

Tiger Shroff firing :

3 suspects nabbed at Kota railway station; one hails from Haryana

MUMBAI. (AGENCY)

Three people, including a minor, suspected to be involved in the firing at actor Tiger Shroff were detained on Monday in Rajasthan's Kota town from a train coming from Mumbai, police said. Police said the accused were travelling on a Pune-Jaipur train that reached Kota station at 10.17 am. Two of the accused have been identified as Ritik from Begusarai in Bihar and Rehan from Haryana's Sonapat. The third accused is a minor, Kota Superintendent of Police (SP) Tejaswani Gautam said at a press conference. No weapon has been recovered from the suspects, she said.

"A team from Mumbai Police is reaching Kota and the suspects will be handed over to them," she said. The suspects are detained at the moment and will be arrested once the Mumbai Police takes them into custody. The suspects told police that they boarded the train after "executing the crime". They were planning to take a bus from Jaipur to Delhi and then cross the border to



**Tiger Shroff firing :
Sonapat suspect was out on bail in Arms Act case, says father**

One of the three suspects detained in Rajasthan for alleged involvement in the firing at actor Tiger Shroff in Mumbai was out on bail in an Arms Act case, according to his father. The suspects, including a minor, were detained from the Pune-Jaipur Superfast Express in Rajasthan's Kota city on Monday. They planned to flee to Nepal, Kota police officials said.

Two of the accused have been identified as Ritik from Begusarai in Bihar and Rehan from Sonapat, they said. Rehan's father Raisuddin told reporters here on Monday that his son, a class 9 dropout, was earlier arrested in a case registered under the Arms Act and was out on bail. "He has not been living with me for nearly 10 years...

reach Nepal, Gautam said.

Sonapat suspect was out on bail in Arms Act case, says father. Mumbai Police shared inputs with their counterparts in Rajasthan. After that, SP Gautam sent a team to the station. Railway

Police Force was alerted and the three were caught in the general coach, officials said. Three assailants opened fire at Shroff's car in Mumbai's Juhu area on Sunday evening. The actor escaped unhurt, while his driver and

another person were injured. Police said three rounds were fired at the "War" actor. The Lawrence Bishnoi gang claimed responsibility for the attack, according to social media. However, the authenticity of

the video is yet to be ascertained. Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Eknath Shinde met Shroff at his residence in Mumbai's Bandra late Sunday night, enquired about the 36-year-old actor's health and reassured his family of full security. Speaking to reporters after meeting Shroff, Shinde said the time had come to uproot criminal networks once again, referring to the crackdown on gangs in the 1990s. "It will be fit for tat, bullets for bullets," he said. Earlier on Monday, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said he had spoken to Shroff and assured him that the incident would be taken seriously. Mumbai Police registered a case of attempt to murder in connection with the incident and it was later transferred to the Crime Branch. Born Jai Hemant Shroff on March 2, 1990, Shroff is one of Bollywood's premier action stars and martial artists, holding a 5th-degree black belt in Taekwondo. He debuted with the film "Heropanti" in 2014 and cemented his status as an action hero with blockbusters.

Shah will flag-off a nationwide motorcycle rally themed 'Fight Against Drugs'

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)

The Home Minister will flag-off a motorcycle rally of about 90 Police riders from States/UTs (Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi); Central Armed Police Forces (CRPF, CISF, BSF, SSB, ITBP and NSG) and some Central Police Organisations (RPF, NDRF and NIA). This is part of a nationwide rally themed 'Fight Against Drugs', wherein Police riders from all States/UTs and Central Forces would reach Ekta Nagar, Gujarat to join the Ekta Parade on October 31, 2026.

On October 21, 1959, ten valiant Policemen laid down their lives in an ambush laid by heavily armed Chinese troops at Hot Springs, Ladakh. Since then, October 21 is observed as Police Commemoration Day every year. In recognition of the sacrifices made by Police personnel and their paramount role in preserving national security and integrity, the Prime Minister dedicated National Police Memorial (NPM),



In recognition of the sacrifices made by Police personnel and their paramount role in preserving national security and integrity

Chanakyaपुरi, New Delhi to the nation on Police Commemoration Day-2018. The Memorial gives Police Forces a sense of national identity, pride, unity of purpose, common history and destiny, besides reinforcing their commitment to protect the nation even at the cost of their lives. The Memorial comprises a Central Sculpture, the 'Wall of Valour' and a Museum. The Central Sculpture, which is a 30 feet high granite monolith cenotaph, stands for strength,

resilience and selfless service of Police personnel. The Wall of Valour on which the names of martyrs are engraved stands as a steadfast acknowledgement of the bravery and sacrifice of Police personnel who have laid down their lives in the line of duty since Independence.

The museum is conceptualized as a historical and evolving exhibition on policing in India. The Memorial is a site of pilgrimage, a place of reverence for Police personnel and citizen alike. The NPM is open to public on all days except Mondays. Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) organise band display, parade and retreat ceremony at the NPM on every Saturday and Sunday in the evening.

Owaisi questions Akhilesh Yadav over Dhanraj Nathwani's nomination for Rajya Sabha

RAMPUR : (AGENCY)

AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi questioned Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav over the nomination of industrialist Dhanraj Parimal Nathwani to the Rajya Sabha, accusing the SP leadership of maintaining contradictory political ties. Owaisi said, "Akhilesh gave his uncle a Rajya Sabha seat and nominated Nathwani as the second candidate." "Nathwani's father, Senior Nathwani, defeated the All India Alliance candidate in Jharkhand. Now, Akhilesh has nominated Junior Nathwani as his candidate. The father is with the BJP, and the son is with you. Tell me, what is this relationship called?" Owaisi asked. The AIMIM chief made these remarks during a public meeting at Manshab Ali



Owaisi said, "Akhilesh gave his uncle a Rajya Sabha seat and nominated Nathwani as the second candidate."
"Nathwani's father, Senior Nathwani, defeated the All India Alliance candidate in Jharkhand.

Stadium in Tanda, Rampur, on Sunday night. He alleged that Nathwani had congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on completing 25 years in power, while AIMIM was repeatedly accused of being the BJP's "B-team" whenever it contested elections. Further

attacking the SP leadership, he said, "Nathwani had congratulated Prime Minister Narendra Modi on completing 25 years in power, while AIMIM was repeatedly accused of being the BJP's "B-team" whenever it contested elections. "Akhilesh, you made a deal with the BJP and gave a BJP man the SP ticket," Owaisi said, launching a sharp attack on the SP leadership and its political positioning.

Owaisi said, "I have given so many speeches. Name one sentence in any of my speeches in which I have said something against India or any of our Hindu brothers. I have certainly spoken against the BJP. I oppose the RSS ideology because I have studied it. I have read many books about the RSS and spoken to several experts.

Indian Navy invites bids for 4 amphibious warships

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY) The Indian Navy has invited domestic shipbuilders to submit commercial and technical bids for the construction of four specialised warships known as landing platform docks (LPDs). The invitation to bid, formally called a Request for Proposal (RFP), is part of the Ministry of Defence's procurement process. It is a formal document inviting shortlisted shipyards to submit their bids for the project. Each LPD will displace more than 30,000 tonnes, representing a quantum leap in the size, capacity and firepower of warships performing similar roles in the Indian Navy. These will be the largest combat ships built indigenously after INS Vikrant, the 45,000-tonne aircraft carrier. Indian Navy Vice Chief Vice Admiral Ajay Kochhar said on Monday that an RFP had been issued to shortlisted shipyards the previous week for the construction of four LPDs. The Indian Navy currently operates a single LPD, INS Jalashwa, which was acquired from the United States. In naval parlance, LPDs are designed to carry out amphibious operations. Once inducted, the Indian Navy's LPDs will also provide command infrastructure and fire support, as well as coordinate the operations of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs).

Govt to Stay Live on Mobile: Shivraj Singh Chouhan Launches New Portal for Farmers

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)

Advancing Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of Digital India and his commitment to farmers' welfare, Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan today formally launched the upgraded Agri Welfare Portal. The portal aims to provide farmers across the country with direct, easy access to government schemes, financial assistance and reliable agricultural information on their mobile phones, eliminating procedural hurdles and the role of intermediaries. Addressing the launch programme, Shri Chouhan said Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's clear vision is to ensure that the government remains accessible to citizens and farmers at all times through their mobile phones. Technology, he said, could fulfil its true purpose only when it reached farms and rural communities and made farmers' lives easier. With the upgraded portal, farmers will no



Addressing the launch programme, Shri Chouhan said Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's clear vision is to ensure that the government remains accessible to citizens and farmers at all times through their mobile phones.

longer need to visit multiple government offices or navigate different websites to obtain information about schemes or submit applications. The platform will also bring together Farmer Producer Organisations, Primary Agricultural Credit Societies, agricultural scientists, researchers and startups, creating a common digital platform for

the wider agricultural ecosystem. Emphasising the importance of reliable information, Shri Chouhan directed officials to ensure that the portal remained accurate and regularly updated. He said outdated or incomplete information could undermine public trust in the system, making continuous updates essential to its success. He also stressed that the language and processes must be simple enough for small and marginal farmers, including those with limited formal education, to understand and use the platform with ease. To help farmers make effective use of the portal and other digital tools, a special training campaign will be conducted through Krishi Vigyan Kendras across the country.

Chouhan also commended the entire technical team for developing the upgraded portal within the stipulated time. Developed in compliance with the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology's Digital Brand Identity Manual 3.0 and Guidelines.

SC surprised at 'quiet' roll-out of motor accident victim compensation scheme

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)

The Supreme Court has expressed surprise over 'quiet' rollout of the Compensation to Victims (Interim Relief) Scheme, 2026, for motor accident victims, terming it an "unannounced law". A Bench of Justice JB Pardiwala and Justice KV Viswanathan on October 16 ordered the Centre to give wide publicity to the scheme to make the intended beneficiaries aware of it.

Section 164A of the Motor Vehicles Act authorises the Centre to frame a scheme for interim relief to victims of motor vehicle accidents. The direction came after amicus curiae Gaurav Agarwal told the Bench that on April 28, 2025, a Bench led by Justice Abhay S Oka (since retired) had deprecated the delay in notifying the scheme framed under Section 164A



of the Act and directed it to notify the scheme in four months. Despite that it hasn't been notified. However, Additional Solicitor General Vikramjit Banerjee told the Bench that the government had already framed the scheme in February itself. The Bench expressed surprise after Agarwal said he was hearing about this for the first time and that he was not aware of the scheme having been rolled out. Mr Banerjee, there is a long line of judgments... that publication is needed for a law, and that the law should be publicly known. This is an unannounced law, otherwise?

RAIPUR. OPEN SEARCH

Chief Minister Shri Vishnu Deo Sai attended various Garba festivals and Durga Puja celebrations in Raipur on Sunday. Extending warm greetings and best wishes to the people of the state on Sharadiya Navratri, he prayed to Maa Adishakti for Chhattisgarh's prosperity, peace and well-being. Chief Minister Shri Sai said that Navratri is not only a major festival dedicated to the worship of Maa Durga, the embodiment of strength, but also a celebration of our rich cultural traditions, social unity and respect for women. Celebrations such as Garba and Durga Puja keep our faith and traditions alive while bringing society together through love, harmony and brotherhood. The Chief Minister visited the Durga Puja pandals set up by the Mana



Bazar Sarvajani Durga Puja Samiti and the Sarvajani Shri Shri Durga Puja Samiti, where he had darshan of Maa Durga and offered prayers. Bowing before the Goddess, he sought her blessings for the welfare of the people and the continued progress of Chhattisgarh. He subsequently attended 'Raas Garba' with Bhajan Dandiya', organised by the

youth wing of the Puja Chhattisgarh Sindh Panchayat at Hukum Lalit Mahal; Raas Garba at Rambagh; the 'Sorathi Rang Rango' Navratri festival organised by Shri Dasha Sorathiya Vanik Samaj at Ram Mangalam Lawn in Pachpedi Naka; and 'Sankalp Garba', organised by the Navratri Evam Raas Garba Utsav Samiti at the BTI Ground in Shankar

Nagar. Community members and devotees warmly welcomed Chief Minister Shri Sai at the various venues. The Chief Minister said that the country and Chhattisgarh were filled with devotion, faith and joy on the sacred occasion of Navratri. Garba is a beautiful expression of reverence and devotion to Maa Durga. Originating in Gujarat's cultural traditions, it has

Nearly 68 Lakh Women Receive Rs. 1,000 Every Month under Mahtari Vandan Yojana; 14 Lakh Women in the State Have Become Lakhpati Didis

become popular across the country and emerged as a symbol of India's cultural unity. He said that India's distinctive strength lies in its unity in diversity. Festivals bring together different communities and generations and inspire people to remain connected to their roots and culture. Greeting the mothers, sisters and daughters present in large numbers at the Garba celebrations, Chief Minister Shri Sai said that Indian culture has always regarded women as an embodiment of strength. Navratri reminds us to honour women, uphold their

dignity and recognise their invaluable contribution to building society. He said that when women become stronger, participate in decision-making and achieve financial independence, they strengthen their families and society as a whole. Ensuring women's safety, dignity and economic self-reliance is therefore among the state government's highest priorities. Chief Minister Shri Sai said that assistance of Rs. 1,000 is being transferred directly into the bank accounts of nearly 68 lakh women in the state every month under the Mahtari Vandan Yojana. This financial support is enabling women to make their own decisions about their needs, both large and small. The assistance is also helping meet children's educational expenses, family requirements and household needs.

