

OPEN SEARCH

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INDIA bloc takes 'vote chori' battle to Supreme Court

Rahul leads defiant march against Chief Election Commissioner

NEW DELHI.AGENCY

In a fresh escalation of the Opposition's confrontation with the Election Commission of India (ECI), the INDIA bloc on Monday marched towards the Supreme Court with Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi leading a show of defiance through the heavily barricaded streets of central Delhi and reiterating demands for the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, suspension of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and a return to ballot papers in place of electronic voting machines (EVMs).

The march, which began at the Constitution Club of India and proceeded along Barakhamba Road towards Bhagwan Das Road and the Supreme Court, brought together prominent Opposition leaders, MPs and party cadres in an attempt to transform their allegations of "vote chori" into a wider campaign for electoral accountability.



The mobilisation unfolded amid an imposing security deployment with Delhi Police, the Central Reserve Police Force and the Rapid Action Force manning barricades at strategic points to prevent the protesters from advancing. Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav, Trinamool Congress MPs Mahua Moitra and Sagarika Ghose, Shiv Sena (UBT) MP Sanjay Raut, Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra

Pawar) leader Supriya Sule and Samajwadi Party MP Dharmendra Yadav were among the prominent leaders who joined Rahul Gandhi. Members and cadres associated with Left youth organisations, the Indian Youth Congress and the National Students' union of India also participated.

The Aam Aadmi Party and the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, however, were conspicuous by their absence. The streets around Mandi House, Bengali Market and Bhagwan Das

Road were transformed into a security zone, with multiple layers of barricades, police personnel and detention vehicles deployed to contain the procession. Authorities imposed prohibitory restrictions under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, while six Metro stations in Lutyens' Delhi were closed until 4 pm, disrupting public transport and inconveniencing commuters. Traffic diversions further complicated movement across the capital's central

districts.

The march followed an unsuccessful attempt by Opposition leaders to secure a personal meeting with Chief Justice of India Surya Kant to submit a memorandum outlining their concerns over the electoral process. The Chief Justice declined the request for a direct meeting, indicating that grievances concerning elections and the Election Commission must be pursued through established judicial procedures, particularly when related issues are already under consideration before the courts.

The refusal to entertain a direct representation did not deter the Opposition from pursuing its campaign. Instead, the INDIA bloc decided to take the legal route, with a designated delegation of 10 Opposition leaders announcing plans to file a writ petition in the Supreme Court. The move marks a shift from seeking an informal audience with the Chief Justice to pursuing judicial relief through the court's established adjudicatory process.

Raksha Mantri felicitates Services athletes for record 27-medal haul at Asian Game

NEW DELHI.AGENCY

Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh, on October 12, 2026, felicitated the sportspersons from the defence forces who bagged 27 medals - 06 Gold, 11 Silver and 10 Bronze - at the recently concluded Asian Games in Japan. Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution Shri Pralhad Joshi also graced the event organised to celebrate the Services' best-ever performance at the prestigious international sporting event. A total of 92 athletes from the three Services competed in 19 disciplines, and made a significant contribution to India's fourth-place finish. The overall Indian contingent won 85 medals - 21 Gold, 27 Silver and 37 Bronze.

Interacting with the sportspersons at an event in New Delhi, Raksha Mantri attributed their success to discipline, hard work, team spirit and sporting excellence. He said the journey to winning a medal involves immense dedication, early-morning training, gym sessions, injuries, recovery and consistent efforts while balancing unit duties with sports preparations and staying away from



A total of 92 athletes from the three Services competed in 19 disciplines, and made a significant contribution to India's fourth-place finish

families.

Addressing the athletes who participated but could not win, Shri Rajnath Singh stressed that true defeat lies in giving up. He stated that every participant contributed to bringing honour to the country and the Defence Forces in one way or the other. Expressing confidence in the potential of Services athletes, he said that their achievements would continue to inspire future generations.

Raksha Mantri highlighted the pivotal role

played by the Mission Olympic Wing in identifying talented athletes, nurturing their potential, providing scientific training and world-class sports facilities, and preparing them for international competitions. He also acknowledged the contribution of coaches, support staff, physiotherapists, nutritionists and the families of athletes, emphasising that a champion is never made in isolation.

Shri Rajnath Singh reiterated PM Modi-led Government's commitment to strengthening India's sporting ecosystem, with sustained focus on infrastructure, modern training facilities and better opportunities for athletes. He underlined that the objective is not merely to increase participation but establish India as a leading power in the global sporting arena.

Yogi transfers Rs 493 crore to 9.18 lakh farmers hit by floods, excessive rainfall

GORAKHPUR.AGENCY

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Monday transferred Rs 493 crore in agricultural input subsidy directly to the bank accounts of 9,18,091 farmers affected by floods, excessive rainfall, hailstorms and cyclones. Addressing an event in Gorakhpur, Adityanath said crops had suffered extensive damage across the state over the past week, with casualties and loss of livestock reported in several places. "Within just 8 to 10 days, the double-engine government has made arrangements to provide compensation to our food providers, farmers, for damage to their crops, houses and livestock," he said.

Delhi CM Rekha Gupta offers prayers at Jhandewalan Temple

AJEET KUMAR.OPEN SEARCH

NEW DELHI. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Sunday offered prayers at Jhandewalan Temple on the first day of Sharadiya Navratri and prayed for the happiness, peace, prosperity and good health of people in Delhi and across the country. After offering prayers to Maa Bhagwati, Gupta extended Navratri greetings to the people and said the festival conveyed the message of faith, devotion, strength and righteousness. Taking a swipe at those staging protests in the capital, she said no one would be allowed to hold Delhi hostage or damage public property. "Everyone has the right to express their views in a democracy, but inconveniencing the public, damaging public property and disrupting the normal order of the city in the name of protest are unacceptable," she said.



After offering prayers to Maa Bhagwati, Gupta extended Navratri greetings to the people and said the festival conveyed the message of faith, devotion, strength and righteousness

Gupta said the Delhi Government was committed to ensuring the safety and convenience of residents and maintaining the normal functioning of the city. She said: "May the Goddess grant wisdom to those placing their own interests above the nation's welfare and development." Delhi BJP president Harsh

Malhotra on Sunday said Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal were trying to compete with each other to prove who is the bigger anarchist. He alleged that their protests had disrupted public life and affected businesses in the Capital. Malhotra said the protests, held over the past week demanding Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's resignation, came at a crucial time for traders and daily-wage workers.

He said the political activity during the Navratri, Durga Puja, Ramlila and Diwali shopping season had caused financial distress to a section of Delhi's population. Malhotra alleged that the AAP held protests from October 5 to 7, followed by Congress demonstrations on October 8 and 9. He said the AAP-backed Cockroach Janata Party and Left parties also took to the streets on October 10.

State-of-the-art Biosafety Laboratory established in Indira Gandhi Agricultural University campus

Bio-safety research will reach new heights in Chhattisgarh, BSL-3 laboratory will open new doors of scientific innovation : CM Sai

RAIPUR. OPEN SEARCH

Chief Minister Vishnu Dev Sai has said that the state-of-the-art Biosafety Level-3 (BSL-3) laboratory established at the Indira Gandhi Agricultural University, Raipur campus will give a new direction to high-level biosafety research in Chhattisgarh, besides playing an important role in scientific innovation and prevention of infectious diseases. Through this laboratory, identification of infectious pathogens, their scientific study, research related to vaccines and treatments and development of advanced diagnostic techniques will be promoted.

Chief Minister Shri Sai said that in line with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of a developed India, the expansion of sci-



entific research, biotechnology, and modern laboratory facilities in Chhattisgarh is an important step towards the state's overall development. He said that such a high-level scientific facility is of special significance in Chhattisgarh, which has an agriculture and animal husbandry-based economy.

It is noteworthy that the Biosafety Level-3 laboratory, established under the newly constructed Subhash Chandra Bose Biotech

Incubation Centre by the Chhattisgarh Biotech Promotion Society on the Indira Gandhi Agricultural University campus, was inaugurated on September 28. Chief Minister Shri Sai appreciated the efforts of Dr. Girish Chandel, Vice Chancellor of Indira Gandhi Agricultural University and Chief Executive Officer of Chhattisgarh Biotech Promotion Society, for this important achievement and extended his congratula-

tions and best wishes.

Chief Minister Mr. Sai said that the BSL-3 laboratory will provide new impetus to the study and monitoring of infectious diseases related to plant, animal, and human health, especially zoonotic diseases that spread from animals to humans. This facility can prove useful in the early identification of serious infectious diseases, preparedness for disease outbreaks, and strengthening advanced diagnostic capabilities. He said that this state-of-the-art laboratory will provide a controlled environment with high biosafety standards, providing scientists and researchers with new opportunities to study infectious pathogens and research vaccines and treatments.



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Haryana Govt Committed to Ensuring Uninterrupted Power Supply to Citizens : CM

Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini Announces Monthly Risk Allowance of Rs 500 for Power Corporation Employees

VIJAY KUMAR.OPEN SEARCH

CHANDIGARH : Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini on Monday said that ensuring uninterrupted electricity supply to citizens is the responsibility of the State Government. He directed officers of the DISCOMs to accord top priority to electricity-related works and ensure round-the-clock power supply to consumers.

The Chief Minister was presiding over a review meeting of power DISCOMs in Chandigarh on Monday. Chief Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Sh. Rajesh Khullar, Chief Secretary Sh. Anurag Rastogi and Additional Chief Secretary Sh. Sudhir Rajpal were also present. The Chief Minister said that Gurugram, being a Millennium City, requires special attention to electricity-related issues. He said that complaints had been received regarding the supply of electricity at higher rates to consumers through Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) of group housing societies. He



directed senior officials of the power corporations to hold meetings with the RWAs, formulate appropriate norms and ensure a fair arrangement for consumers so that they do not face inconvenience.

He also directed officers to expedite the installation of an additional transformer at the 220 kV substation in Sector 57, Gurugram, construction of the boundary wall of the power house in Sector 38, construction of control rooms at the Gharaunda and Nangal Chaudhary substations, and construction of boundary walls at the Malikpur and Manesar substations.

The Chief Minister said that Faridabad is a major industrial hub and uninterrupted power supply must be ensured to industries so that industrial operations continue smoothly.

He further directed officers to formulate an effective policy to address complaints related to incorrect electricity bills. He said that consumer grievances should be registered through helpline numbers and resolved promptly.

Taking cognisance of the concerns of electricity employees, the Chief Minister said that a monthly risk allowance of Rs 500 for employees of the power

corporations. The announcement will provide direct financial benefits to thousands of employees.

He also directed all Heads of Departments (HoDs) to complete the necessary formalities related to job security for employees within one week.

The Chief Minister directed officers to ensure proper planning while laying electricity lines along roads so that electric poles do not obstruct future road widening and strengthening works. He said that shifting electricity poles and lines during road expansion often creates difficulties and delays. He directed officers

to make effective use of the latest Geographic Information System (GIS) technology in electricity infrastructure works. He also emphasised maintaining adequate availability of spare transformers to meet emergency requirements.

The Chief Minister directed officers to formulate a plan for installing solar panels along the boundaries of agricultural fields under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhayan (PM-KUSUM).

He said that the initiative would promote solar energy, create an additional source of income for farmers and help Haryana move towards self-reliance in the power sector. He further directed that one village in each district, having low transmission and distribution losses and 100 per cent electricity bill payment, should be selected under a pilot project for development as a smart village. Similar initiatives should also be undertaken in urban areas to maximise solar energy generation across the State.

Haryana Govt approves 60.16 Crore for Modern integrated dairy complex at brahman majra in ambala cantonment : Anil Vij

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH



Haryana Energy, Transport and Labour Minister Sh. Anil Vij said that the state government has approved 60.16 crores for the construction of a modern Integrated Dairy Complex at Brahman Majra village in the Ambala Cantonment Assembly constituency. The amount has been sanctioned as a loan under the Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF) scheme. Sh. Vij said that the construction process would commence soon and directed Municipal Council officials to take the necessary steps to expedite the project.

