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DELHI EDITION

PM Modi praises Indian para athletes for record 114 medals

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday met and interacted with members of the Indian contingent that participated in the Asian Para Games 2026 in Japan, congratulating the para-athletes for their historic performance and record medal haul of 114 medals.

The interaction was held at the Indira Gandhi Sports Complex in New Delhi, where Union Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya also joined the Prime Minister in meeting the athletes and acknowledging their achievements.

India concluded its campaign at the Asian Para Games 2026 with a record haul of 114 medals, including 30 gold, 35 silver and 49 bronze, as the country's para-athletes delivered world-record performances, historic victories and podium sweeps across multiple disciplines. BPCL MAK lubricantsBPCL MAK lubricants‹› surpassing its previous medal tally of 108 from the last edition, which comprised 27 gold, 32 silver and 49 bronze medals. India had initially secured 111 medals at the previous edition, but three medals were subsequently stripped following doping-related action against Neeraj Yadav and Parveen. Last month, in a post on X, PM Modi had also praised the athletes for their determination and exceptional performances, saying each member of the contingent had contributed to the historic achievement and inspired countless Indians.



Prime Minister highlights expansion of India's Metro network from 248 km in 2014 to nearly 1,200 km today

The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, highlighted the significant expansion of India's Metro network, noting that in 2014, the country had just 248 km of Metro lines across five cities, compared to nearly 1,200 km across 26 cities today. The Prime Minister noted that over one crore people travel by Metro every day. He said that this expansion means less time spent in traffic, more time with family, greater productivity and better opportunities. Shri Modi said that this transformation is what the Government is working towards for urban India. The Prime Minister wrote on X; "Let me ask you... If India's Metro network had continued expanding at the pace it did before 2014, how long would the wait be for cities like Pune to have a metro?

What an extraordinary achievement by our para-athletes at the just concluded Asian Para Games 2026! With a record 114 medals, this marks India's best-ever performance at the Games. This is an occasion of immense pride and joy for the entire nation! I congratulate every member of our contingent for their exceptional determination. Each athlete has contributed to this historic achievement and inspired countless Indians with their accomplishments," he had said in an X post. India's performance at Aichi-Nagoya exceeded expectations, particularly as the contingent was significantly smaller than the one that competed in the previous edition. A total of 168 para-athletes represented India at the 2026 Games, compared to 309 athletes at Hangzhou. Among the standout performances, India's para-badminton contingent delivered several memorable results. Reigning Paralympic champion Nitesh Kumar defeated compatriot and reigning world champion Pramod Bhagat 21-18, 21-16 in the men's singles SL3 final to clinch gold, while Bhagat settled for silver, ensuring an all-Indian finish. In women's doubles SL3-SU5, Thulasimathi Murugesan and Manasi Girishchandra Joshi defeated China's Qiuxia Yang and Zuxian Xiao 21-16, 21-13 to claim gold. Thulasimathi also won silver in women's singles SU5, while Nithya Sre Sumathy Sivan secured silver in women's singles SH6 after losing to China's Fengmei Li. Para-archers Harvinder Singh and debutant Vijay Sundi won gold in men's recurve doubles, while Pooja Jatyan and Bhawna Choudhary secured silver in women's recurve doubles, earning India its first-ever medal in the event.

Amit Shah while addressing 'Loktantra Bachao, Arajakta Hatao' Padyatra held in Karnal

CHANDIGARH. OPEN SEARCH

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah addressed the 'Loktantra Bachao, Arajakta Hatao' rally organised in Karnal, Haryana, on Thursday and accused the Congress and Rahul Gandhi of disrupting parliamentary proceedings, blaming the Election Commission and EVMs for their electoral defeats, and shielding infiltrators. Referring to the rallies organised across 600 districts of the country, Shri Shah supported the SIR and highlighted the need to remove the names of deceased, shifted and fake voters from the electoral rolls. He also highlighted the achievements of the Central Government's welfare schemes and called upon BJP karyakartas to reach out to every household and respond to the Congress's allegations. During the programme, Haryana Chief Minister Shri Nayab Singh Saini, Union Minister Shri Manohar Lal Khattar, BJP State President Dr. Archana Gupta, BJP National General Secretary and Haryana In-charge Smt. Smriti Irani, Co-In-charge and MP Dr. Bhola Singh, along with other senior leaders, were also present on the dais. Shri Shah said that today marks the final day of the 'Loktantra Bachao, Arajakta Hatao' rallies organised by the Bharatiya Janata Party. These rallies are being held at all headquarters across the country, and the same enthusiasm and public support are visible everywhere. An overwhelming wave of public support for Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji has swept the streets across the country. The people of the country have elected Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji for the third consecutive time and given him a massive mandate in 2024. Subsequently, the Congress, under the leadership of Rahul Gandhi, has faced consecutive electoral defeats. When a person has no way forward, desperation often drives them to take inappropriate steps. In a democracy, Parliament is the highest forum for discussion, but Rahul Gandhi does not allow Parliament to function, nor does he engage in discussions on issues there. Creating a ruckus in Parliament and boycotting its proceedings have become the political modus operandi of the Congress Party. Avoiding discussions in Parliament and attempting to create disorder by mobilising crowds on the streets are not in keeping with democratic traditions.



Referring to the rallies organised across 600 districts of the country, Shri Shah supported the SIR and highlighted the need to remove the names of deceased, shifted and fake voters from the electoral rolls.

Uttarakhand Hikes Dearness Allowance for State Employees from 60 to 63%

DEHRADUN. (AGENCY)

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Thursday approved a 3 per cent increase in Dearness Allowance (DA) for state government employees, raising it from 60 per cent to 63 per cent with effect from July 1, 2026. According to the Chief Minister's Office, the Government of India had previously increased the Dearness Allowance rate by 3% to 63%, effective July 1, 2026, for employees drawing salaries under the 7th Central Pay Commission. Following suit, the Chief Minister has approved the proposal to grant state employees Dearness Allowance on par with the Central Government. Along with state government employees, this decision will also benefit eligible personnel working in local bodies, aided educational institutions, state universities, technical educational institutions, and those drawing salaries under UGC pay scales. With the Chief Minister's approval, the differential amount of the Dearness Allowance for the period from July 1, 2026, to October 31, 2026, will be paid in cash as arrears to the eligible employees. The approval comes after the Central Government announced the 3 per cent increase in DA for its employees, taking the rate from 60 per cent to 63 per cent with effect from July 1, 2026. The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the additional instalment of DA for Central Government employees and Dearness Relief (DR) for pensioners.

on October 28, providing relief against rising prices. The revision will benefit approximately 48.54 lakh Central Government employees and 68.71 lakh pensioners across the country. According to the Central Government, the combined annual financial implication of the increase in DA and DR will be Rs 10,016.10 crore, adding to the government's expenditure. The additional instalment of DA and DR was approved in accordance with the accepted formula based on the recommendations.



According to the Central Government, the combined annual financial implication of the increase in DA and DR will be Rs 10,016.10 crore.

Govt relaxes passport and visa rules for foreign nationals residing in India

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY) The government has relaxed passport and visa rules for several categories of foreign nationals residing in the country, including certain Pakistani citizens, minority refugees, Sri Lankan Tamils, and Tibetans, according to a gazette notification. The Immigration and Foreigners (Exemption) (Amendment) Order, 2026, published on Thursday, also streamlines travel and identification protocols for citizens of Nepal, Bhutan, and India travelling between these neighbouring nations. Under the amended rules released by the Union Home Ministry, Pakistani nationals who entered India on or before December 31, 2009, with the intention to reside permanently, are exempt from standard passport renewal requirements if they cannot renew their travel documents due to the non-possession of a Computerised National Identity Card (CNIC) issued by Pakistan. To qualify, they must not have married while in Pakistan or acquired any immovable property there, must have left behind family members who are Indian citizens when going to Pakistan, and must undertake not to return to that country.

Goans to get day passes for IFFI this year : CM Pramod Sawant



PANAJI. OPEN SEARCH

A day pass facility will be available to Goans for the upcoming International Film Festival of India (Iffi) to be able to experience the event, said chief minister Pramod Sawant after chairing the 20th board meeting of the Entertainment Society of Goa (ESG) on Wednesday.

After reviewing the festival preparations, Sawant also said that ESG will revive the Film Finance Scheme for Goan filmmakers. "The pending amount to Goan filmmakers will be given. The funds will be released to them within the next 10 days, before Iffi begins," he said.

The chief minister said that Goan filmmaker Aditya Jambhale will be felicitated at Iffi along with other Goan directors for their achievements. Jambhale is a two-time national award-winning Goan film director, writer and actor.

The curtain-raiser for this year's Iffi will be held by National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) and ministry of information and broadcasting on Nov 12.

Sawant said that the number of screens for this edition of Iffi is yet to be finalised. Last year, six screens were added, including at venues in Ponda and Margao, so Iffi can reach audiences across Goa, besides open-air screenings at Miramar, Vagator and Ravindra Bhavan in Margao.

4th Conference of Mining Ministers to Be Held in Goa

PANAJI . The Ministry of Mines, Government of India, is organising the 4th Conference of Mining Ministers on 5–6 November 2026 in Goa, bringing together Mining Ministers from various States and senior officials from the Central and State Governments. The two-day conference will provide an important platform for interaction and exchange of views among State Mining Ministers and senior officials on various aspects of the mining sector.

Personal Attacks In Punjab Amid Bid to Show Who's Sober Enough to Run State

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)

The Opposition parties in the centre who are fighting the BJP on several fronts are busy pulling the rug from under each other in the pind. This is visible in the way top leaders of the Congress party and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) have been fighting. From citing issues critical to the public such as ending the drug menace in the border state, the battles have become personal. Recent comments made by Congress MP Rahul Gandhi and Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann of the AAP clearly showed missiles loaded with personal attacks being launched from both sides. Yesterday, at the Congress's 'Insaaf Rally' in Mann's territory of Sangrur, Gandhi made a direct reference to Mann's controversial past in what seemed like a strong attack that Gandhi had been powering up for by taking pot-shots of increasing intensity in recent times. In a post on X, Gandhi said "a dangerous pattern is visible in Punjab's AAP government - if you question government failure, the answer will be threats and torture," and demanded the filing of a police case against state Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema following the death of a 47-year-old man, Gulzar Singh, who had questioned the minister on narcotics. Mann saw what Gandhi had done and responded the same day, "Rahul Gandhi ji, do not do politics over dead bodies. Punjabis.



EC announces Special Summary Revision of electoral rolls in 6 states, UTs

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)

The Election Commission on Thursday announced that the Special Summary Revision (SSR) of electoral rolls in six more states and Union Territories, including Chandigarh, will begin on November 20, with the final voters' list scheduled to be published on January 21, 2027. The six states and Union Territories are Arunachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Mizoram, Odisha and Sikkim. As per the schedule announced by the EC, rationalisation of polling stations will be completed by November 20, 2026. The integrated draft electoral rolls will be published on November 30, 2026, while the period for filing claims and objections will run from November 30 to December 30, 2026. The claims and objections will be disposed of by January 16, 2027, and the final electoral rolls will be published on January 21, 2027. The six states and Union Territories are in addition to the 17 states and Union Territories for which the poll body announced the SSR schedule last month. This takes the total number of states and Union Territories where the SSR is to be held to 23. The revision will be conducted in states and Union Territories where the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls has been completed. These include states where Assembly elections are due early next year, including Punjab. The 23 states and Union Territories are Punjab, Chandigarh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Gujarat, Kerala, Lakshadweep, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Arunachal Pradesh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Mizoram, Odisha and Sikkim. SSR normally follows the November-January schedule and was last held during the November 2024-January 2025 cycle. It was not conducted during the November 2025-January 2026 period as SIR was underway in the above-mentioned states and Union Territories. The SSR is held annually to facilitate the enrolment of eligible electors and new voters with reference to the qualifying date of January 1, while also inviting advance applications.



The six states and Union Territories are in addition to the 17 states and Union Territories for which the poll body announced the SSR schedule last month.

Hardeep Puri declared elected unopposed to Rajya Sabha from MP

BHOPAL. (AGENCY)

Union Petroleum Minister and BJP candidate Hardeep Singh Puri was on Thursday declared elected unopposed in the Rajya Sabha bypoll from Madhya Pradesh, an official said.

On the last day of the withdrawal of nominations, Puri, who was the sole candidate in the fray as the papers of other two nominees were rejected during scrutiny, was declared elected to the Upper House of Parliament by Returning Officer Umesh Sharma.

Madhya Pradesh BJP president Hemant Khandelwal collected Puri's certificate of election from the returning officer in the presence of party MLA Rameshwar Sharma.

On the last day for the scrutiny of papers, the nominations of the other two candidates, Kante Sayanna and Rajkumar Lohani, who was backed by the Opposition Congress, were rejected. The bypoll, if necessary, was to take place on November 12.

The Rajya Sabha seat fell vacant after the resignation of former Union minister L Murugan from the Upper House last month, necessitating the bypoll. Murugan's term was due to end on April 2, 2030. The BJP then fielded Puri, a career diplomat-turned-politician, as its candidate for the Rajya Sabha by-election.



Opposition Spreading Misleading Propaganda Over SIR : CM Nayab Saini

Chief Minister Addresses 'Loktantra Bachao–Arajakta Hatao' Padyatra in Karnal

VIJAY KUMAR.OPEN SEARCH





CHANDIGARH : Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini on Thursday addressed a gathering organised on the occasion of the 'Loktantra Bachao–Arajakta Hatao' Padyatra in Karnal. Union Home and Cooperation Minister Sh. Amit Shah flagged off the Padyatra.

Union Minister Sh. Manohar Lal, Haryana BJP In-charge and former Union Minister Smt. Smriti Irani, BJP State President Dr. Archana Gupta, Cabinet Ministers Sh. Krishan Lal Panwar, Sh. Rao Narbir Singh, Sh. Mahipal Dhanda, Dr. Arvind Sharma and Sh. Krishan Bedi, Minister of State Sh. Gaurav Gautam, Deputy Speaker Dr. Krishan Middha, Government Chief Whip and MLA Sh. Ram Kumar Kashyap, MLAs Sh. Jagmohan Anand, Sh. Bhagwan Dass Kabirpanthi and Sh. Yogender Rana, along with senior office-bearers, a large number of citizens and party workers, were present.

Welcoming Union Home and Cooperation Minister Sh. Amit Shah to the sacred land of Haryana, the Chief Minister said the Opposition was spreading misleading propaganda regarding the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. He said Karnal, the city of Danveer Karna, is known for its rich tradition of sacrifice, service and generosity. In a democracy, the right to vote is every citizen's most important right, ensuring their participation in shaping the future of the country and the state.