Chief Minister Inaugurates Rakhigarhi Mahotsav 2026

Rakhigarhi Symbolises Thousands of Years of Civilisational Heritage, Cultural Identity and Pride, says CM Saini

VIJAY KUMAR.OPEN SEARCH

CHANDIGARH. Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini on Monday said Rakhigarhi stands as a living testament to India's ancient civilisation, preserving the legacy of generations whose skills, ingenuity and collective efforts shaped a highly developed society thousands of years ago. The historic site, he said, represents the country's enduring cultural identity, deep-rooted connection with its past and civilisational pride.

Reaffirming the state government's commitment to preserving and promoting this invaluable heritage, the Chief Minister said sustained efforts are being made to strengthen archaeological research, conservation, tourism infrastructure and public participation at Rakhigarhi.

The Chief Minister was addressing the inaugural ceremony of the seven-day Rakhigarhi Mahotsav 2026 at Rakhigarhi in Hansi district. The Mahotsav is being organised on the theme 'Mati Se Mahotsav Tak' (From Soil to Celebration). Heritage and Tourism Minister Dr. Arvind Sharma was also present. On the occasion, the Chief Minister announced a grant of Rs. 51 lakh for Rakhigarhi Gram Panchayat and assured that the demands submitted by the Panchayat would be addressed.

Earlier, the Chief Minister inspected the museum under construction at Rakhigarhi and visited various stalls set up as part of the Mahotsav, where he also made purchases. He reviewed sporting events and other activities organised at the site.

He also visited an excavation demonstration organised by the Archaeology Department where the excavation



process and archaeological artefacts recovered during such work were displayed. The Chief Minister, along with Cabinet Minister Dr. Arvind Sharma and Commissioner and Secretary, Heritage and Tourism Department, Dr. Amit Agrawal, also examined a seal on display.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister said Rakhigarhi Mahotsav provides an opportunity not only to understand the country's ancient roots but also to recognise the responsibility of preserving this heritage for future generations.

He said the theme 'Mati Se Mahotsav Tak' captures the journey of civilisation and the enduring relationship between people, their land and their cultural traditions. He said that the same soil produces food through the efforts of farmers, takes shape in the hands of potters and becomes an expression of culture through the creativity of artists.

Drawing a parallel between Haryana's historic sites, the Chief Minister said that while Kurukshetra gave humanity the message of Karma, Rakhigarhi offers remarkable insights into an



organised and developed human civilisation that flourished thousands of years ago.

He said the archaeological remains at Rakhigarhi preserve important evidence of the evolution of human settlements, craftsmanship, agriculture and community life. Pottery, beads, seals and other artefacts recovered from the site reflect the creativity, technical knowledge and skills of the people who inhabited the region.

The Chief Minister emphasised that the true value of history lies not merely in understanding

the past but also in drawing lessons that can guide the future. He said the well-planned ancient settlement at Rakhigarhi offers valuable insights into how modern villages and cities can be made cleaner, more considerate of people's needs and environmentally sustainable. Calling upon young people to take an active interest in their heritage, he urged them to acquire authentic knowledge about historical sites and share it responsibly.

He encouraged students to learn languages, strengthen their communication skills and use digital plat-

forms to present the authentic history of Rakhigarhi to wider audiences. Activities such as school-level quizzes on Rakhigarhi could also help generate greater awareness among students, he added.

The Chief Minister urged teachers and parents to familiarise children with local history by encouraging visits to heritage sites and museums.

He said children who understand the history of their surroundings would be better equipped to represent their cultural roots with confidence, pride and authenticity wherever they

go in the world.

The Chief Minister said an international conference is being organised as part of Rakhigarhi Mahotsav, bringing together scholars and experts from India and abroad to deliberate on archaeological evidence, recent discoveries and future research opportunities associated with the site. He said the conference would help lay the groundwork for new research initiatives, institutional collaborations and wider dissemination of archaeological knowledge.

Acknowledging the contribution of scholars and archaeologists, the Chief Minister said their painstaking efforts to study layers of the earth and piece together scattered evidence continue to reveal previously unexplored chapters of human civilisation. The Chief Minister said Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi's vision of 'Vikas Bhi, Virasat Bhi' reflects the belief that India's modern development must draw strength from its cultural roots. He said Rakhigarhi is among the five archaeological sites identified by the Central Government for development as iconic sites.

Several initiatives have

Civil construction of Rakhigarhi Museum and Interpretation Centre nearing completion; Rs. 188 crore earmarked for next phase of world-class development*

Chief Minister announces Rs. 51 lakh for Rakhigarhi Gram Panchayat; assures action on demands raised by Panchayat

been undertaken to establish Rakhigarhi as a prominent destination on the tourism map, he said, adding that efforts are also being made to secure its inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

National and international experts have been invited to undertake detailed research on the archaeological remains discovered at the site.

The Chief Minister informed that civil construction work on the Museum and Interpretation Centre at Rakhigarhi is almost complete. In the next phase, the facility is being developed to world-class standards at an estimated cost of Rs. 188 crore.

The Chief Minister said the state government has also envisaged the development of a Saraswati-Sindhu Civilisation Corridor to improve tourism connectivity and coordination among important archaeological sites. The proposed corridor would help create stronger linkages between heritage destinations and promote a more integrated approach to archaeological tourism.

He said the government is undertaking similar initiatives to conserve and develop other historically significant sites across Haryana.

The old Tehsil building in Nuh, Loharu Fort and the tomb complex at Tauru have been declared State Protected Monuments. A state-of-the-art archaeological museum is also being established in Sector 5, Panchkula. The Chief Minister said a project has

been initiated to prepare site plans and exterior design frameworks for all State Protected Monuments to strengthen the conservation and preservation of the state's ancient cultural heritage.

He further said the Haryana Government has formulated the State Art and Culture Policy, 'Kalash', to safeguard, conserve, promote and encourage the state's artistic and cultural traditions. Reiterating the government's commitment to preserving India's cultural legacy for future generations, the Chief Minister referred to the International Gita Jayanti Mahotsav organised at Kurukshetra as another major initiative in this direction.

He said the government is working to build a modern Haryana while protecting and drawing inspiration from its historical and cultural heritage.

Rakhigarhi Mahotsav, he added, is an important part of this endeavour and will help bring the state's archaeological legacy closer to people from all sections of society. The Chief Minister urged visitors to leave the Mahotsav with a renewed commitment to understanding their roots, preserving their heritage and using the lessons of the past to build a better future.

Haryana Heritage and Tourism Minister Dr. Arvind Kumar Sharma said coordinated efforts are being made to establish Rakhigarhi as an internationally recognised

UP woman at Chandigarh Shelter Home reunites with family after memory returns

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH

After spending 13 years at the Chandigarh branch of the All India Pingalwara Charitable Society, a woman reunited with her family on Sunday after a counselling session helped 'unlock' memories of her past. Known as Shanti at the shelter home, the woman, around 58 years old, was identified as Roshni when her husband, Ashok, and her daughter, Shivani, came to meet her. According to the Pingalwara Society, Roshni was found by the Himachal Pradesh Police in Pancha Sahib in August 2013, in a severely distressed condition, wandering on the roadside with no one to look after her. As she was unable to provide clear information about herself and her family, the police completed the legal formalities and sent her to the Pingalwara shelter home in Chandigarh. Initially, she



was extremely irritable and short-tempered. As she started receiving psychiatric treatment at Government Medical College and Hospital, Sector 32, Chandigarh, her mental health condition improved. Whenever the shelter home's counselling team asked her about her family, her eyes would fill with tears, and she would repeatedly say that she could not remember anything," said Saakshi, a medical social worker working with Pingalwara Society. Subhash Chandra Sharma,

who retired as a Secretary from the Haryana Legislative Assembly, used to go for counselling of the inmates at the shelter home. He first met Roshni in 2024. "But, she hardly used to speak. Many attempts to elicit family details failed," said Sharma. Refusing to give up, he resolved to find a way to help her recall some details. During a counselling session, Sharma told her that a mother may forget many things, but she can never forget the names of her children. The words seemed to strike an emo-

tional chord with Roshni, and she finally recalled and disclosed her children's names. When Sharma asked her what her children did for a living, she replied that they were farmers. Asked where they cultivated their land, she said it was in their village. On being asked the name of the village, she replied, "Khuni Nangla." However, there was no village by this name. Sharma continued questioning her gently about nearby villages. After some time, Roshni recalled the name of a neighbouring village, 'Kaval'. Further investigation revealed that 'Kaval' village is located in Muzaffarnagar district of Uttar Pradesh. On contacting people in 'Kaval', Sharma learned that a nearby village, 'Nangla Mubarak', was formerly known as 'Khuni Nangla.' Following further inquiries and sustained efforts, woman's family was finally identified.

Significant decline in underweight and stunting among children

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH

Under the leadership of Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini, the state government is committed to improving the nutritional status and overall health of children and mothers. In this direction, the Mukhyamantri Doodh Uphaar Yojana (MMDUY), successfully implemented since August 2020, has emerged as an important initiative in the fight against malnutrition and anaemia in the state.

Sharing details of the scheme, a government spokesperson said that the ambitious initiative, being implemented by the Women and Child Development Department, Haryana, aims to provide quality nutrition to children aged one to six years, pregnant women and lactating mothers. Under the scheme,

nutritional products are distributed twice a week through Anganwadi centres across the state.

Elaborating on the nutritional products provided under the scheme, the spokesperson said that beneficiaries receive 200 ml of fortified skimmed milk enriched with essential micronutrients such as Vitamins A and D2, 45 grams of micronutrient-rich instant kheer mix and a 30-gram protein milk bar. These products help meet the daily protein and calorie requirements of children. The spokesperson further stated that the implementation of the scheme has contributed to a significant decline in underweight and stunting among children and has helped strengthen efforts to prevent malnutrition and anaemia. The distribution of nutritious food products.

Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini Chairs HPPC and High Power Works Purchase Committee Meetings

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH

Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini on Monday chaired meetings of the High Powered Purchase Committee (HPPC) and the High Power Works Purchase Committee at Haryana Niwas in Chandigarh. During the meetings, proposals relating to procurement and development works across various departments were approved. The decisions are aimed at strengthening infrastructure and improving public services across the state. Transport Minister Sh. Anil Vij, Education Minister Sh. Mahipal Dhandra, Cooperation Minister Dr. Arvind Sharma, Agriculture and Farmers'



Welfare Minister Sh. Shyam Singh Rana, Chief Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Sh. Rajesh Khullar, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance and Planning Department, Sh. Sudhir Rajpal, Deputy Principal Secretary to Chief Minister Dr. Yashpal, and senior officers of the departments concerned attended the meetings. The committees approved proposals from various

departments, including Transport, Power, Education, Environment, Cooperation, Urban Development, Public Health Engineering, Public Works, and Irrigation and Water Resources. These covered the modernisation of power distribution systems, smart grid projects, water supply and sewerage facilities, stormwater drainage systems, road improvements, construc-

tion of educational institutions and enhancement of storage capacity. To strengthen the power distribution network, approval was granted for the upgradation and modernisation of 11 kV feeders in various areas, construction of new substations and implementation of advanced technologies such as SCADA and DMS/OMS. These measures are expected to

enhance the reliability and efficiency of electricity supply. The committees also approved a proposal to establish air quality monitoring stations in Haryana's National Capital Region (NCR) districts as part of the state's efforts to strengthen environmental protection. Chief Minister Calls for Strict Adherence to Quality Standards, Transparency and Financial Discipline** Chief Minister directed officers to ensure that all development projects are completed within the stipulated timelines while strictly adhering to prescribed quality standards. He emphasised the need for strict compliance with technical specifications in construction works and regular monitoring of proj-

ect implementation. The Chief Minister further directed officers to undertake periodic reviews of project progress and fix accountability wherever negligence is found. Emphasising transparency and financial discipline, the Chief Minister said that all government procurement and construction works must be carried out through transparent procedures, with strict adherence to financial norms. He stressed that public funds must be utilised judiciously, with public welfare accorded the highest priority, and made it clear that no compromise on quality would be tolerated. The Chief Minister also directed all departments to work in close coordination and ensure optimal

Briefs News

Haryana places two HCS officers at Chandigarh Administration's disposal

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH The Haryana government has placed the services of two Haryana Civil Service (HCS) officers, Gaurav Kumar and Pradeep Ahlawat-I, at the disposal of the Chandigarh Administration with immediate effect, according to an order issued by Chief Secretary Anurag Rastogi. Gaurav Kumar, a 2011-batch HCS officer, is serving as Secretary, State Election Commission, Haryana. Pradeep Ahlawat-I, a 2013-batch officer, is Additional Director (Administration), Town and Country Planning, Haryana. The terms and conditions of their appointment will be issued separately, the order said.

