

PM-KISAN Has Redefined the Relationship Between Farmers and Government : CM Saini

PM-KISAN Among the World's Largest Direct Benefit Transfer Schemes

VIJAY KUMAR.OPEN SEARCH

CHANDIGARH : Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi had launched the PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme, which had redefined the relationship between farmers and the government. From its very first day, the scheme established, for the first time, a nation-wide mechanism to transfer financial assistance directly into farmers' bank accounts. The Chief Minister was addressing a programme in Bhiwani on Friday to mark the release of the scheme's 24th instalment to farmers in Haryana. Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Sh. Shyam Singh Rana, MP Sh. Dharambir Singh, Bhiwani MLA Sh. Ghanshyam Saraf, Bawani Khara MLA Sh. Kapoor Singh Valmiki, Badhra MLA Sh. Kapoor Singh Valmiki, Vice-Chairperson of the Haryana State Commission for Women, Smt. Meena Parmar, senior officers and other dignitaries were present. The Chief Minister said more than 86 per cent of



India's farmers were small and marginal farmers. At sowing time, they needed money for seeds, fertilisers and ploughing, often forcing them to borrow from moneylenders at high interest rates. A substantial share of their earnings would thus be committed to debt repayment even before the harvest.

He said the Prime Minister understood this hardship and resolved that farmers should not have to depend on others for essential cultivation expenses. Initially introduced for small and marginal farmers, the scheme was extended within a few months to all landholding farmer fami-

lies across the country. The Prime Minister's vision was to make farmers prosperous and strong and increase their income. PM-KISAN had helped strengthen farmers, he added.

The Chief Minister said PM-KISAN had become one of the world's largest direct benefit transfer schemes. Successive instalments had together delivered more than Rs. 4.47 lakh crore to farmers. Even when the COVID-19 pandemic brought activity across the world to a standstill, more than Rs. 1.71 lakh crore reached farmers under the scheme, helping sustain the rural economy.

PM Releases 24th Instalment from Banaskantha, Over 9.34 Crore Farmer Families Benefit, Nearly One in Four Beneficiaries Is a Woman Farmer

The Chief Minister said nearly one in every four beneficiaries under the scheme was a woman farmer. More than Rs. 1.06 lakh crore had reached women farmers directly, without intermediaries, commissions or the need for recommendations. He said the Prime Minister had released the 24th instalment from Banaskantha in Gujarat. At the press of a button, more than Rs. 18,680 crore was trans-

ferred into the accounts of over 9.34 crore farmer families, taking cumulative transfers under the scheme beyond Rs. 4.65 lakh crore. **Centre Approves Rs. 3.15 Lakh Crore for Scheme up to 2030-31**

The Chief Minister said 16.23 lakh farmer families in Haryana had received Rs. 324.75 crore under the latest instalment. These included 1.21 lakh farmer families in Bhiwani, who received Rs. 24.20 crore. With the release of 24 instalments, farmers in Haryana had received a cumulative Rs. 8,206.36 crore, he said. The Centre had approved Rs. 3.15 lakh crore for the scheme up to 2030-31, assuring continued support in the years ahead. He described this as Modi Ji's guarantee to farmers.

Recalling Bhiwani's heritage, the Chief Minister said the district was known as 'Chhoti Kashi' and 'Mini Cuba' and was renowned across the country for its boxers. It was also the land of Haryana Kesari Pandit Nekiram Sharma and development stalwart Chaudhary Bansilal. Its farmers had kept their fields green

through hard work despite limited water and sandy soil, while its youth had defended the nation at the borders, he added. The Chief Minister said the double-engine government stood with farmers at every stage, from seed to market. Its approach was to ensure that farmers received not only financial assistance but also quality seeds and fertilisers, water, electricity, insurance, remunerative prices, access to good markets and modern technology. He said Haryana was the first state in the country to procure all 24 crops at minimum support prices. Over the past 13 seasons, Rs. 1.90 lakh crore had been transferred into the accounts of 12 lakh farmers towards crop procurement.

The Chief Minister said protected prices had been fixed for 21 horticultural crops under the Bhavantar Bharpai Yojana to ensure that fruit and vegetable growers were not left behind. Under the scheme, 49,000 farmers had received Rs. 282 crore. Over the past 12 years, Rs. 16,160 crore had been paid towards crop insurance claims and compensation for crop damage.

College and University Students to Contribute

Services at Anganwadi Centres

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH The Women and Child Development Department, Haryana, has launched the "Bal Sarathi" Internship Programme with the objective of contributing to a brighter future for children and strengthening Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) across the state. Under this initiative, students from colleges and universities, as well as interested individuals from the community, will get an opportunity to contribute towards early childhood care and education by providing support at Anganwadi centres. A government spokesperson informed that students enrolled in any college or university, along with interested individuals from the community who wish to contribute to ECCE, are eligible to participate in the programme. The duration of the internship will range from a minimum of two months to a maximum of six months. During the internship, participants will assist in organising play-based learning activities, support Anganwadi workers and contribute to children's learning and overall development. The spokesperson further stated that the programme will provide young participants with valuable hands-on experience. In addition, the Department of Women and Child Development, Haryana, will provide them with certificates, expert guidance and mentoring. The application process has been kept simple and convenient. Interested candidates can visit the 'Bal Sarathi' portal, register their details, upload the required information and submit their applications online.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Visits Haryana Tourism Department's Stall in Kevadia

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH. Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi visited the stall set up by the Haryana Tourism Department during the National Unity Day and Bharat Parv celebrations held in Kevadia, Gujarat. During his visit, he showed keen interest in Haryana's local products, emerging startups and products being made by women associated with Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and sought detailed information about them. At the stall, Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi was apprised of the products showcased under the 'One District One Product' initiative, along with the activities of a startup. He was informed about honey from Sonapat, personal air purifiers from Hisar and Gajak from Faridabad. Besides, he was also briefed about the bead necklaces made by women of Self-Help Groups and a startup associated with brass utensils. The Prime Minister was also informed about the monthly income being earned by women Self-Help Group members through these products. On the occasion, Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi also witnessed Haryana's traditional Been and Nagada musical troupe.

Chandigarh MC urges residents to send complaints via WhatsApp

CHANDIGARH : (AGENCY) The Municipal Corporation Chandigarh has appealed to city residents to actively report issues related to civic services through its dedicated WhatsApp helpline, 9915-762-917, enabling the civic body to respond promptly and improve service delivery. Prioritising public convenience and safety, the civic body has particularly urged residents to report non-functional, damaged or defective streetlights by sharing clear photographs along with the exact location, sector, road name or a nearby landmark. This will help the concerned field teams identify the problems quickly and take timely corrective action. Sharing this information, MC Commissioner Amit Kumar emphasised that active citizen participation is essential for ensuring the efficient maintenance of public infrastructure. Residents have been encouraged to make optimum use of this facility and bring civic issues to the Corporation's notice rather than allowing them to remain unattended. Besides streetlight-related complaints, citizens can also use the WhatsApp facility to report other civic service issues requiring the Municipal Corporation's attention.

Chandigarh consumer commission orders attachment of Sushma Grande NXT project

CHANDIGARH : (AGENCY) The State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission, Chandigarh, has directed the attachment of the Sushma Grande NXT project in Zirakpur to recover Rs 14.54 lakh in a homebuyer's case. The order was passed on October 28 in an execution application filed by Bhawana Nagar under Section 71 of the Consumer Protection Act, 2019, through advocate Narender Yadav. The application was filed against Sushma Buildtech Limited, its director Binder Pal Mittal and two others. The Commission directed the Deputy Commissioner-cum-Collector, SAS Nagar, Mohali, to attach the project at Tower C, Sushma Grande NXT, Zirakpur, and appoint a receiver to recover the decretal amount of Rs 14,54,278. It further directed that the recovery be treated as arrears of land revenue and asked the Deputy Commissioner to submit a compliance report by the next date of hearing.

Haryana to Celebrate National Unity Day on today, CM to Attend State-Level Function in Panchkula

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH

Haryana will celebrate National Unity Day on October 31 to mark the 151st birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, with Run for Unity events and various other programmes being organised across the state. Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini will attend the state-level function in Panchkula as the chief guest.

The Chief Minister will also administer the National Unity Day pledge to officers and employees at the Haryana Civil Secretariat in Chandigarh at 10 am on October 31. Chief Secretary Anurag Rastogi has issued the district-wise schedule detailing the programmes

and dignitaries who will participate in the celebrations. In Ambala, Energy Minister Anil Vij will be the chief guest. MLA Shally Chaudhary and Pawan Saini will participate in the programme at Naraingarh, Aseem Goel in Ambala City and Santosh Sarwan in Mulana.

In Bhiwani, Women and Child Development and Irrigation and Water Resources Minister Shruti Choudhry will be the chief guest, while MLA Ghanshyam Saraf will also be present. Kapoor Singh will participate in the programme at Bawani Khara and Jai Parkash Dalal in Loharu. In Charkhi Dadri, MP Dharambir Singh will be the chief guest.

Haryana to Formulate Strategy to Decongest National Highways : Minister Ranbir Gangwa

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH

The Haryana Government has initiated steps to formulate a strategy for decongesting urban stretches of National Highways to ease traffic pressure in cities across the state. Public Works Minister Sh. Ranbir Gangwa said that various financial models are being examined to determine the state government's contribution towards bypass projects. The most suitable model will be selected for each project after assessing its specific requirements and cost, ensuring that development works are expedited while safeguarding the state's financial interests. He said that a



meeting chaired by Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini recently discussed the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways' policy on decongestion of National Highways passing through urban areas. It was decided that instead of adopting a uniform financial model for all projects, decisions would be taken on a project-specific

basis, keeping in view the requirements and estimated expenditure of each project.

Cabinet Minister Sh. Ranbir Gangwa said that five options have been considered for the state's financial contribution. These include an upfront contribution towards the project cost, sharing the cost of land acquisition, sharing land acquisition expenses along with reimbursement of the state's share of GST, providing land through land pooling, and adopting Value Capture Financing (VCF).

These options will be assessed to determine the most appropriate financial arrangement for each project. The Minister said that

various aspects of the state's financial contribution are being examined for bypass projects in Hisar, Kurukshetra and Narnaul, besides the four-lane Jind Bypass and the Sohna and Palwal bypass projects. Determining the state's share in land acquisition costs is also part of this exercise.

He further said that while finalising the financial models, factors such as land acquisition costs, the state's financial contribution and other project-related expenses would be assessed. This would help develop a suitable financial arrangement for each project, depending on its specific requirements.

The Questions Over Election Commission's Functioning Must Be Addressed Transparently : Selja

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH

The Sirsa MP, Former Union Minister, All India Congress Committee General Secretary and Congress Working Committee member Kumari Selja said that the supremacy of the Constitution, independence of constitutional institutions and protection of every citizen's right to vote were essential for strengthening democracy. She said the Congress and the INDIA alliance had consistently been raising concerns over these issues. Serious questions arising in a democratic system should be addressed through dialogue, transparency and constitutional procedures. Kumari Selja said Congress



leaders, including Rahul Gandhi, Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, had raised issues concerning electoral fairness and voters' rights from the streets to Parliament. She alleged that the concerns raised by the Opposition were not receiving the seriousness they deserved. She said both the ruling party and the Opposition had a responsibility to maintain public confidence in constitutional institutions.

