

# OPEN SEARCH

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## PM Modi inaugurates Chinmaya Amrit Mahotsav Global Sammelan

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Chinmaya Amrit Mahotsav Global Sammelan today at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. Addressing the occasion, the Prime Minister described his participation as a deeply spiritual experience born of the saints' affection and blessings. Emphasizing that the Chinmaya Mission is not a mere institution but an immortal consciousness founded by a sage and driven by decades of sacred resolutions, he noted the profound aptness of the celebration's title.

Reflecting on how modern technology heightened the emotional resonance of the event through a Holobot interaction with Revered Gurudev Swami Chinmayananda, the Prime Minister shared that the experience transported him 33 years back to his 1993 meeting with the spiritual leader in Vadodara. Recalling Gurudev's warmth, conversation, and blessings as if standing in his direct presence once more, he expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Mission's members for creating such a moving tribute. "For me, this is a very emotional experi-



### Prime Minister congratulates Ajay Kumar on winning Bronze at the Asian Para Games

ence," remarked PM Modi. Recounting his February-March 1993 visit to invite Swami Chinmayananda to Chicago for the centenary of the Parliament of the World's Religions, marking 100 years of Swami Vivekananda's historic address, the Prime Minister

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today congratulated Ajay Kumar for winning Bronze in the Men's 400m T64 event at the Asian Para Games. Modi stated that his performance on the track has brought another moment of pride for India, expressing hope that he continues to push boundaries and achieve greater success. In a post on X, the

Prime Minister's Office shared: "Congratulations to Ajay Kumar on winning Bronze in the Men's 400m T64 event at the Asian Para Games! His performance on the track has brought another moment of pride for India. May he continue to push boundaries and achieve greater success: PM @narendramodi"

noted how Gurudev tirelessly rallied people across America for the event before passing away in San Diego on August 3. Remembering how deeply Gurudev's absence was felt at the Chicago gathering on September 11, he recalled their final conversation,

which centered on cultivating youth power. "Its main essence was the building of youth power, and building a strong and capable India through youth power!" affirmed Shri Modi.

Tracing his 25-year journey of continuous service as a head of government

since becoming the Chief Minister of Gujarat a few years after that meeting, the Prime Minister stated that the nation's youth have remained at the heart of his policies. He lauded the young volunteers of the Chinmaya Amrit Mahotsav for shouldering major responsibilities and covering 40,000 kilometers over 300 days to engage with over one lakh young citizens. "I congratulate the entire team for this wonderful effort as well," lauded PM Modi. Invoking the Upanishadic dictum "Vayam Amritasya Putrah" (We are the children of immortality), the Prime Minister explained that India has endured for millennia as a seeker of knowledge and light because its consciousness and wisdom are immortal, which inspired him on the 75th anniversary of Independence to call for an Amrit Mahotsav that serves both as a launchpad for a Viksit Bharat, and a revival of India's millennia-old concern for humanity. Noting how numerous spiritual, cultural, and social bodies have since taken sacred pledges at key milestones, he celebrated the Chinmaya Mission's integration into the nation's Amrit Kaal campaign.

## Cabinet Secretariat 'refused action' on ECs' complaints against officer over order 'to centralise powers': RTI

NEW DELHI. (AGENCY)

The Cabinet Secretariat refrained from taking any action on complaints sent by two Election Commissioners against the conduct of an officer in the Commission, noting that the communications were in their "individual capacity" and in the absence of "any official communication from the Commission as a whole, any action at this stage may be inappropriate", according to an RTI disclosure. Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had sent two separate communications on July 29 to the top bureaucrat of the country TV Somanathan, on the working of Senior Deputy Election Commissioner (Sr. DEC) Maneesh Garg, IAS, who was posted in the Commission by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet on September 2, 2024, the letters provided in the RTI reply to activist Commodore Lokesh K Batra (redd) show. Media reports had reported in September that Sandhu and Joshi wrote separately to Cabinet Secretary TV Somanathan after issuance of a work allocation order within the poll body that "threatened



**Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi had sent two separate communications on July 29 to the top bureaucrat of the country TV Somanathan, on the working of Senior Deputy Election Commissioner (Sr. DEC) Maneesh Garg, IAS, who was posted in the Commission by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet**

to concentrate the powers" at the EC centrally to add or delete names and update records in the voters' list rather than allowing officials at the state level. In a statement on September 26, the Election Commission (EC) had said that the work redistribution orders issued by the officer concerned

were never implemented following directions from the two Commissioners. The poll panel had said that the letters sent by Sandhu and Joshi to the Cabinet Secretary pertained to an officer on deputation, rather than policy or IT division matters. "Both the ECs have stated that Shri Garg, after assuming the charge as link officer of DEC (Admn.), has issued an order regarding work allocation of equivalent and senior officers to him without discussing the revised work allocation with the Commission or the officers concerned.

Further, the aforementioned ECs have stated that this has happened despite repeated oral and written instructions to all concerned officers against taking such actions without prior discussion/approval of the Commission," a Cabinet note provided in the RTI response said.

10th Military Literature Festival :

## 3-day event to be held in Chandigarh from Nov 13-15

CHANDIGARH. (AGENCY)

The 10th edition of the Military Literature Festival (MLF) is scheduled to be held in Chandigarh from November 13 to 15, with the Iran-Israel conflict and the relevance of the Russia-Ukraine war to the Indian subcontinent among the prominent topics to be deliberated upon by experts. The event will be inaugurated by Punjab Governor and Chandigarh Administrator Gulab Chand Kataria, while the keynote address will be delivered by Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann will preside over the closing ceremony. Group Captain Shubanshu Shukla, the first Indian astronaut to stay aboard the International Space Station, will deliver a



**Iran-Israel conflict, Russia-Ukraine war among prominent topics; Punjab Governor Gulab Chand Kataria, J-K CM Omar Abdullah, astronaut and Group Captain Shubanshu Shukla among speakers**

talk titled "From Fighter Cockpit to Space Craft: India's New Frontier in Air and Space Power". A special session on space warfare has also been scheduled. Other themes for the MLF include the way forward in

Jammu and Kashmir, the turbulent world order and its impact on India, geopolitical instability and the energy crisis, the defence manufacturing ecosystem, the significance of strategic straits, martial history and legendary warriors. Apart from panel discussions, documentaries on the Indian military, films on real-life war heroes, weapons displays, military paintings and philately, and interactions with gallantry awardees.

## All 14 Indians on yacht targeted off Yemen coast in Red Sea safe : Embassy

**DUBAI : (AGENCY)** India on Friday said that its 14 nationals onboard a yacht involved in an incident off the coast of Yemen are safe and it will continue to work to ensure their well-being. Some Arab media on Thursday quoted Yemen's Houthi spokesman Yahya Saree as claiming that Saudi forces targeted the Indian yacht near Yuqar Island near the Yemeni coast in the Red Sea. India seeks 'facts' on report of Saudi forces targeting yacht with 14 nationals off Yemen coast Saree said that the yacht is carrying 14 Indian nationals and that Houthi forces are rescuing them. He said more details would be provided later. "Reports suggest that all 14 Indian nationals are safe and located around Hodeidah in Yemen," the Indian mission posted on social media on Friday. "We will continue to work for ensuring their well-being," it said. Indian embassy has not yet specifically commented on the source of the attack on the yacht. Earlier, the Indian embassy said it has reached out to different parties to "establish circumstances and facts" surrounding the incident. The incident comes amid an escalation of hostilities between Iran-backed Houthis and Saudi Arabia.

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)

The situation along the India-China border gets disturbed when Chinese forces deviate from established patrolling patterns, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Friday, responding to the ITBP chief's comments that face-offs between the two sides were continuing at several locations in Arunachal Pradesh. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said both countries continued to use existing diplomatic and military mechanisms to address outstanding issues and prevent misunderstandings along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). "As we have noted in the past, the situation in the India-China border areas gets disturbed from time to time when Chinese forces diverge from established patrolling patterns," Jaiswal said. Asked about the specifics of the face-offs cited by Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) Director-General Shatruijet



**It was responding to the ITBP chief's comments that face-offs between the 2 sides are continuing at several locations in Arunachal Pradesh**

Kapoor, the spokesperson referred the query to the Ministry of Defence. The remarks came a day after Kapoor, while addressing ITBP personnel in

Alwar, said face-offs between Indian and Chinese forces were still continuing at several locations in Arunachal Pradesh. His comments marked an official confirmation of the ongoing confrontations. Jaiswal said the two sides had agreed to discuss ways to improve their understanding of the LAC in appropriate areas to strengthen border management. "I would also like to emphasise that the maintenance of peace and tranquillity in the border areas is essential for the overall development of bilateral relations," he said. India and China have been seeking to manage tensions along the disputed boundary through diplomatic and military-level engagements. Differences over patrolling and the perception of the LAC have remained a source of friction, with both sides maintaining their respective positions on the boundary, blished patrolling patterns and continued communication between the two sides.

Bengaluru blast :

## NIA probes IED angle, police scan CCTV footage

BENGALURU : (AGENCY)

The possibility of an improvised explosive device (IED) being used in the explosion at an under-construction building in Bengaluru has come under scrutiny, with the National Investigation Agency (NIA) examining the case as investigators race to establish the source of the blast, its intended target and the motive behind it. The October 20 explosion on the fourth floor of a building on Jeremiah Road in Pulkeshinagar injured two people - a construction worker from Assam, Allaaddin, and a security guard from Uttar Pradesh, Suraj. The blast has triggered an intensive investigation, with police exploring multiple leads and awaiting forensic findings to determine the nature of the explosive material. Five special police teams have been deployed to crack the case,



**The blast has triggered an intensive investigation, with police exploring multiple leads and awaiting forensic findings to determine the nature of the explosive material.**

while investigators have examined footage from more than 100 CCTV cameras to trace the movements of people and identify anyone who may have delivered the suspected explosive material to the site. The probe is also focusing on whether the security guard was the intended target and whether personal enmity played a role. Investigators are questioning.

## President lauds the unique traditions and tribal culture of Bastar Dussehra

RAIPUR. OPEN SEARCH

President Smt. Draupadi Murmu today attended the world-famous Bastar Dussehra festival held in Jagdalpur, the sacred land of Bastar's revered goddess Maa Danteshwari. On this occasion, she praised the unique religious and cultural traditions of Bastar Dussehra and described it as a living symbol of Chhattisgarh's cultural pride, collective faith, social harmony and tribal heritage. She said that this unique festival, which lasts for about 75 days, is an excellent example of binding different communities together and preserving traditions passed down through generations.

Paying homage to Goddess Danteshwari, the President said that it was a special pleasure for him to participate in the world-renowned Bastar Dussehra festival. The festival's most significant feature is the



active participation of various clans, communities, and all sections of society. From chariot construction to chariot pulling, worship, and various rituals, each community fulfills its traditional responsibilities. This collective participation is an extraordinary example of social unity, mutual cooperation, and cultural continuity. Muria Darbar is an excellent example of democratic traditions - President Murmu described

the Muria Darbar tradition, held during Bastar Dussehra, as an excellent example of grassroots democracy. She said that in this tradition, representatives from various sections of society come together to discuss public problems, needs, and social issues. Solutions found through collective dialogue pave the way for social prosperity and mutual cooperation. Such traditions strengthen the roots of Indian democ-

racy and give new prestige to democratic values.

He said that about two months ago, he met with a delegation from Bastar at Rashtrapati Bhavan. This included Bastar Pandum winners, as well as Pargana Manjhi and Chalki from Bastar. Events like the Bastar Pandum play an important role in connecting tribal youth with their culture, customs, and traditions. It is necessary to provide opportunities to the

**Bastar Dussehra is a living symbol of social harmony, collective faith and democratic values - President Draupadi Murmu**

**Now it is time for reconstruction and development in Bastar free from Maoism - Chief Minister Vishnudev Sai**

talents of tribal society.