Applications Open Until October 23

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH. The Department of Horticulture, Haryana, is organising a special five-day training programme for farmers at the Centre of Excellence for Floriculture and Seed Production Technology, Munimpur (Jhajjar), under the Department of Horticulture, Haryana. The training programme will be held from October 26 to October 30, 2026. Its main theme is "Horticulture Schemes and Flower Cultivation through Advanced Technologies." A total of 10 farmers will have the opportunity to participate in this training programme.

Haryana Issues Strict Directives to Private Medical and Paramedical Colleges

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH. The Directorate of Medical Education and Research, Haryana, Panchkula, has issued strict directives to all private medical, dental, nursing, physiotherapy and paramedical colleges and institutions across the state, making it mandatory for them to comply with the prescribed fee structure. The order, issued by Director of Medical Education and Research, Sh. Dharendra Khadga, IAS, directs all concerned institutions to strictly adhere to the fee structure prescribed and notified by the government for the respective courses and academic sessions. The Directorate has clarified that no private institution shall demand, collect or charge any fee, levy, deposit or other amount, directly or indirectly, from any student or their parents/guardians in excess of the amount prescribed or authorised by the competent authority, under any name or in any form. All institutions have been directed to prominently display the government-prescribed fee structure on their official websites and notice boards. They must also issue proper receipts for every payment received from students and maintain complete records of all fees collected. The directives further warn institutions against charging additional amounts under alternative names or through other arrangements to circumvent or indirectly bypass the prescribed fee structure. The Directorate has also made it clear.

‘Chalo Yamuna’ : 35,000 Delhiites Clean 70 Ghats in One Morning

AJEET KUMAR.OPEN SEARCH

NEW DELHI. Delhi Water Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh today briefed the media on the success of the Chalo Yamuna campaign, held on Sunday, 18 October. In it, over 35,000 citizens cleaned 70 locations along both banks of the Yamuna at the same time, from Wazirabad's Soor Ghat and Signature Bridge to Yamuna Bazar, ITO, Nizamuddin, Sarai Kale Khan and Chilla. "On a Sunday morning, 35,000 Delhiites were standing on the banks of the Yamuna. Nobody forced them to come. They came because the Yamuna is our mother, and a mother's service needs no invitation," said Parvesh Sahib Singh. "For years, no minister or Chief Minister of the previous government ever stepped onto a Yamuna



ghat to clean it. Yamuna's cleaning stayed in files and speeches. Yesterday, the government and the people stood in the river together," he added. **One morning, 70 ghats: the numbers** * 35,000 participants, including 20,000 citizens, families and RWA members, 10,500 karyakartas, 2,500 students and 2,000 NGO volunteers

* Students from over 25 Delhi University colleges with more than 400 from Deshbandhu College alone * 76,755 kg of MSW waste removed * Deployed: 26 JCBs, 19 tractor-trolleys, 24 boats, 7 weed harvesters and trash skimmers, and 269 PWD maintenance vans * More than 10 departments worked together, including I&FC, PWD, MCD,

DJB, DUSIB, Delhi Police and DDMA * About 7 tonnes of waste came from Usmanpur village alone and over 5.6 tonnes from Sonia Vihar A child who picked up waste from the Yamuna with their own hands yesterday will never throw waste into it. We are not just cleaning ghats; we are shaping the values of the next generation," the

Water Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh announces "Birthday with Yamuna", inviting Delhiites to celebrate their special days on the riverbank

Minister said. He also thanked the 227 sanitation workers and machine operators who were the first to arrive and the last to leave. 22 October: ₹8,941 crore to clean the Yamuna at its source?Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah will inaugurate and lay the foundation stone of 43 Delhi Jal Board projects worth ₹8,941.22 crore on 22 October. These include 10 projects being inaugurated (₹2,827.11 crore) and 33 foundation stones (₹6,114.11 crore). Key projects: New 124 MGD STP at Okhla (₹1,161 crore) Upgrading 8 STPs (₹1,041 crore).



ensure peaceful celebrations. The clarification came after AAP Delhi president Saurabh Bharadwaj on Sunday accused police of impeding Durga Puja celebrations in CR Park, alleging that personnel forcibly disconnected electricity at a pandal and imposed stricter restrictions on celebrations. Bharadwaj urged Lt Governor and the police commissioner to intervene, alleging discriminatory treatment of the Bengali community. He questioned the restrictions on Durga Puja celebrations when the government promotes

round-the-clock businesses, and several Ramliya events continue beyond midnight. According to Bharadwaj, police personnel entered the B-Block Durga Puja pandal on Saturday and forcibly disconnected its electricity supply, damaging equipment. He also claimed that committees had been permitted to operate pandals and loudspeakers only until 10 pm, while they were allowed until midnight last year. The police have maintained that their intervention was aimed at ensuring compliance with court-mandated

Delhi's fire-safety rules on hold, deferred by 270 days

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)

At a time when Delhi is grappling with a rising number of fire-related emergencies and a string of deadly blazes, the Delhi Government has deferred the implementation of key provisions of its previously revamped fire-safety framework by 270 days, taking their commencement to May 20, 2027. The move, however, has raised questions with sources in the Delhi Fire Service likely to seek clarification from the Legal and Home Departments on whether the commencement of provisions that have already completed their previously prescribed 90-day transition period can be extended retrospectively. A notification issued by the Home Department on October 16 and published in the Delhi Gazette on Saturday says the commencement of Rules 34, 35, 36, 37 and 38, along with the First and Seventh



Schedules of the Delhi Fire Service (Amendment) Rules, 2025, has been extended for another 270 days, with effect from August 24, 2026, up to May 20, 2027. "The 90-day transition period granted for the implementation of the rules has already ended. Those provisions are therefore already in force. They are now the law of the land. How can their commencement be extended? We will seek a clarification," he said. The concern arises from the wording of the original 2025 amendment. rules. When the rules were notified in May, most of the amendments were brought into force immediately, but Rules 34-38 and the two schedules.

Manjinder Singh Sirsa Inspects Anti-Smog Guns and Water Mist Systems

NEW DELHI. OPEN SEARCH

Delhi Environment Minister Shri Manjinder Singh Sirsa today inspected various locations in the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) area to assess the on-ground implementation of pollution control measures. During the inspection, Sh. Sirsa also reviewed the installation and operational status of Anti-Smog Guns (ASGs) and Water Mist Systems installed in high-rise buildings. As per the directions issued by the Delhi Government and the Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC), prescribed pollution control measures are mandatory for commercial, institutional and hospitality buildings that are G+5 (ground plus five floors) or above and have a total built-up area exceeding 3,000 square metres. These measures



aim to control dust emissions generated by construction and other activities at the source. During the inspection, Environment Minister Shri Sirsa directed the concerned officials to take action in accordance with the applicable rules against buildings, hotels, construction sites and other establishments found violating the prescribed standards. He made it clear that negligence in complying with pollution control guidelines would not be tolerated. Strict Monitoring of Construction

establishments concerned if violations of prescribed guidelines were found during construction or demolition activities. Sirsa further informed that restrictions on the entry of vehicles below the BS-VI emission standard into Delhi are scheduled to come into effect from November 1. He appealed to vehicle owners to comply with the prescribed regulations and refrain from bringing vehicles falling under the restricted category into the national capital. He also urged Delhi residents to ensure that their vehicles carry a valid Pollution Under Control Certificate (PUC) and comply with all applicable pollution control norms. Technology-Driven Monitoring and Public Participation for Cleaner Air The Environment Minister said that addressing Delhi's pollution challenges.

7 sewage treatment plants in Delhi fail discharge standards

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)

At least seven sewage treatment plants have failed the prescribed discharge standards for total suspended solids, biochemical oxygen demand and faecal coliform levels in September, the latest Delhi Pollution Control Committee (DPCC) report said. BuyMaps Testing standards across more than 30 sewage treatment plants (STPs) in the national capital, the report provides data for samples collected from both inlet and outlet points. Flagger the STP at Yamuna Vihar Ph-III for non-compliance, the report said the outlet sample from the facility exceeded the set limits for total suspended solids, biological oxygen demand and faecal coliform. According to the



report by the DPCC, the treated discharge from the STP showed a faecal coliform level of 64,000 MPN/100 ml, against the permissible level of 230 MPN/100 ml. The outlet sample at the Yamuna Vihar Ph-III also showed a Total Suspended Solids (TSS) level of 109 mg/l against the prescribed limit of 10 mg/l and Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) of 42 mg/l against the permissible level of 10 mg/l. The sample collected from the STP at Mehrauli showed a faecal coliform.

Lal Hit Janta Party emerges as Cockroach Janta Party's new rival

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)

The organisation held its first membership gathering at Malviya Smriti Bhawan on Sunday, where its convener, Ayan Bhatnagar, and other speakers criticised the BJP, Congress and protesters, alleging that the demonstrations undermine constitutional institutions and cause losses to businesses. As the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) intensifies its campaign demanding the removal of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, a new outfit, the Lal Hit Janta Party, has emerged in Delhi to counter its protests, attracting attention on social media. The organisation held its first mem-



bership gathering at Malviya Smriti Bhawan on Sunday, where its convener, Ayan Bhatnagar, and other speakers criticised the BJP, Congress and protesters, alleging that the demonstrations undermine constitutional institutions and cause losses to businesses.

Clarifying its position, Bhatnagar said the outfit was not formed to contest elections but to oppose the CJP's campaign and challenge its arguments through debate and peaceful mobilisation. "The Lal Hit Janta Party was not formed to contest elections, as we

have already made clear. We stand against the BJP and its protests. We oppose cockroaches who want to weaken the country's democracy and attempt to create anarchy in the country," he said. He added that the group would organise gatherings of different sizes to put forward its views and challenge the CJP's claims. "If you have the courage, come and debate. If you win, it will be your victory, and if we win, it will be ours," Bhatnagar said. The organisation urged young people to participate in democratic processes through peaceful protests, factual communication and within the legal framework. It also emphasised

Grand Art Exhibition and Cultural Programme on 'Shri Ram, the Guide to Humanity' Organised at Delhi Secretariat

NEW DELHI. OPEN SEARCH

The Department of Art, Culture and Languages, Government of Delhi, in collaboration with Meghvarn Art Gallery, organised a grand art exhibition and cultural programme at the Delhi Secretariat on the theme 'Shri Ram, the Guide to Humanity'. The exhibition will remain open until October 30, offering visitors an opportunity to explore artworks depicting the life of Lord Shri Ram, his ideals and various episodes from the Ramayana. Hon'ble Chief Minister Smt. Rekha Gupta extended her heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to all the artists who presented remarkable and captivating paintings based on the life of Lord Shri Ram at the exhibition organised by the Department of Art, Culture

and Languages in collaboration with Meghvarn Art Gallery. Extending her greetings to everyone on the auspicious occasion of Durga Navami, she prayed to Maa Durga for happiness, prosperity and well-being in everyone's lives. She also appreciated the creative contributions of the artists who are using their art to take India's cultural heritage, spiritual traditions and the ideals of Lord Shri Ram to the masses. Addressing the gathering, Minister for Art, Culture and Languages Shri Kapil Mishra extended his heartfelt greetings on Durga Navami and prayed to Maa Jagdamba for the fulfilment of everyone's wishes. He congratulated the organisers and their entire team for putting together the event, and appreciated Rachna ji, who conceptualised the



programme, along with all the participating artists. In his address, Shri Kapil Mishra said that artists from different states across the country had brought the life of Lord Shri Ram and related episodes to life through their paintings at this exhibition organised by the Department of Art, Culture and Languages,

Government of Delhi. These artworks had previously been exhibited at Shri Ram Janmabhoomi as well. The exhibition, which will continue at the Delhi Secretariat until October 30, will provide people with an opportunity to connect with Indian culture and the ideals of Lord Shri Ram. Shri Kapil Mishra said,

Art Exhibition to Continue Until October 30; Artworks Depicting Episodes from the Lives of Lord Shri Ram and Lord Hanuman Emerge as Major Attractions

"This is an event dedicated to Lord Shri Ram, organised by devotees of Lord Ram. Such programmes should be organised with full enthusiasm while respecting religious traditions and faith." He added that the ideals of Lord Shri Ram, the principles of maryada (righteous conduct and dignity), and rashtadharma (duty towards the nation) are integral to India's glorious cultural traditions. Such initiatives inspire future generations to connect with the country's cultural heritage and human values.

