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DELHI EDITION

Shah addresses Uttarakhand State Foundation Day celebrations

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah addressed the Uttarakhand State Foundation Day celebrations in Dehradun today. On this occasion, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami, along with several other distinguished dignitaries, was also present. Addressing the gathering on this occasion, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah said that today is a day to remember and express gratitude to our revered late leader, Atal Bihari Vajpayee. For many years, the people of this region had been struggling for the creation of a separate state of Uttarakhand, but governments led by opposition parties did not allow the state to be formed. Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee fulfilled this long-standing demand by establishing Uttarakhand on 9 November 2000. Shri Amit Shah said that while Atal Bihari Vajpayee created Uttarakhand, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has worked towards transforming and developing the state. A developed Uttarakhand is the first



Previous government did not build roads in Uttarakhand, arguing that constructing roads would allow the enemy to enter the country

milestone in the journey towards a developed India. He said that our government has decided to celebrate Uttarakhand State Foundation Day as an occasion of pride, achievement and resolve. We take pride in the divine land of Uttarakhand and in the decision taken by our revered Atal Bihari Vajpayee to establish the state. We are equally proud of the progress being made towards building a developed Uttarakhand under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Chief Minister Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami. He further said that we resolve to make Devbhoomi Uttarakhand the first developed state in the journey towards a developed India by 2047. Union Home Minister said that today is the day to take a pledge to fulfil the dreams of the people and youth of Devbhoomi who have made supreme sacrifices in the service and protection of Bharat Mata. We must resolve to preserve our cultural heritage and the environment of Uttarakhand while transforming the state into a developed state. We must also resolve to inspire the younger generation to follow the path of patriotism and valour. Amit Shah said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at the Centre and Chief Minister Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami in Uttarakhand, efforts are being made for the development of the state. Our government has ensured that the development of Uttarakhand continues uninterrupted.

for the past 10 years. He said that today, in this relatively small state, the foundation stone laying and inauguration of a total of 63 development projects worth ?1,508 crore have taken place. He further stated that today, 15 individuals will be conferred with the Uttarakhand Gaurav Samman, six individuals will receive the State Bravery Award, and two individuals will be honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award. These honours symbolise that our government takes pride in recognising and felicitating those who have made significant contributions towards making Uttarakhand a great state.

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation said that Uttarakhand's Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) has grown by 50% since 2022. While GSDP is an indicator of the growth of a state's economy, the prosperity of its citizens must also grow alongside the state's development.

Semiconductor Push : Vaishnaw Launches Semicon 2.0, Half of Approved Units are MSMEs

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)

Marking another significant step towards strengthening India's semiconductor and electronics ecosystem, Union Minister for Railways, Information & Broadcasting, and Electronics & Information Technology, Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw today launched "Semicon 2.0 – Web Application Portal under the Semicon India Programme" for Pillars 2, 3 and 4, followed by the announcement of 12 Approved Applicants under the Electronics Components Manu facturing Scheme (ECMS). Government of India has been undertaking concerted efforts towards the establishment of a robust and resilient semiconductor ecosystem in the country through various strategic initiatives and policy interventions. Within a span of few years from its establishment, ISM has catalysed the growth of India's semiconductor ecosystem, with successful implementation of the first phase of Semicon India Programme (Semicon 1.0), 12 projects were approved across six states, with cumulative investment of over Rs.1.64 lakh crore. Out of twelve, 05 projects have



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.

already commenced commercial production as of October 2026. Also, 105 startups have been provided access to EDA tools, 24 startups are supported through funding, and 15 startups having received venture capital funding. 332 institutions provided with EDA tools under the Chips to Startup (C2S) Programme, with approx. 70,000 students trained so far frame it well. Union Cabinet has approved Semicon 2.0 with a fiscal outlay of ?1,27,500 crore under the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM). Marking the next phase of India's semiconductor journey, Semicon 2.0 is focused on six strategic pillars:

Pillar 1: Design of Chips
Pillar 2: Machines and Materials
Pillar 3: Setting up More Fabs
Pillar 4: Further Strengthening the ATMP/OSAT Industry
Pillar 5: Research & Development
Pillar 6: Talent Development

With the launch of the Semicon 2.0 Web Application Portal, applications are now live for Pillar 2, 3 & 4. Addressing the gathering, Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology, Railways and Information & Broadcasting.

CM Yogi approves 30-day bonus for UP Govt employees ahead of Diwali

LUCKNOW : (AGENCY)

Ahead of Diwali, the Uttar Pradesh government led by Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has approved a 30-day bonus for eligible state government employees for the financial year 2025–26, bringing festive cheer to thousands of employees. According to an official government order, the bonus will be provided to non-gazetted state government employees, along with eligible employees of educational institutions, local bodies and district panchayats. Under the approved payment arrangement, 25 per cent of the bonus amount will be paid to employees in cash, while the remaining 75 per cent will be credited to their Provident Fund (PF) accounts. However, employees who have already retired or are due to retire shortly will receive the entire bonus amount in



In his message, Adityanath said that Dhanteras symbolises prosperity, auspiciousness and well-being, and called upon people to include the state's diligent artisans and craftspeople in their celebrations.

cash. The government has also extended the benefit to daily-wage employees, with a provision for a bonus of up to Rs 1,184. The decision is expected to provide financial relief to eligible employees ahead of the festive season. Meanwhile, the chief minister also highlighted the contribution of the state's artisans and craftspeople, urging people to support local products and promote self-reliance while celebrating the festival. In his message, Adityanath said that Dhanteras symbolises prosperity, auspiciousness and well-being, and called upon people to include the state's diligent artisans and craftspeople in their celebrations. Emphasising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Vocal for Local' vision, the Chief Minister urged people to choose One District One Product (ODOP) items as gifts on Dhanteras. "Embracing the 'Vocal for Local' vision of our respected Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi, please choose ODOP (One District One Product) items as gifts this Dhanteras. A single purchase from you can light a lamp of self-reliance and dignity in the home of a skilled family. Let us celebrate a 'Local Diwali'.

Goa Government Ready to Defend Mhaje Ghar Law Up to Supreme Court : CM Sawant



PANAJI. OPEN SEARCH

Chief Minister Dr Pramod Sawant has asserted that the Goa government is prepared to defend the Mhaje Ghar law at every judicial level, including the Supreme Court. Sawant clarified that only one matter concerning houses situated on comunidade land under the scheme has been challenged in court, while the remaining provisions of the scheme are not under dispute. deterred by the ongoing court challenge or allow it to affect the implementation of the Mhaje Ghar scheme. He maintained that the government would pursue the legal battle if necessary while continuing efforts to implement the scheme.

CM Samrat attends Shradh ceremony of Road Construction Minister Kumar Shailendra's father

PATNA. (AGENCY)

Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary on Friday attended the Shradh ceremony of K N Singh, father of state Road Construction Minister Kumar Shailendra, at Telghi village in Bhagalpur district. The Chief Minister visited Kumar Shailendra's residence in Telghi village under the Naugachia subdivision and paid floral tributes to the portrait of the late Singh. He also offered prayers for the peace of the departed soul. Deputy Chief Minister Vijay Kumar Choudhary, Agriculture Minister Vijay Kumar Sinha, Energy Minister Shailesh Kumar alias Bulo Mandal, Bihar BJP State President Sanjay Sarawagi and State General Secretary Bhikhu Bhai Dalsania were among those present. Several other public representatives and dignitaries, including MLA Sanjeev Chaurasia, MLC Sanjay Singh, former Minister Ramnarayan Mandal and former MLA Alok Kumar, also attended the ceremo-



ny, along with relatives of the minister. In a post on X, CM wrote, "Participating in the shraddha ceremony of the revered father of the Honourable Minister Shri Kumar Shailendra Ji, I offered humble floral tributes to the departed soul at their residence in Telghi (Kharik, Naugachia). May God grant peace to the departed soul and strength to the bereaved family. Humble homage!" Earlier on Thursday, Bihar Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary inspected the Ganga ghats in Patna ahead of Chhath Mahaparv and directed officials to ensure adequate safety. cleanliness and other facilities for devotees. The Chief Minister inspected several ghats via steamer, travelling from Nasriganj Ghat to Collectorate Ghat, Gandhi Ghat, Pehlwan Ghat, Gulabi Ghat, Chaudhary Tola Ghat, Pathri Ghat, Gai Ghat, Bhadra Ghat and Mahavir Ghat, said a release. During the inspection, Choudhary directed officials to complete all preparations at the Ganga ghats and ensure that Chhath vratis (devotees observing the fast) do not face any inconvenience while offering Arghya. Keeping in view the water level and flow of the Ganga, he instructed officials to make foolproof security arrangements and install strong barricades near the ghats. He also directed them to barricade approach roads and pathways along the river to ensure the safe movement of devotees. The Chief Minister further instructed officials to provide continuous information about arrangements at the ghats and other important details through public announcements.

SC junks Tarun Tejpal's plea for suspension of sentence in 2013 rape case

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)

The Supreme Court on Friday dismissed former Tehelka Editor Tarun Tejpal's plea seeking suspension of the 10-year sentence awarded to him in a 2013 rape case. After a prima facie consideration of the evidence in the case — his emails and messages and arguments of senior counsel Kapil Sibal and Siddharth Agarwal for Tejpal and Solicitor General Tushar Mehta for the State of Goa, a Bench of Justice MM Sundresh and Justice PB Varale said that no case was made out for suspension of sentence. Tejpal has challenged the Bombay High Court's judgment that reversed the trial court's 2021 judgment acquitting him in the case while the State of Goa has sought life imprisonment for him. Dismissing Tejpal's plea for exemption from surrender,



the Supreme Court had on August 25 ordered him to surrender within two weeks. During that 2 minutes 9 seconds, the lift door opened two times at the ground floor. Her case was that it did not open; and had it opened. , she would have run out," Sibal said, adding the footage which would have shown that the lift doors opened was destroyed. Referring to the testimony of the Grand Hyatt hotel Manager and Mitsubishi staff who said the lift automatically opened on reaching every floor, and that its doors cannot be kept closed by pressing the buttons.

EC gives left-out voters of Haryana, 6 other states another chance to join rolls

NEW DELHI. (AGENCY)

The Election Commission (EC) has given one more chance to voters marked absent, dead or duplicate in seven states, including Haryana, Delhi, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Telangana and Nagaland, where the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls is either underway or has just been completed.

The EC has also asked officials to establish a monitoring mechanism to ensure that no eligible elector is deprived of the opportunity to be included in the final electoral roll, while preventing duplicate enrolments. In a letter, the poll panel directed the chief electoral officers (CEOs) of these states to facilitate the submission of fresh enumeration forms by such voters. The EC has



Booth-wise lists of voters marked absent, dead or duplicate to be displayed afresh; officials asked to facilitate submission of fresh enumeration forms

directed that booth-wise lists of all such voters be displayed afresh on the notice boards of the polling stations from where their names were deleted. The lists will also be made available at panchayat bhawans, urban local body offices and the offices of block development officers, panchayat officers and urban local body officers. They will also be uploaded on the respective CEOs' websites. The lists will mention the probable reasons why the names of these voters were not included in the draft electoral rolls. The EC has asked district election officers (DEOs) and (EROs) to make fresh, partially filled enumeration forms available on the ERO dashboard through ECINET. Officials will have to contact affected voters through booth-level officers (BLOs) and ensure that the forms reach them either physically or through WhatsApp, email or SMS. The voters will also be able to download and fill in their enumeration forms through the EC's website or the ECINET app by entering the same elector photo identity card (EPIC) number they had before their names were deleted. The BLOs have also been asked to coordinate with booth-level agents (BLAs) of political parties to trace the voters. They will use house-to-house visits, enquiries with neighbours and family members, resident welfare associations and available contact numbers to establish contact with them. The voters who have not shifted can submit their duly filled and signed enumeration forms along with a statement explaining why they could not submit.

National Clean Air Programme need urgent revamp : Jairam Ramesh

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)

As pollution levels in the national capital meddle between "very poor" and "severe" categories, senior Congress leader Jairam Ramesh on Friday said the public health crisis was "even worse" in parts of north India. He called for an urgent revamp of the National Clean Air Programme that was initiated nearly eight years ago. "The top three most polluted cities in India going by the monthly average PM2.5 concentration were in Uttar Pradesh--Baraut in Baghpat district, Khora in Ghaziabad district and Gajraula in Amroha district," Ramesh posted on X, citing a detailed analysis published by the Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air (CREA).
The Congress MP said 13



cities in UP, 11 cities in Haryana, three in Gujarat and two each in Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Rajasthan exceeded the national ambient air quality standard for PM2.5 (24-hour mean), which is four times the WHO safety level. On the basis of CREA's analysis, Ramesh argued that there was a need to control emissions from "industry, power generation and residential sources".

Come to Haryana for Debate, Face Questions from Our Yuva Morcha Adhyaksh : CM Saini to Rahul Gandhi

Congress Should Approach Election Commission or Courts Over Electoral Complaints Instead of Making Allegations- CM

VIJAY KUMAR.OPEN SEARCH



CHANDIGARH : Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini on Friday took a swipe at Congress leader Sh. Rahul Gandhi over his debate challenge, inviting him to Haryana to face questions from the BJP Yuva Morcha president. Offering to arrange the venue himself, the Chief Minister said Gandhi could not expect to make what he described as false allegations without facing questions in return. It cannot be a one-sided affair where someone makes false claims and then walks away, he remarked. The Chief Minister said that if the Congress had any grievances regarding the electoral process, it should present its case before the Chief Election Commi ssioner. The Election Comm ission is an independent institution, and the doors of the courts are also open. He questioned why the Congress is unwilling to approach these forums, saying that merely making allegations from home for public consumption would serve no purpose. Sh. Nayab Singh Saini was interacting with mediapersons at Haryana Niwas on Friday after transferring funds under various government welfare schemes. He responded to questions on government initiatives, crop procurement, allegations levelled by the Congress and several other issues. Cabinet Minister Sh. Krishan Bedi, Chief Secretary Sh Anurag Rastogi and other senior officers were also present.

Launching a sharp attack on the Congress, the Chief Minister said the party had no substantive issue to take to the people and is therefore attempting to mislead the country in the name of "vote theft" while casting doubts on the credibility of democracy and the Election Commission. He said that if the Congress had complaints about voters' names being deleted or incorrectly recorded, the Election Commission had already prescribed a procedure for raising objections. Electoral rolls had been made available in the public domain, and a month's time had been provided for filing objections through the prescribed forms.

Despite these provisions, he said, the Congress continued to mislead the public. He said people were watching these developments closely and would no longer be swayed by such claims. There has been no vote theft. What the Congress is facing today is the consequence of its own actions. People are now even saying that the Congress should shut down the party, he remarked.

