

OPEN SEARCH

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PM Modi urges india to lead global technology revolution

NEW DELHI.AGENCY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday called upon India to develop indigenous capabilities and take a leading role in shaping the technologies of the future, asserting that the vision of a developed India, or Viksit Bharat, must be built on scientific research, discoveries and innovation.

Inaugurating the Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave (ESTIC) 2026 at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi, he stressed the importance of self-reliance in critical technologies and cautioned against accepting information generated by artificial intelligence (AI) without verification. "A Viksit Bharat will be built on strong foundations of scientific research, discoveries and the spirit of innovation," Modi said, underlining that India must move beyond adopting technologies developed elsewhere and build the capacity to create new solutions and influence the direction of global technological advancement. He emphasised that the country's ambition should be not

Warns against blind trust in AI



merely to keep pace with emerging technologies but to contribute to their development and help shape how they are deployed.

Highlighting the expanding role of artificial intelligence, the Prime Minister cautioned that the speed with which AI provides answers should not be mistaken for accuracy. His emphasis on verification underscored the continuing importance of critical thinking, scientific rigour and human judgement as AI tools become increasingly integrated into research, education, industry and

everyday life. The warning also reflects growing concerns worldwide over misinformation, unreliable AI-generated content and the need to ensure that technological advances are accompanied by responsible use and appropriate safeguards.

The three-day conclave, being held from October 27 to 29, has brought together scientists, researchers, policymakers, industry leaders, academics, entrepreneurs and international experts to deliberate on emerging technologies and India's science, technology and innovation priorities. It seeks to

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provide a common platform for identifying strategic research areas, strengthening scientific capabilities and exploring ways to translate discoveries into practical applications that can accelerate economic growth and address pressing societal challenges.

The discussions cover 12 thematic areas encompassing artificial intelligence, biotechnology, advanced materials, manufacturing, healthcare, energy, climate science and ocean sciences, among other fields. These technologies are becoming increasingly important to global economic competitiveness, national security, public health, environmental sus-

tainability and the development of advanced industrial capabilities. The deliberations are intended to encourage interdisciplinary research, facilitate the exchange of scientific knowledge and identify opportunities to accelerate the development and deployment of innovative solutions.

The emphasis on technological self-reliance comes amid intensifying global competition to secure critical technologies, strengthen domestic manufacturing and reduce dependence on external suppliers. Countries are investing heavily in AI, biotechnology, advanced materials and other strategic sectors to build their own research capabilities and protect their technological interests. For India, developing indigenous research and development ecosystems is closely linked to the broader ambition of creating a technology-driven economy capable of generating employment, strengthening industrial competitiveness and delivering solutions tailored to the country's developmental needs.

CM Sai inaugurated the diwali gift pack of 'chhattisgarh herbals'

RAIPUR. OPEN SEARCH

Chief Minister Vishnu Dev Sai today launched the "Chhattisgarh Herbals" Diwali gift pack at the Chief Minister's residence in Civil Lines, Raipur. Local and herbal products produced by women self-help groups associated with Van Dhan Vikas Kendras have been designed into attractive gift packs. This initiative will provide a wider market for Chhattisgarh's quality local products and will also strengthen the livelihoods of minor forest produce collectors and women self-help groups.

Chief Minister Shri Sai, while praising this innovative initiative, said that Chhattisgarh's rich forest wealth is an important source of livelihood for millions of forest-dwelling families. Our government's effort is to maximize the value addition of forest produce within the state, and to ensure that its direct economic benefits reach forest produce collectors and the women's groups associated with them. The Chief Minister said that through Van Dhan Vikas Kendras,



The richness of our forests and the products made from the hard work of the women should become the identity of Chhattisgarh : CM Vishnudev Sai

our mothers and sisters are processing local forest produce to create quality products. By providing these products with better packaging, branding, and market access, we are giving their hard work new recognition and better income opportunities. Chhattisgarh Herbals' Diwali gift packs are a meaningful initiative in this direction.

Calling on the people of the state to prioritize local products, he said, "When we buy and gift products made in Chhattisgarh, the benefits reach directly to our forest-

based families and women's self-help groups. Adopting local products is our contribution to strengthening our traditions, local entrepreneurship, and the rural economy." It's worth noting that Chhattisgarh Herbals' Diwali gift packs are offered in two categories premium and regular. The premium gift packs include nine select products, while the regular gift packs include five. These gift packs can be purchased by the public from "Sanjeevani" sales centers operated by the Chhattisgarh State Minor Forest Produce Cooperative Federation. This will provide an opportunity to connect the Diwali gift-giving tradition with Chhattisgarh's local products, women's entrepreneurship, and tribal livelihoods.

Cyclone arnab likely to cross andhra coast on oct 28

PANCHKULA.AGENCY

A developing weather system over the Bay of Bengal has intensified into a cyclonic storm by October 26, thus causing the India Meteorological Department (IMD) to declare a rainfall alert for coastal Andhra Pradesh and Odisha. If the system turns into a cyclone as predicted, it will be named Arnab, according to the regional cyclone naming scheme. The IMD stated that a low-pressure area formed over the east-central and adjoining southeast Bay of Bengal on October 23. The IMD stated that a low-pressure area formed over the east-central and adjoining southeast Bay of Bengal on October 23. Cyclone Arnab has intensified into a very severe cyclonic storm over the west-central Bay of Bengal, which is now shifting westwards at a speed of 22 kmph over the past six hours.

New dawn of development and cultural renaissance dawned in Shri Ayodhya : CM Yogi

LUCKNOW.AGENCY

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Tuesday said the 10th Deepotsav in Ayodhya will showcase the city's cultural heritage and the development undertaken since the BJP came to power in the state in 2017.

In a post on X, Adityanath said the sacred city, regarded as the foremost among the seven holy cities, is preparing for the festival that will see the banks of the Sarayu river illuminated with lakhs of diyas, tableaux depicting episodes from the Ramayana, grand processions and cultural performances. Deepotsav is scheduled from November 5 to 7, with related events continuing on November 8.

The enchanting tableaux bringing episodes from the Ramayana to life, grand processions and cultural performances will revive memories of the



The enchanting tableaux bringing episodes from the Ramayana to life, grand processions and cultural performances will revive memories of the Treta Yuga during this festival

Treta Yuga during this festival. Every lamp will symbolise profound devotion to Lord Shri Ram, and every flame will proclaim the glory of our Sanatan culture," he said. The CM also slammed previous Governments, alleging that Ayodhya suffered neglect, disorder and poor conditions before 2017. "What

did a Government that ordered firing on innocent devotees of Lord Ram and committed the sin of allowing namaz on the steps of the sacred Shri Hanuman Garhi have to do with the development of Ram's Ayodhya. Referring to the BJP-led Govt's formation in Uttar Pradesh in 2017, Adityanath said a new phase of development and cultural revival has begun in the temple town. With the blessings of Lord Shri Ram, a new dawn of development and cultural renaissance emerged in Ayodhya after 2017," he said. Under the guidance of PM Modi, efforts by the "double-engine Govt" are helping Ayodhya regain its ancient grandeur, the CM said, citing the Ram temple, Maharishi Valmiki International Airport, the redeveloped Ram Path, renovated ghats, modern facilities and the city's development as a solar city.

SC adjourns pleas challenging ECI functioning to Nov 17, grants 10 days for rejoinder

NEW DELHI.AGENCY

The Supreme Court on Tuesday granted 10 days to petitioners to file a reply to the Election Commission's affidavit defending the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, maintaining that the exercise was authorised by law and the relevant orders were approved unanimously by all three members of the poll panel.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice of India (CJI) Surya Kant and Justices Joydip Bagchi and V Mohana also issued notices to the poll panel and others on a fresh plea filed by Rajya Sabha MP Dola Sen alleging that changes were made in Form 6 during Bihar SIR without the approval of the top court. Senior advocate and MP Maneka



Guruswamy, appearing for Sen, said the poll panel wrongly claimed that the changes in Form 6 were approved by the top court. While issuing the notice, the CJI said that all the issues would be examined and asked senior advocate Vikas Singh, who represented the first petitioner, Rakesh Kumar Singh, to file a rejoinder in 10 days to the poll panel's reply affidavit filed late Monday evening. The poll panel, in its 248-page response to the petition

against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar and the decisions taken by it, strongly defended the SIR.

Rejecting the allegations that Form 6 had been amended, the poll panel said that no changes were made to the statutory Form 6 used for voter registration. "The attempt to make aspersions against the Election Commission is unfortunate," said the affidavit, filed by Deputy EC Bhanu Prakash Yeturu on behalf of the EC.

who represented the first petitioner, Rakesh Kumar Singh, to file a rejoinder in 10 days to the poll panel's reply affidavit filed late Monday evening

The EC said the affidavit itself had been approved for filing by a unanimous decision of all three members of the poll panel. The pleas were filed after The Indian Express reported on September 25 that EC Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi objected on record at least 14 times over the last 10 months to decisions and orders on SIR of electoral rolls that they said were issued without their knowledge or recommendation.

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CM Saini Expands Access to Affordable Healthcare, Families to Get Rs. 5 Lakh Cashless Treatment Cover for Annual Contribution of Rs. 4,000– Rs. 5,000

Haryana Extends CHIRAYU Health Cover to Middle-Income Families from November 1

VIJAY KUMAR.OPEN SEARCH

CHANDIGARH : In a major step towards making healthcare more affordable and accessible, the Haryana Government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini, has extended the benefits of the CHIRAYU health scheme to families with an annual income exceeding Rs. 3 lakh. This was informed by Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Sumita Misra, who stated that the CHIRAYU Extension Scheme will come into effect from November 1, 2026, in accordance with the Health Department notification dated October 13, 2026.

Under the extended scheme, eligible families will be able to avail themselves of cashless hospital treatment worth up to Rs. 5 lakh per family annually by paying a nominal yearly contribution. The expansion will enable more middle- and higher-income families to access financial protection against the cost of hospital treatment. Under the scheme, families with a ver-



ified annual income of more than Rs. 3 lakh and up to Rs. 6 lakh will pay Rs. 4,000 per year, while those earning above Rs. 6 lakh annually will contribute Rs. 5,000 per year. Eligible families will be entitled to cashless treatment of up to Rs. 5 lakh annually at empanelled public and private hospitals. Eligibility will be verified through the Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP) database.

Dr. Misra said the expansion would help reduce out-of-pocket healthcare expenditure and provide greater financial protection to families facing unexpected medical emer-

gencies. By extending coverage beyond the existing income categories, the government aims to make quality hospital care accessible to more residents of Haryana. The scheme follows the framework of Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) and covers secondary and tertiary healthcare. It includes 2,694 treatment packages encompassing surgical procedures, medical treatments and daycare procedures. The cost of medicines and diagnostic services is covered as specified under the applicable packages. An important feature of the scheme is that



there is no restriction on the size of an eligible family or the age of its members. All pre-existing diseases are covered. The treatment procedures also includes investigations conducted up to three days before hospitalisation and eligible medical expenses incurred for 15 days after discharge.

Dr. Misra stated that beneficiaries can avail themselves of treatment at empanelled hospitals anywhere in India under the national portability provision. A grievance redressal mechanism will operate at both district and state levels to address beneficiary complaints. At the time of admis-

sion, beneficiaries will be required to provide their Ayushman Bharat Golden Card number or PPP ID.

The enrolment process has been designed to facilitate convenient access. Eligible families can pay their annual contribution online through the official portal. The State Health Agency will share details of eligible beneficiaries and successful payments with CRID Haryana and the National Health Authority for database integration.

Beneficiary cards will be generated through public hospitals, Common Service Centres (CSCs), village-level CSC operators and ASHA

workers. Each card will remain valid for one year, with the policy period running from November 1 to October 31 of the following year. The government will determine and announce the payment window for subsequent years.

The notification specifies certain exclusions. Individuals covered under the Central Government Health Scheme, the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme, railway health services or medical attendance schemes, as well as healthcare facilities provided by the armed forces and paramilitary forces, will not be eligible. Haryana Government employees, retired state government employees and their dependants who are entitled to medical reimbursement or cashless treatment from the government will also be excluded. Similarly, employees and pensioners of other state governments and Union Territory administrations, along with their dependants, will not be eligible if they receive corresponding medical benefits from their respective governments.

'Free entry' banner at Botanical Garden triggers celebration, officials say fee stays

CHANDIGARH : (AGENCY)

Residents of Sarangpur, Dhanas and Khuda Lahora broke into celebrations outside the Botanical Garden and Nature Park at Sarangpur after a banner displayed at its gate announced that entry to the garden was free. However, UT officials refuted claims that the proposed entry fee had been withdrawn. Sweets were distributed and residents greeted one another, with women, elderly residents and children joining the celebrations. For many, the occasion appeared to mark a victory in their fight against the proposed levy. When contacted, officials told The



Tribune that the decision to introduce the entry fee from November 1 remained unchanged and had not been officially withdrawn. Entry would remain free until October 31, they said. The banner, which prompted the celebrations, thus did not indicate any formal withdrawal of the proposed fee, officials clarified. The development comes days after around 200 residents gathered outside the garden to protest against the Chandigarh Administration's decision to impose an entry fee from November 1.