It is pertinent to mention that, following the efforts of Energy Minister Anil Vij, the Municipal Council has already acquired approximately 21 acres of land at Brahman Majra for the proposed dairy complex. The project aims to relocate dairies currently operating at different locations across the cantonment area to a single, well-equipped facility. The integrated complex will provide modern infrastructure and

essential services for cattle owners, including a veterinary hospital and other facilities to ensure timely assistance in emergencies.

The complex will have the capacity to accommodate thousands of cattle, with approximately 200 plots of different sizes. Larger plots will be available for cattle owners keeping more animals, while smaller plots will cater to those with fewer cattle. A veterinary hospital will be established within the complex to provide free treatment to cattle. A team of doctors and staff will be deployed round the clock to ensure that animals receive timely medical attention whenever required.

Cattle owners will have access to fodder within the complex, eliminating the need to travel elsewhere to arrange feed for their animals. A dedicated area will

be developed for storing adequate quantities of fodder.

A well-equipped rest house will be constructed to provide cattle owners with a place to relax after a long day's work. Facilities such as toilets, drinking water and other essential amenities will also be provided.

A biogas plant will be established to enable the productive utilisation of waste generated at the complex. Provision will also be made for the possible supply of gas through a pipeline in the future. Apart from that, a separate pond will be developed to facilitate the bathing and cleaning of cattle, making it easier for cattle owners to maintain hygiene and cleanliness. A dedicated dry feed store will be constructed to safely keep cattle feed and other related materials within the complex.

Access to and quality of healthcare services will improve significantly : Arti Singh Rao

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH

In a major step towards strengthening healthcare infrastructure and making health services more accessible to the public, the Haryana Government has approved the establishment of eight new sub-health centres in rural areas of Nuh district, Health, Medical Education and Ayush Minister Arti Singh Rao said. The Health Minister stated that the administrative approval has been granted in line with Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini's Budget announcement to establish 100 new sub-health centres across the state. The new centres will be set up in the villages of Manaut, Khanpur Ghati, Jharpuri, Salamba, Badli,



Gurnawat, Papra and Raipuri in Nuh district. The Gram Panchayats of all eight selected villages have already passed resolutions and given their consent to provide land free of cost, along with temporary buildings, for the construction and operation of these sub-health centres. Furthermore, GIS mapping has been used to ensure that all the proposed locations meet the prescribed population criteria and adequately address the healthcare needs of the respective areas.

Robust Arrangements in Place to Ensure Every Grain of Farmers' Produce Is Procured at MSP : Rana

Procurement agencies purchased 10.78 lakh metric tonnes of paddy

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH

Haryana Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Sh. Shyam Singh Rana said that the state government is fully committed to safeguarding the interests of farmers and has made robust arrangements to ensure the procurement of every grain of their produce at the Minimum Support Price (MSP).

To ensure that farmers face no inconvenience while selling their produce, the Haryana State Agricultural Marketing Board has made adequate arrangements for essential facilities, including drinking water, toilets, drainage and help desks at mandis and procurement centres. Sh. Rana said that



keeping farmers' interests in mind, paddy procurement for the Kharif Marketing Season 2026-27 commenced on September 29, 2026, instead of the scheduled date of October 1, and will continue until November 15, 2026.

The Government of India has fixed the MSP at 72,441 per quintal for common-grade paddy and 72,461 per quintal for



Grade-A paddy. To ensure smooth procurement, 278 mandis, procurement centres and additional procurement locations have been opened across the state, and all these locations have been geo-fenced. Procurement operations are being carried out by the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, HAFED and the Haryana State Warehousing Corporation.

The Congress Begins Decisive Fight to Protect Voting Rights and Constitution : Kumari Selja

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH

The Sirsa MP, Former Union Cabinet Minister, General Secretary of All India Congress Committee, Congress Incharge of Uttarakhand and Congress Working Committee member Kumari Selja on Monday, while speaking to journalists in New Delhi ahead of the Congress's proposed march, said the time had come for a decisive fight against alleged vote theft through the purported collusion between the BJP government and the Election Commission. She asserted that the people's votes were not the property of any government but a right guaranteed by the Constitution. The Congress would firmly oppose any attempt to weaken or take



away this right. Kumari Selja said Congress workers were mobilising in New Delhi on October 12 under the leadership of party president Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi to protect democracy and voting rights. A march from Barakhamba Road Junction to the Supreme Court has been called for 1.30 pm. She said the struggle was not limited to the Congress but concerned the rights of every citizen who had been given the power to vote under the Constitution.

Targets 100% coverage in Census 2027, 87,450 field personnel estimated for digital population count

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH

Setting an uncompromising target of 100 per cent population coverage, the Haryana government on Monday directed district administrations to ensure that not a single individual or household is left out of Census 2027, calling for strict accountability, intensive field supervision and timely preparations to prevent omissions, double counting and inaccuracies in the nationwide exercise.

With the first phase of the Census successfully completed across 51,907 house listing blocks, Haryana is now preparing for the second phase of population enumeration, which is expected to involve an estimated 87,450 enumerators and supervisors, including reserve person-



FCR Dr. Sumita directs Deputy Commissioners to prevent omissions and double counting, ensure strict accountability, 70,000 enumeration blocks planned across the state

nel, across approximately 70,000 enumeration blocks. Financial Commissioner Revenue and Disaster Management Department, Dr. Sumita Misra, who is also the State Nodal Officer for Census 2027, issued the directions at a one-day conference of Principal Census Officers at Haryana Niwas here today. Describing Census 2027 as a major national responsibility

directly linked to nation-building, development planning and effective governance, Dr. Misra said the credibility of the exercise would depend on accurate enumeration, clearly defined administrative responsibilities and effective district-level supervision. "The quality of Census data depends significantly on the seriousness, leadership and field supervision at

the district level," she said, emphasizing that Deputy Commissioners would play a decisive role in ensuring the accuracy and credibility of the exercise. She directed Deputy Commissioners to personally monitor preparations, conduct regular reviews with Charge Officers and identify potential operational difficulties well before population enumeration begins.

Dr. Misra made it clear that Census operations must be treated as a priority assignment rather than an additional departmental responsibility. She called for greater ownership of preparations, clearly defined responsibilities and strict adherence to prescribed timelines. "There must be no compromise on coverage, accuracy and confidentiality.

PM Modi Has Transformed the Lives of Ordinary Citizens Through Welfare Schemes, BJP Govt Follows the Ideals of Maharaja Agrasen : Vij

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH

Haryana Energy, Transport and Labour Minister Sh. Anil Vij said that Maharaja Agrasen Jayanti is not merely an occasion to celebrate, but an opportunity to embrace and follow his ideals. He said that everyone in society, irrespective of political affiliation, should study Maharaja Agrasen's principles and incorporate them into governance. If governments across the country followed his ideals, India would shine like the sun.

He added that the present government was also following the ideals of Maharaja Agrasen and that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had transformed the

lives of ordinary citizens through various public welfare schemes.

Sh. Vij was addressing devotees during a devotional music evening organised by the Aggarwal Sabha at Aggarwal Dharamshala in Ambala Cantonment on the occasion of Maharaja Agrasen Jayanti. During the programme, the minister announced a grant of 75 lakh from his discretionary fund for social welfare projects undertaken by the Aggarwal Sabha.

Addressing the gathering, Sh. Anil Vij said that Maharaja Agrasen Jayanti was a sacred occasion, coinciding with the auspicious festival of Navratri, and extended his heartfelt greetings to everyone. He said



that the principles laid down by Maharaja Agrasen thousands of years ago continue to inspire governments today, particularly those committed to social welfare. Maharaja Agrasen was not only an able ruler but also an accomplished sociologist and economist who established principles of social responsibility and inclusive

growth. Explaining one of his most significant teachings, Sh. Vij referred to Maharaja Agrasen's principle that every person arriving in his city would be given one brick and one rupee. The brick would help the newcomer build a home, while the rupee would enable them to establish a business and become

Maharaja Agrasen Was a Great Ruler, Sociologist and Economist Who Advocated Social Service, Transparent Trade, Collective Welfare and Inclusive Development : Anil Vij

economically self-reliant. He said that this principle reflected Maharaja Agrasen's vision of a society in which everyone received support and an opportunity to build a better future.

The Energy Minister said that the essence of the knowledge imparted by Maharaja Agrasen could be found in the principles underlying various works on socialism and social wel-

fare. He emphasised that businesses should operate with complete transparency and that a portion of their earnings should be devoted to the welfare of society. He expressed satisfaction that the Aggarwal Sabha was carrying forward this spirit by undertaking several social service initiatives.

Sh. Vij said that the desire to contribute to society was deeply embedded in the work of the Aggarwal Sabha and reflected the message of Maharaja Agrasen, whose ideals continued to inspire governments and social institutions alike. He added that governments should ensure equal opportunities for all sections of society and enable everyone to progress.

Briefs News

Haryana powers ahead with industrial investment, IMTs drive growth and job prospects

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH. Haryana's industrial growth is gaining pace, with rising investor interest, expanding Industrial Model Townships (IMTs), and modern industrial facilities opening new avenues for development and employment. These developments are giving the State's economy fresh momentum and strengthening prospects for job creation. Industrial areas developed by the Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC) are evolving into comprehensive industrial ecosystems encompassing industry, trade, logistics and worker amenities. Commissioner and Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department, Dr. Amit Agrawal said that industrial investment in the State is steadily expanding through the special efforts of Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini. This indicates that Haryana is becoming an important investment destination for Indian and global companies. A high-level delegation from Haryana, led by the Chief Minister, recently visited Singapore to facilitate the establishment of new industries and attract foreign investment. This will create new opportunities for direct employment as well as employment in transportation, storage, supply chains, maintenance, construction, security, catering and other support services.

Chandigarh day temperature jumps 6.3°C after rain, IMD retains storm warning

CHANDIGARH : (AGENCY) A sharp reversal in temperatures followed Sunday's rain in the Tricity, with Chandigarh's maximum temperature rising by 6.3°C to 32.2°C on Monday, while the minimum plunged by 6.4°C to 17.2°C, falling 2.1°C below normal. The day temperature was the highest recorded at the main city observatories in Punjab listed in the bulletin, although readings at some automatic weather stations elsewhere in the state were higher. Chandigarh's maximum was also among the higher city readings in the region, but remained below Haryana's highest of 33.3°C recorded at Mahendragarh. The swing followed Sunday's rain, when Chandigarh received 14.4 mm between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm. The rain had brought the city's maximum down to 25.9°C, 6.2°C below normal. With no further rain recorded between 8.30 am and 5.30 pm on Monday, the maximum climbed back to 32.2°C. The minimum temperature, however, moved in the opposite direction. After remaining unusually high at 23.6°C on Sunday 4.3°C above normal it dropped to 17.2°C on Monday, 2.1°C below normal. The contrasting readings reflected the sharp change in weather conditions over the two days. Mohali recorded a maximum of 31.8°C and a minimum of 18.1°C on Monday.

HC seeks data on hit-and-run cases from Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh

CHANDIGARH : (AGENCY) The Punjab and Haryana High Court has directed Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh to place on record data on the number of hit-and-run cases reported up to September 30 after implementation of the Compensation to Victims of Hit and Run Motor Accident Scheme - 2022. Justice Harsh Bunker asserted the data was required to indicate "the number of cases which have been decided, the number of cases pending, and the status of disbursement of compensation in the decided cases". The directions came on an appeal challenging the order dated May 31, 2019, passed by Sonepat Motor Accident Claims Tribunal, whereby a claim petition filed by the appellant following her husband's death in a hit-and-run case was dismissed. The victim was allegedly hit by an unknown vehicle on GT Road near a mall. During the course of hearing, the high court's attention was drawn to the Supreme Court judgment in the case of. Rajasekaran versus the Union of India", in which directions were issued for effective implementation of the 2022 Scheme for compensation in hit-and-run cases.