The President stated that tribal communities possess immense talent and potential. Given the right opportunities, encouragement, and resources, the sons and daughters of tribal communities can bring glory to the nation in every sphere of life. He commended the enthusiastic participation of tribal youth in the Bastar Olympics, stating that by providing a proper platform for their sporting talent, Bastar's youth can make their mark

internationally in the future and bring glory to the nation by winning medals in prestigious events like the Olympics.

The President, referring to Chhattisgarh's liberation from the Naxalite problem and the positive changes taking place in the areas of security and development, praised the coordinated efforts of the Central and State governments. He said that, freed from the scourge of Naxalism, the region is moving forward on the path of progress. He expressed confidence that the youth of Bastar and the tribal community will make significant contributions to the country's development journey through their talent, hard work, and participation. Referring to the historical and religious significance of the Bastar region, President Murmu said that in the Ramayana, this region is linked to Dandakaranya. Numerous episodes related

# Surajkund diwali mela providing a new market for 'swadeshi' products and Artisans : CM

More than 6 lakh families connected through Self-Help Groups, financial assistance worth 596 crore provided so far: CM

VIJAY KUMAR.OPEN SEARCH

**CHANDIGARH :** Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said the Surajkund Diwali Mela is a meaningful initiative to provide a new market to artisans, craftspeople and artists who are working hard to realise the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and promote Swadeshi products. The objective of the Mela is to bring local products directly to customers without intermediaries and ensure that artisans receive fair returns for their hard work. He said that growing public trust in local products would help artisans reach new customers and encourage them to expand their work.

Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini was addressing a gathering on Friday at the inauguration of the Diwali Mela at Surajkund in Faridabad. Haryana Heritage and Tourism Minister Dr. Arvind Sharma and several other dignitaries were present on the occasion. Artists also presented colourful cultural performances during the ceremony.

Welcoming all visitors and tourists attending the



Mela, Sh. Nayab Singh Saini extended his greetings to Karwa Chauth, Ahoi Ashtami, Dhanteras, Diwali, Vishwakarma Puja, Govardhan Puja, Bhai Dooj and Chhath Puja. He said that the Mela, being organised from October 23 to 26, would showcase Indian handicrafts, folk culture and the diverse culinary traditions of different regions. Families visiting the Mela would have an opportunity to experience the country's rich traditions up close and purchase products made by artisans and craftspeople. The Chief Minister said that Prime Minister Sh.

Narendra Modi has set the goal of building a Viksit Bharat by 2047. Achieving this vision requires connecting self-reliance and the 'Vocal for Local' initiative with public participation. Village potters, weavers, carpenters, small shopkeepers and women entrepreneurs have an important role to play in this endeavour. The Surajkund Diwali Mela provides an opportunity to strengthen this participation. He said that the most beautiful light of Diwali is the one that illuminates not only our own homes but also the homes of hardworking families.

Purchasing products made by local artisans during festivals supports their livelihoods. Such purchases help artisans generate resources to take up new work, buy raw materials and create employment opportunities for others associated with their work.

The Chief Minister said that adopting Swadeshi means trusting the talent of our own country and giving it opportunities to grow. By incorporating quality Indian-made products into our lives, we can honour the skills and hard work of our artisans. Giving preference to Indian handicrafts for

home decoration, clothing and festive gifts would boost artisans' confidence and motivate them to improve their products further.

The Chief Minister said that Sanjha Bazaars are being established at all district headquarters across the state. Online and offline platforms have been made available to support marketing and branding. So far, 10 Sanjha Bazaars have been established in Haryana. In addition, the 'SVAPN Digital Gram Bazaar Portal' and the 'Sanjha Bazaar Sales Portal' have been launched under the Haryana State Rural Livelihoods Mission.

Artisans and Self-Help Groups can register on these portals and sell their products online. Training facilities have also been arranged to help them understand the requirements of online marketplaces. He said that Self-Help Groups have emerged as a strong medium for women's empowerment, and their products are gaining recognition across the state. Under the Haryana State Rural Livelihoods Mission, more than 6 lakh families have been connected through 67,641 Self-Help Groups so far. These groups

receive financial assistance through easy loans in the form of Revolving Funds and Community Investment Funds. Various forms of financial assistance amounting to ₹596 crore have been provided to date. The Community Investment Fund amount has been increased from ₹50,000 to ₹1.5 lakh.

The Chief Minister said that Haryana has continued to connect people from across the country and the world through events such as the Surajkund Crafts Mela, the International Gita Mahotsav in Kurukshetra and the Mango Festival in Pinjore. Such events provide local producers with opportunities to showcase their products and connect with new customers. The Surajkund Diwali Mela further strengthens this cultural and economic connection. The Chief Minister also urged all participating artisans and visitors to fulfil their responsibilities towards cleanliness and environmental protection. He called upon them to keep the Mela grounds and surrounding areas clean, carry cloth bags while shopping, and avoid wasting food and water.

## 'Mera Pani Meri Virasat' Scheme Promotes Water Conservation and Crop Diversification : Agriculture Minister Shyam Singh

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH

Haryana Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Shyam Singh Rana has emphasised that crop diversification and water conservation are important strategies for curbing the declining groundwater levels, maintaining soil fertility and promoting climate-resilient agriculture in the state. He said that shifting away from water-intensive monoculture crops such as paddy and sugarcane towards crops requiring less water is essential for the long-term sustainability of agriculture, particularly in water-stressed regions. To prevent the excessive



exploitation of precious and increasingly scarce natural resources such as water, the Haryana Govt launched the 'Mera Pani Meri Virasat' scheme, an innovative initiative that provides financial assistance to farmers who replace paddy with alternative crops. The Agriculture Minister explained that when the scheme was initially launched, farmers were provided financial assistance of ₹7,000 per acre for cultivating alternative crops instead of paddy.

## Chief Secretary Anurag Rastogi reviews progress at 14th state-level NCORD meeting

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH

Haryana's intensified campaign against drug trafficking resulted in property attachments worth ₹19.52 crore and 6,824 arrests from January to September 2026. These details were highlighted at the 14th state-level Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) Committee meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Sh. Anurag Rastogi here today.

The Chief Secretary reviewed enforcement progress and measures to strengthen prosecution, financial investigation and rehabilitation. The meeting also reviewed departmental action under the National



Roadmap on Narcotics Control, 2026-29, and follow-up measures arising from the previous state-level NCORD meeting.

ADGP, Haryana State Narcotic Control Bureau (HSNCB), Sh. Sanjay Kumar informed that the value of attached property increased nearly 230%, from ₹5.92 crore in January-September 2025 to ₹19.52 crore in the same

**Haryana intensifies campaign against drug trafficking, 19.52-crore property attached, 6,824 arrests made in 9 months**

period of 2026. The number of individuals whose property was attached rose by 108.97%, from 78 to 163. These figures highlight Haryana's increased focus on identifying and targeting financial assets linked to drug trafficking. The state has set a property-attachment target of ₹30 crore by December 2026, with properties worth ₹15.09 crore currently under consideration by the Competent Authority in Delhi. The ADGP informed that

enforcement activity increased during the nine-month period. FIRs registered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act rose by 39.93%, from 2,722 to 3,809. Arrests increased by 26.53%, from 5,393 to 6,824, while cases involving commercial quantities rose by 9.83%, from 346 to 380.

Heroin seizures nearly doubled, increasing by 96.16% from 43.176 kg to 84.695 kg. Opium recoveries rose by 82.69%, from 235.550 kg to 430.3 kg. Cocaine seizures increased by 194.47% to approximately 2.96 kg, while MD/MDMA recoveries rose by 235.51% to approximately 1.76 kg.

## Dr. Sumita Misra inaugurates Medical Equipment Worth Rs. 1.20 Crore at MLA Hostel Dispensary

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH

In a transformative push that promises to end the familiar ordeal of shuffling between buildings and waiting days for basic test results, Additional Chief Secretary, Health & Family Welfare, Dr. Sumita Misra on Friday inaugurated a Rs 1.20 crore diagnostic and therapeutic upgrade at the MLA Hostel Dispensary in Sector 3, turning a routine government clinic into a full-service, high-tech healing hub for citizens across the Tricity, legislators from two states, and government employees. The message is sharp and patient-centric: the days of being handed a referral slip and sent hunting for a working machine



elsewhere are over. From advanced 4D ultrasound imaging that can peer into a fetal heart to shockwave therapy that can heal chronic pain without surgery, the equipment now humming in this dispensary brings hospital-grade care to the outpatient's doorstep. At the centre of the upgrade stands a state-of-the-art Ultrasound Colour Doppler System, pro-

**Advanced ultrasound with 4D imaging and fetal echocardiography, digital X-ray, shockwave therapy and ECG inaugurated at MLA Hostel Dispensary; patients across Tricity to get same-day scans, pain relief and cardiac checks under one roof**

cured at Rs 77.15 lakh, which represents a quantum leap from ordinary scanning machines. Capable of capturing 1,500 frames per second with an imaging depth of 40 cm, the system offers 4D imaging, fetal echocardiography, and advanced elastography for liver, breast and thyroid

conditions. With needle-visualisation software that tracks instruments clearly even at steep angles, doctors can now perform procedural guidance with pinpoint accuracy. The machine stores up to one lakh images digitally, offers DICOM and HIS/RIS connectivity, and uses artificial intelligence algorithms to automatically acquire the best diagnostic frame, cutting scan time while raising accuracy.

For expectant mothers, cardiac patients, and those battling unexplained abdominal or soft-tissue pain, this means a single visit can now yield a level of diagnostic clarity that once required a trip to a tertiary hospital.

## CM Window and Jan Samvad Grievances Must Be Resolved in a Timely Manner : Bhopal Singh Khadri

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH

Special Officer to Haryana Chief Minister, Sh. Bhopal Singh Khadri, directed officials to ensure the prompt and quality disposal of all grievances received through the CM Window and Jan Samvad portals. He instructed officials to upload the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the online portal immediately after resolving each grievance, ensuring that citizens receive the actual benefits of grievance redressal. Sh. Khadri was chairing a review meeting at his office in the Civil Secretariat, Chandigarh, on Friday. During the meeting, a detailed review was conducted of CM Window and Jan Samvad grievances



related to several key departments, including Home, Police, Police Housing Corporation, Waqf Board, Technical Education, and Food and Supplies.

He directed officials to ensure the early release of pending commissions to ration depot operators in both rural and urban areas of the state. He also instructed officials to ensure the timely disbursement of scholarships to SC and BC students studying in col-

leges. During the meeting, Sh. Khadri directed Waqf Board officials to submit a progress report within one week regarding complaints of illegal encroachments on Waqf Board properties across the state. In addition, officials of the Jail Department were instructed to resolve prison-related grievances on priority and improve administrative functioning. Directions were also issued to ensure the time-bound resolution

of employees' grievances pending at the government level. Sh. Khadri cautioned officials that the Chief Minister himself is regularly reviewing grievances received through the CM Window and Jan Samvad portals. Merely marking complaints, forwarding them to other departments, or closing cases as a formality without ensuring a concrete resolution would not be considered proper redressal.

He stated that any unnecessary delay in resolving grievances or non-compliance with directions would be viewed seriously. Administrative and disciplinary action would be taken against negligent officials and employees.

## Youth Must Embrace Saint Ravidas's Ideals and Stand Against Discrimination to Promote Equality and Humanity : Ashim Ghosh

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH

Haryana Governor Prof. Ashim Kumar Ghosh today called upon the youth to go beyond studying the teachings of Saint Ravidas in books and curricula and incorporate his ideals into their daily lives. He urged them to stand for equality wherever discrimination exists, extend support wherever help is needed, and create opportunities for those who are deprived of them. This, he said, would be a true tribute to Saint Ravidas. The Governor was addressing an international seminar on 'Saint Ravidas: Parampara, Pratirodh aur Parivartan Ki Chetna' at Panjab University, Chandigarh. Prof. Ghosh said that the vision of



'Begumpura' articulated by Saint Ravidas envisages a society free from fear, discrimination and injustice, where every individual enjoys dignity and equal opportunities. He emphasized the need to build an India where every child has access to education, every young person gets opportunities to realise their potential, women enjoy equal opportunities, and every individual can live with dig-

nity. He added that building such a society is not merely the responsibility of the government but a collective responsibility of all citizens.