The Chief Minister said that strengthening democracy requires ensuring that every eligible citizen's name is included in the electoral roll and that they can exercise their franchise without any hindrance. The Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls is an important exercise in this direction, aimed at making electoral rolls more accurate, transparent and reliable.

The Chief Minister said the government's firm resolve is to ensure that no eligible citizen is deprived of the right to vote. Names of deceased persons, duplicate entries and erroneous records in electoral rolls should be examined in accordance with the rules and corrected through due process. He appealed to the people of Haryana to verify their names and those of their family members in the electoral rolls and, in case of any discrepancy, file claims or objections before the concerned electoral officer in accordance with the prescribed procedure.

Drawing an analogy with the cleaning of homes before Diwali, the Chief Minister said that just as people clean their homes ahead of the festival, maintaining the accuracy and transparency of electoral rolls is equally essential for strengthening the democratic system. He emphasised that the exercise is not directed against any individual or section of society but is intended to further strengthen democracy.

He urged the youth to remain aware of democratic processes, understand the facts, respect constitutional institutions and fulfil their duties alongside exercising their rights. He said Haryana is known for its hard work, honesty, brotherhood and patriotism, and preserving these social and constitutional values is a collective responsibility.

Expressing gratitude to the women, youth, farmers, party workers and citizens participating in the Padyatra, the Chief Minister said safeguarding the rights of every eligible voter, ensuring error-free electoral rolls and enhancing public participation in the democratic process are shared responsibilities.

He urged party workers to reach out to every village and ward and encourage eligible citizens to verify their names in the electoral rolls. If anyone's name has been omitted, they should be assisted in completing the prescribed procedure.

He also called upon party workers to extend special assistance to senior citizens, women and young people registering as voters for the first time. He assured that, under the leadership of Union Minister Sh. Amit Shah, efforts would be made to spread awareness among the people about SIR. The Chief Minister concluded his address with the slogans, "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Haryana, Jai Hind and Bharat Mata Ki Jai."

Ambala Division to run 16 special trains to manage Diwali, Chhath rush

CHANDIGARH : (AGENCY)



To manage the festive rush during Diwali and Chhath, the Ambala Division of Northern Railway has drawn up an extensive crowd management plan and announced 16 additional festival special trains. Railway officials said special arrangements had been made at all major stations to ensure the safe, smooth and convenient movement of passengers during the festive season. Holding areas with additional tents and expanded waiting rooms have been set up at Ludhiana, Ambala Cantt, Chandigarh, Saharanpur and other stations witnessing heavy passenger footfall to prevent overcrowding on platforms.

The arrangements include round-the-clock deployment of the Railway Protection Force (RPF), CCTV surveillance and a dedicated war room for real-time crowd management. Ambulances, first-aid posts and medical teams will remain on standby to deal with emergencies. Round-the-clock monitoring has also been arranged at platforms, foot overbridges, entry gates and circulating areas.

Woman below 50 can opt for IVF independently even if husband is above 55': High Court

CHANDIGARH : (AGENCY)



The Punjab and Haryana High Court has held that a woman below 50 years can independently avail Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) services, including IVF, even if her husband has crossed the prescribed maximum age of 55 years. Clarifying the scope of the Assisted Reproductive Technology (Regulation) Act, 2021, the court held that ART services were available either to a commissioning couple or to a woman on her own, and her eligibility could not be made dependent on her husband's age. "ART services can be availed either by a couple or a woman on her own, and there is no requirement that only a couple must approach the ART clinic or the bank for this purpose," Justice Tribhuvan Dahiya held while deciding six connected petitions raising common questions of law. The court clarified, however, that the statutory age limits of 50 years for women and 55 years for men operated independently. If either crossed the applicable maximum age, the right to avail ART services as a commissioning couple did not survive. "The age restrictions are for the spouses separately," the court observed. The Union of India was represented in the matter by Senior Central Government Counsel Dheeraj Jain along with Central Government Counsel Gurneet Sagoo. The lead petition concerned a couple who had approached an authorised clinic for IVF treatment. Nine embryos were created and cryopreserved on November 22, 2023, when both were 47. Two frozen embryo transfers, in July 2024 and February 2025, were unsuccessful in achieving a continuing pregnancy. Four embryos remained cryopreserved. The woman crossed 50 on December 10, 2025, while her husband was still below 55. The couple sought permission to use the remaining embryos, contending that eligibility should be assessed by treating them as one unit. Rejecting the contention, the court held that merely freezing embryos when both partners were eligible did not confer a vested right to undertake subsequent stages of treatment after the prescribed age limit had been crossed.

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Briefs News

Deadline for Applications Under Mahila Samarth Sansthan Award Scheme Extended to November 20

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH. The Haryana Government, through the Women and Child Development Department, has launched the Mahila Samarth Sansthan Award Scheme to promote a safe, respectful and positive working environment for women employees. The scheme aims to recognise and encourage institutions that prioritise the safety, dignity and equal opportunities of women employees at the workplace. Giving details in this regard, a spokesperson of the Department said that online applications had been invited from eligible institutions under five different award categories. The State Government has now extended the last date for submitting applications to November 20, 2026. The spokesperson urged eligible institutions to avail themselves of this opportunity and submit their applications through the designated portal within the stipulated deadline. For detailed information regarding eligibility criteria, award categories and the application process, institutions may visit the official website of the Women and Child Development Department at https://onlinemis.wcdhry.gov.in/gaurav/.

Haryana Government Transfers 5 HCS Officers

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH The Haryana Government has issued transfer and posting orders of five HCS officers with immediate effect. Sh. Dheeraj Chahal, who was awaiting posting orders, has been appointed Joint State Project Director, Haryana School Shiksha Pariyojna Parishad. Sh. Sanjay Bishnoi, who was serving as District Transport Officer-cum-Secretary, Regional Transport Authority, Fatehabad, Sirsa and Hisar, has been appointed Deputy Secretary, Revenue and Disaster Management Department. Sh. Gaurav Gupta, City Magistrate, Fatehabad, has been given additional charge of District Transport Officer-cum-Secretary, Regional Transport Authority, Fatehabad. Sh. Rohit Kumar, City Magistrate, Hisar, has been given additional charge of District Transport Officer-cum-Secretary, Regional Transport Authority, Hisar. Sh. Ajay Singh, City Magistrate, Sirsa, has been given additional charge of District Transport Officer-cum-Secretary, Regional Transport Authority, Sirsa.

Panchkula to intensify TB screening, target brick-kiln, industrial workers

PANCHKULA (AGENCY) Panchkula will intensify tuberculosis (TB) screening, with special focus on brick-kiln and industrial workers, schoolchildren and families of patients, as the district steps up efforts to achieve TB-free status. At the first meeting of the district-level TB-Free India team, chaired by Kalka MLA Shakti Rani Sharma at the Mini Secretariat on Wednesday, health officials were directed to launch targeted screening drives, identify undetected cases and ensure regular monitoring of patients. Sharma asked doctors to focus on reducing the number of TB cases through intensified testing and surveillance. She also directed the Health Department to organise awareness and screening camps in schools and monitor the health of recovered patients and their family members.

Chandigarh : 'Jung Ki Kahaniyan' to connect youth with military heritage

CHANDIGARH : (AGENCY)



Jung Ki Kahaniyan, a youth engagement initiative under the aegis of Chandigarh-based Gyan Setu Think Tank, was inaugurated here today. The initiative aims to connect the younger generation with India's rich military heritage through inspiring stories of courage, sacrifice and service narrated by those who fought for the nation. The first edition of the programme will focus on the 1971 India-Pakistan War, which led to the liberation of Bangladesh and remains one of the most decisive and celebrated military victories in India's history. In his video message on the occasion, Punjab Governor and Chandigarh Administrator Gulab Chand Kataria congratulated the organisers on the initiative and commended the contribution of the Indian Armed Forces. "Our victories inspire us, while the sacrifices of our soldiers remind us to remain eternally grateful. Their history teaches us important lessons in decisive leadership, preparedness, team spirit and placing national interest above all else," he said.

Former General Officer Commanding-in-Chief (GOC-in-C), Western Command, Lt Gen KJ Singh (retd) shared insights into the role played by the Indian Army's 63rd Cavalry Regiment during the 1971 war. The regiment came to be known as the "Ghost Regiment" as its tanks repeatedly appeared from unexpected directions and across multiple fronts, catching Pakistani forces off guard. It was the first Indian armoured column to push into the heart of Dhaka and played an instrumental role in liberating several gurdwaras that had been vandalised and occupied by Pakistani forces.

The highlight of the event was an audio-visual presentation titled "Vision to Victory", a theatrical documentary by Peninsula Studios. Featuring archival footage, tactical maps and testimonies from veterans and experts, it traced the 1971 campaign and highlighted how India achieved a decisive victory through military action, diplomacy, intelligence and political will. The documentary was followed by an interactive session featuring Lt Gen JS Cheema (retd), Subroto Chattopadhya, Maj Gen Anil P Dere (retd) and Maj Gen JS Nanda (retd).

CHB moots Rs 20-cr interest waiver, rent cut for 'affordable houses'

CHANDIGARH : (AGENCY)



The Chandigarh Housing Board (CHB) has no order on record authorising the 12 per cent interest it has been charging on flats in Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHC), according to official documents presented in Tuesday's 435th meeting of the Board. The Board recommended a one-time waiver of about Rs 20.8 crore in interest for licensees of about 15,000 units, according to the minutes of the meeting.

The Board also recommended a lower licence fee (rent) for 1,997 ARHC flats, whose Rs 3,000 monthly fee was fixed on a Rent Assessment Committee report the CHB now calls vague. It further recommended reviving the 2016 General Power of Attorney (GPA) transfer policy for six months. The interest waiver will benefit around 1 lakh residents, the rent reduction around 10,000 and the GPA scheme over 2,000 allottees. The minutes of the meeting, a copy of which is with The have been forwarded to the Administrator's office. The Small Flats Scheme-2006 had no interest clause at its launch. A 12 per cent clause came through a notification of June 2, 2020. The ARHC guidelines had none either. Interest is being levied on ARHC flats at 12 per cent "as per notification" for Small Flats, the documents say, and no order of the CHB or the Administration exists on record.

As on October 8, over 13,000 of about 16,203 Small Flats licensees had defaulted. Dues are about Rs 36 crore, including Rs 14.5 crore as interest. Of the 1,997 ARHC licensees, over 1,800 have defaulted. Dues are about Rs 17 crore, including Rs 6.3 crore as interest. Interest thus forms about 39 per cent of the combined Rs 53 crore.

The waiver covers licensees whose licences were cancelled for non-payment. They must clear all dues as on October 31, 2026, in one payment or in instalments before October 31, 2027, or expiry of the term, whichever is earlier. Those paying in instalments must also pay the monthly fee falling due. A no-dues certificate will be issued only after full payment.

The documents note that the flats are of the same size, were built under JNNURM and share an "affordability" basis.

Haryana Food Safety Drive Intensifies : Sampling Up 83%, 50,000 Kg of Sweets and Paneer Destroyed, Seizures Worth Rs 84 Lakh

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH





Haryana has intensified its crackdown on suspected food adulteration ahead of the Deepawali festival, with food sampling increasing by nearly 83 per cent year-on-year, seizures of food products valued at approximately Rs 84 lakh and around 50,000 kg of adulterated sweets and paneer destroyed during the special enforcement drive.

Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Sumita Misra said that the Food and Drugs Administration, Haryana, is conducting a special Festival Food Safety Enforcement Drive across the State to prevent the manufacture, storage and sale of adulterated and substandard food products and safeguard public health.

From September 1 to November 5, 2026, the State collected 2,375 food samples, compared to 1,301 during the corresponding period last year, registering an increase of 82.55 per cent. Enforcement sampling increased from 851 to 1,527 (79.44 per cent), while surveillance sampling rose from 450 to 848 (88.44 per cent). Of the 2,375 samples collected during the current period, 861 have been analysed so far. As many as 170 samples were found not conforming to the prescribed standards, including 140 samples declared substandard and 30 found unsafe. The remaining samples are at various stages of analysis.

Departmental records further show that Food Safety Officers carried out 42 seizures between April 1 and November 5, involving food products valued at Rs 83,96,859. Ghee and ghee products alone accounted for more than Rs 51 lakh of the total seizure value.

Rewari topped the State in seizure value at Rs 20.02 lakh, followed by Mahendergarh at Rs 16.53 lakh and Jind at Rs 15.21 lakh. Together, these three districts accounted for nearly 62 per cent of the total recorded seizure value. Hisar reported seizures worth Rs 9.43 lakh, Sonipat Rs 8.63 lakh and Panipat Rs 7.03 lakh. Among the major enforcement actions, officials seized 2,008 kg of desi ghee valued at Rs 16.07 lakh from a dairy in Satnali, Mahendergarh, on November 4. In Narwana, Jind, 2,205 kg of ghee products worth Rs 14.11 lakh were seized on October 30. In Hisar, enforcement teams confiscated 2,695 kg of soybean oil and 2,271 kg of vanaspati oil, together valued at approximately Rs 8.71 lakh, from an establishment in Adampur on May 26. Similarly, Rewari officials seized 1,019 kg of milk cake, 799 kg of khoya burfi and 399 kg of khoya, collectively valued at approximately Rs 9.60 lakh, on October 29.

Dr. Misra said that a detailed drive order had been issued to all Food Safety Officers, directing them to intensify inspections, surveillance, sampling and enforcement activities. Special emphasis is being laid on milk, milk products, paneer and sweets.

33.32 Lakh Quintals of Paddy Data Not Uploaded Despite Verification, Alleges Selja

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH



The Sirsa MP, General Secretary AICC, Incharge Uttarakhand, Congress Working Committee member and Former Union Cabinet Minister Kumari Selja has expressed deep concern over the difficulties faced by farmers in Haryana due to technical glitches in the paddy procurement portal. She has demanded an immediate solution from the BJP government in the state.

Kumari Selja said technical hurdles in the procurement of paddy produced through farmers' hard work exposed the government's administrative failure. According to Agriculture Department figures, approximately 90.71 lakh quintals of paddy were registered in the state, but technical problems prevented data for nearly 33.32 lakh quintals from being uploaded on the portal. She described the situation as extremely serious. She questioned why farmers should suffer when their crops had already been verified, merely because the data could not be uploaded on the portal. Several farmers had to sell their paddy on the basis of gate passes, raising concerns over the procurement and payment process.