Democracy can't be held hostage to opposition's comfort : CM

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)
The credibility of India's democracy cannot be held hostage to the political convenience of opposition parties, Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta said on Monday, referring to ongoing protests against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar ExploreHistory
Referring to an open letter by 124 former IAS, IFS and allied service officers defending the Election Commission's institutional integrity, Gupta backed the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), saying free and fair polls demand accurate voter rolls, transparent procedures and strong institutions. Opposition parties, including the Congress, have been demanding CECE Kumar's resignation, accusing him of enabling mass vote deletions and other irregularities in the SIR of electoral rolls.



It comes as SIR is underway in Delhi, with over 47 lakh names removed from the draft electoral rolls of 70 Assembly constituencies in the city. "Congress and its allies cannot question the Election Commission every time the verdict goes against them and invoke democracy only when it suits their politics," the Delhi chief minister said. "Respect for democracy cannot be selective. Neither can respect for its institutions," she asserted. The CM's remarks come amid INDIA bloc members, including Rahul Gandhi, marching to the Supreme Court to press for Kumar's removal. Earlier, former civil servants and diplomats had defended the EC and the SIR process, saying a system cannot be honest when someone wins and rigged when that person loses. They pointed out that under the same EC, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) at the Centre lost assembly polls in Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, Jharkhand and Jammu and Kashmir, and in 2024, lost its majority in the Lok Sabha. "The winners raised no complaint. A system cannot be honest when you win and rigged when you lose," they said. The officers who wrote the letter include former secretaries to the government of India, former ambassadors, former directors general of police, former chief secretaries of states and former directors general of income tax.

AISA students join march towards Supreme Court, raise slogans against CEC

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)
Students affiliated with AISA and other Left organisations on Monday marched from Barakhamba Road towards Supreme Court, raising slogans to press for the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, hours after Delhi Police denotified the site as a designated venue for protests.
This comes as opposition MPs and leaders of the INDIA bloc on Monday afternoon started their "march for democracy" to the Supreme Court to submit a petition on their "vote chori" charge and against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. Members of the student outfits who were part of the march to Supreme Court raised slogans such as "Gyanesh Kumar ko jail bhejo (send Gyanesh Kumar to jail)" and "SIR toh nahi chalega (SIR won't work)". The Left organisations, including All India Students' Association (AISA), have been taking out marches towards Jantar Mantar the past two days amid heightened security in central Delhi, following two days of protests that saw mass detentions of demonstrators demanding Kumar's resignation. The area around Jantar Mantar is heavily barricaded with a huge police presence in the area. Authorities have so far foiled all attempts by protesters from reaching Jantar Mantar which was on Monday denotified as a designated protest site.



Trade, transport bodies oppose Delhi's Ramlila Maidan as protest site, cite impact on business

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)
Trade and transport bodies on Monday opposed the designation of Ramlila Maidan as a protest site in Delhi, citing its proximity to major wholesale markets in Old Delhi and the potential disruption to the movement of goods and commercial activities.
The Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI) and the All India Motor and Goods Transport Association (AIMGTA) have urged the authorities to exclude Ramlila Maidan from the list of designated protest venues, according to their separate statements. Delhi Police Commissioner Anurag Kumar issued a standing order on October 11, designating Ramlila Maidan, Burari Ground and CBD Ground as the new sites for protests and demonstrations.
While Ramlila Maidan in the central district is around four kilometres



from Jantar Mantar, the CBD Ground in the east is 12 to 13 kilometres away, and Burari Ground in the north district is nearly 21 kilometres away. The order stated that the Union Ministry of Home Affairs had constituted a committee to examine alternative venues for citizens to exercise their right to organise protests and demonstrations in place of the existing designated site.
In its statement, CTI welcomed the denotification of Jantar Mantar as a protest site, but said that the inclusion of Ramlila Maidan could adversely affect business in several markets, including Sadar Bazar, Chandni Chowk, Chawri Bazar, Khari Baoli, Bhagirath Place, Kashmere Gate, Paharganj and Daryaganj.
CTI Chairman Brijesh Goyal said the organisation had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi last week, seeking the removal of Jantar Mantar as a protest site. He said the government's decision had been welcomed by Delhi's traders. However, Goyal said the inclusion of Ramlila Maidan, among the new venues, was a matter of concern, given its proximity to Delhi-6, a major commercial hub comprising wholesale markets and trading centres.
Markets within an approximately five-km radius of Ramlila Maidan include Kamla Market, Chawri Bazar, Naya Bazar, Sadar Bazar, Chandni Chowk, Khari Baoli, Lajpat Rai Market, Bhagirath Place, Kashmere Gate, Paharganj, Ajmeri Gate and Daryaganj, according to the CTI statement. The organisation said protests at Ramlila Maidan could lead to barricading, metro station closures and traffic restrictions, affecting the movement of traders, customers and goods, particularly during the festive season. Separately, the All India Motor and Goods Transport Association (AIMGTA) has written to the Delhi Police commissioner, seeking the exclusion of Ramlila Maidan from the designated protest venues.

Anti-CEC protests : 'Supreme Court should not be dragged into this', says CJI Surya Kant

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)
A day after declining to meet leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi to discuss issues relating to Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls and removal of CEC Gyanesh Kumar, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant on Monday said the Supreme Court should not be dragged into the controversy. "I have appealed to protesters also. All political parties also...The Supreme Court should not be dragged into this. There should not be any impediment in the movement of lawyers, litigants, court staff. They should be allowed to work," a Bench led by CJI Kant said after several senior lawyers mentioned to it that lawyers were allegedly misbehaved with by the police. "Every member of



the Bar has the right to participate peacefully at designated locations, but the Supreme Court cannot be allowed to become a site of disruption... All these democratic activities should take place, but at least in the Supreme Court's functioning," the CJI said.
The CJI's comments came hours before Congress' march to the Supreme Court to demand end to 'vote chori'. The remarks came after

that the parties should not interfere with the functioning of the Supreme Court, the CJI said he had also made the same appeal to the protesters. "I have made a statement, they should not bring Court into this and they should be responsible political parties," Rai responded.
Alleging that lawyers were dragged and minors were beaten up, Sankaranarayanan urged the top court to send a strong message to the police. The CJI said the issue will be taken up on Tuesday when other connected matters were listed for hearing. CJI Kant on Sunday turned down a request from Kharge and Gandhi for a meeting on Monday to discuss issues relating to SIR and CEC Kumar's alleged misdeeds.
Some 20,000 paramilitary personnel who have been deployed for security in the national capital amid the protests by Opposition bloc INDIA and other groups will stay put for at least one month, sources have said. The decision to retain this many personnel was taken in view of the upcoming festival season too, when there's a surge in crowds in markets and other public places, sources said.
Delhi also got three new designated protest sites today - Ramlila Ground, Burari Ground and CBD Ground. Jantar Mantar, in the city's high-security central zone, which had been the designated protest site until now has been de-notified. Sources said a thorough audit of security arrangements of the new

20,000 Paramilitary Personnel To Stay Put In Delhi For A Month Amid Protests

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CJP seeks delhi police nod for jantar man-tar protest, gives 24-hour ultimatum

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)
CJP leaders Ashutosh Ranka and Saurav Das went to Parliament Street police station on Monday to seek a date for a peaceful protest at Jantar Mantar. Speaking to the media outside the police station, the CJP leaders said they will give the police a 24-hour ultimatum, or they will issue another call to protest. Police tightened security in the area and the road outside the police station was closed as the two leaders arrived.
A public announcement was made outside the police station, asking people to comply with security restrictions and prohibitory orders, maintain peace and avoid unauthorised gatherings. "We are going to ask Delhi Police for a date to hold a protest at Jantar Mantar. We hope the police will give us a date. If they do not, we will make another call within



24 hours," Ranka said.
Criticising the security restrictions in the national capital, Ranka said the arrangements affected residents and businesses, particularly with festivals approaching. "The way Delhi Police has shut the entire national capital down is unprecedented. People are suffering, businesses have been shut...festivals are also coming. Why don't you give us a designated site to hold the protest?" Ranka said.CJP leader Saurav Das said peaceful protest was a constitutional right and urged the police to specify a date and time for the demonstration. "Peaceful

protest is a right, a constitutional right, and people are already exercising it. People will protest peacefully. The police always complain that we should approach them 10 days in advance.
We are now leaving the choice to them and asking them to specify the date and time. After a call by the CJP for a protest against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar at Jantar Mantar, authorities put in place extensive security arrangements and restrictions across the national capital. Protesters were prevented from reaching the Jantar Mantar on Saturday and Sunday, with police saying permission has not been granted for any demonstration. Thousands of protesters, including leaders of CJP, opposition parties and student organisations, have been detained in the past two days.

Briefs News

Delhi police gets 300 social media posts taken down for spreading 'rumours'

NEW DELHI (AGENCY) Delhi Police is monitoring various social media platforms to curb the spread of misinformation amid protests in the capital, with around 300 posts allegedly aimed at spreading rumours or creating public unrest taken down, police sources said on Monday. The action comes days after police arrested a 24-year-old man for allegedly using artificial intelligence (AI) tools to create and circulate a fabricated video depicting a police officer sexually harassing a woman journalist during a protest against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. The accused, identified as Nadeem Ahmed, allegedly circulated the video falsely portraying a police personnel in an objectionable manner, police said. The incident is being investigated separately from the allegations of sexual harassment levelled against police personnel by women journalists. The police have also approached social media platform X seeking the removal of objectionable and allegedly misleading content linked to the protests, sources said. The social media monitoring exercise is aimed at identifying fabricated content, misleading claims and posts that could potentially disturb public order, they added.

Jantar mantar denotified as protest site, police names three new venues

NEW DELHI (AGENCY) Delhi Police has denotified Jantar Mantar as a designated site for protests and named three new spots for holding such demonstrations, according to an official order. Delhi Police Commissioner Anurag Kumar issued the standing order on October 11, naming Ramlila Maidan, Burari Ground and CBD Ground as the new designated sites for protests and demonstrations. "Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, had constituted a committee to examine alternative proper venues for citizens' right to organise protest/demonstrations in place of the existing 'designated site'," the order read. Based on the committee's recommendations, Jantar Mantar as a protest venue has been de-notified, it said. "Three new venues viz Ramlila Ground, Burari Ground and CBD Ground, East Delhi have been designated as new venues for organising protest/demonstrations," it said. Further, it said that a detailed and revised SOP for organising protests and demonstrations at these three venues will be issued separately.

Delhi HC grants police time till tuesday to respond to IYC's plea for protest at jantar mantar

The Delhi High Court on Monday granted time till October 13 to the city police to respond to a plea of the Indian Youth Congress (IYC) seeking permission to protest against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar at Jantar Mantar over alleged irregularities in the SIR exercise. At the outset, Additional Solicitor General (ASG) Chetan Sharma, representing Delhi Police, told Justice Amit Mahajan that he will take instructions on the issue and inform the court on Tuesday. Noting the statement of the ASG, the court then listed the matter for hearing on Tuesday. Senior advocate Sidharth Luthra, representing the petitioner, said the plea was filed four days back and the police's counsel could have taken the instructions by now. He insisted that the matter be heard today itself. The IYC has approached the court challenging Delhi Police's denial of permission to protest at Jantar Mantar.