The Chief Minister said that during Congress rule, elderly people often went without pensions for as long as six months and were forced to make repeated visits to government offices and political leaders to secure their dues. Many, he said, had to wait outside offices in the scorching sun, with no one willing to listen to their grievances.

He said Congress leaders were now raising allegations of vote theft but should first answer for the treatment meted out to the poor, elderly and needy during their tenure. He said that under the earlier system, when benefits worth Rs 200 were meant for a poor person, only Rs 50 would reach the intended recipient, with no accountability for the remaining Rs 150. Today, under the leadership of Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi, he said, the full amount of welfare benefits is being transferred directly into beneficiaries' bank accounts. The Chief Minister said the Congress had governed the country for decades and had been given opportunities by successive generations of voters. People had hoped that the next generation of Congress leadership would bring change, but the situation remained the same, he remarked. He further stated that the Congress lacked a concrete vision for national development even when it was in power and that its politics remained confined to allegations and counter-allegations. At times, its leaders staged protests wearing black clothes; at others, they sat on dharnas, and now they had begun turning to village chaupals, he said. The Chief Minister said the Congress had raised the slogan of poverty eradication for 55 years but had failed to alleviate poverty. In contrast, he claimed, more than 50 crore people had been lifted out of poverty over the past 12 years under the leadership of Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi, bringing positive changes to their lives. He said poor families had received permanent houses, LPG connections, clean drinking water in their kitchens and electricity connections. The Prime Minister, he added, had helped ensure a dignified life for underprivileged families by providing access to basic amenities. He asked Congress leaders to explain what they had done for the poor during their 55 years in power.

Identify Five High-Potential Crops for Natural Farming, Chief Secretary Directs Officials

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH



Haryana Chief Secretary Sh. Anurag Rastogi chaired a high-level meeting at the Haryana Civil Secretariat here today to deliberate on developing a coordinated framework for the certification, procurement and marketing of naturally and organically grown agricultural produce in the state.

The meeting focused on strengthening the institutional arrangements required to connect farmers practising natural and organic farming with reliable procurement systems and organised marketing channels, while ensuring quality assurance, traceability and remunerative returns to growers.

During the meeting, Chief Secretary Sh. Anurag Rastogi directed officials to identify at least five crops suitable for cultivation under natural farming practices and prepare a comprehensive action plan for their production, promotion and marketing to enhance farmers' incomes. He said that crops such as turmeric, red chillies and ginger could be considered under the proposed initiative, keeping in view their cultivation potential and market demand. The Chief Secretary emphasised that the action plan should clearly identify suitable cultivation areas, production targets, farmer participation, certification requirements and marketing arrangements. He also directed the Agriculture and Horticulture Departments to compile verified district-wise and crop-wise information on farmers and farmer groups engaged in natural and organic farming. The information would include the area under cultivation, certification status, estimated production and likely marketable surplus. The exercise would help identify suitable crops and production clusters for the proposed programme. Managing Director, HAFED, Sh. Chandrashekhar Khare highlighted HAFED's role in exploring viable marketing channels, with particular emphasis on securing remunerative returns for farmers and building consumer confidence in certified natural and organic products.

Chandigarh consumer panel fines UCO Bank Rs 15,000 for delaying widow's pension revision

CHANDIGARH. (AGECNY)



District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission in Chandigarh has penalised UCO Bank for not revising the family pension of a widow, despite receiving instruction from disbursing authorities. The commission directed the Branch Manager of the UCO Bank branch in Rupnagar, Punjab, to pay Rs 15,000 in compensation to the complainant for deficiency in service, mental agony, and litigation expenses. Dismissing the bank's defense, the consumer court noted that the hardship and harassment suffered by the family cannot be overlooked simply because the bank cleared the pending arrears while the case was being heard. The complaint was filed by Rupnagar resident Sukhwinder Singh on behalf of his mother, Prakash Kaur. Sukhwinder's father, Nasib Singh, had retired from the Chandigarh Transport Undertaking (CTU) on March 31, 1995 and his pension was sanctioned as per rules. After his death on November 28, 2001, the family pension was transferred to his mother from November 29, 2001, but subsequent revisions in the pension were not correctly.

Haryana Govt Fully Committed to Ensuring Safe and Quality Medicines for Citizens

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH



Haryana Health Minister Arti Singh Rao said the State Government is fully committed to ensuring the availability of safe and quality medicines to citizens and is taking sustained action in this regard. She said that the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA) Department has been directed to take stringent action against those involved in the manufacture and sale of counterfeit medicines. A spokesperson of the Food and Drugs Administration Department said that, acting on the directions of the Health Minister, the Drug Wing conducted an extensive inspection drive from April 1 to September 30, 2026. During this period, a total of 13,590 drug sale units and 423 manufacturing units were inspected. Following the detection of regulatory violations and irregularities, 966 drug sale licences and 12 manufacturing/blood centre licences were suspended. In addition, 15 licences were cancelled completely, while five were partially cancelled.

The spokesperson said that, as part of efforts to strengthen quality control, 2,389 samples were collected during the period, of which 2,189 have been tested. Of these, 11 samples were found to be substandard. The spokesperson further said that the Department initiated prosecution in 64 cases against those found violating the prescribed regulations. Meanwhile, 15 cases pending before various courts were disposed of, resulting in convictions in eight cases and acquittals in seven. At present, 462 cases remain pending before the courts.

FDA Inspects 13,590 Drug Sale Units and 423 Manufacturing Units Between April and September 2026

In addition, 376 joint raids were conducted by police and FDA officials, leading to the registration of two First Information Reports (FIRs) under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act and four FIRs under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act. Highlighting major enforcement actions, the spokesperson said that in April 2026, an FDA team seized counterfeit Mounjaro injections, used for weight management and diabetes treatment, valued at approximately Rs 70 lakh. Similarly, in July 2026, the FDA team in Gurugram busted an interstate racket involved in the manufacture and sale of counterfeit Telma-AM.

Briefs News

Agriculture Minister Reviews Procurement Arrangements at Grain Markets

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH. Haryana Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Sh. Shyam Singh Rana said the state government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini, is committed to procuring every grain of farmers' produce and ensuring timely payment. He was interacting with people during his visit to the Nangal Chaudhary, Narnaul and Ateli grain markets in Mahendragarh district on Friday. The Minister said the Haryana Government provides minimum support price (MSP) for 24 crops. If produce is sold in the mandis below the MSP, the government compensates farmers for the difference under the Bhavantar Bharpai Yojana. He reiterated that the government is procuring every grain of farmers' produce. Reviewing procurement arrangements for the Kharif season, Shyam Singh Rana sought detailed information on crop arrivals, procurement, lifting and payments. He also enquired about the arrangements from Market Committee officials and staff present at the mandis. The Minister interacted with farmers and commission agents and heard their concerns. He directed officials to ensure that farmers face no difficulty at the mandis.

Haryana Chief Secretary Directs Timely Disposal of First Appeals Under RTI Act

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH. The Haryana Government has directed all concerned authorities to ensure the disposal of first appeals filed under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005, within the prescribed timeframe. The government has also instructed First Appellate Authorities to pass clear and reasoned orders, duly recording the grounds for their decisions. According to a communication issued by Chief Secretary Sh. Anurag Rastogi, every first appeal must be disposed of within the statutory timeframe prescribed under Section 19(6) of the RTI Act. Further, every order passed on a first appeal must clearly record the reasons for the decision, after duly considering all major points and grounds raised by the appellant. The instructions further clarify that wherever the information sought is disclosable under the law, the concerned State Public Information Officer (SPIO) must ensure that it is furnished without any unnecessary delay. It may be noted that the Haryana State Information Commission had expressed concern over delays in the disposal of first appeals and the issuance of orders without adequate reasoning. The Commission had requested that necessary instructions be issued to all concerned administrative departments, Heads of Departments and authorities in this regard.

1,500 passengers evacuated after Karmabhoomi Express fire in Punjab; 2 special trains deployed

CHANDIGARH : Around 1,500 passengers were safely evacuated after a fire broke out in coaches of the Amritsar-New Jalpaiguri Karmabhoomi Express near Sarai Banjara railway station on the Rajpura-Ambala-Delhi route on Friday afternoon, railway officials said. No casualties or major injuries were reported. Two special trains were subsequently operated from Sarai Banjara towards New Jalpaiguri to ferry passengers to their destination, while efforts were made to remove the damaged coaches and restore normal rail traffic. The district administration dispatched ambulances, fire brigade teams and police personnel after receiving information about the fire around 1.30pm. Local residents, railway teams and civil administration, police and fire brigade personnel worked together to bring the blaze under control. Railway officials switched off power to both overhead electric lines as a safety measure. The loco pilot and guard detached the affected coaches from the rest of the train to prevent the fire from spreading. Patiala Deputy Commissioner Himanshu Aggarwal and SSP Harmandeep Hans visited the site.

Major Relief for Beekeepers, Brings Beekeeping Under Mukhyamantri Bagwani Bima Yojana

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH



Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said the State Government is taking sustained measures to enhance farmers' incomes, make agriculture more remunerative and protect farmers against natural calamities and other risks. He said the double-engine government stands firmly with farmers at every stage, from seed to market. As part of these efforts, the government has brought beekeeping under the Mukhyamantri Bagwani Bima Yojana, providing financial protection to beekeepers against potential losses. Addressing a press conference in Chandigarh on Friday, the Chief Minister said beekeepers would now be required to pay a premium of just Rs 50 per bee colony and box to avail an insurance cover of Rs 1,250 per colony and box. Under the scheme, beekeepers will be eligible to receive insurance claims of up to Rs 6.25 lakh. The Chief Minister said the government is also committed to promoting beekeeping and ensuring remunerative prices for honey producers. In this regard, the inclusion of honey under the Bhavantar Bharpai Yojana was announced in Kurukshetra on August 16, 2025, and implemented on September 27, 2025. The protected price of honey under the scheme has been fixed at Rs 120 per kilogram. He recalled that the inclusion of beekeeping under the Mukhyamantri Bagwani Bima Yojana was announced in his Budget Address for 2026-27 on March 7, 2026. With the implementation of this announcement, beekeepers will now have financial protection against potential losses arising from natural calamities and other risks. The initiative will also help promote beekeeping as a remunerative enterprise in Haryana. Sharing details of paddy procurement in the state, the Chief Minister said procurement during the Kharif marketing season.

City Gets a powerful Blood Component Machine to Save 3 Lives From One Donation

CHANDIGARH : (AGENCY)

In a landmark moment for healthcare in the City, Rotary Club Chandigarh today dedicated the state-of-the-art automated blood component processing equipment to the people of Chandigarh. The Cryofuge 16 was formally handed over to the Rotary & Blood Bank Society Resource Centre (RBBSRC), Sector 37, by former world President of Rotary International Rajendra K. Saboo, in the presence of senior doctors, Rotarians, donors and citizens, marking a new era in component blood banking in the region. "The blood bank had two component seperators earlier, and with new state-of-the-art Cryofuge 16, one unit of blood will now be separated in minutes into three important blood components, namely PRBC (Packed Red Cells) - for anemia, surgery and accident victims; FFP (Fresh Frozen Plasma) - for liver disease and bleeding disordersPlatelets / Cryoprecipitate for dengue, cancer.

Dhanteras Bonanza- CM Transfers Rs 4,470.77 Crore to Beneficiaries

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH



- ***Panchayati Raj institutions and municipalities receive major allocation for development works***
- ***Rs 1,158 crore released to panchayats for rural development; municipalities receive Rs 1,727.80 crore***

Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini on Friday marked the auspicious occasion of Dhanteras by transferring Rs 4,470.77 crore directly into the bank accounts of lakhs of beneficiaries of various welfare schemes, as well as Panchayati Raj institutions and municipalities across the state.

Addressing a press conference in Chandigarh, the Chief Minister said the State Government had released the 13th instalment under the Deen Dayal Lado Lakshmi Yojana, transferring Rs 222.52 crore into the bank accounts of 10.59 lakh women beneficiaries. With this disbursement, the total amount released under the scheme has reached Rs 2,689.15 crore across 13 instalments. During this Cabinet Minister Sh. Krishan Bedi, Chief Secretary Sh Anurag Rastogi and other senior officers remained present.

He said the second phase of the scheme commenced on September 17, with the government expanding its coverage by raising the annual income eligibility limit from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 1.80 lakh. The latest disbursement includes 49,290 eligible women covered under the expanded criteria. The Chief Minister further said that Rs 1,135.21 crore had been transferred directly into the bank accounts of 35,26,358 beneficiaries under 15 social security pension schemes, including the Old Age Samman Allowance, disability allowance and other social security pensions. Highlighting reforms in the delivery of welfare benefits, he said the State Government had adopted a proactive model under which eligibility is determined automatically through the Parivar Pehchan Patra (Family ID) database. The system enables eligible citizens to receive their allowances without submitting applications or visiting government offices.

Under the Har Ghar-Har Grihini Yojana, the Chief Minister also released Rs 24.25 crore as subsidy for LPG cylinder refills undertaken in September, benefiting 6.05 lakh women. Under the scheme, eligible women are provided LPG cylinders at a subsidised price of Rs 500 per month.

With the latest disbursement, the government has so far transferred Rs 404.46 crore into the bank accounts of 14.66 lakh eligible women under the scheme. The Chief Minister said the State Government had earmarked Rs 2,316 crore under the State Finance Commission for rural development works during the current financial year. Of this, Rs 1,158 crore has now been released towards the first and second instalments of State Finance Commission grants. The amount has been transferred into the bank accounts of 22 Zila Parishads, 143 Panchayat Samitis and 6,230 Gram Panchayats across Haryana.

For urban development, the Chief Minister said the government had made a budgetary provision of Rs 2,754 crore under the State Finance Commission scheme this year. An amount of Rs 1,727.80 crore has now been released to municipalities across the state, taking the total allocation released to urban local bodies during the current financial year to Rs 1,927.80 crore. The Chief Minister also disbursed financial assistance of Rs 202.99 crore to 5,429 families under the Dayalu Yojana. With this, the total assistance provided under the scheme has reached Rs 3,682.83 crore.

Delhi stuck in cycle of blame sans accountability

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)



The MCD has suspended Assistant Engineer Mohammad Nadeem and Junior Engineer Aman Dalal in connection with Thursday's collapse.

