

OPEN SEARCH

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PM Modi interacts with BRICS Parliamentarians

NEW DELHI AGENCY

The forum, being hosted under India's chairship, brings together representatives of BRICS member and partner countries to strengthen parliamentary cooperation and discuss people-centric development. The discussions are scheduled to cover institutional resilience, ethical artificial intelligence, digital transformation, global governance reforms and sustainable development. Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla chaired the opening session and welcomed delegates from BRICS member nations, highlighting the importance of dialogue, mutual respect and cooperation among participating countries.

In his inaugural address, Birla said, "On this occasion, the presence of parliamentary delegations from BRICS member nations in India, coming to the world's largest democratic nation and sharing a joint commitment, will in itself be a special experience."

He added, "The presence of the BRICS Parliamentary Cooperation in India demonstrates our shared commitment to dialogue,



mutual respect, and our shared trust in democratic values." Birla highlighted the growing international significance of BRICS and the role parliamentary institutions can play in strengthening cooperation among member countries.

The Speaker noted that BRICS nations represent a substantial share of the world's population, landmass and economic activity, giving them a collective responsibility to address international challenges.

"BRICS countries may differ geographically, culturally, linguistically, and

socially, but our shared responsibility toward democratic values and humanity binds us together," he said.

Birla stresses peaceful resolution of global challenges Addressing the role of legislatures in international relations, Birla said parliamentary engagement could help build trust, ease tensions and encourage peaceful solutions to global problems. "Parliaments can play a special role in strengthening mutual understanding and trust, reducing international tension and resolving global challenges peacefully," he said. The forum's

PM to inaugurate Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave on today

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave 2026 on 27 October 2026 at 5:30 PM at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. He will also address the gathering on the occasion. Scheduled from 27 to 29 October, the three-day Conclave will bring together leading scientists, researchers, academicians, policymakers, industry leaders, startups and international experts to deliberate on emerging technologies and India's science, technology and innovation priorities. Deliberations will span 12 thematic areas, including artificial intelligence, biotechnology,

agenda includes discussions on strengthening institutions, promoting responsible use of artificial intelligence, improving global governance and advancing sustainable development. Birla also emphasised the

advanced materials, manufacturing, healthcare, energy, climate and ocean sciences. Discussions will focus on research priorities, national capabilities and translating scientific advances into practical applications. The Conclave will also feature an extensive technology and innovation exhibition showcasing indigenous scientific achievements and emerging technologies. It will include around 150 deep-tech startup stalls, which will highlight technological developments and their potential applications across sectors. The Conclave will also use thematic videos, technology demonstrations, documentaries.

potential of BRICS to represent the concerns of developing countries in international decision-making. "BRICS has the ability to become an empowered voice of the Global South.

DAC clears defence acquisition proposals worth Rs 2.12 lakh crore

NEW DELHI AGENCY

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, on Monday accepted Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) to capital acquisition proposals worth approximately Rs 2.12 lakh crore for the three services, with around 82 per cent of the procurements slated to be sourced from the Indian industry.

The approvals cover a wide range of military hardware and systems for the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force, including artillery systems, helicopters, air defence equipment, unmanned aerial systems, surveillance platforms and naval capabilities. For the Indian Army, the council approved proposals for High Mobility Vehicles (HMs), Self-Propelled Tracked Gun Systems, Gun Shot Response Systems (GSRs), Light Multi Role Helicopters, Very Short-Range Air Defence Systems (VSHORADS), platform-based Counter-Unmanned Aerial Systems, long-range unmanned aerial systems, surveillance UAVs, integrated surveillance and strike



The HMs are intended to improve mobility, operational capability and logistical support in challenging terrain, while the Self-Propelled Tracked Gun Systems will provide mechanised formations with matching mobility and firepower

systems, and long-range kamikaze drone systems.

The HMs are intended to improve mobility, operational capability and logistical support in challenging terrain, while the Self-Propelled Tracked Gun Systems will provide mechanised formations with matching mobility and firepower. The GSRs will act as a force multiplier by providing real-time situational awareness. The LMRHs, intended for use by both the

Army and the Air Force, will support reconnaissance and surveillance, combat operations, search and rescue, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief missions. The VSHORADS will help counter emerging small aerial threats, while platform-based C-UAS will enhance the survivability of tanks on the modern battlefield. The proposed surveillance and drone systems are expected to strengthen the Army's reconnaissance, surveillance and targeting capabilities. For the Indian Navy, the DAC accorded approval for the procurement of an Active Offboard Decoy System and other major naval platforms. The AODS is designed to strengthen the effectiveness of naval anti-missile defence, particularly against modern anti-ship missiles.

Energy markets unlikely to return to pre-war levels in 2027 : IEA

NEW DELHI AGENCY

Global energy markets are unlikely to return to pre-war conditions in 2027 as the conflict involving Iran continues to disrupt supplies, drive up oil and refined-product prices, and intensify concerns over winter fuel availability, International Energy Agency (IEA) Executive Director Fatih Birol said. Speaking at the Singapore International Energy Week conference, Birol said there was no credible path for markets to return to their pre-war state next year, urging governments and businesses to make energy security their top priority, according to Reuters. The conflict, which began in late February, has tightened a global oil market that had been expected to record a surplus in 2026, disrupting energy flows and putting additional pressure on crude oil and refined-product supplies.

CM Rekha Gupta orders probe into animal shelter demolition, assures Rs 5L aid

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta has ordered an inquiry into the conduct of a junior engineer and directed the police to register a case against those responsible for the alleged demolition of boundary walls on land used for an animal shelter and a free veterinary hospital. She has also assured animal welfare activist Jagriti Mishra of Rs 5 lakh in assistance from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

The action follows Mishra's allegation that a group of people entered the agricultural land with a JCB machine on Friday and demolished its boundary walls, damaging the property. Gupta has directed the District Magistrate to provide all necessary assistance to Mishra in setting up the animal shelter. She also assured her that strict action would be taken



Gupta has directed the District Magistrate to provide all necessary assistance to Mishra in setting up the animal shelter

against those found responsible for harassment or misuse of authority. "We have taken all necessary steps to ensure that animal welfare activist Jagriti Mishra receives all possible support," Gupta said. "An inquiry into the junior engineer's conduct has been ordered, and the police have been directed to register a case against those respon-

sible. The District Magistrate has been instructed to assist her in setting up the animal shelter," she added. Mishra alleged that attempts had previously been made to enter the property unlawfully. She claimed that last week, a person visited the premises identifying himself as a local councillor affiliated with the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP). "On Friday, our labourers called to inform me that some people had entered the agricultural land with a JCB machine and were demolishing the boundary walls, causing significant damage. The land is being used for a cow shelter and a free veterinary hospital," Mishra said. She maintained that the demolition had damaged infrastructure meant to support the animal shelter. Gupta said Rs 5 lakh would be provided from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund to support Mishra.

CHJU delegation meets CM, submits memorandum regarding journalists' demands

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH

The Chandigarh and Haryana Journalists Union (CHJU) delegation met with Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini to fulfill several long-pending demands of the state's journalists. These include the prompt issuance of cashless medical cards, an increase in journalists' pensions, the simplification of press accreditation and pension rules to ensure broader eligibility, the provision of regular advertisements to small and medium newspapers, and the removal of the kilometer cap on free bus travel facilities for journalists. A CHJU delegation, led by Union President Ram Singh Brar and Chairman Balwant Takshak, met the Chief Minister at his official residence and submitted a



memorandum detailing these pending issues.

In the memorandum, the CHJU said that the Haryana government had previously announced the provision of cashless medical facilities for journalists similar to those offered to government employees but the scheme has yet to be implemented, and journal-

ists have not yet received their cashless medical cards. The CHJU urged the Chief Minister to expedite the issuance of these cards for all journalists in the state. Furthermore, the union requested that accreditation cards continue to be issued to journalists working for evening dailies, weeklies, fortnight-

Request for regular advertisements for small and medium newspapers and the removal of the kilometer limit on free bus travel facilities for journalists

ly and monthly publications, and that small and medium-sized newspapers continue to receive regular advertisements.

The union also informed the Chief Minister that the state government currently provides a monthly pension of 15,000 to journalists in Haryana. Activists who were imprisoned during the Emergency and Activists participants in the 'Hindi Andolan', and journalists previously received the same pension amount.

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Maharishi Valmiki showed humanity the path to living a righteous life through the Ramayana : CM

CM Nayab Singh Saini Announces Rs. 31 lakh for the Valmiki hostel under construction in Hisar

VIJAY KUMAR.OPEN SEARCH

CHANDIGARH : Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that through the Ramayana, Maharishi Valmiki introduced the world to the ideals of Maryada Purushottam Lord Sri Ram. His composition is not merely an epic but a timeless guide that shows humanity the path to living a righteous life. The teachings of Maharishi Valmiki inspire us to cultivate patience, hard work, unwavering faith, compassion, education and social harmony.

Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini was addressing the state-level birth anniversary celebration of Maharishi Valmiki, organised at Sant Kabir Kutir under the Sant Mahapurush Prachar-Prasar Yojana on Sunday. He paid floral tributes to the statue of Maharishi Valmiki, bowed in reverence and extended greetings and best wishes to the people of the state on the occasion of Prakash Parv. On the occasion, the Chief Minister also announced Rs. 31 lakh for the Valmiki hostel under construction in Hisar and said that he would visit the



site soon for the foundation-laying ceremony.

Addressing the gathering, Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that Maharishi Valmiki was a great saint who lit the lamp of knowledge in times of darkness. He provided shelter to Mata Sita at his ashram during a difficult period and also imparted quality education and values to her children. Education and values helped them develop a distinct identity. He said that the life of Maharishi Valmiki teaches us that no matter how difficult the circumstances may be, one should never lose patience.

Citing the example of Lord Sri Ram's life, the Chief Minister said that when

Lord Ram was supposed to be crowned king, he was instead sent into exile. However, he remained patient, accepted the circumstances and moved forward. The Ramayana teaches us that any goal can be achieved through patience, hard work and unwavering faith.

Practising Maharishi Valmiki's teachings is the true expression of reverence

Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that Maharishi Valmiki rose above caste distinctions and conveyed the message of humanity. Reverence for his teachings should not remain limited to worship alone but should also be reflected in our conduct. No individual should face discrimination



on the basis of birth, caste, economic status or occupation. He said that Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi's mantra, "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Prayas" also advances the same spirit. The government's endeavour is to bring every section of society into the mainstream of development and ensure that everyone progresses with dignity. The Chief Minister said that it was a matter of pride that we had witnessed the construction of the magnificent temple in Ayodhya, the city of Lord Sri Ram. Temples dedicated to Maharishi Valmiki, Nishadraj and Mata Shabari have also been built within the temple complex. The airport in Ayodhya Dham has

also been named after Maharishi Valmiki.

Efforts to take the message of great saints to the younger generation

The Chief Minister said that the objective of celebrating the birth anniversaries of great saints and eminent personalities under the Sant Mahapurush Prachar-Prasar Yojana is to convey their thoughts and teachings to future generations, enabling young people to draw inspiration from their lives. He said that it had been decided to organise this year's programme at Sant Kabir Kutir, and efforts would be made to organise it on a larger scale next year.

He said that the spirit of Maharishi Valmiki's teachings and the path shown by

him were reflected in every government scheme, policy and decision. His message of compassion, self-respect and humanity formed the foundation of the government's work. Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that the government was providing scholarships to children belonging to Scheduled Castes, coaching facilities for competitive examinations and hostel facilities. Regarding scholarships, he said that arrangements had been made to transfer the funds directly into the beneficiaries' bank accounts so that students could receive the benefits on time. The CM stated that during the recent Haryana Police recruitment process, 604 candidates from the community had been selected for the Haryana Police. He said that children from the community were progressing and reaching new heights of development. The Chief Minister said that the Haryana State Commission for Scheduled Castes had been established to promote the welfare of Scheduled Castes and protect their rights, while the Haryana State Safai Karamchari Commission had been constituted for the welfare of sanitation workers.

Festival rush : Chandigarh gets special trains to Patna, Varanasi, Barauni till November

CHANDIGARH : (AGENCY)

With the festive rush expected to increase passenger traffic, Northern Railway's Ambala division is operating special trains from Chandigarh to Patna, Varanasi and Barauni to provide additional travel options until November 30.

The services are aimed at easing congestion on regular trains and improving connectivity with Bihar and eastern Uttar Pradesh during the festive season. The schedule released by the railway division lists five Chandigarh-origin services, including trains to Patna, Varanasi and Barauni, operating on specified days between October and

November. The Chandigarh-Patna special (04512/04511) will run from October 1 to November 26, while the Chandigarh-Varanasi special (04228/04227) will operate from October 2 to November 30. The Chandigarh-Barauni special (04536/04535) is scheduled from October 23 to November 27. The timings listed in the division's chart show that the Chandigarh-Patna train (04512) reaches Chandigarh at 11.35 pm on its listed arrival schedule before proceeding towards Ambala Cantt, where it is scheduled from 12.20 am to 12.30 am, and Sirhind from 2 am to 2.05 am.