SC to hear pleas of SCBA, others on hardships faced by lawyers amid Delhi protests

NEW DELHI (AGENCY) The Supreme Court agreed to hear on Tuesday petitions, including one filed by the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), raising concerns over difficulties faced by lawyers amid ongoing protests in the national capital. Taking note of the submissions, Chief Justice of India Surya Kant said, "Democratic activities must take place smoothly, but there should be no obstruction to the functioning of the Supreme Court or movement of lawyers, court staff and litigants". A bench comprising CJI Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana took note of the submissions made by senior advocate and SCBA president Pradeep Rai, who highlighted various issues, including the restrictions on internet services, amid the protests. The protests in Delhi are being held to demand the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Gyanesh Kumar.

Experts say access to visible public spaces key to protests

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)
The lawns along Rajpath (now Kartavya Path) in Delhi once resembled a "village of tents" as people from across the country gathered to make their issues known, fully visible to the corridors of power. That changed in 1993 when the designated protest site was moved to Jantar Mantar. For much of the last three decades, Jantar Mantar, still a site in the heart of the national capital, became the epicentre of protests in the country, including the recent anti-NEET protests earlier this year. The "designated protest site" is changing again amid protests called by opposition parties and the Cockroach Janta Party against the Special



Intensive Revision (SIR) and the chief election commissioner to places further away.
A study by IIT Indore, titled "Spatial Denial and Displacement: Exploring the Literary Lineage of Protest Sites (Public Spaces)", examined how Delhi's protest spaces have evolved and underlined the visibility of protests, saying dissent and access to public spaces were key to democratic protests. The study placed these changes in Delhi's history, from the Mughal and British rule to the Independence era and beyond. Delhi Police has denotified Jantar Mantar as a designated site for protests, and named Ramlila

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Maidan, Burari Ground and CBD Ground as the new designated sites for protests and demonstrations. According to the IIT Indore study, the existence of a designated protest site is not enough. Its location, accessibility and visibility matter.
Calling for inclusive public spaces, the researchers argued that where people are allowed to gather shapes their ability to raise demands and engage with centres of power. The study examined how access to public spaces has been shaped by authority and how the places where people can gather have influenced their ability to express dissent and questioned what happens when people can no longer protest at a place close to the institutions they want to address. SignPetitions The study argued that shifting demonstrations elsewhere can affect their visibility and make access to central public spaces more difficult.
Rajpath, earlier known as Kingsway, became a prominent space for public gatherings after Independence. Its lawns hosted people from across the country, including hill residents demanding a separate state, farmers seeking

better prices and industrial workers protesting retrenchment, bringing diverse demands into a central public space. In 1993, Jantar Mantar was designated as Delhi's official protest site following restrictions on collective demonstrations at the Boat Club.
The study said moving protests away from Rajpath reduced their visibility and increased the distance from centres of power. According to the study, protests at Ramlila Maidan in 2017, the anti-CAA stir at Shaheen Bagh in 2019-20 and the farmers' demonstrations at Singhu, Tikri and Ghazipur in 2021-22 are examples of how protests have moved to different locations due to restricted access to established sites.

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Open Search

EDITORIAL

A welfare initiative for India's brave soldiers

The lives of soldiers who protect the nation's borders are a symbol of sacrifice, discipline, and hard work. They remain deployed day and night to ensure the country's security, often staying away from their families. In such circumstances, making their lives more comfortable and providing them with essential commodities at reasonable prices is an important responsibility of the government. The initiative to provide 'Bharat Rice' to army personnel can be considered a significant step in this direction. It has the potential not only to provide financial relief to soldiers but also to highlight the government's commitment to food security.

Rice is a major component of the daily diet of millions of people in India. Any increase in its price directly affects the monthly budgets of ordinary households. When food grains become expensive in the market, families belonging to lower- and middle-income groups are often forced to cut down on their expenses. In such circumstances, schemes that provide rice at affordable prices can offer considerable relief to the public. Extending this facility to soldiers and their families is an important step towards their welfare. The primary objective of the 'Bharat Rice' initiative is to make rice available at reasonable prices and provide consumers with relief from rising food prices.

If its availability is ensured for army personnel, it may help reduce their household expenses. This would support their purchasing power and enable them to save more money for other family needs. However, the actual benefits of this initiative will become evident only when the price, quality, and distribution of rice meet the prescribed standards. In this regard, the government must pay attention to several important aspects. First, the regular availability of rice must be ensured so that soldiers do not face any difficulties in accessing the benefits. Second, the distribution process should be transparent and simple. Third, the implementation of the scheme must be monitored regularly to prevent problems such as black marketing, irregularities, and unnecessary delays. Furthermore, soldiers should be clearly informed about the rules and benefits associated with the scheme.

It is also important to recognise that the welfare of soldiers is not limited to affordable food grains. Better housing, healthcare facilities, education, social security, and a dignified life after retirement are equally important concerns. Initiatives such as 'Bharat Rice' can form part of a broader programme for the welfare of soldiers, but they should not be considered a substitute for other essential facilities. Indeed, the contribution of soldiers cannot be measured in terms of financial benefits. They remain prepared to sacrifice everything for the nation's sovereignty and the security of its citizens. Therefore, every step that brings relief to their lives deserves appreciation.

Ultimately, the initiative to make 'Bharat Rice' available will be considered successful only when its benefits genuinely reach soldiers and their families. The government must give equal importance to effective implementation and the announcement of the scheme.

Why India Must Own The Power Behind The Platform

MANISH KUMAR JHA

India's warship-building story is progressively one of indigenous design, construction, and systems integration. But an uncomfortable contradiction lies at the heart of this progress: India can build sophisticated warships, yet remains dependent on foreign sources for some of the most critical machinery that actually makes those ships move - marine engines. That dependency is strategically more serious. A propulsion system is not simply another subsystem. It is the ship's power plant, endurance mechanism, and most complex marine tech, which is dominated by a few among the advanced countries. If the propulsion chain is vulnerable to export restrictions, sanctions, IP controls or foreign supply disruptions, the combat capability of an otherwise indigenous warship can be seriously compromised.

Moreover, it symbolises India's maritime ambition, its next era of economic growth, with a marine economy at its core. For the Indian Navy, therefore, Atmanirbharta in ship-building goes beyond the hull, weapons, and sensors, to the elusive marine engine. For example, take a look at China: "marine engineering manufacturing" is listed as one of the highest-growth industries. So much so that China's marine economy outperformed national GDP growth, surpassing USD 700 billion, up 6% year-on-year, as per its public disclosure. India now needs a national mission for indigenous marine propulsion - one that moves beyond assembling foreign equipment under licence and develops genuine Indian competence in design, materials, manufacturing, integration, and testing. India Navy (IN) has a roadmap of around 230 surface combatants and submarines by 2037, and all warships need propulsion. So, the urgency is clear.

The Indian Navy currently operates a mix of steam, diesel, and gas-turbine propulsion systems. India has developed considerable indigenous capability in steam turbines and smaller diesel engines. The strategic gap becomes much clearer when propulsion is examined subsystem by subsystem. Marine gas turbines still depend heavily on foreign technology, particularly for core design, hot-section materials, coatings, and turbine tech.

Large naval diesel engines face gaps in power density, reliability, and qualification. Reduction gearboxes remain heavily import-dependent, while advanced shafting, bearings, and propellers need stronger capabilities in precision engineering, vibration control, and cavitation management.

The next challenge is electrification; naval-grade high-power converters, drives, and switching systems need industrial development. Electric propulsion motors require advances in power density, permanent-magnet, and thermal technology management. Integrated Electric Propulsion (IEP) will demand expertise in power management, storage, controls, and system integration. And air-independent propulsion needs to be fixed. Over the next five to 10 years, these areas should be treated as priority technologies for building a truly indigenous naval propulsion ecosystem. Today, the Indian Navy's gas-turbine fleet is based on foreign-origin systems. While India has acquired experience through licensed assembly, inspection, and testing of the GE LM2500 family, that is it. The more ambitious effort is the Kaveri Marine Gas Turbine, being pursued by DRDO's Gas Turbine Research Establishment, as a marine derivative of the Kaveri/LCA engine programme.

TARA KARTHA

For all those who were envious of Pakistan's 'new status' as "mediator extraordinaire", here is a reality check

Saudi Airport Attack, And Why Pakistan Keeps Biting Off More Than It Can Chew



With the attack on King Khalid airport that killed more than a dozen and injured hundreds, a crisis seems to be already in the making. Add to this a series of unsurprising but vitally important events in recent days. First reports suggest that the Pakistani military is being rapidly deployed to Saudi Arabia, without the slightest intimation to Parliament, not even a nominal discussion. That's Pakistan. Second, a furious Iran is issuing warnings and threats to Pakistan - again, an expected outcome of the rapidly unfolding events. Third, Tehran is proceeding to give the Taliban access to the Chabahar port, in a deliberate move to bring Afghanistan into the picture, which is being bombed by Pakistan. And finally, rumours suggest that a Pakistani retired official is in India for a reach out to New Delhi, probably to ensure that the western border remains peaceful as Pakistan hurtles into a deadly war. The Pakistani Parliament has hardly ever had the slightest power, with the legislative body having no say in the Mecca agreement either. True, that a rather apologetic-looking Prime Minister signing it should have meant an approval of some kind from Parliament. After all, he is actually the 'Prime' minister, the first among equals. But the reality has always been made and unmade by the military, which considers its own interests first, and then the country's.

But that's what is rather mysterious here. This is no good for the Pakistan military at all. It risks pulling troops into one of the most involved and bloody fights in recent years. The Houthis have demonstrated their capability in terms of drones and missiles and have no compunction in hitting civilians or anyone else. This is the rag-tag force that drove the United States into a truce last year, which seems to have led to an agreement - kept so far - not

stand, therefore, is that the Houthi-Saudi fight is a subset, almost a segment of the wider war. In other words, the US itself has little to do with it, as long as the Houthis don't attack Israel too much and the Saudis don't collapse entirely. Which is probably why President Donald Trump blessed the Mecca agreement signed in August, which the Saudi Press Agency defined as "intended to strengthen collective deterrence against any act of aggression, and stipulates that any armed attack against Saudi Arabia, Turkiye, or Pakistan shall be regarded as an attack against them all". That left everyone wondering who the 'common enemy' was, and, most importantly, whether the deal included a nuclear cover by Pakistan. The latter, in turn, very quickly emphasised that the agreement was not against any one country, and hedged severely on the nuclear aspect. At various times, Gen Munir was seen visiting Riyadh, and one of his retired generals, Lt Gen Nauman Mahmood, was given a comfortable perch as the head of the Alliance.

But now, it seems the Saudis have thrown a fit. At an emergency meeting of the newly established Strategic Political and Defence Committee in

Riyadh, the members of the Mecca pact decided "to move immediately to the practical implementation of the collective defence commitments". The operative part of the decision is pretty specific. The three countries agreed to "take the necessary measures to provide the agreed military forces and capabilities and ensure their rapid deployment in the Kingdom, in accordance with the approved arrangements and the national legislation of the Parties". That is, it has to still chime in with national legislation. Under Article 245 of the Constitution of Pakistan, the Armed Forces operate under the directions of the Federal Government to defend the country and assist civil power. It does not provide a unilateral or standalone mandate for the military to wage offensive foreign wars on its own authority. Any deployment, even for, say, UN peacekeeping, thus technically requires the mandate of the House.

Pakistan has, meanwhile, already positioned (but not technically deployed) some 8,000 troops, JF-17 jets, drones, and HQ-9 air defence systems, all paid for by the Saudis. But though that also did not pass Parliament, it could be interpreted as being part of existing agree-

ments, including the very first in 1967, which positioned Pakistanis for training and later defended the Kingdom against Yemeni Intrusion (1969). Don't forget that some 15,000 troops were sent there after the seizure of Mecca in 1979, with Pakistani forces fighting side by side with the Saudis. In short, it's all been done before. From that period onwards, till recently, the Saudis stood solidly with Pakistan against India, with a pragmatic prince reaching out to New Delhi with friendship and investment only in recent years. That could change rapidly, if Rawalpindi has a say. And right now, it seems it does.