Referring to Durga Puja celebrations in Delhi, Shri Kapil Mishra said that Durga Puja committees across the capital were organising grand celebrations with great enthusiasm and dedication. Hon'ble Chief Minister Smt. Rekha Gupta herself was monitoring the arrangements. The Delhi Government was also making the necessary preparations to ensure the convenience of devotees and the smooth conduct of events on the day of Durga idol immersion. The exhibition features captivating artworks depicting episodes from the lives of Lord Shri Ram and Lord Hanuman, highlighting their ideals and values. Through their paintings, the artists have vividly portrayed Lord Shri Ram's life journey, episodes from his exile and several significant scenes.

Briefs News

Delhi HC allows minor rape survivor to terminate 31-week pregnancy

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY) The Delhi High Court has permitted termination of a 31-week pregnancy of a 16-year-old sexual assault victim, saying it would not be appropriate to expect the minor to take the burden of giving birth and raising a child. The High Court noted that termination of pregnancy where a minor is a victim of rape cannot be reduced merely to be defined as the right of a sexually assaulted woman but also has to be recognised as a human right as it affects the dignified existence of a victim if the same is not permitted. "Thus, it was held that it would not be appropriate to expect the minor rape victim to take the burden of giving birth and raising a child, especially in a situation where she herself is passing through the age of adolescence," Justice Mini Pushkarna said. Under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, the procedure can be done till 20 weeks of gestation period in ordinary cases and 24 weeks in certain categories such as rape survivors. The court noted that as per the opinion of the medical board, the girl was medically fit to undergo the pregnancy termination procedure and allowed the prayer in the best interest of the minor survivor. The court, which was informed that the victim was already admitted to Lady Hardinge Medical College and Hospital here, directed the doctors to preserve the foetus tissue for DNA testing that would be required in the criminal case. It directed the State to bear the expenses for the medical procedure and said that in case the child is born alive, the medical superintendent of the hospital would ensure that all possible assistance is offered to the baby. "In that case, as per the wish of the minor and her family, such child be given in adoption as per prescribed procedure. The identity of the petitioner/ minor survivor shall be strictly protected. The court passed the order on a plea filed on behalf of the girl, who became pregnant after a sexual assault. The victim and her mother wished to terminate the pregnancy since its continuation would result in grave mental injury to the minor petitioner.

SIR's dual role disrupts teaching in government schools, teacher shortage hits academics

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY) Teaching-learning activities have taken a massive hit in government-run schools as teachers have been deployed in non-academic activities such as electoral roll revision and census work despite a Supreme Court ruling that teachers should not be tied up in such jobs during school hours. After teachers, who were made booth-level officers only a month ago, completed a series of SIR activities, the Election Commission now wants them to undertake a special drive to include left-out voters. On October 1, the commission wrote to the chief electoral officers (CEOs) of all states and Union Territories about the special drive. "Voter enrolment is a continuous process and any person not yet enrolled in the electoral roll or whose name has got deleted can apply for enrolment at any point of time. The objective of the special drive is to identify and facilitate such electors," said the poll panel's letter to the CEOs. According to the letter, BLOs will compare the current electoral roll with the pre-SIR roll and prepare a list of voters whose names were there on the pre-SIR roll but are not included in the current one. The BLOs will make house-to-house visits to find such electors whose names are missing on the current roll. The process will be completed in a month.

IIT students face police 'brutality' over protest; 'touched inappropriately,' say women

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY) Police entered the IIT Bombay campus on Sunday and allegedly beat and kicked students protesting caste discrimination, with a student complaining that her clothes were torn and that women students were "touched inappropriately". Students have been protesting near the institute gate for a month demanding accountability for the alleged suicide by Sahil Wakode, a Dalit B.Tech student. They have been demanding that the IIT administration adopt certain measures to end caste discrimination on the campus. The police assaulted the students, kicked them on the stomach, choked them and tore the clothes of many students. They did not spare the girl students, "a woman student told The Telegraph from Mumbai, asking not to be identified for fear of reprisal. "Police touched female students inappropriately. My dress has been torn. You can imagine the police brutality. The institute used the police as it has no answer to the demands.

Open Search

EDITORIAL

The festival of victory of truth, courage and righteousness

Vijayadashami, also known as Dussehra, is an important festival of Indian culture and tradition. It conveys the message of the power of truth, the importance of righteousness, and the ultimate victory of good over evil. In the hearts and minds of the Indian people, Vijayadashami is not merely a religious festival but also an occasion that inspires people to follow the path of positivity, morality and justice. The killing of Ravana by Lord Shri Ram and the slaying of Mahishasura by Goddess Durga symbolise that no matter how powerful evil may become, truth and justice ultimately prevail.

The greatest message of Vijayadashami is that every individual should strive to overcome the evils within themselves. The ten heads of Ravana are not merely part of a mythological tale; they can also be seen as symbols of negative traits such as arrogance, anger, greed, attachment, jealousy, injustice and immorality. Today, problems such as corruption, violence, discrimination, drug abuse, crimes against women and social discord stand before us as modern forms of Ravana. Therefore, merely burning an effigy of Ravana is not enough. Individual and collective efforts are equally necessary to eliminate these evils from society.

The relevance of Vijayadashami has grown even greater in today's world. Despite technological advancement, economic progress and modern lifestyles, society continues to face numerous challenges. On the one hand, the country is achieving new milestones in education, science, space research and digital technology. On the other hand, the declining importance of moral values, social intolerance and growing selfishness remain matters of concern. At such a time, this festival reminds us that true development cannot be measured solely by economic prosperity; it must also be reflected in character building, social harmony and human compassion.

The life of Lord Shri Ram represents the ideals of dignity, devotion to duty, sacrifice and justice. Even in difficult circumstances, he remained committed to his principles. His life teaches us that the purpose of power and authority should not be to dominate others, but to protect society and establish justice.

Dogged persistence

SEVANTI NINAN

After the long-running saga of alleged media co-option by the State, last month's exposés in The Indian Express on the Election Commission of India (ECI) have made the narrative on India's media more nuanced than before. As the government at the Centre continues to face flak over major and minor issues, enough media outlets are paying a price for not only exposing it but also choosing to keep doing so. Elections in India's states have become increasingly challenging for a ruling party unsure of the outcome. Hence the urge to intervene in the process and risk the outcry that may follow. The advent of the Cockroach Janta Party, born to mount protests against misgovernance and non-governance, has contributed to raising the decibel level of opposition to the government's revision of the electoral rolls. This provides both the Opposition parties and the media with daily fodder.

In countering the protests and exposés, restricting and delegitimising the media have become part of the government's larger game plan. But given the sheer pervasiveness of print and digital media outlets, countering them is not easy. The Rejinagar and Nandigram by-elections earlier this month in Murshidabad and East Midnapore districts, respectively, were a test case for what State intervention in the electoral process could deliver for the ruling party. The Supreme Court declined to intervene, terming them "only by-elections". But reporters from a range of media outlets were at hand to document the heavy-handed State role in subverting the electoral process. A Scrollin video recorded the police asking journalists why they were entering homes to talk to people they did not know. Scrollin's headline from Rejinagar said it all: "Ground report: Muslim voters stopped, Opposition arrested, journalists blocked in Bengal bye-poll." The Telegraph also reported that in Bengal's Rejinagar and Nandigram bypolls, voters were inked but "not allowed" to vote. A telling detail in the Scrollin report said that a third tactic the police used in Rejinagar was to block the social media pages of a number of prominent local journalists for the week leading up to the bypoll. Many of them were unblocked only after voting concluded, it said.

AltNews was also at hand to confirm that at least a dozen Facebook pages run by local journalists from Murshidabad had been temporarily restricted — pre-censorship with a little help from Meta. Both the publishers of Murshidabad Today and Murshidabad News Time, which had lakhs of followers each on Facebook, got takedown notices from Meta, the former for specific videos about the police detaining workers of the Aam Janata Unnayan Party in late-night drives. Scrutinising hyper-local reporting that could capture polling irregularities became part of local electoral strategy. But when police and election managers are up against journalists at large, they tend to forget that media scrutiny can be quite indefatigable, not ending even after the election noise and dust have died down. The by-election is over but the reports keep coming. Just two days ago, The Wire published a long and detailed story on how the ECI software had deleted 5.38 lakh Bengal voters with auto-generated rejections without citing a reason. Should the courts eventually decide to render post facto justice, the evidence is accumulating. The Delhi protests over the past month saw multiple physical attacks on journalists reported as well as the government's efforts to discredit the reporting on social media. While hearing petitions on alleged police excesses, the Supreme Court was told by the solicitor-general, Tushar Mehta, that authorities struggle to distinguish a reel-maker from a genuine freelance journalist. Derogatory narratives from mainstream television channels such as CNN-News 18 have amplified this theme, referring to evidence from open-source intelligence and naming sums allegedly paid to individuals for putting out damaging reports with no specific hard evidence cited. The term, content creator, now pops up in headlines referring to the protest reporting. As in "Protesters & Content Creators Detained As Delhi Tightens Security Amid CJP Protests" (Republic World).

DAVID FICKLING

The harder truth is that until the political and economic incentives behind the pollution change, choking smog will remain an annual blight.

Launched around the turn of the millennium, NASA's Terra and Aqua satellites have served as workhorses of climate observation for decades. From 700 kilometers (435 miles) above Earth, they track clouds, algae, forests, smoke plumes and fires, producing some of the most iconic images ever captured from orbit. Hurricane Katrina barreling toward New Orleans, Saharan sandstorms blotting out the Atlantic Ocean, and the "blue marble" image of our planet familiar from early iPhone screens. Yet farmers in India have been thwarting these sophisticated eyes in the sky with techniques that have barely changed since the Stone Age. That helps explain why technocratic efforts to tackle Delhi's chronic air pollution keep falling short.

It would be comforting to think that better regulation and its implementation could clear the apocalyptic haze that descends on Delhi every winter. The harder truth is that until the political and economic incentives behind the pollution change, choking smog will remain an annual blight. Satellites once seemed to offer part of the solution. One significant source of Delhi's seasonal pollution is farmers burning rice straw after the monsoon harvest to clear their fields for the winter wheat crop. Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh, the states surrounding the capital, produce about a quarter of India's rice. Since 2021, government authorities have been trying to use satellites to tip off local officials to illegal fire hotspots and send out enforcement crews. The satellites only pass over northern India in a brief window of the day, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.



A 2024 investigation by an Indian media organisation found that government officials in Punjab were tipping farmers off about the schedule, allowing them to shift their burning later in the day. The result was revealing. The number of large farm fires occurring after 3 p.m. in the state went from about 3% in 2021 to more than 90% in 2024 and 2025. Some of the most sophisticated monitoring technology humanity has ever devised is being outwitted by farmers using a technique that has existed for thousands of years. We've seen this movie before.

The stick of satellite surveillance was developed in part because an earlier technocratic carrot had failed. In the late 2010s, officials hoped that mechanized equipment could eliminate the need for stubble burning. Tractor-drawn machines such as the Happy Seeder and Super Seeder, which allow farmers to sow wheat directly into

fields without first burning the rice residue, were touted as a way to curb smog, boost yields and modernize Indian agriculture. That didn't work. Farmers who switched to seeders had to pay for the machinery, as well as diesel to power it. Poorer smallholders relying on community-owned equipment might have to wait their turn during a narrow planting window when every lost day costs money. Against the speed and simplicity of dropping a match, machinery struggled to compete. Roughly a quarter of the crop-residue machines distributed in Punjab since 2018 are out of action. Even among farmers who use them, about half still burn stubble.

The root of the problem lies in the political economy of Indian agriculture. The government has made growing rice extraordinarily attractive in northern India, with guaranteed floor prices, near-unlimited procurement, and subsidies for water pumping and fertiliz-

er. Those incentives encourage farmers to produce vast quantities of a crop that leaves them with equally large amount of residue to clear in a hurry. Against such powerful economics, Happy Seeders and satellite surveillance never stood much of a chance.

The prospects for change are about as gloomy as Delhi's skies during Diwali, when residents burn firecrackers that deepen the seasonal smog.

Decades of efforts to shift India's rice and wheat bowl away from Punjab and Haryana and toward eastern states have barely dented paddy cultivation near the capital. Attempts to persuade farmers to switch to less environmentally damaging crops such as corn and lentils have fared little better. The result is a remarkable paradox: India keeps encouraging farmers to grow rice beyond even the needs of its 1.4 billion people. Government inventories have swelled to record levels this year: 10

times above the required buffer. The clearest sign that Delhi is on a path to cleaner air would be a decline in the amount of paddy grown nearby, and therefore the acreage liable to be burned each

year. Instead, the numbers are moving in the opposite direction. And the political obstacles to changing that are formidable. The last serious attempt to overhaul India's agricultural system, in 2020, brought farmers from the northern states onto the streets around the capital for a year, until the government eventually backed down.

