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Contact for Advertisement 9958699302

E-mail opensearchnews@gmail.com

Website www.opensearch.co.in

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DELHI EDITION

Cabinet extends Stand-Up India Scheme till 2031

Approves Rs 4,111 crore corpus to support 2.5 lakh more entrepreneurs

NEW DELHI. (AGENCY)

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the continuation of the Stand-Up India Scheme for another five years to help women, Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) entrepreneurs start new businesses.

The scheme has been extended till March 31, 2031, with a credit guarantee corpus of Rs 4,111 crore and aims to provide financial assistance to at least 2.5 lakh additional entrepreneurs over the next five years.

Announcing the decision during the Cabinet briefing, Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said, "The programme was designed to help SC, ST and women entrepreneurs start their own businesses. It has been very successful, which is why its continuation for another five years was approved today."

BPCL MAK lubricantsBPCL MAK lubricants› Under the scheme, eligible entrepreneurs can avail loans of above Rs 10 lakh and up to Rs 1 crore for setting up new businesses in manufacturing, services, trading and agriculture-allied activities. Vaishnaw said, "The guarantee fee has been standardised at 0.5 per cent, with no additional risk premium. The guarantee will cover 85 per cent of the loan amount so that entrepreneurs can take their businesses forward."

According to the official release, loans under the scheme can be provided as term loans or a combination of term loans and working capital, covering up to 85 per cent of the project cost. The government has also approved credit guarantee coverage of 85 per cent of the loan amount to reduce the risk faced by lending institutions.

The Cabinet briefing document stated that the scheme targets an average of two loans per bank branch, including one to a woman entrepreneur and another to an SC/ST entrepreneur.

The scheme also provides support to entrepreneurs during the loan application process and subsequent stages of business development.

Launched in April 2016, the Stand-Up India Scheme has facilitated loans to more than 2.75 lakh women, SC and ST entrepreneurs so far, according to the government. The government said the five-year extension would help improve access to credit for entrepreneurs from underserved communities, support the creation of new enterprises and generate employment opportunities.





Cabinet extends Mudra credit guarantee scheme till 2031 with 5,000 cr

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has approved the continuation of the Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units (CGFMU) for five years, until March 31, 2031. The Cabinet has also approved a corpus of ?5,000 crore to support the scheme, which provides credit guarantee coverage to lending institutions against the risk of defaults on eligible loans. The extension is expected to facilitate loans amounting to ?12.6 lakh crore under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) over the next five years, helping aspiring entrepreneurs establish and expand their businesses. Launched in January 2016, CGFMU operates through the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Limited (NCGTC). It provides guarantee support to lending institutions, enabling them to extend credit.

PM to visit Karnataka and Gujarat on 13-14 November

NEW DELHI. (AGENCY)

Prime Minister will visit Karnataka and Gujarat on 13-14 November. At around 10:45 AM, Prime Minister will participate in Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Prashanti Kutiram. He will also address the gathering on the occasion. At around 12:45 PM, Prime Minister will flag off and undertake a metro ride from Tavarekere to IIM Bangalore metro station. At around 1:15 PM, Prime Minister will lay the foundation stone, inaugurate and dedicate to the nation various development projects worth over Rs 15,600 crore in Bengaluru. He will also address the gathering on the occasion

Thereafter, Prime Minister will travel to Mysuru where, at around 3:30 PM, he will participate in a tree plantation programme at Bharat Vann. At around 4, PM, Prime Minister will inaugurate COSMOS-Mysuru Planetarium. He will also address the gathering on the occasion. On 14th November, Prime Minister will perform Darshan and Pooja at Ambaji temple in Banaskantha, Gujarat. Ambaji Temple is one of the 51 revered Shakti Peethas. PM in Bengaluru Prime Minister will participate in the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Prashanti Kutiram, the residential headquarters campus of Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana (S-VYASA). On this occasion, he will lay the foundation stone of the Golden Jubilee Administrative Block and launch the S-VYASA Off-Campus at Thiruvanantha puram, Kerala. Being held from 13 to 23 November 2026 on the theme 'Towards Viksit Bharat 2047', the Golden Jubilee celebration marks five decades of institution-building and service. Established in 1975, Prashanti Kutiram was founded with the objective of integrating modern science with India's spiritual wisdom. It is home to S-VYASA, which was declared a Deemed-to-be University in 2002. and is dedicated to education and research in Yoga. The programme will also commemorate the birth centenary of Shri Hongasandra Venkataramaiah Sheshadri Ji, a distinguished thinker, writer and organiser born in Bengaluru in 1926. He joined the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh in 1946 and served as its Sarkaryavah from 1987 to 2000. He was among the visionaries behind S-VYASA and his inspiration and guidance played an important role in shaping the growth of Prashanti Kutiram and advancing the institution's mission over the decades. Prime Minister will inaugurate, dedicate to the nation, lay the foundation stone and flag off various development projects worth over ?15,600 crore in Bengaluru. These projects span key sectors including urban mobility, power transmission, renewable energy, petroleum infrastructure, waste management and railways.



