# Democratic Party vows sweeping probes of 'tentacles of corruption'

Associated Press
letters@hindustantimes.com

**WASHINGTON:** Corruption topped the list of concerns for voters who ousted Republicans and handed Democrats control of Congress in the midterm elections. Now, the newly empowered Democratic Party is putting the issue front and centre as its leaders chart their course for investigations and policymaking.

Senior Democrats in both chambers of Congress have vowed to marshal the subpoena powers and larger investigative staffs that come with their soon-to-be majorities to probe what they say is the self-enrichment that President Donald Trump and people in his orbit have done at the public's expense. The Republican president and his White House have long denied any wrongdoing.



President Donald Trump signs the final steel beam before it is placed during construction for the White House Ballroom in Washington, on Wednesday. AP

### Impeach Trump again?

House Democrats are preparing a vast oversight agenda to look at how Trump and his family have become wealthier since he returned to office — and Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York, who's in line to become House speaker, has not ruled out trying to impeach Trump for a third time.

Months ago, Jeffries tasked the ranking Democrats on the Oversight and Judiciary committees, Rep. Robert Garcia of California and Rep. Jamie Raskin of Maryland, with leading the effort, as Democrats work to link the costs of public corruption to the affordability concerns hitting Americans' pocketbooks.

"Lawyer up," Garcia posted on X as election results favoring Democrats began coming in on Tuesday night.

The Senate is expected to conduct similar investigations.

"Americans want us to clean up corruption in government," said Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., who is poised to return as Senate majority leader next year. "No American should have to make tradeoffs at the supermarket while Trump is making inside trades on the stock market."

Garcia, the top Democrat on the Oversight and Government Reform Committee, has outlined five priorities, including Trump family business dealings, the administration's handling of the Jeffrey Epstein investigation and Immigration and Customs Enforcement operations. Rep. Jared Huffman of California, the ranking Democrat on the Natural Resources Committee, said he wants to dig into Trump's White House ballroom and other construction projects, as well as the Trump family's role in mineral deals.

With the House majority comes an infusion of congressional committee staff and resources, and the effort is expected to be sprawling, involving House committees with authority to conduct oversight on Cabinet officials and the agencies they lead.

In the Senate, Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., who is expected to become the chairman of the Homeland Security Committee's Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, said his panel will want to look into Trump's real estate projects around the nation's capital and his crypto dealings with special envoy Steve Witkoff. Witkoff is a long-time ally who partnered with Trump on the president's family cryptocurrency venture, World Liberty Financial.

"The tentacles of corruption reach deep in this administration, and they have added costs to everyday Americans," Blumenthal said in an interview with The Associated Press on Wednesday. The senator added that he also wants hearings on ICE raids, the actions of the Department of Government Efficiency and Medicare plans he says are too restrictive and have cost some patients care.

Meanwhile, Democratic Sen. Ron Wyden of Oregon, who is in line to become Senate Finance Committee chairman, ticked off several investigative targets that he describes as part of an "accountability" agenda, including banks that he contends ignored red flags about the financial dealings of Epstein and pharmaceutical companies that have profited from their ties to the Trump administration.

"When I am chair, they will be forced to answer to the Senate Finance Committee for their role in hurting the American people and enabling Trump's corruption," Wyden said in a statement Wednesday.

> What last night showed us is that working people are the majority, whether we are speaking of Austin or Ann Arbour or Astoria. And it is time to put those same people first in our politics.
> **Zohran Mamdani,** New York City mayor



> Let's be clear about what happened last night. This is as close to an extinction level event for Republicans in many parts of the country as we've seen probably in the last 100 years.
> **Ron DeSantis,** Florida governor



### Corruption in govt

Many US voters in Tuesday's elections expressed deep concerns about government corruption and the state of democracy, according to The AP Voter Poll, which surveyed more than 100,000 voters nationwide.

In a letter to Democratic lawmakers announcing his candidacy for House speaker, Jeffries said the "days of the House functioning like a wholly owned subsidiary of the Trump administration are over".

"The massive corruption the country has experienced from the Trump Cartel explains why very little is getting done to help everyday Americans," Jeffries wrote as he promised to target price gouging and push for a stock trading ban for lawmakers. "That changes immediately."