That's the trap. Officials keep reaching for technological fixes because the underlying political problem is so difficult to confront. But the metric that matters isn't how many fires satellites detect or how many seeders governments distribute. It's how much paddy farmers plant. Until that acreage starts shrinking, no amount of technology will clear Delhi's skies.

In Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, a test for Imran Khan's PTI, a harder one for Islamabad

TILAK DEVASHER

The removal of that machinery, therefore, presents the party with its most serious organisational and political test.

The imposition of emergency and governor's rule in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KPK) on October 11 is being presented by Islamabad primarily as a response to the deteriorating security situation and the provincial government's failure to confront terrorism. However, beneath the narrative lies a much larger issue that will determine the fate of Imran Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI), the province and the federal government itself. It is whether the PTI can mobilise effectively and survive without the machinery of the province versus whether the Centre can actually tame terrorism now that it has assumed control over KPK. The federal government has taken the most consequential step available to it short of direct military rule. Emergency has been imposed under Article 232 and governor's rule under Article 234 of the Constitution. The move follows weeks of confrontation between Islamabad and the PTI government in KPK over a "Long March" to secure the release of its incarcerated leader, Imran Khan. Islamabad has justified the intervention by citing a sharp increase in terrorist attacks and what it describes as the provincial government's "deliberate disengagement" from the fight against terrorism. The timing, however, is revealing. The gathering momentum of the PTI's "Long March" to Islamabad provided the immediate political backdrop. KPK has been the PTI's stronghold for 13



years. Its importance to the party has never been merely electoral. Control of the government provided the PTI with an administrative structure, political legitimacy, and, importantly, a territorial base from which to organise resistance to the federal government — and a lifeline for the imprisoned Imran Khan. The removal of that machinery, therefore, presents the party with its most serious organisational and political test. The PTI has demonstrated repeatedly that Imran Khan retains a substantial popular following. Yet, there is a distinction between possessing a large vote bank and being able to convert it into sustained street mobilisation. Thus, the PTI has had considerable difficulty in translating its support in Punjab into durable street power. Whether the KPK will prove different is now the critical question. The biggest handicap for the PTI has been

that an insecure government (Read: The army) has choked off access to Imran Khan. Yet it was able to sustain itself by ruling KPK. Removing the government, therefore, removes the institutional scaffolding around which the PTI survived. The test for the PTI would, therefore, be whether it can continue to bring people onto the streets without the provincial government. If it can, it will demonstrate that its strength is genuine rather than administrative. If it cannot, the Centre will have succeeded in demonstrating that PTI's political reach is considerably narrower once stripped of state power.

For years, Pakistan's central problem in KPK has been the persistence and expansion of terrorism, particularly the Tehreek-e-Taliban (TTP) Pakistan. The federal government has now removed the principal

political obstacle it says was preventing a more coherent counter-terrorism policy. The army has been authorised to deploy in aid of civil power, while the Centre will now exercise much greater administrative and security control, particularly in the terrorism-affected districts. This creates a simple but unforgiving yardstick for success.

If terrorism declines, Islamabad will be able to argue that the resistance of the PTI government had indeed impeded the fight against militancy. If, however, terrorism continues unabated or increases, the Centre's narrative will fall flat. The PTI would then be able to argue that the problem was never provincial governance in the first place. It will be interesting to see what kind of a muscular strategy the federal government adopts in the province. Any kinetic approach will carry risks.

Terrorism in KPK is not simply a law-and-order problem. It is embedded in the geography of the border, the unresolved Durand Line issue, the situation in Afghanistan, tribal networks on both sides of the Durand Line and the continuing contest between Kabul and Islamabad. Military control of territory is one thing; eliminating the ecosystem that sustains militancy is quite another. Pakistan has tried it in the past and failed. That is why the Centre's intervention will be judged by whether it can make the province safer.

There is also a larger federal question. KP is overwhelmingly Pashtun. Islamabad will, therefore, have to avoid allowing the political contest with the PTI to acquire an ethnic or provincial character. If Pashtun alienation deepens, it could be dangerous and invite comparisons with East Pakistan/Bangladesh. Islamabad has gambled big. In its anxiety to foil the PTI's "Long March" that was gathering a lot of steam, it decided to use its constitutional power to get rid of the provincial government. If, however, the PTI can demonstrate that its power comes from the people and not merely from its control of provincial institutions, Islamabad would have lost the gamble. Equally, if Islamabad is not able to get a handle on the security situation, it would prove the PTI's point, lay itself open to the charge of trampling provincial rights and also unleash the ethnic genie.

Stock markets trim most of sharp early losses amid buying in SBI, Reliance Industries

A large, metallic bull sculpture stands prominently in front of the Shanghai Stock Exchange building. The bull is positioned on a green base with the 'SSE' logo. Two people are walking past the sculpture, and a tram is visible in the background.

A man wearing a dark Mao suit and glasses stands in the center of the frame. He has his hands clasped in front of him. The background is a wide, open landscape with a body of water in the foreground and snow-capped mountains in the distance under a cloudy sky.

north and establish revolutionary base areas in the northwestern provinces of Shaanxi and Gansu. Blocked by enemy troops externally and divided by disagreements internally, the sparsely populated grassland became the only viable route forward.

Red Army ventured into the vast Songpan Grasslands. This terrain proved far more horrifying than anticipated — dry solid ground was almost impossible to find, replaced by tufts of wild grass, winding watercourses, and swamps hidden beneath the meadow surface. A single heavy footstep sank soldiers knee-deep in the swamp, and every fur-

witted and buoyant, Zheng always marched at the head of the column, grinning as he cheerfully sang songs and told stories to lift spirits. The warm orange firelight washed over every weary face. Some boiled a basin of hot water, sharing small cups that instantly chased away their cold. Others mixed a pinch of qingke (highland barley) flour with plain water — a single mouthful seemed to melt away a long day's hunger and fatigue. Later, Zheng fell ill. When Yang Chengwu, the regiment commander, learned of his condition, he immediately sent his own horse, a portion of his reserved rations, and his water bottle to the young soldier. But Zheng never made it out of the deadly grasslands. In his last moments, he shed tears and said: "May the CPC's.

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty recovered most of their early losses on Monday as buying in State Bank of India and Reliance Industries, and fresh foreign fund inflows countered the decline in Axis Bank and HDFC Bank. The 30-share BSE Sensex dropped 470.50 points to 74,318 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty was down 147.10 points to 22,999.05.

Later, both the benchmark shares bounced back. The BSE benchmark traded at 46.49 points lower at 74,682.78. The Nifty quoted at 14.55 points lower at 23,131.60. From the 30 Sensex firms, Axis Bank declined over 4 per cent despite the private sector lender reporting a 39.4 per cent rise in its consolidated net profit to Rs 7,704.67

crore for the second quarter of 2026-27, supported by higher core income and improvement in asset quality. HDFC Bank, Infosys, Bajaj Finserv, Hindustan Unilever and Trent were also among the major laggards. State Bank of India, UltraTech Cement Reliance Industries, Tata Consultancy Services, Adani Ports and HCL Tech were among the biggest gainers. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) turned buyers on Friday after days of relent-

less selling. They bought equities worth Rs 1,165.92 crore, according to exchange data. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 1.90 per cent lower at USD 107.8 per barrel. In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi and Shanghai's SSE Composite index traded in positive.

territory, while Japan's 225 index quoted lower. The US markets ended lower on Friday. The Nasdaq Composite tanked 2.14 per cent, S&P 500 was down 1.09 per cent.

REPLUS Set to Take Its Next Big Leap in Energy Storage at The Battery Show India 2026

PUNE : (AGENCY)

RankNexus.ai Closes the Gap Between Ranking on Google and Being Cited by AI

Get featured on Google's AI listings. Build stronger AI relationships. Grow your business. All in one place.

100%	345,903	22.5
AI Listings	AI Citations	AI Backlinks

ChatGPT, Gemini or Perplexity mentions them, and why a competitor shows up in an AI answer when they do not.

Answering those questions usually meant several disconnected tools: one for audits, one for rank tracking, one for content and none that clearly showed AI visibility. Each audit produced a list of fixes that then waited for a developer.



form we wanted for our own team. Now every agency facing the same questions can use it."



Each month, someone stitched screenshots into a client report by hand. RankNexus.ai brings that work into one place. "Agencies don't struggle to find SEO problems. They struggle to get them fixed, prove the progress and explain AI search to clients in plain language," said K Prabhu, Founder, RankNexus.ai. "We built RankNexus.ai as the plat-

RankNexus.ai is an SEO, AEO and GEO platform that helps businesses improve their visibility on Google and in AI answer engines such as ChatGPT, Gemini and Perplexity. For agencies, the agency workspace turns it into a client delivery system. Own branding: agencies can run the RankNexus.ai platform under their own brand name, logo and colors, so client-facing work carries the agency's identity. Client projects and onboarding: each client gets its own project with an onboarding flow that connects Google Search Console, GA4 and the client's website.

REPLUS Engtech, a subsidiary of HEG Advanced Materials, will showcase its industry-leading energy storage systems (ESS), electric vehicle (EV) and hybrid solutions at The Battery Show India 2026, scheduled for October 22-24 at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida. The display will bring together the company's work in indigenous battery technology and advanced manufacturing. The event will mark an important milestone for REPLUS as it prepares to expand domestic manufacturing capacity and take its technology to larger markets. REPLUS's planned manufacturing expansion in India is aimed at meet-

ing demand in the years ahead and strengthening local production of energy storage solutions. It will also support the company's role as a technology and supply chain partner to original equipment manufacturers (OEMs), with an emphasis on developing safe, reliable and scalable battery solutions suited to Indian operating conditions. Speaking about the company's growth plans, Hiren Pravin Shah, Managing Director and CEO, REPLUS Engitech, said, "India's energy transition will require domestic technology and manufacturing capabilities that can support demand over the long term. At REPLUS, we are preparing to scale the engineering.

Comviva and Aduna Showcase Network Intelligence for Financial Services at Money20/20

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)

YINGFA will showcase its TOPCon multi-cut and XBC solar cells at Renewable Energy India Expo 2026, taking place October 22-26, at India Expo Mart. At Hall 14, Booth C33, the company will present cell technologies designed to help module manufacturers achieve higher efficiency and greater design flexibility, supported by production facilities in China and Indonesia and dedicated local customer support in India. YINGFA's TOPCon 3.0 solar cells deliver a measured cell efficiency of 27.3% and are available in full-cell, half-cut, third-cut and quarter-cut formats to accommodate different module designs. Visitors can view physical samples and

discuss cell selection, product configurations and manufacturing compatibility with the YINGFA team. YINGFA's XBC 2.0 solar cells deliver efficiencies of up to 28.4%, combining a pure



black appearance with a front surface free of metal gridlines. These characteristics make them suitable for module designs where both performance and aesthetics matter. Both efficiency figures apply to individual solar cells. Actual finished-module.

Comviva, a global leader in digital transformation solutions, and Aduana, the global aggregator of standardized network APIs, are advancing the use of network intelligence to address growing digital identity and fraud challenges in financial services. At Money20/20 USA, taking place October 18–21, 2026, in Las Vegas, the companies will showcase the progress of their collaboration and demonstrate how network APIs can help financial institutions strengthen identity verification, detect SIM-swap detection, enhance fraud prevention, and streamline customer onboarding. By enabling financial institutions to leverage network-derived insights, the collaboration aims to strengthen



digital trust while supporting more secure and frictionless customer experiences. The showcase comes nearly a year after Comviva and Aduna announced their strategic partnership in November 2025 to accelerate enterprise adoption and monetisation of Network APIs through Comviva's NGAGE platform. Through the platform, enterprises can access communication and network APIs through a single interface, while Aduna brings together standardised network capabilities from its global operator ecosystem. NGAGE platform already operates at significant

commercial scale, supporting 7,000+ enterprises, 40+ deployments, 100+ industry use cases, 130+ Communication APIs, and 25+ Network APIs, while processing 250+ billion messages annually. NGAGE is deployed across industries. For banks and fintechs, network-level intelligence can provide an additional layer of information for customer verification and risk assessment. Capabilities such as number verification and SIM-swapping detection can help identify potential fraud, strengthen authentication and support faster, lower-friction

onboarding and KYC journeys. The focus on financial services builds on Comviva's established presence in the sector and its experience supporting digital financial services ecosystems globally. The collaboration brings this expertise together with network intelligence to address practical challenges across identity, fraud prevention and customer onboarding.

Rajesh Chandiramani,
Chief Executive Officer, Comviva,

said, "Over the past year, NAGAE has evolved as a unified and scalable access point for enterprises looking to bring network intelligence into their digital journeys. Financial services is a natural priority, because the impact can be measured directly through outcomes such as faster onboarding.