PM in Bengaluru Prime Minister will participate in the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of Prashanti Kutiram, the residential headquarters campus of Swami Vivekananda Yoga Anusandhana Samsthana (S-VYASA).

Vice-President Attends Platinum Jubilee Celebrations at Alma Mater

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)

Vice-President of India, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan, today attended the Platinum Jubilee celebrations and Alumni Meet of V.O. Chidambaram College, Thoothukudi, as the Chief Guest. The college is his alma mater, where he studied from 1975 to 1978. He paid floral tributes to the statue of freedom fighter V.O. Chidambaram Pillai on the college campus and inaugurated a commemorative arch marking the institution's 75th anniversary. He also visited his former classroom and interacted with his classmates from the 1975–78 batch, fondly recalling his college days. Addressing the gathering, the Vice-President recalled how the college, its teachers and the personalities he encountered there shaped his outlook and prepared him for greater responsibilities. He fondly remembered his teachers' lessons, campus life and the values he imbibed during his student years. Recalling the Emergency, he spoke about his participation in the movement against it while studying at the college. He also recalled mobilising funds to support the families of those who had been imprisoned during the period. Paying tribute to V.O. Chidambaram Pillai, he highlighted the freedom fighter's immense sacrifices, his commitment to workers' welfare and his enduring contribution to the freedom struggle. Emphasising national unity, the Vice-President said India's strength as a united nation safeguards the language, culture and identity of its diverse communities, including Tamil culture. He urged students to strengthen national consciousness while taking pride in their mother tongue. He also encouraged them to learn multiple languages and take Tamil to the global stage. Highlighting.



Vice-President recalls his college days, including participation in the movement against the Emergency and efforts to support the families of those imprisoned

Akhilesh Yadav hits back amid politics over proposed Ayodhya visit

LUCKNOW : (AGENCY) Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Wednesday launched a multi-pronged counter-attack against the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) while addressing the media at the party headquarters in Lucknow regarding his proposed upcoming visit to Ayodhya. Rejecting the BJP's criticism, Yadav affirmed his party's freedom to visit any religious shrine and redefined his signature political strategy (PDA) in a spiritual context to brush off the ruling party's anxiety. He reinterpreted the PDA acronym, originally denoting his electoral coalition of Pichhde (Backward classes), Dalit, and Alpsankhyak (Minorities) to now mean "Pehle darshan, phir Aashirvaad" (First darshan, then blessings). He added a personal touch by referencing senior family leaders Shivpal Singh Yadav and Ram Gopal Yadav to emphasise that his family already carries the symbolic blessings of "Shiv" and "Ram". Reacting to the ongoing political controversy, Akhilesh Yadav said, "God belongs to everyone. So why should we not visit these places? We will visit Kedareshwar, Mathura and Vrindavan as well.

Gave up PM's post to become 'super PM' : BJP's swipe at Sonia Gandhi

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)

In fresh criticism of Congress leader Sonia Gandhi's memoir, the BJP on Wednesday said she decided to make the "super sacrifice" of not taking up prime ministership only to become a "super PM". Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters here, party spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi also rejected Gandhi's claim in her memoir, "Belonging: A Journey of Love", that her husband Rajiv Gandhi was against the Emergency. In her memoir released on Tuesday, Gandhi writes about how she went from completely rejecting the idea of taking up prime ministership to a feeble "theek hai" when alliance colleagues pressed her to take the job only to finally say a firm, categorical no. Asked about Gandhi sharing her inner turmoil before turning down the Prime Minister's post in 2004, Trivedi quipped, "What a super sacrifice it was that she became super PM leaving the PM's post." Gandhi left the PM's post but took up a Cabinet rank for being chairperson. of the National Advisory Committee during the Congress-led UPA rule, he said. "You will not find such an example of sacrifice anywhere in the world where a Cabinet rank is taken up leaving the PM's post. National Advisory Committee chairperson, a Cabinet rank that too with office of profit, meaning secured a profitable Cabinet rank," he said. "And when a controversy erupted, Sonia Gandhi had to resign. Before she could return after the election, the Manmohan Singh government, which was running under her leadership, changed the rules and put the NAC chairman's post out of the office of profit," the BJP leader said. Trivedi further slammed Gandhi for blaming her brother-in-law Sanjay Gandhi for the imposition of the Emergency and claiming that former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was against it. He said Rajiv Gandhi had supported the Emergency on various occasions. On the former Congress president's account of the fallout with Sanjay Gandhi's wife Maneka Gandhi, Trivedi said it appears more like a story of "deep-seated animosity" between a "desi devrani" and a "videshi jethani" than "Emergency ki kahani" with the kind of "blame-game" seen in her memoir.



