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DELHI EDITION

PM unveils Pune Metro Pink Line, clears Rs 13,500-cr expansion plan

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for Pune Metro projects worth around ?21,800 crore today through video conferencing. Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the Prime Minister extended warm Diwali greetings to the people of Pune and Maharashtra and remarked that festive joy multiplies when new public conveniences are added to daily life. Recalling how he laid the foundation stone for the first phase of the Pune Metro ten years ago, he noted that the inauguration of the Hinjawadi to Shivajinagar corridor will provide superior connectivity to a major IT hub while the new line initiated today will further link the old and new parts of the city.

Describing Pune as a historic center of ideas that has consistently guided the nation and society, the Prime Minister stated that the city is now channeling the fresh energy of a Viksit Bharat across IT, automobiles, pharmaceuticals, startups, innovation, and manufacturing as a hub of youth aspirations. "And in such a scenario, the strengthening metro connectivity here is going to give new momentum to the development of Pune city," noted PM Modi.



English rendering of PM's address at the Foundation Stone Laying Ceremony of Pune Metro Projects via video conferencing

Governor of Maharashtra Shri Jishnu Dev Varma ji, Chief Minister Shri Devendra Fadnavis ji, my colleague in the Union Cabinet Shri Manohar Lal ji, Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Shri Eknath Shinde ji, Smt. Sunetra Ajit Pawar ji, all ministers, Members of Parliament and Members of the Legislative Assembly, other public representatives, and my dear brothers and sisters of Pune! Diwali is just around the corner. First of all, I extend my heartfelt greetings to all of you on the occasion of Diwali! The joy of festivals becomes even greater when a new facility is added to people's lives. Today is such a happy occasion for the people of Pune. I am pleased that another line of the Pune Metro is being inaugurated today. Ten years ago, I had the opportunity to lay the foundation stone for the first phase of this project in Pune. With the metro now starting.

Explaining that the expansion of the Pune Metro reflects how modern cities are being shaped for a Viksit Bharat, the Prime Minister observed that beyond traditional markers like industries, cuisine, or local produce, urban centers are now judged by their competitiveness and Ease of Living, both of which are enhanced by metro networks that save commuting time and offer greater convenience. He pointed out that saving a city's time boosts urban productivity, which in turn accelerates the national economy. "And when the economy grows, both the poor and the middle class benefit from it," asserted Shri Modi.

Citing the occasion as a prime example of pro-people and proactive governance, the Prime Minister highlighted that over the past 12 years, India's metro network has expanded to nearly 1,200 kilometers across 26 cities serving over one crore daily commuters. "Today the Indian metro network is counted among the top three metro networks in the world," noted PM Modi. Observing that Maharashtra mirrored the national transformation since 2014 when only 10 to 11 kilometers of metro lines were operational in the state, the Prime Minister pointed out that nearly 175 kilometers are now in service while construction is underway on over 680 kilometers with an investment exceeding 2.5 lakh crore rupees. "This money is going into the pockets of laborers, this money is giving employment to engineers, and this money is creating employment in shops and in factories," observed Shri Modi.

Highlighting another distinctive aspect of the newly inaugurated corridor, the Prime Minister noted that the metro line has been constructed under the Public-Private Partnership model through the combined efforts of the government and the private sector.

Indian sailor killed in attack on vessel off Oman;

23 Indians so far dead in West Asia conflict

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)

One Indian sailor was killed and 13 others rescued after a commercial vessel carrying 14 Indian nationals came under attack off the coast of Oman, taking the number of Indians killed in the West Asia conflict to 23, including 15 seafarers. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said the Indian-flagged vessel, MSV Al Jusufi, was attacked near Limah, Oman, on Monday evening. The Indian Embassy in Muscat is coordinating with Omani authorities for the repatriation of the 13 rescued crew members and the mortal remains of the deceased sailor. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the government is working to bring the survivors back to India and is also coordinating the return of the deceased sailor's remains.

"We are in the process of ensuring that the 13 Indian nationals who are there are repatriated back to India. he said. Jaiswal thanked the Omani authorities for their swift response in rescuing the 13 Indian crew members after the vessel came under attack. With the latest fatality, the number of Indian nationals killed in the West Asia conflict, which began on February 28, has risen to 23, of whom 15 were seafarers, the spokesperson said. The previous official toll was 22, including 14 Indian seafarers. Separately, five Indian nationals have been killed in attacks on commercial shipping in the Black Sea region, while two others remain missing, Jaiswal said. In a statement, the MEA condemned the attack on the commercial vessel and expressed condolences over the loss of life. "We condemn the attack on a commercial vessel MSV Al Jusufi, near Limah, Oman, yesterday evening. Of the 14 Indian nationals on board, 13 have been rescued while one Indian national tragically lost his life after sustaining injuries," the statement said. The government said the Indian Embassy in Oman is closely monitoring the situation and coordinating with the Omani authorities for the early repatriation of the rescued crew members and the mortal remains of the deceased. Flagging the continuing attacks on commercial shipping in the region, India called for an immediate de-escalation of tensions and the conclusion of ongoing negotiations to secure a diplomatic solution.

"The targeting of commercial shipping and civilian infrastructure in the region must end.



The Ministry of External Affairs says the Indian-flagged vessel, MSV Al Jusufi, was attacked near Limah, Oman, on Monday evening

SC points to report on unrestricted sale of crackers, asks Centre to take action

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)

The Supreme Court on Tuesday pointed to a newspaper report on the sale of different kinds of firecrackers in Delhi markets despite restrictions imposed by it and asked the Centre to ensure compliance of its order. "In today's report on Hindustan Times there's a photograph... they say that notwithstanding yesterday's order, now everything is available in the shops. Please look into it," a Bench of Justices MM Sundresh and PB Varale asked Additional Solicitor General Aishwarya Bhati.

"They say that in the market every other cracker, licensed, unlicensed, QR code, or no QR code, everything is available. Please take a note of it," Justice Sundresh added. The top court has allowed the bursting of green firecrackers in Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) from 6 to 7 am and from 8 to 10 pm on November 7 and 8 (Diwali). "Though imposition of a blanket ban seems to be the ideal solution, we are of the opinion that this court, at this point in time, is short of adequate data to decide whether or not a complete ban would be the best solution to solve the problem of environmental pollution, caused by bursting firecrackers," the Bench said in its October 29 order which was made available on Monday. The top court has rued the non-implementation of its earlier directions and measures undertaken by authorities to curb the bursting of firecrackers in the Delhi-NCR region. Observing that bursting firecrackers would certainly cause pollution, it said the right of an individual to engage in a particular practice, which may have a religious colour, is only a qualified one and cannot go beyond the constitutional restrictions.



"They say that in the market every other cracker, licensed, unlicensed, QR code, or no QR code, everything is available.

The Bench referred to an October 15, 2025 order which had permitted the sale and bursting of green firecrackers in Delhi-NCR during Diwali with conditions. aimed at balancing traditions with environmental and health concerns. It made clear that the complete ban on firecrackers, as imposed earlier, shall be restored with effect from November 9.

Anurag hits back at Rahul Gandhi over 'vote chori' charge, cites Nehru-era roll revisions

CHANDIGARH: (AGENCY) Senior BJP leader and former Union minister Anurag Thakur on Tuesday challenged Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and other opposition parties over allegations of "vote chori" during a press conference at the BJP Chandigarh Pradesh headquarters, Kamalam, in Sector 33. BJP Chandigarh Pradesh President Jatinder Pal Malhotra was also present on the occasion. Taking a sharp swipe at Rahul Gandhi, Thakur alleged that the Congress lacked a coherent vision and was spreading confusion beyond its party ranks, including among India's youth. Young citizens, he said, deserved reliable information, constitutional literacy and serious policy debate rather than politically charged narratives that could damage trust in democratic processes. India's younger generation should be equipped to distinguish documented irregularities from political assertions, he said, rather than be drawn into an atmosphere of perpetual suspicion. Thakur recalled that intensive electoral-roll revisions were undertaken during 1952-56, when Pt Jawaharlal Nehru was Prime Minister, and pointed to repeated revision exercises since then.

Rajnath assures Defence Ministry's consultative panel of tech-empowered military

NEW DELHI. (AGENCY)

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday assured the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Defence that the government was committed to building a technologically empowered military equipped to meet present-day and emerging challenges. The Consultative Committee has MPs from both Houses of Parliament as its members, but it is not a "Parliamentary Standing Committee". It is not answerable to Parliament, nor does it present a report in the House. The Minister told the meeting that "technological advancements are integral to the changing character of conflicts". He also outlined the target of achieving defence production worth Rs 3 lakh crore and defence exports worth Rs 50,000 crore by 2029. The theme of the meeting was 'Modernisation of Indian Defence Forces', and it was hosted in Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, on Tuesday. Capability development and force modernisation: Accelerating the induction of next-generation platforms, weapon systems and technologies to enhance combat effectiveness and operational preparedness. Jointness and integration: Strengthening tri-service integration, joint operational planning and the synergised application of capabilities across multiple domains. Indigenous defence manufacturing: Giving further impetus to Make-in-India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat through indigenous research, design, development and manufacturing, with greater participation from domestic industry, start-ups and academia. Emerging and disruptive technologies: Harne ssing artificial intelligence, autono mous systems, unmanned platforms, cyber, space, electronic warfare and advanced communications.



Govt engaging Uzbekistan as Indian MBBS admissions fall sharply

MEA stresses NMC norms, flags exploitation by agents

NEW DELHI. (AGENCY)

India is engaging Uzbekistan over issues concerning Indian students pursuing medical and other courses there amid a sharp decline in admissions of Indian students in the Central Asian country, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Tuesday. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said the government remained focused on ensuring quality medical education for Indian students in Uzbekistan in accordance with the guidelines of the National Medical Commission (NMC), while protecting them from exploitation by unscrupulous elements in both countries. We continue to engage with the Uzbek side as far as issues pertaining to Indian students are concerned. You would have seen some of the advisories that we have issued. The Embassy in Tashkent has also issued advisories, as has the National Medical Commission," Jaiswal said. He was responding to a question on reports of Indian MBBS admissions in Uzbekistan plunging from around 2,000 to just 200, and whether New Delhi had communicated with Tashkent regarding restricting or reducing the intake of Indian students. The spokesperson did not confirm any agreement to restrict admissions or specify whether Uzbekistan had been asked to reduce the number of Indian students. Instead, he referred to advisories issued by the Indian Embassy in Tashkent.



'We Will Use Mineral Wealth Responsibly to Make Chhattisgarh a Growth Engine for India's Development' : CM

RAIPUR. OPEN SEARCH

Union Minister of Coal and Mines Shri G. Kishan Reddy and Chief Minister Shri Vishnu Deo Sai attended the high-level review meeting on the mining and coal sectors at CM residential office in Raipur on Tuesday. The meeting reviewed mineral exploration, auctions of mineral blocks, coal production, development of critical and strategic minerals, utilisation of District Mineral Foundation (DMF) funds and the adoption of modern technology in mining activities.

Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister Shri Sai said Chhattisgarh is rich in mineral wealth, and its resources play an important role in the country's industrial and economic development. The State Government is committed to coordinating with the Central Government to ensure their appropriate, scientific and responsible use. He said the benefits of mineral wealth must extend beyond industrial development and reach local people directly, particularly mining-affected and tribal communities. The government is making continuous efforts to establish Chhattisgarh as a major growth engine for the country through better mineral resource management, investment, employment generation, and inclusive development. The Chief Minister said Chhattisgarh has an important role in realising Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's resolve for Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India). Mineral exploration and utilisation must meet the country's growing industrial and economic requirements, and the State Government is working with the Centre towards this objective.



High-Level Review of Mining and Coal Sectors Held in the Presence of Union Minister of Coal and Mines Shri G. Kishan Reddy and Chief Minister Shri Vishnu Deo Sai

Alongside expanding mining activities, the State is prioritising environmental conservation, local needs, employment opportunities, and the interests of affected communities. Development will fulfil its true purpose only when the economic benefits of mineral wealth reach those affected by mining.

Chief Minister Shri Sai said the State Government is consistently working to ensure transparency in mineral administration, make greater use of technology and support the overall development of mining-affected areas. Khanij Online 2.0, digital monitoring systems and modern technologies such as drones are making mining surveillance more effective. Initiatives such as the TIN portal have been introduced to secure better prices for tin ore collected by Bastar's tribal communities and ensure transparent payments. The aim is to make the state's mineral wealth a foundation for local communities' economic self-reliance and new livelihood opportunities. Union Minister of Coal and Mines Shri G. Kishan Reddy praised the Chhattisgarh Government's innovations, revenue growth and technology-based administrative reforms in the mining sector. He said the State Government is doing commendable work across various sectors and that he appreciates its efforts wherever he travels in the country.

'Game of Thrones' jibe as BJP accuses Opposition of seeking 'regime change'

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY) The BJP on Tuesday launched a sharp attack on the Opposition over ongoing protests, accusing Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and other opposition leaders of pursuing a politics of "anarchy" and seeking "regime change" outside the electoral process. Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters, party national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia alleged that the Opposition's strategy went beyond democratic protest and sought to create conditions similar to those witnessed in Nepal and Bangladesh. Targeting Rahul Gandhi, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav.

Haryana Aims to Double Exports in Next Five Years : Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH



Haryana Eyes Major Expansion in Global Markets with Merchandise Exports of USD 20.57 Billion*

Industrialists Should Capitalise on Opportunities Under Free Trade Agreements: Chief Minister

Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that India's growing engagement with global markets has opened up new opportunities for Haryana's industries, MSMEs, farmers and entrepreneurs. Addressing the programme through a special video message, he urged the business community to fully leverage the country's trade agreements, explore new international markets and strengthen their position in global competition. The Chief Minister said that Haryana must further expand its presence in international markets by leveraging its strong manufacturing base and skilled workforce. He reiterated the State Government's commitment to doubling Haryana's exports over the next five years. He emphasised the importance of a focused policy framework, strong institutional support and continuous engagement with industry to achieve this objective. The Haryana Government organised a state-level workshop on "Leveraging FTAs – Outreach Programme" in Gurugram. Senior officials from the Government of India and the Haryana Government, public representatives, industry representatives, exporters, trade experts and leading Export Promotion Councils participated in the workshop. The workshop was organised by the Directorate of MSME, Haryana Government, in collaboration with the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, and the regional offices of the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT). The India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) served as the knowledge partner for the programme. The objective of this state-level outreach programme was to familiarise Haryana's industries and businesses with market opportunities available under India's Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), help them understand tariff concessions and Rules of Origin, provide guidance on addressing non-tariff barriers and strengthen their preparedness to compete in international markets.

With merchandise exports of USD 20.57 billion in the financial year 2025–26, an annual growth rate of 7.66 percent and a 4.66 percent share in India's total merchandise exports, Haryana continues to maintain its strong position among the country's leading exporting states.