SHRI NIWAS LEASING AND FINANCE LIMITED

CIN : L65993DL1984PLC019141

Altimetrik, an AI engineering company, today opened its Healthcare & Life Sciences Center of Excellence (CoE) in Hyderabad to accelerate AI innovation for its clients. The Center's first launch is PharmaOS, Altimetrik's agentic AI framework for life sciences, built on Altimetrik's ALTI AIOS™ (operating system), with more offerings to be built alongside clients across the industry. With PharmaOS, the Center promises to take clients from a defined concept to a validated, governed AI agentic workflow in one week, helping organizations move quickly from an initial idea to a working, validated use case.

The CoE brings together AI engineers and life sciences specialists to build agents that meet regulatory requirements, trace every output to trusted sources



and keep people accountable for decisions. The Center is part of Altimetrik's 22,000 sq ft office at Phoenix Equinox in Gachibowli, near HITEC City, which is home to more than 300+ Altimetrik employees. It will support work across drug discovery, clinical development, commercial operations, manufacturing, patient engagement and care delivery.

"Enterprises want AI that delivers meaningful outcomes, and in healthcare and life sciences, that means engineering solutions that are grounded in industry context, regulatory requirements and trusted data. PharmaOS is our first offering from the

Healthcare & Life Sciences Center of Excellence, designed to help global customers build and scale governed AI agents across critical workflows. Hyderabad's deep pharma expertise and technology talent make it the right home for this Center, bringing together the capabilities needed to deliver practical, industry-specific innovation," said Raj Sundaresan, Chief Executive Officer, Altimetrik. Built on Altimetrik's ALTI AIOS™ framework, PharmaAS brings together more than 335 purpose-built agents and accelerators spanning commercial operations, clinical and regulatory evidence review, manufactur-

ing and quality, responsible AI and data modernization. The framework connects them to enterprise processes and trusted data, traces their outputs to source evidence and keeps people responsible for decisions. This approach allows organizations to apply AI to tasks such as clinical study report review, GxP compliance checks and batch-release readiness, while building governed capabilities that can be reused across teams and workflows. PharmaOS is designed to work with leading enterprise AI ecosystems, including Google, Anthropic, and OpenAI, with model flexibility supported by its underlying architecture. Alongside PharmaOS, Altimetrik is introducing a one-week delivery model designed to shorten the time between identifying an AI use case and assessing its potential for deployment.

SHRI NIWAS LEASING & FINANCE LIMITED							
CIN : L65993DL1984PLC019141							
Regd. Off : 47/18, RAJENDRA PLACE METRO STATION NEW DELHI-110060							
E-mail: shriniwas.limited@gmail.com, Website: www.shriniwasleasingfinance.in							
Unaudited Financial Result for the Quarter and Half year Ended on 30.09.2026(NBFC)							
S.N	Particulars	Three Months Ended			SIX Months Ended		Year Ended
		CURRENT QUARTER	PREVIOUS QUARTER	CORRESPONDING QUARTER	CURRENT YEAR TO DATE	CORRESPONDING YEAR TO DATE	FIGURES FOR PREVIOUS YEAR
		01.07.2026 to 30.09.2026	01.04.2026 to 30.06.2026	01.07.2025 to 30.09.2025	01.04.2026 to 30.09.2026	01.04.2025 to 30.09.2025	01.04.2025 to 31.03.2026
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
1	Total Income from operations	15,325.00	25.49	34.08	15,350.50	105.27	148.50
2	Net Profit / Loss for the period before tax and exceptional items	15,316.35	16.33	36.73	15,332.69	1,04,990.49	1,05,975.62
3	Net Profit / Loss for the period before tax (after exceptional items)	15,316.35	16.33	36.73	15,332.69	1,04,990.49	1,05,975.62
4	Net Profit/ Loss for the period after tax (after exceptional items)	15,316.35	16.33	36.73	15,332.69	1,04,990.49	1,05,964.56
5	Total Comprehensive income/ loss for the period (comprising profit/ loss for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income/ loss (after tax))	15,316.35	16.33	36.73	15,332.69	1,04,990.49	1,05,964.56
6	Paid up equity share capital	2,470.37	544.04	2,398.20	544.04	2,398.20	2,398.20
7	Earning per share (of Rs. 10/- each) Basic & Diluted	62.00	0.30	0.15	281.83	437.79	241.01
Note 1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly and Half year end financial results filed with the stock exchange under regulation 33 of the SEBI (Listing obligations and disclosure requirements) Regulations 2015. the full format of the quarterly and half year end financial results is available on the company's website and also available on the website www.shriniwasleasingfinance.in of BSE Limited i.e. www.bseindia.com 2. The above unaudited standalone financial results for the quarter and half year ended on september 30, 2026 were reviewed by the Audit Committee at the meeting and approved by the Board of Directors and taken on record at the meeting held on 19-10-2026.							
For and on behalf of board of directors of SHRI NIWAS LEASING & FINANCE LIMITED							
RAJNI TANWAR (Managing Director) DIN : 08201251							
Date : 19.10.2026							
Place : New Delhi							

State Deputy Chief Minister and Kawardha MLA Shri Vijay Sharma visited various villages of Kabirdham district on the auspicious occasion of Navratri offered prayers to Goddess Durga and prayed for the prosperity of the region. During this, he had cordial meetings with the villagers in various areas including village Bhalpahari and Achanakpur. The Deputy Chief Minister sat on the ground among the villagers and interacted with them directly and listened to their problems and demands with affection. He directed the concerned officials to resolve the problems of the villagers immediately. During this, he inaugurated the Atal Digital Seva Kendra building in village Bhalpahari and an additional room in the Government

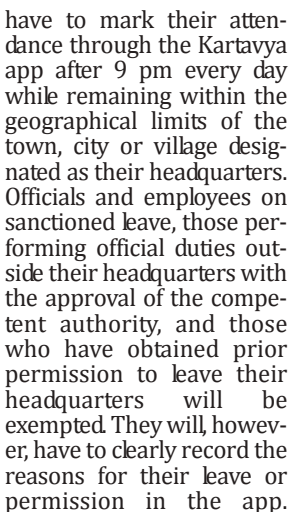


school and Rs 6 lakh 50 thousand for construction of community hall in Akalgariha Para. Similarly, Rs 8 lakh for construction of stage in village Achanakpur; Rs 15 lakh for construction of community hall, Rs 5 lakh 20 thousand for construction of CC road, Rs 2 lakh 60 thousand for construction of CC road from main road towards Panchram's house,

Rs 2 lakh for leveling the ground and Rs 2 lakh for leveling of cowshed were announced. Banking facilities will be available in the village itself through Atal Digital Seva Kendra. Deputy Chief Minister Shri Sharma inaugurated the Atal Digital Seva Kendra building constructed at a cost of Rs 5 lakh in village Bhalpari. Through this cen-

re, villagers will get the facility of banking and digital services in the village itself. Villagers will be able to withdraw the amount received under various government schemes including Mahatari Vandan Yojana, old age pension, disabled pension. Along with this, they will also be able to avail banking facilities like depositing money. Due to this, villagers will not need to go to the city for small banking works and their time and travel expenses will be saved. Development of villages and expansion of basic amenities is the government's priority. Addressing the villagers, Deputy Chief Minister Mr. Vijay Sharma said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Mr. Vishnudev Sai, the state government is continuously working for the development of villages.

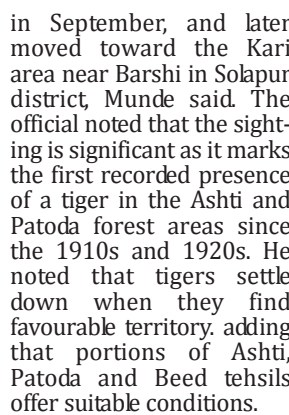
Aimed at making headquarters residency mandatory for its officials, the Karnataka government has introduced a geofencing-based night-time attendance system through the 'Kartavya' mobile application to ensure prompt public service. The policy is designed to ensure that government officials and employees remain accessible in their jurisdiction to enable timely service delivery and smooth execution of development projects. As a first step, the government will implement the system on a pilot basis for all doctors working in taluk hospitals and Primary Health Centres (PHCs) under the Health and Family Welfare Department from November 1, 2026. Under the system, doctors will



Commissioners and District Health Officers will be required to review the night-time attendance reports every month. Officials found not residing at their designated headquarters without permission from the competent authority will face disciplinary action under the applicable civil service rules, the order dated October 17 said. The decision follows proceedings by the Upa Lokayukta, during which it was found that several government employees were not residing at their designated headquarters and were instead managing administrative work from distant places. This had reportedly resulted in delays in attending to duties and caused considerable inconvenience to the public. The new system has been introduced by the Department.

MUMBAI : (AGENCY) Over the last two decades guns were silent as all the major gangs of the Mumbai underworld collapsed. The Bollywood felt relieved as it was the prime source of revenue from extortion for those gangs. With the firing at actor Tiger Shroff's car this Sunday, the underworld, it appears, has resurfaced. This time the gangs of north India are attempting to capitalise on the vacuum. The attack on the actor has once again highlighted concerns over the safety of Bollywood celebrities. The incident, reminiscent of a time when the underworld dominated Mumbai, raises pressing questions about the security of film personalities. On Sunday, three men fired shots at Tiger Shroff's car, he was seated in the front, while he was leaving from a sporting event in Juhu. Although Shroff escaped unhurt, two people were wounded due to bullet injuries. A few minutes later, a social media post by Anmol Bishnoi, of the notorious Bishnoi gang, emerged who took responsibility for the shootout. Such modus operandi harks back to an era when underworld influence loomed large over the Hindi film industry. The film-makers lived under constant threat, targeted.

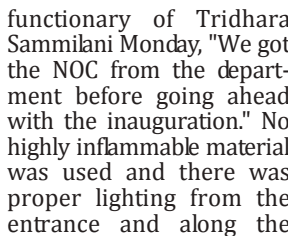
A tiger was spotted in Maharashtra's Beed after nearly a century following a long trek across multiple districts from the Tipeswar Wildlife Sanctuary, a forest official said on Monday. The four-year-old big cat was captured on camera traps in the Brahmagao forest range of Ashti tehsil in August before it moved toward Patoda tehsil, Range Forest Officer Amol Munde said. He said the big cat, weighing around 200 kg, set out from the Tipeswar Wildlife Sanctuary in Yavatmal in 2023. It travelled through Chandrapur, Dharashiv, Latur, and Ahilyanagar districts before entering Beed, where camera traps captured its movement in the Brahmagao forest range on August 20.



Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis on Monday said the Mumbai Police would track down those involved in the firing incident targeting actor Tiger Shroff and their handlers, asserting that such acts would not be tolerated. The police have obtained important leads about the identification of the accused and will arrest them soon, Fadnis told reporters in Nagpur. The accused were operating from outside Maharashtra, possibly from abroad, he said, adding that the police would coordinate with other states and seek assistance from central agencies to track them down. "We will also track down their handlers, who hide elsewhere and send instructions from there," the CM assured. Unidentified assailants opened fire at Shroff's car in Mumbai's Juhu area on Sunday evening. The actor escaped unhurt, while his



The West Bengal Fire and Emergency Services Department has issued notices to three prominent Durga Puja committees in south Kolkata over alleged deficiencies in fire safety arrangements, following the Chorbagan pandal stampede that claimed 19 lives, officials said on Monday. The notices were issued to Chetta Agrani, Ballygunge Cultural Association and Tridhara Sammilani after a high-level fire services team inspected major pandals and found shortcomings in safety arrangements, they said. The fire services authorities on Sunday directed the immediate



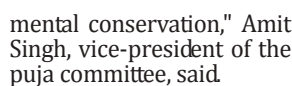
removal of unauthorised temporary commercial structures and hazardous stalls set up near the pandal, citing serious fire safety concerns, particularly the presence of LPG cylinders near structures made of highly inflammable materials. During inspections, officials also stressed the need for adequate lighting and ventilation inside pandals to prevent dark spots, ensure visibility and facilitate crowd management.

The authorities also called for installation of adequate fans and air-conditioning units inside pandals to improve ventilation and prevent overcrowding and suffocating conditions.

Debashis Kumar, senior

functionary of Tridhara Sammilani Monday, "We got the NOC from the department before going ahead with the inauguration." No highly inflammable material was used and there was proper lighting from the entrance and along the

Thousands of devotees are thronging a Durga Puja pandal in Jharkhand's Dhanbad district, where the theme of environmental conservation has been brought to life using one lakh plants. Set up by the Dhansar Durga Puja Committee in Dhansar, the pandal houses Goddess Durga amid thousands of plants and trees, creating a forest-like ambience. The outer structure of the pandal has been designed in the shape of Lord Jagannath's face, made using 40,000 small pieces of bamboo.



"That is why we decided to build the pandal around the theme of environmental conservation. We have spent over Rs 17 lakh on the structure, and one lakh plants have been used," he added.

Singh said the pandal has been designed in three layers to convey the importance of protecting nature.