A Medal Takes Moments to Present, a Lifetime to Earn : CM Nayab Saini

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH

Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini on Friday honoured 132 athletes with cash awards totalling Rs. 189.38 crore at a state-level ceremony in Bhiwani to recognise their achievements at the Asian Games and Para Asian Games. Addressing the joint felicitation ceremony at Bhim Stadium, the Chief Minister said a medal takes only moments to place around an athlete's neck, but earning it demands a lifetime of dedication. Behind every medal are years of training, countless sacrifices and the courage to rise again after



defeat. The applause in Bhiwani, he said, celebrated not just the medals but also the years of perseverance and unwavering resolve that had raised India's Tricolour high at sporting arenas across Asia. Earlier, the Chief Minister inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of eight develop-

ment projects worth Rs. 142 crore in Bhiwani. These included the inauguration of six projects costing Rs. 133.66 crore and the laying of foundation stones for two projects costing Rs. 8.46 crore.

The Chief Minister said being among the sporting stars filled him with pride.

Congratulating the athletes for bringing glory to the country and the state, he said the recognition also honoured the sacrifice and dedication of their parents, teachers, coaches and support staff.

Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said India had finished fourth at the Asian Games with 85 medals, of which Haryana's athletes contributed 32, including 14 gold medals. Two out of every three gold medals won by India had come from Haryana's athletes, he said India also recorded its best-ever performance at the Para Asian Games with 114 medals.

People to Gather at Gandhi Ground in Ambala Cantonment for Public Meeting on the Occasion of Amit Shah's Visit : Vij

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH

Haryana Energy, Transport and Labour Minister Sh. Anil Vij has revealed several significant historical facts relating to the Freedom Struggle of 1857, also known as the First War of Independence. He said that Indian soldiers and brave freedom fighters displayed extraordinary courage and valour during the uprising and laid down their lives for the cause of India's freedom. He informed that during the events involving the 5th and 60th Native Infantry in Ambala Cantonment in September 1857, 135 Indian soldiers were killed by the British within just 10 minutes at the Parade Ground. In



addition, the British had disbanded 74 military companies during the Revolt of 1857.

Sh. Vij said that extensive research undertaken in connection with the construction of the 'Azadi ki Pehli Ladai ka Shaheed Smarak-1857' had brought to light several government documents containing pre-

viously untold accounts of the extraordinary sacrifices and struggles of Indian soldiers and revolutionaries. These stories, he said, had not received their rightful place in the pages of history until now. The Energy Minister said that the 'Azadi ki Pehli Ladai ka Shaheed Smarak-1857', being established in Ambala, is dedicat-

Anil Vij Reveals Several Significant Historical Facts About the First War of Independence of 1857; Unearthed Stories Highlight the Untold Sacrifices of Indian Soldiers and Brave Freedom Fighters

ed to the unsung revolutionaries and martyrs who sacrificed everything for India's independence. In an emotional tribute, he said, "I bow at the feet of every brave soul who took even a single step forward in the struggle for independence."

He added that the memorial would ensure due recognition for the sacrifices of all these brave

heroes and enable future generations to learn about the true history of India's freedom struggle and the contributions of its freedom fighters. Vij informed that Union r Amit Shah will inaugurate the 'Azadi ki Pehli Ladai ka Shaheed Smarak-1857' in Ambala on November 5. A grand public meeting will also be organised at Gandhi Ground in Ambala Cantonment on the occasion of his visit, which is expected to witness the participation of a large number of people. He further informed that the Haryana Government has decided to arrange visits to the Martyrs' Memorial for students studying in educational institutions across the state, entirely at government expense.

Dr. Sumita Misra Directs DCs To Expedite Pending CM Window Grievances, Over 15.60 Lakh Complaints Resolved

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH

Haryana Financial Commissioner Revenue and Additional Chief Secretary, Dr. Sumita Misra, on Friday directed all Deputy Commissioners to expedite the disposal of pending grievances registered on the CM Window portal and ensure that citizens' complaints are addressed promptly within the prescribed timelines. She emphasised the need for close monitoring of overdue complaints and timely submission of action-taken reports to prevent unnecessary delays in grievance redressal.

Dr. Misra was chairing a



review meeting with Deputy Commissioners through video conferencing from the Financial Commissioner Revenue office in Chandigarh to assess district-wise performance and review the status of pending complaints under the CM Window grievance redressal system. It was apprised

during the meeting that the portal had received 16,17,688 complaints, of which 15,60,782 had been resolved as of October 27. Of the resolved complaints, 4,55,846 were recorded as having been addressed within the prescribed time. Dr. Misra directed the Deputy Commissioners to give priority to overdue cases, ensure that action is initiated without delay and regularly review the progress of pending grievances at the district level. She stressed that complaints should not remain unattended at any stage and that responsibility for timely action must be clearly monitored.

Vijender Gupta pays floral tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

AJEET KUMAR, OPEN SEARCH

NEW DELHI. “Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel demonstrated that national unity demands courage, sacrifice and an unwavering commitment to the country. His life reminds us that the interests of the nation must always prevail over personal considerations,” said the Hon’ble Speaker of the Delhi Legislative Assembly, Shri Vijender Gupta, while paying floral tributes to Sardar Patel on the eve of his 151st birth anniversary at Delhi Legislative Assembly earlier today.

Addressing Assembly officials, Shri Gupta recalled Patel’s contribution to India’s freedom struggle and the consolidation of the nation following Independence. On the occasion, the Speaker administered the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas pledge to officials of



the Delhi Legislative Assembly, reaffirming their collective commitment to safeguarding the unity, integrity and security of the country. Highlighting Patel’s decisive role in integrating more than 550 princely states into the Indian Union, Shri Vijender Gupta said that the political consolidation of India was among the

most consequential achievements of the post-Independence period. He observed that Patel’s administrative foresight, political resolve and ability to combine negotiation with firm action were instrumental in transforming a fragmented political landscape into a united nation. Referring particular-

‘Sardar Patel demonstrated that national unity demands courage, sacrifice and unwavering commitment to the country’: Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta

ly to the integration of Hyderabad, the Speaker said Patel’s determination at a critical juncture demonstrated his unwavering commitment to India’s territorial integrity. He also recalled Patel’s leadership during the Bardoli Satyagraha of 1928, which established him as a formidable organiser of non-violent resistance and earned him the title of Sardar. Shri Abhay Verma, Chief Whip (Ruling Party), and Shri Ajay Mahawar, MLA were also present. Reflecting on Patel’s personal integrity,

simplicity and spirit of public service, Speaker Shri Gupta said that despite occupying the highest positions in government, he remained guided by discipline, restraint and a profound sense of national duty. He observed that Patel’s legacy extended beyond territorial integration to the ideals of responsible leadership, collective resolve and public accountability.

Calling upon Assembly officials to draw inspiration from his life, the Speaker emphasised that national unity must be sustained not merely through ceremonial pledges but through honesty, dedication and responsibility in everyday public service. He said that carrying forward these values would constitute the most meaningful tribute to the architect of India’s national integration.

Govt orders probe into Seemapuri building collapse that killed 4

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)

Delhi Home Minister Ashish Sood has ordered a magisterial inquiry into a building collapse in northeast Delhi’s Seemapuri area that claimed four lives earlier this month, an official statement said on Friday. The inquiry will be conducted by the district magistrate (North-East) to ascertain the circumstances and exact cause of the collapse and fix responsibility for any violations or negligence by individuals or government officials, it said.

The four-to-five-storey residential building, located at house no. E-402 in New Seemapuri, collapsed around 3 pm on October 7. The building was constructed on a plot measuring around 20-25 square yards, the statement said. The preliminary inquiry indicated that demolition work using heavy machinery at an adjacent unauthorised construction site may have trig-



gered the collapse due to vibrations, it said. Three adjoining structures also suffered major damage and were declared unsafe by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD). They were subsequently evacuated. The terms of reference of the inquiry include examining violations of building rules and safety norms by property owners, tenants and private individuals, besides investigating possible lapses by government departments and civic agencies. The inquiry will also recommend legal action against those found responsible and examine the

implementation of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, to suggest measures to prevent such incidents in the future, it mentioned.

“This is a deeply tragic incident that has cost precious lives. We have ordered a magisterial inquiry to investigate every single aspect of this collapse. No guilty person or lax official will be spared. Our immediate priority is to support the affected families, and our long-term goal is to enforce strict structural safety rules so that such an accident never happens again in Delhi,” Sood said. On October 8, the Delhi Police revised the death toll to four after initially reporting the recovery of five bodies from the debris. Police said body parts and remains recovered from the site were yet to be identified through DNA examination to establish whether they belonged to separate victims or those already identified.

Delhi must be viewed and planned as part of NCR : LG Sandhu

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)

Delhi must be planned as part of the wider National Capital Region (NCR), Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu said on Friday, pointing out that housing, transport, water and environmental concerns extend beyond administrative boundaries. Addressing young planners, Sandhu emphasised that people must remain at the heart of urban planning. Urban water management, mobility and affordable housing call for a long-term, integrated approach to planning, he stated at a seminar to commemorate World Habitat Day, World Cities Day and World Town Planning Day. Talking about Delhi, the lieutenant governor said that with its rich



historical legacy, the city must preserve its character while responding to the needs of a growing metropolitan population, which requires careful planning and effective coordination. He emphasised that Delhi must be viewed within the wider National Capital Region, with coordination among agencies and neighbouring jurisdictions, and with land-use planning aligned to transport infrastructure. Highlighting three areas, Sandhu said urban water management must bring together drainage,

Devotees were delighted to hear the story of Krishna and Rukmini's marriage

KHODA : OPEN SEARCH

On the sixth day of the musical Shrimad Bhagwat Katha, held at the ancient Shiv Shakti Durga Temple complex in Ward No. 23, Himakya Enclave, devotees were moved by the glories of Lord Krishna, the Maharas Leela, and the story of Krishna and Rukmini’s marriage.

Pandit Santosh Mishra, media in-charge of the temple, stated that Saint Shyamdas Ji Maharaj, who arrived from Ayodhya, gave a beautiful and emotional description of Lord Krishna’s Maharas Leela, the Gopi-Uddhava dialogue, Lord Krishna’s departure to Mathura, the killing of Kansa, and the marriage of Krishna and Rukmini.

Maharaj explained that on the holy night of Sharad Purnima, Lord Krishna per-



formed the Maharas with the Gopis, giving the world a message of selfless love, dedication, and devotion. The Gopis’ love was not motivated by any worldly selfish motives, but rather symbolized their complete surrender to God. Through the Gopi-Uddhava dialogue, he explained that God can be attained not only through knowledge, but through true love and selfless devotion. During the Katha, the story of Lord

Krishna’s departure to Mathura and the slaying of the tyrant Kansa was also narrated. Maharaj Shri explained that Lord Krishna established Dharma by ending unrighteousness and oppression. Following this, the events of killing Kalayavan and receiving education at the ashram of Sandipani Muni were also described. The Sri Krishna-Rukmini marriage created a special atmosphere of excitement and joy in the

Katha pandal. Maharaj Shri explained that Princess Rukmini of Vidarbha had accepted Lord Krishna as her husband in her heart. When her brother Rukmi decided to marry her to Shishupal, Rukmini wrote a letter to Lord Krishna, expressing her sorrow and requesting him to take her with him before the wedding. The devotee-loving Lord Krishna accepted Rukmini’s call, brought her with him, and married her according to all the rituals. This event is a unique example of true love, unwavering faith, and complete devotion to God.

In his discourse, Maharaj Shri also explained that the divine acts of Lord Krishna inspire humans to abandon ego, follow the path of righteousness, and maintain faith in God under all circumstances.