Western Command to hold mechanisation technology seminar at Chandimandir on Dec 14-15

CHANDIGARH : (AGENCY)

The Western Command will organise the second edition of the Mechanisation Technology Seminar (MTS 2.0) at Chandimandir Military Station on December 14 and 15, bringing together the Army, industry and academia to showcase innovations, bridge operational gaps and accelerate indigenous capability development for mechanised forces.

Being held in collaboration with the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM), this year's theme is 'CHAKRA - Transforming Existing Platforms for Future Combat', a defence spokesperson said in



Chandigarh on Monday.

A curtain-raiser for the event was held at the Manekshaw Centre in New Delhi on Monday, presided over by Lieutenant General Pushpendra Singh, General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Command.

An initiative of the Western Command, MTS 2.0 aims to enhance the combat effectiveness of mechanised forces by transforming existing military

platforms into technologically advanced, capable and future-ready combat systems. The seminar will focus on combat capability enhancement, harnessing technology, adaptability, kinetics, refurbishment and self-reliance, with an emphasis on translating operational capability gaps and requirements into clearly defined problem definition statements (PDS).

The curtain-raiser out-

lined the broad vision and key areas of focus for the seminar, highlighting the importance of technology-driven modernisation, civil-military collaboration and self-reliance in strengthening indigenous defence capabilities.

It also provided a platform for interaction among military users, industry representatives, academia and other stakeholders to deliberate on the modernisation of existing platforms, indigenous technological innovation and emerging operational requirements.

MTS 2.0 reflects the Indian Army's continued commitment to capability enhancement, technological transformation and self-reliance in defence.

Maharishi Valmiki is a great symbol of Indian literature, culture and human consciousness : Governor

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH

Haryana Governor Prof. Ashim Kumar Ghosh said that Maharishi Valmiki is a great symbol of Indian literature, culture and human consciousness. Revered as the Adi Kavi, Maharishi Valmiki composed the Ramayana, one of India's most revered epics. The Ramayana is not merely a literary masterpiece but also a timeless source of inspiration embodying the values of duty, truth, sacrifice and dignity. The ideals reflected in the lives of Lord Shri Ram, Bharat, Lakshman, Sita and Hanuman inspire people to uphold righteousness, devotion, patience and selfless service in their daily lives,



he added. The Governor was addressing a programme organized by Maharishi Valmiki Ashram and Valmiki Sabha at Thanesar in Kurukshetra on Monday to mark Maharishi Valmiki Jayanti. Governor Prof. Ashim Kumar Ghosh and Haryana Cabinet Minister Krishan Kumar Bedi also paid floral tributes to Maharishi Valmiki. Earlier, the Governor laid the founda-

tion stone for the construction of two rooms at the Bhagwan Valmiki Hostel and announced a grant of Rs 15 lakh towards the construction. He also extended his heartfelt greetings and best wishes to the people of Haryana on the occasion of Maharishi Valmiki Jayanti.

The Governor said that the episode of the crane birds associated with Maharishi Valmiki's life

highlights that great literature emerges not merely from knowledge and talent but also from a sensitive and compassionate heart. Empathy for the suffering of others and sensitivity towards injustice are the true foundations of humanity, he said.

He said that the Ramayana is not merely a narrative of a particular era but a timeless guide that offers opportunities for introspection and learning to people in every generation. Its values remain equally relevant in family, social and public life today.

Remembering Maharishi Valmiki provides an opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to social harmony.

The Wet Paddy in Mandis as Procurement Slows; Selja Demands Special Girdawari and Compensation

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH

The Sirsa MP, Former Union Minister, General Secretary of the All India Congress Committee and CWC member Kumari Selja, has expressed deep concern over unseasonal rains, hailstorms, slow paddy lifting at mandis, and the shortage of DAP fertiliser in Haryana. She said the state's farmers were facing a crisis on several fronts. While standing crops in fields had been hit by adverse weather, paddy lying in mandis awaiting sale was getting wet in the rain. The availability of fertiliser for the next wheat sowing season was also adding to farmers' concerns. Kumari Selja said rain and hailstorms were



likely to have damaged paddy and other crops in several areas of Sirsa and Fatehabad districts, including Rania, Dabwali, Ding, Ratia and Tohana. The situation in other affected districts of the state should also be assessed immediately. She said it was the government's responsibility to ensure adequate sheds, tarpaulins, proper drainage and timely lifting of produce at mandis. The Congress

The DAP Shortage During Wheat Sowing Season Raises Concern; Farmers Face Problems from Sale to Next Sowing :Kumari Selja

had previously demanded faster paddy lifting, but the expected improvement in arrangements had not taken place. She said farmers were being forced to wait at mandis to sell their produce, while arranging DAP fertiliser for wheat sowing had also become a challenge. Complaints regarding fertiliser availability and distribution had emerged from Panipat and several other districts. The government should publish

district-wise demand and available stocks and ensure transparent distribution, she said.

Kumari Selja said the Congress's policy was to secure fair prices for farmers' produce, timely payments, lower agricultural input costs and fair compensation during natural disasters. She urged the government to immediately conduct a special girdawari to assess crop losses, evaluate damage to paddy that had become wet in mandis, compensate affected farmers and improve arrangements for paddy procurement, lifting and DAP supply. Providing relief to farmers, she said, should be the government's highest priority.

Anil Vij Burns Effigy of Mallikarjun Kharge in Ambala Cantonment, Says Country Will Not Tolerate Insult to PM

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH

Haryana Energy, Transport and Labour Minister Anil Vij today burned an effigy of Congress national president Mallikarjun Kharge in Ambala Cantonment. He said the country would never tolerate the alleged insult to Prime Minister Narendra Modi by Kharge the previous day, particularly the remarks involving the Prime Minister's father.

Vij further said that attempts to create anarchy in the country under the slogan of 'Change the Regime' would not be tolerated on Indian soil. Advising the Congress, he said, "By all means, engage in politics, but also respect the culture of this country. If opposition



leaders want to express their views, they should do so in a dignified and culturally appropriate manner."

After burning the effigy of Congress national president Mallikarjun Kharge in Ambala Cantonment, Vij addressed BJP workers and other people present at the site. On the occasion, he raised slogans against the Congress, including, "Badmiz Congress, Piti hui

Congress" and "yeh ki hoya, Kharge Moya Moya."

Speaking on the occasion, Energy Minister Anil Vij said that India is a democracy where different political parties are entitled to hold differing opinions. Reviewing the functioning of the government and examining its policies are legitimate rights of every opposition party. However, Vij said, opposition must

Vij Expresses Concern Over Proposed November 1 Rally in Delhi, Raises Law-and-Order Fears, Says People of India Are Aware

also observe certain standards and ethical boundaries. He alleged that the Congress and other opposition parties had been rejected by the people across the country.

The People Have Wiped Out Congress in 22 States : Vij Vij claimed that the people of the country had wiped out the Congress from 22 states. He said the continued presence of BJP governments in the country had left the Congress so frustrated that it had lost its mental

balance. Vij said the Congress sometimes mocks the Prime Minister by calling him a tea seller. He asked whether earning a living by selling tea and supporting one's family was a crime. Millions of people in India sell tea, work as street vendors, drive rickshaws, operate roadside stalls, work in shops and earn their livelihoods in factories. Are these occupations crimes, he asked, adding that hard-working people should have every opportunity to rise to the position of Prime Minister. Vij questioned whether the office of Prime Minister was reserved only for people such as Rahul Gandhi, who were born into privilege, with a "silver spoon in their mouths.

Building a strong and prosperous nation is possible only through the education of daughters: Governor Ashim Kumar Ghosh

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH

The 4th Convocation of Bhagat Phool Singh Mahila Vishwavidyalaya, Khanpur Kalan, Sonapat, was held on Monday, with Haryana Governor and University Chancellor Prof. Ashim Kumar Ghosh attending as the Chief Guest. The First Lady of Haryana, Smt. Mitra Ghosh, was also present on the occasion.

The Governor congratulated the graduating students on their achievements and wished them a bright future. He also appreciated the dedication and guidance of the teachers and parents whose efforts had contributed to the students' success. Addressing the gather-



ing, Governor Prof. Ashim Kumar Ghosh said that Bhagat Phool Singh Mahila Vishwavidyalaya holds a special place in the field of women's education and empowerment, particularly in rural areas. Established in 1936 by Bhagat Phool Singh as a Kanya Gurukul with just three students, the institution has grown into a university where more than

6,000 young women are pursuing education. He said that the university is playing a significant role in providing quality education, imparting skills, and fostering self-confidence and self-reliance among rural girls.

The Governor said that the progress of women is indispensable to the prosperity of the nation. Today, women are demonstrating their capabilities in diverse fields, including education, science, technology, sports, administration and national security. The daughters of sHaryana have also brought laurels to the state through their achievements at national and international levels.

A Divine Aura of Devotion and Oneness Envelops the Third Day of the 79th Annual Nirankari Sant Samagam

SAMALKHA : OPEN SEARCH

“To remain steadfast in the love of the Almighty under every circumstance is the essence of true spiritual awakening.” These profound words were shared by Nirankari Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj during her inspiring discourse on the third day of the 79th Annual Nirankari Sant Samagam.

The lands of Samalkha witnessed the gathering of lakhs of devotees from India and across the world, creating a magnificent spectacle of love, devotion, and oneness. The divine presence and holy darshan of Satguru Mata Ji deeply moved the devotees, while the entire atmosphere resonated with devotion, surrender, and spiritual bliss. This sacred



union of the Guru and the devotees beautifully reflected the timeless ideals of love, humanity, and universal brotherhood. Blessing the devotees, Satguru Mata Ji said that the union of the soul with the Supreme Soul and experiencing the Divine Presence in every moment is the true essence of spiritual life. While God is the eternal and unchanging Truth, human desires and worldly circumstances continue to change. It is easy to maintain faith during

favourable times, but true devotion is that which remains unwavering in every situation.

She further explained that the awakening received through Brahm Gyan inspires an individual to remain spiritually aware and vigilant throughout life. Such awakening should be clearly reflected in one's conduct, decisions, and social interactions. While standing against injustice, one must sincerely examine whether the intention is

True Spiritual Awakening Lies in Remaining Anchored in Divine Love Through Every Circumstance : Nirankari Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj

truly for the welfare of others or merely driven by ego, self-interest, or the desire for recognition. Even when differences of opinion exist, recognising the Divine within every individual and embracing them with love is the true expression of selfless devotion. Prior to Satguru Mata Ji's discourse, Nirankari Rajpita Ramit Ji shared a message on spiritual awareness. He explained that wherever change is possible, one should make sincere and

positive efforts; however, where change is beyond one's control, one should cultivate the strength to accept circumstances with grace and serenity.

Rajpita Ji further remarked that while human beings remain attentive to worldly needs and material comforts, they often overlook the true longing of the soul. Recognising the all-pervading presence of the Almighty, overcoming ego, and living with genuine curiosity, faith, and complete surrender constitute the real essence of spiritual awakening. On this sacred occasion, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Haryana, Shri Nayab Singh Saini, sought the divine blessings of Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj.

It belongs to Indian culture and the principles of Lord Mahavira' : Acharya Lokesh

AJEET KUMAR.OPEN SEARCH

NEW DELHI. Jain Acharya Lokesh Ji, Founder of Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti and the World Peace Center, was honoured with the International Human Rights Award 2026 at the International Convention for Human Rights 2026. The award was presented by former Supreme Court Justice Ms. Indira Banerjee at the NDMC Convention Centre in New Delhi. The programme was organised by the World Human Rights Research Council.

Acharya Lokesh Ji received this honour in recognition of his remarkable contributions to promoting non-violence, peace, human rights awareness, social harmony, and human values. Addressing the inaugural session of the International Convention



United Kingdom, emphasised the need to protect human rights and promote human values at the global level. The programme commenced with remarks by Sandeep Marwah.

It is noteworthy that Acharya Lokesh Ji has been working for many years to spread the message of non-violence, compassion, tolerance, and mutual brotherhood among people. Under his guidance, Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti and the World Peace Center continue to work towards humanity, ethical values, social harmony, and the establishment of world peace. On this occasion, emphasis was laid on ensuring equality in human rights, social justice, and the dignity of every individual. The honour conferred upon Acharya Lokesh Ji stands as a testament to his unwavering commitment to non-violence, peace, and human welfare.

Delhi govt steps up coordination with neighbouring NCR districts to curb winter air pollution

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)

The Delhi government has stepped up coordination with neighbouring NCR districts to curb winter air pollution, with Environment Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa on Sunday reviewing measures to decongest border areas and intensify action against polluting vehicles. According to an official statement, the environment minister held a high-level meeting with senior traffic police and police officials from Delhi, Noida, Faridabad, Gurugram, Sonapat and Bahadurgarh to review preparedness for implementing pollution-control measures under the Graded Response Action Plan and directions of the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM). Stressing that air pollution



is a regional issue requiring coordinated action by NCR states, Sirsa said that effective border management, smoother traffic movement, cleaner public transport and coordinated action against non-compliant vehicles would remain key components of the city's winter pollution-control strategy.