The vicious cycle of blame, suspensions and assurances has once again unfolded in the Capital after the three-storey under-construction building collapsed in Chawri Bazaar on Thursday. Every such tragedy brings swift announcements of action by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), but the larger question of how illegal and unsafe constructions continue to evade civic scrutiny remains unanswered. The latest incident has followed an increasingly familiar script: officials are suspended, the building owner or contractor faces police action, an inquiry is ordered and assurances of a crackdown on unauthorised construction are issued. However, as the immediate outrage fades, the question of accountability within the civic administration often loses momentum. The MCD has suspended Assistant Engineer Mohammad Nadeem and Junior Engineer Aman Dalal in connection with Thursday's collapse. According to the civic body's preliminary findings, the building stood on a plot measuring 70-80 square yards and collapsed while the shuttering of its third-floor roof was being removed. The roof had reportedly been completed around 15 days earlier. The Corporation has also said that no application for a sanction of building plan (SBP) had been submitted by the owner or builder and that it had received no complaint about the construction before the incident. But the absence of an approved building plan raises a more pressing question: how did an unauthorised three-storey construction progress to the stage of roof completion without attracting the attention of the civic authorities? The Chawri Bazaar tragedy comes less than two months after a five-storey paying guest accommodation in South Delhi's Satya Niketan collapsed on September 6, killing seven persons. On May 30, a four-storey structure in Saidulajab, near Saket Metro station, collapsed, killing six and injuring several others. In that case, the Delhi Police had reportedly flagged illegal construction at the property to the MCD twice in March, but no effective intervention followed before the collapse. The pattern is not limited to these two tragedies. Since January, Delhi has witnessed at least 11 major reported.

Massive fire at south Delhi Kia showroom leaves seven injured, 12 rescued

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)



A massive fire broke out at a Kia car showroom in south Delhi's Saidulajab area on Friday, gutting several vehicles and leaving seven people injured, while around 12-15 others were rescued, an official said. BuyMaps The fire has been brought under control and a search operation is underway inside the building to ascertain whether anyone else is trapped or if there are any casualties, Deputy Magistrate Lakshya Singhal. "Around 3.45 pm, we received information that a Kia showroom opposite the metro station had caught fire. The fire department, police and other agencies were immediately mobilised. The SDM and the SHO also reached the spot," Singhal said. Seven people sustained injuries in the incident, of whom four were admitted to MAX Hospital and three to Madan Mohan Malviya Hospital, he said. Around 12-15 people were rescued from the building, with stairs placed against adjoining buildings to evacuate those trapped on the upper floors. Local residents also helped in the rescue operation, Singhal said. As of now, there have been no casualties. The building is being searched to rule out any casualties," he said, adding that teams from the fire department, police, revenue department. , Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), ambulance services and CATS were involved in the operation. The Delhi Fire Services received a call about the blaze at around 3.47 pm and initially rushed 10 fire tenders to the spot. Several teams of the Delhi Police and fire department were deployed to contain the flames.

Delhi Police announces financial aid for over 250 personnel injured in line of duty in 2026

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)



Delhi Police has announced financial assistance of Rs 15,000 to Rs 25,000 for more than 250 force personnel who sustained injuries while performing law and order duties this year, an official order said. Delhi Police Commissioner Anurag Kumar has approved financial assistance of Rs 25,000 for those who suffered grievous injuries and Rs 15,000 for those who sustained other injuries, the order said. The assistance will be provided from the Delhi Police Welfare Society Fund," Additional Commissioner of Police (Public Relations) Rajeev Ranjan said. "The financial assistance is a recognition of the dedication and sacrifices of our personnel who sustained injuries while maintaining law and order. Their welfare and well-being remain a priority for Delhi Police," he added. According to the order, DCPs can also forward proposals seeking enhanced financial assistance in deserving special cases. More than 250 police personnel sustained injuries while managing various law and order arrangements in 2026, including deployments during protests and other security-related duties. Delhi Police institutionalised the 'Ahat Veer Samman Patra' in 2023 to honour personnel who sustain injuries or are wounded in the line of duty. , particularly while handling riots and protests or apprehending criminals.

MCD's April warning failed to prevent Chawri Bazar building collapse; suspends engineers

NEW DELHI. (AGENCY)



An advisory issued by the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) to the owner of the Chawri Bazar building in April over its deteriorating condition failed to prevent fresh construction at the property, which collapsed on Thursday, killing two persons and injuring five. The civic body's preliminary inquiry has raised questions over the monitoring of the property after the warning was issued on April 28. The MCD had advised the owner, Samiullah, to undertake necessary strengthening and corrective measures under the supervision of a qualified structural engineer and submit a structural stability certificate. The advisory had also clarified that it was not permission for reconstruction. However, the inquiry found that fresh construction had allegedly been undertaken on the second and third floors under the garb of repair work, without the requisite permissions or prior intimation to the civic body.

The property, located at 4548, Gali Sheesh Mahal, Gali Shehatara, Ajmeri Gate, collapsed around 10.30 am on November 5. According to the MCD's preliminary findings, the shuttering of the third-floor lintel was hurriedly removed, reportedly over apprehensions of restrictions on the ongoing construction. The lintel subsequently collapsed, triggering the collapse of the entire structure.

The sequence of events also raises questions about the civic body's follow-up after receiving information from the Delhi Police on June 15 regarding unauthorised construction at the premises. The MCD said an inspection was conducted and repair work was found underway, but no subsequent complaint about fresh construction or complete demolition was received.

The inquiry has also flagged discrepancies in the property's tax declaration. The owner had declared it as a ground-plus-four-floor building with a covered area of around 80 square metres while depositing Rs 75,114 in property tax in April under the self-assessment scheme. The collapsed structure was described in the report as a ground-plus-three-floor building on a plot measuring around 45 square yards. Meanwhile, the MCD has suspended the concerned junior engineer and assistant engineer pending an inquiry and submitted a police complaint against the owner. It has also initiated a survey of adjoining buildings to assess their structural safety and identify unauthorised construction.

3 contractors held after fatal Chawri Bazaar building collapse in Delhi

NEW DELHI. (AGENCY)



Records show that the Delhi Police had flagged unauthorised construction at the property to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) in June, nearly five months before the collapse.

Three contractors have been apprehended following the collapse of a three-storey building in Old Delhi's Chawri Bazaar, which killed two workers injured two others on Thursday, police said. The accused have been identified as Siraj, Tajuddin and Furkan, all residents of Delhi's Ajmeri Gate area. They were apprehended from Sirohi village in Faridabad. Police are arresting them under Section 105 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for culpable homicide not amounting to murder. The development comes even as questions are being raised over the construction of the building, with records showing that the Delhi Police had flagged unauthorised construction at the property to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) in June, nearly five months before the collapse. In a communication dated June 15, addressed to the Deputy Commissioner of the MCD's City Sadar Paharganj Zone, the Station House Officer (SHO) of the Hauz Qazi police station had informed the civic body about unauthorised construction being carried out at the site. The letter described the work as new construction spread over approximately 70 square yards and identified the landowner and contractor as Furqan. The communication had specifically brought the alleged unauthorised construction to the MCD's notice. The three-storey under-construction building, located in Gali Sheesh Mahal, Chawri Bazaar, collapsed on Thursday morning, killing two workers and leaving two others injured. The deceased were identified as Kishori (40) and Sanjeet (45), both residents of Mandawali in Delhi. The injured were identified as Sahdev (25) and Firoz (37), also residents of Mandawali. According to the police, a distress call regarding the collapse was received at 9.48 am, following which teams from the Delhi Police, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Delhi Fire Services and MCD rushed to the spot. Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) Rohit Rajbir Singh said four persons had been rescued.

Delhi inches towards 'severe' AQI two days ahead of Diwali

NEW DELHI. (AGENCY)



A thick layer of smog hung over the national capital on Friday as the air quality deteriorated sharply and edged closer to the 'severe' category, with the overall Air Quality Index (AQI) settling at 391. Of the 59 monitoring stations across the city, 30 recorded severe air quality at 9 am, while the remaining stations were in the very poor category. Rohini recorded the worst AQI at 475, followed by IIT-Delhi at 472. According to the Air Quality Early Warning System, Delhi is likely to record its first severe air quality day of the season on Friday, with the situation expected to persist until November 8, the day of Diwali. The forecast comes amid the ongoing peak stubble-burning period in the National Capital Region, while firecracker emissions due to Diwali could further add to the pollution load. The AQI was in the 'very poor' category Friday morning and rose from 389 at 8 am to 391 at 9 am, indicating a further deterioration in air quality.

As per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), an AQI between zero and 50 is classified as 'good', 51 and 100 as 'satisfactory', 101 and 200 as 'moderate', 201 and 300 as 'poor', 301 and 400 as 'very poor', and 401 and 500 as 'severe'. Weather experts said several pollution hotspots in the city could record AQI levels above 450, particularly in view of Diwali festivities and stubble-burning.

'Hope all of you are enjoying Delhi weather': CJI Surya Kant's dig as Delhi-NCR chokes

NEW DELHI. (AGENCY)



"We hope all of you are enjoying Delhi weather," a Bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant asked lawyers at the outset of hearing on a suo motu case on air pollution in Delhi-NCR.

Terming vehicular emissions as a major contributor to air pollution in Delhi-NCR, the Supreme Court on Friday said immediate, medium and long-term measures were needed to curb the rising air quality index.

"We hope all of you are enjoying Delhi weather," a Bench led by Chief Justice of India Surya Kant asked lawyers at the outset of hearing on a suo motu case on air pollution in Delhi-NCR.

Stating that pollution levels were hovering around the severe category, senior advocate and amicus curiae Aparajita Singh told the Bench, "We are losing our voice as well. It's like smoking 30 cigarettes a day!" "We keep talking, sometimes make statements and suggestions, but the point is that AQI is already touching 400," the CJI said.

The Bench – which also included Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice V Mohana - expressed concern over "bumper-to-bumper" traffic on roads connecting Delhi to neighbouring NCR cities like Gurugram, Faridabad, Ghaziabad, and Greater Noida. A thick layer of smog covered the national capital on Friday as the air quality edged closer to the 'severe' category, with the overall AQI settling at 391. Of the 59 monitoring stations across the city, 30 recorded 'severe' air quality at 9 am, while the remaining were in the 'very poor' category. Rohini recorded the worst AQI at 475, followed by IIT Delhi at 472, official data showed. The Bench sought details from the authorities concerned on steps taken to address traffic congestion and contain pollution in Delhi-NCR.

Singh said stubble burning accounted for about 14% of the pollution. She said Delhi's baseline air was already heavily polluted by local transport, energy consumption, and waste burning, which reached the 'severe' category during winter.

The top court stressed the need to educate farmers on stubble burning, noting that they would stop the practice once they understood its economic implications. On a plea seeking closure of physical classes in schools for students of all age groups during high AQI levels, the Bench said it would go by the expert opinion.

Noting that Diwali was a period when poor people got an opportunity to earn their livelihood, the top court, however, said, at the same time, pollution concerns should also needed to be addressed. Flagging the lack of adequate public transport, it asked the authorities to submit details of steps taken to curb traffic congestion. Directing the authorities to outline immediate, medium, and long-term action plans, the top court posted the matter for further hearing on November 16.

Briefs News

Delhi HC grants 7-day custody parole to Al Falah University chairman to tend to ailing wife

NEW DELHI. (AGENCY) The Delhi High Court on Friday granted seven-day custody parole to Al Falah University group chairman Jawad Ahmed Siddiqui, who is in custody in two money-laundering cases, to take care of his ailing wife. Justice Mini Pushkarna passed the order after hearing Siddiqui's plea seeking interim bail or custody parole for a week on medical and humanitarian grounds. Siddiqui said his wife is a Stage-4 ovarian cancer patient and has to undergo the next cycle of chemotherapy on November 10. Custody parole entails a prisoner being escorted by armed police to the place of visit. The senior counsel appearing for the Enforcement Directorate (ED) said he was "strenuously" opposed to Siddiqui's interim release as the allegations against him were serious. The counsel submitted that the accused was a flight risk and had criminal antecedents, including his involvement in the November 2025 Red Fort car blast case. Any custody parole has to be under stringent conditions, such as that he would remain at his residence except for medical visits, not contact any witnesses, or visit Al Falah University in Haryana's Faridabad. In July, the high court had refused to grant interim bail to Siddiqui and permitted him to meet his wife on custody parole on three dates. Siddiqui has been arrested in two money-laundering cases. One case is linked to the alleged generation of illicit funds from the fees paid by students of the university. He was arrested on November 18, 2025, in the case registered under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Delhi moves to centralise tech workforce under IT Dept

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY) The Delhi Government is gradually bringing its technical workforce under the centralised control of the Information Technology (IT) Department, with recent orders covering the placement of IT officers and the transfer of senior posts created in individual departments to the IT cadre. An order dated September 28 brought three posts of Joint Director (IT), earlier designated as EDP Manager, in the Directorate of Education, the Trade and Taxes Department and the Excise Department under the cadre control of the IT Department. All three are Pay Matrix Level 12 posts, originally created in 2011, 1998 and 2013, respectively. The order records that prior approval was obtained from the Lieutenant-Governor. The move follows an order issued on March 6, through which the IT Department assigned cadre officers to various government departments against vacant posts of Senior System Analyst and System Analyst. The departments covered included Labour, Excise, Social Welfare, Finance and the Delhi Assembly, among others. The order specified that the changes were being made for salary purposes, with officers posted against identified vacancies. Taken together, the orders indicate a shift towards greater centralised oversight of IT personnel serving across government departments. Rather than allowing individual departments to manage all aspects of their technical staffing independently, the IT Department is assuming a cadre-controlling role over posts and officers deployed across the administration. For Delhi residents, the significance of the move lies in how the government manages the technical workforce supporting its digital systems and online services. Better coordination in staffing and deployment could help departments access specialised personnel and maintain their IT infrastructure.

Delhi Police arrest wanted cadre of banned People's Liberation Army

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY) The Delhi Police Crime Branch has apprehended a wanted cadre of the banned People's Liberation Army (PLA), who was wanted in a case registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) at Thoubal police station in Manipur. The accused was apprehended by the Western Range-1 unit of the Crime Branch. The People's Liberation Army is a separatist militant group fighting for the creation of an independent and socialist Manipur. It has been waging an armed insurgency against the Indian state. It has a political wing called the Revolutionary People's Front. The PLA aims to organise a revolutionary front covering the entire Northeast and unite all ethnic groups, including the Meiteis, Nagas, and Kukis, to liberate Manipur. The PLA, though a Meitei outfit, claims itself to be a trans-tribal organisation seeking to lead the non-Meiteis as well.

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EDITORIAL

A Grand Confluence of Faith, Culture and Pride

Diwali holds a special place in India's rich cultural traditions. It is not merely a festival of lighting lamps and celebrating happiness, but also symbolizes the victory of light over darkness, good over evil, and truth over falsehood. The Deepotsav celebrated in Ayodhya, the birthplace of Lord Shri Ram, is giving a new identity to this cultural and spiritual tradition. The lighting of millions of earthen lamps along the sacred banks of the River Saryu creates a spectacular sight while conveying the message of Indian culture, faith and collective unity to the entire world.