Kumari Selja said the Congress party had consistently stood for farmers' rights, fair prices for their produce and timely payments. She urged the BJP government to adopt a sensitive approach towards farmers' problems and ensure that their concerns were addressed without delay. She demanded that the government immediately constitute a special technical team to resolve the portal's shortcomings, ensure that complete records of verified paddy were entered into the system and guarantee payment, as per rules, for crops sold through gate passes.

CM Rekha Gupta orders inquiry into Chawri Bazar building collapse

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)



An MCD official said construction work at the building had been halted around 15 days ago. Workers were removing the support system beneath the roof when the structure collapsed.

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Thursday ordered an inquiry into the collapse of a three-storey building under construction in Old Delhi's Chawri Bazar, which claimed two lives and left four others injured, and directed officials to register an FIR against the contractor. The chief minister also ordered the immediate suspension of the junior engineer (JE) and assistant engineer (AE) concerned. Gupta visited the spot along with senior officials and said no official found negligent in overseeing safety norms would be spared. She also appealed to the public to adhere to safety rules during construction. Here, construction was under way for a ground-plus-two-floor building. Further investigation is going on. However, the municipal corporation has suspended its JE and AE and registered an FIR against the contractor who was constructing this building," Gupta told reporters.

"The way people are ignoring safety and security while constructing their homes is dangerous to their own lives. Whatever construction it may be, it must be carried out keeping safety and security in mind, and any official who overlooks such negligence will not be spared either," she said.

She said action would be taken against whoever is named in the FIR. Urban Development Minister Ashish Sood, who accompanied Gupta to the spot, said the government was planning to introduce new construction norms for heritage areas in the Walled City. Gupta directed officials to ensure the best possible medical treatment for the injured and provide immediate ex-gratia assistance to the affected families. "Stringent action will be taken against those found responsible, in accordance with the law," the chief minister said. The building collapsed around 9.50 am in Gali Sitara, near the Chawri Bazar Metro station, police said. Two bodies were pulled out from the debris by a Delhi Fire Services (DFS) rescue team, while four injured people were taken to a hospital by locals before fire department teams arrived, an official said. BuyMaps The identities of the deceased are yet to be ascertained, police said, adding that more people were feared trapped under the debris. An MCD official said construction work at the building had been halted around 15 days ago. Workers were removing the support system beneath the roof when the structure collapsed, the official said. "The material used was non-engineered and had not set properly, which eventually led to the collapse," the official said. Multiple teams, including fire units, are engaged in rescue operations.

Delhi conducts two cloud-seeding trials in 15 days; more planned after Diwali, Chhath

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)



The Delhi government has conducted two rounds of cloud-seeding trials near the Indira Gandhi International Airport in the last 15 days as part of its efforts to explore artificial rain as a possible measure to tackle rising air pollution in the national capital, government sources said. According to the sources, the trials were conducted at an altitude of approximately 30,000 metres, significantly higher than the altitude of around 10,000 metres at which cloud-seeding operations were carried out in Delhi last year. More trials are likely to be conducted after Diwali and Chhath, the sources said, adding that the government is unlikely to make any official announcement or confirmation regarding the proposed operations until after Diwali. Cloud seeding is a weather-modification technique aimed at enhancing a cloud's ability to produce precipitation. It involves dispersing substances such as silver iodide and sodium chloride into suitable clouds to encourage the formation of raindrops or ice crystals. The Delhi government had first rolled out its cloud-seeding project last year in collaboration. with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur as an emergency measure to explore ways to combat pollution during peak winter episodes. The collaboration was formalised through a Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Delhi Environment Department and IIT Kanpur on September 25, 2025. Two rounds of trials were conducted in October last year, with eight chemical flares containing silver iodide and sodium chloride released during each operation. However, the experiments did not result in rainfall. The Delhi government subsequently released a report claiming that the trials had helped reduce particulate matter levels at the targeted locations despite the absence of rainfall.

Prayer for Forgiveness of the Departed Soul of Akhtari Begum

NEW DELHI. OPEN SEARCH



Shamim Ahmed Khan, President of Zam Zam Foundation, visited Imam House in New Delhi today and met Dr. Imam Umer Ahmed Ilyasi, Chairman of the All India Imam Organization and Chief Imam of India. During the meeting, he requested prayers for the forgiveness and salvation of his late mother, Akhtari Begum. On the occasion, he presented a prayer mat (Jaye Namaz) and Dua-e-Qunoot to the Chief Imam. Dr. Imam Umer Ahmed Ilyasi offered special prayers for the departed soul of Akhtari Begum. While leading the prayers, he supplicated, "May Allah Almighty forgive the late Akhtari Begum, illuminate her grave with divine light, elevate her spiritual status and grant her the highest place in Jannatul Firdaus. Ameen." Those present on the occasion included Chief Qazi Mufti Mohammad Tahir Hussain, Shamim Ahmed Khan, Haji Mohammad Anwar, Mohammad Azharuddin, Mufti Mohammad Shahid, Maulana Mohammad Qasim, Mufti Ayaz Mohammad, Rehan and other prominent personalities.

Shraddha Walkar case : Court summons Tihar jail superintendent over threats to accused Aaftab

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)



A local court has summoned the Tihar Jail superintendent to explain the action taken to ensure the safety of Aaftab Amin Poonawala, accused in the Shraddha Walkar murder case, after he claimed he is receiving threats from fellow inmates even after an earlier direction to protect him. Additional Sessions Judge Hargurvarinder Singh Jaggi issued the summons, seeking a report on compliance with its November 2 order directing jail authorities to take immediate measures to ensure Poonawala's safety. The court, in an order dated November 4, directed the jail superintendent to appear with a compliance report on November 6. Poonawala will also be produced before the court through video conferencing on that date. During the hearing, Poonawala's counsel Akshay Bhandari told the court that the undertrial is still receiving threats from inmates and no action has been taken despite court's directions. On November 2, the court had directed jail authorities to take immediate steps to ensure Poonawala's safety after he claimed that fellow inmates had repeatedly threatened to slash his face with improvised weapons and cause him bodily harm. The accused had told the court that some inmates had been threatening him for around 10 days. He had also expressed concerns over his safety inside Jail No. 4A of Tihar Jail, which houses a special cell and also functions as a punishment ward. The court had said, if required, Poonawala could be kept in a separate ward or cell away from notorious inmates. It had also directed the jail superintendent to submit an action-taken report. The judge had observed that the safety of an undertrial prisoner was top priority and it was state's duty to ensure their security as part of the right to a fair trial. The latest order was passed during the recording of prosecution evidence in the 2022 murder case. The court also directed the prosecution and defence to prepare for the examination of at least two witnesses. from November 17. Poonawala is accused of strangling dead his live-in partner Shraddha Walkar, chopping her body into pieces, storing them in a refrigerator. and disposing them at different locations in Delhi.

Delhi AQI may turn severe on Diwali, further worsening post-festival : Experts

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)



Delhi is likely to witness severe air quality on Diwali, with a deterioration in pollution levels expected to begin from Friday and a further spike anticipated in the days following the festival as weakening winds could trap pollutants over the city, according to experts. BuyMaps According to the Air Quality Early Warning System, Delhi's air quality is likely to remain in the very poor category on Thursday before deteriorating to the severe category from November 6 to 8. The outlook for the subsequent six days indicates that pollution levels are likely to remain in the severe to very poor category. Weather and air quality experts said that Diwali-related pollution could further aggravate the situation, with the impact of firecrackers expected to coincide with the peak stubble-burning season and unfavourable meteorological conditions. Moderate northwesterly winds originating from northwest Rajasthan are expected to prevail over the national capital until November 7, while light easterly winds are likely to set in from the night of November 8, potentially helping disperse pollutants to some extent on Diwali, said Mahesh Palawat of Skymet. BuyMaps However, the situation could worsen on November 9, the day after Diwali, as easterly winds are expected to weaken further, leading to an accumulation of pollutants and a possible spike in the Air Quality Index (AQI), he said. The forecasting system attributed the anticipated deterioration to unfavourable meteorological conditions, with the ventilation index expected to remain below 6,000 square metres per second and average wind speed below 10 kmph, both of which are unfavourable for the dispersion of pollutants. Manoj Kumar of the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA) said that if weather conditions remain unchanged, air quality could deteriorate further as Diwali celebrations and related activities typically begin two days before the festival. "The AQI could move from the very poor to the severe category. Areas currently recording poor air quality could slip into the very poor category, while those already in the very poor category could turn severe," he said. He added that the period also coincides with the peak stubble-burning season, with a rise in farm fire incidents being reported over the past two days. The increasing contribution of stubble burning, along with emissions from firecrackers and vehicular pollution, could further aggravate the situation.

MCD suspends two officials after building collapse in Old Delhi's Chawri Bazaar

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)



The Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) on Thursday suspended two junior level officials, including an assistant engineer and a junior engineer, in connection with the collapse of a building under construction in Old Delhi's Chawri Bazaar that killed two people and left four others injured. BuyMaps In separate office orders, the Deputy Commissioner of the Old Delhi Zone placed the two officials under suspension with immediate effect. The orders cited a prima facie case of serious negligence in the discharge of their duties. "In view of the recent incident and the developments arising therefrom, and considering the prima facie case of severe dereliction of duty, you are hereby placed under suspension with immediate effect, pending further inquiry," the orders stated. The action comes after a three-storey building under construction collapsed in Gali Sitara near Chawri Bazaar Metro station around 9.50 am on Thursday. Two people were killed after being trapped under the debris, while several others were feared trapped, police said. A Delhi Fire Services rescue team pulled out two bodies from the rubble. Four people had been taken to a hospital by locals before the fire department's teams arrived, an official said. BuyMaps A senior MCD official.

24-hour arrest deadline begins from detention, not formal arrest : SC

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)



Top court says only travel time to magistrate's court can be excluded; person detained beyond 24 hours must be released forthwith

In a significant judgement, the Supreme Court on Thursday ruled that the 24-hour constitutional deadline for producing an arrested person before a magistrate begins from the moment he is detained, and not from the time the police formally makes the arrest.

Holding that there can be no artificial distinction between 'arrest' and 'detention' for the purpose of Article 22(2) of the Constitution, a Bench of Justices Ujjal Bhuyan and Atul S Chandurkar said any interpretation allowing the police to exclude the period of pre-arrest detention would be contrary to the constitutional mandate.

"The view that 24 hours begin only from the formal arrest is contrary to the constitutional mandate of Article 22(2) and Section 56 of the BNSS," the Bench observed. The apex court's judgement came in an appeal by four accused persons who had challenged the denial of their bail plea by the Tripura High Court in connection with a case registered under various provisions of the NDPS Act. In this case, the accused were taken into custody around 2.30 pm on September 29, 2025, when the investigating agency allegedly recovered 11.03 kg of methamphetamine tablets from them.

The court noted that their arrest was recorded only at 11:15 am on September 30, 2025 and were brought before a magistrate at 4.45 pm on September 30, more than 24 hours after they were first detained. The Bench noted that the investigating agency had not explained the 18-hour gap between the conclusion of the search and seizure and the formal arrest. 18 hours in custody without judicial oversight is a long period, with misuse and abuse of authority a clear possibility," the Bench said. The verdict said that the only period that can be excluded while computing the 24-hour deadline is the time reasonably required to travel from the place of arrest to the magistrate's court. The time spent on inquiry, investigation, search or seizure before formal arrest cannot be excluded, it added. Article 22(2) provides that every person, who is arrested and detained in custody must be produced before the nearest magistrate within 24 hours of arrest, excluding the time necessary for the journey from the place of arrest to the court.

The top court disapproved of the views taken by the Orissa High Court in the Aryaman Pattanaik case, the Madras High Court in the Kannan case and the Kerala High Court in the Arun K Thomas case, which had permitted the period of detention before formal arrest to be excluded while calculating the 24-hour deadline. The Bench said that no period can be excluded while computing the deadline, except the time necessary for the journey from the place of arrest to the magistrate's court. "In the event such detention continues beyond 24 hours, before the person is produced before the magistrate, he shall be forthwith released from custody," it said. The detaining authority must ensure that detention does not exceed a reasonable period, even within the constitutional 24-hour limit, it added. The judicial magistrates must record the actual date and time of detention and independently examine compliance with the constitutional deadline, the verdict said. "At the time of production, the magistrate is duty-bound to record the actual date and time of detention of the person produced before him when his liberty stood curtailed, and examine whether the 24-hour deadline has been complied with or not from the time of such detention. If there is a breach of 24-hour deadline, the concerned person shall be forthwith released from detention," the Bench said.

The magistrates must also assess whether the duration of detention is reasonable in the circumstances and may decline remand if it is excessive, the Bench said. The top court also referred to custodial violence during investigations and said "worst violations of human rights" often occur when police delay recording arrests.

Briefs News

Gurugram allows green crackers for 2 hours on Nov 7, 8

GURUGRAM : (AGENCY) The Gurugram district administration has issued a detailed enforcement plan for the Supreme Court's temporary relaxation of the firecracker ban in Delhi-NCR.Green crackers will be permitted during two limited time slots over the Diwali weekend, after which a complete ban will come back into effect. In an order dated November 3, Deputy Commissioner Uttam Singh appointed Additional Deputy Commissioner Sonu Bhatt as nodal officer to implement, monitor and report compliance with the apex court's October 29 order in Gurugram. Green crackers will be permitted only between 6 am and 7 am and between 8 pm and 10 pm on November 7 and 8. Trade licences that were cancelled stand restored from November 4 to 6, only for the sale of CSIR-NEERI approved green crackers. The complete ban is back in force from November 9, covering sale, storage and bursting. The nodal officer will finalise, with the police, a list of designated sale locations for approval and wide publicity. No sale is permitted at any other location or on online platforms. Sealed boxes carrying QR codes are mandatory, and conventional and barium crackers and ladis remain banned. The order creates no-cracker zones within 300 metres of hospitals, nursing homes, health centres, old-age homes, educational institutions and notified silence zones. These are to be marked on the ground and published through the SDMs. Manufacturers and traders must furnish monetary security, which will be forfeited on any violation. The licence of any violating trader will be cancelled immediately.