The People's Voice Will Rise in Delhi on Novr 1 to Protect Democracy and Constitution : Selja

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH

The Sirsa MP, Former Union Cabinet Minister, General Secretary of All India Congress Committee, CWC member Kumari Selja said protecting citizens' votes was a constitutional right. Under Rahul Gandhi's leadership, the Congress was fighting for voting rights, electoral transparency and democratic values.

Lakhs of people from Haryana, Uttarakhand and across the country are expected to attend the November 1 rally at Delhi's historic Ramlika Maidan. Kumari Selja said BJP policies were contrary to democratic traditions, alleging that the government feared the Opposition and was



attempting to suppress political dissent. She said the Opposition had every right to question government policies and raise public concerns. She said Rahul Gandhi had raised serious questions about electoral fairness and alleged vote theft, which required impartial and transparent answers. Public confidence in the electoral

-The Lakhs Expected in Delhi to Raise Questions Over Alleged Vote Theft and Electoral Fairness

-The Congress to Raise Voters' Rights and Electoral Transparency at Ramlika Maidan Rally : Selja

system was essential for a strong democracy. The Congress's struggle, she said, was for the Constitution, independent democratic institutions and every citizen's right to vote, not against any particular individual.

Kumari Selja alleged that the BJP pursued divisive politics and urged the government to address unemployment, inflation, farmers' problems and the impartial functioning of democratic institutions rather than diverting attention from public concerns.

She said the November 1 rally would raise national-level issues concerning electoral transparency, voters' rights and the democratic role of the Opposition. Large public participation would demonstrate people's awareness of their democratic rights. Kumari Selja reaffirmed the Congress's commitment to protecting constitutional rights and democratic institutions, expressing confidence that the rally would strongly highlight concerns relating to democracy, the Constitution and voting rights.

Haryana Government brings beekeeping under 'Mukhyamantri Bagwani Bima Yojana'

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH

In another historic and innovative initiative aimed at safeguarding the interests of farmers and entrepreneurs associated with the agriculture and horticulture sectors, the Haryana Government has brought beekeeping under the ambit of the Mukhyamantri Bagwani Bima Yojana. This decision will provide significant financial security and relief to beekeepers across the state. Sharing details of this important decision, Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister, Sh. Shyam Singh Rana, said that the initiative would substantially reduce the concerns of farmers and entrepreneurs



engaged in beekeeping regarding losses caused by natural calamities and unforeseen incidents. He informed that the scheme would cover losses resulting from the submergence of beehive boxes and colonies during floods, destruction caused by fire, and accidents occurring during

transportation. However, in cases of transportation-related accidents, insurance coverage would be applicable only if the accident occurs within Haryana and an official FIR or DDR has been registered.

In addition, the scheme also provides compensation for losses caused by epi-

demics affecting honeybees. Sharing the details about the eligibility criteria and framework of the scheme, the Agriculture Minister said that insurance coverage would be available for a maximum of 250 bee colonies and boxes per beekeeper. Registration under the *Bhavanter Bharpai Yojana-Honey would be mandatory. Beekeepers would also be required to provide the Bhavanter Bharpai Yojana unit number for each box. Elaborating on the insurance premium and compensation amount, Sh. Shyam Singh Rana said that the premium has been kept highly affordable at Rs. 50 per colony and Rs. 50 per box.

35th Convocation Ceremony held at RKSD College, Kaithal

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH

Haryana Governor Prof. Ashim Kumar Ghosh has called upon young people to contribute significantly to the development of the nation and the state through education, innovation, entrepreneurship and social commitment. He said that in today's world, society needs not only individuals who can find answers to questions but also young minds with the courage to ask meaningful questions and explore new possibilities. The Governor said that a student's true identity is defined not merely by academic qualifications but also by the depth of their thinking, strength of character and ability to apply knowledge for the welfare of humanity. He urged students to make knowledge,

character and human values the cornerstones of their lives. Governor Prof. Ashim Kumar Ghosh was addressing the 35th Convocation Ceremony of RKSD College in Kaithal on Tuesday as the Chief Guest. Degrees were conferred upon approximately 190 undergraduate and postgraduate students on the occasion.

Congratulating the graduating students, the Governor said that the convocation marked not only a celebration of their academic achievements but also the beginning of a new journey in their lives. Having acquired knowledge over the years, they now had the opportunity to bring positive change to society through their ideas, talents and capabilities. He encouraged postgraduate students to translate their knowledge



and experience into fresh perspectives, innovative ideas and meaningful social change. Commending RKSD College for its contribution to education, the Governor said that the institution currently caters to approximately 5,000 students, including 2,600 female students, and remains committed to their academic and holistic development.

He said that the knowledge, guidance and values imparted by teachers would remain invaluable assets

Youth should contribute significantly to national and state development through education, innovation and social commitment - Governor Ashim Kumar Ghosh

throughout the students' lives. The conduct, ideals and guidance of teachers inspire students to face future challenges with confidence and integrity.

The Governor said that RKSD College, which has been contributing to the field of education since 1954, is one of Haryana's prominent educational institutions. The college has played an important role in providing quality education, particularly to students from surrounding rural areas. He emphasized that every effort must be made to

ensure that no student in Haryana is deprived of the opportunity to receive quality education. He also called upon students, teachers and parents to work collectively towards making Haryana a developed state and realizing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

He said that a commitment to knowledge, innovation, hard work, entrepreneurship and social responsibility was essential to building a future in which the benefits of development reach every section of society, ensuring equal opportunities, dignity and prosperity for all. Prominent among those present on the occasion were Ashwani Shorwala, President of the Rashtriya Vidya Samiti; former committee presidents Satish Bansal

State government continuously working to strengthen traditional healthcare services and ayurveda : Arti Singh Rao

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH

The Haryana Government is continuously working to strengthen traditional healthcare services and the Ayurveda system in the state. On the occasion of 12 years of the BJP government's development journey and the successful completion of two years of the present government, Haryana Health, Medical Education and Research, and AYUSH Minister Arti Singh Rao shared details of the progress made in the AYUSH sector. She said that the state's AYUSH services have expanded rapidly at all levels due to the policies of the state government. Arti Singh Rao stated that, with



the objective of providing better and accessible healthcare facilities to the general public, the government has upgraded 26 AYUSH dispensaries into Ayushman Arogya Mandirs. Additionally, 605 Ayurvedic Medical Officers have been appointed at Primary Health Centres to

ensure access to Ayurvedic healthcare services at the rural and primary levels. The AYUSH Minister further stated that special initiatives were undertaken during the recently organised 8th National Nutrition Month to promote health awareness and nutrition. A total of 1,771 AYUSH camps were organised across the state during this period, through which 10,900 people underwent comprehensive health check-ups and received health-related counselling. Arti Singh Rao said that these welfare initiatives of the state government are ensuring the delivery of better healthcare services to every citizen of Haryana.

Briefs News

Bareilly-bound sleeper bus attacked with swords, iron rods near Dera Bassi, passengers injured

CHANDIGARH : (AGENCY) A Bareilly-bound sleeper coach was vandalised and several passengers injured after a group of 8-10 youths allegedly attacked the bus driver, conductor and other staff with iron rods, sticks and swords near the Dera Bassi flyover on the Ambala-Chandigarh National Highway late Sunday night. The attackers smashed the front windshield and windowpanes, damaged the lights and assaulted the bus staff, triggering panic among passengers. Some passengers, including women and children, jumped off the vehicle and ran for safety. A few passengers sustained injuries from broken glass and were given first aid. The injured were taken to a nearby hospital for treatment.

According to the police, the bus operated by Harsh Bus Service was travelling from Chandigarh to Bareilly in Uttar Pradesh when it was attacked by unidentified persons allegedly associated with another transporter. Preliminary information suggests that the attack may have stemmed from a rivalry between transporters over passenger seating and fares. Tensions over the issue had reportedly been simmering for some time. However, the police are investigating the motive behind the assault.

Chandigarh Housing Board to take call on Delhi model for need-based changes on Nov 3

CHANDIGARH : (AGENCY) The Chandigarh Housing Board (CHB) has planned to explore the possibility of regularising certain need-based changes made to dwelling units allotted by the board on the pattern adopted by the Delhi Development Authority (DDA). According to sources, if the Delhi model was adopted by the CHB, certain unauthorised modifications would be regularised. However, the Urban Planning Department has expressed reservations about allowing certain structural modifications, as these could violate the city's planning norms and guidelines of the Chandigarh Master Plan. The long-pending demand for regularisation of need-based changes in CHB flats may hit another roadblock. The final decision on regularisation of need-based changes will be taken by the CHB Board of Directors in a meeting on November 3. Sources stated that the department had objections to several major modifications. The primary point of contention is the construction of rooms and other permanent structures in the backyards of residential units.

Chandigarh Police get President's Police Colour

CHANDIGARH : (AGENCY) The President of India Droupadi Murmu has approved the award of the President's Police Colour to Chandigarh Police, the highest national recognition for a police force. The honour comes days before the force completes 60 years on November 1. The approval was conveyed by the Ministry of Home Affairs (Police-I Division) in a confidential letter dated October 26 to the Chief Secretary, Chandigarh, a copy of which is with The Tribune. The letter refers to the UT Administration's communications of July 14 and September 28, 2026. It states that the President "is pleased to approve the proposal" for the award, "as proposed". A copy was marked to the UT's Director-General of Police.

Haryana development and panchayats Krishan Lal Panwar Comes to the Aid of a Road Accident Victim

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH

Haryana Development and Panchayats and Mines Minister, Sh. Krishan Lal Panwar, displayed compassion and a strong sense of social responsibility by promptly helping a person seriously injured in a road accident. Upon seeing the accident, the Cabinet Minister immediately stopped his convoy and arranged for the injured driver to be taken to the hospital in the pilot vehicle accompanying his convoy, ensuring timely medical assistance.

His prompt action underscored the message that saving human lives and extending help to those in need is a duty of paramount



importance. The Cabinet Minister was travelling from his residence at Madlauda in Panipat district to Charkhi Dadri to attend a kabaddi sports trials programme when a pickup vehicle and a canter collided on the 152-D highway near Julana in Jind district. The driver of the pickup vehicle sustained serious injuries in the accident. The injured driver is reportedly a resi-

The Cabinet Minister was travelling from his residence at Madlauda in Panipat district to Charkhi Dadri to attend a kabaddi sports trials programme when a pickup vehicle and a canter collided on the 152-D highway near Julana in Jind district.

dent of Pilani in Rajasthan. Upon witnessing the accident, Sh. Krishan Lal Panwar immediately halted his convoy and took necessary steps to assist the injured person at the accident site.

Showing compassion and concern, he arranged for the injured driver to be rushed to hospital in the pilot vehicle accompanying his convoy so that he could receive medical treatment at the earliest. The Minister

accorded top priority to ensuring prompt medical assistance for the injured driver. Sh. Krishan Lal Panwar's gesture reinforced the message that coming forward to help a person injured in a road accident is a collective social responsibility. Providing timely medical assistance during emergencies and extending support to those in distress are essential expressions of humanitarian values.

In the Uninterrupted Stream of Spiritual Awakening

SAMALKHA : OPEN SEARCH

“The true significance of Brahm Gyan lies in adopting it in life and incorporating it into one’s thoughts, behaviour and actions.” These divine sentiments were imparted by Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj through Her sacred blessings to the lakhs of devotees gathered on the concluding day of the 79th Annual Nirankari Sant Samagam.

This sacred Sant Samagam, which inspired devotees to assimilate the spiritual teachings of ‘Awakening’ into their lives and strengthen the spirit of the welfare of the world alongside their own upliftment, concluded last night in an atmosphere filled with love, devotion and reverence. Carrying spiritual inspiration and sweet



memories from the Samagam, the devotees gradually began departing for their respective destinations. Addressing the vast human family, Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj stated in Her sacred discourse that ‘Awakening’ is not limited merely to Satsang or the Samagam; rather, it means living every moment of life with the awareness of the Formless Supreme God. Brahm Gyan holds true significance only when we adopt it in our thoughts, behaviour and actions. Satguru Mata Ji inspired

everyone to embrace positive thinking, love, compassion and humility, and to recognise the virtues of others instead of focusing on their shortcomings. True awakening begins within one’s own family and personal life. Considering Sewa, Simran and Satsang as integral parts of life and maintaining an awareness of the Supreme God under every circumstance are what make life blissful and spiritually enriched.