Ayodhya's Deepotsav is associated with the return of Lord Shri Ram to the city after completing his fourteen years of exile. According to popular belief, when Lord Ram, Mata Sita and Lakshman returned to Ayodhya, the people of the city welcomed them by lighting lamps. Continuing this tradition in a modern and grand form, Deepotsav is organised in Ayodhya every year. Today, the event is no longer limited to a religious celebration; it has emerged as an important symbol of India's cultural identity and a major attraction for tourism.

During Deepotsav, the illuminated ghats, temples, streets and prominent locations of Ayodhya reflect the richness of India's ancient heritage. The Saryu Aarti, Ramleela performances, cultural programmes, grand decorations and tableaux depicting the life of Lord Shri Ram make this celebration truly special. Devotees and tourists from across India and abroad gather to witness this divine spectacle. The event not only strengthens Ayodhya's international recognition but also gives a significant boost to tourism and the local economy of Uttar Pradesh. An important aspect of Deepotsav is the creation of employment and economic opportunities for local residents. Potters who make earthen lamps, artisans, small traders, hotel operators, transport service providers and local businesses all benefit from this grand celebration. If the opportunities generated by the event are effectively extended to local youth, craftsmen and small entrepreneurs, it can become a strong instrument of regional development. Greater use of traditional earthen lamps will also encourage local potters and help preserve India's traditional craftsmanship.

Ayodhya's Deepotsav also reminds us of the ideals of Lord Shri Ram. His life represents dignity, sacrifice, justice, duty, compassion and social harmony. A celebration organised in his name will become truly meaningful only when society adopts these ideals in everyday life. Lighting lamps alone is not enough; it is equally important to eliminate the darkness of discrimination, injustice, corruption and hostility from society.

Word of the year

G.N. DEVY

Neologism is a technical term to describe the coinage of an entirely new word. Mahatma Gandhi's 1906 compounding of 'satya' with 'agraha' to form 'satyagraha', describing an ethical-political action, was a never-before noun — a neologism. Another outstanding example of a brilliant new coinage in history is Julius Caesar's "bellum civile" (civil war). He used it in his half-finished memoirs, which he wrote primarily to justify his act of crossing the shallow Rubicon River in 49 BCE that had resulted in a tumultuous internal conflict in the Republic. Caesar did not live to see the end of the civil war but the term survived and became a major landmark in the ancient history of Europe. But the 'bellum' used for the war was no neologism. Ancient Roman grammarians described it as 'antiphrasis', a word used in sharp irony to indicate the opposite of its meaning. 'Bellus', meaning beautiful, elegant and captivating, as in the French expression, 'belles-lettres' — beautiful prose — was nowhere close to the violence of wars. It is the stark contrast between the two that is highlighted in the phrase, somewhat like in W.B. Yeats's "a terrible beauty is born".

As against civil wars, there have been protests leading to regime change. The 1789 Paris tennis court of people's representative and the oath it took — "never to separate, and to reassemble whenever circumstances require, until the constitution of the kingdom is established on firm foundations" — began as a protest. Since mediation collapsed completely and the king continued to conspire against them with the help of his elite courtiers, it later got transformed into a revolution. Similarly, the February 1917 St Petersburg movement by people seeking bread was, for several weeks, just a protest. It was only after King Nicholas II ordered soldiers to fire Spitzer bullets at the protesters that it changed form and, eventually, became a complete socialist revolution. Instances of bellus civile in history as well as protests turning into revolutions are many. The conflict between the Royalists and the Parliamentarians which erupted in England in 1642 was a civil war. The 1860s conflict between pro-slavery and anti-slavery Americans was a civil war. So was the brutal clash between Leftists and Fascists in Spain, spanning half a decade in 1930s. All of these were civil wars, with a sequence of events described by historians as antebellum. None of these was a satyagraha. The anti-apartheid struggle in South Africa was a satyagraha-like movement spanning several decades. As was the Black civil rights movement in the 1950s in the United States of America. The leaders of both these historic movements have publicly acknowledged Gandhi and his philosophy of satyagraha as their source of inspiration. However, not all protests are satyagrahas, for satygraha is self-controlled and its objective is both reconciliation and the moral transformation of the opponent whereas protests are insistent and tend to demonise the opponent. Not all protests culminate in complete revolutions, nor does every protest lead to a civil war. Despite its name, Jayaprakash Narayan's 'Sampurn Kranti' was a protest, neither a revolution nor a civil war. In recent times, the world has seen the emergence of several varieties of opposition to existing regimes. What came up in Somalia and Rwanda in 1991 were interminable internecine conflicts. The 1983-2009 long strife in Sri Lanka was clearly a civil war. But the 2011 events in Syria and Egypt were something else: neither civil war, nor revolution, and not even just a protest. The name, 'Arab Spring', given to it by Marc Lynch, too was an instance of antiphrasis. The expression of short-lived mass outrage in the US when George Floyd, a Black citizen, was brutally killed by the police has not been named but it had a similar character. The Arab Spring in Tunisia was also sparked off by outrage when a poor fruit vendor.

America's struggle between exclusion and inclusion is far from over

C. RAJA MOHAN

America has always been a land of immigrants and a country deeply troubled by immigration. Its history is marked by repeated waves of hostility towards newcomers



The election of America's first Muslim senator, the victories of African-American candidates in several gubernatorial races, the prospect of the first Black Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the growing legislative presence of Indian-Americans offer an important corrective to the recent Indian perception that America has become deeply racist. The surge in anti-Indian rhetoric from sections of the populist MAGA movement has understandably angered Indians at home and in America. But to see the US only through the lens of racism is to miss the other side of its extraordinary political history: Its capacity to absorb outsiders and elevate them to the highest positions of public life. America has always been a land of immigrants and a country deeply troubled by immigration. Its history is marked by repeated waves of hostility towards newcomers, followed by their gradual acceptance into the national mainstream. The tension between exclusion and inclusion has been central to the American political experience. The election of Abdul El-Sayed, the son of Egyptian immigrants, as the first Muslim senator, and the re-election of Ilhan Omar, a Somali-American Muslim, despite intense campaigns against them, underline America's capacity for integration. These victories do not mean that racial and religious prejudice has disappeared. They demonstrate that prejudice does not always determine how Americans vote. Indian Americans have good reasons to be upset by the recent hostility towards their community. Long celebrated as a successful "model minority", Indian-Americans are discovering that they are not immune to racial hatred. Yet, Indians should also recognise that hostility towards outsiders is hardly unique to America. India's own history is full of "sons of the soil" movements, while caste and religious prejudice continue to influence its politics and society. Nor is racism a recent American invention. Recall the anti-East Asian racism in the first term of the Trump administration. Going further back, immigration legislation of 1924 reinforced racial barriers and sharply restricted immigration from Asia. The dismantling of these restrictions, culminating in the immigration reforms of 1965, opened the door to large-scale migration from India and other Asian countries. The remarkable rise of the Indian-American community over the last few decades is inseparable from America's decision to welcome Asians. America did not simply offer economic opportunities to Indian immigrants. It also created political space for them and their children to participate in the governance of their adopted country. The changing composition of the US Congress reflects this wider transformation. The proportion of racial and ethnic minority members has more than doubled since the beginning of this century, from about 12 per cent in 2000 to 26 per cent in 2024. Indian-Americans are part of this change. Five have secured election to the House of Representatives this week, with a sixth awaiting the final count. Beyond Washington, at least 30 Indian-Americans have reportedly won elections to state legislatures, including 15 women. Much of this is on the Democratic Party ticket. The growing political influence of immigrants extends well beyond the Indian community. Last November, Zohran Mamdani, born in Uganda to parents of Indian origin, became New York's first Muslim and South Asian mayor. In Los Angeles, Indian-born Nithya Raman is leading in a tight mayoral contest. These developments underline a simple point: Candidates from immigrant backgrounds can compete for power without their origins becoming an insurmountable barrier. Nor should Delhi assume that the political success of Indian-Americans automatically translates into their support for all policies of the Indian government. Their political loyalties are to the United States, and their views reflect the diversity of American politics. As the community grows, we should also expect greater differences among Indian-Americans in their vision of US policies to India. Delhi must earn their support, as it would with other American citizens. For India, the lesson is to avoid sweeping judgements about America. The country has never been free of racial and religious prejudice. But few societies have demonstrated a comparable capacity to welcome outsiders and allow them to rise to positions of political authority. America's struggle between exclusion and inclusion is far from over. MAGA's hostility towards immigrants is real, but it is also being challenged by Americans themselves. The United States remains a society in which the ideas of national belonging are constantly contested and repeatedly enlarged. That is a sensible way of thinking about the great American melting pot.

America is big enough for all of us

JYOTSNA G SINGH

El-Sayed's victory was part of the Democratic Party's Blue Wave takeover of both chambers of Congress and a repudiation of US President Donald Trump's divisive politics, economic policies and his war on Iran.



DR Abdul El-Sayed had a simple, distinctive slogan throughout his campaign for the US Senate against former Congressman Mike Rogers: "Money Out of Politics, Money in Your Pocket, Medicare for All." In his victory speech, El-Sayed asserted his domestic priorities as well as his opposition to foreign wars and their tragic consequences: "We want our taxes spent here [in Michigan], for schools here, and healthcare here, and infrastructure here. We don't want our money sent to do apartheid or genocide or war." His message addressed the economic needs of all citizens, while recognising the diversity of Michigan's population. Thus, not surprisingly, El-Sayed achieved a solid, globally historic victory, winning with a vote share of 52.5% (his opponent got 45.5%), while becoming the first Muslim to be elected to the US Senate. El-Sayed's victory was part of the Democratic Party's Blue Wave takeover of both chambers of Congress and a repudiation of US President Donald Trump's divisive politics, economic policies and his war on Iran.

A disturbing element of this contest was the Republicans' Islamophobic rhetoric that could be regarded as unconstitutional hate speech targeting El-Sayed. The message from Republicans combined Rogers' "dog whistle" falsities about El-Sayed's supposed links with "terrorism" and direct attacks by Trump and Vice President JD Vance on his Muslim name and faith. Trump often called El-Sayed a "jihadist," asserting that if elected, the candidate would have to be screened using metal detectors. And repeatedly, Trump mockingly brought up (and sometimes mangled) his name, calling him "Mohammad" or "Abdul Ramadan." For Vance, El-Sayed's call for reform and equity made him an un-American outsider with "little gratitude for the country that gave him everything."

Underpinning these anti-Muslim attacks was the ideology of a racist/fascist Christian nationalism, openly articulated by Republican Senator Bernie Moreno in his repudiation of the Democratic candidate in Michigan: "Our rights come from God Almighty" and "Jesus came here for our salvation." And El-Sayed "should be nowhere near Washington, DC." The message that echoed from the Republican and generally conservative ecosphere was clear: "We cannot vote for a Muslim. He is not one of us. He hates America." How did El-Sayed and his surrogates respond to this vitriol? He campaigned tirelessly, meeting individuals and groups across diverse parts of Michigan. He never accepted corporate PAC money (unlike his primary opponent), so he was not beholden to any special interests. His supporters and surrogates also reminded voters of his distinguished record: as a University of Michigan student, athlete, Rhodes scholar, medical doctor and a successful public health official in Detroit.

While pushing back against the divisive politics unleashed by his rivals, El-Sayed made diversity the cornerstone of his message. In his acceptance speech, he laid out his vision of an inclusive America, pointing to a contrast with Republicans: "They attack the very idea of America — an America that looks a little different, prays a little different." They repudiate "who does not look like them, prays like them, loves like them." He responded to Islamophobic attacks with sharp retorts that blended equanimity with humour. During a town hall meeting (a video of which went viral), El-Sayed rebuked an audience member who questioned his loyalty to the nation: "You assume that because I am Muslim, that somehow I would have some allegiance to something that is not our Constitution? For me, that Constitution is the guiding light." Here, while being proud of his Muslim faith, he endorsed freedom of religion and secularism. Finally, in his victory acceptance speech, he offered a humorous riposte to Trump: "You struggle with my name. When I am sworn in by JD Vance, you can just call me Senator."

Finally, El-Sayed's victory in Michigan is also a testament to the unifying support of many civil society groups, drawing citizens across race, religion, class, gender and sexual orientation. Michigan is a purple state with a mix of Democrats and Republicans, often switching sides between the two parties. It also has one of the nation's largest Arab-American communities in Dearborn, besides various Christian denominations and other religions.

The groups that joined El-Sayed's campaign included "Michigan Jews for Democracy," who "come from a wide range of the political spectrum"; a volunteer grassroots coalition, "Women for Abdul"; another volunteer-led group, "LGBTQIA+ Michiganders," and others — all of whom wanted to elect him Michigan's next Senator. Groups such as Saath, a youth-led South Asian political organisation, also joined a Diwali-themed rally to support El-Sayed's candidacy among South Asians, including Indian Americans. While Republicans tried to divide Muslim and African-American communities during the primary, El-Sayed received widespread support from Black faith and civil rights communities as well as Black constituencies — all of whom recognised.

their shared struggles against racism. To sum up, what I offer here is a story of the triumph of unity and tolerance, and a cautionary tale about how authoritarian populist regimes rule by fear, lies and division. In fact, they consolidate their power by manufacturing a demonic enemy or scapegoat to be excluded from full citizenship and human rights. El-Sayed's candidacy has exposed the vulnerability of Muslim (and other) minority populations, not only in the US but also in right-wing divisive politics everywhere: in India, China, Turkiye and several European regions/nations and political parties. However, despite political differences, we witnessed in post-midterm America on Wednesday a widespread expression of harmony and even love for fellow citizens and humans. I am proud to be a "Michigander."

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Dhanteras bonanza on D-Street! Sensex jumps 1,718 points, Nifty tops 25,000

MUMBAI : (AGENCY)



Dhanteras poured 'dhan' into Indian stock markets as benchmark indices extended their rally on Friday despite a global market sell-off, with the Sensex surging over 1,700 points and the Nifty closing above 25,000. Sensex ended at 81,028.02, up 1,718.01 points or 2.17 per cent against the previous close of 79,310.01. Nifty on the other hand closed at 25,030.35, up 493.75 points or 2.01 per cent against the previous close of 24,536.60.

Broader market indices ended on a mixed note, with the Nifty 100 emerging as the top gainer, rising over 1 per cent. Sectorally, financial services and banking stocks led the gains, with both indices advancing over 2 per cent, followed by consumer durables and pharma. On BSE, M&M, ICICI Bank, Titan, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, Adani Ports, Sun Pharma, Tata Steel, NTPC, Kotak Bank, Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Finance, ITC, Eternal, LT, Bajaj Finserv, SBIN, Maruti, Infosys, Trent, Reliance, HCL Tech, BEL among others were top gainers. PowerGrid was the top loser on the other hand.