Ranked sixth among States and Union Territories, Haryana's products now reach more than 200 countries and territories. The state is intensifying its efforts to translate opportunities arising from India's expanding network of Free Trade Agreements into tangible business prospects for its industries and exporters.

Industries and Commerce Minister Sh. Rao Narbir Singh said that success in today's competitive global markets depends not merely on pricing but equally on product quality, technology, productivity and sustainable manufacturing practices. He urged industries to align themselves with evolving global standards, environmental requirements, responsible sourcing practices and efficient resource utilisation, while making full use of the global market opportunities available through Free Trade Agreements. He said that Haryana's strong industrial capabilities in sectors such as automobiles, auto components, engineering, textiles and apparel, agriculture and food processing, footwear and machinery provide significant opportunities for the state to further strengthen its participation in global value chains. Commissioner and Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department, Dr. Amit Kumar Agrawal, highlighted Haryana's expanding export ecosystem and the importance of connecting the state's industrial capabilities with international markets. He informed that Gurugram alone accounts for approximately USD 8.33 billion in merchandise exports, representing nearly 40 percent of Haryana's total merchandise exports. Gurugram's strong ecosystem of manufacturing, engineering, IT/ITeS and Global Capability Centres (GCCs) plays a significant role in this contribution. He said that the State Government is providing institutional support to exporters through a dedicated Market Development and Export Promotion Cell in the Directorate of MSME. Initiatives such as the Haryana Progressive MSME and Export Promotion Policy, 2026, and the GIFT Cell operating under the RAMP programme are also strengthening the state's export ecosystem. Director General, Directorate of MSME, Dr. Yash Garg, outlined the State Government's policy approach towards export promotion. He said that exporters are being supported in various areas, including financial assistance, quality certification, freight assistance.

Haryana Cabinet Approves Amendments to Transferable Development Rights Policy

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH

The Haryana Cabinet, which met under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini here today, approved amendments to the policy for grant and utilisation of Transferable Development Rights (TDR), dated November 16, 2021, to address issues related to the valuation, transfer and utilisation of TDR certificates and facilitate the implementation of infrastructure development projects across the state.

The existing TDR policy provides for granting TDR certificates to landowners who surrender their land required for critical infrastructure development projects in favour of the Government. Such certificates enable landowners to monetise their development rights by selling them to developers or other users within the same Development Plan.

Under the amended policy, the formula for calculating the notional land for which a TDR certificate is issued will be revised. The calculation will be based on the weighted average collector rate applicable to the surrendered land as on the date of submission of the application, instead of the existing provision linked to the rate applicable on January 1 of the calendar year of application.

Revised qualifications prescribed for direct recruitment and promotion to the post of Junior Lecturer Assistant

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH



Amended rules to be called the Haryana Educational College Cadre (Group C) Service (Amendment) Rules, 2026

The Council of Ministers, which met under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini, here today, approved amendments to the Haryana Educational College Cadre (Group C) Service Rules, 1986, revising qualifications for appointment to the post of Junior Lecture Assistant and updating other service provisions. The amended rules will be called the Haryana Educational College Cadre (Group C) Service (Amendment) Rules, 2026. They will come into force from the date of their publication in the Official Gazette. Under the revised provisions, candidates seeking direct recruitment to the post of Junior Lecture Assistant must have passed 10+2 in the science stream with Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics (PCM) or Physics, Chemistry and Biology (PCB). They must also possess five years' experience as a Laboratory Attendant in a recognised college. Hindi or Sanskrit as a subject at the matriculation level, or Hindi as a subject in higher education, will also be required. For appointment by promotion, the prescribed qualifications will be 10+2 or its equivalent and five years' experience as a Laboratory Attendant after regular appointment to the post. The amendments prescribe an age limit of 18 to 42 years for direct recruitment, determined as on the last date for submission of applications to the Haryana Staff Selection Commission. Relaxation in the upper age limit will be admissible under the Haryana Civil Services (General) Rules, 2016. As per the new Rules, the Commission may relax the experience requirement by up to 50 per cent where sufficient candidates with the requisite experience are unavailable against vacancies reserved for Deprived Scheduled Castes, Other Scheduled Castes, Backward Classes, Ex-Servicemen and Persons with Disabilities. Reasons for granting such relaxation must be recorded in writing. The amended rules also update provisions relating to nationality, reservation and confirmation on satisfactory completion of probation. Indian citizens and subjects of Nepal or Bhutan will be eligible for appointment.

Registration of Travel Agents Now Mandatory in Haryana; Crackdown on Fraud and Illegal Overseas Migration

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH

- **Cabinet Approves Haryana Registration and Regulation of Travel Agents Rules, 2026; Separate Registration Mandatory for Each Service Category**
- **Citizens Can Verify Authenticity of Travel Agents' Registration by Scanning QR Codes**

The Haryana Government is set to introduce an effective regulatory mechanism to protect the state's youth from unscrupulous individuals who deceive them with promises of overseas employment and better career prospects and facilitate illegal migration abroad. In this direction, the Cabinet, which met here today under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini, approved the Haryana Registration and Regulation of Travel Agents Rules, 2026, under the Haryana Registration and Regulation of Travel Agents Act, 2025.

The primary objective of these rules is to safeguard the state's youth against fraudulent travel agents, illegal overseas recruitment, human trafficking and unlawful activities such as the "donkey route", while ensuring transparency and accountability in the travel agency business. Under the new rules, registration will be mandatory for all new and existing travel agents operating in the state. Separate registration will be required for every new office or branch. Similarly, separate registration will be mandatory for each service category, including passport services, tour and travel agency services, study visa consultancy and ticketing services. To ensure financial accountability, a registration fee of Rs. 5,000 has been prescribed for each service category. Police verification of every applicant will be mandatory before registration to ensure proper background checks of individuals engaged in the business. Upon receipt of the police verification report, the competent authority will issue the registration certificate within 30 days. The certificate will remain valid for three years. To facilitate public convenience and ensure transparency, travel agents will be issued digital registration certificates equipped with QR codes. Citizens will be able to scan these codes to verify the authenticity and validity of the concerned agent's registration. In addition, district-wise lists of registered travel agents, along with their registration certificates, will be made available on the Antyodaya SARAL Portal as well as the official websites of the Home Department and Police Department, enabling citizens to easily verify the legitimacy.

State Govt Will Not Compromise on the Health and Safety of the People : Arti Singh

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH



With the aim of ensuring the availability of pure and safe food products to the people during the festive season, the Haryana Government has intensified its crackdown on food adulteration across the state. Health Minister Arti Singh Rao said that the state government would not compromise on the health and safety of its people. Under the directions of the Health Minister, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Department launched an extensive inspection drive across Haryana from October 1 in view of the upcoming Diwali festival. The campaign will continue until Diwali. According to the Health Minister, a total of 1,288 samples of sweets, khoya, milk, paneer and other food items have been collected across the state so far. Laboratory testing of 861 samples has been completed, of which 170 failed to meet the prescribed standards. These include 140 substandard samples and 30 samples declared unsafe for human consumption. Taking serious note of the violations.

Enthusiasm Runs High in Ambala Cantonment Ahead of Amit Shah's Visit; Thousands Expected to Attend the Public Rally at Gandhi Ground: Anil Vij

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH



*Preparations Complete for Inauguration of Memorial Dedicated to the Martyrs of 1857; Ambala Cantonment Set to Witness a Massive Public Gathering on November 5: Vij

Haryana Energy, Transport and Labour Minister Sh. Anil Vij said that all preparations have been completed for the inauguration of the memorial dedicated to the martyrs of the First War of Independence (1857). Union Home and Cooperation Minister Sh. Amit Shah will inaugurate this historic memorial on November 5 and address a massive public rally at Gandhi Ground in Ambala Cantonment. He said that thousands of people are expected to reach Ambala Cantonment to hear the Union Home Minister, as there is tremendous enthusiasm among the public about his visit and address.

Sh. Vij was interacting with media persons today. Later, he chaired a meeting with officials of Ambala Cantonment and issued necessary directions to ensure the successful organization of the November 5 programme. Sh. Vij said that November 5 would be a historic day not only for Haryana but for the entire nation. He stated that the freedom struggle of 1857 was the First War of Independence, fought 28 years before the formation of the Indian National Congress. Unfortunately, this historic struggle and the supreme sacrifices made by numerous brave freedom fighters did not receive the recognition and place in history that they truly deserved. He said that the memorial constructed in Ambala is the first of its kind in the country dedicated specifically to the First War of Independence of 1857. Through 22 grand galleries, the memorial brings alive the battles, historical events and struggles of freedom fighters from that era using modern technology. He added that the initiative aims to bring to light an important chapter of the freedom struggle that has not received adequate attention in mainstream historical narratives. Sh. Vij said that while memorials dedicated to various wars and historical events may exist in different parts of the country, this memorial holds a unique and special historical significance as it is dedicated to the First War of Independence of 1857. He reiterated that all concerned departments and officials are working with full commitment to ensure the successful conduct of the November 5 programme. Sh. Vij said that the First War of Independence of 1857 is one of the most significant chapters in Indian history. During this struggle, numerous brave sons and daughters of the country fought against British rule.

Chief Minister Directs Officials to Ensure Quality and Timely Completion of Projects

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH

In a significant step towards strengthening roads, transportation and infrastructure in Haryana, Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini has taken important decisions as a total of nine proposals were approved during a meeting of the High Powered Purchase Committee (HPPC) and the High Powered Works Purchase Committee (HPWPC), chaired by the Chief Minister in Chandigarh on Monday. These decisions will strengthen the public transport system, ease traffic movement in urban areas, and expand healthcare and educational infrastructure across the state. Following detailed negotiations with bidders, the government also achieved savings of approximately 11.96 crore. The Chief Minister approved the purchase of 500 fully built non-AC buses powered by diesel engines for Haryana Roadways. These buses will comply with the latest BS-VI emission standards. In addition, approval was granted for the purchase of 24 fully built diesel-engine trucks and Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) for Roadways depots and sub-depots, based on their requirements for the coming year. The addition of 500 new buses will enhance the operational capacity of Haryana Roadways, improve connectivity for passengers and help strengthen bus services on various routes. To ease the growing traffic pressure in Gurugram and improve connectivity across the city, approval was granted to three important projects of the Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA). These include the construction of a flyover at the intersection of Sectors 45-46 and 51-52, another flyover at the intersection of Sectors 85-86 and 89-90, and an underpass at the intersection of Sectors 27-29 and 43-44 to ease traffic congestion around the Millennium City Centre Metro Station. Upon completion, these projects will reduce traffic pressure at major busy intersections in Gurugram.

Briefs News

Haryana Govt appoints link officer to ensure uninterrupted administrative work

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH The Haryana Government on Tuesday designated the Secretary, Special Secretary or Additional Secretary in charge of Secretariat Establishment as the link officer for the corresponding officer handling Monitoring and Coordination to ensure continuity of official work during vacancies or temporary absences. According to an order issued by the Chief Secretary Sh. Anurag Rastogi, the arrangement will apply when the officer concerned is unavailable due to leave, training, official tours, election duty, retirement, transfer or other reasons. The order is aimed at preventing disruption of administrative work when the designated officer is absent or the post falls vacant. The department said the arrangement had been made "to ensure smooth functioning of official work in the absence of the officer concerned." The government has also directed the officer concerned to inform the designated link officer before proceeding on leave, training, official tours or election duty.

Haryana Cabinet Approves Amendments to Haryana Public Service Commission

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH. The Haryana Cabinet, which met under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini here today, approved amendments to the Haryana Public Service Commission (State Service Group-C) Regulations, 2002, to incorporate newly created Group-C posts in the Commission and bring the existing provisions in line with the latest government rules and instructions. The amendment will update the sanctioned strength of various Group-C posts in the Haryana Public Service Commission (HPSC), in view of the increasing workload of the Commission due to a rise in the number of examinations and other related functions. As per the amended regulations, the total number of sanctioned Group-C posts in the Commission will be 85, including 15 newly created posts. These comprise one Section Officer, three Deputy Superintendents, one Personal Assistant, 25 Assistants, two Senior Scale Stenographers, two Junior Scale Stenographers, six Steno Typists, 13 Drivers, 29 Clerks, one Restorer and two Gestetner Operators. The Cabinet-approved amendments also provide for changes in the eligibility conditions for appointment to these posts. The existing provisions relating to certain categories, including Tibetan refugees and persons of Indian origin migrating from Pakistan, Burma, Sri Lanka and certain East African countries, have been proposed to be omitted. The eligibility provisions will now be restricted to citizens of India and subjects of Nepal and Bhutan. However, the appointment of subjects of Nepal and Bhutan will be subject to the condition that an eligibility certificate has been issued by the Government. Further, the provisions relating to disciplinary matters, appeals and other service-related matters under Regulation 13 will be aligned with the Haryana Civil Services.

Amendment to apply to existing licences from the date of final notification

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH. The Haryana Cabinet, which met under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini here today, approved an amendment to Clause 9.2 of the New Integrated Licensing Policy (NILP)-2022, revising the provisions governing completion of projects and renewal of licences. Under the amended provision, projects shall be completed within five years. If a project is not completed within this period, its licence shall be renewed in accordance with Rule 13 of the Haryana Development and Regulation of Urban Areas Rules, 1976, upon payment of the applicable licence renewal fees. The amendment brings licence renewal for NILP colonies on a par with group housing colonies. It replaces the existing provision requiring project completion within seven years, comprising an initial licence validity of five years and a two-year renewal, beyond which renewal required payment of 100 per cent of the licence fee The revised provision will take effect from the date of final notification and will also apply to all existing licences.

IAS Officer Amit Kumar Agrawal Gets Additional Charge of Chairman, HSIIDC and EEC

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH. The Haryana Government has assigned additional responsibilities to IAS officer Sh. Amit Kumar Agrawal, Commissioner and Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department.
According to an order issued by Chief Secretary Sh. Anurag Rastogi, Sh. Amit Kumar Agrawal will hold the charge of Chairman, Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (HSIIDC), as well as Chairman, EEC, in addition to his present duties. BThe arrangement will remain in effect until the appointment of the Principal Secretary to the Haryana Chief Minister.

Govt, private sector must work together to make Delhi medical hub : CM Rekha Gupta

AJEET KUMAR.OPEN SEARCH



Aimed at strengthening healthcare infrastructure and providing the best medical facilities to the people," Gupta said.

NEW DELHI : Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday said the government and private healthcare sector must work together to expand medical infrastructure and achieve the World Health Organisation's benchmark of five hospital beds per 1,000 people. BuyMaps

Speaking at the inauguration of an advanced In-Vitro Fertilisation (IVF) centre at Sant Parmanand Hospital in Civil Lines, Gupta said that in accordance with the vision of the Prime Minister, the Delhi Government is continuously working towards making Delhi a global medical hub. "At present, the Delhi government is able to provide two beds per 1,000 people in Delhi, while the combined availability of beds through the government and private sectors is approximately 2.5 per 1,000 people," she said. BuyMaps "The government is committed to making Delhi a medical hub and is working extensively in this direction. To achieve this target at the earliest, the government and the private healthcare sector will have to work together so that medical infrastructure can be expanded and people can access better healthcare facilities," Gupta said.