The first layer highlights the need for environmental protection. It also depicts the underground fire in Jharia and the Sanatan message of preserving nature," he said. The second layer features an artificial banyan tree representing Vaan Devī, or the goddess of forests. The installation seeks to depict the deity emerging from the soil and the roots of the tree, Singh said. In the third layer,

Unidentified men pelted stones at a Srinagar-bound private sleeper Volvo bus in Punjab late on Sunday night, a day after another bus operated by the same company, carrying passengers from Jammu and Kashmir, was attacked with stones and bricks at a dhaba in Haryana, leaving two people injured. Also read: 'Attackers called me a terrorist': Driver recounts stone-pelting on J-K bus in Haryana Haryana assures action over stone-throwing attack on J-K-bound bus: Omar Stones were hurled at the bus on the Delhi-Jammu highway near Ludhiana around 11 pm as it was heading towards Srinagar, Ishfaq Ahmad, the driver employed by Star World Ventures, told The Tribune over the phone. Some people came and threw stones at our bus. Thank God, the passengers are safe. Children and women were sleeping on the seats at which the stones were

hurled," he said, adding that the passengers were frightened after the incident. The latest incident comes a day after a private sleeper bus carrying passengers from



ed with Kolkata Police, civil defence authorities and the civic body. Ballygunge Cultural Association was asked to improve lighting inside its pandal and ensure that commercial activities did not obstruct entry and exit routes, the official said. A senior functionary of the puja committee said, "We are implementing all standard procedures with

regard to safety precautions and facilitating the smooth passage of thousands of visitors. We have improved lighting and ensured that the entry of revellers is not blocked or hindered on the way to the pandal, starting from the side of Rasbehari Avenue and Triangular Park.' No official of Cheta Agrani could be contacted for comment. The inspections followed a stampede at the Chorbagan Sarbojanin Durga Puja pandal in north Kolkata on Saturday, where 19 people were killed and several others injured, prompting the state government to intensify scrutiny of crowd management and safety arrangements at major puja venues.

Nishad Kumar, who lost his right hand to a grass-cutting machine at six

MUMBAI : (AGENCY)

Nishad Kumar claimed India's first para-athletics gold at the ongoing Asian Para Games as he topped the men's long jump T47 event with a dominating performance in Nagoya on Monday. The 27-year-old, who had won a gold in the high jump T47 event in the previous Asian Para Games in China, produced an effort of 7.11m in both his third and fifth attempts to win the gold on the opening day of para-athletics competition.

The two-time Paralympic silver-medallist will also compete in his pet event, high jump T47, in the ongoing Games. Omadbek Khasanov of Uzbekistan and Mohamadu Safran of Sri Lanka took the silver and bronze with efforts of 6.99m and 6.55m respectively.



T47 classification is for athletes with upper limb impairments. Nishad's right arm was severed by a grass-cutting machine at his family farm in Himachal Pradesh's Amb when he was merely six.

Born on October 3,

1999, in Himachal Pradesh's Una district, Nishad grew up with an interest in sport encouraged by his mother, a state-level volleyball player and discus thrower. He tried several sports before making high jump his main event. Professional coach-

ing followed in 2017, the year he made his international debut at the Asian Youth Para Games and won gold, according to a Press Information Bureau profile. Nishad studied at DAV College in Chandigarh and

later pursued higher education at Himachal Pradesh University. He also studied physical education at Lovely Professional University in Punjab. His breakthrough at senior level came with a bronze medal at the 2019 World Para Athletics Championships in Dubai. He followed that with silver at the Tokyo Paralympics, held in 2021, clearing 2.06m in the men's high jump T47. At the Paris Paralympics in 2024, he won a second successive silver with a jump of 2.04m. His record also includes high jump gold at the Hangzhou Asian Para Games, held in 2023. chatgpt-content-reference{index="2"} Monday's victory adds a long jump title to a career built largely around the high jump, with another event still to come in Nagoya.

Sheetal Devi equals world record; India top women's compound team qualification

NAGOYA : (AGENCY)

India's archery sensation Sheetal Devi produced a phenomenal performance in the women's compound qualification round, equalling the world record with 704 points out of a possible 720 and setting a new Asian record at the Asian Para Games, here on Monday. The 19-year-old Indian archer from Jammu and Kashmir delivered a near-flawless display of precision and consistency, registering 57 perfect 10s from her 72 arrows, including 32 Xs -- shots landing in the innermost scoring zone of the target. The Paris Paralympics bronze medalist thus surpassed the previous Asian record of 698 points by six points, setting



a new benchmark in the continental competition. The world record of 704 points was set by Turkiye's Ozgur Girdi at the 2024 Paris Paralympic Games. The reigning Asian Games champion also bettered her own Asian Para Games record of 680 points, set at Hangzhou in 2023 when she had gone on to win two gold (individual and mixed team) and one silver (doubles). She had previously raised the Asian record to 698 in March this year before improving it further

with her outstanding qualification-round showing in Nagoya. Asian Games debutant Payal also impressed in the women's compound qualification, scoring 675 points to finish fifth and strengthen India's medal prospects in the individual and team events. The quadruple amputee from Odisha shot to prominence in April this year when she stunned Sheetal on her way to winning gold at the World Archery Para Series in Bangkok. The combined efforts of Sheetal and Payal propelled India to the top of the women's compound team qualification standings with a combined score of 1,379 points, comfortably ahead of China, who finished second with 1,338 points.

Briefs News

Pujara roots for struggling Sanju: 'For top order, consistency is overrated in T20s'

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY) Former India player Cheteshwar Pujara believes consistency is overrated for top-order batters in T20 cricket, backing Sanju Samson to bounce back with a single defining innings as the team prepares for its upcoming multi-format tour of New Zealand. "Consistency should be there, but for the top order, consistency is overrated in T20s," Pujara said while analysing Samson's fluctuating returns on JioHotstar's 'Out or Not Out'. "He is never out of form. The kind of player Sanju Samson has been in the T20 format; his form fluctuates. But it is always a matter of one innings. He plays one good innings, and he is back in form. "So, you cannot say that this player is not in form. In the T20 format, you are bound to have failures. Who doesn't get out in T20s?" he added. India, who finished their five-match T20I series against the West Indies in a 2-2 draw on Saturday, will begin their multi-format tour of New Zealand with the shortest format. Pujara also expressed doubts over the possibility of Samson and teenage batting sensation Vaibhav Sooryavanshi featuring together in India's playing XI in New Zealand, citing the need for additional all-rounders in conditions that could demand greater balance.

Hansi Flick heaps praise on Lamine Yamal, calls him 'world's best player'

BARCELONA : (AGENCY) Hansi Flick has hailed Lamine Yamal as the world's best player after another star turn from Barcelona's teenage sensation. Yamal scored twice and provided an assist as Barca notched their sixth La Liga win this season, beating Real Betis 5-2 in Seville on Saturday. The winger has been directly involved in a goal in nine consecutive games across all competitions (nine goals, 10 assists), his best run at club level in his career (162 games). Yamal is the first player from Europe's five major leagues to reach 10 assists this season across all competitions, and Flick feels he is the best player on the planet as it stands. "When you see the first goal he scored, it's incredible; right now he is the best player in the world," Flick said of Yamal. "I am very happy with his performance and that is what I want to say. "Of course, Lamine is under pressure; he is just 19 and has played every game, but he is 100 per cent focused and committed. His performances have been incredible." Flick was dealt a double blow ahead of a crucial week after the club confirmed injuries to defenders Jules Kounde and Eric Garcia on social media on Sunday.

Shami rested, but Bengal strike back; Gill's domestic cricket return lasts 5 balls

MULLANPUR : (AGENCY) Bengal coach Laxmi Ratan Shukla on Sunday dismissed speculation surrounding Mohammed Shami's absence from the team's Ranji Trophy Group C second-round match against Services, saying the senior fast bowler was fit and had himself asked to be rested after bowling a heavy workload in the previous round. Shami was expected to lead Bengal's pace attack in their second match of the 2026-27 Ranji Trophy season, with Akash Deep and Mukesh Kumar unavailable owing to India A commitments. However, the 36-year-old was not included in the playing XI for the match at the Palam ground in New Delhi. Shami had been a key figure for Bengal in the previous Ranji Trophy season, taking 37 wickets in seven matches at an average of 16.72. He claimed three five-wicket hauls, with his best figures being eight for 90, underlining his importance to Bengal's red-ball attack. "Shami is fit, he was rested. He bowled a lot of overs against Delhi in the last round. He himself asked to be rested. It also gives us options to try fresh faces," Shukla told reporters at the end of the day's play. Bengal were bowled out for 184 after electing to bat, with captain Abhimanyu Easwaran top-scoring with 56. Services reached 83 for five at stumps, trailing by 101 runs. Pradipta Pramanik and Aamir Gani picked up two wickets each for Bengal, while Shahbaz Ahmed claimed one. Gill falters India skipper Shubman Gill's return to domestic cricket lasted only five balls, but Punjab captain Uday Saharan's unbeaten 106 led the hosts to 269 for four against Chhattisgarh on Day 1 of their Elite Group B match in Mullanpur. Opting to bat, Punjab made a solid beginning, reaching 55 for no loss through openers Vihaan Malhotra and Harnoor Singh. But both Malhotra and Harnoor departed in the space of 10 runs, as Punjab slipped to 65 for two. However, an even bigger blow was waiting for them. Gill, who is playing the red ball games ahead of the tour of New Zealand.

IRS officer Ekta Vishnoi wins 3 gold medals at World Masters Powerlifting Championships in US

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)

Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer Ekta Vishnoi, who is presently serving as Joint Secretary in the Government of India's Department of Biotechnology, has won three gold medals in the World Masters Classic and Equipped Powerlifting Championships held in Nevada, USA. She won the top honours in the M2 (50-59 years), 57kg category after lifting a combined 362.5kg in a field that featured competitors from Canada and Japan. Vishnoi lifted 130kg in squat, 72.5kg



in bench press and 160kg in dead-lift and finished ahead of competitors from Canada, who recorded a total of 330kg, and Japan, whose total was 325kg. Vishnoi previously led the Fit India Mission and served as Deputy Director General (DDG) of the Sports Authority of India (SAI). "Winning three gold medals at the World

Beleaguered Indian shuttlers led by P V Sindhu look to bounce back at French Open

PARIS : (AGENCY)

Indian shuttlers, led by the seasoned P V Sindhu, would be desperate to overcome their recent struggles and make a mark at the USD 950,000 French Open Super 750 badminton tournament that begins here on Tuesday. Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medallist, will face South Korea's top seed An Se Young in the women's singles first round, while sixth seed Lakshya Sen will take on Japan's Kodai Naraoka in the men's singles opener. Sindhu was drawn against the world No. 1 Korean at last week's



Denmark Open as well. However, following multiple last-minute withdrawals by seeded players, the tournament organisers revised the draw because of which Sindhu ultimately clash with Germany's Yvonne Li. The Indian suffered a shock first-round defeat to the lower-ranked German. She will need to raise her game

considerably to challenge Young in her opening match this week. Lakshya had recovered from a back issue to beat Naraoka and help India secure a bronze medal in the men's team event of the Asian Games, but his form has since dipped. The Almora shutter faces the same opponent in his opening match this week and would hope to be back at his best. Former world No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth has looked sharp and troubled his opponents. Last week, he pushed reigning world champion Alex Lanier hard with his superior net play before letting the

match slip away. Srikanth will be aiming to build on the momentum when he faces compatriot Ayush Shetty in a clash between two generations. In men's doubles, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty have been India's most consistent pair this year, winning titles at Singapore and China. However, their shock early exit from the Asian Games was a dampener, and they will hope to bounce back when they face French brothers Christo Popov and Toma Junior Popov. The women's doubles pair of Treasa Jolly.

Mandhana-led India eye T20I series sweep against Zimbabwe

RAIPUR : (AGENCY)

With its batting unit back in rhythm, the Indian women's cricket team will aim to extend its winning streak and complete a 3-0 sweep against Zimbabwe in the final T20I here on Tuesday. Smriti Mandhana's era as full-time captain began with some jittery moments in the first T20I when Zimbabwe, touring India for the first time, reduced the hosts to 19/4 while defending a modest 114 on a slow surface. Coming off an Asia Cup triumph and a gold-winning campaign at the Asian Games, India finally over-

came the nerves with Deepti Sharma and rising all-rounder Niki Prasad's measured performances. On her senior international debut, the 20-year-old Niki remained unbeaten on 39 against Zimbabwe, helping India recover from their early batting collapse and hit the winning runs.