The meeting focused on synchronising traffic movement and deploying adequate personnel at congestion-prone locations, particularly near NCR borders, to reduce vehicular emissions from prolonged traffic jams.

Amid hunger strike, Jamia Millia Islamia agrees to hold student union polls after 21 years

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)

In a significant development amid the ongoing student unrest at Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI), the university administration on Monday agreed to hold students' union elections within 15 days of the approval of the union constitution. It also decided to revoke the suspension and show-cause notices issued during the protests, and ordered an inquiry into the conduct of security personnel.

The decision came after the university considered a demand letter submitted by students on hunger strike and their representatives. The order addresses three key demands raised during the agitation, which had witnessed repeated confrontations between students, university authorities and police personnel. In its



order, the university said, "The Jamia Millia Islamia Students' Union election will be held after 15 days, from the date of approval of the constitution of the students' union."

However, the administration has not announced a specific date for the election, making their conduct dependent on the approval of the students' union constitution. Providing relief to students who faced disciplinary action during the agitation, the university ordered, "Suspension and show-

cause notices issued to students during the period of protest are hereby revoked." The administration also announced that a committee would be constituted to inquire into the conduct of security personnel during the protests, another issue that had triggered resentment among students.

The concessions, however, come with conditions. According to the order, the protesting students have undertaken to issue a public apology through a press conference for any defama-

tory statements, actions or social media posts made against the university administration during the agitation. The order said, "All such posts shall be taken down from channels on social media with immediate effect." The university said the students' submission had been taken on record and compliance would be monitored. The administration also directed that "the protest shall be called off immediately on issue of this order".

The development comes against the backdrop of mounting tension on the campus over the demand for the restoration of students' union election. The agitation had intensified in recent days, with students protesting restrictions on campus access and disciplinary action against protesters.

SC asks states, UTs to allocate funds to build bar rooms, wash-rooms for women advocates

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)

The Supreme Court on Monday directed all states and Union Territories to allocate funds to build bar rooms, washrooms and other basic amenities for women advocates in district and taluk courts. A bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana disapproved of the lack of ladies' bar rooms and said facilities should be provided to women advocates regardless of their numbers.

"If there are no ladies' bar rooms, we strongly disapprove of it. It is the duty of all high courts and state governments to ensure that wherever women members are practising, they are provided an exclusive women's bar room with all facilities.



This is the mandate. We do not want to deviate from that. It has to be complied with, whether additional funds or land are required. Whatever is required must be done," the bench said, posting the matter for hearing on December 2.

The top court was hearing a plea filed by a group of women advocates concerning the accessibility, inclusiveness and long-term sustainability of women lawyers in the legal profession. Earlier, the court had stressed the need to create conditions that enable women advocates to discharge their professional responsibilities effectively.

Lakhimpur Kheri violence: Supreme Court allows Ashish Mishra to visit hometown on Diwali

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)

The Supreme Court on Monday allowed Ashish Mishra, an accused in the 2021 Lakhimpur violence case and son of former Union minister Ajay Mishra, to travel to his hometown to celebrate Diwali with his family members. A Bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana also remarked that the trial in the case has to be concluded in time. "There should not be tearing hurry but there also should not be prolonged delay. Balance has to be maintained by prosecution," the Bench said. The case dates back to October 3, 2021, when eight people, including four farmers, were killed in Tikunia in Uttar Pradesh's Lakhimpur Kheri district during a



protest by farmers against Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya's visit to the area. The four farmers were mowed down by an SUV. The driver and two BJP workers were then allegedly lynched by angry farmers. A journalist also died in the violence.

Mishra is out on bail but hadn't been given permission to enter his hometown Lakhimpur Kheri. "The petitioner is permitted to visit his hometown in Lakhimpur Kheri to cele-

brate coming Diwali festival with family and close relatives, subject to conditions imposed earlier.

He shall return on November 16," the Bench ordered on Monday after senior advocate Siddharth Dave, appearing for Mishra, sought permission for travel. The counsel for the state of Uttar Pradesh told the Bench that the trial court judge in the case had been transferred by the Allahabad High Court. The top court was also informed

A Bench comprising Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V Mohana also remarked that the trial in the case has to be concluded in time

that a new public prosecutor has been appointed to conduct trial in the case. Besides, it was told that 90 out of 131 witnesses had been examined.

Advocate Prashant Bhushan, appearing for the victims, submitted that they are satisfied with the developments in the case. Judicial officer Lokesh Rai assumed charge as the District and Sessions Judge of Lakhimpur Kheri on October 14, replacing Shiv Kumar Singh who had been hearing the case.

Devotees were moved by the tales of devotion, knowledge

GHAZIABAD: OPEN SEARCH

On the second day of the musical Srimad Bhagwat Katha, held at the ancient Shiv Shakti Durga Temple complex in Himalaya Enclave, Ward No. 23, Khoda, devotees were immersed in devotion. Saint Shyamdas Ji Maharaj, who arrived from Ayodhya, gave a soulful description of Shukdev Ji's arrival, King Parikshit's curse, and the greatness of the Bhagwat. During the Katha, devotees listened with reverence to the spiritual messages of devotion, knowledge, and detachment.

Pandit Santosh Mishra, media in-charge of the ancient Shiv Shakti Durga Temple Trust, shared that Katha Vyas Saint Shyamdas Ji Maharaj, while narrating an inspiring story from the life of King Parikshit, explained that one day, thirsty King Parikshit arrived at the ashram of



Sage Samik in the forest. Seeing the sage meditating and receiving no response, King Parikshit, enraged and under the influence of Kali Yuga, placed a dead snake around his neck.

When the sage's son, Shringi, learned of this incident, he cursed King Parikshit to die on the seventh day from the bite of the Takshak snake. Later, King Parikshit realized his mistake. He renounced his

kingdom, moved to the banks of the Ganges, and dedicated the last seven days of his life to remembering God and gaining spiritual knowledge.

During this time, the supremely wise Shukdev Muni arrived, from whose mouth King Parikshit listened to the Srimad Bhagavata Katha. Katha Vyas Ji explained that the Shrimad Bhagwat is not merely a religious text, but a

On the second day of the Srimad Bhagwat Katha, a soulful description of Shukdev Ji's arrival, King Parikshit's curse, and the greatness of the Bhagwat was presented

divine medium that guides human life on the path of virtue, devotion, knowledge, and detachment. Listening to the Bhagwat awakens self-reflection, discernment and devotion to God within a person. He said that Satsang empowers a person to distinguish between right and wrong. Only through God's grace and the company of saints does spiritual consciousness develop in life.

During the Katha, hymns, chants, and spiritual discourses filled the entire temple complex with devotion. The devotees present

were overwhelmed with emotion in the praise of Lord Hari. In this religious event, the main host Mrs. Suman Mishra and Pandit Shesh Narayan Mishra ji along with the President of the Temple Trust, Vinod Tiwari, Vinod Kumar Nagar, Tejpal Gupta, Harishchandra Sharma, Paramatma Yadav, Suraj Singh Kushwah, Krishna Swaroop Verma, Sandeep Mishra, Hridayram Mishra, D.P. Upadhyay, Bhagwati Dubey, Satyanarayan Gupta, Pandit Santosh Mishra, Santosh Verma, Narayan Singh Kushwah, Manmohan Tiwari, Manoj Chauhan, Dilip Singh Kushwah, Lokender Singh, Pintu Pandey, Jangbir Singh, Santosh Agarwal, Samarpal Singh, Shivram Singh, Shankar Patel, Sudhanshu, Deepanshu, Ishu, Anurag and Dabbu along with many devotees were present.

Workers feared trapped as building slab collapses at construction site in Delhi

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)

A building slab collapsed during construction at Milan Garden in Harsh Vihar, northeast Delhi, on Sunday, raising fears that some workers might be trapped under the debris. The building was being constructed illegally on a 200-square-yard plot. According to preliminary information, a slab was being laid on the first floor when it collapsed shortly afterwards. Additional DCP Sandeep Lamba said the police received a call about the building collapse, following which rescue teams were deployed at the spot.

"The original structure was an old, single-storey building, and an additional floor was being constructed on top of it. The area is completely enclosed, making it difficult to identify the exact building that collapsed.



Rescue teams are working at the spot, with the NDRF, local police, fire brigade and Civil Defence personnel involved in the operation," he said.

He said a large amount of debris was being cleared from the sides and the NDRF had also deployed its dog squad and other resources. No one had been rescued till the time of filing this report. Though there was a possibility that people were trapped under the

debris, this had not been confirmed. Teams from the NDRF and the fire brigade launched rescue operations soon after receiving information about the incident. Local residents said the slab collapsed shortly after the workers had left the site. They feared that some workers could be trapped under the debris, adding that the situation would become clear once the debris was cleared.

Open Search

EDITORIAL

The greatest strength of a strong Nation

National unity is the foundation of a country's progress, prosperity, and security. Its importance is even greater in a vast and diverse country like India. Despite differences in religions, languages, cultures, traditions, and customs, the spirit that binds Indians together is the true identity of our national unity. Celebrated every year on October 31, National Unity Day provides an opportunity to strengthen this spirit and remind ourselves of our responsibilities towards the unity and integrity of the nation. The day marks the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, India's first Deputy Prime Minister and Home Minister, who played a historic role in strengthening the country's unity and integrity.

At the time of independence, one of the greatest challenges facing India was the integration of various princely states. Through his determination, foresight, and effective leadership, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel made a significant contribution to bringing numerous princely states into the Indian Union. His efforts laid the foundation for a united and strong India. This is why he is honoured as the "Iron Man of India." National Unity Day not only commemorates his contributions but also reminds us of the importance of solidarity, mutual trust, and shared objectives in building a strong nation.

Today, national unity is not limited to protecting the geographical boundaries of the country. It is also closely linked to social harmony, equal economic opportunities, justice, education, citizens' rights, and respect for every individual. If any citizen experiences discrimination, inequality, or neglect, the goal of inclusive development remains incomplete. A strong nation is one in which every citizen has the opportunity to progress and feels that they are an important stakeholder in the country's development. In the present era, social media and digital platforms have made the exchange of information easier. However, they can also facilitate the rapid spread of rumours, misleading information, and content that promotes hostility within society.

In such circumstances, every citizen has a responsibility to verify information before sharing it. Disagreement is a natural part of democracy, but it is equally important to ensure that differences of opinion do not turn into hostility. Dialogue, sound judgment, and mutual respect are essential to creating an atmosphere of trust and understanding in society.

Dispassionate scrutiny

JAYANTA SENGUPTA

In 2019, the restored Belvedere House of the National Library hosted an exhibition, Icons of Nationalism: from the Soil of Bengal, featuring Bankim Chandra Chatterjee, Rabindranath Tagore, Subhas Chandra Bose, and Syama Prasad Mookerjee. A year earlier, travelling from the Victoria Memorial Hall to the National Library for the first curatorial meeting, and delayed in transit by a Mamata Banerjee convoy, I entered the meeting room a few minutes late. My heart sank immediately. In the minutes I had missed, the 'Rishi', the 'Gurudev' and the 'Netaji' had been taken, leaving the 'Dr' in my solitary care. Knowing little about Mookerjee, I began to read a little. A Delhi-based agency eventually stepped in for the content creation but two questions stayed with me. One, if Mookerjee belonged among Bengal's greatest icons, why had nobody claimed him in the first few minutes of the meeting? And two, how to understand his life and legacy away from the polarising narratives that either lionise or vilify him?

As 'Syamababu' now looms large on the foreground — with prolonged birthday celebrations and impending, mandated inclusion in Bengal's state-aided school, college, and university curricula — maybe it's time for me to return to these questions. They matter because conflicting narratives about him have usually foreclosed an honest examination. For the Congress, he was the man who broke ranks, resigning from Nehru's cabinet in 1950 over differences about East Bengal's minorities and the impending Delhi Pact and becoming one of the government's most formidable parliamentary critics. For the Left, his Hindu Mahasabha association and role in founding the Jana Sangh placed him outside progressive politics. One of independent India's consequential public figures has thus been left to partisans. The issue now is whether Bengal's students will encounter a historical figure or a State-approved object of devotion.

The factual record, before it is forced into narratives, is distinguished enough. Vice-Chancellor of Calcutta University from 1934, at thirty-three, Mookerjee strengthened Bengal's academic standing. Tagore delivered the university's first Bengali convocation address during his tenure. The university's famed Asutosh Museum of Indian Art was established in 1937. As independent India's first minister for industry and supply, he helped shape the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1948, an early framework for the mixed economy. He was, in short, an institution-builder. In 1949, as president of the Maha Bodhi Society of India, he helped receive the relics of the Buddha's two chief disciples, Sariputta and Mahamoggallana, returned from London's Victoria and Albert Museum a rare instance of colonial-era repatriation.