But there are other questions ahead. Turkey is already drawing lines in the sand. Its Foreign Minister, Hakan Fidan, stressing the defensive nature of the Mecca pact, said that Turkey will not deploy troops to another country's territory to launch an attack. Turkey will probably provide its extensive defence equipment, which is what Pakistan needs. A few long-range drones like the Bayraktar Akinci, with its 7,500-km range, would be a huge plus for operations.

It is technically doable. But the downside is that Iran is furious. Ominous statements have been emanating from the country in recent days. One lawmaker warned that Pakistan's entry into the war against Yemen "shows that Pakistan should no longer be considered a mediator but a regional intervenor". State media Tasnim bakly stated that if Turkey and Pakistan participate in attacks on Yemen, "they may be directly harmed through attacks on their ships, interests, and perhaps even their own territory". Well, Ankara has bowed out, leaving Rawalpindi with the mess. There's worse. Iran has reached a 'preliminary understanding' to allocate land at Chabahar to the Taliban to build infrastructure for moving its goods to the sea.

Congress' New Electoral Formula In Uttar Pradesh



Uttar Pradesh has always been the ultimate test of political arithmetic. For any opposition formation hoping to challenge the BJP in the state, the question is not merely whether individual parties have pockets of influence. It is whether their votes can be combined without their organisations, ambitions and social coalitions pulling in different directions. The recent selection of Aradhana Misra Mona as Uttar Pradesh Congress president and Imran Masood as working president seems less like a routine organisational reshuffle and more like an attempt to balance Samajwadi Party honcho Akhilesh Yadav's PDA (Pichhda, Dalit and Alpsankhyak) arrangement. In other words, Congress appears to stand in tandem with SP as far as caste and community equations are concerned in UP. It is in a way a signal to SP to consolidate its backward-class and minority base while Congress will try to add sections, which SP finds difficult to reach- Brahmins as well as some urban and unaligned voters.

However, symbolism can open a political conversation, it cannot substitute for votes at the booth. With seat-sharing talks still in limbo, can the INDIA alliance strategy actually work in assembly elections? The political significance of Brahmin support is known to political parties. More so, since 2007, when Mayawati's Bahujan Samajwadi Party pulled off one of UP's most successful experiments in caste-based social engineering. Otherwise, the BJP has tra-

ditionally enjoyed strong support among Brahmins in UP. But for 2027, both SP and now Congress are seeking to make inroads into this influential vote base - roughly 10% of the electorate. Misra, a three-time MLA from Rampur Khas, is the daughter of veteran Congress leader Pramod Tiwari. She brings in a Brahmin face with a long-standing organisational base in eastern UP, where Brahmins have significant presence.

Masood gives the party a prominent Muslim leader with influence in western UP. However, his appointment can create misunderstandings with the SP, which has traditionally relied heavily on Muslim-Yadav support.

The party has also included an OBC and Dalit representation in its senior organisation. Congress may seem like rebuilding its social coalition in a state

where its traditional support base has progressively weakened. Yet indirectly, it is also hoping to garner Brahmin votes for the alliance which have been elusive until now. Indeed, Congress is also pushing for an early seat-sharing arrangement and says it wants to identify winnable seats, while SP has its own organisational ambitions. Congress has pushed for a much larger share of seats, with reports putting its demand around 150-200 (total 403 seats), while SP is reluctant to concede such a large number.

Every other day, leaders of both the parties (including Masood) are sparring over quality and quantity of seat sharing. Hundreds of local Congress-SP workers fight over who gets the ticket. That makes seat-sharing considerably more complicated than simply saying 'we are allies'. That tension matters because assembly

election is fundamentally different from a Lok Sabha election. A party needs functioning booth-level organisation, credible local candidates and a clear understanding of constituency-level social equations. Simply adding together SP and Congress' 2024 vote bases cannot automatically reproduce the 2024 result. This is possibly the biggest danger to INDIA in UP- not ideological disagreement, but competition between allies for tickets and political space. In this context, Congress' new appointments are also a bargaining tool with the SP. In the 2022 assembly election, Congress won just two of 403 seats and polled 2.33% of the vote. The BJP won 255 seats polling 41.29% votes, while the SP won 111 seats with 32.06% vote share. However, the 2024 Lok Sabha election changed many misconceptions of the political parties. The

Congress and SP fought together as INDIA bloc partners winning 43 of the 80 Lok Sabha seats (SP won 37 while Congress won six). The BJP won just 33. That result demonstrated that the BJP's previously formidable UP coalition was not immune to electoral disruption.

But it also showed something else - SP was the principal opposition force within the INDIA alliance while Congress was pushed to the periphery. This created a dilemma for Congress. It wants enough seats to rebuild itself in UP, but SP is unwilling to give those constituencies where it already has a stronger base. Afterall, UP happens to be the principal organisational and electoral arena for the SP. Therein lies the tussle for political space. Given the situation, Congress needs a distinct identity within the alliance. If it becomes merely the junior partner carrying the INDIA label, its long-term revival becomes difficult. The appointment of Misra and Masood appears designed partly to give the party identifiable faces across different social constituencies. However, it would be good for Congress to avoid competing with SP for exactly the same political space.

Also, seat-sharing needs to be settled without prolonged public friction. Recent statements from both sides have occasionally exposed differences over leadership and the number of seats. Masood has emphasised Rahul Gandhi's national role, while SP leaders have stressed Akhilesh Yadav's centrality in UP.

GrowthEd eyes nationwide expansion, onboards Sagar as Chief Business Officer

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)

GrowthEd has announced the appointment of education leader Sagar Gupta as its Co-Founder and Chief Business Officer (CBO). The move aims to accelerate GrowthEd's expansion and deepen its nationwide social impact by imparting foundational life skills in millions of Indian school students. In this new role, Gupta will spearhead business development, strategic expansion, and operational scaling for GrowthEd.

GrowthEd is an ed-fin-tech platform pioneering a mission to equip K-12 school learners with foundational life skills. By engaging an ecosystem encompassing Rs 25 crore school students, the company is addressing India's critical education gap through an experiential, tech-driven life skills education platform.



Sagar Gupta brings over a decade of business leadership, financial stewardship, and institutional growth expertise across disruptive education ventures. His diverse background in education and ed-tech businesses, complemented by strong thought leadership on education, uniquely positions him to bridge aggressive enterprise growth with large-scale

social impact at GrowthEd. Welcoming him to the founding team, Rishab Mathur, Co-Founder and CEO of GrowthEd, said: "Sagar's ability to scale meaningful education models and his deep commitment to youth empowerment make him an invaluable addition to our leadership. His presence will accelerate our outreach to thousands of schools and

create strategic partnerships that advance our mission of life skills literacy."

Ananya Gupta, Co-Founder and COO of GrowthEd, added: "Transforming life skills into interactive classroom culture requires deep pedagogical conviction. Sagar's background will ensure our vision reaches millions of learners in its truest sense."

Commenting on his appointment, Sagar Gupta, Co-Founder and Chief Business Officer of GrowthEd, stated: "The crisis of Indian school education is its narrow focus on traditional subjects that are distant from real-world life skills. In our country, where only a quarter of adults understand basic finance or just 2% of adults know how to administer CPR during a health emergency, it is evident that life-skills education must start at the foundation. At GrowthEd, I am excited to make our mission of purpose-driven education a commercially viable one. With Rishab and Ananya alongside, I am confident we are building an enduring enterprise that will prepare India's next generation for life."

Gupta's appointment as Co-Founder and CBO comes at a strategic inflection point for GrowthEd as it plans to expand its institutional footprint across private enterprises and government networks, helping their K-12 schools align with National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 directives. Sagar Gupta's induction completes a three-member founding bench alongside CEO Rishab Mathur and COO Ananya Gupta, combining specialized strengths in product development and technology, operations, and business scaling.

Expert Guidance and a Chance to Win a Fortuner, Thar, Swift or Bullet

KORE Mobile Opens in Goa, Bringing Genuine Mobiles

GOA: OPEN SEARCH

KORE Mobile, one of India's most prominent mobile retail chains, today announced its entry into Goa with the launch of its flagship stores at [Panjim, Madgaon, Mapusa, Siolim & Vasco]. With this launch, KORE Mobile now has a national presence of 230+ stores across 9 operational states: Gujarat, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan and now Goa.

The Goa store gives customers in the state access to the latest smartphones, gadgets, accessories and appliances under one roof. Every purchase is backed by genuine products, trusted service and expert guidance from trained staff.

The KORE Mobile store in Goa offers electronic gadgets, accessories and appliances from leading



India's fast-growing mobile retail chain expands to its 9th operational state, taking its network to 230+ stores

brands including Apple, Samsung, Google, Vivo, Oppo, Xiaomi, Motorola, Tecno and Itel, along with prominent accessory brands. KORE Dilaye More: Every Customer Wins To mark the launch, KORE Mobile brings its signature "KORE Dilaye More" offer to Goa. Every customer who

buys from a KORE Mobile store gets an assured gift and a chance to win a Toyota Fortuner, Mahindra Thar, Maruti Swift, Royal Enfield Bullet and many other exciting gifts.

"Goa is a vibrant and fast-growing market, and we are delighted to open our doors here. Our mission is to make cutting-edge mobile technology accessible to every Indian through trusted service, genuine products and expert guidance. We look forward to becoming a part of the Goan community."

Piyush Goyal engages with youth, highlights India's resilience-growth trajectory despite global headwinds

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)

Union Minister Piyush Goyal stated that India maintained a trajectory of growth and economic resilience despite persistent global headwinds, while urging the country's youth to serve as direct architects of national development.

Highlighting his address at The Dilli Dialogue 2026, organised by the Indian School of Public Policy and the Chintan Research Foundation, the minister took to social media platform X to reflect on the engagement, reiterating that young professionals must contribute concrete perspectives directly to the policy formulation apparatus. "Always a pleasure to see our youth engage constructively with public policy and



nation-building. Had a meaningful interaction with young minds passionate about the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 at #TheDilliDialogue2026, organised by @ISPP_edu and @ChintanResearch," he said on X.

"Highlighted India's remarkable resilience and growth trajectory despite global headwinds. Also emphasised that our youth

must be active participants in India's development journey, bringing fresh perspectives, innovative ideas and a strong sense of purpose to policymaking," the Minister added.

Emphasising the need for constructive participation in governance, Goyal maintained that youth involvement remained critical for sustainable economic execution. "The energy and

aspirations of our youth inspire confidence in India's future," Goyal wrote, adding, "I am certain that they are not merely inheritors of India's growth story, but its architects, whose ambition and determination will propel Bharat towards a future of greater prosperity."

Speaking at the forum earlier, the minister outlined the nation's transition toward domestic capability and structured trade networks, linking international partnerships with domestic employment generation.

"I think what we as a nation have done today has been demonstrated to the world: India is full of self-confidence; India is going to move towards self-reliance; and India today is focused on making the country secure," Goyal said.

CREDAI-MCHI 44th AGM Brings Industry Leaders Together to Shape the Outlook for Mumbai-MMR

MUMBAI (AGENCY)

CREDAI-MCHI, the apex body representing the real estate sector across the Mumbai Metropolitan Region, hosted its 44th Annual General Meeting on Thursday, at Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai, bringing together senior industry leaders and members of the real estate fraternity for an evening of dialogue, reflection and networking. The evening featured the formal proceedings of the 44th AGM, by the CREDAI-MCHI Red Talk with Shri Motilal Oswal Ji, Co-Founder, Managing Director & CEO, Motilal Oswal Financial Services Limited (MOFSL). The sessions brought together perspectives on Mumbai's continued growth, the evolving



economic environment and the role of the real estate sector in shaping the city and the wider MMR.