The Governor observed that social media offers numerous avenues for communication and engagement. These platforms must be used to strengthen social cohesion, promote mutual understanding and encourage constructive dialogue rather than create divisions.

Differences of opinion are natural, he said, but mutual respect must always be upheld. This is the hallmark of a democratic society and a vital strength of Indian culture. He also urged universities and academic institutions to ensure that discussions on Saint Ravidas do not remain confined to one-day events. Continuous research into his literature, philosophy and social thought, meaningful dialogue among students, and wider dissemination of his teachings beyond classrooms are essential to bring his ideals into society.

Referring to the famous saying of Saint Ravidas, 'Mann Changa Toh Kathauti Mein Ganga', the Governor said that meaningful transformation begins within

oneself. Equality in thought, respect in conduct and humanity in the heart can bring positive change from the family to society at large. He called upon everyone to resolve to make the teachings of Saint Ravidas an integral part of their daily conduct rather than limiting them to books, speeches and public platforms.

Prof. Ghosh said that India is advancing rapidly in technology, artificial intelligence, the digital revolution and emerging economic opportunities. However, he stressed that progress must be inclusive and ensure that no individual or section of society is left behind. True development, he said, is one in which every person, including the most disadvantaged, enjoys dignity.

## Children to learn through play-based activities at anganwadi centres : Shruti Choudhry

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH

Haryana Women and Child Development Minister Smt. Shruti Choudhry said that the early years of a child's life are extremely important for physical, mental, emotional and social development. Keeping this in view, the Women and Child Development Department is providing opportunities for children aged 3 to 6 years to learn through play at Anganwadi centres, with the aim of laying a strong foundation for their education and paving the way for a bright future.

She said that under the concept of 'Aage Badhe Bachpan', emphasis is being placed on educating children through engaging activities suited to their age



and learning abilities. For this purpose, the department has provided Teaching-Learning Materials (TLM) at Anganwadi centres, enabling children to learn new things naturally through play, conversations and various activities.

Smt. Shruti Choudhry said that play-based learning helps improve children's language and communication skills. It enables them

to develop the ability to listen, speak, express their thoughts and understand others. Alongside this, it also strengthens their thinking, comprehension, memory, reasoning and problem-solving abilities.

She said that activities involving colours, shapes, counting, classification and everyday experiences provide children with opportunities to acquire new skills. Playing in groups and participating in activities help them learn to live harmoniously with others, wait for their turn, cooperate with peers and develop positive social behaviour. Such activities also promote self-confidence, emotional balance and the ability to work independently.

# Grand Commencement of the 79th Annual Nirankari Sant Samagam

SAMALKHA. OPEN SEARCH

True awakening comes only when a person embraces spirituality in life by experiencing the presence of the Almighty at every moment." These inspiring words were expressed by Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj during the 'Message to Humanity' on the first day of the 79th Annual Nirankari Sant Samagam. The four-day Sant Samagam, being held from 23 to 26 October, commenced with faith and spiritual enthusiasm under the divine shelter of Her Holiness Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj and Nirankari Rajpita Ramit Ji. On this occasion, millions of devotees from India and abroad are participating to benefit from the divine darsan of Satguru and Her Holiness sacred messages. During the 'Message to Humanity' on the first day



of the Sant Samagam, Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj stated that the fundamental purpose of saints and spiritual souls gathering from India and abroad is to sustain spiritual awakening in the human mind, so that every moment of life can be lived with full awareness and the realisation of the Almighty. Satguru Mata Ji explained that every indi-

vidual should become an aware global citizen by faithfully fulfilling their duties and responsibilities towards their home, family, society and country. Rising above differences of caste, language, region or temperament, accepting every human being with love, respect and a sense of belonging is true humanity. Satguru Mata Ji further

stated that true spiritual awakening is not limited merely to thoughts or outward appearances; rather, it should also be reflected in our behaviour, conduct and social responsibilities. This awakening is not a matter of a single moment or occasion, but a feeling that must be sustained throughout life. Whatever the circumstances may be, accepting

*Rising above differences of caste, language, region or temperament, accepting every human being with love, respect and a sense of belonging is true humanity.*

the will of the Almighty and living every moment as His blessing, with happiness, contentment and gratitude, is true spirituality. At the Samagam venue, Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj was welcomed by Shri Sukhdev Singh Ji, General Secretary of Sant Nirankari Mandal, who presented a bouquet of flowers, while Smt. Rajkumari Ji, President of the Mandal, offered a floral garland. Nirankari Rajpita Ramit Ji was welcomed by Shri S. L. Garg, who presented a bouquet of flowers, and Shri H. S. Chawla, who placed a floral garland around his neck.

# Several protesters detained as anti-SIR march heads to ECI headquarters

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)

Delhi Police on Friday detained several protesters as a march against the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls moved towards the headquarters of the Election Commission of India (ECI) in central Delhi, clamping Section 163 of the BNSS prohibiting mass gatherings, sources said. The march, called by the Delhi Coordination Committee of People Against SIR, a people's collective, began near the Gole Dak Khana, at the intersection of Kalibari Marg and Bhai Vir Singh Marg, with participants carrying the national flag and banners demanding an end to the electoral roll revision exercise. The protesters raised slogans against Chief Election Commissioner



Gyanesh Kumar, including "Gyanesh Kumar, resign", "Halt SIR" and "Won't tolerate vote theft", alleging that the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise led to the deletion of numerous voters from the electoral rolls. The participants, including students, youth and farmers, were joined by senior CPI(M) leader Brinda Karat, and members of the All India Democratic Women's Association (AIDWA) and the All India Democratic Students' Organisation (AIDSO),

among others. The Krantikari Yuva Sangathan (KYS) and the Students' Federation of India (SFI) had extended their support to the march, with activists from Delhi, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh participating. Security was tightened across central Delhi, with Delhi Police and Rapid Action Force personnel deployed in large numbers. When police stopped the protesters, they sat down and held a 'People's Parliament', as announced by the organisers.

## SIR protest march heads towards ECI headquarters amid tight security in central Delhi

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)

A march against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls began in central Delhi on Friday, with participants heading towards the Election Commission of India (ECI) headquarters to protest against the alleged deletion of voters. The march, called by the Delhi Coordination Committee of People Against SIR — a people's collective started near Gole Dak Khana, at the intersection of Kalibari Marg and Bhai Vir Singh Marg, Krantikari Yuva Sangathan (KYS) and the Students' Federation of India (SFI) have extended their support to the protest, with activists from Delhi, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh participating as well. Security was tightened near Bangla Sahib



Gurudwara, with Delhi Police and Rapid Action Force (RAF) personnel deployed in large numbers ahead of the march. The organisers have appealed to farmers, workers, youth, women and people from different sections of society to join the march carrying the national flag. They said the march would remain peaceful and disciplined, with participants holding a 'People's Parliament' wherever police stop them, followed by the adoption of resolutions and the national anthem. FindPolice Jobs SFI has also called.

## Delhi Approves 622 Crore Flood-Proofing Push : 4.7 km Yamuna Wall and Biomining to End Silt Problem in Drains

NEW DELHI. OPEN SEARCH

Delhi's Minister for Irrigation and Flood Control, Shri Parvesh Sahib Singh, today chaired the 40th meeting of the Flood Control Board of the Irrigation and Flood Control Department at the Delhi Secretariat. The meeting reviewed key priorities and cleared projects worth 7622 crore to strengthen the city's drainage and flood management systems. The Board focused on long-term solutions to flooding and waterlogging, scientific disposal of desilted earth, stronger drainage infrastructure, and better preparedness for the monsoon. 4.7 km RCC wall along the Yamuna The Board approved a 4.7 km rein-



forced cement concrete (RCC) wall along the vulnerable stretch of the Yamuna from the Magazine Road drain to the Old Railway Bridge, at a cost of 799 crore. The wall will protect low-lying areas during high water levels. Biomining to solve the silt disposal problem Every year, large quantities of silt are removed from Delhi's drains during desilting. However, proper dis-

posal of this silt has long been a challenge. Without a scientific system in place, desilted material often lay on drain banks or roadsides and washed back into the drains with the next rain, undoing the work done. To end this cycle, the Board gave in-principle approval to three biominning projects at a cost of 7260 crore for the scientific processing and disposal of silt from

**40th Flood Control Board meeting also plans Barapullah-style beautification along drains across Delhi**

drains across Delhi. The projects will especially benefit the Najafgarh drain and other major drains, which carry the heaviest silt load in the city. Beautification along Delhi's drains The Board also discussed beautifying stretches along drains across Delhi on the lines of the Barapullah drain. Drain banks will be developed with walkways, green belts, plantation, proper lighting and protective fencing. This will turn neglected and encroachment-prone spaces into clean, usable public areas.

## Delhi Development Authority plans 24-km cycling track along Yamuna banks

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) is planning to develop a 24-km cycling track along the Yamuna banks, which could become the city's longest, stretching from the Old Railway Bridge near Wazirabad to National Highway 24 near Sarai Kale Khan. The DDA has floated a tender for the first phase of the project with the overall estimated construction cost pegged at around Rs 16 crore, an official said. The cycling track will be developed using materials permitted in the Yamuna floodplain, with extensive greenery planned along the route, the official said.



Under the approved Master Plans of Delhi 2047, the DDA has proposed promoting a 'river-people connect' and developing blue assets along a stretch of around 50 km of the Yamuna. As per the plan, the entire 52-km corridor will be developed in three phases, with the first phase covering the stretch from the Old Railway Bridge near Wazirabad to National Highway 24. According to project details, a 75-metre to 100-metre-wide public

greenway will be developed along the western bank of the river. It will feature cycling and walking trails, along with spaces for passive recreational activities, to improve public access to parks and the river and encourage a stronger connection between people and the Yamuna. The cycling track will be developed in areas outside the 'active

*As per the plan, the entire 52-km corridor will be developed in three phases, with the first phase covering the stretch from the Old Railway Bridge near Wazirabad to National Highway 24.*

floodplain', where certain recreational activities are permitted after obtaining the necessary approvals, the official added. The proposed corridor will link several floodplain projects, including Baansera, Kalindi Biodiversity Park, Asita and Yamuna Vatika, along with other projects coming up along the river. Earlier, the Delhi government had announced plans to develop the Yamuna riverfront on the lines of the Sabarmati Riverfront in Gujarat.

## Delhi food safety department seizes over 322 kg ghee

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)

The Delhi government's food safety department has seized over 322 kg of ghee over suspicious quality and pricing during inspections of shops advertising heavy discounts on social media ahead of the festive season, officials said on Friday. The department inspected stores touting offers such as 'Buy One, Get One Free' and up to 60 per cent discounts, to check compliance with food safety standards and prevent sale of adulterated, substandard, expired or incorrectly labelled products. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, in a statement issued Friday, said the government would not tolerate food adulteration or irregularities that pose a risk to public health. She urged consumers to check the quality and packaging of



food products, along with their manufacturing and expiry dates, before purchasing them. During inspections at Maxcart Store and Aggarwal Store in Vikaspuri, officials collected five enforcement samples of ghee from different brands and five samples of other food products. More than 75.50 litres of ghee was seized. At Aggarwal Store in Hastal village, the team collected three enforcement samples of ghee from the Shri Shan, Vrinda Farms and Avtar brands and seized 246 kg of the product.

## National School Games Are Not Merely a Competition but a Vital Means of Strengthening the Country's Future Sports Ecosystem : Sood

NEW DELHI. OPEN SEARCH

Delhi's Education and Sports Minister, Shri Ashish Sood, formally inaugurated the 70th National School Games 2026-27 at Thyagaraj Stadium, Delhi, today. Senior officials, eminent sportspersons, and representatives from various States and Union Territories were also present on the occasion.