On this occasion, the Secretary of Sant Nirankari Mandal, Respected Shri

Assimilating the Teachings of Brahm Gyan into Life Is True Awakening : Nirankari Satguru Mata Sudiksha Ji Maharaj

Joginder Sukhija, expressed his gratitude for the sacred darshan of Satguru Mata Ji and Nirankari Rajpita Ji and for their divine blessings. He also extended heartfelt gratitude to the entire Sadh Sangat and all government departments that contributed to the successful organisation of the Samagam. He expressed happiness over the participation of a larger number of devotees at this year’s Samagam compared to previous years and conveyed his auspicious wishes for the Sangat’s numbers to

continue growing in the future. The Kavi Darbar, organised on all four days of this year’s Samagam, witnessed enthusiastic participation by male and female poets, including young poets, and remained one of the major attractions.

On this occasion, 80 poets presented their self-composed poems based on the theme of ‘Awakening’ in various languages, including Hindi, Rajasthani, Punjabi, English, Haryanvi, Multani, Marathi, Bhojpuri and Sanskrit. These heartfelt poetic presentations captivated the listeners, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the event. Thus, the 79th Annual Nirankari Sant Samagam concluded in an atmosphere filled with the divine message of the Satguru, love, devotion and the spirit of humanity.

Man, son killed as building collapses in northeast Delhi

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)



A father-son duo working at a construction site was killed after a building structure collapsed at Milan Garden in northeast Delhi’s Harsh Vihar last evening, the police said on Monday. The deceased were identified as Chanderpal (60) and Vijay Kumar (33), both residents of Gali No. 14 in Harsh Vihar. A preliminary investigation revealed several safety lapses at the construction site, including the absence of safety gears. More importantly there were no pillars to support the second floor being constructed above the existing structure.

The building, owned by Manoj Kumar, housed a godown on the ground floor, with a structure built above it on the first floor. Both the godown and the first-floor structure collapsed. According to the Delhi Fire Services, a call regarding

the collapse was received at 6:46 pm on Sunday. Five fire tenders were rushed to the spot and rescue teams began clearing the debris amid reports that two people could be trapped underneath. Divisional Fire Officer Ravinder Singh said the rescue operation continued for nearly 14 hours before being called off. Though the operation has concluded for now, teams will remain deployed at the site as a precaution.

A local resident said the collapse appeared to have occurred while a concrete slab was being laid for an

additional floor. “A concrete slab was being cast for the building. The existing lower slab was weak, and a new one was being laid on top of it. As a result, the lower slab gave way, causing the newly laid slab above it to collapse,” the resident said.

The latest incident comes after the building collapse in Satya Niketan, near Delhi University’s South Campus, which claimed seven lives. The building was being used as a boys’ paying guest (PG) accommodation and had a basement and five upper floors.

Jamia extends online classes until Nov 8, moves mid-term exams online

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)

Jamia Millia Islamia will continue online classes until November 8, and its second mid-term semester examinations will also be held online, according to an office order issued on Monday. Following student protests and a hunger strike that began on October 12, the university approved online classes effective from October 24 until further notice. Protesters demanded the reconstitution of the student union and the announcement of election dates. The Jamia Students’ Union was dissolved in 2006. The order said the university’s deans, heads of departments, directors, and other officials, chaired by Vice-Chancellor Mazhar Asif, decided to extend online classes until the



forthcoming Diwali holidays. The university will review whether to continue online classes after November 8 based on the prevailing situation on the campus, it said. The university said the respective deans, heads, and directors will decide the detailed guidelines and modalities for conducting the online mid-term examinations, including the schedule and related procedures, in consultation with the Controller of Examinations. PhD research scholars have also been directed to consult their respective supervisors online, it said.

Delhi traders flag potential impact on 21 markets from Nov 1 Congress rally, seek postponement

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)



The proposed Congress rally at Ramlila Maidan on November 1 could disrupt business in 21 major wholesale and retail markets in Delhi, including Chandni Chowk, Sadar Bazaar, Khari Baoli and Bhagirath Palace, during the peak festive season, traders’ body CTI has claimed.

The Chamber of Trade and Industry (CTI) has written to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, demanding that the proposed rally, for which the party has claimed a turnout of 10 lakh people, be postponed until November 10, after Bhai Dooj, or shifted to an alternative venue away from commercial areas. CTI chairman Brijesh Goyal said a copy of the letter had also been sent to Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, urging

him to discuss the matter with alliance partners. Goyal said traders were worried about possible barricading and road closures on October 31 and November 1 and whether customers would be able to reach shops during the crucial festive shopping period. According to the CTI, a gathering of 10 lakh people could bring 15,000 to 20,000 vehicles into Delhi, including 10,000 to 12,000 buses and 5,000 to 7,000 smaller vehicles such as

cars, minibuses and tempo travellers. The traders’ body questioned where these vehicles would be parked, claiming that there was no authorised parking facility for even 200 vehicles in the immediate vicinity of Ramlila Maidan.

The 21 markets identified by the CTI as potentially affected include Chandni Chowk, Bhagirath Palace, Khari Baoli, Sadar Bazaar, Chawri Bazaar, Kashmere Gate, Nabi Karim, Karol Bagh, Ajmeri Gate,

Daryaganj, Nai Sarak, Kinari Bazaar, Dariba Kalan, Fatehpuri, Lahori Gate, Filmistan, Paharganj, Gaffar Market, Jama Masjid, Lajpat Rai Market and Naya Bazaar. The CTI said the narrow lanes of Old Delhi, many of which are only 10 to 12 feet wide, could face severe congestion if vehicles entered the area, with a single truck getting stuck potentially causing traffic jams lasting several hours. Citing an event at Jantar Mantar on October 10, the organisation claimed that a gathering of around 3,000 to 4,000 people had disrupted movement across central Delhi and caused traders losses of Rs 3,000 crore. It projected that the November 1 rally could bring commercial activity across Old Delhi to a standstill, resulting in losses of up to Rs 10,000 crore.

Jamia students refuse to call off stir on 16th day, demand definite date for polls

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)

The protest demanding restoration of the Jamia Millia Islamia Students’ Union (JMSU) entered its 16th day on Tuesday, with students refusing to call off their agitation despite the university’s decision to hold elections within 15 days of the approval of the union’s constitution. The protesting students have maintained that the administration must announce a definite date for the polls, which have not been held since 2006, and set a timeline for approving the constitution.

The agitation continued a day after the university issued an order stating that students’ union elections would be held within 15 days of the approval of the union’s constitution. The



order also revoked suspension and show-cause notices issued to students during the ongoing protest and provided for a committee to inquire into the conduct of security staff during the agitation. However, the students said the decision fell short of their demands, questioning the absence of a deadline for approving the

constitution. “Our first demand was that student union elections should be revived, and dates for polls be declared,” Rehan Khan, one of the students on an indefinite hunger strike, had said on Monday.

The university has also issued an order to Khan late on Monday, asking him to immediately vacate the

The protesting students have maintained that the administration must announce a definite date for the polls, which have not been held since 2006, and set a timeline for approving the constitution

protest site, failing which legal action will be taken. The university’s order also stated that the protesting students had agreed to issue a public apology at a press conference for defamatory statements, actions or social media posts against the administration during the agitation. It directed that such posts be taken down immediately and said the protest would be called off following the issuance of the order.

Delhi : Youth stabbed to death over bike parking dispute in Pratap Vihar

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)



A youth was allegedly stabbed to death following a dispute over parking a motorcycle near a house in Pratap Vihar area of northwest Delhi, police sources said on Monday. The incident took place late Sunday night under the Aman Vihar police station limits when the victim was returning home from work and stopped his motorcycle in a lane to speak to a friend, according to the family. Four to five youths objected to the motorcycle being parked there and picked a quarrel with the victim. Despite telling them he would move the bike in a few minutes, the argument escalated into a physical altercation, the source said. During the confrontation,

the victim’s friend was allegedly taken away by some of the youths. When the victim intervened to rescue him, others allegedly threw flowerpots and other objects at the two. As they tried to escape, one of the attackers allegedly pulled out a knife and stabbed the victim in the chest. Family members said they received a phone call from his son’s friend around 9.30 pm informing them about the stabbing. The victim’s younger nephew arrived at the spot and took the blood-soaked victim to Sanjay Gandhi Hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

No BS-VI, no entry : what new anti-pollution curb could cost Delhi-NCR commuters

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)

At the Badarpur border, the road into Delhi carries more than traffic. It carries people heading to construction sites, homes where they work as domestic help, shops, offices and delivery points across the city. For many of them, the vehicle they arrive in is not a luxury. It makes their workday possible. That routine could change from November 1, when Delhi is set to restrict the entry of petrol and diesel vehicles registered outside the Capital that do not meet the required BS-VI emission standard. The move is part of the city’s winter pollution-control measures. But at the southern edge of Delhi, where the distinction between the national capital and its neighbouring cities is most-



ly invisible to commuters, the rule raises concerns over what people who cannot bring their older vehicles into Delhi will use instead and how much the change will cost them. For some, the answer could be a Metro ride. For others, it could mean a bus, an e-rickshaw and another connection. For workers carrying equipment or travelling to

several locations during the day, there may be no simple replacement. Ramesh Kumar, 42, lives in Faridabad and works at construction sites across South Delhi. His old diesel van carries drilling equipment, tools and other material. He says leaving the vehicle outside Delhi and continuing by public transport is practically impossi-

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ble. “My vehicle is part of my work. I cannot carry everything in the Metro,” he says. Kumar estimates that he currently spends around Rs 250 a day on diesel when travelling for work. The cost varies according to the number of sites he visits. Replacing the vehicle would be a much larger expense. A newer one, he says, would require a substantial down payment followed by monthly instalments. “I can manage fuel because I earn

according to the work I get. But a fixed EMI every month is different. Even if there is no work for ten days, the EMI does not stop.” The 36-year-old domestic worker travels to several houses in South Delhi, and uses an older scooter because her workplaces are spread across different neighbourhoods.

Her first house is usually followed by another several kilometres away. “If I have to depend completely on buses, I will lose time between houses,” she says. At present, she estimates that fuel costs her roughly Rs 70-90 a day. A switch to public transport could involve a combination of bus, Metro and e-rickshaw. Depending on her destinations, she estimates the daily cost could rise to around Rs 120-150.

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Monday, asking him to immediately vacate the protest site, failing which legal action will be taken. The university’s order also stated that the protesting students had agreed to issue a public apology at a press conference for defamatory statements, actions or social media posts against the administration during the agitation.

It directed that such posts be taken down immediately and said the protest would be called off following the issuance of the order. On Monday, scuffles broke out between protesting students and paramilitary personnel as security was tightened on campus. Police personnel did not allow the students, who raised slogans against the administration, to enter the university after classes across all courses were shifted online amid tensions.

Open Search

EDITORIAL

A new hope for tourism on the waves of the Yamuna

The trial of a river cruise on the Yamuna River is an important initiative that opens up new possibilities for tourism in the national capital, Delhi. This initiative could not only be a significant step towards promoting river tourism but also bring about a positive change in people's perception of the Yamuna. If the project proves successful, it could create new tourist attractions in Delhi while also boosting the local economy and generating employment opportunities.

Delhi is renowned across the country and around the world for its historical heritage, cultural diversity and modern development. The Red Fort, Qutub Minar, India Gate and numerous other historical landmarks attract a large number of tourists every year. In this context, the introduction of a river cruise on the Yamuna could add a new dimension to the capital's tourism experience. Opportunities could also be explored to connect historical and cultural sites along the river with tourism activities. This would allow visitors to experience Delhi from a different perspective.

The government and the concerned agencies should ensure a thorough assessment of safety standards, water quality, navigation arrangements and emergency facilities before commencing cruise operations. It must also be ensured that waste, fuel or other pollutants generated by the cruise do not harm the river's environment. Wherever possible, environmentally friendly technologies and clean-energy-based systems should be given priority. Trained staff, life-saving equipment and clearly defined emergency protocols must also be made mandatory to ensure passenger safety.

Another positive aspect of this project could be employment generation. New opportunities may emerge in cruise operations, tourism services, local transportation, catering and handicrafts. If local residents are provided with appropriate training and integrated into these activities, the benefits of tourism could reach a wider section of society. Furthermore, presenting programmes that showcase Delhi's cultural identity and sharing historical information about the river with tourists could make the overall experience more meaningful and enriching.

Bengal's business

SANJAYA BARU

Investigative journalism these days is largely confined to independent, low-cost news portals run by professional journalists. So it was not surprising that a major business story that I have been urging many business journalists to pursue finally appeared on an independent news portal. A painstaking investigation by a reporter at Newslandury in distant Uttarakhand pricked the big balloon of global business summitry that mainstream business journalism has failed to expose. Business leaders arrive. Address large gatherings. Make big promises. The chief minister is lauded. The media are fêted. Everyone leaves to meet again at the next business summit. No business journalist has till today bothered to add up the promises made and investigate the delivery on the ground. The circus began a couple of decades ago with the Vibrant Gujarat Summit and, since then, every state government has been hosting events to showcase business opportunity.