In her memoir released on Tuesday, Gandhi writes about how she went from completely rejecting the idea of taking up prime ministership to a feeble "theek hai" when alliance colleagues pressed her to take the job only to finally say a firm, categorical no.

Punjab govt transfers 20 IAS officers, names six new DCs ahead of 2027 polls

CHANDIGARH : (AGENCY)

In a major IAS officers' reshuffle in Punjab ahead of the 2027 elections, the state government has transferred 20 IAS officers and appointed six new Deputy Commissioners. Komal Mittal, serving as the Deputy Commissioner of SAS Nagar, has been appointed as Roopnagar Deputy Commissioner in place of Aaditya Dachalwal, who will take her place in SAS Nagar. Patiala Deputy Commissioner Himanshu Aggarwal has been appointed as Deputy Commissioner of Ludhiana in place of Himanshu Jain, who will now serve as Deputy Commissioner of Patiala. Abhijeet Kapli, serving as the Chief Executive, Punjab Energy Development Agency and in addition Director, Sports & Youth Services, has been appointed as the Deputy Commissioner, Barnala and in addition Commissioner to Barnala Municipal Corporation, replacing Harpreet Singh. Nirmal Ouseppachan, who is serving as the Additional Secretary, Coordination and in addition Officer on Special Duty to Chief Secretary, Punjab, will now take charge as the Deputy Commissioner, Tarn Taran in place of Rahul. Moreover, the Punjab government has also ordered 111 transfers in the Punjab Civil Services (PCS). This came ahead of the 2027 Punjab Assembly elections.



JP Nadda leads India's engagement at historic meeting; BIMSTEC countries adopt revised plan of action on public health

NEW DELHI. (AGENCY)

In a major step towards strengthening regional health cooperation, the First BIMSTEC Health Ministers' Meeting held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, today unanimously adopted a Joint Ministerial Statement, reaffirming the collective commitment of member countries to advancing accessible, affordable and quality healthcare, strengthening regional health security and building resilient public health systems across the Bay of Bengal region.

According to a press release, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers, Jagat Prakash Nadda, represented India at the historic meeting, highlighting the country's growing role in advancing regional health cooperation through knowledge-sharing, digital innovation, capacity building and collaborative action on common public health challenges. The meeting also adopted the Revised BIMSTEC Plan of Action on Public Health (2026–2030), providing a structured roadmap for cooperation in disease surveillance, pandemic preparedness, digital health, traditional medicine, One Health and healthcare workforce development. India's engagement at the meeting was further marked by significant bilateral initiatives with Sri Lanka, including the exchange of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the supply of 100 additional fully-equipped ambulances and the announcement of support for 50 Medical Kiosks/Health ATMs to strengthen primary healthcare services. Nadda also held bilateral discussions with Nepal's Health Minister and interacted with the Indian diaspora in Colombo, reaffirming India's commitment to strengthening its longstanding partnerships in the region. Addressing the inaugural meeting, Nadda described the occasion as a landmark in regional cooperation, following the decision taken at the Sixth BIMSTEC Summit in Bangkok in April 2025 to establish a dedicated mechanism for cooperation among Health Ministers of member countries. He emphasised that BIMSTEC countries share both a collective responsibility and a significant opportunity to strengthen healthcare systems, improve access to quality health services and enhance preparedness against emerging health challenges. The unanimously adopted Joint Ministerial Statement underscores the commitment of member countries to Universal Health Coverage and Sustainable Development Goal 3, while identifying key priorities for coordinated regional action.

The Statement provides a forward-looking framework for strengthening disease surveillance, emergency preparedness, early warning systems, antimicrobial resistance management, digital healthcare, traditional medicine, climate-related health responses and capacity building. It also envisages exploring a BIMSTEC Digital Health Framework to promote telemedicine, interoperable electronic health records and the use of Artificial Intelligence in diagnostics and disease modelling.