His Buddhist relic diplomacy linked India to Burma, Ceylon, Cambodia and Vietnam. Intriguingly, in a career usually framed through Hindu nationalism, Mookerjee appears here as a pan-Asian cultural statesman, working across religious and national lines. His death in detention in Srinagar in June 1953 provoked demands for an independent inquiry, which was natural because a death in State custody should trouble any democracy regardless of political sympathy. He was not even fifty-two.

Yet intellectual honesty demands the harder questions. Was he an unpatriotic 'collaborator' who wanted to assist the colonial government in suppressing Quit India? Was he a Hindu communalist critically instrumental in 'saving' Bengal's Hindus from a perceived Muslim dominance in a presumptive independent but undivided Bengal? The answers are more complicated than either accusation or celebration suggests. One biographical fact that needs noting is that Mookerjee — unlike, say, Gandhi, Nehru, the Bose brothers or Savarkar — never went to prison during the freedom movement. His path was institutional engagement: legislative councils, university administration, ministerial office and so on. In 1941-42, Mookerjee served as Bengal's finance minister in A.K. Fazlul Haq's coalition, formed against the Muslim League's pressure.

KANWAL SIBAL

India is not a "middle power" waiting to find its place in a Trump-disrupted world; it is a rising power that refuses to be squeezed into someone else's geopolitical hierarchy

Middle power myths, and why the west needs to stop putting india in A 'box'

Canada has faced insults and contempt from US President Donald Trump as well as economic pressure. This has goaded Prime Minister Mark Carney to widen his country's geopolitical and economic options. At the Davis Economic Forum, he spoke of "middle powers" joining together to carve out a more autonomous role for themselves at the international level. This has triggered discussions on many platforms on the international role of "middle powers" in the light of huge geopolitical, economic, technology and security disruptions caused by the Trump administration.

There is no agreed definition of the attributes of "middle powers". It would seem that major European countries, such as the UK, Germany and France, are now seen as "middle powers". Former UK Prime Minister Rishi Sunak in a panel discussion at the recent Munich Security Conference in Delhi on "middle powers" was comfortable with the idea of the UK being a "middle power". Japan, Brazil, Turkey and Indonesia are also classified as such in the current discourse.

The genesis of this "middle powers" concept is essentially the disarray in the western world because of the manner in which the Trump administration is bullying Europe and its other allies. Trump has discomposed the NATO alliance at a time when the alliance is deeply involved in a proxy war against Russia in Ukraine. Trump, Vance and others are openly interfering in the internal political affairs of Europe, attacking personally some European leaders, supporting right wing parties, lambasting European policies on uncontrolled migration



to the point of wondering whether the European allies can remain dependable when political power slips eventually into the hands of Muslim migrants.

With Trump's hectoring of Europe and a growing recognition that Europe faces a structural change in its relations with the US, Europe sees the necessity of re-ordering its ties with the non-western world. Drawing closer to India is an option, which explains the FTA with India as well as an intensive engagement of India by major European countries. This, of course, is in India's interests too as the Trump administration has delivered serious blows to bilateral ties on a number of issues. Once again the issue of trust has arisen in India-US ties, which in the last couple of decades had begun to dissipate.

Is India a "middle power" is a question now being discussed in think tank and other circles. The question got attention when at the Munich Security Conference organised in New Delhi, a "middle powers" panel was organised in which India participated. India is obviously not a "great power" yet. It is not a

permanent member of the UN Security Council. It is, however, a nuclear and missile power as well as a space power. It possesses large and strong military although its domestic defence manufacturing base is still deficient. India exercises strategic autonomy but it still has many vulnerabilities and external dependencies.

But India is not a "middle power". Its status is sui generis. It is the biggest country in the world population-wise. It has a young population. Its economy is growing, with a general international consensus that it will be the third largest economy in the world in a few years. In PPP terms, India is already the third largest. It has very considerable human talent, which in scale is a big national and even an international asset. The big European countries are still powerful but they are not rising powers. They are declining powers, with a declining population, and the issue before them is to manage their decline and preserve their prosperity. Unlike India they are dependent on their security on the US. Germany hosts

several US bases and US nuclear weapons are stationed on its soil. In a sense, Germany is still an occupied country.

Unlike most of the other "middle powers" which are compelled by alliances to operate in blocs, India engages all sides, be it US, Russia and even China. Europe today has essentially cut off ties with Russia. How many "middle powers" have the capacity to straddle the rich North and poor South. India has more geopolitical manoeuvrability. That India has dependencies does not make it a "middle power", as we are not unique in this regard in this interdependent and connected world. Even the hands of the US are tied to a degree because of its dependence on China for critical raw materials and technologies.

India is a rising power. It is managing its security challenges, and serious ones at that, without hosting foreign bases on its soil and joining any military alliance. Canada and the European "middle powers", despite two of them being permanent members of the UNSC and nuclear powers, are dependent on their

security on NATO which is US-led. They see themselves as "middle powers" bracketed by the US on one side and China on the other. India does not have the same perspective. It defines itself as a civilisational power, which means that unlike the US which is 250 years old and Europe's historical depth as a civilisation (Gandhi disputed the idea of a European civilisation) India posits its contribution to human civilisation over thousands of years, and today India believes it can contribute once again globally its way of looking at and dealing the world rooted in its civilisation.

India has never seen itself as the centre of the universe, as some sort of a heavenly kingdom. It has no history of colonialism, slavery, physically exterminating people, races, even animals, using religion to subjugate other people and commit atrocities in the name of faith. India has accepted diversity in thought, language, culture and religion. Its civilisation has respected nature. India historically has been a strong trading nation, both eastwards and westwards.

Oil politics reeks of hypocrisy



IN March 2000, US President Bill Clinton thanked Dhirubhai Ambani in Mumbai for contracting Bechtel to build Reliance Industries' Jamnagar refinery, creating thousands of US jobs. Twenty-six years later, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio flew from Mumbai to Jamnagar to have darshan of Reliance Chairman Mukesh Ambani on October 21, underscoring the intersection of energy, geopolitics and electoral calculations in Washington. Even as the US continues to welcome Indian capital, it now also seeks to dictate India's energy choices.

While pressing India to cut Russian oil imports, the US is encouraging Indian refiners to process more Venezuelan crude and courting Indian investment in a new American refinery. Oil is both a strategic instrument and a commercial commodity, with rules increasingly set by political expediency. The Rubio visit brings three distinct oil streams into focus: Russian Urals crude, Venezuelan heavy blends and American light shale. Jamnagar, with a capacity of 1.4 million barrels per day, is the world's largest single-site refinery. Its ability to process diverse crude grades economically makes it central to India's fuel supply and exports. For Washington, it is a potential market for heavy, sulphur-rich Venezuelan crude and a source of diesel.

With high domestic diesel prices and the November 3 US congressional midterm elections approaching, President Donald Trump eased restrictions on US imports of Russian diesel to relieve pressure on fuel markets. The Rubio visit followed the Trump-Putin agreement of October 9 to import 4.8 million tonnes of Russian

diesel into the US under a waiver valid till April 7, 2027. Republicans face narrow congressional majorities, and diesel affordability remains central to voters. Washington's strategic objections to Russian energy appear far less absolute when domestic political costs rise.

The double standard is unmistakable: Russian energy purchases are condemned when serving India's economic interests, yet become acceptable when US consumers face price shocks. Washington may distinguish between crude oil, refined products, licences and legal structures, but the hypocrisy is clear. This is not an argument for India and the US, whose strategic assessments differ, to adopt identical policies towards Russia. It is an argument against applying a selective standard to a universal commodity. If energy security legitimately concerns American households, it cannot be dismissed for Indian ones. The sharpest contradiction concerns Russia. Washington has

long criticised India's discounted Russian crude purchases, arguing that oil revenues finance Moscow's conflict with Ukraine, while carving out waivers for itself to import Russian uranium and now diesel to meet domestic energy needs. India's crude procurement must be guided by national interest, affordability and refining requirements, not foreign political pressures. After bringing Venezuela's oil under a US-controlled framework following the abduction of President Nicolas Maduro and his wife from Caracas in January, the Trump administration is seeking investors and markets for Venezuelan crude. Reliance is well placed to help: its refineries have handled Venezuelan heavy grades before and are doing so now. Technical compatibility alone does not determine viability. Freight charges, refining costs, payment terms, supply reliability and price differentials matter. Restoring Venezuelan exports requires investment, infrastructure and time. India

cannot replace Russian supplies with Venezuelan oil merely because Washington prefers that outcome. Diversification makes sense to reduce concentration risk and widen refiners' options. However, it should serve India's energy security, not exchange dependence on one supplier for another beholden to US licences.

India's vulnerability to US licensing is not theoretical. US restrictions against state-owned PDVSA since 2014, escalated to sector-wide sanctions in 2019, left over \$500 million in dividends due to ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL), plus interest, stranded in Venezuela. These funds related to OVL's investments in the San Cristobal and Carabobo-1 oilfields. In July 2026, the US Office of Foreign Assets Control granted OVL a licence to resume full operations and manage its finances in Venezuela. OVL is exploring shifting from passive investor to sole owner-operator, despite limited experience in running technically demanding heavy-oil fields.

Reliance's backing for the America First Refining project at Brownsville, Texas, the first new US Gulf Coast refinery in half a century, adds another facet. Announcing it in March, Trump thanked Reliance for participating in this landmark US energy investment. The widely cited \$300 billion, however, refers to Reliance's projected 20-year off-take value of processed crude and refined products, not construction cost or Reliance's investment. The refinery is geared to export US light shale oil products to international markets, while also serving local demand.

The project allows Trump to present foreign capital as supporting American jobs and gives Reliance a foothold in the world's largest oil-consuming economy. Meanwhile, Essar, which sold its Vadinar refinery and port to a consortium including Russia's Rosneft in 2017, is backing an \$18-billion integrated steel venture in the US. The contrast is striking: Indian capital is creating US jobs and manufacturing capacity even as Washington threatens tariff action against Indian goods.

If Indian investment creating US jobs is welcome, India's interest in affordable energy, secure supplies and independent commercial choices should be equally recognised. A relationship cannot be mutually beneficial when investment from India is celebrated but its independent energy choices are a problem. Rubio's visit covered a wider canvas. Washington wants more US energy exports, markets for Venezuelan crude, greater Indian investment in the US and severed Indian oil ties with Russia. These objectives misalign with India's interests.

Indian Developers to Showcase Their Projects at the Second Moscow International Game Week

NEW DELHI.(AGENCY)

The second Moscow International Game Week will take place from October w~ to November v, w@w{, at Moscow Game Hub. It will bring together participants from around w@ countries and more than }z e&hibiting companies. BUZZEDMEN STUDIO, ABRACA DABRA SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS and Nilee Games will showcase their projects at the India group stand. Representatives of the Indian gaming industry are also e&pected to attend as part of a delegation.

For the second time, Moscow will bring the international video game industry together at Moscow Game Hub, developed by the Agency of Creative Industries. Over four days, players, developers and investors from more than wz countries will discuss how games,



alongside animation, film and literature, are becoming part of the creative economy. The event will also provide a platform for new projects and partnerships. For Indian companies, the event will be an opportunity to learn about the Russian market, present their work and find partners. This year's theme, "Beyond the Industry," e&plores how video games connect with animation, film, literature and other areas of the cre-

ative economy, as well as how new worlds can be built and projects developed across multiple formats.

The India group stand will bring together three companies. Nilee Games develops games for mobile devices, computers, consoles and web platforms, creates game art and animation, and provides virtual and augmented reality solutions. Its clients include international media companies and entertainment

Over four days, players, developers and investors from more than wz countries will discuss how games, alongside animation, film and literature, are becoming part of the creative economy

brands. BUZZEDMEN STUDIO specializes in story-driven games. Its projects include the action-adventure game Lawless Blood and Dust, set in India, and the bookstore management simulator My Bookshop Dreams. ABRACA DABRA SOFTWARE SOLUTIONS develops games and apps, including Tanhaji - The Maratha Warrior, which is based on Indian history.

A delegation from India is e&pected to include Dev Mukesh, founder of Banzan, and Vijay Rakshe, co-founder and Chief Operating Officer of TRB

Funtooss Pvt Ltd. Banzan develops original projects at the intersection of games and comics, while TRB Funtooss brings together games, animation and educational content. Their work reflects the theme of Game WeekN developing creative ideas across formats and disciplines.

Moscow is developing its gaming and animation industries and is open to international cooperation, knowledge e&change and joint projects. Moscow Game Hub provides companies with infrastructure for developing, producing and promoting projects. Game Week will introduce Indian participants to these opportunities and serve as a working platform to showcase projects, find partners and discuss agreements. Guests can also look forward to an e&tensive business program.