Consider this example from West Bengal. In 2022, the billionaire, Gautam Adani, grabbed headlines by informing the Bengal Global Business Summit that he intended to invest up to Rs 10,000 crore over the next decade in the state. He returned to Calcutta recently and promised an investment of Rs 100,000 crore over the next decade. No journalist has asked him how much of the earlier Rs 10,000 crore has already been invested. In 2023, Mukesh Ambani told BGBS that he planned to invest Rs 20,000 crore over the next three years in the state. The Newslandury report exposes the gap between promise and delivery in a small, non-industrial state, but points to a larger fraud. Despite billions of rupees of investment being promised over the past decade and a half at various such business summits, the share of private corporate investment in national income has hardly increased over the years.

It is understandable, though, that every state government would make the effort to attract new investors and investment. With the end of what was called the license control permit raj in 1991, the Union government has ceased to be in the business of deciding where a business person would locate her project. State governments compete to attract investors. When Ratan Tata found West Bengal was not very welcoming of his plan to locate an automobile factory, he grabbed an attractive offer extended by the then chief minister of Gujarat. More recently, though, the Union government has been exerting considerable pressure on investors to opt for Narendra Modi's home state of Gujarat. An American firm that had planned to invest in Tamil Nadu was nudged to move to Gujarat. While Tamil Nadu has a non-Bharatiya Janata Party government, investors with plans to locate in other BJP states, like Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, have also been encouraged to set up in Gujarat.

A line down the subcontinent has long separated the more developed business states in the West from the less developed ones in the East. A regional pattern of corporate investment has emerged, running from the region around the national capital (Haryana, western Uttar Pradesh and eastern Rajasthan), down through Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Telangana. Over the years, some of this investment has leaked into neighbouring regions like Indore and Goa. But the nudging, even pushing, by Delhi and the machinations of 'double-engine' governments have not prevented private investors from continuing to opt for the non-BJP states of southern India.

West Bengal, once an industrial state, has remained a laggard. Prominent business groups mostly of British and Marwari parentage have emigrated over the years. Successive governments have tried to woo business back. The first major attempt was in fact made by the former chief minister, Jyoti Basu, and his prize catch was Purnendu Chatterjee. A son of the soil, a low-profile and elegant gentleman, Chatterjee has remained invested in the state and has come to epitomise Bengal's limited success in attracting business. After Mr Basu's efforts of the 1990s, the state's former finance minister, Amit Mitra, stepped up to the task. Mitra had excellent credentials to attract business back to Bengal. He was a hugely successful and highly admired secretary-general of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) for nearly two decades.

India's bond market is bleeding, and the 'savers' are losing



Oil, war, and a hawkish central bank have made Indian government bonds cheaper than at any point since early 2023. The damage to existing holders is real. So is the opportunity for new ones. The 10-year yield, which ended 2025 below 6.6%, touched about 7.46% on October 23. The Reserve Bank of India raised the repo rate to 5.50% on October 7, its first increase since February 2023, and moved its stance from neutral to "calibrated tightening". Minutes of that meeting hinted at more to come. Retail inflation reached 5.54% in September, while wholesale inflation hit 11.39%, the highest in the current series. Several gilt funds recorded their worst twelve-month returns since at least 2014 in the year to May. In the United States, where the 10-year Treasury yield reached 5.3% this month for the first time since 2007, a growing view holds that rising yields lay the groundwork for better returns. The argument applies to India too, though local conditions shape who benefits.

Start with the arithmetic. A bond's yield acts as a buffer against price losses. The benchmark 10-year paper has a modified duration of close to seven years, so a one percentage point rise in yields cuts its price by about 7%. At today's yield, rates would have to rise by about 1.2 percentage points in the next twelve months before a buyer ended the year with a loss. For a five-year government bond yielding above 7%, the buffer is closer to 1.7 points. In 2021, when the 10-year hovered around 6.2%, it was nearer to 0.9 point.

Bank deposits tell a different story. Bond prices adjust within minutes of a policy surprise, while

deposit rates lag by months. SBI's highest fixed deposit rate is 6.40%. The five-year government bond yields more than 7%, and 10-year AAA corporate bonds were near 7.8% at the end of September. SBI's chairman said this month that banks may not raise deposit rates for two to three months, citing ample liquidity. Banks park much of their deposits in government securities that now yield above what they pay savers. Through RBI Retail Direct, gilt funds or target maturity funds, a household can earn that difference for itself.

The cost falls hardest on rural India, where September inflation was 6.08% against 4.88% in cities, and households rely on bank deposits. Gains on debt mutual funds bought since April 2023 are taxed at slab rates without indexation, the same as FD interest. One advantage remains.

FD interest is taxed every year as it accrues, while fund gains are taxed only when units are sold. That deferral compounds over time. The bigger force on Indian bonds this year has been oil. India imports close to 90% of the crude oil it uses.

After US and Israeli strikes on Iran on February 28 disrupted shipping through the Strait of Hormuz, the Indian crude basket rose from \$69 to \$117 a barrel within weeks. Brent was above \$113 on October 22 after Houthi attacks on Saudi Arabia. Most of this year's rise in yields traces back to crude. Expensive oil lifts inflation and pushes the RBI towards higher rates. It swells the import bill and weakens the rupee, and defending the currency drains cash from the banking system. The RBI has added to the squeeze by selling bonds

and raising banks' daily cash reserve maintenance requirement to 99% from 90%.

A lasting settlement that brought oil down would run the chain in reverse. A long-dated gilt fund offers the retail investor one of the simplest ways to position for peace in the Gulf without recourse to derivatives. The exposure carries a cost. This week, a stock market selloff in America sent investors into Treasuries and pushed the US 10-year back below 5%. Over the same days, Indian yields rose because oil climbed. An oil shock hurts Indian bonds and Indian stocks together.

Gilt funds may steady a portfolio through a growth slowdown, but they offer little shelter from a supply shock. India also feels the Federal Reserve more than it once did. In December 2013, India's 10-year yield was more than six percent

age points above the US's 10-year. Today, the gap is about two and a half. JP Morgan began adding Indian government bonds to its emerging market index in June 2024, and tax incentives this year drew record foreign buying, which ties Indian gilts more closely to Washington. A narrow gap also limits how far the RBI can cut once oil eases, so the eventual rally in bond prices may be smaller than in earlier cycles.

Yields may well go higher first. Nomura and SBI Research expect another RBI hike in December, and the October minutes leaned the same way. If Brent stays above \$110 and more of it reaches pump prices, the 10-year could climb well past its current level before it turns. This is where the starting yield matters. With the 10-year near 7.5%, yields can rise by roughly another percentage point over twelve months before a buyer is out of pocket. Timing the peak becomes far less important.

For most savers, the sensible core is three- to five-year government and AAA bonds, where the yield is high, and the buffer is wide. Long duration belongs in a smaller slice of money that will not be needed for at least five years, held as a bet that oil prices normalise. AA bonds deserve caution. They pay about 0.75 percentage point more than AAA paper, and defaults in a high-rate, slowing economy can cost far more than that extra yield. High yields burden borrowers and reward patience. Indian savers currently enjoy an additional edge, since deposit rates have yet to catch up with the bond market. Such gaps seldom persist beyond a few quarters.

Learning from the Panchatantra



RECALLING the disturbance that Lutyens' Delhi recently went through draws attention to the ancient classic of pedagogy, the Panchatantra. It gives us rare solace and understanding. The Panchatantra has five cycles, interwoven into a mystifying whole. Its popularity makes many readers think of it as a collection of imaginary animal tales, with didactic value. That may be true of some of the stories but certainly not all. That is why only a selected few are considered suitable for children. Most of the Panchatantra stories carry a deep political and administrative message that is challenging to interpret. Its structure is no less significant. It has many layers of symbolic meaning, and this is true of the stories also.

They enable us to explore the different angles from which ordinary people might relate to the State. Composed long before the idea of civic or human rights was born, the Panchatantra's structure, stories and characters offer remarkable resonance with our current predicaments. Rights are an essential part of citizenship in the modern world, but they are hardly the lone axis along which citizens relate to the State. In fact, the people comprise the State in a philosophical sense, and it is on their behalf that the more visible functionaries of the State serve the nation. However, the once-in-a-while vote we are required to cast often makes us forget our everyday relationship with the State and its apparatus. The Panchatantra reminds us of the numerous ways in which common members of society practise the niti on which the State is supposed to be based. As a book of nitishastra, the Panchatantra has far more

to offer us today than we may be aware of. Although each of its stories ends by resolving the problem it starts out with, the end always leads to contestation, followed by another story. The debate that breaks out at the conclusion of a story highlights the possibility of rival interpretations, and hence the need for another story. Discussing the affairs of the world brings endless pleasure to the key characters of a story in Part II, which is concerned with friendship among four creatures of radically different backgrounds: a crow, a deer, a mouse and a turtle. Every afternoon, they gather under a big old tree and take stock of their world: the jungle. What better ideal could you have for a university or college? Alas, our universities of today have lost that ideal. They have adopted a different ideal that of competition for individual success and submission to whatever order prevails.

Thousands of students fail to attain their individual goal. Their prolonged, isolated struggle drains their youthful energy or enthusiasm to take stock of the world as the four friends in the Panchatantra did.

Part III or the third cycle of the Panchatantra deals with the problem of permanent rivalry. This cycle looks at divergent advice and a terrible outcome achieved through conspiracy. The rivalry ends in an episode of awful violence, leaving the reader with a difficult dilemma and an uneasy feeling. This feeling originates in the lurking suspicion that the rival sides did not observe the core ethic of the Panchatantra — to settle every problem, even chronic ones, with the help of arguments. No wonder the third cycle is followed by the sobering last two cycles, "The Loss of Gains" and "Unexamined Action", respectively. Both these cycles have a tragic tone,

suggestive of a warning against transgression of niti.

In the fourth cycle, the framing story is about the consequences of betrayal. It is a popular story, structured around the happy friendship between a monkey and a crocodile. Their relationship has been nourished by the sweet fruit of the tree where the monkey lives and under which the crocodile comes every day to meet his friend. The big tree at Sukhna Lake never fails to remind me of the Panchatantra story. A crisis develops when the crocodile tricks the monkey. He nearly loses his life: he survives but resolutely refuses to be wooed back into his earlier friendship. Story after story is presented to demonstrate that broken trust is hard to repair. No matter how contrite the crocodile feels, his erstwhile friend rejects any possibility of resuming his old, broken bond. As we read these stories in the present-day atmosphere, we can

hardly avoid thinking of the tree of democracy that nourished rival parties and their ideologies for a long time, permitting each to dominate for a while, then handing over to the other. But if this arrangement of transitory dominance breaks down, repairing it may prove to be very hard. Are we heading towards such a situation? There is no way to predict this, but threats of making India mukt of the adversary have set the tone of intolerance and craving for permanent dominance.

The Panchatantra offers no permanent solutions. Instead, it conveys a vision of life and governance that responds to situations. Unlike so many other ancient advisories that communicate hard, principled conduct, the Panchatantra asks us to be responsive to each emerging situation. It is not as if we can live without handrails. Rather, the view embedded in this classic of pedagogy is that niti or the right way shows us the path to survival with the possibility of constant self-correction.

The emphasis is on learning from past actions and others' experience, rather than waiting for every experience oneself. As a vicarious activity, learning is nourished by the autonomy to think and deliberate. That is where we have walked into a predicament. It consists of a breakdown (not just "deficit") of trust and alienation of the young. The more sensitive among them are either depressed or resentful. Both responses need to be analysed. The generation gap is not all that unusual a phenomenon, but it seems to have become a lot wider and jagged than anticipated.

Park Hospital's Dr. Ajit gupta honoured with lifetime achievement award for contributions to healthcare

NEW DELHI.(AGENCY)

Park Hospital, part of Park Medi World Limited, announces that Dr. Ajit Gupta, Chairman and Whole-time Director, Park Medi World Limited, has been conferred with the Lifetime Achievement Award by the former Governor of Uttarakhand at an event organised as part of the Shanti-Sadbhavana Yatra. The recognition acknowledges Dr. Gupta's contributions to the healthcare sector and celebrates the role of leadership and sustained commitment in strengthening healthcare delivery. The award was presented during an event centred on promoting peace, harmony and social unity, bringing together dignitaries and prominent personalities to advance the message of social cohesion. Commenting on the recognition, Dr. Ajit Gupta,



Chairman and Whole-time Director, Park Medi World Limited, said, "I am honoured to receive this recognition for my contributions to the healthcare sector. Healthcare is a responsibility that goes beyond treating illnesses; it is about building trust, strengthening medical infrastructure and ensuring that people have access to quality care when they need it most. This recogni-

tion reinforces the importance of remaining committed to these objectives and continuing to contribute to the evolution of healthcare delivery."