The AGM also provided an opportunity to reflect on a year that saw continued momentum across the region with infrastructure expansion, evolving housing demand, policy developments and broader economic conditions influencing the real estate sector.

Shri Motilal Oswal Ji, Co-Founder, Managing Director & CEO, Motilal Oswal

Financial Services Limited, said, "Building a successful business requires strong values, trust and a long-term vision. As businesses grow, leaders must be willing to evolve, embrace new technologies and build teams that take ownership and learn continuously. These principles are equally important for a region like the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR), where sustained growth depends on long-term planning, strong institutions and the ability

to adapt to changing needs. As the region continues to expand, creating lasting value and nurturing future leaders will be key to ensuring that growth remains sustainable and benefits generations to come."

Shri Sukhraj Nahar, President, CREDAI-MCHI, said, "Mumbai and the MMR are entering a significant phase of growth, driven by expanding infrastructure, improved connectivity and rising economic activity. The real estate sector will play a central role in this transformation, particularly in addressing the region's housing needs and supporting well-planned urban communities. As we look ahead, our priority will be to strengthen Ease of Doing Business, support faster approvals.

Brent crude may fall to USD 60s in 2027 if Gulf oil output recovers faster : Goldman Sachs

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)

Brent crude oil prices could fall to the USD 60s per barrel in 2027 if oil production in the Persian Gulf recovers faster than expected, Goldman Sachs said in its latest report. However, the investment bank warned that further escalation in the region could push prices significantly higher.

Goldman Sachs said Brent prices could decline to the USD 60s if average oil output in the Gulf in 2027 rises by 1 million barrels per day above February 2026 levels. "A faster recovery in Mideast output and/or a faster erosion of the risk premium are the most likely potential triggers of price downside," Goldman Sachs said. The report said its main expectation remains that continued adjustments in Middle East oil supply would eventually bring crude prices down. However, renewed



escalation in the region remains a significant risk that could push prices higher. Goldman Sachs has raised its December 2026 Brent crude forecast to USD 90 per barrel from its earlier estimate of USD 85. It kept its average Brent price forecast for 2027 unchanged at USD 80 per barrel. The bank said continuing risks to oil supply could slow the decline in the geopolitical risk premium, which it estimates at just over USD 20 per barrel.

Goldman Sachs estimated that Persian Gulf oil exports, including estimated unreported exports, had recently recovered to their 2025 average.

Goa Took Centre Stage as Timex Presents India Beach Fashion Week Season 12 United Fashion Stars and Culture

PANAJI (AGENCY)

Timex Presents India Beach Fashion Week (IBFW) Season 12 opened at The Westin Goa, Anjuna, inviting fashion enthusiasts, industry leaders, designers, creators and travellers to Enter the Sanctuary, a world shaped by fashion, art, culture and connection.

Themed "The Sanctuary", this season brought together resort wear, streetwear, cruise fashion and destination bridal couture, creating a meeting point for Indian design talent, contemporary style and Goa's distinctive festival culture. "India Beach Fashion Week had always been about creating a space where fashion met culture, travel and new ideas. With Season 12, we wanted to create something



that went beyond the runway, an experience where designers, brands, creators and audiences came together in a shared world. The Sanctuary reflected that vision, and seeing it come alive in Goa was a proud moment for our entire team," said Pallav Ojha, Founder, India Beach Fashion Week. Day One fea-

tured a diverse showcase of designers and labels across the indoor Rooted Realm and outdoor Floated Realm stages. The opening day's fashion programme featured SEFT India, followed by Mrigdi by Arpita Rathore and Menakace by Meenakshi Menon. The programme also featured Ashfaq Ahmed x Nilaura

and Lucilia.

The evening continued with celebrated designer Rajdeep Ranawat, followed by Mr. Ajay Kumar x Campus, bringing fashion and footwear together in a dedicated brand showcase. The Rooted Realm programme continued with One Minute Saree, Ashé and Forever Naveen Kumar, followed by Sakshi Bindra and Riddhi & Siddhi - Mapxencars, and a showcase by Bhawna Rao. The day concluded with Priya Kataria Puri x Chivas, combining designer fashion with the spirit of contemporary celebration.

Adding to the festival atmosphere, music performances by Madboy Mink and OG Shez brought an additional cultural dimension to the outdoor programme.

India fares better amid global hiring slowdown, job postings down 5% : Bain & Company

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)

India recorded a relatively modest 5 per cent year-on-year decline in job postings during the second quarter, demonstrating greater resilience than several major economies amid an overarching global hiring slowdown, according to a report by Bain & Company.

The latest report titled 'Global Job Market Trends' showcased that second-quarter hiring demand contracted globally across major territories, business functions, and sectors, while demand for artificial intelligence capabilities expanded. "India was among the markets that fared better, with job postings down 5% year over year, compared with steeper declines across several other major markets," the Bain & Company



report stated. The report noted that the figures signal structural divergence across employment segments. "The data points to a two-speed labor market, with broad weakness in many sectors and functions coexisting with continued demand in AI-adjacent roles," the report noted.

Among the top ten tracked markets, France experienced the sharpest year-on-year drop at 40 per

cent, followed by Brazil at 39 per cent and the Netherlands at 33 per cent. Postings fell 27 per cent in Germany and 23 per cent in the United States. Alongside India, milder reductions occurred in Canada at 4 per cent, Japan at 7 per cent, the United Kingdom at 9 per cent, and China at 10 per cent. Traditional core corporate functions experienced consistent double-digit contractions.

Research, design, and development registered the steepest drop at 37 per cent, while sales and marketing both fell 32 per cent. Strategy and analytics decreased 27 per cent, information technology dropped 25 per cent, and finance declined 24 per cent. In contrast, engineering dropped 7 per cent and general administrative roles declined 13 per cent.

Junior and entry-level positions, which constituted 95 per cent of all second-quarter postings, dropped 11 per cent year on year. This marked a steeper decline compared to the 6 per cent fall observed in the first quarter. Contrasting the broader downturn, artificial intelligence postings expanded to approximately 351,000 openings globally in the second quarter of 2026.

Consumer inflation rises to 5.54% in September from 4.83% in August

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)

India's retail inflation rose to 5.54 per cent in September from 4.83 per cent in August, driven by a sharp increase in food inflation, which climbed to 7.74 per cent from 5.97 per cent in the previous month, according to data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation on Monday. The Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation rate increased by 0.71 percentage points during September, while food inflation rose by 1.77 percentage points, indicating higher price pressures in the food category.

According to the ministry's data, retail inflation in rural areas increased to



6.08 per cent in September from 5.24 per cent in August. Urban inflation also rose, reaching 4.88 per cent compared with 4.31 per cent in the previous month.

Food inflation remained higher in rural areas than in urban centres. Rural food inflation increased to 8.06 per cent in September from 6.17 per cent in August, while urban food inflation rose to 7.18 per cent from 5.64 per cent. The ministry

data also highlighted that the increase in overall inflation came alongside a sharp rise in prices of several food items. Onion inflation surged to 108.09 per cent in September from 48.78 per cent in August, while garlic inflation increased to 54.62 per cent from 43.60 per cent. Ginger inflation stood at 62.85 per cent, while lemon inflation reached 36.41 per cent during September. However, some

food items continued to record lower prices compared with the year-ago period. Potato inflation stood at minus 11.50 per cent, while tomato inflation was minus 8.62 per cent in September.

The data also showed that inflation varied across consumption categories. Food and beverages recorded inflation of 7.36 per cent in September, while transport inflation stood at 5.01 per cent. Inflation in housing, water, electricity, gas and other fuels was recorded at 2.74 per cent. Personal care, social protection and miscellaneous goods and services recorded inflation of 13.75 per cent, while restaurants and accommodation services saw inflation of 9.36 per cent.

Maharaja Agrasen Ji gave an invaluable mes- sage of charity-philanthropy : Ramen Deka

Agrawal community will play an important role in building a developed Chhattisgarh : CM Sai

RAIPUR: OPEN SEARCH

Governor Shri Ramen Deka and Chief Minister Vishnudev Sai attended the Agrasen Jayanti Mahotsav 2026 held at Shri Agrasen Dham in the capital Raipur today. On this occasion, Governor Shri Ramen Deka extended his heartfelt greetings and best wishes to the people of the state on Sharadiya Navratri and Shri Agrasen Jayanti. He said that Maharaja Shri Agrasen Ji gave society an invaluable message of charity and philanthropy. The Agrawal community, apart from business, is making a meaningful contribution to society and has also made a significant contribution to the Indian economy. This community provides employment to people in hard-earned industries. Members of the Agrawal community play a leading role in various fields. Maharaja Agrasen Ji inspired us to work for the upliftment of the last person in society. His principle of



'One Brick, One Rupee' is a unique example of mutual cooperation and self-reliance. Governor Shri Deka said that Maharaja Agrasen Ji taught us to seek knowledge from everyone and also give charity. The new generation should follow traditional values instead of achieving quick success. The Agrawal community has a beautiful tradition of carrying forward family businesses. Mr. Jyoti Prasad Agarwal has contributed to the advancement of Assamese cinema.

He stated that a beautiful society can only be built with everyone's participation. Chhattisgarh has immense potential for industry and business. If the Agarwal community utilizes these opportunities in their businesses, many people will find employment.

Chief Minister Mr. Vishnudev Sai stated that the Agarwal community will play a crucial role in building a developed Chhattisgarh. He stated that this community has always been at the forefront of phi-

lanthropy. Whether it's health camps, cow service, dharamshalas, mass marriages, or providing free education, the Agarwal community leads in every form of philanthropy. Today, an ambulance dedicated to the cow mother was inaugurated, reflecting the Agarwal community's spirit of service. Chief Minister Mr. Sai stated that Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi has pledged to build a developed India by 2047. We are also working on a mission mode based on the vision

document to build a developed Chhattisgarh. Our goal is to increase the state's GSDP from 75 lakh crore to 775 lakh crore. Chhattisgarh has abundant resources, including minerals, forest produce, electricity, and water. The Agrawal community is making a significant contribution to Chhattisgarh's progress through their professional efforts.

Health Minister Shri Shyam Bihari Jaiswal said that the Agrawal community not only provides employment but also makes valuable contributions to social service. Maharaja Agrasen Ji gave the message of equality and self-reliance. On the occasion of Shri Agrasen Jayanti Mahotsav, a Gau Raksha Vahini ambulance was inaugurated for the treatment of injured cows. This ambulance, operated by Agraseva Gausala Raipur, can be availed by calling the mobile number +91-8109002139.

At spl Sunday hearing, high court orders release of seven activists detained during CJP protest

PANAJI : OPEN SEARCH

The Bombay high court held an urgent hearing late on Sunday evening and directed the immediate release of seven persons who were detained by police for being a part of Cockroach Janata Party's protest in Panaji.

Considering that there are no prohibitory orders under Section 163 of the BNSS, we are of the opinion that the detention may not have been authorised," the high court stated. "We are also informed that the executive magistrate . Dattaprasad Toraskar, who was present at the site, had given oral instructions to police to detain the seven persons since they had barged into Azad Maidan, Panaji," said the division bench of justices Valmiki Menezes and Amit Jamsandekar.

The court said that for the moment, it would not enter the controversy and the correctness of the detention order, considering that senior advocate Norma



Alvares gave an Undertaking on behalf of the detainees that they would not protest at Azad Maidan, Panaji, on Sunday night. It directed the Panaji PI to release them. Jack Sukhija, Afreen Shaikh, Liston Noronha, Aditya Parulekar, Milind Rane, Bhupesh Bind, and Shamino Fernandes were subsequently released.