Barricades removed at Jantar Mantar, eases movement for local residents

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY) Barricades restricting movement around Delhi's Jantar Mantar have been removed, days after it was denotified as an authorised protest site following recommendations by a committee constituted by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Concerns were raised by residents living in the vicinity of the 18th century observatory over the prolonged restrictions, with some of them moving the courts against the barricading by Delhi Police, claiming that the curbs were causing considerable inconvenience to people and affecting their day-to-day movement. The restrictions around Jantar Mantar came under sharp focus during the recent protests by the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) and students, when the entire Lutyens' Delhi virtually turned into a fortress to prevent the protesters from reaching the demonstration area. Delhi Police put elaborate security arrangements in place, with barricades at several entry points, restrictions on movement and a heavy deployment of personnel to prevent any unauthorised gathering or march towards the Jantar Mantar. Police also invoked Section 163 of the BNSS restricting mass gatherings citing law and order concerns. The extensive barricading and restrictions effectively curtailed public access to Jantar Mantar and its adjoining roads. On October 11, Jantar Mantar was officially denotified as a designated protest site through a standing order issued by the Delhi Police Commissioner.

Delhi Crime Branch questions CJP's Saurav Das, Ashutosh Ranka over October Jantar Mantar protest

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY) Cockroach Janata Party (CJP) co-conveners Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka appeared before the Delhi Police Crime Branch on Thursday for questioning in connection with protests at Jantar Mantar in October. The two political activists appeared at the Crime Branch office in Rajouri Garden in connection with cases linked to demonstrations at the de-notified protest site, where they had joined a protest against alleged irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The case dates back to October, when Das, Ranka, CJP leader Ajinkya Shinde and 11 others allegedly entered the restricted site and raised slogans against Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar. The protests were also marked by the group's opposition to the alleged irregularities in the voter roll revision exercise. Das and Ranka were subsequently arrested after allegedly entering the restricted premises and waving the national flag on October 13. Police maintained that their actions violated a peace bond they had signed days earlier. While Shinde secured bail after furnishing a peace bond, Das and Ranka remained in judicial custody at Tihar Jail for about a week. They were released on October 21. following an order by Special Executive Magistrate Ritu Raj. The two were directed to furnish personal.

Open Search
EDITORIAL

Lessons from cyclone 'Murasu' and the challenges of disaster management

The impact of environmental imbalance and rapidly changing weather patterns is becoming increasingly visible in different parts of the world. Natural disasters such as cyclones, floods, droughts and unusual rainfall are continuously creating new challenges for human life. The recently formed Cyclone 'Murasu' in the Bay of Bengal is one such example. The cyclone posed a threat of strong winds, heavy rainfall and waterlogging in the coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh. This incident once again highlights the importance of preparedness, vigilance and effective disaster management in a country like India, which has vast geographical diversity and varying climatic conditions.

According to the India Meteorological Department, Murasu intensified into a severe cyclonic storm over the west-central Bay of Bengal. In view of its potential impact, red alerts were issued for the coastal regions of Andhra Pradesh and northern Tamil Nadu. Between November 2 and 3, the cyclone made its impact along the Andhra Pradesh coast. Wind speeds ranged between 100 and 110 kilometres per hour, with gusts reaching up to 120 kilometres per hour. As a result, trees and electricity poles were uprooted, while transportation and normal life were disrupted. The administration made arrangements to evacuate thousands of people to safer locations. Subsequently, the cyclone weakened and transformed into a deep depression.

The impact of cyclones is felt most severely by poor and working-class communities living in coastal regions. The livelihoods of fishermen depend on the sea, while farmers rely on their fields and crops to support their families. Strong winds and torrential rainfall can destroy standing crops, disrupt fishing activities and cause substantial financial losses to small traders. Furthermore, disruptions to electricity, roads, railways and communication networks create additional difficulties for relief and rescue operations. Therefore, the damage caused by a cyclone is not merely a temporary natural disruption; it can have long-term consequences for the economic and social lives of affected communities.

During Cyclone Murasu, the timely issuance of warnings, evacuation of people from vulnerable areas and arrangements for relief shelters by the administration were important measures. However, such preparations should not remain limited to the period when a disaster strikes. It is essential to develop strong cyclone shelters, ensure safe drinking water, provide medical facilities, maintain food reserves and establish emergency communication systems in coastal areas. Better coordination among local administrations, the National Disaster Management Authority, the Meteorological Department and state governments can significantly reduce the impact of such disasters.

This incident has also demonstrated the important role that modern technology and weather forecasting systems can play in disaster management. Satellite monitoring, Doppler radars, mobile alerts and digital communication platforms can help deliver timely warnings to people. It is particularly important to ensure that information reaches rural communities, fishermen and residents of remote coastal villages in their local languages.

Meddlesome hand

SWAPAN DASGUPTA

The threat of revenge and retribution that marked the speech of the leader of the Opposition at the Ramlila Maidan rally of the combined Opposition was, to say the least, unusual. Apart from the Opposition's declaration of total war in June 1975 against the then prime minister, Indira Gandhi, in the aftermath of the Allahabad High Court judgment setting aside her election to the Lok Sabha, political battles have broadly adhered to the norms of the Constitution. The rhetoric of battle may often appear inflammatory but that, it has been well-established over the decades, is part of the shadow-boxing ritual. Are there reasons to believe that the present kerfuffle, mainly centred on Delhi, is any different? Is the strong reaction of the prime minister and his party colleagues contrived or are there legitimate reasons to believe that the challenge mounted against the National Democratic Alliance is a grave threat to the democratic well-being of India?

For a start, it may be instructive to start viewing domestic politics as a cross-border exercise. Just as the ugly riots in Paris resulted in copy-cat disturbances in other parts of western Europe, it is tempting to see shades of the legendary 1968 slogan — "London, Paris, Rome, Berlin/We shall fight and we shall win" — in the events in Delhi. The lady from an ultra-Left organisation, who has been projected by gullible scribes as this generation's answer to Daniel Cohn-Bendit (the scourge of the bourgeoisie in 1968), was silly enough to let the cat out of the bag and boast that the regime change in Dhaka in August 2024 was an inspiration. The logic of that assertion was that a series of fraudulent elections, rampant corruption and suppressed religious impulses can lead to an explosive situation and unseat a regime. What was left unsaid was that the Bangladesh turbulence was also the outcome of targeted funding and generous assistance from outside forces.

It is impossible to not detect a few parallels with the recently-held elections in Israel. That the Israeli electoral system is infuriatingly complex and needlessly rewards fringe groups is well-known. In this election, thanks to the untiring efforts of the media and the international fraternity of bleeding hearts, it was suggested that Benjamin Netanyahu had lost the trust of all sensible Jews and was nurturing a genocidal and corrupt regime. The vilification of Bibi was relentless and did not ease even after Hamas carried out the worst massacre of Jews since the Holocaust. Most significant, this assault on the very integrity of Israel was endorsed by forces that were never reconciled to the Jewish State in the first place. In the aftermath of the election, it has been suggested by Israeli intelligence that foreign players were active in shaping people's voting preferences, and we await a full report that substantiates the claim. Pending this disclosure, what seems obvious is that the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of a country has been relegated to the archives. Although the determination of Israeli patriots has ensured that Bibi will live to fight another day.

A politics of the universal, beyond identities

SHASHI THAROOR

This year's protests have not been about minorities, specific castes, or particular occupational groups. They have been about everybody.



One of the many gratifying elements of the endless summer of protest that has overtaken our nation — aside from the galvanising of the young, the mobilisation of an increasingly united Opposition, and a palpable sense of discontent with "politics as usual" — has been the fact that popular agitation has transcended particularism. The public across the country has been standing up and speaking out for issues that affect every Indian citizen, irrespective of their other identities. This year's protests have not been about minorities, specific castes, or particular occupational groups. They have been about everybody. This pleases me no end, because it is the kind of politics I believe in and have sought to practice in my nearly two decades in the profession, in the face of the overwhelming onslaught of the other variety. Every successful political dispensation requires a compelling answer to a fundamental question: "Who are we, and what do we owe one another as members of the same republic?" In India it has too often been about "Who are we, and what can we get for ourselves from the others in our fractured polity?"

In most democracies, enduring political majorities are built by articulating a broad civic identity, one that transcends local divisions, fosters national solidarity, and promises developmental progress for the body politic. In India, however, politics and parties have largely been about patching together identity alliances: From Brahmins+Muslims+Harijans in the classic 1950s Congress formulation, to "PDA" (the Samajwadi coalition of "Pichde, Dalit, Alpsankhyak" or OBCs, Dalits and minorities) today. While the BJP has pursued an unabashed majoritarian agenda, dressed up in the language of civilisational glory, economic growth and nationalist pride, the Opposition, rather than constructing a counter-narrative around shared civic purpose, nationwide economic progress, or universal rights, has increasingly resorted to the mechanics of particularism. Mobilisation has been reduced to numerical engineering: Assembling coalitions of specific sub-castes, appealing to localised regional pride or resentments, or cultivating sectional groups — OBCs, Muslims, Marathas, Kurmis and the like. In doing so, it has operated on the flawed assumption that a nation is an aggregation of disparate interest groups rather than a shared civic community. The central flaw of this approach on both sides is that young Indians have proved that it's increasingly obsolete. While caste, region, and community remain salient social realities, and the joke that "when Indians cast their vote, they vote their caste" remains true in several places, voters (especially younger voters in a rapidly urbanising, aspirational, and connected electorate) do not cast ballots solely as members of a sub-group. This has become apparent in the recent Gen-Z protests. Young Indians imagine, mobilise and vote as thinking citizens who are invested in the educational and economic opportunities, societal well-being, government accountability and collective pride of their country. It was telling that many of the mocking slogans at Jantar Mantar disparaged the ruling party's resort to "Hindu-Muslim" issues as a diversion from the authorities' economic or administrative failures.

When opposition parties address citizens exclusively through the narrow prism of their sectional identities, like caste, region or religion, two outcomes occur, both self-defeating. First, an appeal targeted at one specific caste or regional bloc inherently generates either anxiety or resentment among others, rendering a coalition built entirely on transactional sectional promises fragile. It could also be seen as opportunistic and seemingly incapable of stable national governance. Second, by focusing entirely on fractional grievances, the Opposition vacates the national stage, allowing the governing party to capture and define the very vocabulary of national purpose. When it reduces national politics to a demand for sectional benefits and religious or caste assertions, the Opposition reinforces the very atomisation that prevents a nationwide majority from forming in our support in the first place. Instead of promoting a universalist project, we offer voters a fragmented mosaic of complaints, while the ruling party's rhetoric offers a singular, cohesive image of national ambition. Where the Opposition relies on sub-caste groups, regional blocs, and coalition arithmetic, the ruling party addresses. an overarching national cultural majority through broad aspirational persuasion and public goods delivery. When the Opposition is trapped in the arenas of protest movements and caste rallies, the ruling dispensation wields state-wide machine politics and disciplined electoral mobilisation. This year's protests have pointed Indian politics in a new direction by moving past the exhausted playbook of identity fragmentation and raising universal issues: Education, unemployment, inflation, political betrayal, voting rights, individual accountability. The Opposition must build on it in four ways. First, we must revive a narrative centred on the equal constitutional citizen, framing social welfare and economic policy around universal entitlements, such as quality public education, healthcare, infrastructure, a fair electoral system, and job creation, that elevate every citizen regardless of background, rather than relying on targeted patronage. Second, political discourse must transcend entrenched dogma, the language of quotas and benefits for specific groups and ideological gatekeeping. Winning back the electorate requires listening to the material aspirations of ordinary voters.

Poll rout puts Trump on a sticky wicket

MANOJ JOSHI

This has been the most expensive midterms, with mega donors like Elon Musk putting in nearly half a billion dollars into the elections.



There are tsunamis that come without warning and there are others which can be seen coming — but you can do little to avoid them. And so it was with US President Donald Trump and his Republican Party, who have been hit by a tidal wave of epic proportions.

The Democratic sweep in the House of Representatives and the Senate will shape American politics in the years to come. A chastened Trump says now that he is willing to work with the Democrats, but they can hardly take this famously self-centred President at his word. He is more likely to lash out not just as a lame duck, but a particularly angry one who could hit out in all directions, with little care for the institutions of his country or his party.

Financial issues, inflation and mortgage rates have played a major role in the elections, in addition to the war in Iran, which has driven up petrol and diesel prices. Everything became unaffordable for many — healthcare, groceries, housing and higher education. There were also understated issues like corruption within the Trump administration; the President has made over $1 billion in crypto transactions in the past year. This has been the most expensive midterms, with mega donors like Elon Musk putting in nearly half a billion dollars into the elections. There were donations from crypto millionaires and non-profit organisations, and more than $2 billion had been pumped into the House and Senate races alone.

The Democrats flipped seven Republican-held Senate seats — Iowa, Kansas, Ohio, North Carolina, South Carolina, Maine and Texas — to secure a majority in the Senate. The victories in Texas, where the Democrats won the Senate and the governorship, mark a massive political realignment. Jon Ossoff, who retained his Georgia seat, is already being talked about as the Democratic candidate for the 2028 elections.

The victory in Ohio suggests that organised labour and the working class are once again getting behind the Democrats. They have won Kansas for the first time since 1932, suggesting a deep rural backlash against the Republicans. Likewise, the defeat in Iowa indicates that agricultural pressures and tariffs were deeply unpopular issues in this pro-Trump state. Abdul El-Sayed's victory in Michigan makes him the first Muslim to be elected to the US Senate; it is a validation of the unapologetically progressive policies in this crucial swing state. This is a wave election, which comes with repercussions for governorships, state legislative seats and mayoralties, and power beyond committee rooms. The President will face scrutiny of his administration, family and allies. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth could face impeachment or pressure from the White House, which is looking for scapegoats.