Delhi HC asks WFI to decide in two weeks show-cause notices to Vinesh Phogat

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)

The Delhi High Court has asked the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) to decide two show-cause notices issued to grappler Vinesh Phogat in two weeks. Justice Amit Mahajan, in an order passed on October 29 on Phogat’s petition, said a sports-person has to be mentally relaxed to participate in any competitive event and clarified that the decision on the notices issued on May 9 and June 17 would be kept in abeyance till the next date of hearing on January 20. Phogat’s senior counsel said no final order was yet to be passed on the two show-cause notices. He argued that although there was no impediment to the petitioner participating in



any upcoming tournaments at this stage, there was an apprehension that any adverse decision before the commencement of future tournaments would leave her without any appropriate remedy.

Terming the predicament “genuine”, Justice Mahajan said, “A sports-person has to be in a fit and relaxed state of mind to participate in any competitive event of such nature as indicated so that their performance is not compromised in any way.”

Jamia approves students’ union constitution, sets May 15 deadline, asks protesters to end stir

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)

Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) has approved the implementation of the university’s student union constitution, setting May 15, 2027 as the deadline for its completion, and directed the protesting students to immediately call off their agitation.

In an order dated October 29, the university said the competent authority had considered a request letter submitted by students on the same day and issued directions regarding the implementation of the Jamia Millia Islamia Students’ Union’s (JMIJU) constitution, the conduct of elections and the withdrawal of disciplinary action against protesters. The university said it would notify the schedule for elections in



accordance with recommendations and guidelines laid down by the Lyngdoh Committee on Student Elections after the approval of the constitution. The elections will be conducted within six weeks of the start of the academic session, which is approximately six weeks from July 16, 2027, the order said. The order further said all ongoing show-cause notices, disciplinary inquiries, rustications and suspensions as

well as campus bans issued in connection with participation in the protest should be revoked.

“In view of the above, the protesting students shall call off their protest/hunger strike with immediate effect,” the order said. The development comes after a prolonged protest that began on October 12, with students demanding the restoration of the JMIJU and the announcement of a definite timeline

The elections will be conducted within six weeks of the start of the academic session, which is approximately six weeks from July 16, 2027, the order said

for student union elections. The agitation, which included a hunger strike, continued amid a standoff with the university administration, even as the protesters pressed for the restoration of an elected representative body after nearly two decades without union polls.

The order was issued by Registrar Prof M M Rizvi and circulated to university officials, including deans, heads of departments, the chief proctor and the security adviser.

Delhi Food Safety Department undertakes 30 enforcement actions in two months

NEW DELHI. OPEN SEARCH

On the instructions of Hon’ble Health Minister Dr. Pankaj Kumar Singh, the Department of Food Safety, Government of Delhi, has undertaken 30 enforcement actions over the last two months to strengthen food safety surveillance and ensure compliance with prescribed standards. The department has intensified inspections and sampling, particularly during important occasions such as Navratri and the festive season, when demand for sweets, dairy products and other food items increases.

During this period, 290 food samples were collected, of which 85 were found unsafe or below prescribed standards. Major enforcement drives focused on ghee, paneer, khoya and



sweets, with repeated action in vulnerable areas and wholesale hubs, including Mori Gate Khoya Mandi, Okhla and Janakpuri. The department has destroyed more than 4,000 kg of food products in major enforcement operations, including khoya, paneer and sweets. In a recent raid on unlicensed sweet-manufacturing units in Nihal Vihar, 12

premises were identified and 400 kg of sweets were destroyed, while 14 samples were collected.

The enforcement drive extended beyond wholesale markets and manufacturers to restaurants, institutional clubs, banquet halls, retail outlets and e-commerce dark stores associated with platforms such as Swiggy, Zomato, Blinkit, Amazon

Intensive Surveillance Targets Adulteration in Ghee, Paneer, Khoya and Sweets; Over 4,000 kg of Food Products Destroyed in Major Enforcement Drives

and Reliance. Wholesalers selling food products through YouTube and Instagram were also covered. Inspections were conducted at hospital kitchens to assess food safety practices, while special surveillance during Navratri focused on fasting-related products, including kuttu atta, samak rice, singhara atta and sabudana. The department also acted on complaints received

through CM Jansunwai and other public grievance channels. In a recent inspection drive, seven bakery manufacturing and retail premises were inspected and 10 food samples collected. Improvement notices were recommended for two premises following hygiene and compliance assessments. Hon’ble Health Minister Dr. Pankaj Kumar Singh said, “The department has been directed to maintain strict vigilance across the food supply chain, from manufacturing and wholesale markets to retail outlets, restaurants and online platforms. Inspections and sampling will continue, especially during festive and wedding seasons, to ensure accountability among food business operators and protect consumers from unsafe food.

Temperatures dip across northern India, Delhi records coldest Oct in four years

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)

Daytime temperatures dropped sharply across northern India on Thursday, with Delhi registering its coldest October day in four years, as heavy rain lashed the region amid the weakening of ‘very severe’ cyclonic storm ‘Arnab’. Maximum temperatures ranged from 20.6 degrees Celsius in Haryana’s Karnal to 27.4 degrees Celsius in Punjab’s Patiala, with Delhi’s base weather station, Safdarjung, recording 25.4 degrees, about 5.6 degrees below normal.

IMD has issued ‘red’ and ‘orange’ alerts for thunderstorms in the Delhi-NCR region, Uttar Pradesh, and much of the northern states over the next two days.

The forecast comes as heavy rains lashed West Bengal, Jharkhand and



Andhra Pradesh, and triggered heavy floods in Odisha, as Cyclone Arnab turned into a deep depression on Thursday, a day after making landfall in Andhra Pradesh and the Yanam coast. In Delhi, dark clouds hung over the capital since morning, with the city recording trace rainfall in the last 24 hours. The maximum temperature at Safdarjung, Delhi’s base weather station, settled at 25.4 degrees Celsius, 5.6 degrees below normal. It was the lowest for an October day since October 8, 2022, when the maximum was 23.4 degrees

Celsius. In Haryana and Punjab, maximum temperatures dropped several degrees below normal at many places, according to the MeT office. Haryana’s Ambala recorded its maximum at 23.8 degrees Celsius, six degrees below normal, while Karnal’s maximum settled at 20.6 degrees, nine degrees below average. Narnaul, Rohtak and Bhiwani recorded their respective maximum temperatures at 25.5, 24.6 and 28 degrees Celsius, up to six degrees below normal. In neighbouring Punjab, Patiala recorded its maximum at 27.4 degrees Celsius, three degrees below normal. Ludhiana, Amritsar, Pathankot, Bathinda and Faridkot registered their respective maximum temperatures at 30.4, 30.6, 29, 31 and 34.9 degrees Celsius.

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EDITORIAL

New opportunities for farmers' welfare and development

Agriculture and the rural economy form the strong foundation of India's economic growth and overall development. Strengthening the financial condition of farmers, integrating modern technology into agriculture and expanding basic infrastructure in rural areas are essential for building a developed nation. The inauguration and foundation-laying of development projects worth more than Rs 14,000 crore in Banaskantha, Gujarat, along with the transfer of over Rs 18,690 crore to the bank accounts of more than 9.34 crore farmers across the country as the 24th instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme, represent important initiatives in this direction. The event highlights the potential to accelerate agricultural welfare, infrastructure development and the rural economy.

The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme has emerged as an important source of financial assistance for small and marginal farmers. Under this scheme, eligible farming families receive Rs 6,000 annually in three equal instalments. Amid the expenses associated with seeds, fertilisers, agricultural equipment and other farming requirements, this assistance provides farmers with a measure of financial support. Although this amount cannot resolve all the challenges faced by farmers, timely financial assistance can prove useful in meeting their daily needs and agricultural expenses. The real success of the scheme lies in ensuring that its benefits reach every eligible farmer without any obstacles.

The significance of the development projects announced in Banaskantha extends beyond the substantial investment involved. Projects related to animal husbandry, dairy, agricultural processing, transportation and social infrastructure have the potential to strengthen the rural economy in multiple ways. Initiatives such as the Bharat Bovine Breeding and Research Centre can promote livestock breed improvement and modern breeding technologies. Similarly, bio-CNG projects associated with Banas Dairy can contribute to the better utilisation of cattle dung, clean energy production and environmental protection. Increasing agricultural production alone is not sufficient; better arrangements for storage, processing and marketing of agricultural products are equally important. The dedication of 521 facilities developed under the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund is a step towards addressing this requirement. In addition, the launch of 12 horticulture clusters can encourage the cultivation of high-value crops. If farmers are provided with modern technology, proper storage facilities, processing infrastructure and direct access to markets, the possibilities of increasing their income will become stronger.

The expansion of transportation and social facilities is also an important aspect of these development projects. The expansion of the Ahmedabad Metro, new railway services and initiatives related to Anganwadi centres can improve regional connectivity, transportation and social development. In particular, the expansion of child-friendly Anganwadi centres can help strengthen nutrition, early education and child development facilities in both rural and urban areas.

Why Karnataka's MLC Verdict Is A Bigger Problem For Congress than it appears

RAMAKRISHNA UPADHYA

The ruling Karnataka Congress party's "grand zero" performance in the Legislative Council elections has not only become a "national embarrassment" because it failed miserably despite switching from EVMs to ballot papers, but the success of the BJP-JD(S) alliance in these polls will give the Congress party nightmares ahead of the 2028 Assembly elections. The Congress won just one of the 28 Legislative Council seats for which elections were held in four states, but Karnataka's results began "trending" on social media and national television channels because Chief Minister DK Shivakumar had insisted on, and got, the state election body to adopt ballot papers in place of EVMs to highlight his party's "vote chori" campaign. A hugely disappointed Shivakumar admitted, "We did not expect these results," adding, "We accept the people's decision."

There are lessons to learn. We will find out what went wrong." But the two stalwarts of the JD(S) and BJP, HD Kumaraswamy and BS Yediyurappa, were ecstatic. While Kumaraswamy said, "It is the people's befitting reply to the misrule of the Congress-led government in Karnataka," Yediyurappa thundered, "In all upcoming elections, we will fight them together. We will do all it takes to oust this corrupt government." Shivakumar, who replaced Siddaramaiah as Karnataka Chief Minister on June 3 in none-too-happy circumstances, has found the going tough on multiple fronts. Even four months after taking charge, he has neither been able to complete the cabinet formation exercise nor get a firm grip on the administration. The worst drought in over five decades has left the water reservoirs in a precarious state, leading to poor cultivation and farmers in distress, besides low energy levels that threaten to disrupt power supply and economic activities. The state is also faced with constant directions from the Supreme Court to release Cauvery water to neighbouring Tamil Nadu "as per the tribunal's award".

Politically, too, Shivakumar is mired in trouble as a rift has developed between him and Siddaramaiah over a mysterious "sting operation" involving the latter. While opposition leaders have been gleefully accusing Shivakumar of having "instigated" the sting operation allegedly involving a woman and targeting Siddaramaiah to keep him in check, Siddaramaiah's minister-son, Dr Yatindra, has sought an impartial investigation into the "involvement of any Congress party functionaries" in the alleged scam. Siddaramaiah, who has been invited to participate in the INDI Alliance's mega protest rally in New Delhi on Sunday against the Election Commission of India's "flawed SIR exercise across the country" and to demand the resignation of CEC Gyanesh Kumar, has said that he has sought an appointment with Rahul Gandhi on November 2 to "explain" his position on the allegations made against him. Sources close to him say that he would also express his misgivings to Rahul about Shivakumar's possible role.