Dr. Sanjay Sharma, Chief Executive Officer and Whole-time Director, Park Medi World Limited, said, "Dr. Ajit Gupta's recognition is a proud moment for the entire Park Medi World family. His journey reflects the importance of sus-

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tained commitment, leadership and a long-term vision in the healthcare sector. As we continue to strengthen our hospital network and clinical capabilities across North India, our focus remains on delivering quality, accessible and patient-centric healthcare. This recognition celebrates an important contribution to the sector and the values that continue to guide our organisation."

The recognition highlights the role of experienced healthcare leaders in shaping the sector and strengthening healthcare delivery. For Park Medi

World, it is an opportunity to reaffirm its focus on developing healthcare infrastructure, enhancing clinical capabilities and expanding access to quality medical services across established and emerging markets in North India. Park Group is North India's 2nd largest hospital chain, currently operating 17 hospitals with a combined capacity of Rs 4,300 beds as on date.

Together with this proposed 550-bed PPP facility at Prayagraj, the Group is in the process of integrating 6 additional hospitals and expanding capacity at 3 existing units. These are in various stages of execution and will add Rs 2,300 beds to our network. With these, Park Group's total capacity is expected to reach Rs 6,600 beds, underscoring its commitment to leadership and growth in healthcare delivery.

Glenfiddich reimagines luxury festive gifting with designer Rajesh Pratap Singh

PANAJI : OPEN SEARCH

Glenfiddich, the pioneering single malt Scotch whisky brand, has partnered with celebrated Indian designer Rajesh Pratap Singh to introduce a limited-edition festive gifting collection across its 12, 15 and 18-Year-Old expressions in India. United by a shared pursuit of craftsmanship, precision and a pioneering spirit, the collaboration reimagines luxury whisky gifting through thoughtfully designed accessories that extend the Glenfiddich experience beyond the bottle.

For generations, Glenfiddich has challenged convention while remaining true to its heritage, continually advancing the craft of single malt whisky-making. This pioneering spirit underpins the collaboration with Singh, whose



contemporary design philosophy similarly brings together tradition, precision and a progressive outlook.

Together, the two bring distinct creative worlds into conversation, united by a commitment to mastery and an appreciation for the details that define exceptional craft. Moving beyond conventional gifting formats, the collection brings individuality and contemporary design to the festive occasion. The Glenfiddich 12-Year-Old gifting pack features a specially designed pocket

square, with 10 designs showcased through a distinctive bottle neck tag. The Glenfiddich 15 Year Old edition pairs a pocket square with a stag brooch, while the 18 Year Old edition features a specially designed button set. Each accessory translates Glenfiddich's craftsmanship into personal style, while the packaging brings together the brand's iconic stag and distillery imagery with gold festive motifs.

Kartik Mohindra, Managing Director, William Grant & Sons India, said, "At Glenfiddich, our pioneering spirit has always been rooted in a deep respect for craftsmanship and an instinct to innovate. Our collaboration with Rajesh Pratap Singh brings this philosophy to life through a new expression of luxury gifting.

GB Realty unveils Punjab's 1st Jacob & Co residences in 2,500 crore mega deal

CHANDIGARH (AGENCY)

In a move that places the Tricity firmly on the global luxury real estate map, Punjab-based real estate developer GB Realty has officially announced the state's very first branded residential development. The ultra-luxury project, situated on the high-growth Airport Road in Mohali, is being built in collaboration with the iconic global watch and jewellery brand, Jacob & Co., alongside an exclusive association with Bollywood megastar Salman Khan. The landmark development involves a massive capital injection, with an estimated investment of ?2,400 to ?2,500 crore. This includes an upfront land acquisition cost exceeding ?1,000 crore, with the remaining funds allocated toward



construction, world-class architecture, and structural engineering. The project marks GB Realty's aggressive entry into the rapidly growing branded residences segment. Envisioned across 5.5 acres in Sector 118, the upcoming development popularly previewed as the Salman Khan Towers designed by Jacob & Co.will offer an elite collection of premium 3, 4, and 5 BHK ultra-luxury apart-

ments. The partnership aims to marry Jacob & Co.'s legendary haute-horology design philosophy with GB Realty's regional development expertise.

Speaking on the grand launch, Gurinder Bhatti, Founder and Managing Director of GB Realty, noted that Punjab has always harboured a larger-than-life vision of living. Bhatti stated that the targeted multi-crore investment reflects absolute con-

fidence in the Tricity's economic potential and outlines a clear intent to establish a new benchmark for North India's elite housing market. The Mohali project is the opening chapter of a highly ambitious growth timeline for the developer. GB Realty has outlined a pipeline to deploy over ?5,000 crore over the next three years to aggressively capture new property segments and micro-markets across North India.

Looking further ahead, the developer intends to scale its cumulative investment portfolio to approximately 10,000 crore over the next five years. Out of this massive capital reserve, roughly 3,500 crore will be strictly ring-fenced to build ultra-luxury residential spaces, feeding the surging post-pandemic appetite for distinctive.

OPPO India raises the bar for premium flagship smartphones

NEW DELHI : OPEN SEARCH

OPPO India launched the all-new OPPO Find X10 Series, comprising OPPO Find X10 and OPPO Find X10 Pro Max, marking the 10th generation of its innovative and premium flagship OPPO Find X Series. Built to set a new benchmark for the premium smartphone experience, the Find X10 Series brings together breakthrough true-to-life imaging, uncompromising performance, exceptional battery endurance and refined design. All this, along with the new ColorOS 17, aiding superior and smooth user software experience. OPPO also expanded its flagship connected ecosystem with the OPPO Enco X4 and OPPO Pad Mini, so that users can capture, create and share in one flow. Together, the flagship portfolio elevates everyday



experience, so every shot edit and share feels authentic and true to the moment. At the heart of the OPPO Find X10 Series is a camera system designed to deliver images closer to how they are seen in real life. The OPPO Find X10 features a Dual 200MP Camera System, while the OPPO Find X10 Pro Max introduces the revolutionary Triple 200MP Camera System, bringing 200MP resolution across all three rear cameras. Co-developed with Hasselblad, it is paired with the new LUMO True Image Engine and Second-Generation True Colour Camera for natural colours.

HDFC Bank Educated over 1.8 Lakh Citizens under Cyber Suraksha Awareness Campaign

PANAJI : OPEN SEARCH

HDFC Bank, as a part of its commitment towards strengthening cyber fraud prevention and customer awareness, conducted over 8,800 workshops as a part of a nationwide awareness initiative titled 'Cyber Fraud Suraksha'. These workshops were conducted between July - Oct 2026, and the Bank reached over 1.8 lakh citizens across the country.

The objective of this campaign was to educate customers and the public at large about the latest cyber fraud trends, promote safe digital banking practices, and contribute to building a secure digital ecosystem. These workshops were aimed at educating school and college students, senior citizens,



Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs), corporate offices, community forums, self-help groups, customers, and employees. Through these interactive sessions, participants gained valuable insights on safe digital banking practices so that they don't fall prey to cyber frauds.

The workshops included real-life examples, stories and videos that helped participants understand various Modus Operandi used by fraudsters and tips on how to stay safe from such frauds.

VEC Queen of India (Ms. & Mrs.)2026 Season 3 Announces Winners in Ms. and Mrs. Categories

GURUGRAM (AGENCY)

VEC Queen of India (Ms. & Mrs.) 2026 Season- 3 organised by Vesna Event Crafters Pvt. Ltd., Gurugram, celebrated women's talent, confidence and individuality, with Ameesha Pandita and Anjali Chamblhiyal winning the titles in the Mrs. and Ms. categories, respectively. The third edition of the pageant brought together participants from diverse backgrounds, providing them with a platform to showcase their personalities, aspirations and abilities. The initiative aims to encourage women to embrace their individuality, develop self-confidence and pursue their ambitions. In the Mrs. category, Ameesha Pandita was crowned the winner, while



Shweta Jain secured the first runner-up position. Subhashini Kumari was named second runner-up, followed by Ayushi Priyadarshini as the third runner-up. In the Ms. category, Anjali Chamblhiyal won the title, with Simran Babbar finishing as the first runner-up. Sarik Debbarma, representing Sharda University, was named second runner-up, while Swastika Pattanaik of Lovely Professional

University secured the third runner-up position. Actor Ameesha Patel was part of the jury for the pageant, which was conducted under the leadership of Muskaan Gairola, Founder and CEO of Vesna Event Crafters Pvt. Ltd., and Ravi Gairola, Director. The team included Sunayana Raina as Creative Head and Kirti Narang as Official Mentor and Advisory. Maddi Verma hosted the event,

while Khizar Hussain served as Show Director. Kalpana Das Gandhi was the Brand Ambassador, and Rradhika Khanna served as Pageant Groomer.

Speaking about the initiative, Muskaan Gairola, Founder and CEO of Vesna Event Crafters Pvt. Ltd., said, "VEC Queen of India has always been envisioned as a platform that celebrates women beyond conventional definitions of beauty. With Season 3, we wanted to create an environment where women could showcase their confidence, individuality and potential. Every participant brings a unique story, and our aim is to encourage women to believe in themselves, embrace their journeys and pursue their ambitions with conviction."

Revanza Developers to Launch with Fortune Greens, Marking a New Chapter in Real Estate Development



CHENNAI (AGENCY)

The Revanza & Lalwani Group of Companies will mark a significant milestone in its real estate journey with the launch of Revanza Developers and the introduction of its upcoming flagship project, Fortune Greens, a premium villa-plot development at Mahindra World City, Chengalpattu. The launch is scheduled for Monday,

26 October 2026 at Hyatt Regency Chennai, Anna Salai. Founded by entrepreneur Mr. Sushil Lalwani, the Group has developed a diversified business portfolio spanning real estate and plotted layouts, industrial and logistics leasing, hospitality, media and entertainment, and gold jewellery manufacturing. Its entrepreneurial journey includes milestones dating back to 2007, while the Revanza Group of Companies was established in 2018, expanding into industrial, commercial and retail leasing alongside its development businesses. As Founder and Chairman, Mr. Lalwani has led the Group's expansion across sectors.

SARC to lead key sessions at vibrant Goa Global Business Summit 2026

PANAJI : OPEN SEARCH

SARC, the curator of the Vibrant Goa Global Business Summit (VGGBS) 2026, will play a key role in shaping the summit's business and policy discussions, hosting five thematic sessions, launching two books and showcasing its artificial intelligence-powered data protection platform, DataSurety.

The summit, scheduled from October 29 to 31 at the Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium, Goa University, Takeigao, is being organised by the Vibrant Goa Foundation in association with the Government of Goa. Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL) is the power partner, while NBCC (India) Limited is the infrastructure



partner. Sunil Kumar Gupta, Founder and Chairman of SARC, will lead the organisation's participation, contributing to discussions on investment opportunities, renewable energy and artificial intelligence. His leadership will be central to SARC's programme, which aims to connect investors, policymakers, industry leaders and technology experts. Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant is sched-

uled to inaugurate the summit on October 29. Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal is expected to attend on the first day, while Union Railway, Information and Broadcasting, and Electronics and Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw is expected on the third day. SARC's five sessions will cover investment opportunities in Goa, youth entre-

preneurship, solar energy, maritime infrastructure, and artificial intelligence and data. The sessions will bring together representatives from government, industry, technology and professional services to discuss investment prospects and emerging business priorities. The Invest in Goa session, scheduled for October 29, will feature Sunil Kumar Gupta alongside industry representatives and other experts. On October 30, the Solar Rising session will examine the solar energy sector, while Maritime Horizons: Shipping, Ports & Dredging will focus on maritime infrastructure and related opportunities. The Youth for Growth session will highlight entrepreneurship and the role of young businesses.

NORTHERN RAILWAY PUBLIC NOTICE

On the occasion of "DIWALI" festival on 08.11.2026 (Sunday) all the Computerized Passenger Reservation offices in Delhi Area will remain closed in the evening shift (14:00 hrs - 20:00 hrs) whereas skeleton service will be available up to 18.00 hrs at IRCA Reservation Complex, Delhi/PRS & Hazrat Nizamuddin/PRS. The reservation offices at Parliament House, Press Club of India, Railway Board, Supreme Court, High Court and Jawahar Lal Nehru University will remain closed for the whole day.