The challenge for Democrats will be to continue to tie corruption to the affordability issues that topped the list of concerns for voters.

The Congressional Integrity Project, an advocacy group initially created to combat Republican investigations into President Joe Biden's Democratic administration, is now shifting its focus to help Democratic lawmakers make that connection.

In a memo, the group urged congressional Democrats to trace the Trump administration's actions to people in and outside government, as well as corporations, who may be profiting from those moves.

"Corruption is not just corruption," said the group's senior adviser, Jack Miller. "It is costing taxpayers and costing Americans in their everyday lives."

Some Democratic lawmakers are already stressing that congressional investigations have to be directly tied to affordability issues, while urging restraint.

Sen. Peter Welch, D-Vt., said that Democrats need to earn voters' trust, and while investigations are an important part of the Democratic agenda, "we can't turn this into just a vengeance tour".

"We have to be careful, cautious and judicious about that," Welch said.

# Seats with largest Indian-American populations in US mostly went blue

Shashank Mattoo
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**WASHINGTON:** The Democratic Party won 85 of the 100 congressional districts with the largest Indian-American populations in Tuesday's midterm polls, up from the 79 it held going into the vote, an HT analysis of election data found. The party held all but one of its own seats in these districts and took seven from Republicans, whose tally fell to 15 from 21.

HT's analysis ranks all 435 House districts by their Asian-Indian population, using the Census Bureau's 2020–24 American Community Survey. The top 100 districts are home to more than half of the country's Indian-American population. They stretch from Silicon Valley, where California's 17th district alone has about 146,000, to New Jersey and the suburbs of Dallas, Houston, Atlanta, Chicago and Seattle.

About 2.6 million Indian-Americans are eligible to vote, according to the Carnegie Endowment's Indian American Attitudes Survey released in 2024.

Indian-Americans do not form a majority in any of these districts. They account for roughly a fifth of the population of California's 17th, which has the largest Indian population of any congressional district. Their votes can still matter in tight races.

The ranking uses the district boundaries in place for the 2024 elections. About nine states, including California and Texas, redrew their maps for this election, so population figures for some seats in those states are approximate. Most of the top 100 seats kept their old lines, but in a handful the new maps helped decide the result.

### Dominance in California

Democratic dominance was strongest in California, where the party won 19 of the 20 top-100 seats. These included the 17th district, the most heavily Indian-American seat in the country, which Congressman Ro Khanna won for a sixth consecutive term.

Democrat Ami Bera won the 3rd district, a seat previously held by a Republican, after California redrew its map. Democrats also won every top-100 seat in New York, Illinois, New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The Democratic wave also cost two Republican members of the House India caucus their seats: Brian Fitzpatrick in Pennsylvania and Tom Kean Jr in New Jersey.

Republicans held their own in Texas despite their bad night nationally, winning nine of the 13 top-100 seats there. Their winners included Congresswoman Beth Van Duyne, whose district is home to nearly 23,000 Indian residents. Van Duyne has been noted for her proximity to conservative media figures such as Sara Gonzales, who have played up local fears of H-1B visa fraud allegedly involving members of the Indian community.

Republican Trever Nehls won Texas's 22nd district, which has about 45,000 Indian residents. The district includes Sugar Land, where Texas Republican Senate candidate Alexander Duncan sparked outrage in 2025 by calling a 90-foot Hanuman statue at a local Hindu temple a "false statue of a false Hindu God". Texas also delivered one of the Republicans' few pickups. After the party redrew the state's 32nd district, home to about 16,000 Indian residents on the old boundaries, Republican Jace Yarbrough won the seat, previously held by Democrat Julie Johnson.

A Carnegie Endowment–YouGov survey conducted in October found that 62% of Indian-American citizens planned to back Democratic House candidates, against 19% for Republicans. In Senate races, the split was 63% to 21%.