Franchise-led models to drive India's quick-commerce expansion into tier-II, III cities by 2030: CBRE

NEW DELHI.(AGENCY)

India's quick-commerce sector is entering a more disciplined phase of growth, with franchise-led models expected to support expansion into tier-II and tier-III cities by 2030, according to a report by CBRE. The report noted that major quick-commerce platforms are moving closer to contribution-margin breakeven, reflecting a growing focus on sustainable growth and cost efficiency. Currently, nearly "65-70 per cent of all dark stores are currently located in the top eight metros, with operators now deepening presence in markets such as Jaipur, Lucknow, Surat, Coimbatore and Nagpur." Rising internet adoption is also supporting growth in order volumes in these cities. According to the report, tier-II and tier-III



cities are attracting quick-commerce operators due to "cost-effective real estate" and "lower" overall overhead costs. It further stated that "The expansion of q-commerce is anticipated to serve as a significant driver of in-city warehousing demand during the latter half of the decade," highlighting the sector's growing role in driving demand for urban warehousing. As companies shift their focus from

rapid expansion to cost-efficient operations, they are expected to increasingly adopt franchise-led, outsourced and shared infrastructure models instead of relying solely on company-owned networks. Within this trend, the report said, "Franchise-led dark-store models may emerge as a route to rapid penetration into tier-II and tier-III markets while reducing network expansion costs." The report also highlighted

the potential of shared infrastructure, under which multiple quick-commerce operators and brands could use common fulfilment facilities and logistics hubs. This model could help improve space utilisation, reduce operating expenses and make expansion more financially viable, particularly as real estate costs rise in tier-I cities.

Quick-commerce platforms are also expected to increasingly outsource warehousing, dark-store operations, order fulfilment and last-mile delivery to specialised third-party logistics (3PL) providers as they expand beyond major metropolitan areas. Such partnerships could allow companies to focus on customer acquisition, technology and inventory management while relying on logistics partners for operational support.

Global macro headwinds and crude volatility to drive commodity markets : Kotak Neo

MUMBAI (AGENCY)

Global central bank policy decisions, persistent crude oil volatility, and shifting macroeconomic factors will dictate short-term commodity trends, according to Anindya Banerjee, Head of Commodities Research at Kotak Neo. Speaking exclusively with ANI News in Mumbai on Monday, Banerjee provided a detailed perspective on precious metals, energy, base metals, and portfolio allocation strategies for retail investors.

Addressing the recent price swings in precious metals, Banerjee clarified that gold is currently tracking macroeconomic fundamentals rather than traditional safe-haven demand. "In the very short term, gold and silver especially gold is acting not as a safe haven; it's more act-

Captain Rahul Bali Honoured at th Odisha Tourism Conclave w@w in Bhubaneswar

BHUBANESWAR (AGENCY)

Filmmaker, Indian Army Veteran and International Film Festival curator Captain Rahul Bali was honoured at the [th Odisha Tourism Conclave w@w{, held on wx October in Bhubaneswar, in recognition of his work at the intersection of cinema, international cultural diplomacy and destination promotion.

Organised by the Hotel & Restaurant Association of Odisha (HRAO), the mega event brought together more than yz@ travel companies and tour operators from across India, alongside senior government representatives, tourism industry leaders, hospitality professionals, investors and other stakeholders committed to advancing Odisha's tourism poten-



tial. The prestigious conclave was attended by an eminent gathering of dignitaries and luminaries including His E&cclency Dr. Braj Mohan Ram, Governor of Odisha; Smt. Pravati Parida, Deputy Chief Minister of Odisha; Smt. Anu Garg, Chief Secretary, Government of Odisha; Smt. Aparajita Sarangi, Member of Parliament; Shri Babu Singh, Member of the Legislative Assembly; and Dr. Madan Mohan Sethi, Consul General of India in Auckland, New Zealand. The event was hosted by HRAO under the leadership

of Dr. J. K. Mohanty, Chairman of HRAO.

The recognition of Captain Rahul Bali at this important tourism industry gathering underscores the growing relevance of cinema as a powerful medium for destination branding, international engagement and cultural e&change. With over three decades of e&perience in the Media and Entertainment industry, Captain Rahul Bali has built a distinctive professional journey spanning filmmaking, international film festival curation, cultural diplomacy and tourism promotion.

A former Indian Army officer, Captain Bali is the Founder and Managing Director of Innovations India and is recognised for his efforts to use cinema as a bridge between nations, cultures and audiences.

Briefs News

MICA and Aranya Sahay Launch Fellowship to Support Filmmakers from Marginalised Communities

AHMEDABAD (AGENCY) MICA, in collaboration with filmmaker Aranya Sahay, writer-director of the award-winning feature Humans in the Loop, announces the MICA x Aranya Sahay Creative Fellowship, an initiative to support filmmakers from marginalized communities and help bring underrepresented stories to the screen. The fellowship will select up to five filmmakers through an open call. Projects at the development, production or post-production stage are eligible to apply. Each selected filmmaker will receive an upfront project grant, participate in a week-long fellowship on MICA's Ahmedabad campus, and gain access to MICA's post-production facilities to continue working on their films. Beyond financial assistance, the fellowship aims to create sustained access to the wider filmmaking ecosystem. Young filmmakers, especially those from marginalized backgrounds often face structural barriers to funding, industry networks and production resources. By bringing together financial support, professional exchange and access to infrastructure, the initiative seeks to help filmmakers develop and complete their projects while creating pathways for their work to reach wider audiences. Entering the Age of Imagination, where the power to shape the future lies in the stories we tell also in whose stories get to be told. India is a country of extraordinary diversity, yet many of its most compelling stories remain unheard because the people who carry them often lack access to resources, networks and opportunities.

Common Financial Habits That Help Investors Manage Loan Repayments

NEW DELHI.(AGENCY) Investors who repay loans smoothly usually do a few things well: they know where the repayment money will come from, borrow less than their limit, pay on dates that match their income and keep cash aside for bad months. These habits matter even more when you back your loan with your own investments. Say you have taken a loan against your mutual funds to pay a hospital bill or your child's college fees. The money came quickly, and your units were not sold. Now the real work begins: paying it back without stress, without extra interest and without putting your portfolio at risk. The habits below help you do exactly that. Before you borrow, be clear about which money will pay the loan back. It could be your monthly salary, an annual bonus, an FD that matures soon or payments due from clients. Write it down along with the rough date you expect it. If you cannot point to a clear source, you may be borrowing more than you can comfortably repay. This one step also helps you decide the right loan amount and how long you will need it. What this means for you: A loan with a known repayment source is a short-term tool. One without it can quietly become a long-term debt. It's tempting to take the full amount, but if markets fall, your limit shrinks while your dues stay the same. Using only part of your limit gives your portfolio space to move without trouble. What this means for you: Borrowing less today lowers your interest and reduces the chance of a margin call later.

Samsung's Exynos 2700 outperforms Qualcomm's flagship chip by nearly 20 pc

SEOUL (AGENCY) Samsung Electronics' Exynos 2700 mobile processor has outperformed Qualcomm's flagship processor by nearly 20 per cent in an internal multicore CPU test, as per a report by The Korea Herald. Notably, the development comes ahead of its expected debut in the Galaxy S27 series. The results were based on recent internal benchmark tests comparing the Exynos 2700 with Qualcomm's Snapdragon 8 Elite Extreme Gen 6 processor, which powers Xiaomi's 18 Pro Max, it said, citing industry sources. "Samsung Electronics' next-generation Exynos 2700 mobile processor scored nearly 20 percent higher than Qualcomm's top-end Snapdragon chip in an internal multicore CPU test," it said. In Geekbench 6.5 multicore CPU tests, Samsung's Exynos 2700 recorded a score of approximately 13,000, outperforming Qualcomm's Snapdragon 8 Elite Extreme Gen 6, which scored around 11,000. The Exynos chipset also delivered nearly 15 per cent higher scores in Geekbench 7.0 multicore tests, it added. Meanwhile, Qualcomm has launched two variants of its latest flagship mobile processor: the premium Snapdragon 8 Elite Extreme Gen 6 and the standard Snapdragon 8 Elite Gen 6. The Extreme variant powers the Xiaomi 18 Pro Max, while the standard version is used in the Xiaomi 18 Pro. Notably, Exynos 2700 scored 44 percent higher in Geekbench 6.5 multicore tests and 36 percent higher in Geekbench 7.0 against the standard Snapdragon chip.

India office leasing hits record 61 million sq ft in Jan-Sept 2026 : JLL

NEW DELHI.(AGENCY)

India's office leasing activity touched a record 61.06 million square feet (msf) in the January-September period of 2026, the highest ever for the corresponding nine-month period, according to a report by JLL. The report said office leasing is on track to match the total recorded in 2025 and could approach 100 msf annually over the next two to three years, supported by continued demand from occupiers. Gross leasing activity rebounded in the July-September quarter (Q3 2026), rising to 23.17 msf as transactions that had been delayed during the previous quarter were finalised. Bengaluru led the market with a 33.4 per cent share of total leasing in Q3, followed by Hyderabad at 19.6 per



cent and Delhi-NCR at 18.1 per cent. Mumbai accounted for 12.4 per cent of the total. For the first nine months of 2026, Bengaluru maintained its lead with a 28 per cent share of leasing, followed by Delhi-NCR, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Pune. Radha Dhir, Chief Executive Officer, India, JLL, said the third quarter reflected renewed confidence in the office market. "Q3 showed what happens when confidence returns to India's office market. Deals that were on hold in Q2 got signed, and occupiers backed their growth plans with firm commitments.

Paradeep Parivahan Limited Secures Landmark 10-Year Contract with JSW Group for 100 Electric Trucks

BHUBANESWAR (AGENCY)

Paradeep Parivahan Limited (PPL), a BSE SME-listed integrated logistics and port services company (BSE: 544383; Symbol: PPARIVAH), has secured a landmark 10-year contract with the JSW Group to deploy and operate 100 electric trucks for bulk transportation between Nandyal, Andhra Pradesh, and Vijayanagar, Karnataka. The contract represents a significant milestone in PPL's long-term growth strategy, reinforcing its commitment to building a scalable, technology-enabled and sustainable logistics business while expanding its presence in large-scale industrial transportation. The deployment will cover an approximately 330-km



one-way corridor for the transportation of clinker and slag, with an estimated cargo volume of 1.25 lakh metric tonnes per month. The electric trucks will be supplied by JSW Greentech Limited. The contract is a key step in PPL's vision to emerge as a leading integrated logistics and green mobility solutions provider in India. The Company is focused on expanding its fleet, strengthening its mul-

timodal logistics capabilities and integrating electric mobility into large-scale industrial supply chains.

With this and other orders, PPL's total transportation fleet is expected to increase approximately threefold compared with the previous year. The addition of 100 electric trucks will further strengthen the Company's capabilities in dedicated fleet operations, bulk

cargo transportation and technology-enabled logistics management.

PPL aims to build a business that combines operational excellence, long-term customer partnerships, efficient asset utilisation and sustainable transportation solutions. Its growth strategy is centred on scaling responsibly, diversifying its logistics capabilities and developing solutions that address the evolving requirements of India's industrial and infrastructure sectors. The planned deployment of 100 electric trucks is estimated to have the potential to displace approximately 47.5 lakh litres of diesel and avoid 14,256 tonnes of direct CO2 emissions annually, based on current estimates.

RBI taking steps to prevent sudden rupee fluctuations, but does not determine rupee's value, says FM Sitharaman

TIRUCHIRAPPALLI (AGENCY)

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday said the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was taking measures to prevent sudden fluctuations in the value of the rupee, while clarifying that the central bank does not determine the currency's value. Speaking to reporters in Tiruchirappalli, Sitharaman said the RBI's efforts were aimed at preventing abrupt movements in the rupee rather than fixing its exchange rate. Her remarks come amid concerns over currency volatility and its implications for India's economy, particularly import costs and inflation.



On the country's fiscal position, Sitharaman said India's fiscal deficit had been declining year after year, with the government working towards reducing the debt-to-GDP ratio to 50 per cent by 2030. Acknowledging concerns over the country's debt levels, the Finance Minister said such concerns were justified but maintained that the debt burden had been steadily declining.

Don julio non-alcoholic carbonated beverage brings day of the dead to life in the spirit of por amor

MUMBAI (AGENCY)

With Mexican heritage as its cultural north star, Don Julio Non-Alcoholic Carbonated Beverage brought Día de Muertos (Day of the Dead) to life in Mumbai for its 2026 edition, deepening its association with this cherished tradition. Guided by the brand's 'Por Amor' (For the Love Of) philosophy, the celebration connected Mexico and India through shared expressions of love, remembrance and togetherness. The historic Mukesh Mills was reimagined as an immersive Mexican-inspired world through evocative art installations, cultural storytelling and music. Rooted in the brand's 'Por Amor' (For the Love Of) philosophy, the evening drew



inspiration from El Puente Eterno (The Eternal Bridge), celebrating the enduring bonds between the living and the loved ones they carry in memory. Cempasúchil (marigold) flowers formed a symbolic pathway to guide loved ones home, while contemporary interpretations of ofrendas (offerings honouring departed loved ones) created spaces for

remembrance. The celebration in Mumbai also introduced monarch butterflies as messengers of love and remembrance, inviting guests to reflect on the bonds that endure across generations. Together, these elements brought the evening's themes of love, memory and togetherness to life.