3739/2026 Dy. Chief Commercial Manager/IT
Serving Customers With A Smile

INDIAN RAILWAYS GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (RAILWAY BOARD) NEW DELHI - 110001 E-TENDER NO. 2026RSI9547TC

Principal Executive Director, Railway Stores (S), Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, Government of India invites e-tender for procurement of 5800 Bogie Open Rapid Discharge Hopper Wagon type "BOBRN" wagons to RDSO Specification No. WD-13-BOBRN-2011 of March, 2011. Index Drawing & Design WD-91071-S-50 with Design-M, 2.0 The interested tenderers are advised to visit the website http://ireps.gov.in for details of the tender and submission of their e-bids. 3.0 No manual offers will be accepted against e-tender. 4.0 Tender will be closed at 15:00 hours on 26.11.2026. 5.0 Any corrigendum to this tender will be published on the website http://ireps.gov.in only and not in print media.

3752/2026 Director, Railway Stores (W), Ministry of Railways, Railway Board, New Delhi, For and on behalf of the President of India
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Siemens energy india launches technology center to skill goa’s youth

GOA : OPEN SEARCH

Siemens Energy India Limited (SEIL) launched its first Energy4Good Technology Center at Government Polytechnic, Bicholim, Goa. Dr. Pramod Sawant, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, inaugurated the center. Established under the company's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program, the center aims to bridge identified skill gaps among students of government-run polytechnic institutes and facilitate their transition into industry-ready roles.

Equipped with advanced training infrastructure and world-class learning content, the technology center offers industry-relevant, hands-on learning opportunities for up to 200 students annually. The Goa center is one of three



Energy4Good Technology Centers established by SEIL during FY2026. The other two are in Maharashtra and Gujarat. These three centers have a combined annual training capacity of more than 600 students.

Speaking at the inauguration, Dr. Pramod Sawant, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, said, "Skill development is a key pillar of Goa's growth journey. The Energy4Good Technology Centre will provide students

with hands-on exposure to modern industrial technologies, helping them become industry-ready and improving their employment prospects. I appreciate Siemens Energy India's contribution towards strengthening technical education and skilling in the state."Guilherme Mendonca, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Siemens Energy India Limited, said, "India's energy transition requires a

Dr. Pramod Sawant, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Goa, inaugurates the Energy4Good Technology Center at Government Polytechnic, Bicholim, Initiative designed to bridge critical skill gaps and improve employability

workforce that can keep pace with the scale and complexity of the infrastructure being built across the country. The Energy4Good Technology Center is focused on developing industry-ready talent by strengthening technical competencies at the grass-roots level. By working closely with educational institutions and building

their long-term training capabilities, we are creating a sustainable model that will continue to prepare future generations of skilled professionals."With the expansion of India's energy, infrastructure and manufacturing sectors, the demand for skilled technical talent is growing rapidly. Polytechnic institutes play a critical role in meeting these workforce requirements. However, employability among polytechnic graduates is approximately 33% per the India Skills Report 2026, highlighting the need for structured, industry-aligned training. Through the Energy4Good Technology Center, SEIL addresses this gap by combining modern laboratory infrastructure, faculty capacity building, and industry-aligned training to equip students with the relevant competencies.

Pollution body frames digital waste monitoring rules

PANAJI : OPEN SEARCH

The Goa State Pollution Control Board (GSPCB) has framed guidelines for a digital waste monitoring system to streamline the registration, transportation and storage of biodegradable waste by bulk waste collectors, including those working for municipal and panchayat bodies, as per the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026. The GSPCB will develop an online portal, called the Digital Waste Monitoring System, on a revenue-sharing model. The new guidelines will apply to bulk waste generators, waste collectors and transporters for local bodies and other entities, waste storage facilities, recyclers, co-processors, and non-biodegradable waste traders. All should register through a digital waste monitoring portal. The framework establishes clear infrastruc-



tural and siting regulations. The guidelines state that waste storage facilities and material recovery facilities (MRF) must have concrete working areas, covered premises, fencing, fire-safety access, and minimum setback distances from residential areas, water bodies, and institutions, based on the facility's overall area in square meters.

In its last meeting in June, GSPCB took note of the amendment to the Goa Non-Biodegradable Garbage (Control) Act, 1996, which mandates that bulk waste generators, waste collectors, recyclers, and co-processors must register on GSPCB's online portal for

waste disposal. Therefore, the board decided to formulate a standardised procedure. The new framework also introduces a structured fee mechanism including a one-time registration fee, an annual portal fee, and a transaction fee based on the quantum and category of the waste handled.

Registration will be carried out in six categories: bulk waste generators; waste collectors and transporters for local bodies; waste collectors and transporters for other entities; waste storage facilities; recyclers and co-processors; and non-biodegradable waste traders. Applicants must submit relevant documents. Bulk waste generators must provide details of waste generated and land ownership. Collectors and transporters for local bodies must submit vehicle registration numbers and transportation and disposal routes, among other details.

Briefs News

Foreign pilots protest three-day ban on paragliding at Bir-Billing

PALAMPUR (AGENCY) Foreign paragliding pilots staged a protest at the Bir-Billing landing site against the Kangra administration's decision to suspend all paragliding activities for three days, alleging that the order was issued without any specific reason or adequate consultation with technical experts. The pilots expressed resentment over the sudden suspension, arguing that decisions affecting adventure sports should be taken after consulting experienced flyers and technical specialists. They maintained that the risks associated with paragliding are inherent to the sport and that any restrictions should be based on proper technical assessment. Many foreign pilots said they had spent lakhs of rupees travelling to Himachal Pradesh to experience flying at Billing, an internationally recognised paragliding destination. They expressed disappointment over the administration's decision, claiming that the concerns of the flying community had not been adequately considered before the restrictions were imposed. The situation has raised concerns over the possible impact on adventure tourism in the Bir-Billing region. A majority of the foreign pilots are reportedly considering shifting to Bilaspur or other paragliding destinations, a move that could affect local tourism operators, hotels, restaurants and other businesses dependent on the sport. The protest has also brought the management of paragliding activities in the region under scrutiny, with pilots seeking a more consultative approach to decisions affecting flying operations.

Dalhousie Day connects Jammu families with legacy of learning

JAMMU (AGENCY) Jammu on Monday hosted 'Dalhousie Day', where multiple families, alumni and parents came together for a day-long event aimed at strengthening the bond between the school and locals. The event was organised by The Tribune Group of Newspapers in association with Dalhousie Public School. Senior members of The Tribune Group and the Dalhousie Public School management were present during the event. Families from Jammu participated in the event to know more about the prestigious school. At the event, alumni also shared their experience of studying there. The event also provided prospective students and their parents an opportunity to interact with the school leadership and explore academic and residential schooling opportunities. Amit Sharma, General Manager of The Tribune Group of Newspapers, said that Jammu occupies a special place in the cultural and educational landscape of the country. "Its rich heritage, vibrant community and strong emphasis on education are a source of pride. It is therefore particularly meaningful that we are here today to engage with the people of this region on a subject that shapes the future of every society — the education of our children."

'Breaking bad' to 'prison break': MK stalin goes all guns blazing on vijay

CHENNAI (AGENCY)

DMK chief MK Stalin has doubled down on his "Breaking Bad" attack on the ruling TVK after the jailbreak incident in the state's Theni district. Launching a biting pop-culture critique against Chief Minister Vijay's government, Stalin mocked the state's law-and-order situation by stating that after "Breaking Bad", the phenomenon of "Prison Break" has begun in Tamil Nadu. The former chief minister had fired the "Breaking Bad" salvo at the ruling TVK, branding it a "breaking bad party" on Saturday following the arrest of one of its functionaries in connection with a major narcotics seizure.

On Tuesday, the DMK chief attacked the state government over the Theni



jailbreak after 17 undertrial prisoners escaped from the Thekkampatti Sub-Jail in the district on Monday. The incident came just days after two prisoners escaped from Puzhal Prison on the outskirts of Chennai, putting the state's prison administration under renewed scrutiny. "Following Breaking Bad, a Prison Break has now begun in Tamil Nadu! I thought it was only those released on bail who went unmonitored; it turns out this administration is so incompetent that it even lets prisoners escape from within the jails," Stalin posted on Tuesday.

5 people shot dead at guwahati hotel in dispute between property owner, leaseholder : Police

GUWAHATI (AGENCY)

Five people were allegedly shot dead at a hotel in Guwahati on Monday night in a dispute between the owner of the property and its leaseholder, police said. The incident happened around 9 pm at Hotel Bilas Inn, opposite Bora Service on the arterial GS Road, about 2 km from the Assam Police headquarters, they said. "An unfortunate firing incident took place today. Six persons sustained gunshot wounds, of whom five succumbed to the injuries. One person is undergoing treatment," Police Commissioner Partha Sarathi Mahanta told reporters outside the hotel. He said the accused, identified as Ghanakanta Gogoi -- the leaseholder of the property, was apprehended



within one hour of the incident in the Paltan Bazar area. "The weapon used in the incident, a .32-bore licensed pistol, has been seized. Interrogation is underway, and preliminary investigation suggests that the incident stemmed from a property dispute related to the lease agreement of the hotel," Mahanta said. "All the deceased are associated with the owner of the hotel. Four of them belonged to the same family, and the other person is from their village. The

‘You are world's biggest NGO, just get registered’: priyanka kharge to RSS

BENGALURU(AGENCY)

Karnataka Home Minister Priyanka Kharge has once again raised questions on the funding of the RSS, the BJP's ideological parent, calling the 100-year-old organisation the "biggest threat to our democracy". The 47-year-old Kharge accused the RSS of hobnobbing with the lobbyists in the US, who are also lobbying for Pakistan. "They are the biggest threat to our democracy right now. They go hobnob with lobbyists in America, who are also lobbying for Pakistan. They are raising funds. They are reaching out to 10 crore households in the country. Who is funding them?" Kharge asked.

The junior Kharge's comment comes after Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge sparked a contro-



versy with his remarks "Modi ka baap bhi jayega", in response to an audience member's comment that "the PM would not go anywhere", during an event in Bihar's Patna on Sunday. BJP worker first insulted Kharge's late father while he was speaking in Patna which prompted the veteran leader to refer to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "ideological father", the RSS. "Kharge ji referred to Modi ji's ideological father, the RSS, stating not only

Modi ji will go but the RSS will also go," Pawan Khara, Congress' media and publicity department head, said. READ | Half A Sentence, Then M Kharge's 'Baap' Line: How 'PM Insulted' Row Began With A 'Misunderstanding' "You (RSS) are the world's largest NGO, you are the biggest nationalist, the greatest people in the history of India, you should lead by example by following the rules, by adhering to the Constitution, register ho jao,

bus (Simply get yourselves registered)," he said. The RSS held route marches at several locations across Karnataka on Sunday as part of its centenary celebrations and Vijayadashami, amid tight police security and a political controversy over permissions, with BJP leaders accusing the Congress government of "harassing" the organisation.

"They held a route march for Vijayadashami. Have you ever seen the child of any prominent leader who took part in it? Show me one tall leader's son who wore ganavesh (uniform), held a lathi and did a route march," Kharge questioned.

On Sunday too, Kharge had raised the question of funding, claiming this is what "truly frightens the RSS". "R stands for Registered

Jailbreak in tamil nadu : 17 escape after 'epilepsy' drama; 'whole town is laughing,' says opposition

THENI (AGENCY)

Seventeen undertrial prisoners overpowered prison guards and escaped from the Thekkampatti sub-jail near Andipatti here, the police said on Tuesday. The incident happened late Monday. However, four of them were recaptured shortly after the major jailbreak.

The inmates had pulled off a coordinated escape by faking an epileptic seizure. A few prisoners in the shared cell called out to the warden on duty, claiming an inmate was severely unwell and needed immediate assistance, the police said. When prison personnel unlocked and entered the cell to help, the inmates launched a sudden, violent assault, overpowered the security staff, leaving three officers injured and fled the



premises. A massive multi-district and interstate manhunt has been launched across this southern state, and neighbouring Kerala police have also been alerted. Active combing operations are under way across the border in the forest patches of the Western Ghats and the Idukki district. On Tuesday morning, police said they have re-arrested four of the escapees who have been identified as Praveen Kumar, Silambarasan, Raja Sikandar, and Rajkumar, while the 13 fugitives remain at large.