ADITYA SINHA

FPIs sold Rs 1.66 lakh crore of Indian equities in 2025 and a record Rs 3.08 lakh crore in 2026 through October 12. Foreign ownership of the Indian market is at a 15-year low

How India is making its stock Market an Expensive Place to Invest

In the thirteenth century, the lords whose castles lined the Rhine discovered a business model. Each stretched a chain across the river and tolled every passing barge. No single toll was ruinous. Together, they strangled the river. Merchants rerouted their cargo, and in 1254, the Rhenish cities formed a league and pulled the toll castles down. The lords had assumed the river had nowhere else to flow. The merchants knew better. Global equity capital is the modern river. Unfortunately, India operates the only toll booth on its route. The Finance (No. 2) Act, 2024, taxes long-term capital gains (LTCG) on listed equity at 12.5% and short-term gains at 20%, plus surcharge and cess, plus a securities transaction tax (STT) on every trade. The Ministry of Finance confirmed, in reply to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 166 on 20 July 2026, that foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) pay the same 12.5% as residents. No competing jurisdiction does this. The United States treats a non-resident's gains on listed stocks as foreign-source income and levies nothing. Singapore, Hong Kong, and the United Arab Emirates have no capital gains tax. China exempted foreign investors from tax on A-share gains through Circulars 79 and 81 of 14 November 2014, three days before Stock Connect opened, and has extended the exemption through 31 December 2027. The adjective 'temporary' has survived twelve years.

This has quantifiable implications. The Nifty has compounded at about 10.5% a year in rupees over two decades. Weighting the 20% short-term and 12.5% long-term rates by typical



holding patterns gives a blended tax drag near 15% of returns, taking 10.5 to about 8.9. Average annual rupee depreciation of 4%, running at nearly 7% in 2026, takes 8.9 to roughly 6% in dollars. The S&P 500's century-long annualised return is near 10. Of the 4-point gap, about two points is tax design. Capitalise the wedge. If foreign investors demand 2 points more to hold Indian equity, the equilibrium price of every Indian stock falls until expected returns gross up, which is a permanent increase in the cost of equity for every issuer in a country that saves less than it needs to invest.

The flow data record the adjustment. FPIs sold Rs 1.66 lakh crore of Indian equities in 2025 and a record Rs 3.08 lakh crore in 2026 through October 12. Foreign ownership of the Indian market is at a 15-year low. India's weight in the MSCI Emerging Markets

index has roughly halved from its September 2024 level, and allocators have begun asking whether India merits a dedicated country allocation at all. A market that loses asset-class status receives only pooled emerging-market money, which is benchmark-driven and momentum-chasing by construction. The toll is paid not by the barge but by the towns along the river.

The government's case is not frivolous. The revenue is real. Equity LTCG tax yielded Rs 72,249 crore in 2023-24 and Rs 1,29,158 crore in 2024-25. The horizontal equity argument is real. Arun Jaitley, reintroducing the tax in 2018, cited Rs 3.67 lakh crore of exempted gains in returns for the assessment year 2017-18, and asked why the economy's most buoyant income should escape tax when a schoolteacher's mutual fund gains do not.

The zero-tax years were the treaty-shopping years,

until the Mauritius treaty was renegotiated in 2016. The evidence cuts the government's way too. FPIs absorbed the 2024 rate hikes and ended that year with a net inflow. And domestic institutions have bought for 38 consecutive months, absorbing everything foreigners sold.

Each point is true. None survives decomposition. The Rs 1.29 lakh crore is a headline, not an FPI figure. No FPI-wise split is published, and net sellers book fewer taxable gains than compounders, so the foreign share is likely a small fraction of a levy mostly paid by residents. Horizontal equity misreads elasticities. The schoolteacher's capital is immobile and bears the tax. The fund's capital is perfectly elastic in supply, so the incidence shifts entirely to the immobile party, the Indian issuer. Textbook Ramsey logic says tax the inelastic base, which India does any-

way through STT. And the decisive witness is the government itself. The Income-tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026,

The Income-tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026, exempted FPI interest and capital gains on government securities from April 1 this year, expressly to align with comparable jurisdictions and attract pension and sovereign wealth capital. The capital gains element of the revenue cost was an estimated Rs 500 to Rs 1,000 crore. Every word of that justification applies to equities. The principle was conceded precisely where the exchequer borrows and suspended where firms raise capital.

A stand, therefore. Keep the tax for residents. Jaitley's logic holds where capital cannot leave. For non-resident portfolio investors in listed equity, restore the 2004 bargain, under which STT was introduced as the explicit price of exempting long-term gains, a bargain the 2018 Act honoured in the collection and abandoned in the exemption. STT yielded Rs 57,522 crore in 2025-26, collected at source, evasion-proof, paid by resident and foreigner alike. Let that be the toll. At a minimum, allow FPIs to compute gains in the currency of investment, taxing income rather than rupee depreciation, a proposal the ministry is reportedly examining with the Securities and Exchange Board of India. The Finance Minister said on October 13 that she would seek inputs on LTCG. There is no record of the Rhine lords ever cutting a toll voluntarily. There is a clear record of what the river did. The Rhenish league is remembered. The toll castles are ruins, photographed by tourists who pay nothing to pass.

The decimation of J&K cadre

THE merger of the Jammu and Kashmir cadre into AGMUT (Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territories) in 2021 and the recent appointment of the first AGMUT-cadre officer as Chief Secretary denote more than a change of personnel or the supersession of many senior officers. An institution that had long mediated access to State authority and resources in the Valley stands replaced.

The overhaul of the bureaucracy forms part of a wider effort to change the local configurations of power and influence. The J&K cadre functioned not only as an administrative tier but also as a network of personal ties, political affiliations and institutional memory. This network was shaped by decades of interaction with the region's political class. It facilitated and even enabled the reproduction of local power structures at the interface between society and the State. The bureaucracy wielded an embedded influence through which regional elites reinforced prevailing power hierarchies. By superseding almost all senior-most officers of that cadre, decisive authority has been shifted to those drawn from outside its ranks. By doing so, the Centre has effectively mutated the administrative DNA of J&K. In a way, it completes the institutional eclipse of the J&K cadre.

This cadre was a consequence of the Presidential Order issued in 1958 under Article 370 of the Constitution. It specifically modified the application of Article 312 to bring J&K within the All-India Services framework and enabled recruitment and service conditions for the IAS (and IPS). The J&K



Reorganisation Act of 2019 initially allowed the J&K cadre, but the 2021 ordinance merged it into AGMUT.

The J&K cadre structure of the local bureaucratic framework was rooted in domain knowledge, a certain continuity of administrative practice and personal networks. These have been now displaced by a more externally directed apparatus. It is a reconfiguration of the institutions through which power is exercised and legitimacy is mediated in the region.

The IAS officers, mostly outsiders, were a crucial link between the Centre and the state. While these officers were the eyes, ears and hands of New Delhi, they also played the role of intermediaries. With their feet on the ground in Kashmir, many of them conveyed the local sentiment in their communication to Delhi. Over time, representing the Kashmir sentiment got identified with the constitutional status of the state and the autonomist ideology of political parties. Warts and

all, the cadre was as much an instrument of control as it was a channel of influence. Gradually, it was felt that the cadre had been co-opted by the local political class, especially by the National Conference (NC) under Farooq Abdullah. During his tenure as CM, some officers who had powers beyond ordinary bureaucratic limits acted like the card-carrying members of the NC. Their proximity to a regional political dynasty largely influenced the bureaucracy's approach to Kashmir.

Around 1989-90, when protests and public uprisings were at their peak, at least four of the senior-most officers were signatories to a representation addressed to the United Nations, protesting against human rights violations by security forces in the Valley. At least six IAS officers of the local cadre also submitted a report to the Governor, condemning excesses by the men in uniform against civilians. A memorandum by senior officers reached the Governor after the

assassination of Mirwaiz Maulvi Farooq and the subsequent firing on mourners.

While Kashmiris later remembered the gesture fondly, critics within the establishment saw it as an instance in which serving officers of the All-India Services publicly aligned with the local sentiment against the actions of the Indian security apparatus. Delhi saw such instances as serious chinks in the Steel Frame. The national purpose of the Services as an administrative backbone that could rise above regional political alignments was steadily eroded.

The post-2021 structure has systematically reduced the space for officers who had both long local tenures and career incentives tied to the region. Once the last cohort with significant Valley socialisation exits around 2029, the channel that carried local sentiment upward (however imperfectly) will narrow further. This is less a question of individual officers' attitudes and more a structural outcome of shorter average

tenures and joint-cadre career paths.

The J&K-cadre officers, though outsiders, frequently shared the outlook of the dominant political class on questions of autonomy, land, employment and security. Of course, there were exceptions; some were viewed with suspicion.

This proximity eventually led to a certain bureaucratisation of politics. The pattern of co-option resulted in at least three former Chief Secretaries joining politics after (or even before completing) their tenures. While two became legislators, one became the finance minister. These transitions illustrate how the top of the service had become a revolving door into regional politics rather than a permanent national Steel Frame.

These structural features explain why the cadre merger of 2021 and the recent appointments and consequential change are read by many as more than administrative rationalisation. They are understood as a dismantling of an institution whose interests had become aligned with local political power.

The decimation of the J&K cadre is therefore double-edged. On the one hand, it removes officers who had deep local domain knowledge, be it of the revenue system, forest settlements, irrigation, power and the historical sediment of special status. On the other hand, it removes a cadre that had, in critical periods, become a channel to communicate the local sentiment. Whether this produces better governance is an open question. An administration less entangled with local political regimes may prove more responsive to national priorities.

Goa signs Rs 5,000 crore MoU with ANVI for LPG terminal at Mormugao Port

PANAJI : (AGENCY)

The Goa government has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Dubai- and India-based energy trading group ANVI to develop an LPG import and storage terminal worth Rs 5,000 crore at Mormugao Port, aimed at strengthening the state's LPG reserves and energy security. The agreement was signed at the Vibrant Goa Global Business Summit 2026 on Friday in the presence of Chief Minister Pramod Sawant according to a press release issued by ANVI. The proposed facility will be Goa's first dedicated LPG import and storage terminal, reducing its dependence on supplies transported by road from neighbouring states. "In March, Goa learned what fifteen days of stock



means when the ships stop coming. This terminal makes sure that never happens again," said Ashutosh Verma, founder of ANVI. The project follows LPG supply disruptions earlier this year amid the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, which affected shipments from the Gulf region. According to the release, Goa currently consumes around 80,000 to 100,000 tonnes of LPG annually, with supplies

arriving mainly by road from Mangalore. During the disruptions in March, commercial LPG supplies in Goa fell to 20 per cent of normal levels, while household cylinder refill intervals increased from 15 to 25 days, the company said. Under the proposed project, ANVI plans to invest approximately Rs 5,000 crore in two phases, including the development of an LPG berth, storage facilities and a pipeline

The project follows LPG supply disruptions earlier this year amid the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, which affected shipments from the Gulf region

connecting the terminal to Mormugao Port. The first phase will provide storage capacity of around 65,000 tonnes, equivalent to eight to nine months of Goa's current consumption. This will include an emergency reserve of at least 7,500 tonnes, covering 30 days of demand, which can be released only on the state government's instructions. "Goa will hold its own reserve, in Goa and under the Government's control, and in a crisis the first cylinder will go to a Goan kitchen, a Goan shack or a Goan trawler," Verma said.