The new IVF centre has been established with the objective of providing modern medical facilities, expert consultation and advanced treatment to couples facing infertility and other reproductive health-related challenges. Gupta also invited Sant Parmanand Hospital to submit a proposal for a new healthcare project in collaboration with the Delhi government under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. "The Delhi Government will extend all possible support to initiatives. aimed at strengthening healthcare infrastructure and providing the best medical facilities to the people," Gupta said. Congratulating the hospital's doctors and management, she appreciated their contribution to healthcare services and recalled the role played by the institute during the COVID-19 pandemic. Gupta said the newly inaugurated IVF centre would bring hope to couples facing infertility and reproductive health challenges and help them access specialised treatment and medical guidance. B G Bangur, chairman of Sant Parmanand Hospital, said the centre marked an important milestone in the expansion of the hospital's specialised healthcare services. "The dream of becoming parents holds a very special emotional significance in the life of every couple. Our endeavour is to provide such couples with modern medical technology, sensitive care, reliable treatment and expert medical guidance," Bangur said. The inauguration ceremony was also attended by Dr S Rajagopal, Executive Director; Sudhir Maheshwari, Secretary; Ashok Soni, Vice Chairman along with members of the hospital management.

Delhi reports 1,083 dengue, 355 malaria cases till Oct 31; no deaths

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)



Delhi has reported 1,083 dengue and 355 malaria cases till October 31 this year, even as no deaths due to either disease have been reported, according to a Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) report. BuyMaps The national capital recorded 90 fresh dengue cases and 18 malaria cases during the week ending October 31, according to the MCD Public Health Department's weekly report. Of the total dengue cases reported this year, 964 were recorded in MCD areas, while 13 cases were reported in the New Delhi MuSnicipal Council (NDMC) area, 87 in Delhi Cantonment and 19 by the Railways. The civic body had recorded 92 dengue and 19 malaria cases in the week ending October 24. Similarly, of the 355 malaria cases reported across Delhi, 346 were recorded in MCD areas, three in Delhi Cantonment and six by the Railways. No malaria cases were reported in the NDMC area. Among the MCD zones, Central recorded the highest number of dengue cases at 135, followed by Najafgarh with 129 and South with 115. In the case of malaria, City-SP zone reported the highest number of cases at 53, followed by Central and South with 49 each and West with 35. The report also showed that Delhi recorded 39 chikungunya cases till October 31, including one during the latest reporting week. BuyMaps The civic body has continued its mosquito-control. measures, including spraying insecticides, inspecting houses for mosquito breeding and issuing notices to residents where breeding conditions are found. Between January 1 and October 31, the civic body reported spraying 38.27 lakh houses and conducting over 3.66 crore visits to houses to check for mosquito breeding. It also found over 2.21 lakh houses with mosquito-breeding conditions and issued more than 1.48 lakh legal notices. A total of 30,000 prosecutions were launched during the period, the report said.

57% Delhi-NCR residents feel non-BS VI vehicle entry restrictions poorly enforced : Study

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)



Around 57 per cent of Delhi-NCR residents rated the enforcement of restrictions on entry of non-BS VI vehicles to the national capital as "poor" or "very poor" during a survey, citing inadequate planning, traffic congestion and lack of advance communication. The survey conducted by LocalCircles, a community social media platform, analysed 18,243 responses from residents of Delhi, Gurugram, Noida, Faridabad and Ghaziabad. It found that 43 per cent of people rated the enforcement as "very poor", saying that restrictions were implemented without adequate planning, resulting in major traffic chaos and inconvenience. Another 14 per cent rated it as "poor", citing inadequate advance communication and traffic management that led to avoidable disruptions, while 14 per cent said the implementation was "average" and could have been better. Only 7 per cent of respondents rated the enforcement as "good" and 8 per cent as "very good". Another 14 per cent said they could not give a clear answer. while none of the respondents selected the options suggesting that authorities should have provided more advance notice or public transport alternatives. The restrictions, which came into force on November 1.

429 Food Samples Lifted in Two Months;

307 Enforcement Samples and 122 Surveillance Samples Collected

NEW DELHI. OPEN SEARCH



In view of the ongoing festive season and the need to ensure the availability of safe, hygienic and quality food products to residents, Delhi Health Minister Dr. Pankaj Kumar Singh today chaired a meeting with officials of the Department of Food Safety and directed them to further intensify food inspection and enforcement drives across the national capital. The Hon'ble Health Minister instructed the department to deploy dedicated inspection teams across all districts of Delhi and strengthen surveillance of food businesses, including dairy establishments, sweet manufacturers, wholesale markets, food processing units, warehouses, retail outlets and other establishments involved in the supply of food products. He emphasised that inspections must be conducted continuously, with particular attention to food items that witness increased demand during the festive season. Reviewing the enforcement activities undertaken by the department, the Health Minister directed officials to maintain round-the-clock vigilance and ensure that inspection drives continue throughout the year rather than remaining limited to festive occasions. He also stressed the need for stronger inter-departmental coordination, timely collection of food samples, laboratory testing and strict action wherever violations are detected. The Department of Food Safety lifted a total of 429 food samples in the last two months comprising 307 enforcement samples and 122 surveillance samples. During this period, officials conducted 32 field days of inspection and enforcement activities. Extensive Enforcement Against Adulterated and Unsafe Food During the same period, enforcement operations resulted in the destruction of over 4,500 kg of unsafe and unfit food stock, including approximately 3,440 kg of khoya, dhaap and makkhan , 658 kg of paneer and 139 kg of expired food products.

Briefs News

Diwali security: Face recognition system van deployed in Delhi's Sadar Bazar

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY) The Delhi Police has deployed a face recognition system (FRS) van in the crowded Sadar Bazar market to identify suspicious persons and strengthen security ahead of Diwali, an official said on Tuesday. The move comes as the market in north Delhi is witnessing a heavy rush of shoppers ahead of the festival, with traders and customers thronging the area for festive purchases. As part of the security arrangements, senior officers, along with police personnel, inspected the market and led a flag march to assess the arrangements, the officer said. Additional police personnel have been deployed in the market, while foot patrolling has been intensified to maintain law and order and prevent incidents of snatching, theft and other criminal activities during the festive rush. The FRS van, equipped with cameras, will scan faces in the crowd and help police identify suspected criminals through facial recognition technology, the officer said. The initiative aims to ensure that suspicious persons do not evade police surveillance amid the heavy footfall and to provide a safe shopping environment for traders and visitors, the officer added.

2020 Delhi riots: Court acquits 5 men accused of vandalising, setting mosque ablaze

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY) A court here has acquitted five men accused of vandalising and setting fire to a mosque during the 2020 northeast Delhi riots, saying the police witnesses were not credible and the CCTV camera footage relied upon by the prosecution was inadmissible in evidence. Additional Sessions Judge Praveen Singh was hearing the case against Ankit, Sourabh Sharma, Rohit, Rahul Kumar and Sachin, who were accused of rioting, unlawful assembly, damage to property and arson. In an order dated October 31, Justice Singh said, "I find that these witnesses are not credible witnesses and cannot be relied upon to bring home the guilt of the accused as far as the riot, vandalism and arson at Allah Wali Masjid is concerned." The five men were arrested in a case related to violence in the Shahid Bhagat Singh Colony, where a mob vandalised and set fire to a mosque during the communal riots in February 2020. The court said there was a probability that no arson or vandalism had taken place at the Allah Wali Masjid in Karawal Nagar on February 25, 2020, as claimed by the prosecution, and that the testimonies of the police personnel regarding the incident could not be relied upon. The court pointed out stark contradictions between the testimonies of two police personnel, who claimed to have witnessed the mosque being vandalised and set ablaze around 11 am on February 25, and an independent witness residing opposite the mosque. The independent witness had testified that the mosque was vandalised and set on fire only once, around 8.15 pm, and that he remained confined to his house for four days after the incident.

Nearly 28,000 MCD challans in five months, one in four for public urination, garbage dumping

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)



The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) has issued nearly 28,000 challans and imposed fines worth Rs 2.31 crore in over five months since the implementation of the Jan Vishwas Act, officials said on Tuesday, adding that public urination, illegal garbage dumping, and defacement of public spaces accounted for nearly one in every four challans. Of the 27,915 challans issued from May-end to October 28, nearly 7,000 were for offences falling under the broad category of 'commission of nuisance', which includes public urination, defacement of public property, unauthorised pasting of posters, dumping garbage in public places, and other activities prohibited under Section 397 of the Delhi Municipal Corporation (DMC) Act. BuyMaps According to official data accessed by PTI, the MCD collected Rs 99.15 lakh against 16,281 paid challans, while 11,634 challans involving Rs 1.32 crore remain unpaid. An analysis of the offence-wise data from August 1 to October 30 showed that 3,633 challans were issued under Sections 397(1), (2), and (3) for 'commission of nuisance', involving fines of Rs 18.16 lakh. An official said the number of such challans could have exceeded 7,000 during the broader period, based on the proportion recorded in the available data. Of these, 1,810 challans worth Rs 9.05 lakh were paid, while 1,823 challans involving Rs 9.11 lakh remained unpaid.

Keeping rubbish or filth unattended for more than 24 hours attracted the second-highest number of penalties, with 3,180 challans issued under Section 357(1), involving Rs 3.18 lakh. Additionally, 2,764 challans were issued for allowing filth to flow onto streets, attracting fines of Rs 5.52 lakh. The civic body issued 971 challans under Section 398 for failing to comply with directions to remove or abate a nuisance.

Among other violations, 557 challans were issued for failing to provide arrangements for refusing collection or removing garbage. Another 440 were issued for failing to collect or remove filth or polluted matter, while 276 challans were issued for failing to remove rubbish from market premises despite directions. The MCD also issued 117 challans for failing to provide or maintain clean latrines at premises used by large numbers of people, while 103 were issued for failing to provide toilets at markets, cattle sheds.

Lawyers urge Delhi HC to take suo motu cognisance of suspended ACP's conduct

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)

A group of lawyers on Tuesday urged the Delhi High Court to take suo motu cognisance of the conduct of Delhi Police ACP Manasvi Vashishta, who has been suspended for allegedly threatening lawyers. The matter was mentioned before a bench of acting Chief Justice Nitin Wasudeo Sambre and Justice Sanjay Sharma, who refused to initiate a suo motu petition and asked the lawyers to file a proper plea with all the available material, and the court will look into the issue. "You file a formal petition. We are a court of record, and we must have something before us. What is suo motu? We are telling you whatever material is there with you, give it in the form of a petition and submit it with the registry so that it can be brought before the court for looking into it. Do it, and we will look into it," the bench told the lawyers. The advocates told the court that remarks like "use of AK-47" and "kale coat ke gunde" (goons in black coats) were used against lawyers. "You are our chief. If you take suo motu cognisance of the issue, we will be assured," one of the lawyers submitted. The controversy stems from an October 23 incident at the Shahdara police station, where advocate Lalit Bansal allegedly sustained a serious head injury during a scuffle. It was followed by a confrontation between lawyers and police personnel.

Contribution of stubble burning to Delhi's PM2.5 pollution likely to rise further

NEW DELHI. (AGENCY)



Delhi's stubble-burning contribution to PM2.5 pollution is forecast to rise to 22.2 per cent by November 5 as the city's AQI deteriorates to 348 in the 'very poor' category

Delhi's stubble-burning contribution to PM2.5 pollution is forecast to rise to 22.2 per cent by November 5 as the city's AQI deteriorates to 348 in the 'very poor' category As Delhi's air quality deteriorated further on Tuesday with the Air Quality Index (AQI) climbing to 348 in the 'very poor' category, stubble burning is likely to contribute an increasing share to the city's PM2.5 pollution over the next three days, according to a forecast. Delhi's AQI stood at 324 on November 2 and 261 on November 1, indicating deteriorating air quality over the last two days.

According to the Decision Support System (DSS) for air quality management in Delhi, under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, the contribution of stubble burning to the city's PM2.5 concentration is forecast to increase from 8.583 per cent on November 2 to 15.301 per cent on November 3. The rising contribution comes amid continued detection of farm fires across the neighbouring states. Satellites detected 219 paddy residue-burning incidents across the states monitored on November 2, including 98 in Punjab, 67 in Rajasthan, 48 in Madhya Pradesh, four in Uttar Pradesh and two in Haryana. No residue-burning incidents were detected in Delhi or Uttarakhand on the day, according to the Consortium for Research on Agroecosystem Monitoring and Modelling from Space (CREAMS) Lab of the Division of Agricultural Physics at the ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute. The contribution is expected to rise further to 20.057 per cent on November 4 and 22.207 per cent on November 5, the forecast showed. The DSS forecast for stubble-burning contribution over the next three days is based on climatological data on fire counts and emissions. A total of 3,535 farm-fire incidents were detected between September 15 and November 2 this year. Punjab accounted for the highest at 1,612, followed by Rajasthan (738), Madhya Pradesh (614), Uttar Pradesh (349), Uttarakhand (176), Haryana (44) and Delhi (two). However, the number of farm-fire incidents has witnessed a significant decline over the years, CREAMS Lab data showed. During the corresponding period in 2020, 51,822 incidents were detected across the states and regions covered by the bulletin. The count fell to 24,583 in 2021 and 26,490 in 2022, before declining to 18,991 in 2023, 9,668 in 2024 and 4,993 in 2025. Punjab, which continues to account for the highest number of farm fires this season.

Delhi plans major fire service revamp; more fire stations, manpower, mandatory sprinklers in buildings

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)

The Delhi Government has planned a major revamp of the Delhi Fire Service (DFS), including the recruitment of fire personnel, setting up of new fire stations, procurement of modern firefighting equipment and mandatory installation of sprinklers and fire alarms in existing buildings. The action plan was announced by Home Minister Ashish Sood on Tuesday following a review meeting chaired by Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu at Lok Niwas recently. The proposed overhaul is aimed at strengthening the city's fire prevention and emergency response system, particularly in view of challenges posed by congested neighbourhoods, narrow lanes, high population density, traffic congestion and electrical overloading. "The safety and protection of every Delhi resident is our highest priority. We are executing a complete, multi-departmental revamp of the Delhi Fire Service, upgrade of our technology, expansion of frontline manpower, besides the plugging of infrastructure bottlenecks. From tackling modern risks like high combustible loads in residences to mandating automatic sprinklers. in existing commercial buildings, upgrading power grids, and launching door-to-door safety drives, we are moving toward a proactive safety culture. With direct coordination among DFS, civic bodies, power DISCOMs, and DDA, we are ensuring Delhi is fully equipped to prevent and combat fire emergencies." Under the proposed measures, the sanctioned strength of the Fire Service will be increased in accordance with the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) report and ARD concurrence. The recruitment process for station officers and firemen will also be expedited in coordination with the Home Department, Services Department, UPSC and DSSSB. Regular physical fitness assessments will be conducted for fire operators. The department will also address shortages of specialised firefighting equipment and appliances required to tackle fires involving highly combustible materials. Procurement will be undertaken in accordance.