Tariffs, the Iran war, Pentagon activities, health coverage and the US-Israel relationship will come under the Democratic microscope. But procedural delays and legal tactics can slow things down to a crawl for the Democrats. Trump has threatened to use the veto as a primary weapon. And the Democrats lack the numbers to remove him from office. But his capacity to govern will be severely affected. The Republicans will in all likelihood remove Speaker Mike Johnson and Senate leader John Thune. But the biggest question mark will be over Vice President JD Vance, the all-but-declared presidential candidate for 2028. Will the electorate support Trump's understudy after having rejected the President in 2026? With the midterms over, the clock has now begun ticking for the presidential elections. The Democrats had been waiting for this moment ever since they lost the presidency to Trump. Now, they can build on their current victory to shape their 2028 campaign. Potential contenders have used the midterms to position themselves. Besides Ossoff, who is a moderate, there are many potential Democratic candidates in the reckoning, including Kamala Harris. Take Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, who feels that the victory of progressive Abdul El-Sayed is something that will "break open the entire political calculus in America" by bringing Left-leaning politics to the centre stage. She contributed $1 million for El-Sayed's campaign. Another contender, Josh Shapiro, has won the governorship of Pennsylvania. He is less known nationally, but he has a "get things done" reputation. By defeating Republican Stacy Garrity by double digits and carrying three Democratic House candidates across the finishing line, he has positioned himself to make a bid for the top job. Gavin Newsom, the California Governor, was not running for office, but he helped the Democrats gain five seats and take the House of Representatives. The defeat of the billionaire wealth tax bill, a measure opposed by Newsom, has enhanced his standing with the billionaires and the electorate. The immediate international concern is the possibility of renewed US attacks on Iran. There are contradictory signals. Washington has told Arab Gulf states to prepare for a short, intense campaign, whereas JD Vance is engaging with senior Iranian figures, including Mohsen Rezaei, in an effort to revive negotiations. For India, the elections carry significant stakes. across immigration, trade and geopolitics. Despite the turbulence of the past year, the underlying strategic logic of the US-India partnership will continue to enjoy bipartisan support in Washington. A Democratic-controlled House — with a friend of India, Sherrod Brown, flipping the Senate seat in Ohio — could give New Delhi additional political avenues to challenge some of the Trump administration's contentious measures. A Democratic Congress may not necessarily be more sympathetic to Indian trade interests, but it could complicate Trump's ability to use tariffs indiscriminately. The midterm election results mark the beginning of the end.

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Sayaji Realty Unveils Exclusive Festive Privileges for Homebuyers

MUMBAI : (AGENCY)



The festive programme brings added value for homebuyers, with an assured rental of ?2 lakh per month during construction at Mio Solace, Khar West and an exclusive 50:50 payment plan at Mio Miraya, Bandra West. Channel partners can also benefit from progressive rewards of up to 3 per cent on transaction value across eligible projects. Sayaji Realty, a trusted developer backed by a decade of excellence in Mumbai's real estate landscape, has unveiled an exclusive suite of festive offers for homebuyers and channel partners, bringing enhanced financial benefits across its residential portfolio. The offering includes a monthly assured rental of ?2 lakh for home-buyers during construction at Mio Solace in Khar West, a bespoke 50:50 payment plan at Mio Miraya in Bandra West. Additionally, the developer has announced a tiered channel partner rewards programme offering incentives of up to 3 per cent on transaction value across eligible projects. By easing the financial commitments associated with homeownership and recognising the contribution of its sales network, Sayaji Realty aims to build on the momentum of the festive season. Commenting on the initiative, Mihir Bhatia, Joint Managing Director, Sayaji Realty, said, "As Mumbai's real estate market continues to evolve, buyers are placing greater emphasis on location, the quality of the residential offering and the financial structure of their potential purchase. Channel partners, meanwhile, play an integral role in matching buyers with properties from our portfolio that are best-suited to their evolving lifestyles. Our festive offers respond to these priorities through differentiated benefits. We see this as an opportunity to strengthen customer relationships and amplify interest in our residential projects." At Mio Solace, Khar West, buyers are being offered an assured rental of ?2 lakh per month during the construction phase. The development, which offers lavish 3 BHK residences priced at ?6.50 crore onwards, combines a boutique residential setting with amenities spanning wellness, recreation and work, including a swimming pool, fitness centre, yoga deck, business centre and rooftop lounge. The benefit gives investors greater assurance as they evaluate the property's long-term value and rental potential. Additionally, Mio Miraya has introduced an exclusive 50:50 payment plan, with 50% of the agreement value payable initially, followed by 20% on completion of the top slab and the remaining 30% at possession, making payments easier for homebuyers. The structure gives buyers a greater flexibility in planning their finances, while reducing the need to manage multiple smaller construction-linked payments. The project, which features sea-view residences on freehold land, includes more than 14 amenities such as an infinity pool, fitness amenities, a pickleball court and a private mini-theatre. Located in Bandra West, the development.

VinFast VF 7 Reflects the Growing Connection Between Cars and Personal Style

GURUGRAM : (AGENCY)



From Mumbai's fashionable neighbourhoods to Bengaluru's tech corridors, cars are becoming expressions of personal style. With Italian design, aerospace-inspired details and electric performance, the VinFast VF 7 brings a distinctive personality to India's SUV market. Cars have always said something about their owners. Some suggest adventure, others understated luxury. Then there are those that make a statement before the driver even steps out. India's love affair with SUVs has traditionally been about road presence, practicality and the occasional desire to tower over traffic. Electric vehicles are adding another possibility: distinctive designs that need not follow the familiar petrol-and-diesel formula. The VinFast VF 7, designed in Italy and manufactured in Tamil Nadu, is one such example. And it looks rather different from the SUVs typically filling India's parking lots. For decades, combustion engines, transmissions and cooling systems influenced how cars were shaped. With fewer mechanical packaging constraints, electric powertrains give designers more room to experiment. Bulky grilles are making way for cleaner front ends, rooflines sweep towards the rear, and LED lighting signatures have become distinctive visual identifiers. Some are recognisable even after sunset, much like a signature fashion accessory, except one that travels at highway speeds. The changes have practical benefits as well. Smoother bodywork can improve airflow, and flexible EV packaging creates.

Emirates Group H1 profit falls 66% to AED 4.1 billion amid Gulf conflict

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)



Emirates Group reported a 66 per cent decline in profit before tax to AED 4.1 billion (USD 1.1 billion) for the first half of the 2026-27 financial year, as regional conflict, operational disruptions and elevated fuel prices weighed on its airline and ground-handling businesses. The Group's revenue fell 12 per cent to AED 66.2 billion (USD 18 billion) during the six months ended September 30, compared with AED 75.4 billion in the corresponding period last year. Its earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) declined 41 per cent to AED 12.5 billion. Emirates Group Chairman and Chief Executive Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum said customer demand remained firm and cargo operations made a strong contribution, supporting revenue and cash levels despite global jet fuel prices doubling from the same period last year. He also credited the UAE government for coordinating the safe resumption of air transport activities following military developments across the Gulf region. The airline's profit before tax declined 68 per cent to AED 3.7 billion, while revenue dropped 13 per cent to AED 56.9 billion. Emirates carried 21.8 million passengers during the first half, down 22 per cent year-on-year, as intermittent airspace restrictions and reduced flight schedules affected operations. At the end of September, the airline had restored 91 per cent of its pre-disruption network.

Explain Data Focuses on Campaign Tracking and Customer Metrics for Brands

NEW DELHI. (AGENCY)



Explain Data is positioning its analytics work around helping brands measure campaign performance through customer-focused metrics, event tracking and attribution. The approach centres on connecting marketing activity with actions such as registrations, purchases and repeat transactions rather than relying on traffic and engagement figures alone. The brand works with businesses on identifying the measurements that matter to individual campaigns and establishing tracking processes across digital channels. Its stated focus is on ensuring that the information used in marketing reports can support decisions about acquisition, conversion and customer retention. Explain Data's methodology includes defining key customer actions, maintaining consistent event names across websites, applications and customer relationship management systems, and checking tracking implementations before campaigns begin. The work also covers attribution challenges, including customer journeys involving offline promotions, QR codes and influencer activity. Harish Kumar, who works with brands through Explain Data, has more than eight years of experience in marketing analytics. His professional background includes roles at ZS Associates, PharmEasy, Disney+ Hotstar, Almosafer and SWVL, spanning consulting, healthcare, streaming, travel and mobility businesses. Kumar currently serves as Data Analytics Lead at Interesting Times, where his responsibilities include event tracking and attribution for large-scale application launches. His experience across these organisations informs Explain Data's emphasis on measuring outcomes such as paid subscriptions, repeat orders and customer lifetime value by acquisition channel. For campaign reporting, Explain Data advocates selecting a primary performance indicator that reflects the campaign objective, supported by a limited set of additional metrics. These can include branded search activity for awareness initiatives, user retention following app installations, customer acquisition costs for performance campaigns and repeat purchase rates for retention programmes. The brand also highlights the need to assess data quality before interpreting marketing results. Inaccurate event implementation, incomplete attribution and fraudulent installs can affect campaign reporting and create misleading comparisons between acquisition channels. Its approach therefore places tracking validation alongside performance analysis. Through its work with brands, Explain Data aims to make marketing measurement more directly relevant to business decisions, with an emphasis. on consistent data collection, campaign.

Briefs News

Tilda's 'Feel Home with Tilda' Campaign Captures the Universal Sentiment

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY) Global premium rice brand Tilda has launched its international brand campaign, 'Feel Home with Tilda', across Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (Terminal 3, Departures) and Toronto Pearson International Airport in Canada (Arrival). Timed with the onset of the festive season and ahead of the peak December to January window, when millions of Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) and students fly home, the campaign aims to reinforce the brand's international presence while building recall in India. The campaign is built on the insight that departures and homecomings are closely tied to memories of regional kitchens and shared meals. As Indian professionals and students move abroad, familiar food traditions often provide continuity and comfort. .

75% of Gen Z, Millennials increasingly inclined towards multi-generational travel: Report

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY) Around 75 per cent of Gen Z and Millennials in India are more likely to travel with family members across different generations, according to a survey by Airbnb. According to Airbnb's Intergenerational Travel Insights 2026, around 55 per cent of respondents cited creating shared memories as a key reason for travelling across generations, while 52 per cent associated such trips with having fun together and 51 per cent highlighted.

eMudhra Q2 income surges 19.6%, Company says security incident affected 1% of revenue

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)

Digital trust and cybersecurity solutions provider eMudhra Ltd reported a 19.6 per cent year-on-year increase in total income to Rs 209.3 crore in the second quarter ended September 30, 2026, while the company said the security incident involving its TLS certificate business affected 1 per cent of its revenue. The company's total income stood at Rs 174.9 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous year. Its EBITDA rose 21.6 per cent to Rs 51.3 crore during the quarter, with an EBITDA margin of 24.5 per cent. Net profit increased 26.3 per cent to Rs 33.4 crore. For the first half of the financial year, eMudhra reported total income of Rs 401.8 crore, registering a growth of 23.4 per cent. Its net profit rose 27.1 per cent to Rs 65.4 crore. The company's Enterprise Solutions business remained a key growth driver, with revenue from the segment increasing 36 per cent. It now accounts for 66 per cent of eMudhra's total income. During the quarter, the company added its first customers in Kazakhstan and Nigeria. It also secured three large enterprise clients in Europe through cross-selling opportunities with Cryptas. The results come as the company is reshaping its business focus following a security incident involving its global website security business. The incident involves the company generating cryptographic keys for eight intermediate Certificate Authorities as part of its global Transport Layer Security (TLS) business. According to eMudhra, a flaw during the key-generation process caused the creation of a set of weak keys. The issue came to light in October 2026 after an independent security researcher discovered that the weak private keys could be recovered from the corresponding public keys. This raised concerns because private keys are used by certificate authorities to issue digital certificates that help browsers verify.

Tata IIS Becomes India's First and Only AWS SENSE Training Organization

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)



Tata Indian Institute of Skills (Tata IIS) has announced that it has become India's first and only American Welding Society (AWS) SENSE Training Organization, marking a significant milestone for its welding education programmes. The recognition enables Tata IIS to implement the AWS SENSE Welding Program, bringing an internationally established framework for welding education into its practical training ecosystem. The achievement strengthens Tata IIS's focus on preparing young people for manufacturing careers through practical training and clearly defined standards. For India's skilling sector, it offers an example of how industry focused education can connect local training with international approaches to developing and assessing welding competence. The American Welding Society is a non-profit organisation dedicated to advancing the science, technology and application of welding and related joining and cutting.

GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
NIT NO.EE/HS/Tender(SASCI)/2026-27/2
Date, Imphal, 5th Nov, 2026

The Executive Engineer, Highways South Division, PWD, Manipur on behalf of Governor Of Manipur invites item rate tender from eligible contractors of P.W.D, Manipur for 48 Nos.of work under (MH:5054,SASCI FY-2026-27) costing below Rs.200.00 lakhs within Highways South Division, PWD Manipur.

The Procurement Officer is Executive Engineer, Highways South Division, PWD Manipur. The Tender details and document shall be available from 06-11-2026 to 13-11-2026 at the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Bid submission start Date - 11:00 am of 06-11-2026
Last Date of Bid submission - 03:00 pm of 13-11-2026.
Date and Time of opening Bid - 03:30 pm of 13-11-2026.
Venue :- Office of the Executive Engineer, Highways South Division, PWD, Manipur.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Highways South Division, PWD, Manipur.

GOVERNMENT OF MANIPUR
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
NIT NO.EE/HS/Tender(SASCI)/2026-27/1
Date, Imphal, 5th Nov, 2026

The Executive Engineer, Highways South Division, PWD, Manipur on behalf of Governor Of Manipur invites item rate tender from eligible contractors of P.W.D, Manipur for 11 Nos.of work under (MH:5054,SASCI FY-2026-27) costing below Rs.200.00 lakhs within Highways South Division, PWD Manipur.

The Procurement Officer is Executive Engineer, Highways South Division, PWD Manipur. The Tender details and document shall be available from 06-11-2026 to 13-11-2026 at the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Bid submission start Date - 11:00 am of 06-11-2026
Last Date of Bid submission - 01:00 pm of 13-11-2026.
Date and Time of opening Bid - 01:30 pm of 13-11-2026.
Venue :- Office of the Executive Engineer, Highways South Division, PWD, Manipur.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Highways South Division, PWD, Manipur.

Markets surge on sharp decline in oil prices

MUMBAI : (AGENCY)



Market benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty surged in early trade on Thursday amid a sharp decline in crude oil prices and hopes that a resolution to the West Asia conflict may happen soon after the results of the midterm elections where American voters gave the opposition Democratic Party control of the US Congress. Sustained foreign fund inflows and a sharp rally in the US markets also added to markets' optimism during the initial trading. The 30-share BSE Sensex jumped 1,403.71 points to 78,689.87 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty surged 378.85 points to 24,340.40. In the 30 Sensex firms, InterGlobe Aviation, Asian Paints, Bajaj Finance, Maruti, Mahindra & Mahindra and UltraTech Cement were among the major winners. Kotak Mahindra Bank and Bharti Airtel were the laggards. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 7,284.03 crore on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

In a stinging rebuke to President Donald Trump, American voters on Tuesday gave the opposition Democratic Party control of the US Congress and flipped key gubernatorial posts in widely watched elections that will have consequences far beyond America. Trump's Republican Party faced stunning defeats in its strongholds such as Texas, Georgia, Iowa and Ohio, where it lost the governors' posts to the Democrats.