At full capacity, the terminal is expected to handle around three million tonnes of LPG annually, supplying Goa as well as parts of Karnataka and Maharashtra. The company said the facility would also enable LPG imports from the United States and other regions outside the Gulf, helping diversify India's energy supply routes. The project is expected to support around 2,450 direct, indirect and induced jobs once operational, with at least 80 per cent of permanent direct jobs reserved for Goans. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant said, "The proposed Goa Institute of LPG and LNG Technology, under this MoU, will train up to 500 people a year for careers in Goa, creating a much-needed skill ecosystem for India's energy sovereignty."

India's fisheries sector poised for technology-led transformation, value addition to drive future growth : Govt

NEW DELHI.(AGENCY)



India's fisheries sector is set to move beyond traditional production towards value-added processing, mobile marketing and technology-driven enterprises, with its future growth expected to depend on stronger market-oriented value chains, improved logistics and sustainable market development, according to a statement by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying. The release noted that India's fisheries sector is emerging as a technology-driven industry, strengthening food security, rural livelihoods, employment and export earnings. Furthermore, the fishery's sector is undergoing a transformation driven by value addition, cold-chain development, modern processing, mobile marketing

and startup-led innovations, the Ministry noted. "Enterprises are now rapidly adopting modern technologies such as artificial intelligence (AI), Internet of Things (IoT), blockchain, drone technology, smart cold chain systems, and precision aquaculture to improve traceability, productivity, quality assurance, and post-harvest management," it said, adding, such initiatives are helping reduce losses, improve profitability and strengthen the fisheries value chain. "Value addition is emerging as an

important tool in transforming India's fisheries sector from a primary production activity to a diversified and market-oriented enterprise," it said, highlighting, this transformation is supported by a series of public investments and targeted policy initiatives. To support the sector's growth, the government has committed Rs 39,272 crore through flagship initiatives, including the Blue Revolution Scheme, Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF), Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).

CAG of India highlights the role of digital transformation in strengthening public audit

NEW DELHI.(AGENCY)

Sanjay Murthy, Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India and Chair of the Asian Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASO-SAI), participated in the International Conference on "Supreme Audit Institutions in a Changing World: Vision, Institutional Framework and Innovation" held on 27 October 2026 at the National Convention Centre, Hanoi, Vietnam. The Conference was hosted by the State Audit Office of Viet Nam (SAV) and brought together Heads and representatives of Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) from various countries to deliberate on the evolving role of SAIs, institutional development, emerging audit challenges and innovation in public sector auditing. The CAG of



India delivered the welcome remarks in his capacity as Chair of ASO-SAI at the inaugural session of the Conference. He highlighted the importance of institutional independence, a strong legal mandate and professional integrity in ensuring credible public audit. Emphasising the need for SAIs to remain responsive to a changing governance environment, he underscored the importance of anticipating emerging

risks, modernising audit methodologies and strengthening institutional capabilities. He also stressed that the value of audit lies in its contribution to improved governance, effective public financial management and better outcomes for citizens. During the presentation session, K. Sanjay Murthy delivered a keynote address on "Digital Transformation of Public Audit: Prerequisites,

Practice and the Road Ahead: The Experience of SAI India." The presentation highlighted India's experience in leveraging its expanding digital infrastructure and government information systems to strengthen public audit. It outlined three essential prerequisites for digital transformation of audit: a strong legal mandate for access to government data; trustworthy digital evidence, supported by appropriate safeguards for information security and confidentiality; and institutional mechanisms for collecting, integrating and analysing data across public authorities. The CAG highlighted the importance of access to digital records and government databases, standardisation of data, secure data-sharing mechanisms and institutional capacity for undertaking technology-enabled audits.

How Indian Businesses Can Simplify Global Payments and Manage Currency Conversion

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)



International expansion creates new opportunities for Indian businesses, from IT service providers and digital agencies to consultants, exporters, and online businesses. However, serving customers across borders also introduces financial challenges. Companies must manage international payments, navigate currency fluctuations, and ensure that money reaches the right destination efficiently. For businesses earning revenue in US dollars, euros, or other foreign currencies, even small differences in exchange rates can affect profitability. At the same time, coordinating payments between international clients, local teams, and overseas suppliers can increase administrative workloads.

Addressing these challenges requires a payment strategy that combines visibility, convenience, and effective financial management. Digital payment platforms such as Payoneer can help eligible businesses manage international transactions and access tools designed for global commerce. Cross-border transactions involve more than transferring money from one bank account to another. Businesses must consider exchange rates, transfer fees, processing times, documentation requirements, and the payment methods available in different markets.

TVS Motor's Venu Srinivasan, daughter Lakshmi file caveats amid family inheritance dispute

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)

TVS Motor Company Chairman Emeritus Venu Srinivasan and his daughter Lakshmi Venu have filed caveats against each other in courts amid an escalating family dispute over inheritance, ownership and the division of business interests. Eight caveats were filed on October 12 and 13 before the Chennai civil and commercial courts, with four filings in each court, people familiar with the matter said. The caveats filed by Venu Srinivasan and his son Sudarshan Venu name Lakshmi Venu, while those filed by his wife Mallika Srinivasan and Lakshmi Venu name Venu Srinivasan. opportunity to be heard, said Suruchi Suri, partner at law firm



Suri & Co. The latest filings mark a fresh development in the succession dispute within the TVS family, which has come into focus over differences regarding the ownership and economic division of family business interests. The disagreement broadly involves two sides of the family, with Venu Srinivasan and his son Sudarshan maintaining that a settlement has already been reached, while Mallika Srinivasan and Lakshmi Venu have disputed that an economic settlement has been completed.

Minister Finance Nirmala Sitharaman meets Russian Ambassador Denis Alipov, discusses India-Russia trade and economic cooperation

NEW DELHI.(AGENCY)



Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman met Russian Ambassador to India Denis Alipov in New Delhi on Friday, holding discussions focused on expanding bilateral economic engagement and trade ties between the two nations. The bilateral dialogue addressed various facets of financial relations, trade facilitation, and cross-border connectivity. "The discussions focused on strengthening India-Russia financial and economic cooperation, facilitating bilateral trade, enhancing investment flows and exploring opportunities for greater finan-

cial connectivity," the Ministry added. "Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to further deepening the longstanding India-Russia partnership. The meeting with the Russian envoy followed a high-level review of regional economic matters conducted by the Union Finance Minister earlier in the week. On Thursday, Nirmala Sitharaman met Manipur Chief Minister Yumnam Khemchand

Singh at her office in Kartavya Bhawan, New Delhi, where the two leaders reviewed the state's financial health, and the Chief Minister sought enhanced central assistance. During the meeting, the Chief Minister apprised the Union Finance Minister about the State Government's ongoing efforts to maintain financial discipline and improve fiscal management. He highlighted that

the State Government has successfully ensured the timely payment of salaries and pensions to its employees on the first working day of every month. Khemchand Singh discussed the progress of Externally Aided Projects (EAPs) in the State and briefed the Finance Minister on the effective implementation of various Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and other developmental projects. Highlighting the revenue losses suffered by Manipur over the last three years, the Chief Minister urged the Finance Minister for Central support to help the State tide over the current financial crisis.

India, Belgium, Luxembourg agree to enhance trade ties in fintech, renewable energy and aerospace

NEW DELHI.(AGENCY)

India, Belgium, and Luxembourg have agreed to bolster economic ties and explore avenues to enhance collaboration in aerospace, research, innovation, and higher education, according to a statement issued by the Commerce Ministry on Friday. The 19th meeting of the India-Belgium-Luxembourg Economic Union (BLEU) Joint Economic Commission (JEC) took place in Luxembourg. The gathering served as an opportunity for India, Belgium, and Luxembourg to assess their trade and investment ties and explore ways to enhance economic collaboration in important areas, the statement noted. The JEC was co-chaired by



Rajesh Agrawal, the Commerce Secretary; Filip Vanden Bulcke, the Director-General for Geo-Economy and Economic Diplomacy at the Belgian Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation; and Henri Schumacher, the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs, Defence, Development Cooperation and Foreign Trade of Luxembourg. The conversations addressed a wide

array of key sectors, such as logistics, emphasizing air connectivity and ports, renewable energy and clean technology, financial services and FinTech, digital transformation and information and communication technology (ICT), healthcare and life sciences, Ayurveda and traditional medicine, along with the agro and food processing sector. The meeting resolved to explore prospects for enhancing collaboration in aerospace, research and innovation,

higher education, and skills development. Market-oriented topics were examined to tackle trade concerns, enhance market entry, and highlight opportunities to bolster economic connections. The JEC offered a chance for the three parties to share perspectives on their economic goals, assess sectoral collaboration, and explore ways to improve business involvement and investment cooperation. The conversations reinforced the significance of ongoing dialogue and collaboration in enhancing mutually advantageous economic ties among India, Belgium, and Luxembourg. Post the JEC session, Rajesh Agrawal engaged with CEOs from companies based in Luxembourg.

Crompton Honoured with Mahatma Award 2026 for Driving Community Impact



MUMBAI (AGENCY)

Crompton Greaves Consumer Electricals Limited (Crompton) has been honoured with the Mahatma Award 2026 in the Community Initiatives category, an initiative of the Mahatma Foundation hosted by Liveweek Group, for its efforts to drive positive social impact through the Crompton CSR Foundation (CCF). The recognition highlights the Foundation's work in strengthening water security and rural livelihoods through

Project Jal Jeevan and expanding women's access to technical careers through Project Saksham. The award recognises CCF's approach to addressing community needs through sustained interventions, local partnerships and measurable outcomes. Its initiatives span water conservation, skills development, education and community care, with a focus on building community resilience and creating sustainable livelihood opportunities. Project Jal Jeevan addresses water insecurity across Ahilyanagar in Maharashtra and Sirohi and Pali in Rajasthan, where declining groundwater levels and variable rainfall affect agricultural productivity and rural livelihoods.

Netplus Broadband Names Ammy Virk and Tania as Brand Ambassadors

LUDHIANA (AGENCY) Netplus Broadband has announced the association of popular Punjabi singer and actor Ammy Virk and actor Tania as its brand ambassadors. The partnership brings two of Punjabi entertainment's most recognised names to the brand at a time when reliable home connectivity is central to how families watch, learn, work and stay in touch. To launch the association, Netplus has shot three ad films with Ammy Virk and Tania, built around the campaign theme "Family ki jo bhi ho demand, Netplus hazir on command" – whatever your family needs, Netplus is ready on command. The films showcase the Netplus offer across TV, Wi-Fi and OTT. With scheduled launch through the coming weeks, including during Diwali. Demand for broadband continues to grow as streaming, online learning and work-from-home become part of everyday life across North India. Netplus Broadband's campaign is designed to make that demand simple to act on: one connection that brings together television, high-speed internet and OTT content for the household. Commenting on the association, Arshdeep Singh Mundi, Executive Director, Juhar Group, said, "Netplus has earned its place in North India's homes through reliable service and a close connection with its customers. Ammy Virk and Tania are rooted in this region and trusted by its audiences, and that is exactly the spirit we want the brand to carry."