**ICAR-NATIONAL DAIRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE**
**KARNAL (HARYANA)-132001**

**AUCTION NOTICE**

It is for the information of all that on behalf of the Secretary, I.C.A.R. New Delhi by Director, National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal, the public Auction of surplus pedigree Animals i.e. Different breeds of Cows, bulls, calves will be held on **17.11.2026 (Cow) & 18.11.2026 (Buffalo & Goat) at 10.00 A.M. to 5.00 PM. in the premises of LRC**, National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal (Haryana). For detailed information, contact Central Store (0184-2259309) and visit the Institute's website **www.ndri.res.in**

**Terms and Conditions:-**

1. The animals will be sold on "As is where is basis. The bidder should examine the animal at the time of auction.
2. The person who will purchase the animal from the public auction will have to submit a self-attested photocopy of his/her identity card such as Aadhar Card, Voter Card, Ration Card PAN Card/Driving License/Electricity Bill etc. and will have to deposit Rs. 5000/- as security amount for bidding, after which a token will be issued. The full auction amount for the animal will be accepted only through Demand Draft/RTGS/NEFT/Net Banking/Debit Card/Credit Card.
3. The highest bidder will have to deposit the Rs. 5,000/- per cattle at the spot on the fall of the hammer in the cash only. More than 5000/- in the cash will not be accepted. The highest bidder will have to deposit the whole amount of the bid in the form of Demand Draft/ transaction through Debit Card within the 48 hours. No part payment of the bids will be accepted. The security money will be forfeited if the highest bidder is not able to deposit full bid amount of the animal.
4. The highest bidder will have to make their own arrangements for lifting the animals from the Institute on the same day or within 48 hours failing which a sum of Rs. 200/- per day per animal (above 1 year of age) and Rs. 100/- per day per animal below one year of age will be charged from them as feeding charges.
5. The Institute will not be responsible for any harm/injury/ death caused to auctioned animals from the time of auction onwards.
6. The Director, ICAR-NDRI, Karnal or the Chairman of the Animal Auction Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the bids without assigning any reason.
7. Any other terms and conditions will be told at the time of auction.
8. The decision of the Director, ICAR-NDRI, Karnal will be final and acceptable to all.

**DIRECTOR**

**NORTHERN RAILWAY**

**E-Tender Notice**

Sr.DEE/G/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders (**www.ireps.gov.in**) against below titled Tenders. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only.

| Tender No. | Name of Work | App. Cost (in ₹) |
|---|---|---|
| 251-Elect-T-13-2026-27 | Electrical work in C/W Resurfacing of Lawn Tennis court with synthetic coat at officer rest house, FZR | Rs. 1,89,866.65p |

| Earnest Money (in ₹) | Completion Period | Opening of Tender | Website Particulars |
|---|---|---|---|
| Rs. 3800.00 | 06 Months | 26.11.2026 after 15:00 Hrs | www.ireps.gov.in |

No. 251-Elect/T. Notice No.13-Elect/2026-27 Dated: - 05.11.2026 3882/2026

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**PROJECT MANAGEMENT UNIT**

UTTARAKHAND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCE PROJECT (UPREPARE)
5th Floor, USDMA Building,36 IT Park, Sahastradhara Road, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, Pin: 248001 Email: recruitmentuprepare@gmail.com

Reference No: 516 /U-PREPARE/HR/2024/79 Date: 05/11/2026

**UTTARAKHAND DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCE PROJECT (U-PREPARE) (World Bank Assisted)** invites applications from the suitable candidates for the various positions under **PMU & PIU.** For further details and application form please visit www.u-prepare.com and www.usdma.uk.gov.in from dated **06 November, 2026.** The engagement of services is purely on temporary basis for a period of 1 year (extendable). The last date of submission of application is **26 November, 2026 till 5:00 pm** through **speed post or by hand** on the above-mentioned address or **through E-mail (recruitmentuprepare@gmail.com).** Applications received after the due date and time will not be accepted/ entertained.

| S. N. | Name of Post | No. of Post & Category | Type of Recruitment |
|---|---|---|---|
| FPIU-RWD (Project Implementation Unit - Field Rural Works Department) | | | |
| 1 | Environment Expert | 01 (UR) | Contract |
| 2 | Social Expert | 01 (UR) | Contract |

**ADDL. PROGRAM DIRECTOR, U-PREPARE**

# Michigan rejected 'hateful, spiteful campaign': El-Sayed

Associated Press
letters@hindustantimes.com

**WASHINGTON:** Senator-elect Abdul El-Sayed said on Wednesday that Michigan voters had rejected "a hateful, spiteful campaign" after months of Republican attacks on his Muslim identity in one of the nation's most closely watched Senate races.