Open Search
EDITORIAL

Preparing for the modernisation of the Armed Forces

The nature of warfare is changing rapidly in the current global scenario. Today, a country's military strength is no longer assessed solely on the basis of the number of soldiers, tanks, fighter aircraft and missiles it possesses. Modern technology, intelligence networks, cyber capabilities, space-based resources and the use of artificial intelligence have also become important determinants of military power. From the Russia-Ukraine war to conflicts in West Asia, it has become evident that future warfare will be far more complex and technology-driven. In this situation, equipping the Indian Armed Forces with advanced technology, modern weapons and state-of-the-art military resources in response to emerging challenges has become an urgent necessity.

India's security challenges are also multifaceted. The country's extensive borders, sensitive frontier regions, terrorism, infiltration and military activities of neighbouring countries demand constant vigilance. Considering the prevailing circumstances along the borders with China and Pakistan, strengthening India's military preparedness is extremely important. In future conflicts, conventional military strength alone may not be sufficient. The ability to make quick decisions, monitor enemy movements and deliver precise responses within a short period will also prove decisive.

The role of drones and unmanned aerial systems in modern warfare is expanding rapidly. From small surveillance drones to kamikaze drones and advanced unmanned combat aircraft, these technologies are bringing significant changes to the battlefield. Similarly, artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, satellite-based surveillance and cybersecurity are becoming integral components of military operations. The Indian Armed Forces must expand their capabilities in these areas to detect enemy activities in time and effectively counter any potential threat.

Alongside this, strengthening modern missile systems, air defence equipment, electronic warfare systems and communication networks is equally important. Today, adversaries do not limit their attacks to land, air or sea. Through cyberattacks, they can also target a country's communication networks, banking systems, electricity supply and other critical infrastructure. Therefore, cybersecurity and the protection of digital infrastructure must receive special attention in India's national security strategy. Self-reliance is another important pillar of the modernisation of the Indian Armed Forces. Developing indigenous weapons, equipment and technologies in the defence sector will not only reduce dependence on foreign imports but also strengthen the country's strategic and economic capabilities. Better coordination among the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), public sector defence companies and private industries can help develop advanced military technologies. Startups and young scientists can also make significant contributions in areas such as drones, robotics, AI and cyber technology. The spirit of 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' must be translated into more effective action in defence manufacturing. However, modernisation of the armed forces should not be limited to purchasing new weapons.

Dialogue & the dam

SANJOY HAZARIKA

Travellers to Pasighat remember it from earlier times as a sleepy town on the banks of the Siang in Arunachal Pradesh. When I first went there, there was no hotel worth the name. Among the few places to stay was the state government Circuit House, with sprawling rooms, comfortable furniture, good views but a rather boring menu. In recent years, come tourist season, the place is bustling with visitors from across the Northeast, the country, and abroad, taking advantage of good roads and bridges that connect it to neighbouring Assam. There are spanking new resorts along the river, drawing people to make it a key stop of their Arunachal darshan before travelling literally to greater heights in the lower Himalayas where major treks and vistas of extraordinary strength and beauty beckon.

To the Adi community, which is the dominant tribe of Arunachal Pradesh (it has 26 major tribes), the river is revered as Ane Siang, or Mother Siang. The river itself debouches from the Tibet Autonomous Region of China as the Yarlung Tsangpo after a long journey over that great plateau and plunges through the deepest gorge on the face of the earth before entering India. The river's name itself carries significance for the Adis: Si-ang is actually two words, meaning water (Si) and heart (ang), broadly translated as the heart of the river. On the Siang itself, rafting and kayaking are challenging sports before the river joins the Brahmaputra, which travels further downstream to Bangladesh and the Bay of Bengal. Pasighat is no longer a placid spot. It has become one of the sites of a confrontation between protesters agitating against a massive dam on the river further upstream in Arunachal Pradesh and the state and the Central governments. The confrontation is being framed by large segments of the metropolitan media and the government as opposition to 'national security' and 'development' issues. Local groups say that this is a misrepresentation, that they are not against development but they need to protect their traditions, land, way of life and the environment.

The crackling tension and demonstrations led to unprecedented attacks on government property as well as the homes of local MLAs, the Bharatiya Janata Party state president as well as a police station. Arsonists also burnt the office of the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation, which is building the controversial Siang Upper Multipurpose Project with the odd-sounding abbreviation, SUMP. SUMP is not a new project. It was unveiled nearly 20 years ago under the government of Manmohan Singh. But it did not appear to have much momentum. Public discontent began surfacing about 10 years back after people began to understand the scale of the project and that it would not only displace communities but also submerge sacred spaces, agricultural and grazing grounds as well as extensive forests. It seems that the Central government decided to speed up the process as India's riposte to the

Why Saudi Arabia Can't Control Houthis, Despite Its Billions In Arms

ADITI BHADURI

The report that the Saudis have offered $1 billion to the Houthis raises many questions



Money and muscle cannot always compete with geography - that seems to be the message coming out of Riyadh as the Saudis grapple with the proper response to the Houthi attacks on their territory. The numerous reports filtering in reflect a diverse array of initiatives and steps the kingdom is taking. This, on one hand, may mirror a multipronged approach, or, on the other, reflect confusion. The report that the Saudis have offered $1 billion to the Houthis to stop the attacks they began launching since July this year on the Kingdom has made headlines. According to reports that appeared in the Israeli media, Saudi Defence Minister Prince Khalid bin Salman travelled to Tehran for talks about a possible ceasefire with the Houthis. This proposal apparently involves the transfer of $1 billion to the group through Iran. Of course, Saudi authorities have not confirmed it.

The first step, however, in a coordinated policy to counter the Houthis came some months ago, when the Mecca Pact was signed in Islam's holiest city, as the nomenclature reflects, between Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and Pakistan. With much fanfare on Friday, the three announced the signing of the pact. The import was not lost. Saudi Arabia, the leader of the Muslim world by virtue of being home to Islam's two holiest sites, had just teamed up with two of the Sunni world's most powerful militaries. Deterrence, as all three parties to the pact took pains to point out, was the agreement's main aim. There was no doubt about whom the pact was aimed at. The Houthis have caused more damage to the Kingdom in recent times than any other group. Yet, the pact failed to deter the group, which has been almost on a rampage, striking airports, oil pipelines, and other critical infrastructure. And none of the Mecca Pact members fulfilled their obligations, as the pact still requires domestic ratification. While Pakistan has now ratified it, there is much domestic opposition to it; Turkey, on the other hand, has refused to ratify combat operations against the Houthis, which would make it a party to the war with them. And Saudi Arabia seems incapable of taking on the Houthis on its own, despite investing billions in sophisticated, western-made arms.

In fact, this inability is not something new, and, therefore, the Saudi decision to start a fresh war with the Houthis remains something of a mystery. In 2015, when Houthi rebels overtook the Yemeni capital of Sanaa and forced the internationally recognised government to flee to the South, the Saudis, together with the UAE, intervened militarily to restore the government to power. It was a brutal intervention, killing hundreds in the already impoverished country, displacing thousands, and triggering a humanitarian crisis. But almost a decade later - by which time the UAE had withdrawn from the war - the Houthis could not be completely defeated, and a UN-brokered ceasefire took place. The fragile calm had been in place even after the US-Israel war on Iran broke out and Iran-supported "resistance " groups such as Hezbollah and the Iraqi militias joined in. The Houthis remained aloof, though they issued periodic threats. But Saudi-backed attacks on aircraft carrying Houthi members returning to Yemen after attending Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's funeral in Iran in July were one of the triggers for this round of fighting. While the Houthis have intensified the attacks, the Saudis see incapable of stopping them.

The Houthis, operating from just across the border, represent one of the most serious threats to the Saudi kingdom. They have demonstrated their ability to strike deep within Saudi territory, have the potential to close off the Bab al-Mandeb, a major chokepoint near the Red Sea and the main alternative sea lane for Saudi energy exports after the closure of the Strait of Hormuz, and have announced a blockade on Saudi shipping. They have busted the myth of Saudi security; several Indians have also lost their lives in these attacks. Security and stability are something the Kingdom needs more than ever as it works on the diversification of its economy, something that is hinged on the ambitious projects such as NEOM, which Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has launched. These have already been put on hold.

As reports of money being offered trickled in, so did news that the Mecca Pact members were meeting Iran for discussions. Iranian Foreign Minister has on a number of occasions offered to mediate between the Saudis and the Houthis. Given that neither Pakistan nor Turkey is keen to actively enter the Saudi-Houthi war, reluctant to pick sides and to become a party to the war against the Houthis, they have also called for mediation to bring about a ceasefire, while condemning the Houthi attacks. However, yet another perspective reflected in a New York Times Opinion piece written by Saudi diplomat Princess Reema bint Bandar bin Sultan in Washington DC, who called for a "coordinated international response" to the Houthis, nudging the international community to take action against the Houthis, something akin to international action against ISIS. This may seem to be a carrot-and-sticks policy by the Saudis. While President Donald Trump has threatened to renew military action after the midterms in the US are over and warned of similar action against the Houthis, this is still in the realm of speculation. Much of the world has displayed reluctance in becoming a party to the war. Post-election dynamics in Israel will also need to be factored in. If incumbent Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is able to form the government, we may see war return to the region.

Pakistan steps up strategic rhetoric

SHYAM SARAN

India must respond to geopolitical shifts in the wake of Operation Sindoor



AT a conference on nuclear non-proliferation, hosted by the Strategic Vision Institute in Islamabad on October 20-21, Lt Gen Khalid Ahmed Kidwai, Adviser to Pakistan's Nuclear Command Authority (NCA), spelt out his country's strategic and nuclear posture after Operation Sindoor. His remarks should be studied carefully as they point to certain important shifts in Pakistan's strategic stance, including its nuclear approach vis-à-vis India. Kidwai's rhetoric indicates that Pakistan's calculations are changing in response to a stronger Chinese commitment to its defence, as was witnessed during Op Sindoor, a partial revival of American patronage and its role as a mediator in the ongoing Iran war. This is further enhanced by the Makkah Defence Pact, signed by Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Turkiye in August. Kidwai cites the pact as a step towards reinforcing deterrence against India. This rhetoric may be self-serving, but what lies behind it in terms of geopolitical shifts should be properly evaluated. Pakistan has gained a higher geopolitical profile and greater room for manoeuvre that India must acknowledge and respond to.

It is worthwhile to trace the trajectory of Pakistan's nuclear strategy since it became an overt nuclear-armed state, like India, after a series of nuclear tests in May 1998. In those early days, it committed itself to a Credible Minimum Deterrence (CMD) just as India did, but unlike the latter, did not subscribe to a No-First Use (NFU) posture. After taking over as the first Director of the Strategic Plans Division in December 1998, Kidwai envisaged the use of nuclear weapons only if Pakistan confronted an existential threat. He stated that Pakistan would consider the use of N-weapons against India if the latter attacked and occupied a large part of Pakistani territory; destroyed most of Pakistani military assets; tried to economically strangle Pakistan; or instigated widespread internal political subversion in the country. These were worst-case scenarios, with nuclear weapons serving as weapons of last resort. It was his view that nuclear deterrence made the prospect of a conventional war between the two sides unthinkable.

Kidwai dates the first important shift in Pakistan's nuclear approach to India's adoption of the Cold Start strategy (2004), which sought to find space for hitting Pakistan with conventional thrusts across the border without triggering a nuclear response. Since then, he has claimed that Pakistan's response has been to acquire weapons and capabilities to deny any such space to India.

Thus, in 2011, the 60-km-range Nasr tactical nuclear weapon was deployed to respond to Cold Start-type operations. India's response has been that any use of nuclear weapons, of any yield or range, would, under its nuclear doctrine, invite massive retaliation; that nuclear weapons, once used, would trigger an escalatory dynamic resulting in an all-out nuclear war. Pakistan dismisses this contention. In 2013, Kidwai formally adopted the term "Full Spectrum Nuclear Deterrence" (FSND), though CMD was not abandoned. In a speech at the Carnegie Endowment in 2015, he explained that FSND was aimed at ensuring that no space for war below the nuclear level was available to the adversary. This was backed by a range of weapons and a variety of delivery systems. No target within the Indian landmass would be out of range. He claimed that Shaheen-3 missile (then newly deployed), with a range of 2,750 km, could reach bases in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. In his latest remarks, he has called India "target-rich" and said that "there is no place for India's strategic weapons to hide."

Kidwai has claimed that after Op Sindoor, "new normals" are "now defined by Pakistan," that the Pakistan Air Force is now the dominant air power in the region and the "robust combination of nuclear and conventional forces" ensures strategic stability. He referred to Pakistan's "retaliatory policy of Quid Pro Quo Plus", which was "responding with punishment greater than the adversary's original sin." Interestingly, this is conventional retaliation and not nuclear, which implies that Pakistan believes it has overcome India's conventional superiority. Kidwai then upped the ante to recommend that in the next round, "retaliatory punishment should be so severe and unforgiving, directed at the heart of India's vulnerabilities, which are numerous, that India's dangerous strategy of imposing on Pakistan the BJP's policy of externalising India's internal politics is buried once and for all." This is inflammatory and provocative language that has the potential for dangerous overreach. One should take the threat seriously.

Kidwai has interpreted India's development and deployment of sea-based ballistic missiles as a "destabilising" move. Rather than accept it as a second-strike capability aimed at responding to a first strike by an adversary, he is treating it as evidence that India is shifting away from NFU and preparing for a first strike. He has warned that Pakistan would have to respond by developing its own sea-based strike capabilities in order to restore strategic stability in South Asia. One should expect Pakistan to seek Chinese assistance to help neutralise India's more advanced capabilities in this regard. The Babur-3 submarine-launched cruise missile has already been announced and the Ababeel MIRV (multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicles) system is under testing.

India should also examine the implications of the consolidation and centralisation of Pakistan's nuclear command and control structure. The NCA Act was amended earlier this year to create the post of Commander of the National Strategic Command, who will also advise the Commander of the Defence Forces, Field Marshal Syed Asim Munir.