According to a press release, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Minister of Chemicals and Fertilisers, Jagat Prakash Nadda, represented India at the historic meeting

Set Up Separate Corporation to Expedite Tendering for Development Works : CM

Govt accords top priority to spending on development works and public welfare schemes, says Nayab Saini

VIJAY KUMAR.OPEN SEARCH



CHANDIGARH : Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini has directed that a separate corporation be established on the lines of Singapore's model to expedite the tendering process for major development works. The corporation would ensure timely completion of the tendering process for large and important projects across departments, accelerating development and ensuring proper utilisation of budgetary allocations.

The Chief Minister gave these directions while chairing a meeting at the Haryana Civil Secretariat on Wednesday to review department-wise expenditure during the current financial year as part of preparations for the next financial year's budget. Reviewing expenditure against the allocations made to each department, he directed officers to expedite development works to ensure proper utilisation of the allocated funds before the close of the current financial year.

Taking note of delays in tendering in some departments, the Chief Minister directed that, depending on the nature of development works, options such as establishing a new corporation, empanelling consultancy firms and hiring township consultants be adopted. He said officers of major departments should prepare and implement an appropriate plan under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary.

He said routing the process, from the preparation of tender documents to the award of tenders, through the corporation and expert consultants would help departments complete tendering more quickly and ensure that the benefits of development works reach the public sooner. The Chief Minister said the present State Government is working with commitment to accelerate development, ensure effective implementation of public welfare schemes and strengthen infrastructure across the state. The state's total budget estimate for 2026–27 stands at Rs 2,23,658 crore, an increase of 9.1 per cent over the budget estimate for 2025–26. He said approximately 95 per cent of the budget was spent last year and directed officers to aim for full utilisation of the funds allocated during the current financial year.

In the meeting, it was informed that 13 departments had spent more than 50 per cent of their annual budget provisions. The Department of Economic and Statistical Affairs led with expenditure of 91.8 per cent, followed by the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Department at 73.7 per cent, the Energy Department at 72.9 per cent, the Public Works (Buildings and Roads) Department at 68.6 per cent, the Social Justice and Empowerment Department at 63.2 percent and the Public Health Engineering Department at 62.9 per cent.

Similarly, the Police Department had spent 61 per cent of its budget, the Transport Department 58.7 per cent, the Secondary Education Department 55.7 percent and the Higher Education Department 51.9 per cent. Funds were also being effectively utilised in key sectors such as Health, Medical Education and Research, and Primary Education. The pace of expenditure is expected to increase significantly as ongoing works are completed.

The Chief Minister directed all departments to work proactively to ensure proper utilisation of budgetary allocations for development works. He also emphasised that there must be no compromise on the quality of construction.

Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said he would review budget expenditure again at the end of December and directed that every department achieve at least 90 per cent expenditure by then.

He said Rs 100 crore had been received from the Central Government under the AMRUT scheme and directed officers to proactively ensure effective utilisation of these funds to accelerate urban development. The Chief Minister expressed satisfaction that incidents of stubble burning in the state had been negligible this year. He also expressed satisfaction over figures indicating higher sugarcane production than last year and an increase in sugar production. Keeping the forthcoming Commonwealth and Olympic Games in view, the Chief Minister directed that two to three sports stadiums conforming to international standards be developed in the state. He also reviewed the construction of stadiums at the Sports University in Rai and for persons with disabilities at Daulatabad in Gurugram, and issued necessary directions.

Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said the State Government seeks to ensure that every rupee provided in the budget is utilised with transparency, accountability and a commitment to public welfare, giving fresh impetus to the state's overall development and realising the vision of Viksit Haryana.

Chief Secretary Sh. Anurag Rastogi, Additional Chief Secretaries Dr. G. Anupama, Sh. A. K. Singh and Sh. Vijayendra Kumar, Principal Secretaries Sh. Pankaj Yadav and Sh. Vijay Singh Dahiya; Commissioners and Secretaries Dr. Amit Kumar Agrawal and Sh. C. G. Rajini Kaanthan.

Worth up to Rs 40 lakh abroad, Le Corbusier-designed heritage manhole covers stolen in Chandigarh, 2 held

CHANDIGARH. (AGENCY)



The Chandigarh Police have arrested two persons in connection with the theft of heritage sewer covers designed by renowned architect Le Corbusier and recovered four such covers from their possession.