The Government of Delhi will organise 14 sports disciplines under the 70th National School Games 2026-27 in three phases. The first phase will be held from 22 to 28 October 2026, the second phase from 30 October to 5 November 2026, and the third phase from 28 January to 3 February 2027. Organised under the aegis of the School Games Federation of India (SGFI), the Games will witness the

participation of more than 14,000 players and officials from various States, Union Territories, and other participating units across the country. The Directorate of Education (Sports Branch), Government of Delhi, is hosting the event.

Addressing the gathering, Delhi's Education and Sports Minister, Shri Ashish Sood, said that the National School Games are not merely a competition but a vital means of strengthening the country's future sports ecosystem. Hosting these

**Government Committed to Promoting Sports Culture in Delhi Under the Guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the Leadership of Chief Minister Smt. Rekha Gupta : Sood**

Games is a matter of pride for the national capital. Our endeavour is to infuse new energy into Delhi's sports culture, encourage young athletes, and enable them to bring glory to the country at national and international levels. He said that under

the guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the country has witnessed a significant transformation in its approach to and systems for sports. Campaigns such as 'Khelo India' and 'Fit India' have transformed sports and fitness into mass movements. Today, sports are no longer viewed merely as a form of entertainment or an extracurricular activity, but also as a strong avenue for a

## NHAI deploys anti-smog guns, mechanical sweepers to tackle winter pollution in Delhi-NCR

**NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)** In a stepped-up effort to curb air pollution and improve the air quality ahead of winter, the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has deployed several measures, including around 60 water sprinklers and tankers, 14 anti-smog guns, 23 mechanical road sweeping machines (MRSMs), two tractor-mounted broomers and over 900 workers across National Highways and Expressways in Delhi-NCR. Additionally, 13 mechanical road sweeping machines are operating along 157 km of National Highway stretches in the region as part of the pollution-control drive. Alok Deepankar, Member (Technical), NHAI, reviewed the measures and directed field teams to ensure the full deployment of equipment and manpower, regular water sprinkling, the operation of anti-smog guns and daily mechanical sweeping. He also stressed strict compliance with the norms prescribed by the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), including covering construction materials, maintaining dust-free road surfaces and intensifying mitigation measures in accordance with the applicable stages of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). NHAI officials have been directed to monitor pollution-control activities daily and submit progress reports accompanied by geo-tagged photographs to ensure effective implementation on the ground. As part of its environmental initiatives, NHAI planted around 9.80 lakh plants in the National Capital Region during the financial year 2025-26, exceeding its target of 9.52 lakh. The plantations recorded survival rates of over 90 per cent, according to the authority. The authority has also promoted sustainable waste utilisation by using around 13.58 lakh tonnes. of inert material from Delhi's landfill sites in embankment construction.

Open Search

EDITORIAL

Our role in building a developed India

India is passing through a significant phase of development today, in which its goal is not only to become one of the world's leading economies but also to emerge as a prosperous, self-reliant, educated, and equitable nation. The resolve to transform India into a developed nation by 2047, when the country completes one hundred years of independence, is not merely a government objective but a collective responsibility of every citizen.

A developed India does not simply mean tall buildings, wide roads, modern technology, and economic prosperity. True development is one in which every citizen has access to quality education, better healthcare facilities, employment opportunities, social security, and the right to live with dignity. Only when villages have access to basic facilities comparable to those in cities, farmers receive fair prices for their hard work, and young people find opportunities according to their abilities will the benefits of development reach the last person in society.

To achieve this goal, it is essential to give special attention to education, science, technology, and skill development. Young people must be made not merely degree holders but also skilled, innovative, and self-reliant individuals. Modernizing agriculture, encouraging small industries, creating new employment opportunities, and promoting domestic production are equally important. Alongside these efforts, effective solutions must be found to challenges such as corruption, unemployment, poverty, and social inequality.

Environmental protection also plays a vital role in building a developed India. Economic progress will be meaningful only when a balance between nature and natural resources is maintained. The use of clean energy, water conservation, tree plantation, and making cleanliness a mass movement are the needs of the hour. Similarly, the holistic development of the country is impossible without ensuring women's education, safety, and economic participation. It must also be remembered that nation-building cannot be achieved through government schemes and announcements alone.

It requires a sense of duty, discipline, honesty, and social responsibility among citizens. If every individual performs their work with dedication, protects public property, obeys the law, and strengthens national unity by rising above caste- and religion-based discrimination, the pace of development will certainly become more inclusive and widespread. Ultimately, the dream of a developed India will be realized only when everyone has equal opportunities for progress and the benefits of development reach every section of society.

Singapore sling

T.C.A. RAGHAVAN

Living in Singapore, I found the discourse of it being a 'Global City' predictably ubiquitous but persuasive. Resource deficient, tiny, ethnically vulnerable in that it is a Chinese-majority city-state in a Malay universe, it nevertheless transitioned from the third to the first world in the space of a single generation. This fairy tale-like transformation was accomplished by internally structuring its society and managing its external environment to achieve maximum economic growth. Its investment in a plural society, notwithstanding the estimated 80% ethnic Chinese majority, is genuinely impressive. To achieve this, its government went into an extraordinary amount of detailed and very precise social engineering. The balance of the population is roughly equally split between ethnic Indians and Malay. To ensure that no ethnic or religious ghettos remained, the government would deliberately mix the three ethnicities — "races" to use Singapore officialese — together in government-provided public housing. Racial divisions inevitably have reduced. What struck me in particular was how often a non-Asian template was invoked — that of medieval Venice — to exemplify the Singapore story. Why Venice in particular? The similarities range from the superficial — modern Singapore and medieval Venice both used a lion as a national symbol — to the more complex: Venice was invoked because it too was small in size and population, punching far above its weight, and leaving an impact that survived its decline. Think, for instance, of the great world traveller, Marco Polo, the composer, Antonio Vivaldi or of the romantic womaniser, Giacomo Casanova. Shakespeare's Othello and The Merchant of Venice both project the city-state in terms that we could today call a medieval superpower.

From the 10th to the 15th century, Venice's strength and influence derived not from absolute power but from a skilled leveraging of its maritime location and some very sensible diplomacy. Its ports and shipbuilding capacity lay at the core of its strength; its trade linkages, knowledge of global markets and its stature as a financial hub gave it additional heft. Finally, it had the wisdom to stay out of prolonged neighbourhood and regional conflicts. Its days of glory ended only with the rise to dominance of the Ottomans from the 16th century onwards.

I recall that the most convincing articulation of Venice as a model for Singapore came from George Yeo, its brilliant foreign minister from 2004 to 2011. He saw Singapore's core strength being derived from its openness to global talent and capital. Certainly, these attributes were very evident. Singapore soaked in financial, intellectual and scientific talent. As an Indian diplomat, an observation I frequently encountered was that Singapore had more IIT and IIM graduates than any city outside India — whether this was good or bad for India is still unclear to me. Singapore's liberal tax regimes, a strict observance of the rule of law, and an extraordinarily liberal climate in terms of ease of doing business also drew companies and capital from across the world and, of course, from India. Again, opinions vary on whether and how much this was Indian business globalising or, simply, capital flight to greener pastures.

To many, Singapore appeared to resemble a business centre rather than a country. There is an apocryphal story of an irritated Indira Gandhi's biting response to Lee Kuan Yew's suggestions on how to manage India's economy better: "Prime Minister, please don't advise me. I run a country; you run a super market." But in time, the analogy of Singapore being a gleaming and antiseptic business centre became somewhat limited; it was a country with all the problems of managing equity alongside growth and change. Thus, Singapore's successes.

MANISH KUMAR JHA

Earlier, Armenia and the Philippines already received missiles and munitions from India, showing the high potential and trend. The significance of Akash goes well beyond the sale of a missile system.

Akash Missile Could Be India's Next Big Export

India's reported sale of its indigenous Akash surface-to-air missile system to Tajikistan and Turkmenistan could mark an important step in the country's ambition to become a major global arms exporter. Beyond the commercial value of the deals, the entry of Akash into Central Asia would open a new market for Indian defence technology in a region where countries are increasingly looking to diversify their military suppliers away from Russia and China. Earlier, Armenia and the Philippines already received missiles and munitions from India, showing the high potential and trend. The significance of Akash goes well beyond the sale of a missile system. It represents a larger transformation in India's defence industrial policy - from a country that depended heavily on imported weapons to one seeking international markets for its indigenous military capabilities. For decades, India's defence manufacturing ecosystem was constrained by excessive controls, a policy mindset that did little to encourage exports. The result was a persistent contradiction: India remained among the world's largest arms importers. That contradiction is now beginning to change, rather radically. But policy reform must not stop at encouraging exports. It must also make exporting commercially viable. The numbers tell a good story. India's defence production rose from Rs 46,429 crore in 2014-15 to approximately Rs 1.78 lakh crore in 2025-26. Defence exports climbed from just Rs 686 crore in 2013-14 to



a record Rs 38,424 crore in 2025-26, reaching more than 80 countries. The government has set its sights on annual defence production of Rs 3 lakh crore and exports of Rs 50,000 crore by 2029. These are ambitious targets, but they are not beyond reach if the country can scale up manufacturing with a sustained international presence. Importantly, India is gradually moving beyond the export of components, spares, and low-value equipment towards complete weapon systems and sophisticated platforms. Missiles, radars, electronic warfare subsystems, counter-drone solutions, artillery systems, and naval equipment are now part of the export conversation. The BrahMos cruise missile and Akash air-defence system illustrate this shift. Other indigenous capabilities, including the Astra air-to-air missile, offer further opportunities. The Tejas light combat aircraft and Indian-built naval platforms could also contribute

to the country's longer-term export ambitions. Wonder why India's robust capabilities in warships - from corvettes to frigates to destroyers - are still not part of the global military export systems, from Asia to Africa? The Akash programme is particularly instructive, and its improved variants, including Akash Prime and Akash-NG, demonstrate why exports must be supported by continuous research, upgrades, and reliable production. Defence manufacturing is often discussed primarily through the lens of national security. That is understandable, but incomplete. Defence is also an economic activity capable of generating massive investment, a skilled workforce, technological innovation, and industrial growth. However, a few manufacturing sectors impose such demanding requirements on suppliers. Defence companies must satisfy stringent quality standards, undergo extensive trials and validation, meet security, and prove their ability to

deliver over long periods. They must also invest in research, testing, and specialised manufacturing, often well before a contract translates into revenue. The best part: technologies developed for the military add many capabilities in advanced materials, electronics, sensors, communications, propulsion, and precision manufacturing. So, the export orders can help Indian companies increase production volumes, spread development costs, and reduce their dependence on a single domestic customer. This is especially important for the private sector and the thousands of micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) that supply components, subsystems, and services. A credible export pipeline can give these businesses the confidence to invest in new equipment, tech experts, and develop IPs. One of the most important areas requiring attention is the financing of defence exports, particularly through Lines of Credit (LoC). Solely guided by the

Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank), the financial support extended to domestic manufacturing needs to be implemented with greater policy thrust. In international defence markets, the ability to offer financing can be almost as important as the quality of the product. Indian manufacturers can develop a competitive product, spend years building relationships with a prospective customer, and eventually win an overseas contract, only to encounter difficulties in accessing the financing needed to execute it. Industry has raised concerns about cumbersome procedures, including requirements for multiple tenders or additional price-discovery documentation, even when a company has already secured an overseas contract. However, for government-to-government arrangements, it works better, but that is not the objective, as MoD routinely promotes and calls for greater private sector participation. Especially, it hits defence MSMEs harder due to credit facilitation. Here, the usual tough norms in defence exports are not only about supplying but also about trials, after-trial validation, and acceptance of the trials. So much for the fact that under schemes like LoC, with Exim Bank's USD 27-32 billion in credit across the sectors, defence ends up with very few takers. So, the demand is that defence should be recognised as a priority sector, noting the fact that Exim Bank works under the Ministry of Finance - a world of separate rules and processes. Further, policy-makers.