Similarly, on NSE, M&M, ICICI Bank, Titan, HDFC Bank, Axis Bank, Adani Ports, Sun Pharma, Tata Steel, NTPC, Bharti Airtel, Sun Pharma, SBI Life, SBIN, LT, Eternal, Coal India, Bajaj Finance, SBI Life, Indi Go, Maruti, ONGC among others were the top gainers. TMPV, Eicher Motors, Grasim among others were the top laggards. In the commodity markets, Brent crude was trading at around USD 96.99 per barrel while crude oil was trading at around USD 89.11 per barrel at the time of reporting. At the same time, gold was trading at around USD 4,069.36. Ajit Mishra, SVP, Research, Religare Broking, noted, "Markets extended their winning streak for the seventh consecutive session on Friday, gaining over 1.5% despite mixed global cues. After opening on a flat note, the Nifty gradually strengthened through the session and settled near the day's high at 25,030. The Sensex also reclaimed the 80,000 mark, reflecting resilience despite a sharp sell-off across major Asian markets and global technology stocks."

"Among the key factors, sustained foreign institutional buying continued to support domestic equities, with FIIs recording substantial net purchases in the previous session. The sharp global sell-off in technology stocks, driven by concerns over AI-related investments, weighed on Asian markets, although Indian IT stocks remained relatively resilient. Brent crude rebounded towards $100 per barrel following its recent sharp decline, while geopolitical developments and global risk sentiment remained key variables for investors," he noted. As per Mishra, "Following the sharp seven-session rally, some consolidation and sectoral rotation would be healthy."

"The Nifty's ability to sustain above 24,500 will be important to preserve the positive momentum and pave the way towards the 25,200–25,500 zone. We recommend maintaining a selective positive bias, focusing on fundamentally strong stocks demonstrating relative strength, while keeping position sizes in check amid potential volatility arising from global developments," he said.

Sarovar Hotels Combines Festive Stays and At-Home Catering in Diwali Offering

GURUGRAM : (AGENCY)

Sarovar Hotels has introduced a festive hospitality offering for Diwali, bringing together holiday stays at participating hotels across India and customised at-home catering through its Ghar Mehfil service. The initiative caters to families and groups looking to celebrate the festival through a getaway or a gathering at home. The Diwali stay offer is available for bookings and stays from 6 to 10 November 2026. It includes complimentary stays and meals for children up to 12 years, along with a credit voucher towards food and beverages and spa services. Customers can choose from beach destinations like Goa to Hills and Pilgrimage destinations. Akshay Thusoo, Senior Vice President – Commercial, Sarovar Hotels, said, "Diwali is a time when people come together to celebrate, and our aim is to make these occasions more convenient and memorable for our guests. By bringing together festive stays at our hotels and Ghar Mehfil's at-home catering, we are extending Sarovar Hotels hospitality beyond the hotel environment. This offering gives families and groups the flexibility to celebrate in a way that works best for them, while enjoying the warmth, service and food experiences associated with Sarovar Hotels." Extending the festive experience beyond its hotels, Ghar Mehfil offers customised multi cuisine menus for home gatherings starting at eight guests. The service includes a chef and a server, with staffing and menu options tailored. to the size and requirements of each gathering. Pricing is based on the selected menu and service requirements. Through this offering, Sarovar Hotels is extending its festive hospitality proposition across hotel and home settings, giving guests the flexibility to celebrate Diwali in a way that suits their preferences.

Early domestic sugar output surges to 12.85 lakh tonnes as 184 mills start operations : ISMA

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)

Comfortable opening stocks and higher early-season production ensure adequate availability of sugar for domestic consumption for the festive season, with 184 sugar mills having commenced crushing operations across the country. Data released by the Indian Sugar & Bio-Energy Manufacturers Association (ISMA) shows that national sugar production reached 12.85 lakh tonnes as on November 5, 2026, registering an increase over the 3.20 lakh tonnes produced by 154 operational mills during the corresponding period last year. The higher early output reflects the prompt commencement of crushing operations, particularly across Maharashtra, alongside the progressive start of factories in other major producing states.

Maharashtra leads the early momentum with 136 operational mills producing 10.78 lakh tonnes of sugar by November 5, up from 101 mills and 1.23 lakh tonnes recorded during the same period in 2025. Deepak Ballani, Director General of ISMA, said, "The current sugar season has started on a positive note, with 184 mills having commenced operations and sugar production reaching 12.85 lakh tonnes as on 5th November 2026, compared to 3.20 lakh tonnes during the corresponding period last year." "With approximately 36 lakh tonnes of carryover stocks from the previous season and fresh production gathering momentum, the country is in a comfortable position to meet its domestic sugar requirements," he added. In Uttar Pradesh, 19 mills commenced crushing operations across western and central regions, yielding 0.20 lakh tonnes of sugar as on November 5, compared to 32 mills producing 1.10 lakh tonnes in the previous year.

Stock markets trade higher in early session on sustained foreign fund inflows

MUMBAI : (AGENCY)



Benchmark indices Sensex and Nifty were trading higher after volatile early session on Friday as sustained foreign fund inflows and relatively moderate crude oil prices instilled optimism in the equity market. The 30-share BSE Sensex was up 33 points to 79,343.06 in early trade. The 50-share NSE Nifty was down 52.95 points to 24,477.40.

Later, both the benchmark indices gathered momentum, with the Sensex trading 443.87 points higher at 79,760.10, and the Nifty climbing 81 points to 24,612.85. In the 30 Sensex firms, Mahindra & Mahindra climbed over 4 per cent after the firm on Thursday reported a 25 per cent rise in consolidated profit after tax (PAT) for the second quarter ended September to Rs 4,587.88 crore, backed by strong revenue growth, particularly for the auto segment, despite headwinds emanating from the West Asia conflict-linked commodity price pressures. Titan, HCL Tech, Tata Consultancy Services, Infosys and Bharti Airtel were also among the winners. Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, traded 2.35 per cent higher at USD 100.6 per barrel. Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) bought equities worth Rs 14,974.68 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data. In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi, Japan's Nikkei 225 index, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index were trading significantly lower. The US equity markets ended sharply lower on Thursday. The Nasdaq Composite tumbled 5.52 per cent, S&P 500 dropped 4.36 per cent and Dow Jones Industrial Average was down 3.44 per cent.

"The blood bath in the US markets will impact most other markets today, but India is likely to be the least impacted," V K Vijayakumar, Chief Investment Strategist, Geojit Investments Limited, said. The tech rout, particularly the sharp deceleration in AI trade will turn out to be beneficial for India, he said. "It is important to note that the FIIs have bought equities for Rs 35,781 crore in the last five trading days. Despite selling and profit booking by DIIs the market is likely to remain resilient since FII buying will continue in the changed global market construct," Vijayakumar added. On Thursday, the Sensex zoomed 2,008.61 points, or 2.60 per cent, to settle at 79,310.01. The Nifty surged 576 points, or 2.40 per cent, to end at 24,536.60. In the past six consecutive sessions, the Sensex has surged 6,063.98 points, or 8.27 per cent, and the Nifty rallied 1,837.75 points, or 8 per cent. "Global markets have come under significant selling pressure following a sharp overnight sell-off on Wall Street, triggered by a broad-based unwinding of AI-related trades. and heavy losses in semiconductor stocks.

AI sell-off derails Wall Street's post-midterm rally; $2.5 trillion wiped off US markets

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)



Global stock markets witnessed heavy selling as a sharp sell-off in US technology stocks wiped USD 2.5 trillion off Wall Street's post-election rally, with concerns over a possible slowdown in artificial intelligence-related data centre investments triggering losses across global markets. The selling pressure intensified after all three major US indices recorded their worst single-day losses since April 2025 on Thursday. The Nasdaq Composite plunged 5.52 per cent to close at 24,315.00, entering correction territory after falling more than 10 per cent below the record level it had reached last month. The S&P 500 declined 4.36 per cent to settle at 7,353.73, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average shed 1,833.06 points, or 3.44 per cent, to close at 51,523.06. The sharp decline erased the gains recorded during Wednesday's post-election rally, when the Dow had jumped more than 1,500 points, marking its best trading day since April 2025. The S&P 500 and Nasdaq Composite had also gained more than 1 per cent each during that session. The latest sell-off was largely driven by concerns that the Democratic Party's victory in both chambers of Congress, along with wins in key gubernatorial races, could slow the expansion of data centres in the United States. Investors have become increasingly cautious about companies linked to artificial intelligence, particularly semiconductor manufacturers and data centre operators, amid fears that the pace of infrastructure development could face pressure. Chipmakers witnessed sharp losses during Thursday's session. Broadcom shares fell 10 per cent, while Nvidia declined 9 per cent. Software company Oracle also dropped almost 7 per cent. Qualcomm shares declined 9 per cent despite the company reporting earnings that beat estimates, as its outlook for the coming period was weaker than expected. The iShares Semiconductor ETF (SOXX).

Faster Lives, Familiar Bhajans : Amisha Jalota Launches Her Collective

MUMBAI : (AGENCY)



For singer Amisha Jalota, the Jalota name is a gift that comes with a responsibility. Born into one of India's best-known devotional music families, she has now launched the Amisha Jalota Collective with a soulful morning at The Quorum; that looked at bhakti through a contemporary lens. Her uncle, Bhajan Samrat Anup Jalota, joined her on stage, performing his classics and lastly sharing the stage for a collaborative segment. The occasion brought together two generations of the family's musical heritage, while marking a new chapter in Amisha's own musical journey, developing her individual artistic identity. Amisha holds a Visharad qualification in classical music from Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan. Her musical journey is rooted in a family tradition that has brought devotional compositions to generations of listeners. The legacy began with her grandfather, a classical vocalist who moved from Lucknow to Bombay and gradually dedicated himself to devotional music as audiences increasingly expressed a desire to hear bhajans.

Gold may glitter at Rs 1.68 lakh as global uncertainties bolster outlook

NEW DELHI. (AGENCY)



Gold prices in the domestic market could climb to Rs 1.6-1.68 lakh per 10 grams over the next 6-12 months, with price corrections offering buying opportunities amid sustained investment demand and central-bank purchases, according to a report.

Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd (MOFSL), in its latest precious metals quarterly report, projected international gold prices to reach USD 4,500-4,700 per ounce in the medium term, while domestic prices could touch Rs 1.48 lakh per 10 grams in the short term. In its report titled 'Gold's Rally: Deferred, Not Derailed', MOFSL said precious metals have witnessed volatility in 2026 following an exceptional rally in the previous year, amid changing expectations around US interest rates, persistent inflation, elevated bond yields and geopolitical developments. International gold prices surged to a record of nearly USD 5,600 per ounce in January 2026 before correcting below USD 4,000 and subsequently recovering. Silver also rallied beyond USD 100 per ounce before witnessing a sharper correction. Fluctuations in the rupee-dollar exchange rate further added to volatility in domestic bullion prices. Unlike the largely one-directional rally in 2025, precious metals have experienced sharper price swings this year, reflecting changing global macroeconomic conditions and monetary policy expectations, it added. In the domestic market, gold prices during Diwali have risen from around Rs 30,000 per 10 grams recorded in 2016 to nearly Rs 1.5 lakh in 2026, highlighting the significant appreciation over the past decade. Diwali and Dhanteras remain important occasions for precious-metal purchases, supported by traditional buying patterns, the wedding season and the cultural significance of gold and silver. However, historical trends indicate that festive demand has a stronger correlation with domestic premiums, imports and physical buying volumes than with international price movements. Historical performance also suggests that gold has generally delivered stronger returns during the 30 days preceding Diwali than in the subsequent 30 days.

The trend was particularly pronounced in 2025, when gold gained nearly 20 per cent and silver around 38 per cent in the month leading up to the festival. Despite elevated prices, investment demand has remained relatively resilient. In India, gold ETF inflows increased 71 per cent month-on-month to Rs 4,450 crore in September 2026, while silver ETFs attracted inflows of Rs 1,970 crore. However, gold imports moderated to USD 1.8 billion in September from USD 2.3 billion in August, reflecting the impact of higher prices and measures to restrain bullion inflows. Globally, gold ETF holdings increased by about 187 tonnes during August and September 2026, taking total holdings to a record 4,256 tonnes, while third-quarter inflows reached a record USD 31 billion. "Gold continues to retain its importance as a defensive asset amid global economic and geopolitical uncertainties. However, its near-term trajectory will remain sensitive to the Federal Reserve's monetary policy, inflation trends, movements in the US dollar and real bond yields," said Navneet Damani, Head of Research of Commodities at MOFSL. He said the US Federal Reserve's 25-basis-point rate hike in September, taking the policy rate to 3.75-4 per cent, had reinforced concerns around tighter monetary conditions. At the same time, central-bank diversification, sustained investment demand and fiscal uncertainties continue to provide structural support to gold. "In India, elevated prices have moderated discretionary jewellery demand, although wedding-related purchases.

Briefs News

Three TCL 75-Inch TVs to Explore This Diwali and Get Up to Rs 15,000 Cashback

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY) Make this Diwali bigger, brighter and more immersive with TCL's 75-inch TVs. Whether it's movie nights, festive get-togethers or match-day excitement, these big screens bring every moment to life. With TCL's Grand Indian Diwali Celebration, eligible purchases come with 10% cashback up to ?15,000, a three-year warranty on selected models, and a chance to win an air conditioner or washing machine. Looking to upgrade to a larger screen without stepping into the premium segment? The TCL P7L combines QLED display technology with Dolby Vision, Dolby Atmos and MEMC motion compensation for vibrant visuals and smoother viewing. Its bezel-less design and Google TV experience make it a practical choice for everyday family entertainment. The TCL P8L brings Mini LED technology and local dimming to the big screen, delivering enhanced contrast and picture clarity. With quantum dot technology, a full-channel high refresh rate, HDMI 2.1 connectivity and ONKYO speakers, it is designed for households that enjoy everything from cinematic evenings to gaming sessions. For those who want their television to complement their living space, the TCL A400 Pro Art TV combines QD-Mini LED technology with a premium design. Increased dimming zones, ultra-high peak brightness, an AiPQ picture quality chip and ONKYO 2.0 audio are designed to create an elevated viewing experience.