Reimagining modern Mexican culture through

contemporary creative expression, the celebration featured internationally acclaimed DJ and producer Satori, whose fusion of global sounds and electronic music brought an energetic pulse to the evening. Celebrities including Ananya Panday, Orry, Radhika Madan and Fatima Sana Shaikh were also in attendance. Mezcalita, the culinary partner, brought the flavours of Mexico to the table through a menu rooted in traditional Mexican cuisine, featuring vibrant flavours, regional ingredients and time-honoured preparations. Japonico and Quinta Cantina complemented the experience with tequila-based cocktails, adding to the evening's celebration of Mexican flavours and culture.

A Threat of possible cyclone 'Arnab' - Chhattisgarh on high alert

Collectors have been instructed to take special precautions from October 27 to 29

RAIPUR, OPEN SEARCH

The government has become fully alert in view of the possibility of the cyclone 'Arnab' arising in the Bay of Bengal affecting the state of Chhattisgarh. A high-level meeting was held in this regard at the Ministry Mahanadi Bhawan, in which the collectors of all the districts of the state have been instructed to remain on alert mode.

In this meeting chaired by Additional Chief Secretary Shri Manoj Kumar Pingua, necessary preparations from 27th to 29th October were reviewed in view of the cyclone. Collectors of all the districts and senior officers of various departments joined the meeting through video conferencing. The



Additional Chief Secretary directed officials to ensure complete preparedness for the cyclone and to take weather warnings seriously. This mandated heightened vigilance, particularly in the districts of Bijapur, Sukma, Dantewada, Bastar, and Narayanpur in the South Bastar region, where strong winds are expected. Relief camps were instructed to operate 24 hours a day

and ensure all necessary amenities. The Health Secretary was directed to ensure uninterrupted availability of medical facilities, as well as to prepare a list of pregnant women and arrange for their evacuation to safer locations if necessary. Farmers were instructed to issue detailed crop advisories and take steps to minimize damage to crops and livestock from

This mandated heightened vigilance, particularly in the districts of Bijapur, Sukma, Dantewada, Bastar, and Narayanpur in the South Bastar region, where strong winds are expected

the cyclone. For the safety of schoolchildren and young children in Anganwadi centers, local conditions were assessed and safe arrangements were made. Teams of NDRF (6th) and SDRF (1st) have been instructed to remain fully prepared at the designated places.

Secretary of the Revenue and Disaster Management Department, Mrs. Shammi Abidi,

informed the meeting that potential damage to mud houses due to strong winds should be assessed and people from vulnerable areas should be evacuated to safety in a timely manner.

The Electricity Department has been asked to be prepared to deal with any damage caused by falling power poles. Instructions have also been given to ensure alternative arrangements are made to ensure that telecommunication services are not disrupted. If trees fall due to strong winds, arrangements have been made to remove them immediately so that roads are not blocked and traffic remains smooth. Emphasis has also been placed on assessing the condition of hoardings and other unsafe structures.

Smart city mission leaves panaji with bills, broken promises and few benefits

PANAJI : OPEN SEARCH



The mandate was ambitious, with a grand promise to transform Panaji into a modern urban city through a Rs 1,100 crore Smart City Mission. The seductive pitch for state-of-the-art infrastructure, seamless digital monitoring, revamped sewerage networks and better drainage promised residents smart living.

Instead, after nearly two years of trenches, barricades and dust, Panaji today stands as a masterclass in urban misdirection and traffic chaos, and a case study on how hundreds of crores of public money appear to have dissolved into crumbling concrete, missing files and broken promises. Infrastructure completed barely two years ago under the banner of Smart City Mission has rapidly fallen into disrepair. Pavements and stairs in Altinho, laid down with fanfare, are either cracked or

overgrown with weeds. The smart roads, pitched as model urban corridors across the city, remain more akin to a concept. Underground utility ducts remain limited, while smart sewerage networks struggle to contain basic overflows during the monsoon.

"The money has gone down the drain. It should have been about what the people of Panaji require and not what govt requires. Our pavers have started coming out. They just dug the road, put a sewerage line, and some lines are not working. At some colonies where the sewerage chambers are higher than the colony, the sewage water is flowing

into the colonies," said former mayor Surendra Furtado. At Ribandar, the sewerage pipeline has been laid, but the network remains incomplete and unutilised. The drainage story is equally troubling. A sum of Rs 41 crore was allocated towards the rejuvenation of the historic St Inez nallah, a crucial natural storm-water artery. Today, the channel remains choked with silt, plastic waste and stagnant water, raising troubling suspicions of duplicated works and unverified billings. Elsewhere, the ledger shows Rs 123 crore spent under the combined banner of smart roads, electricity and sewage.

Briefs News

Govt spent Rs 1K cr on modernising six medical colleges : Shahpur MLA

DHARAMSALA (AGENCY) The Himachal Pradesh Government had spent nearly Rs 1,000 crore on modernising its six medical colleges, providing advanced diagnostic equipment and strengthening specialised treatment facilities under its 'Vyavastha Parivartan' initiative, Shahpur MLA and Deputy Chief Whip Kewal Singh Pathania said on Sunday. Addressing a press conference in Dharamsala, Pathania said Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu had prioritised healthcare after assuming office in December 2022, focusing on replacing outdated machinery, filling staff vacancies and expanding medical education. He said modern MRI machines, CT scanners and other advanced equipment had been provided to medical colleges across the state. The government had also introduced robotic surgery facilities, allowing patients to access advanced procedures at significantly lower costs than in private hospitals. While robotic surgery in private hospitals could cost Rs 6 lakh to Rs 7 lakh, similar procedures at government institutions were available for around Rs 30,000 to Rs 80,000, he said. Pathania said the proportion of filled staff positions in medical colleges and healthcare institutions had increased from around 30 per cent when the government took office to nearly 70 per cent. The government aimed to raise the figure to 80 per cent. He said postgraduate medical seats had increased from 277 to more than 500, with 320 additional seats sanctioned to strengthen specialist healthcare services.

Mercedes crash : Police take Kerala judge's minor son back into custody after protests over fatal accident

KOCHI (AGENCY) The 17-year-old son of an Additional District Sessions Judge was taken into custody following protests by the family of a man killed in a road accident, after initially releasing him on bail and later invoking a graver charge, police said on Monday. The incident occurred in the early hours of Sunday when Jayabalakrishnan (55), a resident of South Chittoor in Cheranalloor, was hit by a speeding Mercedes-Benz at Container Road in Marapparambu, Cheranalloor. The car was registered in the judge's name and was allegedly driven by his son. According to police, Jayabalakrishnan, who ran a roadside eatery, was returning home on his scooter when the accident occurred. Police initially registered a case under Section 106(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (causing death by negligence) and released the accused on bail from the station by Sunday evening. The move triggered protests outside Cheranalloor police station, with the deceased's son and daughter, accompanied by activists, demanding the arrest of the accused and his production before the Juvenile Justice Board, police said. Senior officers subsequently intervened, and based on a preliminary investigation, police invoked Section 105 of the BNS (culpable homicide not amounting to murder).

'Dangals' promoting sports & preserving traditions: Himachal Deputy CM Mukesh Agnihotri

UNA (AGENCY)

Himachal Deputy Chief Minister Mukesh Agnihotri on Sunday said 'dangals' (traditional wrestling competitions) held in rural areas of the state were promoting sports and preserving the region's rich traditions. He was speaking at the closing ceremony of a 'dangal' organised at Bhadian village in the Haroli Assembly constituency. Agnihotri announced a grant of Rs 25 lakh for the development of a wrestling ground in Bhadian. He also announced grants of Rs 1 lakh each for the 'dangal' committees of Bhadian and Baliwal on behalf of the Prof Simmi Agnihotri Foundation.

He said traditional 'dangals' were an integral part of the region's rich cultural heritage, adding that such



events promoted social harmony and goodwill while helping keep the youth away from drugs. Agnihotri said strict action was being taken against those involved in the drug trade, adding that the movable and immovable assets of those found guilty were being frozen.

He urged area residents, panchayat representatives and officials to come forward to tackle the social menace. He added that Rs 14 crore was being spent on the Panjuana-Sammal link road, while a drinking water scheme in Panjuana was coming up at a cost of Rs 7 crore.

2 cousins shot dead by SUV-borne assailants in Punjab's Moga, police suspect old rivalry

MOGA (AGENCY)

Two cousins were killed and two others sustained serious injuries after unidentified assailants opened fire in the Angadpura neighbourhood of Moga late Sunday evening. Director General of Police (DGP) Punjab Gaurav Yadav, accompanied by Inspector General (Faridkot Range) Nilambari Jagdale Vijay, visited the crime scene on Monday to inspect the site and meet the aggrieved family.

The police have registered a case and arrested five suspects in connection with the shooting. The deceased have been identified as Gagan Jindal (35) and Sahil Jindal (40), who were cousins. Two others, identified as Raghav and Somnath Jindal, sustained



bullet injuries and are undergoing treatment at a local hospital.

According to the police, the incident occurred late Sunday evening when a group of four to five men were sitting outside a shop. A black Mahindra Scorpio with tinted windows arrived at the spot, and its occupants opened fire before fleeing the scene. Speaking to the media after visiting the spot on Monday, DGP Gaurav Yadav said

JAMMU (AGENCY)

The once-bustling Shiv Market near Jammu Railway Station presented a picture of devastation on Monday morning, with a large portion of the four-decade old market reduced to charred remains. Burnt shop structures, twisted sheets of metal and heaps of debris lay scattered across the premises, where traders had been conducting business until the previous evening. The acrid smell of burnt goods lingered in the air as shopkeepers sifted through the wreckage, trying to assess the extent of the damage and salvage whatever little remained.

Around 40 shops dealing in dry fruits, blankets, shawls, clothes and ready-made garments had been gutted, leaving behind little more than ashes and damaged structures. The fire,



which broke out late Sunday night, spread rapidly through the congested market, fuelled by winds. The estimated losses were expected to run into crores of rupees.

"We had built our businesses through years of hard work, but everything has been reduced to ashes in a single night. We do not know where to begin or how we will recover from these losses," Ashok Kumar, a shopkeeper, said. Kumar, who has been working in the market for nearly two

decades, said the destruction had put the livelihoods of hundreds of people at risk. "We have families and children to feed. If our shops are gone, how will we earn our livelihood? Around 300 workers depend on the businesses here. Their families will also suffer because of this fire," he said.

While some shopkeepers had rushed to the market during the night after receiving calls about the fire, others arrived in the morning. "The flames were spreading so quickly that

Respect Farooq Saab, but his remarks about Kashmir was wrong : Ghulam Nabi Azad

SRINAGAR (AGENCY)

Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP) chief Ghulam Nabi Azad on Sunday expressed disagreement with National Conference chief Farooq Abdullah's reported remarks that Pakistan had kept the Kashmir issue alive and that there was no hope from Delhi, asserting that successive Indian governments had contributed to Jammu and Kashmir's development while Pakistan was responsible for decades of terrorism in the region.

"I respect Farooq Sahab, but this statement is absolutely wrong," Azad told reporters, adding that Pakistan had been responsible for violence and instability in Jammu and Kashmir since 1947. Azad alleged that Pakistan had



repeatedly attempted to spread terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and capture parts of the region. Referring to Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), he claimed that people there wanted freedom from Pakistan and wished to be part of India. "What's the situation in PoK today? How many people have been killed there? They want freedom, they want to come back, they want to live with India," he said. Rejecting the suggestion that Pakistan had helped keep Jammu and Kashmir safe.

'Change Party Name To Samajwadi Yadav Parivar': A Owaisi Jabs Akhilesh Yadav

LUCKNOW(AGENCY)

Ahead of the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections, AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi said the Samajwadi Party's name should be changed to 'Samajwadi Yadav Parivar', targeting party chief Akhilesh Yadav over the representation of Muslim leaders in constituencies such as Azamgarh and Firozabad.

"Akhilesh Yadav, the name of your party should be changed from Samajwadi to Samajwadi Yadav Parivar," Owaisi said while addressing a rally in Uttar Pradesh's Kairana district on Sunday. "There was a time when a Muslim used to win from Azamgarh. Now Akhilesh's brother has become MP from there.



There was a time when a Muslim MP became MP from Firozabad. Now Akhilesh's family members became MP from there," he added.

Further, Owaisi criticised Akhilesh Yadav over the Muzaffarnagar riots, alleging that around 50,000 people were displaced from their homes during the violence when the Samajwadi

Party was in power in Uttar Pradesh. "So tell me, the people of Muzaffarnagar and Kairana, isn't it true that when Akhilesh was the Chief Minister, right on this land, you, we, the world saw with our own eyes how the Muzaffarnagar riots happened. 50,000 people were driven out of their homes," he said. The AIMIM chief further alleged that girls

'There was a time when a Muslim used to win from Azamgarh. Now Akhilesh's brother has become MP from there. There was a time when a Muslim MP became MP from Firozabad

were attacked and children were orphaned during the riots, while families who had lived in their villages for generations were left homeless. "Girls were attacked, and children were orphaned who had lived on their land in their villages for 100-100 years. They were left homeless," he said. "Whose government was it? It was the Samajwadi gov-

ernment. Who was the Chief Minister? Akhilesh Yadav was the Chief Minister," Owaisi said.