Plug gaps in counting of farm fires



NORTH India's high-pollution season has begun. The Commission for Air Quality Management in NCR and Adjoining Areas (CAQM) has already invoked Stage I of the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) in NCR as Delhi's air quality slipped into the "poor" category for the first time this season. This year, satellite data compiled by the ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute's CREAMS (Consortium for Research on Agroecosystem Monitoring and Modelling from Space) lab recorded 454 farm fires in Punjab between September 15 and October 21. As paddy harvesting gains pace, these numbers will rise. The CAQM is verifying incidents on the ground amid reports that satellites are not capturing the full extent of burning. India has no reliable way to tell whether stubble burning is rising or falling, because fire counts capture when farmers burn crop residue, not how much they actually burn. Until crop residue burning (CRB) is measured by the land it scars rather than the flames a satellite happens to see, India will keep misjudging both its problem and its progress. Measurement is the first step here. Farmers squeezed between the paddy harvest and wheat sowing can afford to completely stop burning when alternatives are affordable and arrive on time. Nearly half the farmers in our survey who used residue management machines still burned some loose straw in 2022. Accurate data tells governments where farmers need additional support. During the peak burning days, between late October and early November, stubble burning

could account for 40 per cent of Delhi's daily PM2.5, according to Delhi's Air Quality Decision Support System. Burning estimates tell us whether CRB mitigation measures like the Central Sector Scheme for Promotion of Agricultural Mechanisation for In-Situ Management of Crop Residue are working and where efforts should focus next, down to the district and village levels. They also feed the emission estimates behind Delhi's Air Quality Early Warning System (AQEWS), which the CAQM uses to decide the stage of GRAP across Delhi-NCR. Undercounting distorts all three: the scheme's effectiveness is not accurately captured, forecasts run low and restrictive actions arrive late. Three steps could close this gap. First, the CAQM should revise its monitoring protocol this season to include burnt area alongside fire counts. In 2022, Punjab recorded over 49,900 fires. By 2024, the reported fires dropped by 78 per cent to around 10,900. The land tells a different story: analysis by the Council on Energy,

Environment and Water (CEEW) found that Punjab's burnt area fell by only about 11 per cent by 2024. A study by ISRO found that burning has shifted from afternoon to evening hours. The satellites the CAQM relies on pass in the morning and early afternoon, so evening fires go unseen. Recognising this, it directed Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan to step up evening surveillance. Ground patrols are needed, but they cannot replace remote sensing, which can monitor thousands of square kilometres without anyone in the field. Burnt area mapping fills that gap. Satellites such as the Sentinel-2 constellation carry multispectral sensors that detect the scar that remains after burning; adding up those scars gives the extent of burning. CEEW analysis found that burnt area methods using open-source satellite imagery are nearly 75 per cent accurate. The CAQM piloted ISRO's burnt area method in 2025 and found inconsistencies in its ground survey reporting. The next step should be to

resolve them and adopt the method alongside fire counts. These could show agriculture departments which villages most need machines, custom-hiring centres and straw buyers. The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology and the India Meteorological Department should then feed burnt-area emissions into the inventories behind the region's AQEWS, so that forecasts reflect the fires that counts miss. Second, over the medium term, authorities should move towards a hybrid monitoring system. Burnt area helps complement fire counts, but creates an additional problem: the Sentinel-2 satellite generally revisits the same spot only every five days. If a farm is burnt and cleared within that window, even burnt area mapping could miss it. The CAQM has recently directed states to use drones. Yet drones have limited range, need extensive permissions and can realistically survey only a fraction of farmland. Commercial satellite imagery, used alongside open-source data, could fill

the gap. Commercial providers offer multispectral satellite imagery similar to Sentinel-2's, and a single image covers thousands of square kilometres every day. The cost is the constraint: 10 days' commercial imagery for all of Punjab would cost up to Rs 10 crore. Satellites also go blind under cloud cover, which is where drones, flying below them, would be suitable. Monitoring of stubble burning requires an approach that combines data from multiple platforms to provide an accurate picture. Third, India should build its own environmental monitoring constellation in the long run. Today, commercial satellite data that helps monitor CRB comes from foreign providers; it carries the risk of blackouts. Earlier this year, for instance, Planet Labs introduced restrictions on satellite imagery from West Asia following a US government request. An indigenous satellite constellation, tuned to Indian conditions, would shield India from decisions made elsewhere. The recent agreement between the Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe) and a consortium led by Bengaluru-based space company Pixxel to build a 12-satellite earth observation constellation, with the first four in orbit by early 2027, is a step in the right direction. The data from this constellation will help monitor CRB as well as other environmental parameters related to forests, water and land. Stubble burning is no longer just North India's problem. States such as Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are now reporting farm fires and their toll on soil and the environment.

## GD Goenka Group opens its 'Second Flagship School' on Sohna Road, Gurugram



which are increasingly relevant to students' future academic and professional journeys. Central to the Group's educational approach is THRIVE. For Life, a value-led framework built around six principles: Team-centric, Harmonious, Resilient, Innovative, Versatile and Empathetic. The framework reflects the Group's belief that education should extend beyond academic outcomes to help students develop social awareness.

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more convenient and support better-informed decisions. To use the feature, users can add the Justdial plugin from the plugins tab and tag Justdial in their ChatGPT query. Mr. Shwetank Dixit, Chief Growth Officer, Justdial, said, "In a dynamic technology landscape, our priority is to act as a catalyst for merchants by expanding their visibility across all possible consumer touchpoints. For decades, Justdial has built an extensive understanding of India's local business ecosystem. Extending this intelligence into environments like ChatGPT ensures our listed merchants remain discoverable."



remaining before the issue closes. They said the response reflects deep investor interest in Jio Platforms. Jio Platforms' IPO had drawn bids for 136.32 crore shares, against 19.75 crore shares on offer, by 12:03 pm on Friday. That is an overall subscription of almost seven times.

soothing and rejuvenating benefits, offering effective solutions suitable for all skin types. Korean beauty is known for its advanced formulations, ingredient-led innovation, and unique product experiences. As Korean beauty continues to gain momentum in India, driven by growing consumer awareness, product innovations, and cultural influence, Joyun enters the market with a differentiated proposition. The brand introduces a range of dermatologist-tested products that blend globally celebrated ingredients with solutions relevant to Indian consumers. The Rose PDRN range features a next-generation ingredient derived from rose. PDRN, or Polydeoxyribose nucleotide, is a biologically active DNA fraction.

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| Unaudited Financial Result for the Quarter and Half year Ended on 30.09.2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                                                                                                       |                          |                          |                          |                          |                            |                           |                          |                          |                          |                          |                            |                           |
| (IN LAKHS)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                       |                          |                          |                          |                          |                            |                           |                          |                          |                          |                          |                            |                           |
| S.N                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Particulars                                                                                                                                           | STANDALONE               |                          |                          |                          |                            |                           | CONSOLIDATED             |                          |                          |                          |                            |                           |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                       | Three Months Ended       |                          |                          | SIX Months Ended         |                            |                           | Three Months Ended       |                          |                          | SIX Months Ended         |                            |                           |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                       | CURRENT QUARTER          | PREVIOUS QUARTER         | CORRESPONDING QUARTER    | CURRENT YEAR TO DATE     | CORRESPONDING YEAR TO DATE | FIGURES FOR PREVIOUS YEAR | 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  | 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                   | Unaudited                | Unaudited                | Unaudited                | Unaudited                | Unaudited                  | Audited                   |
| 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Total Income from operations                                                                                                                          | 99.58                    | 103.38                   | 131.76                   | 202.96                   | 370.69                     | 534.08                    | 99.58                    | 103.38                   | 131.76                   | 202.96                   | 370.69                     | 534.08                    |
| 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Net Profit / Loss for the period before tax and exceptional items                                                                                     | 150.66                   | 101.54                   | 62.60                    | 252.20                   | 3,151.79                   | 2,999.39                  | 150.66                   | 101.54                   | 62.60                    | 252.20                   | 3,151.79                   | 2,999.39                  |
| 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Net Profit/ Loss for the period before tax (after exceptional items)                                                                                  | 150.66                   | 101.54                   | 62.60                    | 252.20                   | 3,151.79                   | 2,999.39                  | 150.66                   | 101.54                   | 62.60                    | 252.20                   | 3,151.79                   | 2,999.29                  |
| 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Net Profit/ Loss for the period after tax (after exceptional items)                                                                                   | 150.66                   | 101.54                   | 62.60                    | 252.20                   | 3,151.79                   | 2,932.88                  | 150.66                   | 101.54                   | 62.60                    | 252.20                   | 3,151.79                   | 2,932.78                  |
| 5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Total Comprehensive income/ loss for the period (comprising profit/ loss for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income/ loss (after tax)) | 150.66                   | 101.54                   | 62.60                    | 252.20                   | 3,151.79                   | 2,932.88                  | 150.66                   | 101.54                   | 62.60                    | 252.20                   | 3,151.79                   | 2,932.78                  |
| 6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Paid up equity share capital                                                                                                                          | 52,291.72                | 52,291.72                | 52,291.72                | 52,291.72                | 52,291.72                  | 52,291.72                 | 52,291.72                | 52,291.72                | 52,291.72                | 52,291.72                | 52,291.72                  | 52,291.72                 |
| 7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Earning per share (of Rs. 1/- each)                                                                                                                   | 0.00                     | 0.00                     | 0.00                     | 0.00                     | 0.06                       | 0.06                      | 0.00                     | 0.00                     | 0.00                     | 0.00                     | 0.06                       | 0.06                      |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Basic & Diluted                                                                                                                                       |                          |                          |                          |                          |                            |                           |                          |                          |                          |                          |                            |                           |
| 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 year end financial results is available on the company's website and also available on the website Website-www.sunshinecapital.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 23-10-2026.                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                       |                          |                          |                          |                          |                            |                           |                          |                          |                          |                          |                            |                           |
| For and on behalf of board of directors of                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                       |                          |                          |                          |                          |                            |                           |                          |                          |                          |                          |                            |                           |
| SUNSHINE CAPITAL LIMITED                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                       |                          |                          |                          |                          |                            |                           |                          |                          |                          |                          |                            |                           |
| SURENDRA KUMAR JAIN                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                       |                          |                          |                          |                          |                            |                           |                          |                          |                          |                          |                            |                           |
| (MANAGING DIRECTOR)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                       |                          |                          |                          |                          |                            |                           |                          |                          |                          |                          |                            |                           |
| DIN - : 00530035                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                       |                          |                          |                          |                          |                            |                           |                          |                          |                          |                          |                            |                           |
| Date : 23.10.2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                       |                          |                          |                          |                          |                            |                           |                          |                          |                          |                          |                            |                           |
| Place : New Delhi                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                       |                          |                          |                          |                          |                            |                           |                          |                          |                          |                          |                            |                           |

# MP Chintamani Maharaj called upon all the players to give their best performance

RAIPUR, OPEN SEARCH

The four-day school sports competition kicked off today with a colorful ceremony in Ambikapur, the headquarters of the Surguja division. The state-level competition is a moment of pride for the residents of the Surguja region. The 26th four-day State-Level School Sports Competition 2026 was inaugurated at the Government Multipurpose Higher Secondary School Ground, Ambikapur, under the chief patronage of Surguja MP Shri Chintamani Maharaj. The event was inaugurated by MP Shri Maharaj by throwing a ball into the basket. Players from Bastar, Bilaspur, Durg, Raipur, and Surguja divisions are participating in this competition. Students enthralled the audience with Bihu dances, traditional songs and music,



and various cultural presentations. Addressing the athletes, MP Shri Chintamani Maharaj said that sports are an important medium for the all-round development of students. Sports promote physical and mental development and instill discipline, self-confidence, team spirit, and a sense of com-

petition in children. He urged the athletes to participate in the competition with enthusiasm and sportsmanship, to practice regularly, and to excel in high-level competitions. Sports also strengthens the spirit of national unity. He stated that such events provide students with an oppor-

tunity to showcase their athletic talent and prepare for high-level competitions. The MP urged the athletes to play with a sporting spirit. Furthermore, MP Shri Maharaj noted that athletes from all divisions of the state are enthusiastically participating in this competition. Wishing all 215 male

**595 players from five divisions are participating in various categories in the four-day competition.**

and 245 female students the best of luck, he urged them to participate with sportsmanship, discipline, and excellent performance. He encouraged everyone to perform their best. He emphasized that victory and defeat are integral parts of life. A better athlete is one who performs with a good sportsmanship. Competitions will be held in various categories in four sports. This four-day state-level competition will include football, basketball, badminton, and softball tennis competitions in various age groups. The competition includes a football competition for boys under 19 years of age, a basketball competition.

