taken in those issues where security situation is involved." Khan said the Pakistan Army and his government "are on the same page" and his decisions are "backed" by the military.

Heavy rains to lash parts of coastal TN in next 48 hrs

Agency
Chennai, Dec 4

Heavy rains are likely to lash parts of coastal districts of Tamil Nadu in the next two days following a trough of low over Bay of Bengal, the regional weather office said Tuesday. In the last 24 hours ended 8.30 AM today, there were widespread rains in many parts in coastal Tamil Nadu and neighbouring Puducherry. Deputy Director General of

Meteorology, S Balachandran told reporters here. The trough of low over Southwest Bay of Bengal and neighbourhood now runs from Comorin area to southwest Bay of Bengal off south Andhra Pradesh coast, he said. "Due to this, there were widespread rains in the last 24 hours in the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu and Puducherry," he added. According to the rainfall data at 8.30 AM today, Ponneri and Cholavaram

in Tiruvallur district recorded 13 cm and 8 cm, respectively, followed by K e l a m b a k k a m (Kancheepuram) at 7 cm. The regional weather office further forecast heavy rains in one or two places in the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu in the next two days, while light showers were likely in most places in the state and Puducherry. There would be intermittent showers in and around Chennai and the neighbourhood during this period, it said.

NEUFC Fan Park expects huge crowd to celebrate home team's brilliant performance

By a Correspondent
Guwahati, Dec. 4,

As energetic home team North East United FC geared to take on Bengaluru City FC at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium, the NEUFC Fan Park, set up by Aucto Creation will host a series of fun and musical activities for the fans on Wednesday. The NEUFC Fan Park will host performances by DJ from Guwahati - Blame, hip-hop band - Sikdar & Rasta, folk fusion by Shreebhoomi Axiom and Contemporary Rock Band from Assam - Celestial Way. A special meet & greet zone at the Fan Park also enabled the fans to meet their top football stars.

"Since the first match on October 1, the NEUFC Fan Park within the Sarusajai stadium premises has been the place of rejoice for the diehard fans. The team is playing very good football and we expect a good crowd of the fans to support the team. For the fans, the Fan Park has become a perfect Day-Out Carnival destination. Here, sports, entertainment, food and



fun blend together to give an unmatched experience to the football lovers," said a spokesperson of Aucto Creation. Organized by Aucto Creation, the NEUFC Fan Park, would witness ultimate musical evenings, performances by well-known bands from North East along with performances by popular magicians, free style footballer, tattoo artist, laser and light shows, food court alongside a plethora of games for kids, teens and the youths with special "Meet & Greet" session for fan interactions and various product stalls, including

official merchandise of North East United FC. A special 'Fantasy World', housed in an enclosed dome, with night sky, dream zone & house of fame is also an additional attraction for the NEUFC fans. The Fan Park remains open from 3pm - 6:30pm on every match day and a valid match ticket allows free entry to the park. North East United has been performing very well in the Hero Indian Super League season 5 and fans expect that the home team will maintain the same momentum against Bengaluru City FC on Wednesday.

How Reliance Jio and WhatsApp are working together to attract millions

Bengaluru, Dec. 4

One recent afternoon in the Indian city of Pune, a 35-year-old mason named Om Prakash Gaekwad gets a crash course in technology. He watches a street-corner skit explaining the virtues of WhatsApp's messaging service and Reliance Jio's wireless network. He then climbs aboard a truck to find out how to set them up. Half an hour later, he's made up his mind: He'll upgrade to a new phone so he can negotiate masonry rates on

WhatsApp — and let his six-year-old play mobile games. Such pitches — part tutorial, part kitsch — are boosting web adoption in what is already the world's fastest-growing major internet market. Facebook Inc., WhatsApp's parent, and India's richest man, who started Reliance Jio, are teaming up to draw hordes of customers with cheap phones, rock-bottom rates and handy messaging services. Facebook's role in all this

is so central that, in rural regions, handsets with Net access are dubbed "WhatsApp phones." The two companies are building a massive user base that will boost their own fortunes. At the same time, they're creating the foundation on which business like online retail, digital payments and food delivery can be built. Reliance Jio and WhatsApp wouldn't comment directly on future plans, but experts see more collaboration as inevitable.

Attention readers

Imphal Times is looking for a desk editor and two reporters, who are well experience in the field of print media and who can write English and can read Manipuri. We are also looking for distributors on paid basis. Working hour for distributors will be from 4 to 7 pm, while working hour for Desk editor will be 12 pm to 4 pm. For reporter deadline for submitting story is 2.30 pm. Interested candidates can contact the Editor , Imphal Times during office hour or email their application along with their bio-data at imphaltimes@gmail.com . One good news - Imphal Times is resuming 4 pages . Besides, Imphal Times is also opening coaching for students wanted to choose the profession earliest by December 2018. Limited seats – first come first candidate will be given opportunity .

Sd/-
Manager