Revenue up 35% YoY, Robust SaaS Momentum Drives ARR Growth

MUMBAI : (AGENCY) IRIS RegTech Solutions Limited (BSE: 540735; NSE: IRIS), a global RegTech company specialising in regulatory reporting and digital disclosure solutions, today announced its financial results for the second quarter and half year ended 30 September 2026. Operating revenue grew 35% YoY in Q2 FY27 and 33% YoY in H1 FY27. Annual Recurring Revenue (ARR) in the RegTech segment rose 42% year to date, driven by strong traction in IRIS CARBON, the enterprise SaaS offering from IRIS. EBITDA for Q2 FY27 stood at INR 4.1 crore, compared with INR 2.7 crore in Q2 FY26 and INR 0.8 crore in Q1 FY27. Commenting on the Q2 FY27 and H1 FY27 results, K. Balachandran, Co-Founder and CEO, IRIS RegTech Solutions Limited, said: "We are pleased with our first half performance, led by strong growth in IRIS CARBON, our flagship SaaS platform, on the back of new customer wins in disclosure management. IRIS CARBON ARR also benefited from a large engagement with a global energy major that commenced towards the end of the second quarter. IRIS iDeal, our bank regulatory reporting solution, saw growing traction for its end-to-end regulatory reporting offering, further deepening our engagement with banks and financial institutions.

Global AI spending boom raises financial risks, puts Indian IT stocks in focus : Report

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY) Rising investment in artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure by global technology companies is increasing pressure on their cash flows and balance sheets, creating potential investment opportunities for India's IT services sector, according to a report by brokerage firm Anand Rathi. The report said that while demand for AI and cloud services remains strong, the growing cost of building infrastructure is raising concerns about whether technology companies can convert their investments into sustainable financial returns. "The AI infrastructure buildout is becoming increasingly capex intensive, amid accelerating underlying demand," the brokerage said. The global technology and AI-related stocks witnessed a sharp correction on Thursday, with investors reassessing the pace and financial sustainability of AI infrastructure investments. The Nasdaq Composite plunged 5.52 per cent on Thursday. The sell-off was driven partly by concerns that gains by Democrats in the US midterm elections could lead to greater scrutiny of data centre projects and slow the pace of AI infrastructure expansion. Investors also questioned whether the massive investments being made by technology companies. would generate adequate returns. Against this backdrop, Anand Rathi report highlighted the growing financial commitments of global hyperscalers, with their combined capital expenditure expected to approach USD 730 billion in CY26, representing growth of over 80 per cent year-on-year.

'Krishi Unnati Yojana Kharif 2026

Grant distribution process will be completely transparent and simple : Mr. Vikasshiil'

RAIPUR. OPEN SEARCH



'The paddy procurement portal, AgriStack and digital crop survey will be integrated, eliminating the need for repeated information to farmers.'

The state government has intensified preparations to provide more support to farmers in the field of agriculture in Chhattisgarh. A high-level review meeting regarding the effective implementation of the Krishak Unnati Yojana Kharif-2026 was held today at Mantralaya Mahanadi Bhawan under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Shri Vikasshiil. The meeting discussed in detail the process of providing input assistance (grant) to farmers under the scheme, eligibility guidelines, and database integration.

In the meeting, Chief Secretary Mr. Vikassheel directed officials that the implementation of the scheme should be completely transparent, simple, and error-free. He emphasized the need to integrate the various portals of the Agriculture Department and the paddy procurement database, eliminating the need to repeatedly request documents or information from farmers. Promoting digital governance, he directed that information on farmers' total land and crop acreage be better utilized by linking digital crop survey, farmer ID, farm ID, and Girdawari data.

The Chief Secretary clarified that farmers should be given easy access to verify their unique Farm ID and apply for grants under the scheme.

For smooth operation, registration with AgriStack will be mandatory to avail of the scheme's benefits. Digital Crop Surveys require that paddy crops be recorded on the land in question. The paddy procurement process requires at least one successful purchase transaction, for which information from the Food Department's Paddy Procurement Portal will be used. To protect farmers' interests and ensure genuine eligibility, instructions have been given to verify the subsidized area when issuing tokens during paddy procurement. In particular, physical verification has been mandated for farmers who did not sell paddy last year. Additionally, the meeting also directed the dissemination of clear information regarding the procurement system for pulses, oilseeds, and millets (kodo-kutki-ragi) and the incentives available to farmers producing these crops. The Chief Secretary emphasized the need to widely disseminate the scheme's terms and application process in rural areas so that no farmer faces any inconvenience.

Cops Raid 6 Locations in Kashmir in Online Terror Recruitment Case

JAMMU : (AGENCY)

In a major crackdown on terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba's online recruitment network, the Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) on Friday raided six locations across Jammu and Kashmir, targeting a module that was allegedly radicalising and recruiting Kashmiri youth through social media. The searches were carried out in Budgam, Srinagar, Bijbehara, Mattan in Anantnag, and a village in Pulwama, in coordination with local police, revenue officials and in the presence of executive magistrates. The raid was conducted in connection with a three-year-old case linked to an alleged terror recruitment module operating through social media platforms to lure youth into proscribed terrorist organisations.

Investigators said the module was run by Pakistan-based handlers allegedly working in connivance with Lashkar-e-Taiba and other banned ter-



ror outfits. They were using social media platforms to indoctrinate youth and instigate them against the sovereignty and integrity of the country. Among the houses searched was that of 22-year-old Mohammad Yaseen Mir, a graduate and resident of Hokersar, Sheikh-ul-Alam Colony, Zainakote, near Police Station Shalteng in Srinagar. Mir's mother, Tabasum Shaheen, a Pakistani national, left for Pakistan on April 29 last year and has not returned since then. It is not clear whether she was denied a visa or chose not to return of her own. Investigators said she remains in contact with her son, a link the CIK is now closely probing.

Another raid was conducted at the residence of Peerzada Anayat Ullah Shah, a resident of Agrikalan, Magam in Budgam. Sources said incriminating material, including digital devices and documents, was seized during the searches. The material is being examined for further leads on the cross-border handlers and local contacts.

Briefs News

3 children among 7 dead after truck runs over them in Jharkhand's Khunti

RANCHI. (AGENCY) Seven people, three of whom were children, died when an 18-wheel truck ran over them while taking a sharp bend in darkness in Jharkhand's Khunti district, police said on Friday. Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren expressed grief over the incident and paid condolences to the bereaved families. Khunti Superintendent of Police (SP) Rishabh Garg said a few people rushed to the Karra-Torpa main road on Thursday night to rescue a scooter rider who fell into a ditch, and several women and children gathered to watch the incident unfold. "In the meantime, an 18-wheel truck from Torpa ran over them while taking a sharp turn. The driver might not have seen the crowd due to darkness," the officer said. "Seven people died, and one was injured," he adding that six died on the spot and one during treatment. Of the deceased, three were women, as many children and one man, the SP added. A police officer said the deceased were Jayanti Devi, her daughter Anjali Devi (20) and grandson Saurav Nayak (11), another woman Fagan Sanga (26), her daughters Shiwani Kumari (12) and Soni Kumari (8), and her mother-in-law Karmi Lohrain (50). Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren took to X to say, "The heartbreaking news of seven people losing their lives in a road accident in Karra, Khunti, has deeply saddened me. My deepest condolences go out to all the grieving families who have lost their loved ones in this accident. May Marang Buru grant peace to the souls of the departed and give their grieving families the strength to bear this sorrow," he added.

Bomb threat to Amitabh Bachchan's house, Bombay HC, BSE puts Mumbai on alert

MUMBAI : (AGENCY) A bomb threat targeting Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan's bungalow Jalsa, the Bombay High Court, the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) and Worli Racecourse has put Mumbai's security agencies on alert. The threat was received through an e-mail sent to the Bombay High Court, warning of bomb attacks at the four locations. Following the alert, Mumbai Police launched an investigation and security agencies were informed. Efforts are underway to trace the sender and establish the credibility of the threat. This is the second recent threat in which Bachchan's name has surfaced. On October 22, a threat e-mail sent to a school in Mumbai had mentioned the veteran actor. However, authorities had clarified at the time that Bachchan had not received any direct threat. The latest development has also raised concerns over the actor's security. During his customary Sunday appearance outside his Mumbai residence, Jalsa, Bachchan was seen standing behind a protective glass shield, with his son Abhishek Bachchan beside him. The unusual security arrangement prompted the All Indian Cine Workers Association (AICWA) to seek Prime Minister Narendra Modi's intervention, expressing concern over the safety of Bollywood actors and their families. The threats come amid heightened security concerns in the film industry following a firing incident involving actor Tiger Shroff's car on October 18, which was claimed by the Lawrence Bishnoi gang.

High Court quashes Jharkhand Govt's decision to cancel 2024 JSSC-CGL exam

RANCHI : (AGENCY) The Jharkhand High Court on Friday quashed a notification cancelling the 2024 Jharkhand Staff Selection Commission Combined Graduate Level (JSSC-CGL) exam, a decision the state government took in August amid protests by job aspirants against alleged irregularities in recruitment exams. After hearing several petitions filed by candidates who cleared the exam, Justice Deepak Roshan set aside the notification, saying the government's decision was "unfair and unjust". The government cancelled the JSSC-CGL exam 2024 on August 18, effectively rendering thousands of government employees who had cracked the exam jobless. While the state government argued that evidence of mass bungling and question paper leaks led it to cancel the exam, the employees pleaded before the high court that they were not allowed to present their case. The Hemant Soren Government had decided to cancel 22 recruitment examinations conducted since 2014 by the JPSC, JSSC and outsourced agency TDPL, and ordered probes into 23 others, amid an agitation over the alleged irregularities.

18-month-old elephant calf to be flown to Gujarat for specialised treatment

KOCHI : (AGENCY)



An 18-month-old elephant calf suffering from a genetic bone disorder and unable to stand or walk will be flown to Jamnagar in Gujarat on Friday for specialised treatment at Vantara, the Kerala Forest Department said. The calf, weighing around 125 to 130 kg, was shifted from its treatment facility at Kodanad elephant centre here to an animal ambulance with the help of 10 to 12 people and a crane.

The calf was subsequently loaded onto a specially arranged animal ambulance and taken to Nedumbassery airport, from where a chartered flight, accompanied by veterinary experts, was scheduled to depart for Jamnagar by noon, officials said. Chief Wildlife Warden P Pugazhendi told reporters that the calf had been brought to Kodanad soon after its birth and was being provided treatment there. "Unfortunately, it fell once, following which we realised that it had certain genetic disorders.

It was found to have osteopenia, a bone-related disorder," he said. Pugazhendi said Keralam did not have the facilities required to provide the calf with specialised treatment and the department had held discussions with experts, including veterinary specialists at Vantara.

Uttarakhand trekking tragedy: One more body recovered, toll rises to 7

UTTARKASHI : (AGENCY)



A 10-member team of the SDRF and NIM has been conducting the search operation at Kedarkhadak amid challenging weather conditions

The body of one more trekker who went missing along the Kedartal trek route in Uttarkashi district eight days ago was recovered on Friday, taking the number of bodies retrieved so far to seven with one person still missing, officials said.

A joint search and rescue operation by the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (NIM) is underway in the Kedartal trek region in Uttarakhand to trace trekkers and support staff who went missing following heavy snowfall and adverse weather conditions. Acting on information received through a satellite phone, the joint SDRF-NIM team searched areas where the missing persons were believed to be located. Three bodies of men buried under snow following an avalanche were recovered from different locations during the operation. Two bodies were recovered on Thursday and one on Friday, officials said. The rescue team transported the bodies to the base camp, from where they were airlifted to the Matli helipad in Uttarkashi. They were subsequently taken to the district hospital. Four bodies, including those of two men and two women, had been recovered during earlier phases of the search operation. With the recovery of three more bodies, the death toll has risen to seven, comprising five men and two women. A 10-member team of the SDRF and NIM has been conducting the search operation at Kedarkhadak amid difficult terrain and challenging weather conditions. Officials said 10 to 12 feet of snow had accumulated in the area following the avalanche, hampering rescue efforts. On October 27, a group of 13 people, comprising seven trekkers and six support staff, had set out from Gangotri for the Kedartal trek. They were scheduled to return on October 29, but adverse weather conditions, including snowfall and glacier formation, blocked the route, preventing their return. Subsequently, on October 30, the trekking agency dispatched a team of porters and guides, who managed to clear a path for about six km.

3 suspected criminals killed in exchange of fire with Bihar Police in Patna district

PATNA. (AGENCY)



According to the SSP, the three men were wanted in several cases registered at police stations in Danapur, Shahpur and adjoining areas

Three suspected criminals were killed in an exchange of fire with police in Patna's Maner locality on Friday, while an officer had a close shave as a bullet grazed his uniform, a police officer said. Patna Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Kartikeya Sharma said the incident took place in the Sherpur region of Patna district when a joint team of the Special Task Force (STF) and district police was out on a patrol. "Upon receiving information that some people with previous criminal records had assembled there to carry out a crime, they rushed to the spot and were faced with indiscriminate fire. The SHO of Maner police station and his team retaliated and injured three of the accused," the officer told reporters. The three accused were taken to a hospital, where they were declared dead, Sharma said, adding that a bullet fired by the suspected criminals grazed past the SHO's uniform.

"Police fired 18 rounds, while the criminals fired more than 24 rounds," he added. According to the SSP, the three men were wanted in several cases registered at police stations in Danapur, Shahpur and adjoining areas. They were also allegedly involved in the killing of a man in Maner last month, Sharma said. Police identified the deceased as Jayprakash Yadav of Danapur, and Raja Kumar and Bablu Yadav of Shahpur police.

Jaiprakash Yadav's criminal record includes nine cases related to murder, attempt to murder, extortion, assault, illegal possession of arms and explosives at different police stations in Patna, while Suraj and Bablu Yadav had two cases each registered against them under the Arms Act and various sections of BNS, police said.

In Bhojpur district, a man wanted in the murder of retired customs officer Ram Kumar Singh (68) was injured in an exchange of fire with police early on Friday morning near Sarangpur village.

Superintendent of Police Awadhesh Dixit said the accused, Pawan Yadav, was taken to Ara Sadar Hospital for treatment.

"Yadav opened fire on the police team and attempted to escape, forcing officials to fire in self-defence. During the exchange of fire, a bullet hit Yadav in the leg," the officer said.

Bengaluru multiplex faces backlash over alleged reuse of disposable cups

CHANDIGARH : (AGENCY)



Despite facing repeated criticism over the exorbitant prices of food and beverages, multiplexes are now under scrutiny for another concern — hygiene. A customer at a city multiplex was left shocked after allegedly finding that disposable cups were being reused to serve beverages, raising questions about basic food safety standards.