# Video of Child Allegedly Taking Drugs Surfaces in Punjab, Row Erupts

KAPURTHALA : (AGENCY)

Days after the killing of anti-drug activist Parvinder Singh Jhota in Mansa triggered a political storm in Punjab, a viral video purportedly showing a 12-13-year-old child consuming drugs in Kapurthala has sparked fresh concerns over the state's drug crisis. The incident, beyond the political blame game, has intensified questions over how narcotics are allegedly reaching children at such a young age, and whether other children in the area are similarly vulnerable. For the Bhagwant Mann government, the video has revived scrutiny of its flagship anti-drug campaign at a time when the issue remains a major political flashpoint in Punjab, which goes to polls early next year.



Congress leaders, wearing a black cloth around their necks as a mark of protest, have raised concerns over the drug menace and the government's response to the crisis. Congress leader Bawa Henry also flagged the issue, saying the video showed how drugs had now reached teenagers, underlining the seriousness of the situation. The video, circulating widely on social media, shows a young child allegedly consuming an intoxicating substance. The child's exact age and the cir-

cumstances surrounding the footage are yet to be officially verified. Shiromani Akali Dal MP Harsimrat Kaur Badal also reacted strongly to the footage, describing it as a horrifying sight. "This horrifying sight is that of a 10-year-old child from Kapurthala snorting drugs with a tin foil and a lighter in hand like an expert," she said. Badal accused the AAP government of allowing the crisis to deepen, declaring, "Drugs isn't just a crisis anymore, it is the complete.

## Briefs News

### Haridwar riverbed reveals plastic, discarded clothes during 20-day water supply halt

**HARIDWAR : (AGENCY)** With the Ganga's water supply in Haridwar reportedly stopped for 20 days, the exposed riverbed has revealed heaps of plastic, discarded clothes and other waste. However, a group of people has stepped forward to clean the riverbed. Instagram user Sohit Kumar, a resident of Haridwar, shared the video, explaining that the water supply to the Ganga had been stopped for 20 days and was scheduled to resume on the night of Diwali. In the clip, Sohit walks along the exposed riverbed, showing heaps of waste scattered across the stretch where water would usually flow. Discarded clothes, plastic and other rubbish can be seen strewn across the dry ground. As he pans his camera around, he spots several people who have climbed down onto the riverbed to collect the waste. Sohit approaches a few of them, who tell him that they come every year to clean up the trash left behind by visitors. Sohit shared the video with the caption, "Devotees of Ganga came forward to clean Ganga. A user wrote, 'Please leave nature alone, worship from distance ...let them be left pure.' Another reacted: 'These are the real warriors of the world. I wish they could wear protective safety gears like masks, gloves and boots because a lot of this waste is toxic.' A third questioned the act, saying, 'Government kyo nahi kar rahi safai?'"

### School student in Tamil Nadu hangs himself after caste-based bullying for eating beef

**TAMIL NADU : (AGENCY)** The Peelamedu police booked cases against four individuals after a government-aided school student died by suicide on Friday at his residence, following an alleged caste-based harassment. The incident occurred on October 21. The deceased boy's mother in a complaint filed with the police claimed that the harassment escalated about two months ago and was regarding his choice of eating beef. The victim was studying in class XI. Police said a class teacher asked the students to disclose their caste background to select Scheduled Caste students for a scholarship programme. Also, he enquired about the children's food choices seeking to know if they consumed beef. Thereafter, the boy, aged 16, and a few others admitted that they were SC and that they ate beef. However, this disclosure led to bullying of the particular boy, isolation and taunts by his classmates a few days later, police said. In her complaint the boy's mother said that her son complained about the repeated taunts to the class teacher and school principal but no action was taken. The mental distress made him commit suicide by hanging, she alleged in the complaint. The four individuals charged include the principal, class teacher and two of the victim's classmates under BNS for abetment of suicide and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and arrested the class teacher. The Tamil Nadu State Commission for Adi Dravidar and Tribal Communities has sought a report from Coimbatore City Police commissioner on the death and also asked for details on the action taken against those responsible for the incident.

### Allahabad HC rules Pocso survivor eligible for compensation despite no physical injuries

**PARYAGRAJ : (AGENCY)** The Allahabad High Court has observed that the absence of injuries in a medical report cannot be a ground to deny compensation to a victim under the POCSO Act. In the order issued Thursday, a division bench of Justice Shekhar B Saraf and Justice Amitabh Kumar Rai directed authorities to pay Rs 3 lakh to a minor under the Uttar Pradesh Rani Lakshmi Bai Mahila Samman Kosh scheme within 10 days of the production of a certified copy of the order. The court held that the district steering committee's decision to withhold compensation was contrary to law and the provisions of the scheme. Under the scheme, survivors of sexual assault under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act are entitled to compensation of Rs 3 lakh. Of this, Rs 1 lakh is payable within 15 days of the FIR, while the remaining Rs 2 lakh must be paid within a month of the chargesheet being filed. The case relates to an FIR registered at Sarojini Nagar police station in Lucknow on December 7, 2022. A chargesheet in this connection was filed on January 13, 2023. The district committee had withheld compensation citing the absence of medical evidence supporting penetrative sexual assault. The state counsel defended the decision, arguing that the medical report did not record injuries indicating,

### Jharkhand woman kills minor son, nephew to avenge 'harassment' by in-laws; arrested

DUMKA : (AGENCY)

A woman has been arrested for allegedly killing her eight-year-old son and 11-year-old nephew by pushing them into a well to "avenge" her harassment by her in-laws in Jharkhand's Godda district, officials said on Friday. The accused, Rakhi Kumari, was arrested from her parental home on Thursday, they said.

According to police, Kumari, her husband Vikaram Singh, son Arab Kumar and nephew Aayush Kumar had gone to Dumka for a Durga Puja fair on October 19 when the accused and the two children went missing. Her husband Vikaram Singh, a resident of Pakur district, filed a missing report the next day, said Priyanka Anand, the in-charge of Dumka Town police station.

"The bodies of both children were recovered from a well in a village where the woman's parental home is located," Podiyahat Police station officer-in-charge Mahaveer Pandit said,



adding the woman was subsequently arrested. "During interrogation, Rakhi told investigators that she took both children to her parental home and there she pushed them into the well to take revenge on her husband and his family members as they had been harassing her," said the officer-in-charge of Dumka Town police station.

# Kolkata stampede: 2 persons who made 'pandal collapsing' announcements arrested

KOLKATA : (AGENCY)

Two persons were arrested on Friday for allegedly causing chaos by announcing that a portion of the crowd-puller Chorbagan Durga Puja pandal in north Kolkata was collapsing, leading to the death of 19 people in a stampede, police said. With this, the total number of arrests in the stampede case has risen to nine. One of the accused, Sanjib Raha, was detained from Nadia district on Thursday and later put under arrest, while the other, Kushal Majumdar, was held on Friday from the Girish Park area of the metropolis, said a senior officer of Kolkata Police. "Both of them were making announcements at the Chorbagan Durga Puja pandal on the evening of the



first day of Durga Puja. They were identified by scanning CCTV footage. We arrested Majumdar this morning and took him to our headquarters for questioning. If needed, we may interrogate them together," the officer said. According to police, Sanjib Raha was also the treasurer of the Chorbagan Durga Puja committee. Both Raha and Majumdar are

residents of Kolkata's Amar Basu Sarani, just 50 metres from the puja spot. Raha has been charged under non-bailable sections of the BNS and will be produced in court later in the day, the police officer said. "We are still piecing together the course of events that led to the stampede. One of the CCTV footage showed the two persons making

**If needed, we may interrogate them together," the officer said. According to police, Sanjib Raha was also the treasurer of the Chorbagan Durga Puja committee.**

announcements. They were heard warning revellers that the pandal was collapsing and asking visitors to leave the place immediately. It appeared that the announcements triggered panic and a rush towards the exit point," he said. According to the police officer, Raha was absconding since the October 17 incident and had switched off his mobile phone. Investigators tracked eight suspected mobile numbers to trace the accused as he was trying to contact family and friends.

# Vedanta Iron And Steel Limited Promotes Sustainable Living Through Month-Long Sustainability Drive

PANAJI : OPEN SEARCH

Vedanta Iron And Steel Limited (VISL), a leading producer of iron and steel with operations across India and Africa, reaffirmed its commitment to sustainable and responsible growth through a series of initiatives conducted as part of its Sustainability Month. Centred on the theme 'People, Planet and Progress', the campaign brought together employees, business partners and communities to promote environmental stewardship, responsible consumption and collective action towards a more sustainable future. The month-long engagement reflected VISL's belief that sustainability is integral to responsible growth, operational excel-



lence and long-term value creation. Through initiatives spanning environmental conservation, circularity, responsible consumption and employee engagement, the company reinforced its commitment to embedding sustainable practices into everyday operations while fostering a culture of shared

responsibility across its business ecosystem. Mr. Pankaj Kumar Sharma, CEO & Whole-Time Director, Vedanta Iron And Steel Limited, said: "Sustainability is not a standalone initiative but a core business imperative that shapes how we create value and drive responsible growth. At

VISL, our focus is on integrating sustainable practices into our operations, fostering a culture of environmental responsibility and creating lasting impact for the communities we serve. Sustainability Month is a reminder that meaningful progress is achieved when individuals and

**The month-long engagement reflected VISL's belief that sustainability is integral to responsible growth, operational excellence and long-term value creation.**

organisations come together with a shared commitment towards protecting our planet and strengthening the future." Across VISL's operations in Goa, Odisha, Jharkhand, Maharashtra and Karnataka, employees and business partners came together for cleanliness drives, plantation activities, sustainability awareness campaigns and housekeeping staff recognition programmes. The campaign further advanced circularity

and responsible consumption through cloth collection drives, DIY upcycling workshops, repurposed product showcases, sustainability engagements and interactions with sustainability-focused organisations, while promoting reusable alternatives to single-use plastics. Sustainability-focused partnerships also played an important role in the campaign, bringing practical insights on circularity and mindful consumption to employees: "Sustainability begins when we rethink the way we consume, reuse and dispose of things. Through our association with Vedanta Iron And Steel Ltd., as part of the 'Sustainability Month', Carnival, we were delighted to partner with the Company.