El-Sayed said he was "running on adrenaline and caffeine" after his race with Republican Mike Rogers was called early Wednesday, giving Democrats another significant victory in a premier swing state as they won a substantial majority in the Senate in Tuesday's midterms.



Throughout the cycle, Republicans sought to demonise El-Sayed, who was born in the US after his parents immigrated from Egypt. President Donald Trump repeatedly called him a "jihadist" who was "on the side of the terrorists". "Michigan proved just how big we are. Rejected a hateful, spiteful campaign that had nothing to say about the issues and only wanted to point to my name and my face," El-Sayed said. "Michiganders rejected that. Every single county, every single one, pushed against that."

El-Sayed, who will become the nation's first Muslim senator, told the AP by phone that the morning was "a moment of reflection," including about what his victory would mean to his two young daughters. His 3-year-old, he said, has no idea what happened, while his 8-year-old understands but sees it as normal. "Now, this is something they read about in the history books," he said.

The AP Voter Poll, an expansive survey of more than 4,500 voters in Michigan, showed that Michigan Senate voters were roughly split on whether El-Sayed's views were "too extreme", with about half saying they were.

El-Sayed rose from a double-digit defeat eight years ago in the state's Democratic gubernatorial election to an upset victory of an establishment-backed candidate in the primary after being outspent by tens of millions. He said his campaign proved that "old-fashioned politics can work if you're willing to do the work". El-Sayed quickly pivoted, though, towards the future, saying his victory is "not the success" and that "the success is what you're able to do with the seat."

He would not commit to supporting Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer for another term, saying he did not yet know who else might run. Schumer is expected to retain the leadership position. "I do believe we need new leadership and I think people are hungry for it," El-Sayed added.

## BOMB THREATS HIT SEVERAL FLIGHTS ACROSS EUROPE

**ROME/WARSAW/EVREUX:** Hoax bomb threats hit at least 27 affected flights around Europe on Thursday from Ireland to Bulgaria, the second wave this week, forcing some to make unplanned landings and prompting fighter jets to escort or intercept others.

While no country has attributed blame for the threats, they come as many European officials are accusing Russia of masterminding sabotage and "hybrid attacks" — often cheap, easily deniable and not expected to trigger an armed response.

Denmark, Poland and Romania, all affected by Thursday's disruptions, have previously accused Moscow directly, while Germany blamed Russia for an attack on Leipzig airport in August. Britain has blamed Russia in the past but linked Iran to a suspected plot to attack a US air base. Both Russia and Iran deny any involvement.

Eric Schouten, head of the aviation security group Dyami, said most of the countries affected supported Ukraine in its war against Russia's invasion. REUTERS

**GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA TENDER NOTICE**
Ghar Ki Baat

| SR. NO | NAME OF BOARD/CORP./ AUTH | NAME OF WORK NOTICE TENDER | OPENING DATE CLOSING DATE (TIME) | AMOUNT/EMD (APPROX.) IN RUPEES | WEBSITE OF THE BOARD CORP./ AUTH | NODAL OFFICER/CONTACT DETAILS/EMAIL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, ROHTAK | CONSTRUCTIONS OF VARIOUS CC STREETS IN KRIPAL NAGAR (ULB_RTK_06108 AND IN WARD NO. 8 MC ROHTAK | 02.11.2026 10.11.2026 | Rs. 47.63 LACS | https://etenders.hry.nic.in | 9467283967 engg-rohtak@ulbharyana.gov.in |
| 2 | MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, ROHTAK | CONST. OF C.C. PATCH, SLABS AND MISC. CIVIL REPAIR WORKS IN WARD NO. 21 M.C. ROHTAK | 03.11.2026 10.11.2026 | Rs. 28.60 LACS | https://etenders.hry.nic.in | 9467283967 engg-rohtak@ulbharyana.gov.in |
| 3 | MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, ROHTAK | SUPPLY AND ERECTION OF VARIOUS WATTAGES LED STREET LIGHTS IN MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, ROHTAK (3400 LIGHTS) | 04.11.2026 13.11.2026 | Rs. 154.80 LACS | https://etenders.hry.nic.in | 9467283967 engg-rohtak@ulbharyana.gov.in |
| 4 | MUNICIPAL CORPORATION, ROHTAK | CONSTRUCTION OF VARIOUS IPB STREETS IN BALIYANA WARD NO. 11 IN LIMITS OF MC ROHTAK | 04.11.2026 13.11.2026 | Rs. 67.97 LACS | https://etenders.hry.nic.in | 9467283967 engg-rohtak@ulbharyana.gov.in |