Briefs News

China bulldozing homes of monks at Tibetan monastery, alleges Central Tibetan Administration

DHARAMSALA (AGENCY) The Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) has alleged that Chinese authorities have launched a large-scale demolition drive targeting more than 200 residential homes belonging to monks at the historic Dza Sershul Monastery in Sershul County, in eastern Tibet's Karze region. Citing sources, the CTA said the demolition may have begun on October 25 or 26 though the exact date and scale of the operation remain unverified. The administration also expressed concern over public meetings being held by Chinese authorities in the area and restrictions on internet access and information flow, which it said had made independent verification difficult. The reported demolition has renewed concerns over the future of Tibetan Buddhist institutions, following earlier demolition drives at major religious centres and the closure of Tibetan-language educational institutions. According to the CTA, major demolitions were carried out at Serthar Larung Gar in July 2016 and Yachen Gar in August 2017, followed by another campaign at Yachen Gar in July 2019. It also cited the closure of several Tibetan educational institutions, including Ragya Gangjong Sherig Norbu Lobling School in July 2024, Ragya Jigme Gyaltsen Grassland Girls' School in August 2026 and Golog Tadrak Orphan School in September 2026. Describing these actions as "forced assimilation", the CTA said the institutions provided education in Tibetan language and literature, traditional culture, Chinese language and vocational skills, particularly to children from nomadic families.

Disha steps up rescue ops, prepares to air-drop food in flood-hit Ganjam, Gajapati

BHUBANESWAR (AGENCY) The Odisha government on Friday intensified relief and rescue operations and prepared to air-drop food packets in flood-hit Ganjam and Gajapati districts, where thousands of people have been marooned for over 24 hours due to floods triggered by incessant rain during cyclone Arnab, officials said. Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi, who also holds the Water Resources portfolio, expressed concern over the unexpectedly heavy rainfall in Ganjam and Gajapati districts. "As part of the preparedness for cyclone Arnab, the administration was expecting that the calamity could have a major impact in Malkangiri. However, nobody could imagine that such heavy rainfall could occur in Ganjam district and cause severe floods," Majhi said at a meeting here earlier in the day. He said Patrapur block in Ganjam district received 54 cm of rain in 24 hours, while several other places in Ganjam and Gajapati also recorded unusually heavy rainfall, triggering massive floods. Chief Secretary Anu Garg said, "The volume of rain in Ganjam in a span of 24 hours was more than the annual average rainfall in the area." She said the intensity of the flood current was so high that NDRF and ODRF personnel could not move into several affected areas.

Woman who secretly returned from UK without informing family found dead in Pune

PUNE (AGENCY) A 34-year-old woman, whose family believed she was studying in London, was found dead in a rented apartment in Pune, days after food delivery transactions alerted her parents to her presence in India, police said on Friday. Mugdha Deshmukh, who had left for the UK in July 2025 to pursue an MBA and had secretly returned to India in August, was found dead without any visible injury marks on her body at a residential complex in the Gahunje area of Pimpri Chinchwad on Thursday, an official said. According to the police, Mugdha, a native of Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, lived alone in London and had taken up part-time jobs. Mugdha's family had been in touch with her over phone calls and messages. However, on October 24, they were unable to reach her, after which her mobile phone was switched off, her father Avinash Deshmukh stated in a complaint lodged with the Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar police earlier this week. The official said that the family then contacted her friend in London, who informed them that she had last communicated with Mugdha through messages on October 22. The friend subsequently approached the London police to report her missing, but was informed that Mugdha had left the UK around the end of August, he said. Concerned about her whereabouts, her family approached the Indian authorities and the Indian High Commission for assistance. Mugdha's father also examined her bank statements and noticed several transactions between October 8 and 25 on food delivery and online service platforms, police said.

Himachal Education Minister takes up strategic road issues, reviews residential school in Udaipur

MANDI (AGENCY)

Education Minister Rohit Thakur on Thursday took up issues concerning the strategically important Sansari-Killar-Thiro-Tandi (SKTT) road with Border Roads Organisation (BRO) officials and reviewed educational facilities at the Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS) in Udaipur during his visit to Lahaul and Spiti district.

Lahaul-Spiti MLA Anuradha Rana accompanied the minister during the visit. In Udaipur, Thakur interacted with residents and listened to their grievances and concerns. At the Public Works Department Rest House, teachers raised issues related to the education sector. The minister heard their concerns and



assured them that the matters would be addressed at the earliest. During his inspection of the Eklavya Model Residential School, Thakur reviewed student facilities, academic arrangements and the overall learning environment. He interacted with students to enquire about their studies, academic activities and the facilities available at the

Goa Attracts 10,000 Crore Investment Proposals, 10,000 Jobs Expected

CM Pramod Sawant releases 'Invest in Goa' handbook and fourth edition of 'Make in India' at Vibrant Goa Global Business Summit 2026



PANAJI : OPEN SEARCH

Investment proposals worth approximately 10,000 crore, with the potential to generate around 10,000 jobs for Goans, were presented on the opening day of the Vibrant Goa Global Business Summit 2026 on Thursday. The proposals cover data centres and artificial intelligence (AI), an integrated international sports city, and an underground liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) storage facility.

Chief Minister Dr. Pramod Sawant inaugurated the three-day summit at the Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium in Bambolim, Goa. The event, organised by the Vibrant Goa Foundation in collaboration with the Government of Goa and curated by SARC, will continue until October 31.

Rajya Sabha MP Sadanand Shet Tanavade, former Union Minister Suresh Prabhu, industrialist Srinivas Dempo and diplomats from several countries attended the inaugural

event. The summit has brought together delegates from more than 50 countries, over 300 international buyers and more than 200 Goan micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). During the 'Invest in Goa' session, the Chief Minister released the Invest in Goa: Handbook for Investors and Startups 2026, a 72-page publication authored and compiled by Sunil Kumar Gupta, Founder and Chairman of SARC, and Chanchal Soni. The handbook provides information on Goa's investment policies, approval procedures, land availability, incentives and sector-specific opportunities, drawing on official sources.

Dr. Sawant also released the fourth edition of Gupta's book Make in India. The revised edition includes a chapter titled 'Why India', comparing India's investment opportunities with those of China, Vietnam, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Mexico and Thailand. It also provides guidance on establishing businesses and manufacturing facilities in

Rajya Sabha MP Sadanand Shet Tanavade, former Union Minister Suresh Prabhu, industrialist Srinivas Dempo and diplomats from several countries attended the inaugural event. The summit has brought together delegates from more than 50 countries

India. Three investors presented proposals aimed at strengthening Goa's digital infrastructure, sports ecosystem and energy security. Under the digital infrastructure proposal, Akshay Nagar outlined plans for pre-enabled data centre parks and a broader digital ecosystem, beginning with three data centres of 5 MW capacity each. SARC will serve as the implementation partner. Rivar Ventures, promoted by Anil Kumar and Dr. Shan Rajegopal, proposed the Goa International Sports & Performance City. The integrated project aims to bring together education, elite sports, motorsport, human performance, wellness and innovation.

The third proposal, submitted by ANVI Global under Ashutosh Verma, envisages Goa's first LPG



import and underground storage facility to strengthen the state's energy security. SARC will facilitate the sports city and LPG projects. The proposals are currently under discussion with the Goa government. A panel on developing Goa as an AI-enabled state also brought together specialists in data management, AI products, cybersecurity and data centres from The Modern Data Company, ColorTokens and Megha-Tantra Advisors. Discussions focused on translating the state's new AI Policy into employment and investment opportunities. The policy aims to train 50,000 Goans in AI by 2030.

Focus on Investment Facilitation and Implementation

Addressing the session, Sunil Kumar Gupta said Goa offered investors several advantages, including a sta-

ble government, a single-window clearance system with defined timelines, two international airports, a major port and a quality of life that could help businesses attract and retain talent.

He said the new investor handbook would make it easier for entrepreneurs and companies to understand the state's policies, approvals and incentives without having to approach departments individually. Referring to the revised edition of Make in India, Gupta said international investors increasingly wanted to understand why India was an attractive investment destination and how it compared with competing economies.

Emphasising the need to translate investment proposals into actual projects, Gupta said SARC would submit a note outlining the proposals and suggested next steps to the Chief Minister's Office and the Goa Investment Promotion and Facilitation Board within seven days. The organisation would also follow up on the proposals to monitor

progress. The first day also featured a 'Youth for Growth' panel discussion on opportunities for young Goans to build careers, develop entrepreneurial ventures and contribute to the state's economic growth. The summit will continue on October 30 with sessions on solar energy under 'Solar Rising' and the maritime sector under 'Maritime Horizons: Shipping, Ports & Dredging'. An 'AI & Data Roundtable' focusing on data management, artificial intelligence and regulatory readiness is scheduled for October 31.

More than 1,000 curated business meetings are planned during the three-day summit between international buyers and Goan MSMEs, with the aim of strengthening business partnerships and opening new avenues for investment. The ₹10,000-crore investment proposals presented on the opening day have placed digital infrastructure, sports development and energy security at the centre of Goa's efforts to attract investment and generate employment.

A grand monument of tribal self-respect came into being under the leadership of CM Sai

RAIPUR, OPEN SEARCH

The sacred land of Chhattisgarh has been witness to sacrifice, austerity, struggle, and self-respect for centuries. Its dense forests, mountains, and woodlands have borne countless tales of independence, shaking the foundations of British rule. The indomitable courage and supreme sacrifice of these tribal heroes, who never received their due place in the pages of history, have now found a new identity. Built in Nava Raipur Atal Nagar under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Vishnu Dev Sai and the guidance of Tribal Welfare Minister Ramvihar Netam, the "Martyr Veer Narayan Singh Memorial cum Tribal Freedom Fighter Museum" has emerged as a unique confluence of tribal valor, self-respect, and modern digital technology. This magnificent museum is not only a center for the preservation of historical heritage,



but also a living symbol of the nation's gratitude to those immortal martyrs who sacrificed everything for the motherland's independence and the protection of its water, forests, and land.

On November 1, 2025, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi dedicated this magnificent museum to the nation on the historic occasion of the silver jubilee of the establishment of Chhattisgarh state. This occasion was not merely the inauguration of a museum, but a meaningful expression of the resolve to give national recognition to the glorious history of tribal

society. Built at a cost of approximately ₹50 to ₹55 crore, this state-of-the-art museum is one of the country's unique projects presenting the history of the tribal freedom struggle through digital technology.

Under the leadership of Chief Minister Shri Vishnu Dev Sai, the Chhattisgarh government has taken significant initiatives to preserve the cultural heritage, traditions, and historical contributions of tribal communities. This museum embodies that vision, which, along with development, embodies the resolve to preserve our roots, culture, and the sacrifices of

Special article on Rajyotsav : The valorous tales of tribal immortal martyrs brought to life through modern technology

our ancestors. The creation of this historic heritage, especially under the leadership of Chief Minister Shri Sai, who comes from a tribal background, elevates the pride and self-respect of the state's tribal communities to new heights.

The courage and self-respect displayed by Veer Narayan Singh, the immortal martyr of Sonakhani, during India's first war of independence in 1857, remains alive in the collective consciousness of Chhattisgarh. His struggle against the injustice and exploitation of British rule was not merely a rebellion, but a unique example of human values, social justice, and devotion to the motherland.