The court directed that any of them in need of medical examination be taken to GMC, where the chief medical officer would examine them and submit a report under sealed cover to the court on Monday during the hearing. The high court also directed the PIs of the Panaji and Pernem police stations and the executive magistrate, Panaji, to file

affidavits on Monday when the court hears the petitions in detail. The two PIs appeared before HC via videoconferencing and said they were given instructions by the executive magistrate, Panaji, to detain the protestors. The HC was also informed by both police officers that the phones of the detainees were taken away and were now been returned.

They said the protestors were taken in custody by Panaji police and kept in custody at Pernem police station because they "wanted to avoid a law and order situation in Panaji". From Pernem, they were being brought back to Panaji to be produced before the sub-divisional magistrate, but the HC directed them to be released. Alvares, along with advocate Om D'Costa, representing the petitioners Malisa Simoes and Rui Gomes Pereira, told the court that Shaikh, being a woman, could not have been detained beyond 6pm.

Local Congress leaders reach Delhi to participate in protest against SIR

LUDHIANA (AGENCY)

Several local Congress leaders and over 100 party workers have travelled to Delhi to participate in a protest march led by Rahul Gandhi against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise.

The march will move toward the Supreme Court to protest widespread errors and the mass deletion of voter names across the region. The delegation from Ludhiana includes former minister Bharat Bhushan Ashu, Gurkirat Kotli, district president Sanjay Talwar, Dr Amar Singh from Raikot, Lakhvir Singh Lakha, Kamaljit Karwal, Ishwarjot Cheema and Pawan Dewan.

Talking to The Tribune, Ashu said, "Congress is fighting a serious cause as mass deletion of votes is not acceptable in the largest



democracy in the world." Taking a dig at other leaders, Ashu added, "Woh jo bechte the dard-e-dil, dukaan apni barha gaye."

Talwar echoed these concerns, labelling the SIR exercise dangerous for democracy. He noted that the process has erroneously deleted lakhs of votes and left long-time voters stranded due to mismatched data. Many of these leaders and supporters travelled to the national capital in private vehicles and by train to be a part of the demonstration.

Pranav Adani Performs Bhoomi Poojan For Dharavi Rehabilitation Homes

MUMBAI (AGENCY)

Pranav Adani, Director, Adani Enterprises Limited (AEL), performed Bhoomi Poojan at the 22-acre Matunga railway site on Monday, marking the start of rehabilitation construction for Dharavi, one of Asia's largest informal settlements and home to more than one million residents.

The site will accommodate ten high-rise towers comprising 10,432 rehabilitation apartments alongside 1,379 commercial and industrial units. The executing special purpose vehicle, Adani Navbharat Developers Private Limited (ANDPL), a joint venture between the Maharashtra government and the Adani Group, will allocate 350-square-foot flats to eligible families under an in-situ rehabilitation framework. Eligible residents from Sectors 6 and 1 will receive



initial occupancy, followed by nearly 4,500 homes allocated on a priority basis to other eligible dwellers. The event was attended by Aseem Kumar Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary of Maharashtra's Urban Development Department, as Guest of Honour and Mahendra Kalyankar, Chief Executive Officer of the Dharavi Redevelopment Project/Slum Rehabilitation Authority (DRP/SRA).

"Every family deserves a home where they feel secure and can plan for the future. We know what this means to Dharavi's fami-

lies," said Pranav Adani, Director of Adani Enterprises Limited.

"At Matunga, we are building 10 towers with 10,432 homes and 1,379 commercial and industrial units, creating neighbourhoods where families can live better and build a brighter future for their children," Adani added. Government authorities highlighted the operational goals of the urban renewal initiative. "Our focus is on providing safe, modern homes with the infrastructure and amenities needed for a better quality of life,"

Kalyankar said.

Each structure will rise between 37 and 39 floors, equipped with ten to 12 passenger elevators, two fire lifts, and two separate elevators dedicated to commercial zones. The layout incorporates community halls, kindergarten facilities, podium gardens, sit-out spaces, administrative offices and places of worship.

The towers will be handed over to the DRP/SRA in three distinct phases: the first five structures by March 2029, two in August 2029, and the remaining three by August 2030. ANDPL will manage upkeep for ten years post-handover; funded partly by reserving ten per cent of commercial space for maintenance revenues. "The Dharavi Experience Centre gave residents a first look at the planned homes and neighbourhoods.

Raja Warring rallies loyalists at 'lucky' house in Punjab

CHANDIGARH (AGENCY)

A 2-kanal house (No. 291) in Sector 10, once occupied by Capt Amarinder Singh when the Congress rose to power in 2017, is back in the news. Days after being dethroned as Pradesh Congress Committee (PCC) chief, Amrinder Singh Raja Warring today held a show of strength with his supporters, including some senior leaders, at the Sector 10 residence before he reached the Congress Bhawan in Sector 15 to hand over the charge to Pargat Singh. "The gathering was to give assurance to leaders who have worked hard for four and half years," said an aide of Warring. Party insiders said the former PCC chief want-



ed to try his luck ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections, as the Sector 10 residence was believed to be lucky for those aspiring to become Chief Minister.

As party leaders gathered at the Congress Bhawan to welcome Pargat over his new assignment, Warring called his loyalists at the Sector 10 residence to give assurance that he was down but not out. While handing over the charge to Pargat, Warring mentioned that he had requested Rahul Gandhi that the lead-

ers and workers who had worked with him for four and a half years should not be ignored during the ticket distribution process. "I have also requested Rahul Gandhi that at least 50 per cent of the tickets should be given to youngsters who have worked hard for the party," he added.

Openly reflecting his discomfort with Punjab affairs in-charge Sachin Pilot, Warring said, "Even if Sachin Pilot cuts my ticket, I will continue to strengthen the party." While indirectly referring to leaders from the Channi group, he said some people had been speaking against him, but only popular leaders faced opposition. "My leader is only Rahul Gandhi.

Himachal CM sukhvinder sukhu stresses fairness, access to justice at law varsity convocation

SHIMLA (AGENCY)

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Sunday said that justice in a democracy should not be confined to judicial orders alone but must also be guided by fairness, wisdom and a proper understanding of circumstances. Sukhu, while addressing the third convocation ceremony of Himachal Pradesh National Law University, Shimla, said that the true significance of law lay in ensuring that even the weakest sections of society had the hope of receiving justice, that the voice of the needy was heard and every citizen felt secure knowing that his rights were protected. The Chief Minister, while refer-



ring to a decision concerning public employment, said that the judiciary was an important pillar of democracy but judicial decisions sometimes created difficulties for government initiatives undertaken in public interest. "In 2003, the government had decided that contractual employees would not be entitled to sen-

iority and increments. However, nearly two decades later, the court directed the grant of financial benefits despite there being no such provision in the applicable recruitment rules," he added.

Sukhu said that no elected government intends to deprive its employees of their financial benefits, but

'In 2003, the government had decided that contractual employees would not be entitled to seniority and increments'

it also had to take into account the condition of the state exchequer. Supreme Court Judge Justice MM Sundresh described Himachal Pradesh as a "paradise on earth" and highlighted the distinctive role of law graduates in society. "As a student of law, you are different from others. You are a social engineer, a social doctor and a social architect," he said while addressing the graduating students.

Justice Sundresh emphasised that the respect of law and justice required more than a theoretical understanding of legal provisions. He added that the effective delivery of justice demanded knowledge, a strong sense of justice and a firm commitment to social responsibility. He encouraged the graduates to prepare for emerging challenges and develop expertise in new fields, particularly artificial intelligence (AI).

Earlier, the Chief Minister honoured meritorious students who had secured gold medals for their academic achievements. Himachal Pradesh High Court Chief Justice GS Sandhawalia conferred degrees upon the graduating students.

Navratri festivities begin at Vaishno Devi shrine amid heavy pilgrim rush

JAMMU (AGENCY)

Despite inclement weather, over 47,000 devotees thronged the revered shrine nestled in the Trikuta hills to offer prayers and seek blessings of the Goddess, creating an atmosphere of devotion and spiritual fervour. However, helicopter services to the shrine remained suspended throughout the day due to adverse weather conditions.

Officials said that despite the disruption, pilgrims continued their journey on foot, while the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) had put in



place elaborate arrangements to ensure their safety and facilitate smooth movement along the track.

Devotees expressed satisfaction with the arrangements made by the Shrine Board, particularly the floral decorations, crowd management measures and pilgrim facilities. Anticipating the Navratri rush, the

SMVDSB had already issued detailed instructions to field staff and held coordination meetings with security agencies to ensure effective crowd management and the safety of pilgrims. Regular public announcements were made to regulate pilgrim movement and prevent overcrowding. The Shrine Board also strength-

ened communication systems and kept rescue equipment on standby to deal with any emergency. To enhance security, the Board made possession of a valid RFID card mandatory for every pilgrim undertaking the yatra. Additional handheld RFID scanners have been deployed at key locations, supported by adequate manpower for verification and monitoring.

Authorities have also completed verification of pony riders and pony walks to prevent impersonation and ensure that only registered service providers operate along the pilgrimage route.

Asaduddin owaisi's UP seat picks for yogi adityanath vs akhilesh yadav

LUCKNOW (AGENCY)

Akhilesh Yadav had challenged Yogi Adityanath to contest from Ayodhya. The Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, in turn, urged his Samajwadi Party rival to also fight from Ayodhya, saying the two should settle the contest "face to face".

The All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen, or AIMIM, chief Asaduddin Owaisi has another political play in mind for the two leaders. Urging the rivals to step out of their comfort zones, he suggested two different constituencies for the two heavyweight leaders.

"If both Akhilesh Yadav



and the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh are so popular and liked, then the Chief Minister should come and contest from Sambhal, and Akhilesh should go and contest from Gorakhpur. God willing, the people and AIMIM will defeat them in

both places," Owaisi, speaking in Hindi, told.

"Arey bahut bada maja aa jayega, lad le Sambhal toh, hum hara denge. Gorakhpur bhi lade, wahan bhi haar jayenge (Oh, it'll be a blast. Try and contest in Sambhal, we'll defeat you.

We will defeat them in Gorakhpur also)," Owaisi said. When asked if the BJP's "80-20" narrative would hold sway, Owaisi dismissed the discourse often cited by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, declaring that the real political battle in the state will be "99 vs 1."

"The real competition in the upcoming election will actually be '99 vs 1'. The 99% represents the poor citizens of Uttar Pradesh, while the 1% represents those who have captured 40% of India's wealth. So, the 80-20 scenario isn't going to play out; it will be a 99% versus 1% contest," Owaisi said.

West Indies had a plan for me, but I had to play better than that : Abhishek Sharma

INDORE (AGENCY)

India opener Abhishek Sharma said he had to find ways to counter the West Indies' plans against him after smashing a 30-ball 69 to power India to a 14-run win in the third T20I here. India took a 2-1 lead in the five-match series with Abhishek's quickfire knock, his 108-run stand for the second wicket with Ishan Kishan (37), and Arshdeep Singh's 3/44 setting up the victory in the third game here on Sunday.

Abhishek said the West Indies opening with off-spinner Roston Chase and their field placement on the off side prompted him to explore more scoring options. "I wouldn't say it was deliberate, but it was there in my mind that they had a plan against me,"



Abhishek told reporters after the match when asked about his off-side strokes. "(With the) off-spinner bowling against me, it was just a battle between him and me. I gave him respect in the first over because he is bowling really well in this series, so it is just the plan that went pretty well for me as well." "...because in the

powerplay, I was trying to just get a few runs and they had a plan for me, and I had to play better than that," said Abhishek, who smacked six fours and five sixes in his innings.