# India's Sandeep, Haney win gold with world records at Asian Para Games

NAGOYA : (AGENCY)

India's Sandeep and Haney won gold medals with world record performances in the men's 400m T64 and men's javelin throw F37/38 events respectively at the Asian Para Games here on Friday. Sandeep clocked 52.28 seconds, a world record, to win the 400m T64 final at the Nagoya City Mizuho Park Athletic Stadium. He finished 0.85 seconds ahead of Saudi Arabia's Nour Alsana (53.13, season's best). Indian compatriot Ajay Kumar took bronze in 53.61, a Games Record, while China's Huang Ruihua was fourth with a personal best of 54.39. In the javelin throw F37/38 final at the same venue, Haney produced a world record throw



of 60.49m for gold, scoring 1116 Raza points. Iran's Hormoz Seidikazpounji took silver with a personal best of 50.68m (1009 points), while China's Yu Chengjie claimed bronze with an Asian record 53.66m (943 points). India have thus reached 100

medals in total in this edition of the sporting extravaganza. In the javelin event, the F37 and F38 classes compete together and are ranked on Raza points, which is why Seidikazpounji's shorter throw was placed above Yu's. Sandeep and Alsana

are categorised under T44 in men's 400m and Kumar is under T64. T44 and T64 are both lower-limb classifications and are often run together. Earlier, India's Nimisha Chakkungal parambil and Parmod Bijarnia claimed the silver medals in their respective women's

long jump T47 and men's 1500m T46 competitions. Nimisha claimed the silver medal with a best effort of 5.37m. Sri Lanka's Dhananjana Wickrama singhe took the gold with a Games Record leap of 5.52m, 15cm ahead of the Indian. China's Chen Jin completed the podium with 5.17m. In men's 1500m, Parmod claimed the silver medal after clocking 4:09.65 at the Nagoya City Mizuho Park Athletic Stadium. Sri Lanka's Puwakpitikande P. Wahumpurage won the gold with a Games Record time of 4:03.25, finishing 6.40 seconds ahead of the Indian. Parmod, however, stayed clear of the rest of the field to secure a podium finish. Philippines' King James Reyes took the bronze with a personal

# Rahul, Jaiswal headline India A's bid to fine-tune Test preparations against New Zealand A

LINCOLN : (AGENCY)

A strong India A squad featuring several established members of senior team, such as KL Rahul and Yashasvi Jaiswal, will look to make the most of the four-day opener against New Zealand A, beginning here on Saturday, as the visitors prepare for next month's two-Test series. Led by wicketkeeper-batter Dhruv Jurel, India A will begin their campaign at the Bert Sutcliffe Oval, with the match offering valuable exposure to local conditions ahead of the senior team's crucial World Test Championship (WTC) assignment starting November 19 in Wellington. Senior India batters Rahul and Jaiswal are among the prominent



names in the squad, alongside Devdutt Padikkal, Washington Sundar, Sai Sudharsan and pacers Akash Deep, Anshul Kamboj and Mukesh Kumar. Rishabh Pant will miss out on the action as he remains at the BCCI Centre of Excellence, still recovering from an injury. Wicketkeeper-batter Kumar Kushagra had replaced Pant in the squad for the first two matches of the tour after the latter suffered a left side strain while

leading the Rest of India team in the Irani Cup. A decision on Pant's availability for the third match will be made at a later date. Skipper Jurel is also available as a wicketkeeping option. The importance of the three unofficial Tests was not lost on Indian senior team's batting coach Sitanshu Kotak. "There is a lot of importance of India A series. Because, a lot of Test players, a lot of fringe players, those who are waiting for their opportunity, it is also very good for them. And, before the Test series, see, even the senior players, somewhere or the other, the match practice of the red ball is very important. So, all in all, the setup that has been done, which the BCCI has kept with the India A Series.

## Briefs News

### Abhishek Sharma brings Punjabi touch to motivational speech before 1st T20I

CHRISTCHURCH : (AGENCY) Indian batter Abhishek Sharma brought a Punjabi touch during his motivational speech for Team India ahead of their first T20I against New Zealand at Christchurch. A 93-run stand between Sanju Samson and Abhishek Sharma and a fiery 15-ball 42\* by Naman helped India chase down 226, their highest-ever in T20Is by five-wickets in hand. Abhishek played a vital hand in handing India a 1-0 lead, scoring a quickfire 12-ball 29. Speaking in a video by BCCI, Abhishek said that the team made a few mistakes in their 2-2 draw against West Indies at home and played them as if they were their friends. He motivated the team to show the Kiwis that they are world champions. Few things from my side. I think against West Indies we did few mistakes, that we played them as our friends, he said. I think same with these guys. They (NZ) are going to challenge us in that way as well. So, let us show them why we are world champions. We are going to dominate here, and we are going to win from the very first game, he continued. Bringing out a traditional Punjabi 'boli' or a verse, he motivated his team by saying, And in Punjabi we say, if we rhyme well, we will perform well. So, Bari Barsi Khatan Gaya Si, Khatke Leanda Hand.. Bari Barsi Khatan Gaya Si, Khatke Leanda Hand.. Chalo Aaj Aapa Pehla Jitaye Match In New Zealand! To this traditional expression by Abhishek, the Men in Blue, including head coach Gautam Gambhir, responded with a lot of laughs, smiles and cheer.

### Anahat Singh makes it semifinals of Silicon Valley Open squash tournament

CALIFORNIA : (AGENCY) Indian Asian Games medalist squash star Anahat Singh continued to make history, making it to the semifinals of the ongoing Silicon Valley Open Squash tournament on Friday. Anahat secured a win over world number 14 Salma Heny by 3-2 (4-11, 11-8, 4-11, 11-2, 11-5). The match lasted 42 minutes. She is the first Indian female squash player to reach a PSA Tour Gold-level event semifinal since 2019. It is also her first-ever semifinal in this category of events. After the match, she said, as per a video by PSA Squash Tour, "I think it is great coming into the match. I've never played her before, so I didn't really know what to expect stepping onto the court. I have watched her play so many times and, um, she's so experienced on the PSA tour. And yeah, I mean, I was honestly just looking forward to seeing, you know, how I would match up against her. And I did not start off too well. The first game was, I think, 11-4, so it was a pretty bad start. But, you know, I just wanted to find a way for me to make my way back into the match and give it a fight, whether, um, you know, like I said, whether it is a win or a loss, I did not want to let it go too easily. So, yeah, I just gave it my all in the second game and, um, tried to, you know, make it 1-1. And I think it was just that we kept winning a game alternately, so it was quite a rollercoaster. But, yeah, I am just happy I got through it." Earlier, Anahat pulled off one of the most stunning wins of her career, defeating eight-time world champion Nour El Sherbini of Egypt to march into the quarterfinals of the ongoing tournament on Thursday.

### 'Every sport can help you': Kapil Dev urges youngsters to take up multiple sports

MUMBAI : (AGENCY) Former India captain Kapil Dev has urged young athletes to explore sports beyond their primary discipline, saying participation in different games can improve performance by broadening their thought process. I just want boys and girls to play sports—not just their own sport, but other sports as well. Playing different sports can help you improve your performance. If you play hockey, come and play golf. If you play golf, go and play cricket. Every sport can help you because it changes your thought process," Kapil Dev said on Friday. Speaking on the announcement of the Shashi Ruia Memorial Golf Championship in Mumbai, the 1983 World Cup-winning captain highlighted the benefits of playing multiple sports and encouraged athletes to take time out for activities beyond their main discipline. I have often said that if I had played golf during my cricketing days, I would have scored an additional 2,000 runs," he said. But that's the point. We should all go out and play badminton, table tennis, squash and other sports, apart from our own game. It will definitely help you," he added. Kapil Dev has been a prominent figure in the promotion of golf in India. And took over as president of the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI) in June 2024, succeeding HR Srinivasan. He had been a member of the PGTI board since 2021 and has continued to work towards.

### Trump calls NBA star LeBron James a 'total disgrace' over US national anthem incident

PHILADELPHIA : (AGENCY)

US President Donald Trump on Thursday accused LeBron James of disrespecting the United States after the NBA star appeared to continue his warmups while the national anthem was performed before Philadelphia's season opener on Tuesday. "I said right from the beginning that he's no good, a TOTAL DISGRACE," Trump said of James in a social media post sharing the video. "LeBron James should apologize to all of those Great American



Warriors and Heroes who died for the American flag, and all that our Country stands for! James appeared to practise a golf swing and jump shot as "The Star-Spangled Banner" was performed on Tuesday at New York's Madison Square Garden. James, starting his first season with Philadelphia.

### Indian cue icon Pankaj Advani becomes world champion for 29th time

BIRMINGHAM : (AGENCY)

Indian cue legend Pankaj Advani clinched his 29th career world title after defeating England's Robert Hall 1906-1206 in the final of the WBL World Billiards Championship in Birmingham, producing a stunning 587 break to seal a memorable victory. The 41-year-old, the only Indian to reach the semifinals, showcased his experience and scoring prowess to overcome Hall in a gruelling five-hour final, extending his remarkable record in cue sports. The title clash carried significance for both players, with Hall hav-

ing reached the World Billiards Championship final five times previously without winning the title. Advani, meanwhile, was looking to add another crown to his unprecedented collection of world titles. Advani began the contest with a 91 break before Hall responded with an impressive 203 run to take the lead. As the match approached the two-hour mark, the two finalists remained closely positioned on the scoreboard before Advani produced another century to move ahead.

Hall then stepped up his game, compiling a mammoth 331 break in a high-

### Ishan Kishan ruled out of second T20I against New Zealand with groin injury

CHRISTCHURCH. (AGENCY)

India wicketkeeper-batter Ishan Kishan has been ruled out of the second T20I against New Zealand due to a low-grade right adductor strain, the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) said on Friday. The second T20I match will be played at the Hagley Oval in Christchurch on Saturday. The BCCI shared an update on X, stating, "Ishan Kishan is ruled out of the second T20I against New Zealand due to a low-grade right adductor strain, which he sustained during the first



T20I of the series. The BCCI Medical Team is monitoring his progress." The 28-year-old Kishan sustained the injury during India's opening T20I against New Zealand in Christchurch on Thursday. The left-handed batter came in at No. 5 dur-

ing India's chase of 226 but managed just one run before being dismissed by New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner. Speaking to the media ahead of the second T20I, India's batting coach Sitanshu Kotak had indicated that Kishan was

unlikely to feature in the match due to a groin niggle. Ishan has a slight groin niggle. I feel tomorrow's match is also unlikely [for him to feature]," Kotak said. Kishan has scored 1,955 runs in 67 T20Is at an average of 31.03 and a strike rate of 148.55. He is also part of India's squad for the five-match ODI series against New Zealand. India head into the second T20I with a 1-0 lead in the five-match series after securing a four-wicket victory in the opener. Sanju Samson laid the foundation for the chase with a fluent 67 off 33 balls, while Naman Dhir produced.

### From Canada dreams to match-winning heroics : Faridkot's Naman Dhir shines for India



FARIDKOT : (AGENCY)

Less than two years ago, Naman Dhir was quietly filling out paperwork, preparing to trade his cricket bat for a permanent residency visa to Canada. On Thursday at Hagley Oval in Christchurch, New Zealand, he was at the centre of the action, unbeaten on 42 off just 15 balls. Cracking five fours and two sixes in a high-octane finish, the 24-year-old all-rounder powered India to chase down a target of 226 against New Zealand in the first T20I of the five-match series. India reached 230/6 in 19.4 overs, securing a four-wicket victory with two balls to spare. Back at his family home on Faridkot's New Cantt Road, tears of joy flowed as the family celebrated a journey that came close to ending in early 2022. Born on December 31, 1999, in Ambala, Naman moved to Faridkot as a child when his father, Naresh Kumar Dhir, took up a job at

a local medical shop. Living on a modest income, financing cricket gear, club memberships and travel expenses was a constant struggle. Yet his mother, Nirupama, and father always found a way to support his dream. Naman's raw talent was first recognised not on a manicured turf but in the narrow lanes of his neighbourhood Arun Devgan, a local resident, physical trainer and cricket enthusiast, spotted eight-year-old Naman playing street cricket and immediately noticed something special. "I saw him playing in the street and noticed his bat swing and grip were natural," recalls Devgan. "I spoke to his mother and told her we should take him to the ground—he had the makings of a real player." Devgan took the youngster under his wing, introducing him to formal training under the late Gagan Deep Singh Sandhu and Subhash Devgan. From those early drills, Naman's trajectory

took off. Playing in an Under-16 inter-district tournament for the Punjab Cricket Association (PCA) against Barnala, he smashed 471 runs in a two-day match, signalling his appetite for big scores. The road, however, was filled with scepticism. When Naman chose to skip an annual Class 11 History examination to represent his side in a crucial cricket match, school authorities and neighbours cautioned his parents. You are ruining your son's academic career, Naresh Dhir remembers being warned. But the father stood firm behind his son's passion. Despite his natural gift, a setback hit hard after his Under-16 stint. Selectors overlooked Naman for nearly four years. By early 2022, frustrated by stagnation and financial constraints, he made the difficult decision to pack his bags for Canada, where his elder sisters had settled. That was when his father made one final plea: "Give cricket just one more year." Naman agreed—and everything changed. In December 2022, Naman made his Ranji Trophy debut for Punjab, scoring 476 runs in eight matches, including two centuries. He went on to play a pivotal role in Punjab's historic Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy triumph in the 2023-24 season.