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION KINDLY VISIT: www.haryanaeprocurement.gov.in or www.etenders.hry.nic.in
RO NO 13/2027/80/50818/I/19/4

**pnb Housing Finance Limited** Ghar Ki Baat

**APPENDIX -IV-A E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY (IES)**
**E-Auction-Sale Notice for Sale of Immoveable Assets Under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002)**

**Registered Office: -** 9th Floor, Antriksh Bhawan, 22 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi-110001, Phones:-011-23357171, 23357172, 23705414, Web: - **www.pnbhousing.com**
**Jalandhar Branch:-** PNB Housing Finance Ltd. SCO-44, 1st Floor, PUDA Complex, Jalandhar -144001, Punjab

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the borrower(s) & guarantor(s) indicated in Column no-A that the below described immovable property (ies) described in Column no-D mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the constructive/Physical Possession of which has been taken (as described in Column no-C) by the authorized Officer of M/s PNB Housing Finance Limited/Secured Creditor, will be sold on "**AS IS WHERE IS, AS IS WHAT IS** and **WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS**" as per the details mentioned below. Notice is hereby given to borrower(s)/mortgagor(s)/Legal Heirs, Legal Representative, (whether Known or Unknown), executor(s), administrator(s), successor(s), assignee(s) of the respective borrowers/ mortgagor(s)(since deceased) as the case may be indicated in Column no-A under Rule-8(6) & 9 of the Security Interest Enforcement Rules, 2002 amended as on date.For detailed terms and conditions of the sale, please refer to the link provided in M/s PNB Housing Finance Limited/secured creditor's website i.e. **www.pnbhousing.com.**

| Loan No, Name of the Borrower/Co-Borrower/ Guarantor(s)/Legal heirs (A) | Demanded Amount & Date (B) | Nature of Possession (C) | Description of the Properties Mortgaged (D) | Reserve Price (RP) (E) | EMD (10% of RP) (F) | Last Date of Submission of Bid (G) | Bid Incremental Rate (H) | Inspection Date & Time (I) | Date of Auction & Time (J) | Known Encumbrances/Court Cases if any (K) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| HOU/JAL/0323/1091 919, B.O.: Jalndhar, Lalit Kumar / Mr. Ranjit Thakur, Mrs. Samola Devi | Rs. 1374191.97 as on 08-05-2026 | Physical Possession | Portion of House No.143, Rakba Approx 2 Marle, Measuring 207sq.ft. Anoop Nagar, Gakhal Road, Basti Danishamandan, Jalandhar, Punjab,144001.Comprised in Khata No.226/243, Khasra No.139, 140, 141, 142,143, 152, 153,154,155,156,157,1568/157,159, 160, 161,162, 163, 164, 165, 166, 1250/167, 1251/167,168 as per Jamabandi Year 2017-2018, Hadbast No.312. In the name of Smt. Samola Devi Vide Title Deed Document No.2023-24/187/1/1254 Dated 03-05-2023. Boundaries-East:-Balance Portion Kiran/ 30'-0", West-Sham Lal/30'-0", North - Road 30'/14'-0", South - House No. 144/14' | Rs. 1507000 | Rs. 150700 | 14-12-26 | Rs. 10,000 | 02-12-26 10.00 AM 5.30 PM | 15-12-26 02:00 PM 03:00PM | Not Known |