State level technical training workshop of Chhattisgarh Housing and Infrastructure Development Board organized in Naya Raipur

RAIPUR. OPEN SEARCH

Finance, Housing, and Environment Minister Shri O.P. Choudhary has stated that the Chhattisgarh Housing and Infrastructure Development Board will become a major engine of the state's economic and infrastructural development in the coming years. The Housing Board will not be limited to housing construction alone, but will also be expanded to include key projects such as roads, bridges, sports infrastructure, public buildings, town planning, and urban redevelopment. He stated that to achieve the vision of a developed Chhattisgarh



2047, the Board must move beyond traditional practices and adopt innovation, modern technology, financial management, and a result-oriented work culture. Housing and Environment Minister Shri Choudhary was addressing a state-level

technical training workshop organized by the Chhattisgarh Housing and Infrastructure Development Board at the Chhattisgarh Samvad auditorium in Naya Raipur today. The workshop's objective was to enhance the technical com-

Housing Board will become the main engine of Chhattisgarh's development, will play a vital role in infrastructure development along with housing - Housing and Environment Minister O.P. Choudhary

petence, administrative capacity, financial management, and efficiency of the Board's officers and employees, and to familiarize them with modern construction techniques, innovative financial models, and

new possibilities for infrastructure development. Minister Mr. Chaudhary stated that under the leadership of Chief Minister Mr. Vishnu Dev Sai, the state government is committed to developing the Housing and Infrastructure Development Board into a financially strong, self-reliant, and multi-faceted infrastructure development organization. To this end, comprehensive reforms are being undertaken to improve the Board's financial position, sell vacant properties, select new projects, and improve its functioning. The Board was given new financial strength by eliminating debt

Himachal BJP divided into five factions, says CM Sukhvinder Sukhu ahead of 2027 poll

KULLU (AGENCY)

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu on Monday launched a sharp attack on the BJP, alleging that the opposition party had split into five factions and was behaving like a "future-teller" ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections. Addressing mediapersons in Kullu, Sukhu said the people would ultimately decide who comes to power, while different BJP factions were making contradictory claims about leadership in various places. Accusing the BJP of exploiting the state's resources during its tenure, the CM also alleged that the Centre had deprived Himachal Pradesh of its rightful dues. Referring to the discontinuation of the Revenue Deficit Grant (RDG) and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's



announcement of Rs 1,500 crore, he questioned whether the BJP could secure votes if such financial assistance was withheld. Sukhu said his government was fighting for the state's rights and working to ensure that its resources reached the last person, citing welfare initiatives covering 70 lakh people and 23 lakh families. On the proposed induction of Sunder Thakur into the Cabinet, Sukhu said discussions had been underway for a year and that a decision would be taken when the stars were

favourable. He added that the Cabinet expansion would take place soon. Responding to the BJP's claim that Union Health Minister JP Nadda had approved 320 postgraduate medical seats in the state, Sukhu said Himachal had 277 such seats after MBBS for nearly four decades. He asserted that his government had filed 320 seats in accordance with National Medical Commission requirements across various colleges and specialties, including radiography, cardiology and medicine.

Nigeria, Uganda qualify for 2027 T20 WC Africa Regional final after thrilling finish

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)

Nigeria and Uganda have secured their places in the 2027 ICC Men's T20 World Cup Africa Regional Final after finishing in the top two positions in Sub-Regional Qualifier C. Nigeria booked their qualification dominantly, winning all five matches on home soil, while Uganda finished second with four victories. Both teams had confirmed their progression before facing each other in a thrilling final-day encounter, where Nigeria edged out their rivals by just one run on the final ball at the Nigerian Cricket Federation Oval No. 1, as per the ICC website.

Batting first, Nigeria posted 148 runs, with Isaac Danladi top-scoring with 47. Uganda appeared well placed to chase down the



target, thanks to Riazat Ali Shah's explosive 60 off just 35 deliveries. With Uganda needing six runs from the final over, the contest hung in the balance. Nigeria's Sylvester Okpe emerged as the unlikely hero after being called upon to complete the over following an injury to Vincent Adewoye, who had

started it. The match went down to the final delivery, with Uganda requiring three runs for victory and two to force a tie. However, Juma Miyaji was run out while attempting a second run off Okpe's off-spin, leaving Uganda one run short and sealing a dramatic victory for the hosts. The triumph marked Nigeria's first-ever win over Uganda in men's T20 internationals. Following the historic result, Nigerian captain Chima Akachukwu praised the collective efforts and dedication of everyone involved in the country's cricket community. "We are delighted to have won this tournament especially beating Uganda for the first time in a T20I game. It goes

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to show how far we have come; the boys have been working hard and the coach (Stephen Maziva Mangongo) pushing us to our limits," Akachukwu said. "We thank everyone that believed in us and supported us, from the President, the Board, the staff, we are deeply grateful. To the other countries that participated, you can be proud of your performance as everyone tasted victory."

Nigeria and Uganda join Tanzania, Ghana, Rwanda and Kenya, who had already qualified through the continent's first two Sub-Regional Qualifiers, completing the six-team line-up for Africa's Regional Final on the road to the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2028. The top two teams of that qualifier go on to a global qualifier.

Hockey : Mighty India aim for sixth title

JALANDHAR (AGENCY)

Being the most successful team in the history of the Asian Champions Trophy would mean nothing if India do not stamp their authority on this year's edition, which is being hosted by Punjab, a state credited with producing some of the best players in the history of Indian hockey. In fact, players from Punjab have proved to be a dominant force in the national team in the last decade and a half.

The tournament will feature six teams, but all eyes will be on India, who won the inaugural edition in 2011 and subsequently lifted the trophy in 2016, 2018, 2023 and 2024. With Pakistan missing from the tournament, India will face Malaysia, Japan, Korea, China and Bangladesh in the pool stage. On Tuesday, the five-time champions will take on Bangladesh in their tournament opener, and India have never faced a



real challenge from the neighbouring country. India have logged one-sided wins over Bangladesh, the most recent being 9-0 in the 2021 Asian Champions Trophy, 12-0 in the 2023 Asian Games and 10-0 in the recent Asian Games.

The opening day will also feature matches between Malaysia and China, and Japan and Korea. Malaysia, the runners-up in the Asian Games, are among the teams expected to challenge the hosts. South Korea, who finished fourth at the Asian Games, will also look to make a strong impact. Japan, the two-time

runners-up in the ACT, have also arrived early to adapt to the conditions. They were fifth at the Asian Games. India will want to set their campaign rolling with a big victory.

The hosts will be without Manpreet Singh, who was ruled out of the tournament owing to a calf injury and has been replaced by Vivek Sagar Prasad. "The aim is to give a dominating performance and score as many goals as we can in the league stage, so that we go to Mohali topping the group," said India skipper Harmanpreet Singh.

Briefs News

Inspired by Neeraj Chopra, Punjab's Japjeet Kaur strikes gold with personal best

JALANDHAR (AGENCY) Moments before her event, Japjeet Kaur was watching videos of world record holder Jan Zelezny of the Czech Republic and Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra. Inspired by the javelin greats, she went on to strike gold at the 41st National Junior Athletics Championships in Chennai, setting a personal best of 39.96 metres. Japjeet said, "Watching the videos of the two javelin greats motivated me to give my best performance. It also helped boost my confidence ahead of the competition." Her latest achievement comes just a month after another impressive performance, when she clinched the silver medal in the javelin throw at the 37th North Zone Junior Athletics Championships with a throw of 38.37 metres. Japjeet comes from a family with a strong sporting background. Her grandfather, Gurpal Singh, is a retired principal and a former national-level kabaddi player. A graduate of Sports College, Jalandhar, in 1966, he has remained closely associated with sports throughout his life. She is currently training under Satnam Singh, a fitness coach at the Rail Coach Factory (RCF) in Kapurthala, who is helping her improve her strength and refine her throwing technique. Her father, Bikramjit Singh, is also a javelin throw coach with the sports department. He describes Japjeet as a confident athlete who is eager to learn and improve. "I take her to the ground in Jalandhar twice a week and make her practice with me. She keeps asking me about techniques. She has great arm strength," he said, expressing pride in his daughter's progress.

Harry Kane after winning maiden Men's Ballon d'Or, ends England's 25-year wait

LONDON (AGENCY) England captain Harry Kane and Bayern Munich striker described winning the 2026 Men's Ballon d'Or after an outstanding season with his club as an incredible and unforgettable feeling. He expressed gratitude to his friends, family, teammates, coaching staff, and fans worldwide, acknowledging that their support made his achievement possible. Kane enjoyed a prolific campaign, scoring 73 goals and providing eight assists, contributing to 81 goal involvements across the season. He also helped Bayern Munich win the Bundesliga, German Cup and German Super Cup. It is the first Ballon d'Or for a player who has been considered among the world's best for several years. Harry Kane clinched his maiden Men's Ballon d'Or, finishing ahead of Real Madrid's Kylian Mbappé and Barcelona's rising star Lamine Yamal. Kane's triumph makes him the first Englishman in 25 years to win the Men's Ballon d'Or, following in the footsteps of Michael Owen, who claimed the prestigious award in 2001. "Wow, what a special feeling. Amazing night here in London. Congrats to all the winners. Thank you to all my friends, family, teammates, coaching staff and all the fans around the World. It wouldn't be possible without you guys. So, yeah, best in the World right now. Feels incredible, thank you," Harry Kane said in a video post on X. However, Yamal won the Young Talent of the Year award (Kopa Trophy) for the third consecutive time, becoming the first footballer in history to claim the accolade in three successive editions. Yamal, who won the award in 2024 and 2025 during the Ballon d'Or ceremony, has continued his remarkable rise in world football with another triumph in 2026.

Mirabai Chanu to spearhead India's challenge at World Weightlifting Championships 2026 in China

NEW DELHI (AGENCY) Olympic medallist Mirabai Chanu will spearhead India's campaign at the 2026 World Weightlifting Championships, scheduled to take place at the Ningbo Olympic Sports Centre in China from October 27 to November 8. Indian fans will be able to watch the championships live via streaming. The competition in Ningbo will mark the first of 10 qualifying events on the road to the LA 2028 Olympic Games, as per Olympics.com. To remain eligible for the Olympic Qualification Ranking (OQR), weightlifters must register three total results (snatch plus clean and jerk) during the first qualification period and two during the second, all within the same Olympic weight category. The OQR will consider each athlete's three best total results from the first period and two best results from the second. Each kilogram lifted will count as one ranking point. At the end of the qualification process, the top eight eligible weightlifters in each Olympic weight category in the final OQR will secure quota places for the LA 2028 Olympics, allocated to them by name. More than 500 athletes are expected to compete at the World Weightlifting Championships in Ningbo.

Ballon d'Or 2026 : Lamine Yamal wins Young Talent of the Year award for third consecutive time

LONDON (AGENCY)

Barcelona and Spain superstar Lamine Yamal has won the Young Talent of the Year award (Kopa Trophy) for the third consecutive time, becoming the first footballer in history to claim the accolade in three successive editions. Yamal, who won the award in 2024 and 2025 during the Ballon d'Or ceremony, has continued his remarkable rise in world football with another triumph in 2026, further strengthening his reputation as one of the brightest young talents in the game. The 19-year-old enjoyed an



impressive 2025-26 season with Barcelona, playing a key role in the club's La Liga and Spanish Super Cup triumphs. In 45 appearances for the Catalan club, Yamal scored 24 goals and provided 18 assists, underlining his importance to the team's attacking setup.

Nearly one in five Women's Indian Open players have US Kids Golf roots

GURUGRAM (AGENCY)

The Women's Indian Open at DLF Golf & Country Club offered a telling glimpse of golf's junior-to-professional pathway: 21 players in the 114-strong Ladies European Tour field had previously competed in U.S. Kids Golf events. The group represented eight Indian and 13 international golfers - 18.4% of the field, as per a press release. The leading finishers included the Czech Republic's Sara Kouskova (T4) [European Championship: 2009] and Austria's Emma Spitz (T12) [European

Championship: 2012 (winner), 2013; World Championship: 2012]. India's Prashanth (T22) had a long junior record [World Championship: 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019; European Championship: 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018], while Anvvi Dahhiya (T22) played India Local Tour events in 2019. Ojaswini Saraswat, 13, made the cut and claimed Best Amateur honours. Her record includes 19 wins in 22 India Local Tour events (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022), alongside World Championship



starts (2022, 2023, 2024, 2025) and European Championship appearances (2022, 2024). Other competitors with U.S. Kids Golf histories included Lavanya Gupta, Ananya Sood, Guntas Kaur Sandhu, Georgia Obob and Kaiyuree Moodley. Global opportunities through Priority Status.

U.S. Kids Golf runs more than 2,200 tournaments annually worldwide. Players can earn Priority Status through eligible performances, helping determine invitations to higher-level events, including the European, World Teen and World Championships,

subject to each event's age, status and entry requirements. From Local Tours across Asia to Pinehurst, the programme offers a progression of competitive experiences on different courses and in different cultures. Founded in 1996, U.S. Kids Golf is built around age-specific competition, family participation and junior development. The 2026 Hero Women's Indian Open, won by Pornanong Phatlum, underscored the value of the many years of practice, parental support and junior tournaments behind today's international field.