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PLAY FORWARD 2026 Strengthens India–Germany Sports Partnership

FRANKFURT : (AGENCY)



Bringing together sports, business, technology and international cooperation, PLAY FORWARD 2026, the Indo-German Sports & Business Conclave, was held on October 30, 2026, at the German Football Association's (DFB) Campus in Frankfurt, Germany. Presented by Bosch and organised in collaboration with the DFB and stakeholders from the sports ecosystem, the conclave provided a platform for Indian and German leaders to explore opportunities for collaboration and develop a long-term vision for India's sporting ecosystem through 2036. The conclave focused on positioning sports as a catalyst for national development, economic growth, social inclusion and international cooperation. Through discussions spanning sports infrastructure, talent development, sports education, technology, broadcasting, investment and parasports, the event explored how India could draw from international expertise and establish a sustainable, commercially viable and globally competitive sporting ecosystem. A central theme was the need to translate discussions into actionable outcomes, with a roadmap aligned with India's ambition to emerge as a global sporting powerhouse by 2036. Highlighting the historical foundations of sports in India, Dr. Prafulla Ketkar spoke about the Vedic sporting ecosystem and the role of sports in shaping society and nation-building. The discussion explored how India's ancient sporting philosophy and Germany's established sporting culture could complement each other, creating a foundation for stronger Indo-German cooperation. The conclave also featured perspectives on India's future sports ecosystem from Mr. Mulrajsinh Chudasama, General Secretary of the Gujarat State Football Association. Discussions on digital methods for innovative and effective talent development featured Professor Jan Mayer, Sports Scientist and Innovator, and Padma Shri Bimal Kumar Roy, former Chairman of the National Statistical Commission, highlighting the importance of evidence-led approaches and structured pathways for developing sporting talent. Kaushik Moulik, Director, PLAY FORWARD, said, "PLAY FORWARD was never just another event for me; it was a personal dream to bring India and Germany together around a shared vision for the future of sports. With the blessings of the Almighty and the encouragement of our speakers, partners, colleagues, friends and well-wishers across both countries, we were able to turn that dream into a collective endeavour at the DFB Campus.

Škoda Auto India surpasses 350 Customer Touchpoints, expands reach to 193 cities

NEW DELHI, OPEN SEARCH



Škoda Auto India has expanded its network to over 350 Customer Touchpoints across 193 cities, strengthening access to its products and ownership experience nationwide. The brand reached its 350-touchpoint milestone on October 30, 2026, with the inauguration of its 350th Customer Touchpoint in Imphal, marking its entry into Manipur. The expansion highlights Škoda Auto India's commitment to bringing sales and aftersales services closer to customers in established markets and emerging regions alike. Commenting on the milestone, Ashish Gupta, Brand Director, Škoda Auto India, said, "Surpassing 350 Customer Touchpoints across 193 cities demonstrates our commitment to bringing Škoda closer to customers across India. Our dealer partners, both existing and new, are central to this journey, and I thank them for sharing our vision of building a stronger Škoda brand in India. As we enter new markets, our priority is clear - to deliver a consistent, enriching customer experience across sales and aftersales. Together with our expanding product portfolio and customer-first initiatives, this growing network will help us strengthen customer trust and deepen our relevance across the country." Expanding reach, strengthening presence: Škoda Auto India's network has grown from 191 Customer Touchpoints in 2021 to 325 in 2025 and over 350 as of October 2026. Its geographical footprint has expanded from 156 cities across 25 States and Union Territories in 2024 to 193 cities across 29 States and Union Territories today. Supported by 79 dealer partners, the network comprises 270 Sales Touchpoints and 203 Aftersales Touchpoints.

Diwali Buying Guide : Best Ai+ Smartphones and Tablets to Consider This Festive Season

NEW DELHI. (AGENCY)



Diwali is more than a festival of lights. It is about being together, sharing laughter, creating memories and celebrating the little moments that make life special. From decorating our homes and capturing festive photographs to spending quality time with family and friends, it is the joy of togetherness that makes every celebration memorable. This festive season, Ai+ Smartphone brings a range of devices to help you capture, share and cherish these moments. Whether it is a smartphone for those picture-perfect Diwali memories, a tablet for shared entertainment or a device that keeps you connected throughout the celebrations, the Nova and Pulse series offer something for everyone. From the first diya being lit to the last photograph of the night, Diwali is filled with moments worth remembering. The Ai+ Nova 2 Power 5G is designed to keep up with every celebration. Its massive 7,000mAh battery, 33W fast charging and 120Hz display make it a dependable companion for festive days filled with photographs, conversations and entertainment. Its distinctive dual-tone design adds a stylish touch to the celebrations. From coordinating plans with friends to capturing moments between rangoli and rounds of mithai, the Ai+ Pulse 2 FE covers everyday smartphone essentials. It features a 50MP rear camera, a 5,000mAh battery and a 120Hz display, making it a practical pick for daily use throughout the festive season.

Every Diwali has its picture-perfect moments, from sparkling lights to that special group photograph with loved ones. The Ai+ Nova 2 Ultra 5G features a 50MP main camera with OIS for clearer photographs with reduced blur, while its vibrant 1.5K AMOLED display brings those festive memories to life. Powered by the Dimensity 7400 processor, it combines smooth everyday performance with standout design for those who love capturing celebrations in detail.

Diwali comes with endless plans, conversations and moments to share. Whether it is coordinating celebrations, capturing festive photographs or staying connected with friends, the Ai+ Nova 2 Pro 5G is designed to keep everything running smoothly. Powered by the Dimensity 7100 processor, it delivers a responsive everyday experience so you can focus on enjoying the festivities. For those looking to upgrade to 5G this Diwali, the Ai+ Nova 2 Neo 5G brings together everyday performance and camera capabilities.

GlobalPay Brings the Xplorer Experience This Diwali

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)

WSFx GlobalPay Limited (GlobalPay) (BSE: 511147), an RBI-authorised Dealer Category-II (AD-II) and BSE-listed company with over four decades of experience in cross-border payments, is bringing a touch of exclusivity to the festive travel season with a special Diwali offer on its Globalpay Xplorer metal prepaid Forex card. Designed for premium leisure travellers who see every journey as an opportunity to discover something new, Globalpay Xplorer brings together the distinctive appeal of a premium metal card and a collection of travel experiences. India's first metal prepaid Forex card, Xplorer is designed to be more than just a travel essential, adding a premium touch to the overall international travel experience.

From international airport lounge access to connectivity through an international SIM card, Xplorer brings together thoughtful travel conveniences for those who like to make the most of every journey. The card supports up to 30 currencies, with zero cross-currency fees and zero international ATM withdrawal fees. Adding to the festive excitement, the Diwali offer includes an exclusive travel collection featuring an assured branded trolley bag, a premium duffel bag, a passport holder and other travel accessories. Available at Rs 9,999/ + GST.

Briefs News

Sapna Choudhary as throne leader in Aakash Sharma's 'Karma Da Khel'

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY) Reality shows are in vogue but they've lost the realness, often leading to a discouragement amongst the audiences to watch them. But, revolutionising this space, casting maestro Aakash Sharma has promised to bring a 'real' reality show. With his upcoming show, 'Karma Da Khel.' This is going to be North India's biggest reality show. It will be airing on KableOne. Being a unique and one of its kind show, we've learnt that Bigg Boss fame Sapna Choudhary too would be seen on this show. Confirming her participation in Karma Da Khel, Sapna said, "Yes, absolutely! I'm so excited to be a part of Karma Da Khel. As the 'Throne Leader,' you'll get to see a whole new side of me. As for what else will unfold in the show—well, you'll just have to watch to find out! I can promise you one thing: there will be no shortage of entertainment, fun, and full-on drama!" Speaking about the promo and the show, Aakash expressed, "Such a concept has never ever been seen on television before.

Online Therapy for NRIs: Where to Find the Right Psychologist

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY) Building a life in the USA, UK, Canada, UAE, Australia or Singapore can bring professional opportunities, independence and a fulfilling family life. When someone needs help with their mental health, marriage or child, however, choosing a psychologist can raise unfamiliar questions. Should they consult someone locally or an Indian psychologist online? Will the professional understand their family dynamics? Does their child need someone familiar with Indian parenting and the environment they are growing up in abroad? The right choice combines relevant expertise, cultural understanding, professional eligibility and personal comfort.

JSW MG Motor India registers 25% YoY growth in October 2026

GURUGRAM : (AGENCY)



With reference to our communication of November 1, 2026, JSW MG Motor India shares its updated year-on-year (YoY) performance for October 2026. The company recorded wholesale numbers of 8,013 units, against 6,397 units in October 2025, reflecting YoY growth of 25%. The automaker continues to see a strong response to the recently launched MG Hector Tomahawk EV and Windsor Indulge Edition, with customer deliveries gaining momentum across India. JSW MG Motor India, a joint venture between JSW Group and SAIC Motor, combines JSW's deep understanding of the Indian market with SAIC's global automotive expertise. The company is focused on sustainable mobility, advanced technology, localisation, and customer experience, while expanding its product portfolio and manufacturing capabilities with a robust local supply chain. With a long-term commitment to India, JSW MG Motor India is building a sustainable mobility ecosystem, introducing globally best-available technologies and environmentally responsible solutions for Indian consumers, while supporting the nation's transition.

Market rally continues on FII inflows, Sensex closes 1,225 points higher; Nifty gains 1.58%

MUMBAI : (AGENCY)



Indian stock markets closed sharply higher on Tuesday, with both benchmark indices gaining more than 1.5 per cent, supported by a decline in crude oil prices, renewed foreign investor buying and positive sentiment across most sectors. The BSE Sensex surged 1,225.07 points, or 1.62 per cent, to close at 76,917.85. Similarly, the Nifty 50 index gained 370.05 points, or 1.58 per cent, to settle at 23,810.85. Vinod Nair, Head of Research at Geojit Investments, said Indian equities extended their recovery as a sharp decline in crude oil prices, falling US Treasury yields and renewed foreign institutional investor (FII) interest eased recent macroeconomic pressures. "Resilient Q2 earnings further strengthened confidence in the domestic growth outlook, while the return of foreign investors after prolonged selling provided a liquidity boost, driving broader participation led by financials and consumption-oriented sectors," he said. He added that the sustainability of the recovery would depend on broader earnings performance, continued FII inflows and further moderation in oil prices and global yields. Geopolitical developments and the US Federal Reserve's policy decisions would remain key external factors. Among sectoral indices on the NSE, Nifty FMCG emerged as the top performer, surging 3.18 per cent, followed by Nifty Realty, which gained 2.10 per cent. Nifty Private Bank advanced 1.77 per cent, while Nifty Auto rose 1.47 per cent. Nifty Media also closed 0.49 per cent higher. However, some sectors remained under pressure. Nifty PSU Bank declined 1.37 per cent, Nifty Metal fell 0.40 per cent, and Nifty IT lost 0.15 per cent. Among the Nifty 50 constituents, BSE, Nestle India.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

Sr. Divisional Electrical Engineer/Traction Distribution, DRM's Office, State Entry Road, New Delhi for & on behalf of President of India, invites open e-tender for the under noted work:

1	**Name of Work with its location :** Augmentation/Replacement of Catenary wire over Delhi Division (7th Phase).
2	**Approx. Cost of work :** Rs. 1,80,29,018.38/-
3	**Earnest Money Deposit :** Rs. 3,60,600/-
4	**E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period :** 12.11.2026 (00.00 Hrs.) to 26.11.2026 (15.00 Hrs.)
5	**E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time :** 26.11.2026 (15.00 hrs.)
6	**Fund Allocation :** Capital (PH-36)
7	**Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen : www.ireps.gov.in**

No.: 09F-TRD-NDLS-2026-27 Dated: 03.11.2026 **3847/2026**

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Amazon Great Indian Festival 2026 continues through Bhai Dooj on November 11

BENGALURU. OPEN SEARCH

Amazon today announced multiple milestones in the ongoing Amazon Great Indian Festival 2026. The shopping event has broken previous records across customer savings, shopping volume, seller success and delivery speed attracting over 393 crore customer visits already. The Amazon Great Indian Festival 2026 has delivered historic savings for millions of customers, enabling over INR 2,800 crore in savings through deals, instant bank discounts, cashback, Amazon Pay rewards, free Prime deliveries and more, setting a new benchmark for customer value during the festive shopping event. 1 in every 3 units bought during the event was rewarded with cashback. More customers chose Prime this festive season, with the Amazon Great Indian Festival 2026 recording the highest-ever Prime sign-ups for any shopping event on Amazon.in. Prime members continued to get the best of Amazon, saving over 10X more year-over-year through Prime-only offers. Prime members also experienced the fastest deliveries ever, with a 3.6X increase in same-day deliveries including deliveries within minutes and hours. "It has been humbling to see customers across the country choose Amazon.in to fulfill their festive aspirations and upgrade across product categories – from smartphones and smartwatches to ethnic wear, festive décor, beauty products, everyday essentials and more.

STARLIT POWER SYSTEMS LIMITED

(Formerly known as KDG Properties & Construction Private Limited consequent upon its Name Change and Conversion as well as Merger of Starlit Power Systems Limited)
CIN : U74899DL1995PLC071052
Registered Office: 1002, 10th Floor vikram Tower 16 Rajendra Place, Patel Nagar New Delhi-110008
Email Id:(i)Amulya.starlit@gmail.com, (ii) kdgproperties121@gmail.com, Website: www.starlitpower.com Contact No: +91 8920674883, 9266745232

Unaudited Financial Result for the Quarter and Half year Ended on 30.09.2026

(₹IN LAKHS)

S.N	Particulars	STANDALONE						CONSOLIDATED					
		Three Months Ended			SIX Months Ended		Year Ended	Three Months Ended			SIX Months Ended		Year Ended
		CURRENT QUARTER	PREVIOUS QUARTER	CORRESPONDING QUARTER	CURRENT YEAR TO DATE	CORRESPONDING YEAR TO DATE	FIGURES FOR PREVIOUS YEAR	CURRENT QUARTER	PREVIOUS QUARTER	CORRESPONDING QUARTER	CURRENT YEAR TO DATE	CORRESPONDING YEAR TO DATE	FIGURES FOR PREVIOUS YEAR
		01.07.2026 to 30.09.2026	01.04.2026 to 30.06.2026	01.07.2025 to 30.09.2025	01.04.2026 to 30.09.2026	01.04.2025 to 30.09.2025	01.04.2025 to 31.03.2026	01.07.2026 to 30.09.2026	01.04.2026 to 30.06.2026	01.07.2025 to 30.09.2025	01.04.2026 to 30.09.2026	01.04.2025 to 30.09.2025	01.04.2025 to 31.03.2026
		Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Unaudited	Audited
1	Total Income from operations	191.12	319.02	-	510.14	-	43.80	191.12	319.02	-	510.14	-	43.80
2	Net Profit / Loss for the period before tax and exceptional items	(68.46)	(1,049.40)	(11.40)	(1,117.86)	(26.17)	(1,741.57)	(68.46)	(1,049.40)	(11.39)	(1,117.86)	(26.17)	(1,741.58)
3	Net Profit/ Loss for the period before tax (after exceptional items)	(68.46)	(1,049.40)	(11.40)	(1,117.86)	(26.17)	(1,741.57)	(74.79)	(1,067.97)	(4.28)	(1,142.76)	(16.37)	(1,872.98)
4	Net Profit/ Loss for the period after tax (after exceptional items)	(68.46)	(1,049.40)	(11.40)	(1,117.86)	(26.17)	(1,742.58)	(74.79)	(1,067.97)	(4.28)	(1,142.76)	(16.37)	(1,873.99)
5	Total Comprehensive income/ loss for the period [comprising profit/ loss for the period (after tax) and other comprehensive income/ loss (after tax)]	(68.46)	(1,049.40)	(11.40)	(1,117.86)	(26.17)	(1,742.58)	(74.79)	(1,067.97)	(4.28)	(1,142.76)	(16.37)	(1,873.99)
6	Paid up equity share capital	2,043.17	2,043.17	2,043.17	2,043.17	2,043.17	2,043.17	2,043.17	2,043.17	2,043.17	2,043.17	2,043.17	2,043.17
7	Earning per share (of Rs. 10/- each) Basic & Diluted	(0.34)	(5.14)	(0.06)	(5.47)	(0.13)	(8.53)	(0.37)	(5.23)	(0.02)	(5.59)	(0.08)	(9.17)

Note :

1. The above is an extract of the detailed format of quarterly and half year end financial results filed with the stock exchange under regualtion 33 of the SEBI (Listing obligations and disclosure requirements) Regulations 2015. the full format of the quarterly and half year end financial results is available on the company's website and also available on the website Website- www.starlitpower.com of BSE Limited i.e. www.bseindia.com

2. The above unaudited standalone financial results for the quarter and half year ended on september 30, 2026 were reviewed by the Audit Committee at the meeting and approved by the Board of Directors and taken on record at the meeting held on 03-11-2026.