*Together with the further interest @18% p.a. as applicable, incidental expenses, cost, charges etc. incurred up to the date of payment and/or realization thereof. ** To the best knowledge and information of the authorized Officer of PNB Housing Finance Limited, there are no other encumbrances/ claims in respect of above mentioned immovable/secured assets except what is disclosed in the column no-K. Further such encumbrances to be catered/paid by the successful purchaser/bidder at his/her end. The prospective purchaser(s)/bidders are requested to independently ascertain the veracity of the mentioned encumbrances.
**1.** As on date, there is no order restraining and/or court injunction PNBHFL/the authorized Officer of PNBHFL from selling, alienating and/or disposing of the above immovable properties/secured assets **2.** The prospective purchaser/bidder and interested parties may independently take the inspection of the pleading in the proceedings/orders passed etc. if any, stated in column no-K. Including but not limited to the title of the documents of the title pertaining thereto available with the PNBHFland satisfy themselves in all respects prior to submitting tender/bid application form or making offer(s).The bidder(s) has to sign the terms and conditions of this auction along with the Bid Form.**3.** Please note that in terms of Rule 9(3) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002, the bidder(s)/the purchaser is legally bound to deposit 25% of the amount of sale price, (inclusive of earnest money, if any, deposited) on the same day or not later than next working day. The sale may be confirmed in favour of (bidder(s) only after receipt of 25% of the sale price by the secured creditor in accordance with Rule 9(2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. The remaining 75% of the s sale consideration amount has to be deposited by the purchaser within 15 days' from the date of acknowledgement of sale confirmation letter and in default of such deposit, the property/secured asset shall be resold.**4. C1 INDIA PRIVATE LIMITED** would be assisting the Authorised Officer in conducting sale through an e-Auction having its corporate office at Plot No.68, 3rd Floor, Sector 44, Gurgaon, Haryana 122003 Website:- www.bankeauctions.com. For any assistance related to inspection of the property or obtaining the Bid Documents and for any other query or for registration, you have to co-ordinate with **Ashish Kumar Sharma** Contact Number 1800 120 8800, is authorised person of PNBHFL or refer to **www.pnbhousing.com**

**Place:- Punjab, Dated:- 06.11.2026** **Authorized Officer, M/s PNB Housing Finance Limited**

# Israel: Arab parties back Eisenkot to form govt

Agencies
letters@hindustantimes.com

**JERUSALEM:** Former defence chief and Yashar party leader Gadi Eisenkot has cleared the parliamentary threshold needed to claim the mandate to form Israel's next government.

Following post-election consultations with President Isaac Herzog, Eisenkot secured a total of 67 endorsements in the 120-seat Knesset — comfortably surpassing the 61-seat majority required — while Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing endorsement tally shrank to just 46 seats after traditional ally United Torah Judaism (UTJ) opted to abstain, according to The Times of Israel.

The 67-seat backing for Eisenkot came together after the Arab-led Joint List announced its unanimous decision to recommend him, joining earlier endorsements from the opposition and the Arab Ra'am party.

Gadi Eisenkot's endorsements (67 seats) comprise of Jewish-led opposition bloc, 48 seats (Yashar, Together, The Democrats, Yisrael Beiteinu); Ra'am party: 8 seats and Joint List: 11 seats



Gadi Eisenkot AFP

Benjamin Netanyahu's endorsements (46 seats), were down from his right-wing bloc's total election tally of 53 seats after UTJ withheld its endorsement with abstentions (7 seats).

The decision by the ultra-Orthodox United Torah Judaism (UTJ) party to refrain from endorsing any candidate marks a major fracture in its long-standing alliance with Netanyahu.

### Six dead, several hurt in New York residence fire

**NEW YORK:** Six people died and several others were injured in a house fire on Thursday in New York, authorities said, with Mayor Zohran Mamdani describing the blaze at a Brooklyn home as "devastating". "I am heartbroken to announce that six New Yorkers lost their lives," Mamdani told reporters, noting that firefighters had responded in under four minutes.

Video from the scene showed orange flames roaring out of several windows at the row-style property in the Sunset Park neighbourhood, around 8km from Manhattan. AFP

### Will return to B'desh from exile next mth at any cost: Hasina

**DHAKA:** Former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, ousted in a mass uprising in 2024, has said that she remains committed to returning to Bangladesh from exile in India next month, despite being sentenced to death over her government's deadly crackdown on protesters.

Bangladesh has repeatedly sought Hasina's extradition, but India has declined to hand her over. She had first announced in August her intention to return in December. AP

### Hong Kong activist sentenced to 10 more years in prison

**HONG KONG:** Democracy activist Joshua Wong was sentenced to 10 more years in jail on Thursday for colluding with foreign powers, the second time he has been penalised under the city's national security law. Wong, 30, is one of the most globally recognised faces of Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement and has already spent almost six years behind bars. He is now not due for release until late 2036. AFP