Owaisi criticised the opposition parties for "failing" to raise issues of minorities and other weaker sections of society. He also alleged that mosques were demolished and "half encounters" were continuing in the state under the BJP-led government, but the opposition parties were "silent" and not raising the issue. Earlier this month, Owaisi had offered to ally with the Samajwadi Party to prevent the BJP from returning to power in Uttar Pradesh for a third consecutive term. With no development on the alliance front, Owaisi has been seen to be increasingly critical of the Akhilesh Yadav party.

Out On Bail, 22-Year-Old Engineer Executed Attack On Tiger Shroff

MUMBAI (AGENCY)

Pranjal Thakral, a 22-year-old engineer, is the 11th person to be detained in the attack on Bollywood actor Tiger Shroff. Thakral was arrested from Madhya Pradesh's Indore on Friday. The investigation has revealed that Thakral executed the shooting at the behest of mastermind Anil Pandit and provided the second pistol to a shooter involved in the incident.

According to the police, Anil Pandit, who is suspected to be operating from the US as part of the Lawrence Bishnoi gang, planned the attack on Shroff. It was Pranjal who was tasked with executing the plan, including arranging logistics and funds to the shooters. To evade police tracking, Pandit and Thakral



used a secret messaging application to remain in contact. An analysis of their chats retrieved from Thakral's phone, along with an examination of financial transactions, is expected to help investigators trace Pandit's international network.

Thakral is a 22-year-old with a diploma in engineering. He was released on bail as recently as March. He was in jail for carrying out an attack on a businessman in Panipat following the

instructions of Pandit. Immediately upon his release, he began collaborating with Pandit to plot the attack on Tiger Shroff in Mumbai's Juhu. Thakral serves as a key lead for the Crime Branch in its efforts to reach the primary accused, Pandit, who is currently hiding abroad. He was produced before the holiday bench of the Killa Court on Sunday and has been remanded to police custody until October 31.

Sheetal Devi shuts out social media buzz as medal-winning run raises expectations

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)

India's star para archer Sheetal Devi is shutting out the social media buzz and keeping her focus firmly on her game as her consistent medal-winning performances continue to raise expectations, with her latest success coming at the Asian Para Games in Japan. Sheetal returned here on Sunday to a rousing welcome along with her fellow Indian archers after bagging two gold medals and a silver in the compound individual, mixed team and women's team events.

"I focus on my game. I do not look at social media much. But I feel very happy when I win a medal and people come to see me. Many children, even young children, watch, so it feels wonderful," she told PTL. The



para archery sensation defended her individual crown with a hard-fought win over Singapore's Nur Syahidah Alim, renewing their rivalry from the 2023 Hangzhou Asian Para Games final, while the 19-year-old from Jammu rated the individual gold as the most special of her three

medals "The individual event. The others are special too, but my focus was more on the individual event to return as a champion. With the grace of God and everyone's wonderful and lovely support, I won," she said Paris Paralympics gold medalist Harvinder Singh said India's recurve

para archery sensation defended her individual crown with a hard-fought win over Singapore's Nur Syahidah Alim, renewing their rivalry from the 2023 Hangzhou Asian Para Games final

team handled the pressure of heightened expectations well to clinch gold at the continental event.

Our practice was excellent, the federation's support was wonderful, and we received a week of training there, all of which benefited us in archery," Harvinder, who partnered Vijay Sundi in the men's recurve team event, said India enjoyed its best-ever campaign in

archery at the Asian Para Games, returning with three gold and an equal number of silver medals.

"It feels wonderful when the entire team wins medals. In 2018, only I had won an individual medal, but this time I am happy that many more medals have come. For those few players who did not win, we hope that next time our entire team will bring home medals," he said. Para shooter Mona Agarwal described her campaign at the Asian Para Games as a dream come true after clinching two gold medals and setting five records, including a world record. Mona, who was named India's flag bearer for the closing ceremony in Nagoya, emerged as the country's most successful athlete in its campaign of 114 medals.

'Block out expectations, just be you': Morkel's message to Bhuvneshwar

WELLINGTON (AGENCY)



India bowling coach Morne Morkel wants Bhuvneshwar Kumar to "block out expectations" and focus on being himself as the seasoned pacer looks to regain his rhythm in international cricket after a four-year absence from the T20I side. Bhuvneshwar has endured an underwhelming return to India's T20I setup, conceding 49 and 50 runs in the first two matches against New Zealand at an economy rate of 12.37 while claiming just one wicket, the poorest among India's bowlers. "I've got a lot of sympathy for his return. There will be expectations after four years to come back. He has done exceptionally well in the IPL and bowled really well," Morkel said on the eve of the third T20I. "One challenge is to block the expectation factor

out. Two, leading into selection, he trained for a month, but playing international cricket is a different beast where the margins are small. He had to come in with limited training because of the schedule to get himself ready," Morkel, however, backed the veteran to find his feet as he gets more game time. "The skill and his experience, everything is there. But at the end of the day, we have to respect the game of cricket

and you have to be able to allow him to just find his feet in some of the games. "And for me, that has been the message from the start when he joined the squad, don't chase anything. Just be you. "Yes, there will be expectations. But every game you'll get better and every game you'll find your rhythm. So let's not think about any outside noises. Just be you and connect with that," the South African added.

Briefs News

Asian Champions Trophy : South Korean goalkeeper says India the team to beat

JALANDHAR (AGENCY) The South Korean men's hockey team arrived in Jalandhar on Sunday, becoming the last among the participating teams to reach the state for the Asian Champions Trophy, which is scheduled to begin on October 27. After arriving, the team held a practice session at the Olympian Surjit Hockey Stadium. Speaking to The Tribune, South Korean goalkeeper Kim Jaehyeon identified India as the strongest team in the upcoming tournament. Kim praised the warm welcome extended to the team by the people of Punjab, including a traditional bhangra performance. "It is of course our first time here but I have noticed that the people here are very kind. The welcome we received, especially with bhangra, was wonderful," he said. Kim said the South Korean squad has several young and new players this time, some of whom will be making their debut at the Asian Champions Trophy. He expressed hope that the players would perform well in the competition. "Our aim is to reach the semifinals and then make it to the final," he said. On the topic of Korean music being loved by Indians, Kim said he was aware of the popularity of Korean pop music, particularly BTS, in India, and added that he also found Punjabi music amazing. "I know people here adore K-pop and BTS. I also think Punjabi music is amazing," he said. Meanwhile, a practice match between Japan and Malaysia was also held at the Olympian Surjit Hockey Stadium on Sunday as teams continued their preparations for the tournament.

ISSF World C'ships: Manu Bhaker, Neeru Dhanda headline India's Olympic quota hunt

DOHA (AGENCY) Two-time Olympic champion Manu Bhaker and in-form Asian Games star Neeru Dhanda will headline the Indian challenge at the ISSF World Championship in Doha, Qatar, starting from November 1, with the event starting the qualification pathway for shooters for the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics. As per Olympics.com, the world championships, featuring rifle, pistol and shotgun shooters, will see 36 Olympic quotas at stake, with three available in each of 12 Olympic shooting events. With the team representation being the authority of the national federations, the athletes earning their countries an LA2028 Olympics quota would not guarantee their participation, with the national federations given authority to select them or not. The World Championships will be the biggest qualification opportunity of the LA 2028 cycle in shooting. As many as 54 Indian shooters will be competing across several Olympic and non-Olympic events at Doha. India will be featuring across all 12 Olympic disciplines, with a total of 35 Indian shooters in action, including Manu in action in women's 10m air pistol and 25m pistol competition. The non-Olympic events will witness 19 Indians in action. Neeru will be heading into Doha after an incredible Asian Games 2026 campaign in Japan, winning two historic trap gold medals and a silver. Asian Games mixed 10 m air pistol gold medalists Suruchi Singh and Kamaljeet Sohlot will also be in action. Amongst the participants in the women's and men's 10 m air rifle will be the Asian Games silver medalists Elavenil Vakarivan and Himanshu Dhillon.

Late Mbappe winner helps Real Madrid edge past Barcelona 2-1

BARCELONA (AGENCY) A late strike from Kylian Mbappe helped Real Madrid edge past arch-rivals Barcelona 2-1 in their 'El Clasico' clash at the Camp Nou on Sunday. This continues a poor week for Hansi Flick's side, who ended their 11-game unbeaten run against Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) in the UEFA Champions League. And now, they succumbed to Real Madrid at home for the first time in three years, as per Sky Sports. The first half witnessed plenty of moments, with Arda Guler stepping in off the right flank, forcing the goalie Joan Garcia into a save moments after Anthony Gordon tested Andriy Lunin. In the 24th minute, Raphinha whacked one over the bar from 16 yards and linked up with Gordon, but his low effort went wide. In the 33rd minute, it was Real Madrid's turn to give Barca some nerves, with a scissors-kick from Mbappe going over the bar. Real Madrid got the lead in the 41st minute, with Gerard Martin whacking the ball against him from a cross by Yan Diomande into the box. In the 61st minute, Raphinha levelled the score for Barcelona. The Brazilian received a reverse pass from Pedri and his snapshot beat Lunin, who managed to get his hand on the ball but could not keep the ball out of the net. Just five minutes later, Barcelona was denied a lead, as Martin's powerful header from a corner was saved by Lunin.

'I feel disappointed': Manpreet Singh ruled out of Asian Champions Trophy due to injury

JALANDHAR (AGENCY)

India's most-capped hockey player Manpreet Singh will miss the Asian Champions Trophy due to a calf muscle injury. It has come as a major blow to fans who were eagerly awaiting his historic eighth appearance in the champions trophy. Manpreet was on the verge of creating a new record by becoming the first player in Asia to feature in eight editions of the Asian Champions Trophy. The tournament, now set to enter its ninth edition, holds special significance for the talented midfielder, who



made his debut in the inaugural edition in 2011 in China. Speaking to The Tribune, Manpreet expressed his disappointment at missing the tournament, particularly as it was an opportunity to play in front of his home crowd in Punjab. "It is a huge disappointment. It was a big opportunity to play on my home ground, but now I won't be playing.

Reward gap : Champions paid on time, rising stars left behind

SHIMLA (AGENCY)

A day after the Himachal Pradesh Government announced that Asian Games medalists would receive their cash awards on October 31, bronze medalist Seema Kumari thanked Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu for ensuring their prompt disbursement. However, the Chamba athlete's appeal for the release of her pending awards for medals won at national and smaller international competitions has brought the spotlight back on a wider concern: delays in rewarding sportspersons at the grassroots and devel-

opmental levels. Addressing a press conference recently, Seema, who won bronze in the 10,000-metre race at the Asian Games, said athletes in Himachal Pradesh had often watched their counterparts in other states receive cash awards soon after competitions, while their own rewards remained pending. "It's for the first time that cash awards are being handed out in Himachal immediately after the competition. Also, the cash awards are now at par with other states. It will inspire me and fellow athletes to perform even better on the international stage," she said.



Himachal Pradesh has significantly enhanced its cash incentives, bringing them broadly in line with those offered by Haryana for medal winners at major international events, including the Olympics, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games and their para equivalents. The state offers Rs 5 crore for an Olympic

Bhuvneshwar in focus as India look for series-clinching win in 'Windy Wellington'



WELLINGTON (AGENCY)

Canny operator Bhuvneshwar Kumar and the ever-so-consistent Arshdeep Singh will have their task cut out when a focussed Indian team eyes a series-clinching win in the third T20 International against New Zealand here on Tuesday to continue an unbeaten run that dates back to 2020. Virat Kohli's Indian team had blanked New Zealand 5-0 when the Men in Blue visited this part of the world in 2020. In their next visit in 2022-23, the Indians won the only match that was not wrecked by inclement weather, while the series-decider ended in a tie.

Shreyas Iyer's men will be keen to ensure that the record stays intact despite the absence of pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah, who has been rested, and all-rounder Hardik Pandya, who is on a long injury lay-off. The side definitely seems on track, having won the high-scoring opening

two games in Christchurch. Ahead of the third T20I, the Indian team will not just be worried about a gutsy New Zealand bouncing back but also about the gusty wind that often traverses the Basin Reserve Ground, which is open from three sides.

Whether the conditions will force any tactical changes in the playing eleven was not revealed by India's bowling coach Morne Morkel but he was clear that comeback man Bhuvneshwar needs to find his feet at the international level without being put under pressure. The much-anticipated return of Bhuvneshwar, after four years on the sidelines, hasn't gone as per plan and he went for 49 and 50 in his four-over spells across two games in Christchurch.