The grand old party also faced a drubbing in Senate races in Texas, Maine, South Carolina, North Carolina, Kansas, Iowa and Ohio, where Trump campaigned with a simple message urging voters to pretend that he was on the ballot.

The Democrats won control of both the Senate and the House of Representatives, ending the Republicans' hold on the two chambers of Congress. "With tailwinds for the economy getting stronger, the bullish trend in the market is set to continue. The strongest positive for the market is the sharp 10 per cent fall in Brent crude to around USD 94 level. This decline is on hopes that a resolution to the US-Iran conflict is likely soon since this conflict and the consequent high crude prices contributed significantly to the Republican rout in the midterms," V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said. In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi and Japan's Nikkei 225 index traded lower, while Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index quoted higher. The US equity markets ended sharply higher on Wednesday. The Dow Jones Industrial Average surged 3.03 per cent, S&P 500 jumped 1.58 per cent and Nasdaq Composite was up 1.44 per cent. "Wall Street rallied sharply overnight, while the decline in crude and Treasury yields improved the broader risk environment. Brent has fallen almost 10 per cent to around USD 94.50 as traders removed part of the war premium after signals that political pressure could push the US administration toward negotiations with Iran. Unlike the earlier gradual decline, the magnitude of this move can materially improve India's near-term macro and earnings outlook if sustained. "However, the fall remains driven by expectations rather than a confirmed settlement or full restoration of energy flows, leaving crude vulnerable to any setback in negotiations," Hariselvan Radhakrishnan, Founder & CEO of HST Wealth, a Research Analyst firm, said. On Wednesday, the Sensex rose 383.55 points, or 0.50 per cent, to settle at 77,301.40, its highest closing level in more than two months.

MULTIPURPOSE TRADING AND AGENCIES LIMITED
(CIN NUMBER- L70101DL2002PLC115544)
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Website : www.multipurposetrading.in
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Notice of Board Meeting

Notice is hereby given pursuant to provision of the Regulation 47 of SEBI (LODR) Regulations, 2015 that the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Multipurpose Trading and Agencies Limited will be held on **Saturday, the 14th Day of November, 2026 at 11:30 a.m.** at the Corporate office of the Company D-2, Kalindi Colony, New Delhi-110065 Inter-alia, to consider Un-Audited Financial Results of the Company for the Quarter/half year ended September 30, 2026.

Information in this regards is being also made available on the website of the Company **www.multipurposetrading.in** and Stock Exchange **www.bseindia.com**

For Multipurpose Trading and Agencies Limited
Sd/-
Ashish Singh
Managing Director
DIN:00066423

Date: 05.11.2026
Place: Delhi

CM steps in to thrash out Sanvordem mining transportation dispute

MARGAON : OPEN SEARCH



Truck owner Sanket Bhandari said the dispute arose because the number of trucks exceeded the available work.

Chief minister Pramod Sawant on Tuesday brokered a settlement in the Sanvordem mining transportation dispute that had stalled ore movement within days of its resumption after a gap of more than a decade.

At a meeting attended by truck operators and members of the Sanvordem panchayat, it was decided that only trucks from the Sanvordem constituency would be engaged in the ongoing transportation work. Trucks from other areas will be accommodated as more mining routes become operational.

Ore transportation in Sanvordem resumed last week but came to a halt on Thursday after local truckers blocked movement, objecting to the deployment of "outside" trucks. Efforts by police and the Sanguem deputy collector to resolve the impasse failed. Though loaded trucks were escorted to jetties under heavy police protection the next day, no fresh loading was undertaken. After the meeting, Sanvordem truck owners' association president Vallabh Dalvi said only trucks from Sanvordem would be engaged in the current transportation operations.

"As for other trucks, the CM said that they will be engaged in other routes which will open up shortly.

We are ready for resuming transportation once the mining firm notifies us," he said. Truck owner Sanket Bhandari said the dispute arose because the number of trucks exceeded the available work.

"The CM said that iron ore transportation from the Cuddegal mine would begin soon, which will give business to trucks along that route. Transportation from Curpem and other mines will allow trucks from Curchorem and other areas to be engaged," he said.

The dispute had threatened to derail the revival of mining activity in South Goa, with local truckers maintaining that only vehicles from villages along the transportation route should be engaged to move mining dumps.

Sources said transporters awarded tenders are expected to begin moving dumps from leases along the Rivona-Sanguem route shortly. Mining activity is also likely to commence soon at the Kalay mineral block, which is expected to significantly increase transportation activity and truck deployment.

Goa to offer skill development courses to 12,000 youth : Chief Minister Pramod Sawant

Goa aims to skill and upskill 12,000 youth over the next 12 months through courses offered by 24 empanelled institutes. The government will cover training fees, uniforms and travel expenses, with programmes spanning tourism, hospitality, banking and retail.

PANAJI : OPEN SEARCH



Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has set a target to skill and upskill 12,000 Goan youth over the next 12 months, aiming to ensure every young person finds employment in the state. Sawant said the department of rural development has empanelled 24 institutes to run three-month and six-month courses for youth who have not completed their education or want to upgrade their skills. These institutes will offer programmes in tourism, hospitality, banking, and retail, and will issue government of India-approved certificates. "I want to ensure that 100% Goans get employed. Goa has opportunities in the pharma, manufacturing, hospitality and shipbuilding sectors. Not everyone can get govt jobs, and all must be ready to work in the private sector," Sawant said during the Yuva Kaushal Mahotsav. Sawant said government is ready to bear the entire cost on behalf of students, including course fees, uniform expenses, and travel allowance. He also urged students to be willing to study and take up available jobs within the state, noting that work experience would be considered if they later apply for government jobs. Sawant added that through DDU-GKY 2.0, Goa aims to reach 9,000 rural youth in 2026–27 to support access to employment opportunities.

Briefs News

Israeli-Made Uzi Guns Recovered For First Time In Punjab, 34-kg Heroin Seized

CHANDIGARH : (AGENCY) In what the Punjab Police claim is the first such recovery in the state, two Israeli-made 9-mm Uzi submachine guns and two hand grenades have been seized from a suspected terror-gangster network in Amritsar. The recovery, made from three suspects in the Kot Khalsa area on November 4, was part of a larger crackdown by the Amritsar Rural Police that led to the arrest of 16 accused and the seizure of 34 kg of heroin, five illegal pistols and 26 live cartridges. "For the first time in Punjab, two sophisticated Israeli Uzi submachine guns have been recovered," Inspector General of Police (Border Range) Gurpreet Singh Bhullar said, adding that the weapons are highly sophisticated and their recovery points towards attempts by criminal elements to acquire advanced weapons. Bhullar said preliminary investigations have revealed that the accused were allegedly in contact with foreign-based handlers who were facilitating the supply of illegal weapons for distribution among criminal elements in Punjab. "The foreign handlers were directing their local associates to stockpile weapons and explosive material," he said. The weapons and explosives were allegedly intended for use in terror activities, targeted killings or gang rivalries. The Punjab DGP's office, in a post on X, said, "In a major breakthrough, Amritsar Rural Police busts multiple illegal arms, explosives and drug trafficking networks, solves 3 firing incidents, apprehends 16 accused." The 34 kg of heroin was recovered during multiple operations in the Gharinda and Lopoke police station areas. The seizures included 10 kg from two accused arrested on October 29, 1 kg from two suspects, 10.18 kg from two accused on November 3 and 13 kg from a suspect arrested in an older case in Lopoke.

Kerala Mercedes Crash Victim's Daughter on Bail to Accused's Judge Father

KOCHI : (AGENCY) This judgment is a stab in my chest," said an emotional Bhadra Keerthi, daughter of Jaibalakrishnan, who was killed after being hit by a Mercedes-Benz allegedly driven by a 17-year-old in Kochi's Cheranalloor, reacting to the Kerala High Court granting anticipatory bail to the minor accused's father, a sessions judge. Bhadra Keerthi said the verdict had come just a day before the conclusion of her father's funeral rituals, when the family had been hoping for some measure of justice. "Tomorrow, the rituals for my father will conclude. We were expecting some justice for our family. Unfortunately, that has not happened," she said. The family has now decided to approach the Supreme Court to challenge the High Court's order. Thursday witnessed extraordinary courtroom exchanges in two separate proceedings connected to the fatal Mercedes crash, a case that has already triggered allegations of police lapses and preferential treatment. While the Kerala High Court heard the anticipatory bail plea of the sessions judge, the Additional District and Sessions Court in Ernakulam was hearing the prosecution's appeal against the bail granted to his 17-year-old son by the Juvenile Justice Board. In a significant development, Judge Kavitha Gangadharan, presiding over the Additional District and Sessions Court designated to try cases involving atrocities against women and children, directed the investigating officer to produce details of similar fatal accidents.

Sugarcane farmers will now get Rs 425 per quintal as purchase price

RAIPUR. OPEN SEARCH Agriculture Minister Ramvichar Netam distributed bonus amount to farmers at Kerata Sugar Factory, stressed on adopting organic farming and crop diversification. In order to economically empower sugarcane producing farmers in Chhattisgarh, the state government has increased the purchase price of sugarcane to Rs 425 per quintal. Along with this, farmers are also being given the benefit of bonus. Agriculture Minister Ramvichar Netam distributed the bonus amount to the farmers at the gratitude and Krishak Chaupal program organized on Thursday at Maa Mahamaya Sugar Factory Kerta in Surajpur district. Farmers expressed their gratitude to the state government for the decision to increase the sugarcane purchase price. Addressing the program, Agriculture Minister Netam said that farmers are the foundation of the country's economy and food security. Their hard work fulfills the nation's food needs.

Goa college rolls out 15-day course for long-lasting marriages

PANAJI. (AGENCY)

We spend nearly two decades preparing for a career, but how much time do we spend preparing for a marriage? That is the question a Goa college is putting to young people while introducing a new certificate course on 'marriage readiness'. Marriage readiness goes beyond preparing for a wedding and requires understanding, commitment and the responsibilities of married life. The course helps people explore what it takes to build a healthy, lasting relationship, Goa College of Home Science Principal Mahesh Pai said. The "Marriage Readiness: Preparing for Healthy and Lasting Relationships" certificate course, introduced by the college's Department of Human Development and Family Studies, will be held from December 2 to 17, Pai said. The 15-day course comes after Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, at an event in Panaji on Sunday, said the Goa Government intends to introduce pre-marriage counselling across the state to reduce divorces. According to state law department figures, more than 3,000 marriage and divorce-related petitions were filed in Goa's civil courts between 2022.

Chowgule International School Announces Admissions for the Academic year 2027–28

PANAJI : OPEN SEARCH

Admissions are now open, with an international curriculum approach focused on inquiry-led learning, critical thinking and holistic development.



Chowgule International School (CIS), Margao, Goa, is now open for admissions for the academic year 2027-28. Applications are invited for Nursery through Grade 2, Grade 5, Grade 6, Grade 8 and Grade 9 subject to seat availability.

Part of Chowgule Education Society (CES), which has a legacy of over six decades in education, CIS aims to combine academic rigour with inquiry-led learning, critical thinking and independent problem-solving. Its approach places emphasis on helping students understand concepts, ask questions and apply their learning to real-world situations. Chowgule International School's learning approach draws on international educational frameworks, with an emphasis on inquiry, conceptual understanding and reflection. The school aims to encourage students to ask questions, make connections and engage with different perspectives, while developing independent thinking and a sense of responsibility. Commenting on the importance of education in a changing world, Mr. Aditya Chowgule, Founder Director, Chowgule International School, said, "Education must prepare children not only to understand the world as it exists today, but also to respond thoughtfully to the changes that lie ahead. Alongside academic knowledge, students need the ability to question, think independently and adapt to new situations." Guided by CES's philosophy, "Goan at Heart, Indian at Mind and Global in Outlook," CIS aims to nurture curious, reflective and responsible learners. The school's approach recognises that education extends beyond academic performance to include the development of skills, values and the confidence to navigate an evolving world.

Through its focus on inquiry, independent thinking and a global outlook, CIS aims to create a learning environment that gives students a strong academic foundation and the skills to approach new ideas, adapt to different situations and make informed decisions as they progress through their education and beyond.

'Played Violent Video Games' : Lawyer of Panchkula Boy who Attacked Girl in School

PANCHKULA : (AGENCY)



The eight-year-old boy who assaulted a six-year-old girl at a school in Haryana's Panchkula revealed during questioning that he was addicted to playing violent mobile games involving players attacking virtual characters to earn points, said Manbir Singh Rathi, the lawyer representing the boy's father. "When the child was questioned, he disclosed that he used to play aggressive and violent games on his mobile phone. In these games, children attack virtual characters and objects and earn points. The more they attack, the more points they get," Rathi said. He added that it was a matter of concern because "children may not understand the difference between the virtual world of games and real-life consequences." "These virtual characters do not feel pain. Children keep playing with the objective of winning and scoring more points. Gradually, this can become an addiction, and getting rid of such habits can be difficult," Rathi said. He added that the boy's parents have been asked to keep the child away from mobile phones and ensure proper counselling for him. On November 2, the victim's uncle also alleged that the accused boy played PUBG and "other such games". "The child (who committed the attack)...it turned out he played certain types of games...aggressive games...he played PUBG, and now his father has also confirmed that he used to play PUBG and other such games, which led to these actions," Fazil said. The boy was released from juvenile custody on Thursday after the defence argued that he had no previous record of such violent behaviour and that continued stay at an observation home could adversely affect his education and mental development. His parents assured the Juvenile Justice Board that they would take responsibility for his counselling, behavioural improvement and rehabilitation. The board also directed that videos, photographs, and other material related to the incident circulating on social media and public platforms, which could reveal the boy's identity, be removed. The direction came on an application filed by the defence under Section 74 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. The investigating officer has been asked to submit a compliance.

report by November 27.

The violent incident happened on October 28 at a government school in Panchkula, when the eight-year-old student of Class 3 allegedly attacked a six-year-old girl studying in Kindergarten in the same school inside a classroom.

The girl was allegedly repeatedly hit on the head with a brick, thrown against a bench, dragged by her tie, and kicked several times by the accused.

Inside Maharashtra's Big Data Centre Debate: Answers From The Ground At Solapur's Ujani Dam

SOLAPUR : (AGENCY)



Standing on the banks of Solapur's Ujani Reservoir, the breeze carries both the scent of fresh irrigation water and intense political debate. Across India, data centers are often called the "digital kitchens" powering our daily online lives, artificial intelligence, and data security. But on the ground in rural Maharashtra, local farmers, fishermen, and political leaders have raised red flags, fearing these massive projects will swallow up precious local resources.