The incident came to light on Thursday after Mithil, an Instagram user, shared a video claiming that his son's cricket coach had encountered the issue at PVR Cinemas in Forum South Mall on Kanakapura Road. In the video, the customer is seen confronting multiplex staff over a stack of disposable cups that allegedly had remnants of a soft drink. Initially, a staff member denies that the cups had been used. The customer, however, persists and demands to speak to the manager, who also denies the allegation. Although the staff offer to replace the cup and serve him a fresh beverage, the customer refuses. The video has since garnered over 1.2 million views, drawing widespread attention to the alleged incident. Responding to the video, Forum South Mall apologised to the customer and said the matter was being investigated. "The worst part is that they actually charge us for that used glass (sic) also," one user commented. Another wrote, "This is after paying Rs 400-500 per glass (sic) for a Rs 40 beverage. "Imagine if the previous person who drank has a contagious health issue!"

Cab driver kills wife, six of her family members

BENGALURU. (AGENCY)



The accused allegedly committed the murders over two days at his house near Bhashyam Circle and dumped the bodies at different locations

In a shocking incident, a cab driver allegedly murdered seven members of his wife's family, including a seven-year-old boy, over domestic disputes in the city's Srirampura locality, police sources said on Friday. The accused, Shekhar, allegedly committed the murders over two days at his house near Bhashyam Circle and dumped the bodies at different locations, including Nandi Hills in Chikkaballapur district and Charmadi Ghat in coastal Karnataka, they said. The Rajajinagar police have arrested the accused and are questioning him about when the murders took place. According to sources, Shekhar had been having frequent disputes with his wife Sunita, whom he married about 20 years ago, over her visits to her parental home. Despite attempts by family members to reconcile the couple, the differences continued. He allegedly got angry over the support Sunita received from her mother and brothers and decided to eliminate her family.

The killings took place in a residential neighbourhood on 59th Cross, near Bhashyam Circle, within the Rajajinagar police station limits, according to the sources. Police sources said Shekhar first allegedly murdered Sunita using a grinding stone, wrapped her body in cloth and dumped it near Nandi Hills. He subsequently switched off her mobile phone and told neighbours that she had gone on a trip to avoid suspicion. The following day, he allegedly invited his brothers-in-law, Shivakumar and Shankar, to his house for a party and killed them using the grinding stone. Further, he allegedly murdered their wives, Divya and Nalini, his mother-in-law Rupavati and Shivakumar's seven-year-old son Puneeth, sources said. The murders came to light after Nalini's mother lodged a missing-person complaint at Srirampura police station on Thursday. During the investigation, police uncovered the alleged multiple murders and arrested Shekhar. The accused allegedly used chemicals to clean the house and remove bloodstains after the killings. Police have seized the car allegedly used to transport the bodies and the grinding stone used in the murders. The body of Puneeth was recovered after an extensive search near Nandi Hills, while efforts were continuing to trace the remaining bodies, police said.

Shekhar reportedly told police that he was distressed over domestic disputes. Police are also examining whether anyone assisted him in carrying out the murders, including the possible role of his daughter. Police are also investigating how the murders went unnoticed despite the house being situated in a residential locality.

Sanjay Ghodawat International School clinch ISSO National U-17 Boys cricket championship

GURUGRAM : (AGENCY)



The International Schools Sports Organisation (ISSO) successfully concluded its National U-17 Boys Cricket Tournament following six days of competitive cricket, with Sanjay Ghodawat International School (SGIS), Kolhapur emerging as the champions.

Hosted by Pathways World School, Gurugram, from October 30 to November 4, 2026, the tournament witnessed the participation of 96 players representing six teams from leading international schools across the country, according to a press release from ISSO. In a thrilling final, Sanjay Ghodawat International School displayed exceptional composure and tactical acumen to secure the top spot and lift the championship trophy. Hosts Pathways World School, Gurugram, put up an impressive performance to finish as the runners-up, while Genesis Global School, Noida, secured third place to complete the podium.

The tournament also witnessed several outstanding individual performances, with young cricketers being recognised for their contributions throughout the competition. Shlok Nitin of Sanjay Ghodawat International School was adjudged Man of the Match in the final, while his teammate Samarveer received the Best All-Rounder award. Arjun of Genesis Global School, Noida, was named Best Batsman, while Pathways World School's Karanvir Singh and Ahaan Pasricha were recognised as Best Bowler and Best Wicket-Keeper, respectively.

Gaurav Dixit, Director, International Schools Sports Organisation (ISSO), said, "At ISSO, we believe that school sports play a vital role in shaping not just athletes, but confident, disciplined and well-rounded individuals. Championships such as the National U-17 Boys Cricket Tournament provide students with meaningful opportunities to experience competitive sport, develop their skills, build resilience and learn the importance of teamwork and sportsmanship. The participation of 96 players across six teams reflects the enthusiasm and growing interest in cricket within the international school community. Our endeavour is to continuously strengthen the sporting ecosystem by creating structured, high-quality competitive platforms that encourage young talent to discover their potential and pursue excellence."

Kavita Chand sets new Indian record on Kilimanjaro, scales Uhuru Peak in 12 hours 46 minutes

NEW DELHI. (AGENCY)



Indian endurance athlete and mountaineer Kavita Chand has become the first Indian to complete the Mount Kilimanjaro round trip in under 24 hours, finishing the challenge in 22 hours and 36 minutes. Her achievement also includes an ascent time of 12 hours and 46 minutes, marking an extraordinary performance on Africa's highest mountain. Kavita undertook the Mweka Gate–Uhuru Peak–Mweka Gate route, reaching the summit at 5,895 metres before returning to the starting point. Her ascent time of 12 hours and 46 minutes makes it a remarkable speed-climbing achievement, according to a press release. A conventional Kilimanjaro expedition generally takes five to nine days for the ascent and descent, allowing climbers time to acclimatise to the increasing altitude. Kavita's attempt required extensive preparation and a carefully coordinated support system. Her preparation included three months of training for the Chicago Marathon, held on October 11, during which she ran approximately 70–90 kilometres every week and undertook strength training three times a week. She finished as the third-fastest Indian woman at the marathon. Immediately afterwards, she travelled to Nepal for an expedition to Himlung Himal (7,126 metres). Although she could not reach the summit, she acclimatised to approximately 6,600 metres, gaining valuable experience at high altitude before the Kilimanjaro attempt. Explaining what motivated her to attempt the speed climb, Kavita said, "Kilimanjaro was already on my list as part of my Seven Summits journey. A few people had suggested that I could attempt a speed climb there, and since I had to climb it anyway, I thought of making the experience more adventurous.

Briefs News

Defending Champion UAE Bulls unveil star-studded squad for Abu Dhabi T10 title defence

DUBAI : (AGENCY) Defending champion UAE Bulls have assembled a formidable squad for their Abu Dhabi T10 title defence, combining some of the biggest match-winners in franchise cricket with an exciting mix of international and UAE talent following the Player Draft held in Abu Dhabi on September 30. West Indies great Kieron Pollard, who led the Bulls to their maiden Abu Dhabi T10 crown in 2025, returns as the franchise's Icon Player and will once again be at the heart of their campaign. He is joined by fellow West Indian stars Sunil Narine and Romario Shepherd, giving the champions a powerful core of proven T10 performers, as per a press release. The Bulls strengthened that core significantly at the draft, adding former Pakistan pacer Mohammad Amir and Pakistan all-rounder Shadab Khan, two of the most high-profile selections of the 2026 Player Draft. Sri Lankan fast bowler Nuwan Thushara, Pakistan international Mohammad Wasim Jr, explosive wicketkeeper-batter Azam Khan and experienced West Indies batter Andre Fletcher further underline the depth and firepower of the squad. Kieron Pollard (Icon), Sunil Narine (Platinum), Romario Shepherd (Platinum), Muhammad Rohid (UAE Star), Tahir Zaman (UAE Star), Aneurin Donald, Mohammad Amir, Andre Fletcher, Khawaja Nafay, Nuwan Thushara, Khushdil Shah, Mohammad Wasim Jr, Max Bryant, Azam Khan, Wali Muhammad (UAE Star), Uddish Suri (UAE Emerging – U21), Bradley Currie (Associate Hero), Shadab Khan (Platinum).

Xabi Alonso admits Chelsea's defensive struggle, insists conceding fewer goals is a must

LONDON : (AGENCY) Chelsea manager Xabi Alonso has acknowledged his team's defensive struggles, insisting that conceding fewer goals will be crucial as they look to maintain their strong start to the Premier League season. Chelsea have collected 16 points from nine matches and are fourth in the standings. While they have scored 19 goals in the campaign, their defensive record remains an area of concern, having conceded 15 goals in the same period, according to a press release from the Premier League. Speaking in an interview shared by JioStar, Alonso admitted that there was no single reason behind Chelsea's defensive shortcomings but expressed confidence that the team could address the issue through better organisation and collective responsibility. "There isn't just one reason behind our defence conceding a lot of goals, but for sure it's one area we are determined to do better in, and I think we will. We are in that process and developing, but we need to compete and know that conceding fewer goals is a must. We have been working on our shape and our positioning without the ball. A lot of the goals we have conceded have come from small mistakes, not from the opposition cutting us open. That is a positive, because it means the problem is fixable," Alonso said in an interview shared by JioStar. We need to be more compact as a unit, win our duels, and make better decisions in the final third. The players know this, and they are taking responsibility. Defending is not just about the back four. It starts from the front, with how we press and how we track back. It's probably impossible not to concede at all, but to concede less is very possible.

Cricket West Indies announce 2026-27 retainer contracts

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY) Cricket West Indies (CWI) have announced their international retainer contracts for the 2026-27 season, with 15 players each named in the senior men's and women's squads, while three male cricketers have been awarded development contracts. The contracts will run from October 1, 2026, to September 30, 2027, with Shai Hope, Roston Chase and Hayley Matthews continuing to lead their respective teams. Hope remains captain of the men's ODI and T20I sides, Chase will continue to lead the Test team, while Matthews retains the captaincy of the senior women's side, as per the ICC website. John Campbell has earned an international retainer contract for the first time since 2019 following an impressive 2025-26 season. The opener scored his maiden Test century, an unbeaten 115 against India in Delhi in October last year, before making his return to the ODI side after six years. He marked his comeback with a 68-ball century against India in Guwahati in September. Matthew Forde and Amir Jangoo have also secured their first international retainer contracts. Forde emerged as West Indies' leading powerplay wicket-taker across both white-ball formats over the past year, claiming 10 wickets in T20Is and six in ODIs. Jangoo, meanwhile, made headlines in Test cricket with a career-best 233.

Amine Gouiri's late strike earns Marseille 1-0 win over Bayer Leverkusen

LEVERKUSEN : (AGENCY)



Amine Gouiri scored a brilliant late goal as Marseille secured a 1-0 victory over Bayer Leverkusen in their UEFA Europa League league-phase encounter, earning their first points in the competition and ending the hosts' unbeaten European home run. The French side started brightly, with Gouiri creating an early opportunity after controlling the ball and getting past Jarell Quansah, but his low effort was kept out by Leverkusen goalkeeper Mark Flekken. Leverkusen gradually grew into the contest, although clear-cut chances remained limited. Quansah sent a volley over the crossbar just before the half-hour mark, while Miguel Gutierrez came close when his deflected effort looped onto the top of the crossbar. The hosts continued to search for a breakthrough, but Marseille remained organised at the back. After the break, Igor Paixao.

Bangladesh's Shadman Islam stretchered off with ankle injury in second Test against WI

SYLHET : (AGENCY)



Bangladesh opener Shadman Islam was stretchered off the field after suffering an ankle injury while fielding on the second morning of the second Test against West Indies in Sylhet on Friday. Shadman twisted his left ankle while chasing the ball towards the fine-leg boundary in the 78th over of West Indies' innings. The incident occurred when Amir Jangoo nudged a delivery from Mehidy Hasan Miraz towards fine leg. Shadman, who was fielding at slip, chased the ball but slipped while attempting to collect it, twisting his ankle in the process, according to Cricinfo. The 31-year-old remained on the ground for several minutes, visibly in pain, before being carried off on a stretcher. Bangladesh's players immediately rushed to his aid as the medical staff attended to him. "Shadman suffered a left ankle twist. He is under observation. We will send him for an MRI scan," Bangladesh physio Bayjedul Islam Khan said, according to Cricinfo. It remains uncertain whether Shadman will take any further part in the ongoing Test. The left-handed opener had scored a century in the opening Test of the series. Meanwhile, Hasan Mahmud produced an impressive bowling performance to bring Bangladesh back into the contest, claiming his fifth five-wicket haul in Test cricket and his first on home soil. The right-arm pacer became the first Bangladesh seamer to register a five-wicket haul in five different countries. He also became the first Bangladesh fast bowler to take a stumping off his bowling. Mahmud provided Bangladesh with the crucial breakthrough by dismissing Jangoo, who had scored a brilliant 133 off 212 deliveries, including 13 fours and two sixes. The pacer then removed Roston Chase for a golden duck with the next delivery, taking an inside edge that was safely caught behind by wicketkeeper Litton Das. Mahmud came close.

Aaryavir Sehwag's unbeaten 70 power India to 10-wicket win over Nepal

OMAN : (AGENCY)



India Under-19 began their campaign in the ACC Men's U-19 Asia Cup 2026 with a dominant 10-wicket victory over Nepal Under-19, riding on a disciplined bowling performance led by Ishan Sood and an unbeaten half-century from Aaryavir Sehwag at the Al Amerat Cricket Ground on Friday. After winning the toss and opting to bowl, India restricted Nepal to 128 in 42.3 overs before chasing down the target in just 19.1 overs without losing a wicket. Aaryavir Sehwag, son of former India opener Virender Sehwag, led the run chase with an unbeaten 70 off 52 deliveries, while skipper Lakshya Rajesh Raichandani remained not out on 53 off 63 balls. The opening pair stitched together an unbroken partnership to ensure a comprehensive victory for India.

Aaryavir was the more aggressive of the two batters, finding boundaries at regular intervals and taking the attack to the Nepal bowlers. Raichandani provided steady support at the other end as India completed the chase comfortably.

Earlier, India's bowlers made effective use of the early assistance on offer to put Nepal under pressure from the beginning. Ishan Sood was the standout performer with the ball, returning figures of three wickets for 18 runs in his 10 overs, including four maiden overs. His disciplined spell helped India make early inroads into the Nepal batting line-up. Nepal suffered an early collapse after losing Prashiddha Jaishi (1), Suryanshu Koirala (5) and Nischal Chhetri (0) cheaply. Ishan accounted for all three wickets, leaving Nepal struggling at 27 for three.