For and on behalf of board of directors of
STARLIT POWER SYSTEMS LIMITED
MUKESH SAH
(MANAGING DIRECTOR)
DIN : 06932489

Date : 03.11.2026
Place : New Delhi

The contribution of Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee

The architect of state formation, is unforgettable - MLA Shri Kiran Dev

RAIPUR. OPEN SEARCH



Highlighting the state's development, MLA Shri Dev said that the government's public welfare policies are being ensured to directly benefit the last person in society.

On the occasion of the 26th glorious year of the establishment of Chhattisgarh state, the district level Rajyotsav 2026 was organized in Jagdalpur, the district headquarters of Bastar district, on the central theme of Empowered Women, Youth Flying. In this event, public representatives, administrative officers and common citizens together reiterated their determination to take Bastar out of the era of struggle and take it towards permanent prosperity. Inaugurating the function, Jagdalpur MLA Shri Kiran Singh Dev, while remembering Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the architect of the formation of the state, said that Shri Vajpayee, respecting the simple nature and public sentiments of the people of Chhattisgarh, had gifted this state without any major struggle. Highlighting the state's development, MLA Shri Dev said that the government's public welfare policies are being ensured to directly benefit the last person in society. He explained that, as promised, the government has arranged for the purchase of paddy at a rate of Rs. 3,100 per quintal. Under the "Mahatari Vandan Yojana," more than 7 million mothers and sisters in the state are being provided financial support by sending Rs. 1,000 per month to their bank accounts. To shape the future of youth, modern learning facilities like the 24-hour Nalanda Campus in Jagdalpur will prove helpful in preparing for competitive exams. Additionally, the selection of heritage villages in Dhudmaras, a Dhurva tribal-dominated area, and the development of homestays and tourism corridors are opening new avenues for self-employment for local youth. Addressing the Rajyotsav ceremony, Mayor of Jagdalpur Municipal Corporation, Mr. Sanjay Pandey, described women's power and youth energy as the most powerful foundation for building a new Bastar. He said that this region, which suffered the brunt of Maoist violence for decades, is now completely free from fear and moving towards new dimensions of peace and development. Today, the daughters of Bastar are protecting the country's borders and raising the flag of the nation's glory on sports grounds, innovation, startups, and platforms of Digital India. The Mayor underlined that initiatives.

1.7 lakh litres of water used to fight kundaim scrapyard fire

PANAJI : OPEN SEARCH



A major fire gutted a scrap yard in Kundaim in the early hours of Monday, with firefighters using around 1.7 lakh litres of water and 700 litres of foam to contain the blaze. The fire, which broke out around 3am, drew eight fire tenders from six fire stations and was brought under control by morning, though isolated flare-ups continued due to the breeze.

Firefighters found large quantities of plastic, PVC waste, rubber, cloth and other combustible materials stored inside sheds. According to fire officials, PVC waste had been stacked up to 10 metres high. The Kundaim fire station received information about the fire at 2.58am, and firefighters reached the site within five minutes. "The fire had engulfed the entire shed with mostly plastic waste dumps and the firemen had to douse the fire at the entrance first to enter inside the shed," said fire and emergency services deputy director Rajendra Haldankar. According to Haldankar, eight fire tenders from Kundaim, Ponda, Old Goa, Margao, Bicholim and St Inez-Panaji headquarters were pressed into service. Firefighters made repeated trips to spray around 1.7 lakh litres of water and used about 700 litres of foam to bring the blaze under control. "Considering the intensity of fire engulfed to plastic and rubber waste we had to spray around 700 liters of foam to douse the fire," Haldankar said. He said firefighters had contained the blaze by morning, but isolated fires continued to flare up due to the breeze. Heavy earthmoving machinery was deployed to sift through the scrap, move debris and cover isolated hotspots and embers with mud. "The fire has been doused, but smoke is still coming out, which is expected. We have engaged earth machinery to sift the garbage," a fire official said. Toxic smoke billowed from the site, hampering firefighting operations.

An LPG cylinder was found inside the shed, where some labourers were staying. No injuries were reported. Fire officials said the cause of the blaze had not yet been determined. "We have not found the cause. When we reached here, the fire was everywhere. There is plastic, wires and paper, cardboard and cables that have been dumped here. All this creates a lot of smoke.

Briefs News

Parliament Panel Holds FCRA Consultations Outside Delhi For The First Time

GUWAHATI (AGENCY) Taking its consultation process beyond the national capital for the first time, the Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) on the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026, held its first meeting outside Delhi in Shillong on Monday. Its chairman Sanjay Jaiswal said the venue was chosen at the request of Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma. The meeting brought nearly 40 organisations from Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland and Assam before the committee to present their suggestions, concerns and feedback on the proposed amendments. Jaiswal said the JPC had asked the participating organisations to submit written responses within 15 days, after which the committee would continue its consultations in Kochi and Chennai. Jaiswal said the objective was to frame legislation that could accommodate practical concerns raised by stakeholders while protecting organisations engaged in social work and preventing activities that could threaten national security. He stressed that the committee was still in the consultation stage and would consider the submissions before arriving at any conclusion. Addressing concerns surrounding religious institutions, Jaiswal clarified that the proposed Bill would ensure that temples, churches and mosques remained protected from interference. He also explained that foreign contributions would first have to be deposited in an SBI account in Delhi before being transferred to any bank account across the country. Citing the scale of foreign funding, he said India receives around Rs 22,000 crore in foreign contributions annually, while political parties are prohibited from receiving such funds.

3 BSF jawans injured in attack by villagers in Tripura, 6 held

AGARTALA (AGENCY) At least three BSF personnel were injured in an attack by a group of villagers over the detention of a person in Tripura's Sepahijala district, prompting Chief Minister Manik Saha to condemn the incident and direct the police to take swift action. Six people were arrested in connection with the incident near Ashabari border outpost on Monday, police said. "At least three BSF jawans were injured in the attack by angry villagers after one person was detained on suspicious smuggling activities at Ashabari on Monday. The mob vandalised a BSF vehicle and tried to snatch arms from the border guards," the police officer said."Six villagers were arrested, and a few more were brought to the Kalamchoura Police Station for their alleged involvement in the incident," he said. Taking to social media, the chief minister said acts of violence against security forces are "completely unacceptable". "I strongly condemn the brutal assault on our brave BSF personnel at Ashabari by a group of miscreants. Such acts of violence against our security forces are completely unacceptable and deserve unequivocal condemnation", Saha wrote on Facebook. He said any attack on the security personnel is "a matter of grave concern and must be dealt with firmly in accordance with the law".

Bageshwar Dham priest Dhirendra Shastri apologises after row over remarks on Lord Krishna

CHHATARPUR (AGENCY)



Bageshwar Dham head priest Dhirendra Shastri has apologised after a controversy over his comments on Lord Krishna, saying he did not intend to insult any deity. In a video message posted on social media from Nairobi, Kenya, on Monday, Shastri said he did not intend to draw any distinction between Lord Ram and Lord Krishna and apologised if his remarks hurt anyone's religious sentiments. During a Ram Katha held recently in Karera in Madhya Pradesh's Shivpuri district, Shastri had compared the forms of Lord Ram and Lord Krishna, saying Ram stands straight while Krishna stands bent in three places. Referring to Lord Krishna's 'tribhanga' posture, his flute and Vrindavan, he had also compared Ayodhya and Vrindavan. After a video of his comments circulated on social media, seers and devotees of Lord Krishna from Mathura and Vrindavan objected, saying Lord Ram and Lord Krishna are equally revered and that such a comparison is inappropriate.

Sukhvinder Sukhu : Assam CM Himanta will be invited to Congress's 2027 oath ceremony

SHIMLA (AGENCY)



Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu today took a swipe at the BJP, expressing confidence that the Congress would return to power in the 2027 Himachal Pradesh Assembly elections. He even said that Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma would be invited to the oath-taking ceremony along with all other Chief Ministers if the Congress forms the government for a second consecutive term. Reacting to Sarma's recent remarks that he would visit Himachal Pradesh next year after the BJP forms its government in the state, Sukhu said, "Of course, Sarma will be here for the oath ceremony when Congress forms the government again. He will also be an invitee along with the Chief Ministers of all other states." Talking to mediapersons, Sukhu claimed that the BJP was divided into five factions and was struggling with internal differences. He further asserted that 16 sitting BJP legislators were not in a position to win the next Assembly elections. Taking a dig at the BJP's decision to involve the Assam Chief Minister in its political affairs in Himachal, he said the move reflected the party's desperation to contain factionalism.

The Chief Minister attributed his government's confidence to the measures undertaken under its 'Vyavastha Parivartan' initiative to make Himachal self-reliant. He said the state had managed to sustain itself despite the withdrawal of annual Revenue Deficit Grant (RDG) assistance amounting to Rs 8,000-10,000 crore.

He maintained that even a BJP government, despite financial assistance from the Centre, would have found it difficult to manage the state's finances under such circumstances. On the BJP's allegations of double standards over electronic voting machines (EVMs), Sukhu questioned why doubts about their authenticity were being raised only after the 2024 elections, when the Himachal Assembly elections had been held in 2022.

Ferreira demands arrest of PI, woman in minor assault case, slams govt over women's safety

PANAJI : OPEN SEARCH



Aldona MLA Adv Carlos Alvares Ferreira has called for the immediate arrest of Police Inspector Vikas Deykar and a woman named Ranjini Palyekar, both of whom have been booked for the sexual assault of a minor girl.

Ferreira questioned why Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, who also holds the Home portfolio, has not yet ordered the arrest of the duo. "This recent incident of Deykar and Palyekar, having been booked for sexually assaulting a minor girl who came to the police station for help, is a certificate on how the BJP handles such sensitive matters. Look at the guts of the inspector, committing the crime inside the police station. I am told that he ensured that CCTV cameras were blocked, but no action has been taken against him. Is he well-connected? Is he a blue-eyed boy in the police force? Has he got the backing of the Home Minister, because he received the colours of the police flag in his hand?" he said. Ferreira said that such protection to Deykar and Palyekar cannot happen unless there is a godfather within the police force and among politicians.

"Is someone afraid that he and she will spill the beans and expose the police or some high-level politicians? Why is the BJP Mahila Mandal quiet? Chief Minister Pramod Sawant should give the order to arrest both the accused. Goa awaits action from the CM and the DGP," he said. The Aldona MLA recalled the incident involving journalist Tarun Tejpal, who was charged with the offence of molesting a woman. He said that even before the victim could arrive in Goa to register her complaint, the state government had registered an FIR suo motu and arrested Tejpal. When Director General of Police (DGP) Alok Kumar was confronted by the press, he stated that Deykar was suspended.

Ferreira said that he trusts the DGP to be an honest officer who is genuinely working to improve law and order. "But when a criminal in uniform is let loose, it is clear that the entire system is crumbling. Deykar could not have had the guts unless he had the protection of his bosses and political masters. Every FIR does not necessarily mean an arrest has to follow immediately, but why have the Inspector and the woman involved not been arrested like Tejpal? This assumes importance especially when we have a criminal in uniform; he wields considerable power, can influence the investigation, and intimidate witnesses. He can pressurise his subordinates. What is his connection with Palyekar? How long has she known him? Was she providing him with special services, or was she his agent?" he said. Ferreira also hit out at the BJP government for spending crores of rupees on events while paying mere lip service to women's safety. "A month back, I addressed a press conference on women's safety. I had specifically made an allegation that Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao was only a slogan and that the BJP and BJP governments across India were not bothered about women's safety. It continues to be true, as can be seen not just on a day-to-day basis, but every hour.

NCP Meet Amid BJP 'Concern': What Party Leader Said On 'Rift' Buzz

MUMBAI (AGENCY)



The internal rift within the Ajit Pawar faction of the Nationalist Congress Party came to a head today, with a section meeting Union Home Minister Amit Shah. It was followed by an internal meeting of the party. Another one -- called by Sunetra Pawar -- is scheduled for Tuesday, which would clarify how much support she has within the party. Amid concern expressed by the party's senior leaders in private, the NCP tried to play down the crisis. "There is no discontent within the party... The Delhi meeting was preplanned; all our leaders are united," read a statement by NCP state chief Sunil Tatkare. At tomorrow's meeting, "We will deliberate on the future course of action and the expansion of the organisation," he added. Putting an end to reports of a merger within the NCP, Tatkare said, "Discussions regarding a merger have already ended". The discussions he cited were held at the meeting with Amit Shah, who along with other BJP leaders, had suggested that the two factions of the NCP merge and stay as part of the NDA, sources said. At the core committee meeting held by Sunetra Pawar in the evening, it was decided that there is no question of any merger with the Sharad Pawar faction. At the meeting, MLAs had expressed dissatisfaction regarding Parth Pawar's style of functioning. Sources said the NCP leaders had emphasised that it is essential to carry everyone along and give respect to experience and seniority.

Bijapur is moving from the darkness of Naxalism to the light of development - Minister Guru Khushwant Saheb

RAIPUR. OPEN SEARCH



During his visit to Bijapur, Minister Shri Guru Khuswant Saheb visited FOB Tadpala, located on the Karregutta hills, and met with security personnel and praised their courage, bravery, and dedication.

Cabinet Minister Shri Guru Khuswant Saheb attended the District-Level Rajyotsav-2026 as the Chief Guest on November 2nd, marking Chhattisgarh State Foundation Day. He stated that Bastar, once affected by the challenges of Naxalism, is now moving forward in a new direction of peace, trust, and development. Areas once plagued by fear and violence are now experiencing new opportunities for the expansion of roads, education, health, employment, and infrastructure. He stated that Bastar should now be identified not by the sound of gunfire, but by development, prosperity, and a rich cultural heritage. The hoisting of the tricolour on the Karregutta hills is a symbol of the courage of the security forces and their dedication to the nation.