IDCA 10th T20 National Cricket Championship for Deaf 2026 opens in Surat



SURAT (AGENCY)

The Indian Deaf Cricket Association (IDCA), in association with the Deaf Cricket Association Surat (DCAS), has commenced the IDCA 10th T20 National Cricket Championship for Deaf 2026 in Surat, Gujarat. Scheduled from October 26 to November 1, 2026, the championship is being held for the first time in Surat, bringing together 14 teams from across India for a week of competitive cricket, as per a press release. Bringing together 14 teams from across India, the championship highlights the breadth of talent within the country's deaf cricket community and the importance of sustained opportunities to compete at a national level. The participating teams are Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Mumbai, Vidarbha, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Kerala, Delhi, Chandigarh, Jammu & Kashmir, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Gujarat and Uttar Pradesh. The T20 matches are being held at Bawaji Cricket Ground, Bhatpore, Surat, Gujarat,

with the competition set to culminate in the semi-finals and final on 1 November 2026. The tournament provides participating cricketers with a platform to showcase their skills, competitive spirit and sporting abilities. Organised by IDCA, hosted by the Gujarat Deaf Cricket Association (GDCA) and co-hosted by DCAS, the tournament builds on the collaborative efforts of sporting bodies to strengthen the reach of deaf cricket. IDCA, a founder and member of the Differently Abled Cricket Council of India (DCCI), is supported by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) and is recognised by the Deaf International Cricket Council (DICC) and the Asian Deaf Cricket Association (ADCA).

Commenting on the significance of the championship, Sumit Jain, President, Indian Deaf Cricket Association (IDCA), said, "At IDCA, our endeavour is to ensure that deaf cricketers have meaningful opportunities to compete, develop their skills and earn recognition for their talent.

The 10th edition of this championship reflects the continued importance of organised competition in building a stronger pathway for deaf athletes. Hosting the tournament in Surat for the first time also enables us to extend this platform to new regions and engage more stakeholders in the growth of the sport. We remain committed to creating an environment where athletes can pursue their ambitions and have their abilities recognised through their performances."

Speaking on the occasion, Jigar Thakkar, General Secretary, Deaf Cricket Association Surat (DCAS), said, "It's an honour for Surat, Gujarat, to host this prestigious national championship for the first time. The enthusiasm, discipline, and talent demonstrated by all the participating teams make this tournament a memorable celebration of deaf cricket. We sincerely thank IDCA, GDCA, the players, officials, volunteers, and our partners for their valuable support in making this championship a success. We look forward to hosting many more such prestigious tournaments in the future and continuing to promote and develop deaf cricket across India."

Tejas Parmar, IAS, Collector and District Magistrate, Surat District Government of Gujarat, and Chief Guest at the inauguration ceremony, said, "Sport has the power to create opportunities.

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Kriti Sanon, Varun dhawan lend voices to hindi version of ‘obsession’ on JioHotstar



Bollywood actors Kriti Sanon and Varun Dhawan have lent their voices to the Hindi version of Hollywood horror film *Obsession*, which will premiere on streaming platform JioHotstar on October 30. Directed by Curry Barker, the film will be available in its original, uncut versions in English and Hindi on the

tainment business at JioStar, said the Hindi adaptation would help the film reach a wider audience in India. “Great stories have the power to resonate with audiences, far beyond the languages they are told in or the geographies they belong to,” he said in a statement. Jain said Sanon and Dhawan were chosen for their versatility and familiarity with the horror genre. “Kriti and Varun bring a strong cross-generational appeal to the table. They have established themselves as versatile actors across genres. Their familiarity in the horror genre, combined with their ability to bring the right emotion and nuance to their characters, makes them a great fit for the Hindi version.”

Sanon said the project marked her first experience of lending her voice to another actor’s performance. “I absolutely loved the film and the performances in *Obsession*. It’s such a gripping, quirky & twisted story. I’ve never explored a character this edgy before, which made the experience even more exciting & challenging”. Dhawan said working on the Hindi version allowed him to discover new details in the film. “I found myself enjoying the film even more because I could look at it so closely. I noticed so many little details that I may have missed on a first watch, and that made the whole experience even more interesting,” he said. The Hindi version marks another collaboration between the two actors, who previously starred together in films including *Dilwale* and *Bhediya*. (AGENCY)

Akshay Kumar, Raveena Tandon’s ‘Mohra’ to re-release in 4K, set to clash with ‘Ramayana’

Akshay Kumar, Raveena Tandon, and Suniel Shetty’s *Mohra* is returning to the big screen for a re-release, more than thirty years after it first came out. Directed by Rajiv Rai, the action thriller originally hit theatres in 1994. *Mohra* will be back in cinemas on November 6 in a remastered 4K version. It will clash with Ranbir Kapoor-starrer *Ramayana*. Trimurti Films Pvt. Ltd. shared a teaser of the upcoming remastered version on their official YouTube channel. “In a deadly game of power and betrayal, everyone could be a pawn. Experience the twists, the thrills and the songs that made *MOHRA* unforgettable! Celebrate 32 years of *MOHRA* in cinemas near you from 6th November 2026,” read the



teaser description. Produced by Gulshan Rai under the banner of Trimurti Films, *Mohra* revolves around Vishal Agnihotri, a prisoner seeking justice for his wife’s murder. Journalist Roma Singh, helps secure his release. Vishal later gets involved with the influential Jindal (Naseeruddin Shah), who recruits him to take down criminals. At the

same time, Inspector Amar Saxena investigates a string of murders, which uncovers a bigger conspiracy. The film also starred Paresh Rawal, Gulshan Grover, Raza Murad, Sadashiv Amrapurkar, Poonam Jhaver and Kulbhushan Kharbanda, along with Priya Tendulkar, Avtar Gill, Kunika Sadanand, Tej Sapru and Vishwajeet Pradhan in key roles.

Sai Pallavi steps into the role of CBI officer Nithya Reddy in ‘OM: Chapter 1 : Udhiram’

Sai Pallavi steps into the role of CBI officer Nithya Reddy in *OM: Chapter 1 – Udhiram: The Blood Wood*. The makers unveiled the first look at her character on Monday. The one-minute-43-second-long video introduces Pallavi as CBI officer Nithya Reddy, who is tasked with investigating red sandalwood smuggling.



Described as a blend of “honesty, smartness and experience in young blood”, Nithya hails from Naidupet in Andhra Pradesh’s Nellore district. Her father, an Indian Forest Service officer, was killed in action while protecting forests. Directed by Rajkumar Periasamy, *OM: Chapter 1 – Udhiram: The Blood Wood* stars Dhanush and Mammootty in lead roles. The film, which is scheduled to release in theatres on November 20, was earlier scheduled to release on October 16, a day after Rajinikanth-starrer *Jailer 2*. Dhanush had announced the postponement last month, citing the release of Rajinikanth’s film and respect for the superstar. *OM* also features Sreeleela and Naseeruddin Shah in key roles. Sai Abhyankar has composed the music, while Ezhil Arasu K. is the cinematographer and R Kakiavanan is the editor. The film is produced by Shraddha Agrawal, Dhanush and Azmat Jaggam. (AGENCY)

Mihir Ahuja, Manoj Pahwa-starrer ‘Dilwali’ to premiere on Netflix on November 5

Dilwali Diwali, starring Mihir Ahuja and Manoj Pahwa, is set to premiere on Netflix on November 5, the streamer announced Monday. Directed by Ritesh Menon, the *Terribly Tiny Tales* film also stars Neelu Kohli and Aurra Bhatnagar. “Your sign to plan a diwali date with your diwali family. Watch *Dilwali Diwali*, out 5 November, only on Netflix,” reads the caption on Instagram. Speaking about his character, Ahuja said *Dilwali Diwali* tells a relatable story about love, family and understanding what makes loved ones happy. “Ansh’s journey in *Dilwali Diwali* comes from a place of love. I think that’s what makes the story so relatable. We all want to do the best for our families, but sometimes, in trying to give them more, we forget to understand what truly makes them happy,” he said in a statement. After years of working abroad, Ansh Sikka has done what many children dream of doing for their parents: giving them a better life. He’s bought his



middle-class Punjabi parents a swanky new high-rise apartment, complete with all the comforts that come with an upgraded address. But when he returns home for Diwali, he discovers that a new home doesn’t necessarily mean a fresh start.

Turns out, giving your parents a house upgrade is one thing; getting them to upgrade their idea of home is quite another,” reads the official logline of the film. Talking about the film, Pahwa said, “For a parent, home is never just about the walls, the furniture, or

Dropped by the makers Tuesday, the one-minute-50-second-long video opens with Aayesha Malik, a student at St. Teresa Heritage School, found dead in Barakhali Lake, drowned and frozen

her mysterious death. Kapoor plays both Aditi and Aayesha Malik, twin sisters whose lives take a turn following Aayesha’s mysterious death. The following scenes offer a glimpse into a dark competition that takes place behind the scenes,

Why can’t Rashmika Mandanna make the first move

Just a few months ago they were Internet’s darling couple as Vijay Devarkonda and Rashmika Mandanna’s bejewelled looks at their wedding was a cynosure of all attention. Today, they are once again in the spotlight but for all the wrong reasons. What has provoked the online ire is seemingly innocuous remark of Vijay during Koffee with Karan’s new season where he admitted it was she and not he, who proposed to her. She asked him not once, not twice but a hundred times over for full one year. KJo’s Koffee couch has spun many a spicy yarn and uncountable oops moments which have put more than one superstar in a spot. But this one confession by the much wedded couple has since been dissected threadbare. Vijay has been classified ‘red flag’ and Rashmika is being seen through equally unflattering lens, labelled as a woman who doesn’t know her worth and has little self-respect. We might have crossed the first quarter of 21st century but our values remain rooted in 18th century and pursuing remains the prerogative of male gender alone. Indeed, which dating book says that only men can propose and gender reversal is demeaning to the fair sex? But the Majnu syndrome ails us so deeply that we forget in every love story, it takes two to tango. And for every Majnu, there is a Laila, for every Ranjha there is a Heer. So, why can’t the Pushpa actress, her other half’s equal in all respects, fame, name and money have the first move advantage? Rather as power couples go, she hoks more visibility in the Hindi film belt what with super-hits like *Animal*. Besides,



when two people are in love, it does not matter who gives in first? After all, it’s not an eyeballs game where the one who blinks first takes home the trophy? Just as an aside Vijay took home the much coveted Koffee hamper. The problem is while we nod wholeheartedly with the catchphrase, ‘Vanity thy name is woman,’ a quote wrongly attributed to Shakespeare, but if a man appears to carry the same shades of self-conceit, all hell breaks loose. Vijay not only prompted Rashmika to propose a hundred times over but even had the gall to say so on national television. Is the troll brigade reading too much in what is strictly a personal affair? To be honest, Vijay or even Rashmika is not exactly a feminists’ delight; in the same show she came up with rather regressive remarks. Like

how she does not believe in skin show and is uncomfortable wearing a bikini. Indeed, she could have turned the conversation towards hyper-sexualisation of women in film industry. Karan’s question was about the controversy around Janhvi Kapoor’s portrayal in *Peddi*. Instead of choosing her words carefully, Rashmika took a ‘holier than holy, good girls don’t reveal’ stance and what she said appeared more like an indictment of her female counterparts in cinema than serious reflection on (mis)representation of women. (AGENCY)

Shanaya Kapoor plays twin sisters in ‘Student of the Year : After Dark’ trailer

known as ‘Student of the Year’. Determined to seek justice for Aayesha, Aditi faces every hurdle and goes to great lengths to uncover the truth. “At St. Teresa Heritage School, the closer you get to the truth, the deadlier it gets Hotstar Specials: *Student Of The Year - After Dark*, streaming from 13th November, only on JioHotstar,” reads the caption on X. Directed by Reema Maya and produced by Dharmatic Entertainment, the show will start streaming on JioHotstar from November 13. (AGENCY)



Keanu Reeves replaces Alan Ritchson in Netflix action film ‘Maelstrom’

Hollywood star Keanu Reeves has joined the cast of Netflix’s upcoming action film *Maelstrom*, replacing Reacher actor Alan Ritchson, who has exited the project. The film will be directed by Jaume Collet-Serra, known for the action thriller *Carry-On*, according to entertainment portal Deadline. In *Maelstrom*, a Federal Marshal assigned to protect the fiancée of an arms dealer turned witness must defend her through one brutal night as a hurricane cuts off communication, strands them without reinforcements, and unleashes the dealer’s men on their safe house. Mark Bianculli, who wrote *How to Rob a Bank*, is working on the screenplay based on an initial draft by the late Gregory Fitzpatrick. The story has reportedly been in circulation in Hollywood



since 1993, when a different set of action stars were attached to the project. Reeves, 62, is best known for headlining popular action franchises such as *The Matrix* and *John Wick*. The actor has several projects lined up, including *The Gangster*, *The Cop*, *The Devil*, an adaptation of *Kill Current: A Jon Hendricks Thriller*; the science-fiction film *Shiver*; *The Entertainment System Is Down*, directed by Palme d’Or-winning filmmaker Ruben Ostlund. (AGENCY)

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