# GYANLUXMI PRODUCTION

- Event
- Film
- Promotion
- Music video
- Wedding Photography
- Pre Wedding
- Cinematography
- Video Editing
- Portfolio Profile Shoot

DIRECTOR

PRODUCTION: SCENE CUT TAKE DATE:

D-7, Regal Connauth place, New Delhi-110001

## 'Glad I got to do this': Keerthy Suresh on her role in Netflix series 'Akka'



Actress Keerthy Suresh on Thursday said she was immediately drawn to the

language projects. Suresh, who debuted in Hindi cinema with the 2024 Varun Dhawan-starrer Baby John, was thrilled to be offered the lead role.

Speaking at the trailer launch of the series in Mumbai, Suresh said, "It is unique and a never-seen-before (world) and to see two women against each other. I'm so happy and glad I got to do this. This is the first project I signed in Hindi and I wanted this to come out first. But I'm glad I got to play a big part in it." "When Dharama came to me to narrate Akka, I didn't know what I was signing for. I heard the first episode and it took a while to understand the world because it is a unique world. The minute I finished hearing the first episode, I was like, 'I'm doing it,' she added. Written and directed by Dharmaraj Shetty, Akka marks his debut as a filmmaker. Crediting Shetty for helping her shape her role, the 34-year-old actor noted that preparing for the series exposed her to a whole new working style. "Every time you get into a new character, like I always have a starting trouble, like where do we start, what are the details, how do we go ahead about it, and Dhama made it easy," she said. Produced by YRF Entertainment, the series is set in Pernuru, a fictional kingdom shaped by generations of women who built, governed and protected it. Also starring Radhika Apte, the gangster series set in the 1980s is set to premiere on Netflix on October 30. (AGENCY)

## Samantha Ruth Prabhu calls Vijay her 'lucky charm' on Celebrity MasterChef Tamil

Actress Samantha Ruth Prabhu has praised Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Vijay, calling him her "lucky charm" on Celebrity MasterChef Tamil, which she currently hosts. In the trailer for an upcoming episode, RJ Vijay asks Samantha to name her favourite star during the Hero vs Villain challenge. The actor responds that her admiration for Vijay is well known. "He is my lucky charm. I worked with him in three superhits," she says. Samantha is referring to the three Tamil films she starred in alongside Vijay — Kaththi (2014), Theri (2016) and Mersal (2017). She also discusses Vijay's



decision to leave cinema and pursue a career in politics, describing him as an inspiration. Reflecting on his choice to step away from films at the height of his career, Samantha says that becoming a leader and taking on the responsibilities of governance requires considerable commitment. "He is an inspiration as a person. Crores of fans, and to choose to be a leader, to choose governance, quiet

focused, and working so hard behind the scenes. Walking away from cinema at the peak of one's career to enter politics is not an easy decision," she says. She also observes that Vijay entered politics at the right time. Produced by Endemol Shine India, Celebrity MasterChef Tamil airs Monday to Friday at 8 pm on Sony VIZHA and streams on Sony LIV. Vijay made his screen debut as a child actor in 1984 with Vetri, directed by his father, S.A. Chandrasekhar. He made his debut as a lead actor with Naalaiya Theerpu in 1992, a film directed by his father and produced by his mother, Shoba. (AGENCY)

## Not Comfortable With Skin Show': Rashmika Mandanna On Setting Boundaries in Films

Rashmika Mandanna has opened up about the kind of costumes she feels comfortable wearing on screen. The actor said she is not someone who is at ease with excessive skin exposure. Rashmika, who recently appeared on Karan Johar's Koffee With Karan Season 9 with her husband Vijay Deverakonda, spoke about setting boundaries while working on commercial films and why actors should feel free to voice their concerns. Rashmika explained that some roles may require actors to wear outfits they would not normally choose, including bikinis and other

**Rashmika explained that some roles may require actors to wear outfits they would not normally choose, including bikinis and other revealing costumes.**

revealing costumes. However, she believes performers should be able to communicate their discomfort instead of feeling pressured to go along with everything a role demands. "There are some things which I am not okay with. I know some characters need some things like a bikini or like that. But even in that, I

will say I am not comfortable with that exposing and skin show. I am not that kind of a person." The Animal actor also said she prefers working with filmmakers who understand and respect her choices. While she recognises that commercial cinema comes with certain costume requirements, she makes it a point to decide where she wants to draw the line. "But again, when you do commercial films, there will be these costumes, that you are not completely comfortable with. But there are some lines that I draw for myself. (AGENCY)



## Lotus Make-Up and Shehnaaz Gill Celebrate Festive Beauty

**Lotus Make-Up and Shehnaaz Gill Come Together to Celebrate Modern Indian Beauty This Festive Season**

**The association comes to life as Shehnaaz Gill discovers\***

### OPEN SEARCH

Lotus Make-Up during her festive shopping visit to

expression of personal style, Lotus Make-Up brings together high-performance, 100% vegan makeup



Delhi's Lajpat Nagar, spotlighting the brand's philosophy of high-performance makeup infused with the goodness of skincare. New Delhi, [Date]: Festive shopping in the capital took a beauty turn as actor Shehnaaz Gill visited Lajpat Nagar to shop for the upcoming festive season and came across Lotus Make-Up. Known for her grounded personality and strong connection with her Indian roots, Shehnaaz resonates with Lotus Make-Up's identity as a trusted modern Indian brand that celebrates individuality while bringing together beauty, performance and the goodness of skincare. The association reflects a shared sensibility rooted in Indian identity and a contemporary outlook. As festive beauty becomes an

with skincare-led formulations designed for the modern Indian woman who wants her makeup to do more than just glam up her look. At the heart of Lotus Make-Up lies the philosophy of the 'skinification of makeup'. Building on Lotus' legacy of over 30 years in skincare, the brand brings its understanding of skincare ingredients and formulations into the world of makeup. The result is a range designed to combine colour, coverage and lasting performance with the goodness of skincare. From bold lip colours to statement-making eyes, Lotus Make-Up aims to make beauty and skincare complementary, ensuring that makeup is not just about how one looks, but also about the skincare benefits built into the formulations.

Speaking about the brand's approach to festive beauty, Puja Singh, General Manager - Marketing, said, "At Lotus Make-Up, we believe makeup should do more than help you create a look; it should bring together performance, comfort and the goodness of skincare. As a trusted Indian brand, our philosophy of skinification of makeup is at the heart of everything we create. Our high-performance, 100% vegan makeup is designed for the modern Indian woman who wants to express herself through colour and creativity without compromising on skincare benefits. The festive season is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate this philosophy, as beauty becomes an expression of personal style, tradition and individuality." Shehnaaz Gill's festive shopping moment brings this brand philosophy into a familiar, everyday setting, reflecting how beauty discovery is becoming part of the larger festive experience. With its Indian roots, contemporary approach and commitment to the skinification of makeup, Lotus Make-Up continues to build on its skincare heritage to create makeup that brings together self-expression, performance and skincare benefits.

## Diljit Dosanjh's 'temporarily withheld' October concert to go ahead as scheduled

Punjabi singer-actor Diljit Dosanjh's Delhi concert is set to be held as scheduled on October 30 with permission which was "temporarily withheld" previously and now "reconsidered and issued", said event organiser Live on Friday. On Thursday, Delhi Police said it had denied permission for the Punjabi singer's concert at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, citing specific threat-related inputs, security concerns and law and order commitments amid the ongoing festive season. "It is clarified that reports suggesting that the Diljit Dosanjh AURA India Tour concert in New Delhi on 30 October being cancelled are inaccurate. Permission for the event had been temporarily withheld, not cancelled, and the two should not be confused," the organisers BookMyShow Live clarified in a statement. The organisers further added



that given the festive season relation caution, Delhi Police to put 'additional safety, traffic and crowd-management measures in place.' had a cordial meeting with Delhi Police, presented a detailed plan and have assured Delhi Police of full compliance with all security/traffic requirements. On that basis, permission for the event has been reconsidered and issued. We with Delhi Police are committed to ensure a good experience to the attendees as well as local commuters," the statement further stated.

## PVR INOX to screen BTS concerts from Buenos Aires, São Paulo across India

BTS concerts in Buenos Aires and São Paulo, as part of their ongoing Arirang World Tour, will be screened at cinemas across India, including Kolkata, later this month, giving fans a chance to join in the musical celebrations through special delayed live-viewing screenings. On Friday, the official website of cinema chain PVR INOX announced that the first concert in Buenos Aires will be live screened on Sunday, October 25, 2026, at 3:45 PM IST, followed by São Paulo on Saturday,



October 31, 2026, at 3:45 PM IST. Both will be presented as 'BTS WORLD TOUR 'ARIRANG' - LIVE VIEWING (DELAYED)'. Mr. Aamer Bijli, the Lead Specialist - Innovation, Film Marketing, and Digital Programming of PVR INOX Limited, said, "The response to our earlier BTS screenings has shown us how deeply Indian fans value coming together for these experiences. They come not simply to watch, but to celebrate a connection shared by fellow fans. With these performances distributed in India by PVR INOX Pictures, we are delighted to bring that spirit back to our cinemas." He added, "With screenings reaching audiences across 38 cities, we are bringing fans from different parts of the country together to share their love for BTS. And experience the energy of these performances on the big screen. Presenting two different tour stops gives fans across India another opportunity to come together through their shared love for BTS and experience the performances on the big screen." The screenings reflect PVR INOX's growing focus on programming beyond film, bringing international music. (AGENCY)

## CM Dharami speaks to Mika Singh after Subodh Uniyal's remarks against Daler Mehndi

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dharami on Thursday said he has spoken with Mehndi's brother, Mika Singh, and that any "misunderstanding" can be resolved through dialogue, seeking to end the controversy over state minister Subodh Uniyal publicly reprimanding singer Daler Mehndi for his performance. Mika had earlier demanded an apology from Uniyal and had urged Chief Minister Dharami to look into the matter. Facing criticism for his conduct, Uniyal stated on Wednesday that the artist should have given prior notice about his illness and avoided performing. In a post on X, Dharami wrote, "Today, I had a telephonic conversation with the renowned singer Mika Singh. While discussing matters concerning Daler Mehndi, I emphasised that any misunderstandings should be resolved through mutual dialogue and cordiality." "Artists are always welcomed and respected here with open hearts," the Chief Minister added.



Speaking earlier at a local press conference, Dharami stated that the state respects all artists, adding that he plans to speak with Mehndi and Mika Singh, whom he referred to as "good friends". "I believe the minister must have been under pressure from the public at that time. The minister himself has stated that he was unaware that Daler Mehndi was unwell," he said. "Uttarakhand is a land of artists, where everyone is treated with respect. I feel this matter should be put to rest here. I will speak with Mika and Daler Mehndi; both are good friends of

mine," he said. On Sunday night, Minister Uniyal took to the stage to express his displeasure while Mehndi was performing at the 'Siddhpeeth Maa Kunjapuri Tourism and Development Fair', a cultural event organised by the Uttarakhand government in Narendra Nagar, New Tehri. In a video of the incident that went viral on social media, Uniyal is heard asking Mehndi if he was drunk, as he was not able to speak properly. The 59-year-old singer, known for hits such as Tunak Tunak Tun, Bolo Ta Ra, and Ho Jayegi Balke Balke, was heard saying "sorry". (AGENCY)

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