During his visit to Bijapur, Minister Shri Guru Khuswant Saheb visited FOB Tadpala, located on the Karregutta hills, and met with security personnel and praised their courage, bravery, and dedication. He stated that the tireless efforts of the personnel deployed in remote areas and the cooperation of local citizens have strengthened the prospects for peace and development. The hoisting of the tricolor on the Karregutta hills symbolizes the courage of the security forces and their dedication to the nation. He stated that the campaign against Naxalism has gained momentum due to the guidance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the resolve of Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, the leadership of Chief Minister Shri Vishnu Dev Sai, and the efforts of Deputy Chief Minister Shri Vijay Sharma. The government's objective is to strengthen security and provide essential services such as education, health, electricity, drinking water, communication, and employment to remote villages. Workers were honored and a message was given for environmental protection. Minister Shri Guru Khuswant Saheb honored workers who contributed to construction and development work in the Karregutta area. He stated that workers play a crucial role in building a developed Bastar. Their hard work and dedication are driving infrastructure development. He also spread the message of environmental protection by planting trees under the "One Tree for Mother" campaign. On the occasion of the district-level Rajyotsav held at the Bijapur district headquarters mini stadium, he remembered the late Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the former Prime Minister and founder of Chhattisgarh. Extending his greetings to the people of the state on Statehood Day, he said that since the formation of the state in 2000, Chhattisgarh has made significant progress in the fields of agriculture.

J&K CM Omar Abdullah directs ministers to speed up development works

JAMMU (AGENCY)



On the first day of the opening of government offices in Jammu under the Darbar Move on Monday, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah asked Ministers and senior officials to accelerate development works and ensure effective utilisation of allocated funds. Omar chaired an introductory meeting with Ministers and senior civil administration officers at the Civil Secretariat following the resumption of the traditional biannual Darbar Move.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, all Ministers, Advisor to the Chief Minister, Acting Chief Secretary Shailendra Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Administrative Secretaries, heads of various departments and senior civil and police officers. Observing that the next six months would be crucial for accelerating development activities and ensuring optimal utilisation of departmental allocations, the Chief Minister directed all departments to step up the pace of execution and ensure timely completion of ongoing projects.

He also asked newly inducted Ministers and those assigned new portfolios to undertake detailed reviews of their respective departments and assess the progress made in implementing commitments announced in the last Budget. Earlier, Omar was accorded a ceremonial Guard of Honour at the Civil Secretariat.

He also inaugurated infrastructure projects worth Rs 1.89 crore at the Civil Secretariat, aimed at improving office infrastructure and facilities for employees and visitors. These included a newly constructed pre-fabricated office accommodation block, developed at an estimated cost of Rs 158.09 lakh under the CAPEX budget, and a renovated Reception Hall at the entrance gate of the Civil Secretariat.

'Still playing very well': Mitchell Santner praises Ro-Ko ahead of ODI series

AUCKLAND (AGENCY)



The New Zealand skipper revealed that his team has already discussed its bowling plans to counter India's formidable batting line-up

As India and New Zealand gear up for a five-match ODI series, New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner praised the performances of Indian stalwarts Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli, saying both experienced batters continue to deliver strong performances despite being in the late stages of their careers. Santner also highlighted Indian skipper Shubman Gill's consistency over the past five years, emphasising the challenge India's experienced top order will pose during the upcoming five-match ODI series. The New Zealand skipper revealed that his team has already discussed its bowling plans to counter India's formidable batting line-up. He stressed the importance of adapting to home conditions, particularly when the pitches offer assistance to the bowlers, and maintaining pressure on the Indian batters over longer periods.

Santner also expects Rohit and Kohli's presence to draw strong crowds during the series, adding that the T20 matches have already witnessed encouraging attendance and he anticipates a similar response for the ODIs. Santner was speaking to the reporters on the eve of New Zealand's 1st ODI against India in Auckland on Tuesday. "We've had some really good crowds throughout the T20 series, and I expect that to continue with Rohit and Virat here. We know how good they are. Although they are getting on in their careers, they are still playing very well, as we saw in the recent series against the West Indies," he said.

"I've watched them play for a long time, including Rohit in the IPL. We've obviously sat down as a bowling group and discussed what India's batting line-up looks like and how we need to operate in New Zealand. We know how to bowl on these pitches, but the challenge is understanding what to do when the conditions offer some assistance to the bowlers," he added.

Santner also emphasised the importance of maintaining consistency with the ball in ODI cricket, stating that New Zealand would look to build pressure through disciplined bowling and exploit any assistance offered by the pitches to keep the Indian batters under pressure. "I think if we can get into their top order, particularly with Shubman Gill, who has been outstanding over the last five years, we can put ourselves in a good position. In one-day cricket, it's about bowling good deliveries consistently and building pressure over a period of time.

Manu Bhaker to contest elections for ISSF Athletes Committee for 2026–2030 term

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)



India's Double Olympic Medallist Manu Bhaker is set to contest the elections for the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Athletes Committee for the 2026–2030 term, having been nominated as a candidate in the Pistol category. One of 10 candidates vying for two elected positions in the discipline, Manu has outlined an athlete-centric vision aimed at strengthening the sport and creating a more supportive, sustainable and progressive environment for shooters worldwide, as per a press release. Having experienced the demands and challenges of competing at the highest level, Manu believes that athletes must have a stronger voice in decisions that shape the future of their sport. Her vision focuses on addressing key aspects of an athlete's journey, from competition formats and financial opportunities to mental well-being, career security and representation within the sport's governing structure.

A key priority in her agenda is safeguarding the Men's 25m Rapid Fire Pistol event and securing its long-term future in the Olympic programme. She also aims to advocate for greater stability in technical rules across Olympic cycles, enabling athletes to prepare with greater consistency and confidence. Additionally, she intends to push for better prize money across ISSF World Cups and explore greater commercial opportunities through television-friendly competition formats that can attract broadcasters and sponsors while creating more value for athletes. Recognising the need to expand shooting's global appeal, Manu also wants to leverage social media and digital platforms to bring the sport closer to new audiences. Equally important to her vision is ensuring that athletes have accessible and meaningful representation, with their concerns reaching ISSF leadership directly. She proposes a secure and confidential grievance redressal mechanism to enable timely and transparent resolution of athlete concerns, alongside stronger mental health support through sports psychology programmes and designated quiet zones at ISSF events.

Briefs News

Capri Sports' 'Meet the Unstoppables' campaign film features players from all teams as preview of IWL

MUMBAI (AGENCY) As the countdown begins to the 2026–27 season of the Indian Women's League (IWL), Capri Sports has unveiled 'Meet the Unstoppables', a campaign film celebrating the journey, determination and ambition of women footballers across India. The campaign captures the journey of a woman footballer from the grassroots to the tunnel, bringing to life the years of dedication, sacrifice and relentless hard work that go into reaching the highest level of women's club football in the country, as per a press release. Over the years, women's football in India has witnessed significant growth, with players across the country dedicating themselves to the sport, honing their skills and steadily progressing through the ranks. Today, their hard work, talent and determination have brought them to the highest level of domestic women's football, competing in the country's premier division, the Lxme IWL. With the league providing them a bigger platform to showcase their abilities, these footballers are now poised to receive greater visibility and recognition, as they continue to grow, excel on the field and inspire the next generation. 'Meet the Unstoppable' celebrates this progress, capturing the intensity, skill and winning mentality of a generation ready to take Indian women's football forward. The campaign features eight emerging players, with one representative from each of the eight participating clubs in the Lxme IWL. Shubhangi from Gokulam Kerala FC, Chanu from East Bengal FC, Shruti from BBFS Garhwal United FC, Anushka from Kickstart FC, Kiran from Juba Sangha FC, Pooja from HOPS FC, Malavika from Sethu FC and Cindy from Nita Football Academy feature in the film.

Shubman Gill explains KL Rahul's batting role ahead of NZ ODIs

AUCKLAND (AGENCY) Indian skipper Shubman Gill shed light on KL Rahul's batting position in India's middle order, stating that the team is not looking to assign fixed roles to its number five, six and seven batters. Gill emphasised that Rahul's position is determined by the match situation and the number of overs remaining, with Axar Patel also an option to provide a left-handed presence in the middle order. Rahul has been batting at different positions in the middle order, with the team management continuing to utilise his versatility according to match situations and team requirements. Gill also added that Hardik Pandya's return would further strengthen India's lower-middle order and provide greater depth to the batting lineup. Gill was speaking to the reporters on the eve of India's 1st ODI against New Zealand in Auckland on Tuesday. "For us, positions five, six and seven are flexible. If you look at our top four, they are pretty much settled, and all four are right-handed batters. So, depending on the situation, if we feel the need for a left-hander at number five, we can send Axar Patel. Similarly, if the platform is set and we feel KL Rahul is the right batter to come in, we make that decision based on the match situation," Gill said. "Personally, I feel that positions five, six and seven are more about the number of overs remaining and the situation of the game rather than sticking to fixed batting positions. We are very happy with the way our top and middle order is shaping up," he added.

Task cut out for Bengal bowlers as batting woes continue

MUMBAI : (AGENCY) It certainly was a good toss to win for Maharashtra in conditions that had a bit of assistance for seamers, though the grass content is by no means scary for batters. But alongside some tight bowling from the seamers, lack of application from the Bengal batting group was a bigger reason behind the home team capitulating to 143 all out in 36.5 overs on Monday. That, after a few specialist batsmen, including captain Abhimanyu Easwaran and Sudip Gharami, had undergone nets early morning on the eve of the game to counter the moisture. Keeper-batter Abishek Porel, also a part of the group, made a decent contribution with an innings of 54 besides a 66-run eighth-wicket stand with spinner Pradipta Pramanik (31). Bengal were reeling at 72/7 in the first session before a bit of resilience from Porel and Pramanik. Before their fightback, Easwaran gave catching practice to the slip cordon, while Gharami perished due to an error in judgment. The consistent off-stump line from medium-pacer Tanay Sanghvi left Gharami in doubt before he offered no shot to an incoming delivery, which rattled his stumps. Bengal, however, are not yet out of the contest. Thanks to Mohammed Shami's two wickets off as many balls.

Velavan Senthilkumar clinches Czech Open 2026 title, beats top seed Greg Lobban in final

PRAGUE (AGENCY)



India's Velavan Senthilkumar clinched the men's singles title at the Czech Open 2026 squash tournament in Brno on Monday (local time), defeating top seed and world No. 31 Greg Lobban of Scotland 3-1 (13-11, 11-5, 8-11, 11-7) in the final of the PSA Copper-level event. cThe fourth-seeded Indian produced a spirited performance to overcome Lobban, showing great composure in a closely contested opening game. Trailing 6-10, Senthilkumar saved four game points before fighting back to take the opener 13-11, as per Olympics.com. The 28-year-old carried that momentum into the second game, winning it 11-5 to establish a 2-0 lead. Lobban responded by claiming the third game 11-8, but Senthilkumar held his nerve in the fourth.

New Zealand suffer another injury blow as Conway ruled out of opening ODI after collision with Henry

AUCKLAND (AGENCY)



New Zealand opener Devon Conway has been ruled out of the first ODI against India, scheduled to be played in Auckland on Wednesday, after sustaining a head injury during a training session on Tuesday. Conway suffered the injury following a collision with fast bowler Matt Henry during the team's pre-match training session at Eden Park, ruling him out of the series opener, as per Cricinfo. New Zealand skipper Mitchell Santner confirmed that Matt Henry appeared fine after undergoing concussion assessments following the collision, but Devon Conway's condition was more concerning, with the opener being rushed off the premises for further medical attention. "Not yet. I think Matt went through his concussion thing.

He seems okay, but Dev's been raced off-premises. So, yeah, it didn't look too good, actually, that collision," Santner told the reporters. Conway's injury adds to New Zealand's growing list of injury concerns, with Mark Chapman and Rachin Ravindra already ruled out of the ODI series due to hamstring and shoulder injuries, respectively. Meanwhile, wicket-keeper/batter Tim Seifert, who was initially considered only for the first two ODIs, was added to the squad for the entire series on Monday. Santner indicated that Seifert is likely to replace Devon Conway in the playing XI. He described Conway's potential absence as a setback, praising his abilities in the 50-over format and calling the training-ground collision an unfortunate freak accident. "Yeah, I guess he's [Seifert] the back-up batter in our squad. So it'll probably be a direct swap if Dev's unavailable, which is a shame. He [Conway] is obviously very good in one-day cricket and, you know, was biding his time in the T20 series. And, yeah, I guess another one of those freak accidents that happens," Santner added. The ODI series will begin on November 4 in Auckland, following an entertaining five-match T20I series.

GLENN Maxwell opens up on retirement from international cricket

SYDNEY (AGENCY)



Glenn Maxwell revealed that his decision to retire from international cricket followed several discussions with the Australian team management, both before and after the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026. Speaking on the Final Word podcast, the 38-year-old said the conversations remained open-ended, with no pressure from the management regarding his future. Maxwell explained that Australia were already looking to the future, with opportunities being given to younger players during the team's subsequent assignments. He pointed to Australia's tour of Bangladesh, where several emerging players got the chance to prove themselves and delivered impressive performances.

The veteran all-rounder also admitted that he had held out a small hope of receiving a farewell appearance at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG). However, he said he completely understood Australia's decision to move in a different direction and prioritise the development of younger talent. Maxwell acknowledged that Australian cricket is likely to undergo significant changes over the next 12 to 24 months, particularly with the 2028 Olympics on the horizon. He stressed the importance of giving emerging players opportunities at the international level, allowing them to experience the pressure and demands of representing their country, something that cannot always be replicated in domestic competitions such as the Big Bash League (BBL).

"We probably had numerous discussions before and after the T20 World Cup. And it was pretty open-ended. There wasn't any pressure from that side [Australia team management], and we decided to sort of leave the door open. There were a couple of series that were coming up; they were going to look to the future, and we saw that in Bangladesh with guys getting their opportunity and performing really well," Maxwell said on the Final Word podcast as per Cricinfo. "I suppose, a small hope or discussion that I might have been able to potentially get a send-off game at the MCG. But I can completely understand the direction they're going with this squad. There's going to be a lot of change, I suppose, over the next 12 to 24 months with the Olympics coming up [in 2028], and they've got to make sure that they get their eyeballs on a few young guys coming through and making sure that they're getting exposed to international pressure that you probably can't always get from a BBL fixture," he added. Maxwell has announced his retirement from international cricket, bringing the curtain down on a remarkable 14-year career representing his country. The 38-year-old last featured for Australia in their final match of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 against Oman in February. That outing, in which he claimed two wickets with the ball but did not get an opportunity to bat, proved to be his final appearance in Australian colours.