She followed it up with a match-winning spell of 2/7 in the second T20I, taking a wicket with each of her first two deliveries at the international level. Mandhana led from the front with an unbeaten 47 off 25 balls, while Shafali Verma struck a blistering 55 off just 25 deliveries as India cruised



to a nine-wicket victory in the second T20I on Sunday to take an unassailable 2-0 lead. Mandhana's return to form was a major positive for India as the skipper looks to build momentum ahead of the Champions

Trophy in February. She has been in terrific form over the last three years with two centuries and 15 half-centuries in T20Is, while her strike rate in 2026 has climbed above 150. Shafali, on the other hand, has

scored 922 runs at a strike rate of 165.52 to be the leading run-getter of 2026. The opening pair will once again be expected to provide a strong start and put Zimbabwe's bowling attack under pressure. One area India will be keen to assess is the crucial No. 3 position, where Anushka Sharma has been given an opportunity in the absence of the injured Jemimah Rodrigues. The 23-year-old managed just four runs in the first match and did not get much of an opportunity in the second. The final T20I could offer her another chance to make an impression and strengthen her

case. The biggest positive for India, however, has been the emergence of Niki, the 2025 Under-19 Women's T20 World Cup-winning skipper. The all-rounder has made an impressive transition to the senior side, showing composure with the bat and promise with her off-spin. Niki has said the team environment has helped her settle in quickly. "This is my first time with the Indian team and overall the environment in the dressing room is very good. I think Smriti didi is carrying forward the same environment (as her predecessor Harmanpreet Kaur)," she said

Pragyan Ojha named India chief selector, Ramesh Powar replaces Ajit Agarkar; why Parthiv Patel stayed out



MUMBAI : (AGENCY)

Former India spinner Pragyan Ojha will chair the men's selection committee, with Ramesh Powar replacing Ajit Agarkar on the five-member panel, the BCCI announced. The Cricket Advisory Committee (CAC), comprising Ashok Malhotra and Jatin Paranjape, met at the BCCI headquarters to screen and interview applicants and unanimously recommended Powar's appointment. Powar represented India in two Tests and 31 ODIs during his international playing career. He has since held major coaching roles, including head coach of the India women's team, Mumbai and Gujarat, as well as bowling coach at the BCCI Centre of Excellence. During his stint with the India women's team, he guided them to an Asia Cup title and a Commonwealth

Games silver medal. "The BCCI places on record its appreciation for Mr Ajit Agarkar for his commitment, conviction and contribution during his tenure as Chairman of the Men's Selection Committee," the board said. Since his appointment in July 2023, Agarkar led the committee through a significant period for Indian cricket, with India winning three ICC trophies, two Asia Cup titles and back-to-back Asian Games gold medals, the BCCI said. The men's selection committee comprises Pragyan Ojha (chairperson), Shiv Sundar Das, RP Singh, Ajay Ratra and Ramesh Powar. Earlier, The Telegraph reported on October 18 that Ojha was set to replace Agarkar as chief selector after a decision was made that Powar would serve as the West Zone representative on the five-member committee.

The report noted that former left-arm spinner Ojha, who played 24 Tests, had served as interim chairman after Agarkar's departure, as he was the most senior among the four on the panel. Parthiv Patel was tipped to take over from Agarkar but the former wicketkeeper-batter didn't apply when the deadline for the senior panel closed on Wednesday.

"It is understood that Parthiv backtracked after considering certain financial issues," the Telegraph reported. "The remuneration for the selection committee chief is reportedly Rs 3 crore annually, and Parthiv is believed to lose out substantially if he has to sacrifice his TV commentary assignments and commitments with Gujarat Titans in the IPL." Sources told The Telegraph that the BCCI decided to go ahead with Powar as West Zone representative, not Jaffer, who played 31 Tests, to keep the selectors in sync with the team management's current policy ahead of the ODI World Cup. Ojha has been around for more than a year and is conversant with the team management's wishes. Powar, earlier interviewed for the junior selection panel, was initially considered for the chairman's role but eventually co-opted into the senior panel, the report said.

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How Kylie Jenner's \$50 Million Victoria's Secret Bra Was Made: 4,410 Diamonds, 1,000 Hours



Kylie Jenner has added another milestone to her fashion journey by making her debut on the Victoria's Secret runway. The beauty mogul turned heads in a dazzling fantasy bra valued at \$50 million. The stunning piece featured intricate dia-

mond embellishments and reportedly took over 1,000 hours to make. Kylie walked the runway in a sheer mini skirt paired with transparent heels and white feathered wings. While the ensemble brought the signature Victoria's Secret glamour to her debut, it was the dazzling Fantasy Bra that stole the spotlight. As per a report in Vogue, the Fantasy Bra is valued at a staggering \$50 million, making it \$35 million more expensive than any of its predecessors. Created in collaboration with jewellery designer Jacob Arabo of Jacob & Co, the statement piece features 4,410 natural diamonds surrounding a 75.54-carat radiant-cut vivid yellow diamond. The lingerie weighs just under 4 pounds (1.8 kg). The intricate design took 15 skilled artisans more than 1,000 hours to assemble. Victoria's Secret's decision to pick Kylie for the Fantasy Bra presentation was both deliberate and strategic. Speaking to Vogue, the brand's chief creative officer Adam Selman explained that the return of the piece was a response to fans who had been asking to see the bra again. The brand wanted someone with massive cultural influence to wear it, making Kylie, known for her global reach and impact, on popular culture, a fitting choice for the high-profile runway moment. "Kylie really extends beyond fashion, beyond culture, beyond TV, beyond one singular thing. That's the exact same thing that we do. The show is so big, it's true entertainment, and I think that she is a great catalyst for that. She's really created her own culture, which - how many people can say that?" Selman said. (AGENCY)

'Parineeta' to 'Anusandhan': Memorable dhunuchi dance sequences in Hindi films and web series

Dhunuchi dance is an inseparable part of Durga Puja festivities. And it has been prominently featured in Hindi films and web series too, to showcase Bengali culture and mount dramatic festive sequences. As the ongoing celebrations of Durga Puja are in full throttle, here is a look at a few scenes which stand out. Anusandhan (1981) Inspector Abhijeet (Amitabh Bachchan) engages in a high-stakes, competitive face-off against the villain Kaliram (Amjad Khan) during the Durga Puja festival. They challenge each other to a rhythmic dhaak-playing duel right in front of the Goddess Durga



idol. Parineeta (2005) Pradeep Sarkar's romantic drama is deeply rooted in Kolkata and opens with a grand Durga Puja sequence. Shekhar (Saif Ali Khan) performs a traditional dhunuchi dance in front of the Durga idol to the heavy rhythm of the dhaaks, while Lolita (Vidya Balan) watches over him and picks up burnt coconut shells. Later in the film, Girish (Sanjay

Dutt) also takes up the earthen pot and delivers an energetic dhunuchi performance. Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahani (2023) The film's high-energy song Dhindhora Baje Re is set against a massive, vibrant Durga Puja pandal. The choreography heavily showcases the ensemble cast and background dancers aggressively performing with smoking dhunuchis to emphasise the fierce power of the festival. The Revolutionaries (2026) Composed by Shreyas Purnanik, Jai Durga from The Revolutionaries celebrates the power of Maa Durga. Featuring Bhuvan Bam, Rohit Saraf. (AGENCY)

'Jailer 2' crosses Rs 400-crore mark globally in four days, emerges highest-grossing Tamil film of 2026

Superstar Rajinikanth's Jailer 2 has crossed the Rs 400-crore mark at the worldwide box office within four days of its release, with the Nelson Dilipkumar-directed action drama collecting an estimated Rs 424.25 crore. The sequel to the 2023 blockbuster earned Rs 55.85 crore India nett on Sunday, taking its domestic nett collection to Rs 199.90 crore, according to industry tracker Sacnilk. The film's India gross collection stands at Rs 234.25 crore, while its overseas earnings have reached Rs 190 crore, taking its worldwide gross to Rs 424.25 crore. The film registered an 18.2 per cent increase in India nett collections on Sunday compared with Saturday's Rs 47.25 crore nett. It opened with Rs 59.70 crore nett on Thursday, followed by Rs 37.10 crore nett on Friday. The Tamil version led the collections on Sunday with Rs 39.95 crore India nett, followed by the Telugu version at Rs 9.50 crore. The Hindi version contributed Rs 5.75 crore, while the Kannada version earned Rs 65 lakh. Jailer 2 recorded an overall occupancy of 62 per cent across 15,473 shows on Sunday. The film has emerged as the highest-grossing Tamil release of 2026 so far, surpassing Vijay-starrer Jana Nayagan, directed by H Vinoth, which earned Rs 324.68 crore worldwide during its theatrical run. The story of Jailer 2 picks up after the events of the first film, in which Tiger Muthuvel Pandian (Rajinikanth), killed Varman (Vinayakan), and was warned that a larger network of idol smugglers could target him. In the sequel, Muthu attempts to lead a normal family life while working as a supermarket supervisor. (AGENCY)



'Street Fighter' review: Big on nostalgia and action, but short on a compelling story

Making a good Street Fighter film should not be this difficult. Capcom's hugely popular fighting game has all the ingredients for a big-screen spectacle: colourful characters, outrageous costumes, gravity-defying moves and fighters capable of unleashing fireballs with their bare hands. Yet, previous attempts to bring the franchise to cinema have struggled to capture its appeal. Director Kitao Sakurai's 2026 adaptation seems determined to put that right. Instead of trying to make the characters and their extraordinary abilities look realistic, the film embraces the games' exaggerated world. Neon-lit settings, flamboyant costumes, larger-than-life personalities and spectacular fighting moves take centre stage. There is little attempt to hide the absurdity of it all, and that is precisely how a Street Fighter film should approach its source material. But while Sakurai gets the look and tone largely right, the film stumbles when it comes to story-



telling. Street Fighter, the movie, is energetic and occasionally great fun, but it is also messy, overstuffed and frustratingly short on meaningful action. The story begins in 1987, when martial artist Ryu (Andrew Koji) defeats Sagat at the first World Warrior Tournament. His master, Gouken (Don Lee), and close friend Ken Masters (Noah Centineo) witness the victory. But the celebrations do not last long. Gouken's mysterious death and the fallout from the tournament drive Ryu and Ken apart, sending them

down very different paths. Years later, Ryu has withdrawn from the world, living a quiet life away from the spotlight. Ken, meanwhile, has become a celebrity martial artist whose fame is beginning to fade. Their paths cross again when Chun-Li (Callina Liang) recruits them for another World Warrior Tournament, organised by the dictator M. Bison (David Dastmalchian). Ken sees the competition as a chance to revive his career. Ryu has more personal reasons for getting involved, including fears. (AGENCY)

Rhea Chakraborty Explains What 'Shakti' Means for Her : 'It Is About Having Faith in Yourself'

Actor Rhea Chakraborty has opened up about what the festival of Durga Puja and the concept of Shakti (strength) mean to her and how her understanding has evolved over the years. The idea of Shakti was not only about being fearless, but also having the courage to ask for help when you need it, she told Hindustan Times. "Earlier, I probably thought strength meant being fearless or being able to handle everything," she says. Today, she believes the term also means "being vulnerable" and having the courage to start again. "For me, Shakti is about having faith in yourself, even when the

"Earlier, I probably thought strength meant being fearless or being able to handle everything," she says.

world doesn't necessarily have faith in you," she adds. The idea of starting again does not mean pretending that the past never happened; it means accepting all that has brought a person to this stage in their life and moving forward, she says. Speaking about her own experiences, the actor says, "I've learnt that life doesn't always go according

to the plan you make for yourself, and that's okay. Sometimes, the unexpected turns you towards a version of yourself you may never have discovered otherwise." Rhea says that she feels more open to creating a life on her own terms these days. The actor also recalled her memories of pandal-hopping with friends and family during Durga Puja and enjoying festive meals with them. Her understanding of strength also formed Rhea's views on women's safety and equality. She says that change must start with how children are raised and how society reacts. (AGENCY)



'Kotha Hoyechhilo' to 'Chirodini Tumi Je Aamar': Songs that ruled Durga Puja pandals in 1990s

The sound of Durga Puja in Bengal has always been about more than the rhythmic beats of the dhaak. For generations of Bengalis, film songs and modern Bengali numbers have been an integral part of the festivities. In the 1980s and 1990s, compositions by Bappi Lahiri and R.D. Burman, brought alive by the voices of Kishore Kumar and Asha Bhosle, set the mood for everything from a romantic evening to an impromptu dance session. If one song captures the youthful energy of a Puja evening, it is Kotha Hoyechhilo. Composed by R.D. Burman, the lively number features Debashree Roy and Mithun Chakraborty and is sung by Asha Bhosle and Kishore Kumar. Its infectious rhythm and romantic appeal made it a favourite among Puja revellers, with



the song lending itself equally well to a crowded pandal and a spontaneous dance. Even today, it can get people across generations moving to its beat. As its title suggests, Emon Modhur Shondhay seems made for a festive evening. Composed by R.D. Burman for Ekanto Apon, the song combines gentle orchestration with Asha Bhosle's vocals. It became the kind of number that could set the mood as the evening crowds gathered at neighbourhood pandals. Decades later, its romantic appeal continues to resonate. (AGENCY)

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