J&K Deputy CM Surinder Choudhary hits back at BJP over criticism of Cabinet reshuffle

JAMMU (AGENCY)

Launching an attack on the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Thursday said the saffron party had mocked former minister Satish Sharma and him in the past by branding them "traitors of Jammu", and questioned its criticism of the National Conference (NC) over Sharma's removal from the Council of Ministers. He was reacting to the BJP's charge that the NC had ignored Hindu leaders from Jammu during the recent cabinet expansion. Speaking to mediapersons in Jammu, Choudhary said the BJP had consistently tried to politically damage both him and Sharma and had even branded them "Jaichands", or traitors of Jammu. Satish Sharma, an Independent MLA from the Chhamb constituency, was dropped from the Council of Ministers during the recent cabinet expansion. Choudhary said: "I feel sad



that Satish Sharma is no longer part of our cabinet. He was my colleague in the government until yesterday. But I am surprised to see the BJP shedding crocodile tears over his removal when the same party used to call Satish Sharma 'Satish Abdullah' and me 'Surinder Abdullah'." "If the BJP had such objections to us, why is it expressing concern now over Satish Sharma's removal? The BJP in Jammu tried to get both Satish Sharma and Surinder Choudhary dropped," he alleged.

He said the NC had appointed him, a Hindu, as the Deputy Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, the second-highest position in the government.

Car Showroom Owner Dies As Fortuner Rams Railing, Falls Into River In Bihar

PATNA (AGENCY)

A car showroom owner died after he rammed a Fortuner car into a railing and fell into a river in Bihar's Purnea last evening. The white SUV was taken out of the river by a crane as people watched from the flyover. The victim has been identified as Bablu Biswas, a resident of Kochaili. He was the owner of a Renault showroom.

In the videos that have emerged, the car can be seen being taken out from a crane and many bystanders helping in the process. People guided the person handling the crane and also tried to adjust the vehicle to have it out of the water faster. The car was severely damaged from the top and front, hinting at the kind of impact it had when it fell into the river. Bablu's body



was taken out after the crane recovered the four-wheeler from the river. The victim's body has now been sent to Purnea Medical College Hospital for a post-mortem examination. The Purnea accident comes against the backdrop of an ongoing probe into the Kerala Mercedes crash where a judge's 17-year-old son hit and killed a scooterist at Cheranalloor in Kochi. The case led to protests by the victim's family in the area. The teenager was detained and booked under

Section 105 of the BNS (culpable homicide not amounting to murder). He was produced before the Juvenile Justice Board, which granted him bail. His father, Additional District and Sessions Judge, who serves in a court in Irinjalakuda in Thrissur district of Kerala, was arraigned under Section 199A of the Motor Vehicles Act, which holds a juvenile's guardian or the registered owner of the vehicle liable for an offence committed by the minor under the Act, police said.

McCullum backs England to learn from Pakistan tri-series campaign

LAHORE (AGENCY)

Although England failed to secure a place in the tri-series final in Pakistan, head coach Brendon McCullum believes the campaign will serve as a valuable learning experience as the side continues its preparations for next year's ICC Men's Cricket World Cup. McCullum praised the team's resilience after England signed off with a hard-fought victory over Sri Lanka in Lahore, bringing an end to their three-match losing streak. He believes the experience gained during the tournament will help the relatively inexperienced side strengthen its preparations for future challenges. "We'll sit back and assess what we got



right, and what we didn't quite get right, and how we can keep getting better," McCullum told Sky Sports. "We want to be a team that can challenge seriously for that World Cup in 12 months' time, and we know we need to get better, but we will, and I'm sure we'll learn from these lessons," he added. England appeared to

be heading towards a fourth consecutive defeat after Sri Lanka reached 300/5 in 40 overs while chasing a massive target of 387. Pavan Rathnayake, who had played a pivotal role in Sri Lanka's record-breaking chase of 430 in Rawalpindi, was once again leading the charge with another century against England.

We want to be a team that can challenge seriously for that World Cup in 12 months' time, and we know we need to get better, but we will, and I'm sure we'll learn from these lessons

However, England managed to find crucial breakthroughs in the final 10 overs, something they had struggled to do in their previous defeats. Liam Dawson spearheaded the bowling effort with an impressive 4/49, while Sam Curran and Henry Crocombe also chipped in with crucial wickets to help England seal

a 55-run victory. Reflecting on the performance, McCullum said he was pleased with the way his players responded after being put under pressure once again.

England also had several individual performances to take encouragement from during the campaign. Harry Brook registered a career-best 202 against Sri Lanka, while Ben Duckett struck back-to-back centuries in the final two matches. Tom Banton also made valuable contributions at the top of the order, registering three half-centuries in the tournament. Liam Dawson was another standout performer after being preferred over senior spinner Adil Rashid for England's final three matches.

Rohit, Kohli hit nets ahead of ODI series against New Zealand

AUCKLAND (AGENCY)

Team India stalwarts Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli have hit the ground running for the upcoming five-match ODI series against New Zealand, as the duo gear up for the crucial assignment ahead of next year's ODI World Cup.

In a video shared by the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on social media, both batters were seen practising in the nets ahead of the series, which is scheduled to begin on November 4 at Eden Park in Auckland. Kohli and Rohit remain key figures in India's ODI setup as they continue their preparations for the 2027 World Cup. Kohli, the second-highest run-scorer in ODI history, has accumulated 15,109 runs, including 55 centuries, while Rohit has scored 12,120 runs in the



format, with 35 hundreds to his name. During the recent ODI series against West Indies, Kohli scored 168 runs in three innings.

His performance included a 139 not out off 88 balls in the first match while chasing a target of 296. Meanwhile, Rohit, despite all the chatter around his place and fitness ahead of the 2027 World Cup, continues to go strong.

He is India's third-highest run-scorer in ODIs. He

has maintained a rich run of form in ODIs this year, with 604 runs across 12 innings at an average of 50.33 and a strike rate of 104.67, including two centuries and two fifties and a best score of 138. During the ODIs against West Indies, he was India's second-highest run-scorer, with 225 runs in three innings at an average of 75.00 and a strike rate of over 115, including a century and a fifty and a best score of 101.

Briefs News

Arshdeep Singh becomes first Indian bowler to take 150 T20I wickets

AUCKLAND (AGENCY) India pacer Arshdeep Singh scripted history on Friday by becoming the first Indian bowler to reach the milestone of 150 wickets in T20Is. Arshdeep achieved the feat by dismissing New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner in the penultimate over of the fourth T20I between India and New Zealand at Eden Park in Auckland. The left-arm pacer has now taken 150 wickets in 103 matches and 99 innings at an average of 20.62 and an economy rate of 8.65, with best bowling figures of 5/51. With this achievement, Arshdeep climbed to ninth place among the leading wicket-takers in T20I cricket. He is also only the third fast bowler to claim at least 150 wickets in the format, joining New Zealand's Tim Southee and Bangladesh's Mustafizur Rahman in a list largely dominated by spinners. Afghanistan's Rashid Khan leads the standings with 200 wickets, making him the only bowler to have reached the 200-wicket mark in T20Is. The Indian pacer has also set a new benchmark for most T20I wickets by a bowler representing a Full Member nation in a calendar year. With 40 wickets in 2026, he surpassed Ireland's Josh Little, who claimed 39 wickets in 2022. Sri Lanka's Wanindu Hasaranga (38 in 2024) and India's Bhuvneshwar Kumar (37 in 2022) complete the top four. Arshdeep has also become the third-fastest bowler to reach 150 T20I wickets in terms of deliveries bowled, having taken 2,143 balls to achieve the milestone. Only Wanindu Hasaranga (2,035 balls) and Rashid Khan (2,098 balls) reached the mark quicker.

UAE cricketers get a front-row seat with biggest names at Abu Dhabi T10

ABU DHABI (AGENCY) UAE cricketers will learn from some of the biggest names in the game at the 2026 Abu Dhabi T10, which runs from 7 to 20 November. Muhammad Waseem will share a dressing room with Nicholas Pooran. Alishan Sharafu will play under Moeen Ali. And Muhammad Rohid will bowl with Kieron Pollard setting his field, while Dwayne Bravo, one of T20 cricket's most successful bowlers, works with him as UAE Bulls' bowling coach and mentor, as per a press release. Several UAE players were picked across the six franchises at the draft on 30 September, and the rules guarantee them time in the middle. Every playing XI must include at least two UAE players. Royal Desert Champions have Waseem, Aayan Afzal Khan and Dhruv Parashar. Sharafu and Vriitya Aravind are at Arabian Aces, and Rohid and Wali Muhammad are at UAE Bulls. Emirates Eagles picked Haider Razzaq, Luqman Faisal and Harshit Kaushik; United Tigers chose Awaish Ali Shah and Adithya Shetty; and Yas Lions have Ansh Tandon and Haider Ali. Several of them have already established their impact at this level. Waseem, the UAE stalwart, scored 176 runs at a strike rate of 196 for Quetta Qavalry last season, with a best of 50 not out. Back in 2021, he made 56 not out off 13 balls for Northern Warriors, a half-century that equalled the T10 record for the fastest fifty at the time. He also holds a record US\$210,000 contract in the DP World ILT20.

'Complacency hurt me': Sikandar Raza slams Zimbabwe players after T20I series defeat to Afghanistan

SHARJAH (AGENCY) Zimbabwe captain Sikandar Raza expressed disappointment over what he described as "complacency" among some of his teammates after his side suffered a 19-run defeat against Afghanistan in Sharjah, conceding the T20I series on Thursday. Despite his unbeaten 106 off 56 balls, Raza could not prevent Afghanistan from securing victory, with Azmatullah Omarzai's 116 off 50 deliveries proving decisive. Raza said the biggest disappointment was the lack of belief among some players after Afghanistan were reduced to 5/4, stressing that the team must remain mentally strong and continue fighting until the final ball. He added that he would address the issue with the players in the dressing room. "For me, before I go too much in detail [about the match] - and I will address that in the changing room - the toughest part to swallow was the complacency that I saw from some of the boys," Raza said as per Cricinfo. "[At 5 for 4] some of the boys were probably calculating that it will be - 130, 140 max - at the end of 20 hours. Some of the things that I saw on the ground today certainly hurt me, and I'll address that in the changing room because, listen, it can happen, but I think that's where you have to be mentally very strong and say, 'no, the game is never over until it's over - we still have a job in hand.

WFI must decide show-cause notices to Vinesh Phogat within fortnight : Delhi HC

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)

The Delhi High Court has given the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) two weeks to decide the show-cause notices issued to wrestler Vinesh Phogat, taking note of her concerns that the pending disciplinary proceedings could disrupt her preparations for upcoming competitions. Justice Amit Mahajan said keeping a sportsperson under uncertainty over disciplinary action could have an impact on their mental state and readiness for sporting events. The Court



emphasised that athletes need to be mentally relaxed and physically prepared to deliver their best performance. The directions came on a petition filed by Phogat questioning two show-cause notices issued by the WFI on May 9 and June 17.

WCL Season 3 : A success story amid the India-Pakistan controversy

SHARJAH (AGENCY)

From Yuvraj Singh's explosive batting to AB de Villiers' remarkable century and West Indies Champions lifting the trophy, the third edition of the World Championship of Legends (WCL) offered fans plenty of nostalgia. However, behind the action was a tournament that had to navigate significant uncertainty, particularly over Pakistan Champions' participation and changes to its original hosting arrangements. On October 2, 2026, during a high-profile press conference attended by Bollywood actor and BNW

Developments co-founder Vivek Oberoi, BNW founder Ankur Aggarwal, Indian cricket legend Harbhajan Singh representing India Champions, and former Australian cricketer Usman Khawaja representing Australia Champions, one man found himself at the centre of a controversy that threatened to overshadow an entire cricket tournament, according to a press release.