The political clash reached a high point when NCP (SP) MLA Rohit Pawar strongly criticised the development, alleging that Maharashtra is being turned into a dumping ground for resource-hungry projects while employment-heavy semiconductor factories go to other states. Other critics dubbed the initiative a form of "pollution colonialism", alleging that high-tech hubs will gobble up local water and power while giving very little back to nearby villages. At the centre of the storm was an initial Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in April 2026 for a Rs 1.65 lakh crore project. The early plan included four major parts, most notably a Green Hydrogen plant and a Small Modular Nuclear Reactor. Local communities panicked over fears of nuclear radiation risks and chemical waste polluting the primary drinking and irrigation water source for thousands of families. To get to the facts behind the controversy. District Collector S Karthikeyan at the project site.

Priority should be given to environmental protection, education, health and infrastructure in the DMF action plan : Deka

RAIPUR. OPEN SEARCH



'Instructions given to prepare a two-year roadmap for the development of mining-affected areas, special emphasis on development works in Bastar'

Governor Shri Ramen Deka has stated that District Mineral Trust (DMF) funds should be used for the overall development of mining-affected areas and to improve the living standards of the residents. Controlling environmental pollution should be a top priority, while also focusing on education, health, and infrastructure development. He emphasized that environmental protection is essential for sustainable development. To achieve this, a well-planned action plan should be formulated and the cooperation of environmentalists should be sought.

Governor Shri Deka was addressing a meeting at Lok Bhavan today regarding the activities of the District Mineral Trust (DMF), development projects in mining-affected areas, and the next five-year action plan. He directed the preparation of a roadmap for at least two years for the effective and planned use of DMF funds. He urged that necessary work be undertaken from the DMF to control pollution in mining-affected areas. He also urged discussions with industries to ensure adherence to environmental standards and established guidelines. He emphasized the need to conduct environmental protection work as a campaign. The Governor emphasized the need to adopt scientific and environmentally friendly methods for extracting sand from rivers. He stated that if there is sand, there will be water, and if there is water, there will be sand. He also called for a special campaign to promote scientific excavation in sand mines.

The Governor directed the collectors to communicate with the general public and understand their needs and priorities. The DMF action plan should be prepared accordingly. It is also essential to take public representatives into confidence in the implementation of development projects. The administration should maintain communication with the public and clearly inform them about the tasks that can be undertaken and which cannot be undertaken. He urged the holding of regular DMF meetings to review progress and make necessary decisions in a timely manner.

The Governor emphasized that social welfare and development-related works should be prioritized in mining-affected areas through the DMF. It should also be ensured that the benefits of various government welfare schemes reach eligible beneficiaries. He directed that housing under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana be completed on priority in mining-affected areas. He said that tasks assigned under the DMF for specific purposes should be completed with priority.

The Governor directed that development works through the DMF in the Bastar region be given top priority. He said that those who have returned to the mainstream should be provided with the benefits of government welfare schemes. Necessary steps should be taken for their rehabilitation, social security, and improvement of living standards so that they can join the development process. Pay attention to the health and lifestyle of the Specially Backward Tribes" The Governor called for special attention to the welfare of the Specially Backward Tribes living in mining-affected areas. He directed that special medical camps be organized for these tribal communities.

ISSO National Basketball Championship 2026 concludes on a high note in Gurugram

GURUGRAM : (AGENCY)



The International Schools Sports Organisation (ISSO) successfully concluded its National Basketball Championship 2026 for Under-14 Girls and Under-19 Boys at The Shri Ram School, Moulsari, Gurugram. The championship witnessed the participation of 60 teams from leading international schools across the country, bringing together talented young basketball players for a celebration of competitive sport, teamwork and sporting excellence, according to a press release from ISSO. The championship featured spirited contests across both categories, with young athletes showcasing impressive skills, determination and competitive spirit. The tournament further highlighted the growing popularity of basketball within India's international school community and ISSO's continued efforts to provide young athletes with structured competitive platforms. In the Under-19 Boys category, Corvuss American Academy emerged as National Champions following an impressive campaign, while host school The Shri Ram School, Moulsari finished as runners-up. PSG-Clifton International School secured third place. In the individual awards, Adith Alex of Dhirubhai Ambani International School was named the Most Valuable Player, while Abeer Aggarwal of The Shri Ram School, Moulsari received the Most Promising Player award. In the Under-14 Girls category, The Shri Ram School, Moulsari clinched the championship title with an outstanding performance on home courts. KC High International School finished as runners-up, while Don Bosco International School secured third place. Nyra Khosla of The Shri Ram School, Moulsari was adjudged the Most Valuable Player, while Pragnya Kodan of KC High International School was recognised as the Most Promising Player. Speaking on the successful conclusion of the championship, Gaurav Dixit, Director, ISSO, said, "The energy and determination displayed by these young basketball players reflect the immense sporting potential within our schools. At ISSO, our vision is to ensure that every talented athlete has access to meaningful competition and a clear pathway to higher levels of sport.

Tennis legends Sania Mirza, Mahesh Bhupathi elected to AITA General Body

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)



Indian tennis legends Sania Mirza and Mahesh Bhupathi have been elected to the All India Tennis Association (AITA) General Body as representatives of sportspersons of outstanding merit (SOM), marking their entry into the administrative structure of the national tennis federation. The focus now shifts to the AITA Executive Committee elections, scheduled to be held on Thursday, where both former players will be looking to secure representation in the decision-making body.

The AITA's amended constitution provides for four SOM representatives in its General Body, comprising two men and two women, while two representatives, one from each category, will be part of the 15-member Executive Committee.

The selection process is part of the broader governance reforms aimed at ensuring greater representation of former sportspersons in the administration of national sports federations under the National Sports Governance Act and the National Sports Bodies Rules, 2026. A total of 26 applications were received for the SOM positions, with 18 applicants in the men's category and eight in the women's category. The applicants included former Indian players and Davis Cup representatives, including two-time Grand Slam champion Rohan Bopanna, former Davis Cup skipper Anand Amritraj and Gaurav Natekar. Bhupathi, a former doubles world number one, was among India's most successful tennis players. He won 12 Grand Slam titles during his career, including four in men's doubles and eight in mixed doubles. He also formed a successful doubles partnership with Leander Paes, with the duo winning multiple Grand Slam titles. Sania, meanwhile, reached the world number one position in women's doubles in 2015 and won six Grand Slam titles, three each in women's doubles.

Briefs News

Haaland after tense 3-2 win over RB Leipzig in UCL

MANCHESTER : (AGENCY) Manchester City's frontline striker Erling Haaland called for the team to "step up" after netting the winner against RB Leipzig in their tense 3-2 win at Etihad Stadium on Wednesday. While Haaland continued his hot streak against a former Bundesliga rival with his 13th goal in nine appearances against them, the scoreline was 2-2, and the atmosphere was tense before the Norwegian superstar struck. Speaking after the match to TNT Sports as quoted by ESPN, Haaland said that the team needed to be more attacking. "I think we need to step up a little bit. I think when we were 1-0, I think we needed to push forward a bit more to go at it, go for the second and then hopefully go for the third. That is what we have to do as a club. We have to work on that," he said. On the areas of improvement, he said, "I think keeping the ball, when to keep it, when to go, working together, both offensively and defensively. Lots of different things. That is the good part, you can always get better, and there is always a new chance, and now there will be a new game in three days, so that is lovely." Reflecting on his rather underwhelming night, which saw him register just 13 touches, Haaland said that he is "super happy" to have contributed with a goal even if he did not register the most touches. "It is not the most but what is the most important is I helped the team to win, and I managed to do that, so I'm super happy," he said. Coming to the match, Castello Lukeba's comical own goal in the 37th minute put Manchester City in the lead. In the 49th minute, Ridle Baku levelled the score, catching Gianluigi Donnarumma at the near post with a smart finish.

CSK, SRH complete four-player trade ahead of IPL 2027

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY) Chennai Super Kings (CSK) and Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) have completed a four-player trade ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2027 season, with England all-rounder Liam Livingstone and Australian seam-bowling all-rounder Jack Edwards moving to Chennai, while left-arm pacer Khaleel Ahmed and Australian fast bowler Nathan Ellis join the Hyderabad-based franchise. Livingstone, who was acquired by SRH for Rs 13 crore ahead of the IPL 2026 season, will join CSK at a revised fee of Rs 6 crore. Edwards, who was signed by SRH for Rs 3 crore, moves to Chennai at his existing contract value. In return, SRH have secured the services of Khaleel and Ellis at their existing fees of Rs 4.8 crore and Rs 2 crore, respectively. The trade offers both franchises an opportunity to reshape their squads ahead of the next season, with CSK bringing in additional all-round options and SRH strengthening their pace-bowling resources. Edwards, who was signed by SRH before making his international debut for Australia, missed the entire IPL 2026 season after being ruled out with a foot injury. Khaleel, meanwhile, returns to SRH, having previously represented the franchise between 2018 and 2021. The left-arm pacer picked up 15 wickets in 14 matches for CSK during IPL 2025 but managed only five appearances in the 2026 season before a right quadriceps injury brought his campaign to an end. Ellis, known for his variations and effectiveness in the death overs, will add to SRH's fast-bowling options. The trade comes after contrasting campaigns for the two franchises in IPL 2026.

Como boss Fabregas after historic 9-1 win over Lens in UCL

LENS : (AGENCY) Following his side's record-breaking win over RC Lens in their UEFA Champions League clash, the debutants' Como coach Cesc Fabregas highlighted that the club should learn to "not buy into their own hype" and the importance of staying humble. Away from home, Fabregas-managed side treated the football world to another spectacle, levelling Real Madrid's 8-0 win over Malmo in 2015 with a goal-fest of their own. Como has also produced some stunning performances in their debut UEFA Champions League season, including wins over Bundesliga side RB Leipzig and English football giants Manchester United. In Serie A, they are at fourth spot, battling for the title after being promoted to the top-flight league after 21 years, in 2024. Fabregas said, as quoted by ESPN, It has been a great night for Como, for all our fans, and for many of the young players who are just starting their careers. But we have to keep our feet on the ground, stay humble, and keep working hard. This is something we must always learn. We must learn this now so we don't buy into our own hype or think that the job is already done," Fabregas added. "We have to learn to say: 'Okay, it was a good day, let us move forward and try to keep putting in good performances," he signed off. Tasos Douvikas (7th minute, 32nd minute and 57th minute) scored a sensational hat-trick.

Rahmat Shah keeps door open for Rashid Test comeback

SHARJAH : (AGENCY)



Afghanistan remain hopeful of having Rashid Khan back in their Test setup once the star leg-spinner is fully fit, with captain Rahmat Shah stressing that the team will not risk his long-term availability by rushing his return to the longest format. Rashid, who has played just six Tests compared to more than 245 appearances across the white-ball formats, has been unavailable for Test cricket in recent times due to concerns over his back injury and workload management. Speaking ahead of Afghanistan's two-match Test series against Zimbabwe, Rahmat said the team's medical staff had advised against Rashid playing Test cricket at present. "Talking about Rashid, it has been recommended by the team medical staff and physio trainers that he should not be playing Test games at the moment because he is still not ready," Rahmat said, according to the ICC. "We cannot risk losing Rashid for white-ball cricket: he is such an important player. I am praying he gets better soon, and he loves Test cricket. However, if his body is not allowing it and based on the reports from the doctors and medical team, we wouldn't take a risk," he added. Rahmat pointed out that the demands of Test cricket make workload management particularly important for Rashid, who remains a key part of Afghanistan's white-ball plans. "He's our main spinner, and if he gets in the team, definitely when there's a long partnership, I will ask him to come and bowl regularly a lot," Rahmat said, according to the ICC.

"It will be load on him (in Tests) because in short formats, in T20, it's only a three-hour game and a bowler will bowl only four overs. But in Tests, there is a lot of workload, and as per Rashid physio, he has to manage his workload due to his back injury in the past," he added. Despite the uncertainty over his immediate availability, Rahmat reiterated that Rashid remains part of Afghanistan's long-term plans in Test cricket.

"I've had personal discussions with him and the ACB and as soon as he gets ready and 100 per cent fit, he will obviously be part of the Test squad," Rahmat said. Afghanistan head into the Zimbabwe series after drawing their previous Test assignment against Bangladesh last month, following a resilient effort on the final day.

The first Test against Zimbabwe begins on November 5 in Sharjah, with the second scheduled from November 13 to 17 at the same venue.

Gurnoor Brar reveals Indian pacers' hard-length plan for first NZ ODI

AUCKLAND : (AGENCY)



Following India's win over New Zealand in the first ODI, Indian pacer Gurnoor Brar revealed his game plan during the match, which fetched him three wickets, saying that he hit the hard length to take advantage of better bounce because of his height. After some mixed bag outings in ODI cricket at home and in England, Brar finally came good with a spell of 3/44 in 9.2 overs against New Zealand, getting wickets of Tim Seifert and Tom Latham as a part of his spell. Gurnoor generated great pace and bounce on a fast-bowling paradise at Auckland. Speaking in a video by BCCI, Gurnoor said, "The atmosphere here is very good for bowling. The wickets are quite good. We had practiced here for four or five days earlier, so the wicket was similar. I just backed my length and my bowling style.

Standard of cricket keeps rising each season : Graeme Smith ahead of SA20 season 5

JOHANNESBURG (AGENCY)



SA20 league commissioner and former South Africa captain Graeme Smith said that the fifth edition of the competition will continue the rise in the standard of cricket witnessed across the past four editions. The Proteas legend said this as SA20 launched its season five campaign on Thursday, building excitement for the milestone edition of South Africa's premier T20 league, set to take centre stage from January 17 to February 21, 2027. The St George's Park band is set to launch the festivities in grand style when three-time champions Sunrisers Eastern Cape take on Pretoria Capitals in a repeat of last season's Final in the Season 5 opener on Sunday, January 17, in Gqeberha. South Africa's summer cricket festival will then travel across Paarl, Pretoria, Durban, Cape Town and Johannesburg, with an action-packed opening week. Following the opening week, Mondays will be designated as rest days, while weekends will feature double-headers, offering fans a full day of cricket and entertainment. Since its inception, SA20 has established itself as a summer sporting spectacle, bringing together world-class cricket, entertainment and a vibrant stadium atmosphere. With big sixes, spectacular catches, music, fireworks and a host of matchday experiences, the league continues to offer fans an opportunity to be part of a cricketing festival. Heading into our fifth season, SA20 still belongs to the fans. They have filled our stadiums, brought the noise and made this League what it is, so Season 5 is our way of saying thank you," League Commissioner, SA20, Graeme Smith said as per a press release.