"One challenge is to block the expectation factor out, leading into selection. He trained for a month, but playing international cricket is a different beast where the margins are small. He

had to come in with limited training because of the schedule to get himself ready," Morkel stood firmly behind the 36-year-old Meerut man. However, Basin Reserve, with its cross-winds, could prove to be the venue where those supple wrists become more effective.

He will have a reliable partner in Arshdeep, whose ability to push the ball across the right-handers and occasionally bend it back or straighten it, could create issues for the New Zealand top-order comprising Finn Allen, Tim Seifert and Daryl Mitchell. The trio hasn't exactly joined the party yet and pressure is mounting as the series progresses. The heavy-lifting has mostly been done by Glenn Phillips in the middle-order, with two half-centuries, and by Bevon Jacobs in the last game. India have used 13 players in the first two games. Vaibhav Sooryavanshi came in place of an injured Ishan Kishan and death overs specialist Prince Yadav replaced Mayank Yadav in the second game.

It is early summer in New Zealand and an evening match in chilly and windy conditions could also test the technique of Indian batters, who love hitting through the line. The absence of Lockie Ferguson and Matt Henry as part of New Zealand's own workload management plan can also work to India's advantage.



first T20I, despite having India down 167/5 in 14.3 overs, New Zealand let the game slip in the death overs, with Naman Dhir firing a 15-ball 42* to guide India to a four-wicket win, with skipper Shreyas Iyer's calm, composed 28-ball 42 complementing Naman's counter-attack well. Later in the second T20I, Kiwis had India in a much worse posi-

tion, with half their side gone at 70 runs while chasing 181 runs. A quickfire 31 from Naman and his 42-run stand with Tilak Varma once again gave hope, but 54 needed in four balls was still a tough task. However, Tilak and Nitish Kumar Reddy's calculated hitting, especially in the final three overs, helped India to another win with a ball to

go. Ahead of the match, Bracewell expressed how exciting the series has been and how keen the team is to "right their wrongs" at Wellington.

"I think it has been an exciting series so far. Obviously, we have been on the wrong side of both of those games, but I think it is been pretty evident in the finishes that it has been a very close series so far. Yeah, there is a few things that we would like to have back in terms of the last 2 games, but we will be looking to right those wrongs coming here in Wellington," he said.

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After Javed Akhtar, Madhoo comes out in support of Rashmika Mandanna over accent trolling



After Javed Akhtar, actress Madhoo has extended her support to Rashmika Mandanna over online backlash for her Hindi pronunciation and South Indian accent. Mandanna had opened up about the trolling during her recent appearance on Karan Johar's Koffee With Karan Season 9. Madhoo shared a video on her Instagram han-

dle backing the actress. "Hi everyone, in the 'I am in love series', the next one is dropping right now. I recently watched Rashmika Mandanna's episode on Koffee With Karan and the way she dealt with her accent criticism, I just loved it," the actress said in the video. "She laughs about it, she accepts it, she owns it. I am a South Indian, and I

have the South Indian accent, and she is so cool about it. And then she says I have a desire to be a Karan Johar actor, and then she laughs and says, 'But you know what, I will allow him to use the dubbing artist.' She was so cool about it," Madhoo added. The actress, who is also South Indian, recalled when she stepped into the acting industry and said she was afraid of the judgement. "I got an Urdu teacher, and I bettered myself in Hindi and anything and everything so that I don't get caught out in an accent. If anyone spotted even a bit of accent in my tone, I would get all flustered, and I would work harder at it. I felt very proud when people would say, 'Your Hindi is better than every Hindi wala.'" "So that was my journey, but today I am so proud to say I am a South Indian, and if I do make a mistake in the Hindi language and if my accent does have a thickness of a South Indian, I am ok with it, but it took me all of 30 years to come here," she added. "I am proud to be a South Indian with the South Indian accent, and it took me 30 years to get here, but Rashmika, you're already there, and I love that about you, in the recent interview I saw of yours, so great power to you and stay the star that you are," Madhoo signed off. Mandanna was a guest on the latest episode of Koffee With Karan alongside her husband and fellow actor, Vijay Deverakonda. She recently starred alongside Vijay in Ranabali, a period drama set against the backdrop of British colonial rule. (AGENCY)

Bombay HC to hear Imran Khan's petition against leave India notice on Oct 27

The Bombay High Court will hear on Tuesday a petition filed by actor Imran Khan, challenging a police notice directing him to leave India by October 28 for allegedly attending a political protest in Mumbai. The plea came up for hearing on Monday before a division bench comprising Chief Justice Mahesh Chandra Tripathi and Justice Advait Sethna. Khan's counsel Venkatesh Dhond and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Union government, sought to have the matter listed for hearing on Tuesday. The court accordingly posted the plea for the next day. Khan was briefly detained during a protest at Mumbai's historic August Kranti Maidan on October



10. The demonstration was organised in solidarity with protests by the Cockroach Janta Party in Delhi, demanding the resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The Mumbai Police subsequently issued a notice directing the

actor, an US citizen, to leave India by October 28. In his petition, filed on October 17 through advocate Zulfikar Memon and MZM Legal, the 43-year-old actor claimed he had not participated in any gathering and had no association with the organisers of the protest. (AGENCY)

I want to play Kabir Singh not Preeti': Huma Qureshi on breaking stereotypes in Bollywood

Huma Qureshi says she wants to play unconventional, morally ambiguous characters rather than women who remain passive on screen. "I want to play Kabir Singh, I don't want to play Preeti," the actress said in conversation with writer Mohar Basu at IFP Season 16. Qureshi,



who is currently shooting for Maharani Season 5 in Bhopal, said, "I feel you have to give yourself the liberty to play outrageous characters, to play morally ambiguous characters, to play characters that don't follow the norm". Explaining why she would be ill-suited to playing a woman who simply watches a hero being attacked, Qureshi said, "If somebody offers me a role in which villain hero ko maar raha hai aur main wahan pe khade hoke ro rahi hoon aur bol rahi hoon, 'Please isey mat maaro'. Am I not the wrong cast for it? Yes, 100 per cent wrong cast. Ek lappad to main bhi marungi." Qureshi also recalled her early days in the industry and her first interaction with filmmaker Anurag Kashyap, who offered her a role in Gangs of Wasseypur. "I was very naive," she said, recalling her response to Kashyap: "Sir abhi to main aayi hoon, abhi to bahut struggle karna hai mujhe." Qureshi credited filmmakers such as Kashyap, Abhishek Chaubey, Sriram Raghavan and Vasan Bala with giving her the space to explore complex characters. She also spoke about the importance of understanding a character's inner life, recalling how Raghavan's handwritten notes on her Badlapur script included the question, "What is she thinking right now?" Her experience working on Leila, the Netflix series directed by Deepa Mehta, was another turning point. (AGENCY)

Kamya Punjabi Reacts To Kaashvi's 'Manipulation' Remark Against Love Gill

The actress has criticised the approach of holding another woman responsible for a partner's actions, saying that maintaining boundaries is the responsibility of the person who is already in a committed relationship

arguing that a partner should be held accountable rather than accusing another woman of manipulation. "If the bond was real, he would set boundaries, not cut ties. Blaming the other girl for 'manipulation' just to

Kamya Punjabi has questioned the way Love Gill is being blamed for her bond with ScoutOP on Bigg Boss 20. The actor took a clear stand amid the ongoing dispute involving Scout's girlfriend, Kaashvi Hiranandani. The actress has criticised the approach of holding another woman responsible for a partner's actions, saying that maintaining boundaries is the responsibility of the person who is already in a committed relationship. In a post on X on October 25, Kamya called out Kaashvi and Scout over the controversy,

protect your own committed partner is disgusting and small-minded. Stop pulling another woman down to save your man. Her post comes amid discussions around Scout and Love's equation in the Bigg Boss 20 house, which recently became a talking point during Weekend Ka Vaar. Kaashvi confronted Scout over his closeness with Love during the latest episode of Weekend Ka Vaar. She questioned their interactions and appeared unhappy with the comfort level the two contestants shared inside the house. (AGENCY)



The 'sufi' in Sartaj connects the audience with love, poetry and Punjabi philosophy

One can interpret the line as a beautiful reflection of Satinder Sartaj's relationship with his audience a bond built on affection, poetry and emotional connection rather than spectacle or stardom. There is a scholar behind the soulful voice, of Satinder Sartaj, affectionately hailed as "Sur Da Sartaj" by admirers of his music. Satinder Sartaj has carved out a distinctive space in Punjabi music, where melody meets poetry and scholarship meets Sufi philosophy. A poet first and performer, Sartaj charmed his audience at the Khushwant Singh Literature Festival 2026 in Kasauli as he invited them to explore the world of poetry. "Language is one of the most profound inventions of mankind," Sartaj said as he made a passionate case for never forgetting the love of one's own language at the Khushwant Singh Literature Festival 2026 in Kasauli. But this greater accomplishment, he said, other than houseful concerts globally, rests in his more scholarly pursuits. "I come from Doaba, where education or migration are the only two options left for kids from farming families," he reflected. For Sartaj, education became a way forward without having to leave his cultural world behind. "I always wanted to put 'Dr' in front of my name. So, I pursued my research while balancing my singing career," he said, with a candour that makes the achievement feel personal rather than ceremonial. Sartaj holds a doctorate in music with a specialisation in Sufi singing and poetry, has studied Persian



and taught at Panjab University for six years. For him music is not about hitting the right notes, but also about the right words this belief is central to his identity. As he embarks on his latest musical journey, The Philosophy of Resonance India Tour 2026-27, Sartaj brings with him the qualities that have come to define his appeal: Punjabi poetry steeped in Sufi thought, classical musical sensibilities and a distinctly intellectual approach to popular music. The tour began in Jaipur on October 23 and is scheduled to travel across India through May 2027. His recent Jaaiye Sajna in Dhurandhar-The Revenge might have taken his voice to a larger audience, but Sartaj's commitment lies with independent music. "It is curated with an idea that

music is not merely meant to be heard; it is meant to be felt, remembered and carried within us long after it ends," he said. Amid the jostling fans and the clamour for one last glimpse of their favourite singer, he held on to his composure, responding with the same disarming smile. And then, almost as if to remind himself and everyone around him that the journey was far from over, he signed off with the words, "Assi tan aidan hi safar tery rehne hai" We shall keep journeying, just as we are. (AGENCY)

Tiger Shroff firing case: Court extends custody of 4 accused till Oct 28

A court on Monday extended the police custody of four people arrested for allegedly aiding the shooters in the Tiger Shroff firing case until October 28, after investigators said they needed to collect voice samples. Four of the 11 people arrested for allegedly aiding the shooters in the Tiger Shroff firing case, Kunal (21) and Sumit (19) from Haryana's Sonapat, and Radha (23) and Babita (23) from Uttar Pradesh had their police custody extended till October 28 by Additional Chief Judicial Magistrate S Khedkar on Monday. Police told the court they have recovered two pistols and cartridges used in the crime and need to collect the accused's voice samples and verify data from their phones, including photos and videos of the weapons.



Investigators said Radha delivered a weapon provided by Kunal in Mumbai, the two women booked a hotel using fake IDs, and all four travelled to Amritsar to procure arms before smuggling them to Mumbai by train. They were allegedly in touch with wanted accused Anil Pandit via Signal. The defence, represented by Ajinkya Migral, opposed the extension, arguing that confrontation could be done in jail. On October 18, at least two men fired five to six rounds at Shroff's car in Juhu and fled on a motorcycle later found abandoned in Andheri. (AGENCY)

Ranbir Kapoor-starrer 'Ramayana' crosses \$2 million in worldwide advance bookings

Ranbir Kapoor-starrer Ramayana has crossed the USD 2 million mark in reported worldwide advance bookings, combining reservations for preview screenings on November 4 with opening-day shows on November 5, according to trade estimates. The Nitesh Tiwari-directed adaptation of the India epic has sold around 2.25 lakh tickets across tracked international markets and India, generating an advance gross of approximately Rs 20.50 crore, as per industry tracker Sacnilk. India accounts for the largest share of opening-day advance bookings, with collections exceeding USD 1.2 million. Overseas markets have also contributed to the momentum, with North America recording more than USD 550,000 in advance bookings for preview screenings on November 4, while other international territories have collectively generated over USD 400,000 for November 5. The film's opening-day advance gross,



excluding previews, stands at more than USD 1.6 million, taking the combined worldwide total to over USD 2.15 million, according to Sacnilk. North America has emerged as a key overseas market, with preview screenings drawing significant demand ahead of the regular release. Bookings in the United Kingdom, Australia and several European territories have also contributed to the film's international reach.

Directed by Tiwari and produced by Namit Malhotra, Ramayana features Kapoor as Lord Rama, Sai Pallavi as Sita, Yash as Ravana, Ravie Dubey as Lakshman, and Sunny Deol as Hanuman. The ensemble cast also includes Arun Govil, Lara Dutta, Sheeba Chadha, Vivek Oberoi, Rakul Preet Singh, Kunal Kapoor and Anupam Kher. Oscar winners Hans Zimmer and A.R. Rahman have composed the music for the film. (AGENCY)

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