Addressing questions surrounding Pakistan Champions' participation in the third edition of the tournament, Tomar expressed optimism that discussions



with the relevant authorities, including the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB), would lead to a positive resolution. The message was simple: cricket should bring people

together, and fans deserved another opportunity to witness their childhood heroes competing on the same stage. "We are talking to the right authorities, including

important chapter in its expansion, with Dubai and Sharjah initially selected to host matches featuring some of cricket's most recognisable former international stars. However, the biggest question surrounding the tournament was not about the players, venues, or championship favourites. It was whether Pakistan Champions would participate. Throughout the build-up, WCL management continued promoting Pakistan Champions alongside the other participating nations, reflecting its confidence that the necessary permissions would eventually be secured.

'Josh Inglis says Australia 'controlled the tempo really well' as Lyon's late strike puts South Africa under pressure



CAPE TOWN (AGENCY)

Nathan Lyon struck a crucial late blow by dismissing South Africa captain Temba Bavuma as Australia strengthened their position on Day 3 of the third ICC World Test Championship Test. South Africa ended the day at 140/4 in their second innings, holding a slender 40-run lead, with Matthew Breetzke (19*) and Ryan Rickelton (8*) unbeaten at the crease. With six wickets still in hand, the Proteas will look to post a challenging target for Australia on Day 4. Australia centurion Josh Inglis believes his side remains in the driver's seat, with Lyon's late breakthrough against Bavuma proving a significant moment in the contest.

The dismissal came at a crucial juncture, leaving South Africa with more work to do as they aim to extend their lead and put Australia under pressure.

"Although they were playing well, they weren't really getting away from us. I thought Gaz (Lyon) bowled brilliantly and looked threatening the whole time. When you work for a couple of hours and get the rewards right at the end, it's really satisfying," he added.

South Africa spinner Simon Harmer thinks there is still plenty of cricket left in the series decider and his spin may still have a big say across the final two days of play. "If you look at how the wicket changed from this morning to this evening, it's been quite a dramatic change," Harmer noted. "I think Mitchell Starc does a pretty good job of churning up the wicket (with footmarks). So yeah, I definitely think that spin is probably going to come into it a lot more than it has in the first two-and-a-half days." South Africa had earlier produced an impressive bowling effort on Day 3, restricting

Australia to 429 after the visitors resumed play at 330 with six wickets in hand. Josh Inglis went on to complete a fine century, while Alex Carey made a valuable contribution with 80 runs. For the hosts, Simon Harmer and Marco Jansen shared seven wickets between them. Harmer returned impressive figures of 4/104, while Jansen continued his excellent form in the series with 3/60. The left-arm pacer's performance comes shortly after he climbed to the top of both the ICC Men's Test Bowling Rankings and the Test All-Rounders Rankings.

Trailing by 100 runs after the first innings, South Africa got off to a shaky start in their second outing as Mitchell Starc dismissed Aiden Markram in the third over. Josh Hazlewood soon added to Australia's momentum by removing David Bedingham, leaving the hosts in early trouble. However, South Africa's first-innings top scorer, Marques Ackerman, joined captain Temba Bavuma to steady the innings. The duo put together a crucial 64-run partnership for the third wicket, with Ackerman registering his second half-century of the Test. Starc eventually broke the stand by dismissing Ackerman, bringing Australia back into the contest. Lyon then delivered another significant blow in the penultimate over of the day.



GYANLUXMI PRODUCTION

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



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

Sharvari shares fan moment with Madhuri Dixit, dances to ‘Yeh Prem Mol Liya’ title track



Actress Sharvari recently shared a fan moment with Madhuri Dixit as the two came together to dance to the title track of Yeh Prem Mol Liya. Sharing a video on Instagram, Sharvari penned a note for Madhuri, calling the opportunity to dance with her idol an unforgettable experience. She wrote, “So honoured to receive this much prem from one of the OG Rajshri heroines of Sooraj Barjatya sir.. the one and only Madhuri Dixit ma’am. Getting to dance alongside my idol feels surreal and soooo special Thankyou ma’am, you are the best! Hum Aapke Hain Kaun #YehPremMolLiya in theatres 27th Nov 2026.” The dance brings together two generations of Rajshri heroines. Madhuri was part of the production house’s Hum Aapke Hain Koun!.. Sharvari is now set to carry that legacy forward as the female lead in Sooraj Barjatya’s upcoming directorial, Yeh Prem Mol Liya. Backed by Rajshri Productions in association with Mahaveer Jain Films, Yeh Prem Mol Liya also stars Ayushmann Khurrana. The film marks Barjatya’s return to the director’s chair after his National Award-winning film Uunchai. The filmmaker, known for his family-centric storytelling, also brings back one of Rajshri Productions’ most iconic characters Prem. Announced in April, the film also marks Barjatya’s reunion with composer Himesh Reshammiya following their collaboration on Prem Ratan Dhan Payo. The romantic drama is scheduled to release in theatres on November 27. (AGENCY)

When cinema becomes a classroom : Syed Sultan Ahmed’s vision for learning beyond textbooks

From November 14 to 30, schools across India will double as cinema halls for the 10th School Cinema International Film Festival. Its director, Syed Sultan Ahmed, has an unusual CV: a degree in chemical engineering, and a career in teaching public speaking and debate in schools. His years in schools shaped his thinking. “I started teaching in schools as a public speaking and debate teacher and realised that that is a skill which is far more important than math and science.” He also learnt how children learn. “Very early in my career, I learned that you cannot teach children. So, you need to create experi-



ences in an environment where children learn.” For Ahmed, making a film is one of the most rewarding experiences.

“I make films because that’s one of the finest experiences that we can get because we all love it.” School Cinema, which organisers say marks 15 years this season, grew from that idea. They put its

reach at 905 schools across 350 cities and 28 states. He argues the real hurdle is how people see education. “We all believe education has to be boring and it has to be difficult.” Cinema, he points out, already shapes the country. “In India, we don’t have a fashion industry. We have Bollywood. We don’t have a music industry. We have film industry. The screening is only the start. The films run 15 to 20 minutes, followed by discussion, workbook activities and projects. He compares that with his own school days. “When I was growing up, I studied an English chapter, a story and then I answered questions. (AGENCY)

Shilpa Rao shares video of interrupted Bollywood Music Project performance with a message for fans

Days after her microphone was turned off mid-performance at the Bollywood Music Project (BMP), Shilpa Rao has shared a glimpse of the set that was cut short, along with a special note for her fans. On Wednesday, Shilpa posted an Instagram video from her Bollywood Music Project set, showing her in a short, shimmery white dress singing Khuda Jaane from the 2008 film Bachna Ae Haseeno while the crowd sang along. Shilpa wrote in the caption, “I sing for you with all my heart...and that’s all that matters.” Shilpa Rao, among the artists performing alongside Anu Malik and Himesh Reshammiya at the 10th anniversary edition of the Bollywood Music Project, faced persistent technical glitches from the start, enduring a second microphone failure after waiting out



the first. While singing Chuttamalle from Devara: Part 1, Shilpa’s microphone was cut for the first time, leaving her visibly surprised, and things grew even more awkward when Kutle Khan and his band started their set on the opposite side of the stage while she was still up there. When she stepped back up to thank the audience for their patience, her mic was killed a second time right before Kutle Khan’s set began, leaving her unable to properly wrap up. Shilpa later took to Instagram to share a message, which read, “Mumbai, a little piece of my heart broke tonight. It hurts deeply to have something so beautiful taken away from us like this. But even when the music stopped, you did not. The way you kept calling my name, the love in your voices. (AGENCY)

Karuna Pandey on the upcoming track of Sony SAB’s Pushpa Impossible

Sony SAB’s Pushpa Impossible continues to explore the complexities of relationships and the choices that shape them. As Tiger (Mukul Harish) grows closer to Pushpa (Karuna Pandey) and Shanaya (Muskan Bamne), Chirag (Nitin Babu) finds himself struggling with jealousy, especially as Tiger also receives appreciation for his bravery after saving a young girl. Unable to deal with the growing attention Tiger receives, Chirag plants firecrackers inside the Ravan effigy during Ravan Dahan, intending to harm him. However, he removes them at the last moment. Despite this, an explosion still takes place, and suspicion falls on Chirag, leaving him to face the consequences of his actions. As the situation unfolds, Pushpa tries to make Chirag understand that his choices are leading him down the wrong path. She urges him to look beyond his jealousy and recognise how his negative actions are beginning



to overpower the goodness within him. For Pushpa, it is not just about pointing out his mistakes but also helping him understand that he still has the chance to make things right.

Talking about the upcoming track Karuna Pandey shared, “I see it as Pushpa’s responsibility to step in when she feels someone is taking the wrong path. Pushpa knows that this is not the person Chirag is meant to become and she does not want him

to lose the goodness within him because of his insecurities or jealousy. I believe that sometimes people make choices out of fear or frustration without realising how much they are hurting themselves and others. In such situations, it is important to help them see things differently rather than simply judge them for their mistakes. Pushpa wants Chirag to recognise his actions and understand that he still has the chance to make things right. OPEN SEARCH

‘National Award-worthy performance’: Shraddha Kapoor’s ‘Eetha’ trailer wins praise from fans

Actress Shraddha Kapoor has caught fans’ attention with her portrayal of Marathi Lavani dancer Vithabai Narayangaonkar in the trailer of her upcoming film Eetha. Dropped by the makers on Friday, the three-minute-02-second-long video introduces Shraddha Kapoor as Vithabai, a popular Lavani performer, who wins over audiences with her energetic dance performances. Alongside glimpses of her life on stage, the video touches on the personal struggles and heartbreak she goes through. It shows Vithabai finding the

Alongside glimpses of her life on stage, the video touches on the personal struggles and heartbreak she goes through

strength to carry on despite the setbacks, holding on to her love for performing and her pride in Maharashtrian traditions. Randeep Hooda and Mohammed Zeeshan Ayyub make brief appearances in the trailer.

Reacting to the trailer, an X user called it “absolutely brilliant” and expressed excitement about the film. Praising Shraddha Kapoor’s

transformation for Eetha, an X user lauded her versatility and described her performance in the trailer as “phenomenal”. Another X user praised Shraddha’s accent and intensity in the trailer, calling her portrayal of Vithabai Narayangaonkar a “National Award Worthy Performance”. “Shraddha Kapoor is ready to silence the doubters. The Eetha trailer is finally here, and it is absolute emotional perfection. Get ready for the blockbuster performance she was born to deliver,” said another X user. (AGENCY)



Beyond the captain and the professor : Five Patrick Stewart roles that showcased his range

Patrick Stewart, renowned for his roles as Captain Jean-Luc Picard in the Star Trek: The Next Generation series and Professor Charles Xavier in the X-Men franchise, has died at the age of 86. Apart from these titles, he has enjoyed a remarkable career spanning six decades, transitioning effortlessly between classical theatre, science fiction, and historical drama. Here are five diverse film roles that showcase his extraordinary range and commanding screen presence across various cinematic genres. Patrick Stewart plays Leodegrance in the film, a noble king and the devoted father of Queen Guenevere. In this medieval fantasy epic directed by John Boorman, he bestows the legendary sword Excalibur upon King Arthur and warmly welcomes the young monarch into the



royal family, cementing his loyalty to the crown. In the first adaptation of Dune, Stewart portrays Gurney Halleck, the fiercely loyal, scarred warrior and master-at-arms of House Atreides. In this David Lynch directorial, he serves as a trusted mentor, military instructor, and protective father figure to the young Paul Atreides, famously wielding both a weapon and a baliset on the harsh desert planet of Arrakis. In this historical biographical drama, Stewart plays Henry Grey, the ambitious and self-serving Duke of Suffolk. (AGENCY)

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