Unai Emery eyes 200th game, Champions Arsenal host Hull, Evanilson chases history

LONDON : (AGENCY)



The fixtures in the 2026-27 Premier League season continue rolling as Matchweek 10 brings several notable fixtures. Unai Emery will take charge of his 200th Premier League game when Aston Villa visit Manchester United, who are winless in seven league games. Arsenal, with the league's best defensive record, host promoted Hull City, having won their last 17 home games against promoted sides. Evanilson can become the first Bournemouth player to score in five consecutive Premier League games, according to a press release from the Premier League. Elsewhere, Crystal Palace host Liverpool, Leeds United face a Tottenham Hotspur side on a three-game winning run, and Nottingham Forest, yet to score at home this season, welcome Manchester City. Here are the key Opta facts ahead of the weekend. This is the first meeting between the sides in any competition since January 2001, when Everton won 3-1 at Highfield Road.

Coventry City will be the 45th different side Everton boss David Moyes has faced in the Premier League, moving him ahead of Alex Ferguson into outright third place for most opponents by a manager in the competition (Arsène Wenger and Roy Hodgson, 46). Coventry have scored nine goals in their last five league games but have the lowest xG in the league this season (8.3). Only Hull (96) and Crystal Palace (90) have had fewer shots than Coventry (97) in the league this season.

Leeds have taken just five points from their last 13 league games against Spurs (W1 D2 L10) and are winless in their last matches in the league.

However, they are unbeaten in their last eight league home games (W4 D4), their longest run in the top-flight since a 15-game streak between January and December 2001. Spurs have won their last three league games, keeping clean sheets in the last two. They have had the fourth-most shots in the league this season (148), but rank in the bottom half for expected goals (11.7) and have the lowest xG per shot (0.08). Andy Robertson could make his 341st Premier League appearance, equalling Darren Fletcher for the most by a Scottish player. Arsenal have kept the joint-most clean sheets (6), conceded the fewest goals (5), have the lowest xG conceded (7.24) and have faced the fewest shots on target (24) in the league this season The Gunners have won each of their last seven home league games and the last 17 at home against promoted sides, while Hull are winless in their last seven Premier League games (D5 L2). This will be Hull City's 200th Premier League game (W43 D53 L103). Arsenal midfielder Declan Rice has more assists than any other player in the league this season. Fulham have won three of their last four league games against Newcastle, and none of the 18 Premier League meetings in London has been a draw (11 Fulham wins, 7 Newcastle wins). Only Crystal Palace (169) have faced more shots in the Premier League this season than Newcastle United (154). The visitors have had 29 shots on target in the league this season, with only Aston Villa having fewer (27).



Delhi High Court bars third parties from infringing Kriti Sanon's personality rights



The Delhi High Court has barred third parties from infringing actress Kriti Sanon's personality rights by sharing AI-generated content online, such as morphed and sexually explicit images, videos, or audio, as well as impersonating her via chatbots and voice models. Ordering the removal of the infringing material from online platforms, Justice Purus haindra Kumar Kaurav said that the content not only exploited the commercial value of the actress's identity but also violated her dignity. The court further restrained an online vendor from selling merchandise featuring attributes of Sanon's persona, pointing out that some items reportedly used photographs from her personal life. Justice Kaurav issued the interim order on October 29 following a lawsuit by Sanon against unknown entities for violating her publicity and privacy rights, noting that the unauthorised acts risked causing irreparable harm.

Her legal counsel argued that the exploitation involved unauthorised use of her name, image, likeness, and voice to offer fake "bookings" for public appearances, sell merchandise, AI chatbots and synthetic voice models, generate prompt-based images, and create pornographic deepfakes. It was stated that certain accounts on YouTube, Facebook, X and Pinterest were circulating her AI-generated and morphed images. The interim order clarified that no restraint was issued on news, review, criticism, commentary, satire, parody, caricature or fan expression that did not fall within the infringing categories specified in its directions. Several public figures, like actors Aishwarya Rai Bachchan. Abhishek Bachchan, Salman Khan and Kangana Ranaut, along with Art of Living founder Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, journalist Sudhir Chaudhary, podcaster Raj Shamani, Andhra Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Pawan Kalyan and cricketer Abhishek Sharma, have previously approached the High Court seeking protection of their personality and publicity rights. **(AGENCY)**

Misbah Arshad Leaves for Puerto Rico Ahead of Miss Universe 2026

Miss Universe 2026 is about to commence, and participants from across the world are headed to Puerto Rico. The host country is gearing up for the 75th edition of the annual international beauty pageant, which is officially run by the Thai- and Mexico-based Miss Universe Organization. Yesterday, Miss Universe India Kaziah Liz Mejo shared on Instagram that she had begun her journey to the global competition. Today, Pakistan's Misbah Arshad also shared on social media that she is all set to leave for Puerto Rico to represent her country on the global stage. Taking to Instagram, Misbah Arshad wrote, "I'm about to embark on the journey I always dreamt of. Today, I only want to remind myself to be grateful. I want to wake up every morning and be so happy and grateful for being exactly where I always wanted to be and was meant to be. For the next few days, I'm not going to be only Misbah, I will be called Pakistan. The beauty pageant contestant shared that she comes from a village, where her roots lie, and how it has shaped her as a woman. "I'm so proud to be doing what I've been doing my whole life: being a bridge between cultures. And this time, I'm about to build a bridge between Pakistan and Puerto Rico," she wrote. While posing for the camera with Pakistan's national flag in her hand. , she wore a custom outfit created by Patrik Henry Mergano. **(AGENCY)**

I want to wake up every morning and be so happy and grateful for being exactly where I always wanted to be and was meant to be. For the next few days, I'm not going to be only Misbah.



Ramanand Sagar's 'Ramayan' vs Nitesh Tiwari's 'Ramayana': How do the two adaptations compare?



Comparing Ramanand Sagar's Ramayan, which became a television phenomenon in the late 1980s, with Nitesh TIwari's ambitious big-screen adaptation of the epic is not an entirely fair exercise. The two productions belong to different eras, were made for different mediums and had access to vastly different technological resources. One was a television series created with the limitations of its time, while the other is a big-budget cinematic spectacle designed for the large screen. Yet, given that both attempt to bring one of India's most revered epics to life, it is interesting to examine how they fare against each other across different aspects of filmmaking. While Ramanand Sagar's Ramayan built its legacy through memorable performances and emotional storytelling, Namit Malhotra's Ramayana approaches the epic with the advantages of contemporary filmmaking, advanced visual effects and a much larger production canvas.

Casting a project based on the Ramayana is no easy responsibility. The actors are not merely playing characters; they are stepping into roles that have been part of India's collective cultural and religious consciousness for centuries. Ramanand Sagar's Ramayan achieved something remarkable in this department. Arun Govil as Ram, Deepika Chikhalia as Sita, Sunil Lahri as Lakshman and Arvind Trivedi as Ravana became so closely associated with their respective characters that, for an entire generation, it became difficult to imagine anyone else playing them. Their performances were marked by sincerity and an understanding of the characters' larger-than-life stature. Govil's composed demeanour, Chikhalia's grace, Lahri's youthful energy and Trivedi's imposing screen presence helped create characters that audiences continue to remember decades later. Tiwari's Ramayana, meanwhile, brings together an ensemble led by Ranbir Kapoor as Ram, Sai Pallavi as Sita and Yash as Ravana. The casting combines established star power with actors who have the potential to offer their own interpretations of these iconic characters. There is also a generational difference in how the two productions approach these roles. Sagar's series introduced actors who gradually became synonymous with the characters they portrayed. The new adaptation, in contrast, brings some of the biggest contemporary film stars into familiar mythological roles, with audiences already carrying certain expectations about their screen personas. Whether these performances eventually acquire the same cultural association as their predecessors is something only time will tell. One of the defining features of Ramanand Sagar's Ramayan was its dialogue writing. The conversations were rooted in the language, philosophy and moral framework of the epic, while remaining accessible to ordinary viewers. More importantly, the dialogues often went beyond simply advancing the narrative. They conveyed ideas about duty, righteousness, sacrifice, relationships and the responsibilities that come with power. However, an important factor here is the format. Sagar had the advantage of adapting the epic for 78 episodes, allowing him considerable room to explore its characters, relationships. and philosophical underpinnings. Tiwari, on the other hand, has to tell the sprawling story across two feature films, with a combined runtime of approximately six hours. **(AGENCY)**

Agastya Nanda reflects on 'Ikkis' box-office performance



Actor Agastya Nanda said that although his 2025 film Ikkis did not fare well at the box office, he remains proud of being associated with a war drama that highlighted the value of peace. Directed by Sriram Raghavan, Ikkis hit theatres on December 25. It features Nanda as Param Vir Chakra awardee Arun Khetarpal, who was martyred at the age of 21 in the Battle of Basantar in the 1971 Indo-Pak war. During an interview with PTI, Nanda said, "Ikkis may not have done well commercially but I do not think any of us (referring to him, Raghavan and co-stars Vivaan Shah and Sikandar Kher) stand here like failures. We've a lot of pride for the film we made and we will be forever grateful for preaching peace and love and peace will never go out of fashion." According to Nanda, the commercial performance of a film is beyond the complete control of its cast and crew, who can only strive to deliver their best work. "The beauty is that a film will find its path even if it's not a big budget film, we've seen it very recently with Hanuman Ansh and with the Hollywood film Obsession. So, destiny has its own way of playing its part," he said. "The best you can do is make something you believe in and hope it finds the right audience. Money is something that is not in our hands at all. So, we do our bit and hope the rest is up to the audiences and all," he added. Produced by Dinesh Vijan, the cast of the Ikkis also includes Jaideep Ahlawat. **(AGENCY)**

Rajinikanth's 'Jailer 2' to premiere on Prime Video as it still plays in theatres



Rajinikanth-starrer action drama Jailer 2 is set to get an exclusive global streaming premiere on Prime Video on November 12, the streamer announced on Thursday. "TIGER MUTHUVEL PANDIAN is back. RELOADED," the streamer wrote on Instagram alongside a poster of the film featuring Rajinikanth, Hrithik Roshan and Vidya Balan. Directed by Nelson Dilipkumar and produced by Kalanithi Maran under the banner of Sun Pictures, the action crime drama sees Rajinikanth reprise his iconic role as retired jailer Tiger Muthuvel Pandian in the sequel to the first installment of the franchise. The film features special appearances by Mohanlal, Hrithik Roshan, and Vijay Sethupathi, alongside a stellar ensemble cast comprising SJ Suryah, Shivarajkumar, Suraj Venjaramoodu, Mithun Chakraborty, Vidhya Balan, Ramyakrishnan, Namo Narayana, and Yogi Babu. Following a record-breaking run at the Indian and global box offices, Jailer 2 is gearing up for its global streaming premiere. Picking up from where the first film left off, the sequel sees Muthuvel Pandian being pulled out of retirement when a powerful criminal syndicate, with deep political and international connections, threatens everything he holds dear. With old enemies returning for revenge and new alliances taking shape, Muthuvel must once again unleash his formidable instincts and take matters into his own hands to protect his family and restore order. "The response to Jailer. **(AGENCY)**

Yash steals the show in Nitesh Tiwari's ambitious retelling

Some stories are so deeply rooted in a country's ethos that bringing them to the screen comes with enormous expectations. The Ramayana is one such story. Retold through generations, across languages, books, theatre and television, the epic holds a special place in the country's cultural space. With Ramayana: Part One, director Nitesh Tiwari takes on the challenging task of translating this ancient Indian epic into a grand cinematic experience. Starring Ranbir Kapoor as Rama, Sai Pallavi as Sita and Yash as Ravana, the film has all the ingredients of a major spectacle. Gods, demons, mighty kingdoms, elaborate battle sequences, romance and music come together in a world designed to be experienced on the biggest possible screen. The ambition is evident from the opening sequence. Lords Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva appear within the first few minutes, setting the tone for a story that operates on a cosmic scale. From sprawling forests and magnificent palaces to supernatural creatures and massive battlefields, Tiwari leaves little doubt about the kind of cinematic experience he wants to create. And for much of its nearly 200-minute runtime, the film delivers on that promise. The trouble is that it sometimes gets so caught up in showing the audience everything that it forgets to make them feel everything. The story begins with Ravana's rise to power. A devoted follower of Lord Shiva, the king of Lanka earns a powerful boon from Brahma after performing intense penance. The protection he receives makes him almost invincible, allowing him to challenge the existing cosmic order and establish his dominance. His growing power eventually threatens the balance of the universe, paving the way for Vishnu's seventh avatar, Rama, to take human form. Interestingly, Tiwari spends a considerable portion. **(AGENCY)**



Kartik Aaryan turns producer with Kabir Khan's 'Ladaku', film to release in June 2027



Kartik Aaryan's next film, Ladaku, directed by Kabir Khan, is set to hit theatres in June 2027, production house Birla Studios announced. With Ladaku, Aaryan ventures into film production for the first time. The actor launched his production house, Dopamine Studios, earlier this year. Sharing the announcement on X, Birla Studios wrote, "Ananya Birla's Birla Studios announces June 18th as the theatrical release date of Kartik Aaryan starrer Ladaku, directed by Kabir Khan! The National-award winning golden team of Kartik Aaryan and Kabir Khan have joined hands with Birla Studios for this heart-tugging, inspiring film titled 'Ladaku'." "Ladaku is produced by Birla Studios, Kabir Khan Entertainment and, also, marks the debut of Kartik Aaryan as a producer with Dopamine Studios. Ladaku narrates an extraordinary real-life story of ambition, grit and hope," it added. Ladaku is jointly backed by Birla Studios, Dopamine Studios and Kabir Khan Entertainment. Plot details of Ladaku are currently being kept under wraps. The producers have described the film as "another emotional, heartwarming, family-entertainer", Deadline reported. The publication further noted that the film is expected to draw parallels with Kabir Khan's earlier works, including Bajrangi Bhaijaan and 83. Both films centre on protagonists who confront difficult circumstances and emerge victorious through determination and perseverance. Ladaku marks Aaryan's second collaboration with Khan after the 2024 biographical sports drama Chandu Champion. Aaryan portrayed Murlikant Petkar, India's first Paralympic gold medallist, in the film and won a National Award for his performance. Aaryan is currently shooting for Captain India, which is being directed by Shimit Amin. The project is backed by T-Series' Bhushan Kumar, Baweja Studios and Dopamine Studios. **(AGENCY)**