"I don't think and play deliberately. It just happens when I see the field placement, whenever they have a field placement which

Abhishek said the West Indies opening with off-spinner Roston Chase and their field placement on the off side prompted him to explore more scoring options

allows me to just give myself room and play those shots." India restricted the West Indies to 209 for seven after being bowled out for 223. Abhishek said India wanted to be ruthless against the Caribbean side. "West Indies is such a team that you can never say the match is now on our side. This was on our mind because we saw in the last match that whichever batsman comes in, (with) the conditions that we have

here, it is very easy for them to take the match to their side." "So that was in our mind even when we were losing wickets, we were saying that we would be ruthless thereon and we will not give them a single chance to come back," he said.

"The way (Shamar) Springer batted, I was really surprised by the way he played those shots; those weren't easy shots. You have to be ready all the time, (even) if they are at 50/5 as well, I think they have that capability to turn things around for themselves. In that case we were very much prepared this time." Abhishek backed his Punjab teammate Naman Dhir, who claimed 2/39, to do well for India in the coming years. "I've seen him from Under-14 days so I know how well he can bowl.

Haaland, Doku, Cherki score as Man City beat Liverpool 3-0

LIVERPOOL (AGENCY)



Manchester City secured a 3-0 victory over Liverpool at Anfield, with Ryan Gravenberch's sending-off proving costly for the hosts in the Premier League 2026-27 clash. After withstanding Liverpool's early pressure, Erling Haaland opened the scoring in the 65th minute, shortly after Gravenberch was sent off for a second yellow card.

Jeremy Doku doubled City's lead with a stunning strike before Rayan Cherki sealed the win late in the match. Liverpool started brightly and pushed City back during the opening 15 minutes. However, the visitors created opportunities of their own, with Antoine Semenyo delivering a dangerous low cross that neither Haaland nor Iliman Ndiaye could reach. Liverpool goalkeeper

Alisson Becker and City's Gianluigi Donnarumma were called into action as the match progressed. Donnarumma denied Lewis Koumas and Gravenberch early in the second half, while Alexis Mac Allister came close with a curling effort.

Haaland missed a good chance around the hour mark after being set up by Semenyo, but City soon capitalised on their numerical advantage. Gravenberch

received his second yellow card for a challenge on Doku, leaving Liverpool with 10 players. City took less than three minutes to make the extra man count. Doku's effort was deflected into Haaland's path, and the Norwegian striker finished clinically to give the visitors the lead. Doku then produced a superb individual effort, cutting in from the left before curling the ball past Alisson to make it 2-0.

Sindhu faces nemesis An Se-young, Lakshya gets Chou test at Denmark Open

ODENSE (AGENCY)

Two-time Olympic medalist P V Sindhu faces a daunting opening-round challenge against world No.1 and defending champion An Se-young as she sets out to lead the Indian challenge through a tricky draw at the USD 950,000 Denmark Open Super 750 tournament beginning here on Tuesday.

Sindhu, a former world champion, arrives in Denmark with mixed recent results, having won the Japan Open Super 750 title in July before reaching



the quarterfinals of last week's Arctic Open, where she went down fighting against Thailand's Ratchanok Intanon in three games. What the 31-year-old would be concerned about is the fact that she has lost all her 10 previous

clashes against An. In men's singles, Lakshya will be keen to rediscover his best form after an underwhelming Asian Games individual campaign.

His fortunes have oscillated wildly in the past two years. Lakshya had finished runner-up at the All England Championships for the second time earlier this year, four years after his first final appearance in 2022. He is also the only Indian men's singles player to have reached an Olympic semi-final in 2024. However, Lakshya has recently been hampered by

a back injury. He defeated Japan's Kodai Naraoka during the quarterfinals of men's team event at the Asian Games but lost in the round of 32 in the individual competition. He will have to find his best form when he takes on Chou, who had beaten Ayush Shetty in three games at the Asian Games. Ayush, meanwhile, will look to build on his breakthrough performances. The Indian won the US Open Super 300 title in 2025 and made headlines at this year's World Championships by stunning the then world No. 1 Shi Yuqi.

Fuori Strada Grounds opens dirt karting, off-road motorsports facility in Tiruchirappalli

TIRUCHIRAPPALLI (AGENCY)

Fuori Strada Grounds, located at Siruganur in Tiruchirappalli, has introduced a dirt karting and off-road motorsports facility aimed at providing structured driving training and promoting road-safety awareness among youngsters.

The facility, described by its management as Tamil Nadu's first dirt karting track and Tiruchirappalli's first racetrack, features a 1.1-kilometre dirt circuit designed for dirt bikes, cars and off-road vehicles. The



track includes eight left-hand bends, four right-hand bends, water crossings, bumpy sections, camel-back-style undulations and rocky stretches. Gautham, founder and managing director of Fuori Strada

Grounds, said the facility offers dirt karts, buggies, dirt bikes and jeeps, along with certified training for select vehicles in association with CRA Motorsports.

He said the initiative aims to provide young people

with a safe space to explore their interest in motorsports and discourage dangerous racing on public roads. "The name Fuori Strada means 'off-road' in Italian, and we are proud to say that we are the first dirt karting track in Tamil Nadu and the first race track in Trichy. The main motto for us to create Fuori Strada is to provide a safe space for racing, to empower and enlighten the younger generations about racing, and to be a better generation on the roads," he told ANI. "At Fuori Strada, we provide dirt karts, buggies, dirt bikes, and jeeps as well.

Briefs News

Naveen Jindal hopeful for polo's Olympic return when India hosts Games

NOIDA (AGENCY) Jindal Panther owner Naveen Jindal expressed hope that polo would return to the Olympic programme when India hosts the Games in the future, highlighting the country's historical connection with the sport. His team lost 6-9 to Vimal Arion Achievers in the Jindal Panther Cup final at Jindal Polo Estate in Noida on Sunday. Speaking to the media after the final, Jindal said improved transportation and facilities could help make polo's return to the Olympics possible. The sport featured at the Olympics for the last time at the Berlin Games in 1936. "Till 1936, polo used to be played in the Olympics. The last time polo was played at the Berlin Olympics in 1936. And if we look at the facilities compared to that time, today the facilities are much better. There are many big aircraft, and you can take horses and go anywhere. And that's why I hope that when India hosts the Olympics, I hope that there will be polo in it," Jindal said. India has formally submitted a bid to host the 2036 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games, with the city of Ahmedabad centered as the proposed host.

From 400m track to Ironman : Endurance athlete Suresh Kumar reflects on his journey

HYDERABAD (AGENCY) Endurance athlete and triathlon coach Suresh Kumar Goriparthi has come a long way from sprinting at LB Stadium in 1995 and winning a national medal in 1997 to competing in demanding long-distance endurance events. Since running his first marathon in Athens in 2010, he has completed one Full Ironman, five Half Ironmans, all seven World Marathon Majors and marathons across five continents, including challenging races in Oman and Estonia. Detailing the immense physical and mental demands of swimming, cycling, and running, Suresh emphasised that success relies heavily on meticulous planning, strict discipline, and patience rather than just raw fitness. Reflecting on the toughest moments, while speaking to ANI, he said, "I reminded myself why I started the journey in the first place. Instead of thinking about the entire distance, I focused on one step at a time. Discipline, positive thinking, and trusting my training helped me overcome difficult moments.

PCB shifts President's Trophy matches after emergency announced in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

PESHAWAR (AGENCY) Amid political turmoil over Pakistan's federal government's announcement of an emergency in Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI)-led Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has shifted the ongoing first-class President's Trophy Grade 1 matches out of Peshawar and Abbottabad to venues in Sheikhupura and Lahore, as reported by Cricinfo. The move comes after Islamabad imposed a state of emergency and governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, which was under PTI rule. The emergency was announced after presidential approval of recommendations submitted by Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's federal cabinet. This season's President's Trophy matches have been held across four cities, with Islamabad and Rawalpindi being the other two venues.

Skipper Iyer hails Prince Yadav's cameo with bat after 14-run win over WI

INDORE (AGENCY)

Following his side's 14-run win over West Indies, Indian skipper Shreyas Iyer praised his bowlers for their execution and pointed out pacer Prince Yadav's useful cameo towards the end, which ultimately became the point of difference between the teams.

Following a 108-run partnership between Abhishek Sharma and Ishan Kishan for the second wicket, regular wickets caused India to lose their way. However, a 13-run cameo towards the end by Prince and 11 runs scored by Arshdeep Singh helped

India reach 223 runs. In the end, despite all the hitting by Shamar Springer in the final over, which conceded 22 runs including three sixes and a four, India still managed to win by 14 runs, with those runs from lower-order giving India an unexpected but extremely useful cushion. Speaking after the match, Iyer said about the bowling, "It was wonderful, honestly. When the bowlers were up to the mark, they were pretty confident in terms of what they wanted to execute, and the clarity was very much visible when I was interacting with them. So they were decisive in their execution, and I also



feel that when I was passing on the ball to them, each and every one, they were ready to take on the challenge, and that is what we want." Iyer also hailed Abhishek and Ishan's partnership, crucial 20-odd runs from Tlak Varma and

Axar Patel in the middle-order and Prince's cameo, saying, "That was a phenomenal start, what we got from Abhishek - those crucial runs in the powerplay.

We know what he can offer, and then Ishan coming in and taking on the

bowlers. He has been simply remarkable in the last couple of months. And then in between also, we never let West Indies take on the charge, even though we kept on losing wickets.

We steadied the ship in the middle order as well. That took us to a commendable total of 223. Even Prince coming and playing that cameo at the end, those were useful runs, I felt." Iyer also highlighted the quality within the West Indies batting, which he feels are "game changers" and how important it was to stay proactive and positive against them. On the coming matches at Hyderabad's

Uppal Stadium and Bengaluru's M Chinnaswamy Stadium, he said, "Both of them are high-scoring grounds, but it is important that we stick to our process and the routines which we have been following, and also see to it that we are offensive enough in our approach and the attitude is top-notch." On the other hand, WI skipper Shai Hope, who could score just five runs today, said that the game was of "very small margins". He feels the team could have executed with the ball better and could have conceded less boundaries.

KIIT-KISS founder Achyuta Samanta unanimously elected first president of Indian UniSport Federation



NEW DELHI (AGENCY)

Prof. Achyuta Samanta, educationist, social worker and Founder of KIIT and KISS, has been unanimously elected the first president of the Indian UniSport Federation (IUSF) at the federation's first Annual General Meeting held in New Delhi on Sunday, according to a press release. The formation of IUSF marks an important step towards strengthening university-level sport in India through a more coordinated, inclusive and athlete-centred framework.

The federation has been established with the approval of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports with the objective of bringing universities onto a common platform and supporting the identification, development, training and progression of sporting talent. Representatives of 27 state and regional university sports associations were

listed as present at the meeting, reflecting broad participation from across the country. Accepting the responsibility, Prof. Samanta expressed his gratitude to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the government of India, universities, athletes, sports administrators and all members who have joined hands with IUSF.

He said that university sport must offer every talented athlete a fair opportunity to compete and progress, irrespective of background or institution. He also emphasised that the federation would work collaboratively with members and stakeholders to build a stronger future for university sport in India. The federation will work towards realising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of developing sport in the country and further strengthening India's position on the global sporting map. Prof. Samanta

expressed his gratitude to the Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, Mansukh Mandaviya, for approving the federation.

Addressing concerns raised by universities around membership and registration fees, support for host institutions and athletes, access to financial information, and the selection of sports officials and committees, Samanta stressed the importance of transparent, evidence-based decision-making. The federation's stated priorities include clear rules, accountable governance and accessible information on how decisions are made and how funds are used. As part of its proposed commitments, IUSF has outlined a uniform annual subscription of Rs 50,000 for government and private institutions.

There will be no individual participation fee for players. Any participation fees collected from state governments, state sports federations, or universities will be utilised and shared for the benefit and welfare of players. Assistance to universities would be guided by clear criteria, including sporting performance and demonstrated need. The federation's proposed athlete-focused measures include greater access to quality coaching, sports science, nutrition, injury prevention and rehabilitation.

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