Niraj Kumar Yadav (20) and Darsh Sonar then attempted to stabilise the innings, but India continued to maintain pressure through disciplined bowling and tight fielding. Sonar top-scored for Nepal with 43 off 93 deliveries, while wicketkeeper-batter Aashish Luhar contributed 29 off 45 balls. Their efforts provided some resistance, but Nepal could not build a substantial partnership to recover from the early setbacks. India's bowling attack continued to pick up wickets at regular intervals, eventually dismissing Nepal for 128 in 42.3 overs. Apart from Ishan, Arjun Rajput and Yashveer Goud picked up two wickets each, while Manal Chauhan and Kavya Patel claimed one wicket apiece. Ishan Sood was named Player of the Match for his impressive bowling performance. Following the victory, India Under-19 captain Lakshya Rajesh Raichandani said the team had planned to exploit.

India win Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament

MOHALI : (AGENCY)



Defending champions India beat Japan 4-1 in the final to register a hat-trick of titles and sixth crown overall at the men's Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament here on Thursday. Asian Games gold medallists India had earlier won the tournament in 2011, 2016, 2018, 2023 and 2024. It was, however, Japan who stunned the Indian team in the third minute by scoring a field goal through Kazumasa Matsumoto. India got their act together afterwards and scored through Shilannd Lakra (42nd minute) from a penalty corner, Dipreet Singh (48th) from a field play and Jugraj from yet another set piece in the 53rd minute. Vivek Sagar Prasad made it 4-1 for the home team in the 54th minute. India had earlier defeated Japan 4-1 in the round-robin stage of the tournament at the Olympian Surjit Singh Stadium in Jalandhar. But on Thursday, Japan gave India a tough fight in the first two quarters, though the home side came back strongly in the second half. India started on a bright note but it was Japan who took the lead against the run of play in the third minute through Matsumoto, who scored with a tomahawk to stun the hosts in front of a packed crowd at the Olympian Balbir Singh Stadium. The Indians, thereafter, showed urgency and created a few chances but lacked the final finishing. Japan secured two back-to-back penalty corners in the 20th minute but the Indian defence was up to the task to deny Japan skipper Raiki Fujishima. Vice-captain Hardik Singh, who featured in his 200th international match on Thursday, was the star in India's midfield, linking up the defence and with forward line to create chances.

Jarmanpreet Singh, on the other hand, was rock solid in defence with his brilliant work ethic. Trailing 0-1, the Indians came out with more purpose after the change of ends and secured their first penalty corner in the 33rd minute but skipper Harmanpreet Singh's flick was blocked by Japanese goalkeeper Kisho Kuroda. The Japanese continued to impress, earning their second penalty corner in the 39th minute but Shota Yamada's effort did not produce any goal. India kept up the pressure on the Japanese defence and secured back-to-back penalty corners in the 42nd minute, and Lakra equalised from a rebound after being fed by Aditya Arjun Lalage.

India continued their domination in the final quarter and Dilpreet gave the home side the lead in the 48th minute with a reverse hit after being brilliantly set up by Hardik. India were a completely different side once they took the lead. They extended the lead in the 53rd minute when Jugraj converted India's third penalty corner with precision. There was no stopping India thereafter as Vivek scored from the top of the circle with a fierce hit after Lakra's initial shot was saved by the Japanese goalkeeper.



Nora Fatehi finally appears in Delhi court for Rs 200-crore extortion case involving Sukesh Chandrasekhar



Actress Nora Fatehi finally appeared in a Delhi court on Friday in the Rs 200-crore extortion case involving alleged con-man Sukesh Chandrasekhar. The court proceedings are currently underway as she appeared as a listed witness before Additional Sessions Judge Gagandeep Singh. The court has previously summoned her twice. On November 6, when Nora Fatehi's counsel sought exemption from appearance, the court said, "This cannot be taken lightly... As a witness, you should have appeared in court. Your conduct is not proper. Don't take the court for granted." Earlier, a court had framed charges against Chandrasekhar, his wife Leena Paulose, and others under Indian Penal Code (IPC) sections 170 (personating a public servant), 384 (punishment for extortion), and 386 (extortion by putting a person in fear of death or grievous hurt). Charges were also framed under the provisions of MCOCA, or the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act, 1999 — a law enacted to combat organised crime syndicates and terrorism. The Act equips authorities with special powers to track, intercept, and penalise gang-related criminal activities that normal penal codes fail to deter. The matter is presently at the stage of the prosecution submitting its evidence. The police chargesheet had earlier mentioned recording the statements of several people, including Bollywood actresses Jacqueline Fernandez and Fatehi. Police allege that Chandrasekhar and his associates posed as government officials and took money from Fortis Healthcare promoter Shivinder Mohan Singh's wife, Aditi Singh. He was in jail in a money laundering case. **(AGENCY)**

Janhvi Kapoor to Karan Johar, Bollywood turns up with dazzle at Manish Malhotra's Diwali party

From Janhvi Kapoor to Karan Johar, here is a look at who wore what to the star-studded Diwali celebration.

Manish Malhotra's annual Diwali bash transforms into Bollywood's unofficial runway, where the industry's biggest stars turn up for a night draped in luxury. From Janhvi Kapoor to Karan Johar, here is a look at who wore what to the star-studded Diwali celebration. Janhvi Kapoor wore a two-piece gold and black bralette and a long skirt covered in sparkling sequins. She posted her look on Instagram with the caption, " GRrrrrr." Manish Malhotra designed Nita Ambani's sari look for the party, also posting it on his Instagram with a note that read, "Always a pleasure to dress the ever-elegant Mrs Nita Mukesh Ambani... who graced the festivities in a vibrant fuchsia pink satin #MMSaree." Karan Johar wore a custom-made Manish Malhotra look, complete with an embroidered black ethnic jacket and a layered statement neckpiece. He posted the outfit with the caption, "At the OG maverick maestros DIWALI bash which I fondly call the MMG... (Manish Met Gala) ... the coolest and classiest bash in the city!! Vicky Kaushal turned up in an embroidered burgundy kurta custom-made by Manish himself. He completed the look with brown sunglasses. His Instagram caption read, "Burgundy nights and Diwali lights. **(AGENCY)**



'Rise and Fall' Season 2 : Shehzad Poonawalla crowned winner, prize money of Rs 35 lakh



Rise and Fall Season 2 has crowned Shehzad Poonawalla as its winner, taking home the coveted trophy along with the prize money of Rs 35 lakh. Hosted by Virender Sehwag, the reality show brought together 15 celebrity contestants for a battle of survival. The divide between the privileged Penthouse and the demanding Basement shaped the game, with Rulers striving to protect their position while Workers looked for their chance to rise. As contestants navigated the shifting dynamics, personal equations often collided with game strategies, leading to unexpected alliances, heated confrontations and difficult decisions. The two Takhta Palats brought sweeping changes to the Tower, turning the tables and giving the Workers their moment at the top.

The grand finale opened with performances by the Top 6 finalists, followed by a nostalgic reunion with the ex-contestants. But there was little room for nostalgia as the Fortune Floor Pyramid challenge sent Niharika Tiwari packing, narrowing the race to the Top 5. The Tower lights soon turned red for Karan Patel and Swara Bhasker, leaving Priyanka Chahar Choudhary, Gautam Gulati and Shehzad Poonawalla in the showdown. One last twist put the crown up for a vote, and when the Top 3 ended in a deadlock, the remaining contestants stepped in to deliver the final verdict. Gautam finished as the second runner-up, Priyanka as the first runner-up, while Shehzad Poonawalla emerged as the ultimate Ruler and winner of Rise and Fall Season 2. Speaking on the win, Shehzad Poonawalla said, "Winning Rise and Fall Season 2 is a feeling I can't put into words. This journey wasn't easy — from the highs of the Tower to the uncertainty of the Basement, I had to constantly adapt and push through, even when things weren't going my way. There were moments of doubt, but deep down, I always believed I could make it. Standing here with the trophy, that belief has become reality. This victory is proof of what determination and resilience can do." "I'm proud of every decision I made and the person I remained through the highs and lows. The bonds I formed, the laughs, the competition — those memories go far beyond this show. I'm going home with a trophy, unforgettable memories, and the satisfaction of knowing I gave it absolutely everything," he added. "The phenomenal response to Rise and Fall Season 2 reaffirms the audience's love for this one-of-a-kind reality format. The show is not just about personalities clashing as seen across unscripted reality shows - it lays great impetus on gameplay and strategy and making calculated moves that keep viewers hooked. With a bold mix of personalities, gripping rivalries, and unpredictable twists, this season raised the stakes like never before. Congratulations to Shehzad Poonawalla on claiming the title of ultimate Ruler!" said Amogh Dusad, director and head of AVOD Content, Prime Video India. "The finale of Rise and Fall Season 2 is a moment of real gratitude for all of us at Banijay Asia. It has been heartening to see the love this show has received from fans. We were fortunate to be able to bring together a diverse line-up of contestants, and their different personalities, strategies and instincts are what kept audiences talking through every episode... **(AGENCY)**

Suhana Khan cheers on father Shah Rukh after he recalls difficulty memorising 'Tu Mil Jaaye'



Shah Rukh Khan recalled the challenge of getting the English lyrics of Tu Mil Jaaye right for King, admitting that memorising the words was not easy. The track, the first song from the Siddharth Anand-directed action film, was released on November 2 to coincide with Shah Rukh's 61st birthday. Tu Mil Jaaye features vocals by Arijit Singh, Madhubanti Bagchi and Sheeran, who has also contributed an English rap. The song has been composed by Sachin-Jigar. Shah Rukh shared his experience in the comments section of a get-ready video posted by daughter Suhana Khan on Instagram. In the clip, Suhana is seen lip-syncing to British singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran's portion of the song, prompting her father to talk about the difficulty of remembering the English lyrics. He wrote, "How do you remember the words!!! It was so difficult for me because Ed sings so fast." Suhana was quick to reassure her father, replying, "Nothing is difficult for you!" Alia Bhatt, Navya Nanda, Ananya Panday and Orry were among those who reacted to Suhana's transition reel, set to the King song Tu Mil Jaaye. Directed by Anand, King marks the sixth collaboration between Shah Rukh and Deepika. The film also features Abhishek Bachchan and Suhana Khan, along with Rani Mukerji, Raghav Juyal, Arshad Warsi and Jaideep Ahlawat in key roles. **(AGENCY)**

Delhi HC rules 'Doosra' violates cricketer Ganguly's personality rights but will not stop theatrical run



The Delhi High Court said the film Doosra prima facie violated cricketer Sourav Ganguly's personality rights but refused to stop its theatrical run. It asked Doosra makers to add a disclaimer and give a Rs 2 crore bank guarantee on Sourav Ganguly's plea over personality rights violations. The High Court had earlier asked former India cricket captain Sourav Ganguly to identify specific portions of the film that allegedly infringe his personality rights. The court had directed the filmmakers to submit a pen drive containing the movie. Justice Tejas Karia listed Ganguly's lawsuit against the makers of the sports drama for hearing on November 2, asking the plaintiffs to specify the scenes and the grounds for their objections. "Prepare a table with time stamp of the objectionable scene and narration of the objections...We will see it over the weekend and we will hear you," the court stated. Besides Ganguly, Luv Films LLP, which is producing a biopic on the former cricketer, is also a plaintiff in the case. The production house has alleged that Doosra violates its "contractual rights". The court asked the plaintiffs to submit the manuscript of their upcoming film Dada in a sealed envelope and explain how Doosra allegedly infringes their contractual rights. The plaintiffs' counsel sought an interim injunction against the defendants despite Doosra having been released in theatres last week, pointing out that the film was yet to arrive on OTT platforms. "It is all about Sourav Ganguly's life. His image has been badly exploited without consent.. After intermission. **(AGENCY)**

BJP MLA Ravi Negi calls for 'King' boycott over Deepika's 'bhagwa' dress in 'Tu Mil Jaaye'

BJP MLA Ravi Negi has called for a nationwide boycott of Shah Rukh Khan's upcoming film King over Deepika Padukone's orange outfit in the song Tu Mil Jaaye, demanding that the scene be removed. The debate began after Tu Mil Jaaye dropped on November 2, with Deepika sporting an orange dress in a dance sequence alongside Shah Rukh Khan. According to a report by Free Press Journal, BJP legislator Negi said during an interview with Dainik Samachar, "If Shah Rukh Khan does not remove the bhagwa scene, we will call for a nationwide boycott of King." Negi went on to call Khan a "Jihadi", alleging that the actor profits from India while damaging its reputation. He further claimed that Deepika was being used as a pawn. "SRK and all these Jihadi people in this country, they earn money from the country and defame it, and they have a problem with saffron. Deepika Padukone is just a pawn. These Jihadis are behind this. I will call Shah Rukh Khan a Jihadi. In the Sanatan that we believe in, they wear such clothes and dance indecently," he said. Negi also drew parallels with the controversy over Deepika's orange bikini in Shah Rukh Khan's 2023 film Pathaan. He recalled protests by Hindu organisations against the outfit and warned that the song from King could trigger similar demonstrations. The MLA further alleged that the scene was deliberately intended to hurt religious sentiments. We warn Shah Rukh Khan that if this scene is not changed, there will be protests across the country, and no one will tolerate anything against Sanatan Dharma," Negi further said. Deepika's saffron bikini in Besharam Rang, a song from the 2023 film Pathaan. **(AGENCY)**



NewJeans' contracts restrict members from basic rights to 'sleep, rest and free choice': Reports



Popular K-pop girl band NewJeans members signed a record label contract during their earlier days that restricted their 'basic right' to "sleep, rest and free choice". As per a latest report by Guardian and New York Times, band members Minji, Hanni, Danielle, Hyein and Haerin signed the contract when they were still in their teens. As per the contract, the members were waived from having 'insincere attitude' and 'inappropriate romantic relationships' along with a standard child protection language which protected the members with 'basic human rights' including the group members' right to education. They also removed standard child protection clauses, including sections of the Korean government's K-pop contract template that state the label 'shall not demand that a performer who is a minor engage in excessive physical exposure or overly sexually suggestive expression. The contracts in question were from record label Ador, a subsidiary of Hybe — the company behind popular groups like BTS and Katseye. On the work front, the band recently made a comeback after a long hiatus as a four-member group, excluding Danielle.

Last December, Danielle Marsh was ousted from the group by agency ADOR amid a long legal battle over contract breach. The rift between the band and the agency first came to light in 2024 after the band members said they were discontinuing their contract with ADOR, citing mistreatment. However, after a court gave a verdict in favour of the agency in October, a few members announced their return. The feud began after former ADOR CEO Min Hee-jin was accused by HYBE of trying to take over ADOR. In her defence, Hee-jin claimed that HYBE ill-treated her and disrespected NewJeans, which led to a messy legal battle over contracts and company shares.

The members of NewJeans took Min Hee-jin's side, claiming breach of trust by ADOR. The members even announced their plans to cancel their contracts with the agency and work independently as NJZ. **(AGENCY)**