2nd unofficial Test: Yashasvi Jaiswal's unbeaten 155 powers India A to draw against New Zealand A



CHRISTCHURCH (AGENCY)

Yashasvi Jaiswal roared back to form with a magnificent unbeaten century as India A played out a draw against New Zealand A in the second unofficial Test at Hagley Oval in Christchurch on Tuesday. The left-handed opener smashed an unbeaten 155 off 162 deliveries, including 15 fours and five sixes, in India's second innings to help the visitors recover from a first-innings deficit and finish the match on a strong note. Jaiswal found valuable support from Yash Rathod, who also registered a brilliant century, scoring an unbeaten 100 off 122 balls. The duo stitched together an unbeaten 247-run partnership for the third wicket as India A reached 282/2 in 52.4 overs before both teams agreed to a draw.

India A had conceded a 78-run first-innings lead after being bowled out for 346 in reply to New Zealand A's 424. The visitors finished the match with a lead of 204 runs. Jaiswal's second-innings effort was particularly significant after a difficult run of scores. He had managed just 17 and five in the first unofficial Test against New Zealand A and was dismissed for a duck in India's first innings of this match. However, the opener responded in emphatic fashion, reaching his century off 119 deliveries before accelerating further to finish unbeaten on 155. His innings provided India A with the platform to erase New Zealand A's first-innings advantage. Rathod complemented Jaiswal's attacking approach with a composed hundred, reaching the three-figure mark from 122 balls. Their 247-run stand ensured India A finished the contest without further damage after losing Sai Sudharsan (11) and Devdutt Padikkal (0) early on Day 4. Earlier, India A posted 346 in their first innings, with wicketkeeper-batter Dhruv Jurel leading the scoring with a century. Jurel scored 105 off 171 deliveries, while Devdutt Padikkal contributed 80 off 140 balls and Akash Deep added a valuable 68 off 116 deliveries.

Sai Sudharsan also chipped in with 41. For New Zealand A, Fraser Sheat was the standout bowler, claiming four wickets for 63 runs, while Brett Randell picked up two wickets for 66 runs.New Zealand A responded with 424 in their first innings, taking a 78-run lead. Matthew Boyle anchored their batting effort with a superb 110 off 152 deliveries, while Dean Foxcroft narrowly missed out on a century, scoring 93 off 226 balls.

Kristian Clarke (41), Fraser Sheat (40) and Jarrod McKay (33) also made useful contributions to push the hosts past the 400-run mark. India A pacer Mukesh Kumar was the pick of the bowlers, returning figures of 5/87 in 29 overs, while Mohammed Siraj claimed four wickets for 118 runs. Washington Sundar picked up the remaining wicket.



Keerthy Suresh Says She Believes in God, Radhika Apte calls Nature her Higher Power



Keerthy Suresh and Radhika Apte's Akka is trending on Netflix. The women-centric gangster crime saga revolves around an ancient matriarchal kingdom that has its own laws and has survived until the Partition of India in 1947. Personal enmity destroys everything, and Bhavani has to prematurely step into the role of the Chief Akka. Radhika Apte plays Rudra, a formidable enemy driven by personal motives. During the promotions of the series, both actors sat down with Filmygyan for an interview. While they spoke about the five-episode drama, they also opened up about faith and spirituality. Speaking about the characters, Keerthy Suresh said that both Bhavani and Rudra are names associated with Lord Shiva, who symbolises power and destruction. In the series, Bhavani is shown as an ardent devotee of Goddess Rakhturthi. In real life, the actor believes in a higher power. "I believe there is some kind of power. I am devotional. I pray in the way I know, but I am not religious. I do believe in God," she shared. Speaking about her beliefs, Radhika Apte shared, "I don't believe in God. I do believe in nature, and nature for me is the higher power, which I wish people worship nature over some idols. The actor also opened up about her character. In an interview with Filmfare, she said, "She is a very delusional character. I find that very interesting in a sad way. To play it convincingly, I had to look at it very emphatically. She is a bit lost. Akka is set in the fictional kingdom of Pernuru, which is divided into three regions and ruled by female gangsters.

The matriarchal society follows a simple rule: the crown and responsibilities are passed down from mother to daughter. In this unique setup, expectant mothers wish to give birth to girls rather than boys. The city is not only governed by women, but they also protect it. They fight, run businesses and perform every task traditionally associated with men. Everything goes for a toss when Shankar, who is ostracised by the community, decides to destroy Pernuru with the help of Rudra, who weaponises unhappy men in the community to rise and fight the Akkas. **(AGENCY)**

Aditya Roy Kapur-Tara Sutaria's Next With Milap Zaveri Titled Parwana

Tara Sutaria and Aditya Roy Kapur are all set to team up for Milap Zaveri's upcoming project. The duo will be sharing the screen space for the first time in an intense musical love story, titled Parwana. While Parwana reunites Tara Sutaria with Milap Zaveri following their 2019 collaboration Marjaavaan, Parwana marks her first on-screen pairing with Aditya Roy Kapur. In a recent interview, Milap recalled meeting the Shootout at Lokhandwala director a few days before his tragic passing. He even shared the title of his new film with Sanjay Gupta. According to Variety India, Milap said, "We met 10 days ago and I told you the title of my next film. And you jumped in joy and said 'Milap. The original film with the same title was produced by my father!" "The joy I felt at that moment and the pride you felt in me is indescribable," Milap Zaveri continued, adding that the film will be dedicated to his "Guruji. Sanjay Gupta's contribution to Milap's career went beyond their professional partnership. Over the years, the two shared a long-standing creative relationship and collaborated on several projects. Milap worked as a dialogue writer on Gupta's Kaante. Their association continued in films like Musafir, Shootout At Lokhandwala and Shootout At Wadala. Sanjay Gupta passed away on October 30 after a fatal accident in the bathroom. He died at the age of 57 in Versova. **(AGENCY)**

The original film with the same title was produced by my father!" "The joy I felt at that moment and the pride you felt in me is indescribable



Nitesh Tiwari's 'Ramayana' crosses Rs 100 crore mark in worldwide advance bookings



Ranbir Kapoor-starrer Ramayana: Part One has crossed Rs 100 crore in worldwide advance bookings for its opening weekend, days ahead of its November 5 theatrical release, according to trade website Sacnilk. Directed by Nitesh Tiwari and produced by Namit Malhotra, the adaptation of the ancient India epic has generated more than Rs 72 crore in domestic advance bookings, including blocked seats, while overseas pre-sales have contributed over Rs 40 crore, taking the worldwide gross beyond Rs 100 crore. Domestic bookings for the first three days, from Thursday to Saturday, have crossed Rs 58 crore without blocked seats and Rs 72.6 crore with blocked seats, as per Sacnilk. Including Sunday, the domestic advance gross has moved beyond Rs 60 crore. The opening-day advance sales alone have crossed Rs 50 crore gross worldwide. Overseas markets have emerged as a significant contributor to the film's pre-release performance, with North America leading the demand. Paid previews scheduled for November 4 in the US have generated more than USD 1.2 million, with over 51,000 tickets sold. The film has also moved past estimated US premiere-ticket sales benchmarks associated with major Indian blockbusters such as Animal, Jawan, Pushpa 2, Pathaan, RRR, Baahubali 2 and Kalki 2898 AD. It is now closing in on the estimated 52,000-ticket benchmark set by Dhurandhar 2. More than 1.4 lakh tickets have reportedly been sold for the November 4-8 opening period in the US, with around 37 per cent of the bookings coming from preview night. Total US advance sales for the opening weekend are estimated at around USD 3 million. Trade projections suggest the film could register an opening of USD 13-14 million over five days in North America. Its overseas opening weekend collection is projected to cross USD 20 million, with the potential to touch USD 25 million if other international territories perform strongly. Australia, the United Kingdom and other overseas markets have also contributed to the advance-booking figures. Ramayana: Part One stars Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Rama, Sai Pallavi as Sita and Yash as Ravana. The film also features Sunny Deol, Ravi Dubey, Lara Dutta, Arun Govil, Sheeba Chadha, Rakul Preet Singh, Vivek Oberoi, Kunal Kapoor and Anupam Kher in key roles.

The first instalment of the planned two-part adaptation is scheduled to release in theatres on November 5. The Bombay High Court has granted interim protection to the makers of Ramayana against piracy, restraining unidentified individuals and digital platforms from recording, uploading or streaming the film without authorisation ahead of its theatrical release. The court has also directed internet service providers (ISPs) and social media platforms to block or remove pirated content once the production company brings it to their notice. The order was passed on Monday by Justice Madhav Jamdar while hearing a copyright infringement suit filed by Godpower Media Private Limited, which holds the film's copyright and exploitation. rights in India and overseas territories. The company told the court that the first part of Ramayana had been mounted on a budget of Rs 2,000 crore, with the two-part project costing Rs 4,000 crore. **(AGENCY)**

Medha Rana to reunite with 'Border 2' co-star Ahan Shetty in Tinu Suresh Desai's 'Sanki'



Actress Medha Rana is set to reunite with her Border 2 co-star Ahan Shetty in the upcoming film Sanki, directed by Tinu Suresh Desai. Shetty announced Rana's association with the project through an Instagram story on Tuesday, sharing a picture of the actress with the caption, "Welcome on board @medhaarana #Sanki." Rana reshared the post, expressing her excitement about the project. "So excited for this one," she wrote.

Described as a love story at its core, Sanki will combine emotional drama with high-octane action. While details of the plot remain under wraps, the film is currently being shot in Bhopal, where Rana is set to join Shetty.

Produced by We The People, Roaring River Productions and Pals & Peers Entertainment, Sanki is slated for a theatrical release in the first half of 2027. Desai is known for helming films like Rustom (2016) and Mission Raniganj (2023). Rana made her acting debut in the 2022 crime thriller web series London Files, streaming on Voot Select, in which she played Maya Roy alongside Arjun Rampal and Purab Kohli. She gained wider recognition with Border 2, in which she portrayed Dhanvanti opposite Varun Dhawan. Directed by Anurag Singh, the film also featured Sunny Deol, Mona Singh, Diljit Dosanjh and Sonam Bajwa, among others. It went on to collect over Rs 460 crore at the global box office. **(AGENCY)**

'I don't really listen to it' : Jack Lowden on next James Bond casting rumours

Jack Lowden is not ready to open up about whether he is in the running to play the next James Bond, even though his Slow Horses co-star Gary Oldman believes the actor's name is practically locked in for the iconic role. Lowden, 36, achieved global recognition for his portrayal of River Cartwright, a rookie MI5 recruit relegated to Slough House in Apple TV+'s acclaimed spy thriller Slow Horses. The Scottish actor's name has been in the mix for James Bond casting rumours alongside fellow British actors Callum Turner and Josh O'Connor. In September, Oldman told Canada's The Morning Show that Bond's role was already cast, and he hoped Lowden was the choice.



They have made their choice, but they have not announced it yet. So my fingers are crossed for Jack," Oldman said at the time. In an interview with British GQ, Lowden reacted to Oldman's comments. "It's all very flattering," he said. "It's nice to be mentioned — for any role — and I'm just not really going to add to the noise. It's very nice, and Gary's a sweetheart. It's particularly lovely, coming from someone like him. But I don't really listen to it". Regardless of the James Bond speculation, Lowden has secured another major role inspired by a literary classic. He is set to star as Mr Darcy in Netflix's upcoming series adaptation of Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice, opposite Emma Corrin as Elizabeth Bennet. The actor told GQ that he was surprised to know that he was writer Dolly Alderton's top choice to play Mr Darcy. "When I take jobs, or I'm offered them, I look at what I can get away with — I don't buy myself in 99 per cent of the roles I do, but if other people do, I get a kick out of that," Lowden said. "I'm not everybody's first choice for most of the roles I've played. **(AGENCY)**

Bombay High Court asks Mumbai civic body to reupload Dia Mirza's Diwali video

The Bombay High Court Tuesday expressed deep pain and displeasure over Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's (BMC) decision to delete Dia Mirza's video for an eco-friendly Diwali and asked the civic body to re-upload her video. Mirza's video, in which she urged people to avoid noise and air pollution during Diwali, was removed on Sunday after Mumbai BJP chief Ameet Satam objected to it in a post on X, tagging the civic body's official account. "We don't need lessons on how to celebrate #Diwali from @deespeak. Our traditions are deeply rooted in our culture," the BJP MLA wrote. However, campaign videos featuring actors Madhuri Dixit and Nishigandha Wad, as well as cricketer Ajinkya Rahane, continue to be available on the BMC's X and Instagram pages.



A bench of Justice Girish Kulkarni & Justice Dr Neela Gokhale said "they are disturbed by the stray comments made by some politicians" and reminded them that "India is a secular country". "The utterances by these people were without taking cognizance of order of this court. We clearly said in our earlier order that everybody can participate but this approach of the corporators and some politicians isn't correct. They should not give any other angle. She acted as per the directions of the court," Justice Kulkarni said. "This is purely an environment issue please don't give it any other colour... Everyone is breathing the same air be it anyone," Justice Gokhale added. Mumbai Mayor Ritu Tawde on Monday defended the BMC's decision to remove Mirza's video. She said Hindus did not need the actress to teach them how to celebrate the festival. Addressing a press conference at the civic headquarters. **(AGENCY)**

Production begins for Netflix's 'The Royals' Season 2, Bhumi Pednekar not coming back



Production has begun for the second season of Netflix series The Royals, the streamer announced on Tuesday. While Ishaan Khatter is set to reprise his role, Bhumi Pednekar, who starred alongside Khatter in the first season, will not be returning. The second instalment of the romance drama will be directed by Nitya Mehra and Tanuj Chopra. Netflix announced the start of filming on its official X account. The first season was released in May 2025 and made it to Netflix's Global Top 10 Non-English TV Shows across 58 countries. It was created by Rangita Pritish Nandy and Ishita Pritish Nandy. Season one followed the romance between Aviraaj Singh (Ishaan Khatter), the charming yet carefree prince of the financially strained royal family of Morpur, and Sophia Kanmani Shekhar (Bhumi Pednekar), a self-made entrepreneur and CEO aiming to expand her luxury homestay business. Forced to collaborate to turn a crumbling royal palace into a luxury bed-and-breakfast, their conflicting personalities and ambitions sparked fierce family rivalries, endless clashes, and an unexpected love story. Zeenat Aman, Sakshi Tanwar, Vihaan Samat and Kavya Trehan, who starred in Season 1, are also reprising their roles in the second instalment, as per Netflix. "The story will continue on a grander scale, with more kingdoms entering the fold, new alliances, rivalries and romances in the making, proving once again that royal life is anything but orderly," the streamer added. Creators Rangita and Ishita said the love from viewers for the first season made their journey with the show all the more special. "We're excited to return to this world of larger-than-life characters, complicated relationships and a family that never runs short of surprises. With season two, we're looking forward to taking the story forward, bringing back the characters audiences have come to love, and turning up the romance. **(AGENCY)**