The thefts were reported from Sector 45 and 46. The incidents were captured on CCTV installed in the area. Inspector Naveen Kumar, in-charge of the Burail police post, said a police team led by him arrested the two accused after an intensive investigation. One of the accused is 14-year-old Raja Ram, resident of Sector 65 A, Mohali, and the other, identified as Mukesh, is a resident of Attawa in Sector 42, Chandigarh. The police have registered a case under Sections 303 (2) and 3 (5) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS). Section 317 (2) of the BNS has also been added at the Sector 34 police station. All four iron sewer covers have been recovered and taken into police possession, the Inspector said. The heritage covers, designed by Le Corbusier, bear an impression of his master plan for Chandigarh. The heritage items are fetching record prices in the auctions held at the foreign countries. Such covers have fetched prices ranging from Rs 15 lakh to Rs 40 lakh at auctions abroad. The covers have been smuggled out of Chandigarh in the past and subsequently sold at international auctions. Naveen said the accused were planning to break the covers into pieces and sell them to scrap dealers. However, the police arrested them before they could carry.

Haryana Govt Extends Contractual Engagement of Employees Under Outsourcing Policy and HKRNL Till Dec 31

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH



The Haryana Government has extended the contractual engagement of employees appointed under Part-II of the Outsourcing Policy and personnel deployed through the Haryana Kaushal Rozgar Nigam Limited (HKRNL) by 2 months, up to December 31, 2026.

An order issued by Chief Secretary Sh. Anurag Rastogi stated that the contractual engagement of employees appointed against sanctioned posts under Part-II of the Outsourcing Policy, which was earlier extended up to October 31, 2026, has now been further extended from November 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026. Similarly, the contractual engagement of personnel deployed through HKRNL in various government departments, boards and corporations, whose contract period had expired on October 31, 2026, has also been extended up to December 31, 2026.

CM Saini Reviews Infrastructure and Energy Projects, Directs Officials to Expedite Completion

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH



Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini directed officials to ensure that all major development projects are completed within the stipulated timelines while maintaining high quality standards. He made it clear that unnecessary delays or negligence in the execution of projects would not be tolerated. Contractors responsible for delays in project execution must be penalised as per rules. Furthermore, contractors who repeatedly delay works or fail to adhere to prescribed standards should not be awarded any new projects in the future.

The Chief Minister was chairing the 14th high-level review meeting of the State PRAGATI Portal (SPP), in Chandigarh on Wednesday. The meeting reviewed in detail the progress of major infrastructure and energy sector projects worth more than Rs. 75 crore currently underway in the state. He directed officials of all departments to work in close coordination and resolve bottlenecks affecting projects on priority so that development works could be completed on time.

Review of Gurugram Global City and Shri Krishna AYUSH University

During the review of the Gurugram Global City Project (Phase-I), officials informed the Chief Minister that the project was progressing smoothly. To strengthen connectivity and basic infrastructure in the area, tenders for roads connecting the project with Pataudi Road and the Central Peripheral Road (CPR) have been completed, along with other administrative formalities. Similarly, the project related to the establishment of Shri Krishna AYUSH University, Kurukshetra, was also reviewed. Officials informed the Chief Minister that the tender for the project, being implemented through the Haryana State Industrial and Infrastructure Development Corporation (HSIIDC), had been issued and an agreement had also been signed with the contractor.

The progress of EMC Sohna and IMT Sohna was also reviewed during the meeting. Officials informed the Chief Minister that 77 per cent progress had been achieved in the EMC Sohna project.

Briefs News

Vishnudutt Selected for Dhanpat Singh Sangi Lifetime Achievement Award 2026

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH. Sh. Vishnudutt, grandson of legendary Saang artist Pandit Lakhmi Chand, has been selected for the prestigious Shri Dhanpat Singh Sangi Lifetime Achievement Award 2026 for his contribution to Haryana's rich folk theatre tradition. He will be honoured with a cash award of Rs 1 lakh and a citation. Dr. Aditya Dahiya, Director, Information, Public Relations and Languages Department, Haryana, said Saang holds a special place in the state's cultural heritage. Beyond entertainment, it has served as a powerful medium for conveying social values, moral teachings and the everyday experiences of rural communities through folk theatre. He said the department organises the State-Level Saang Mahotsav every year to preserve this cultural legacy, promote traditional performing arts and encourage artists who have dedicated themselves to keeping the art form alive. The State-Level Saang Mahotsav for 2025–26 was held from February 23 to 27, 2026, at the auditorium of the Haryana Kala Parishad in Kurukshetra. During the five-day Mahotsav, artists from across the state showcased Haryana's traditional folk theatre through Saang performances combining folk music, acting and dialogue delivery. Explaining the selection process, Dr. Aditya Dahiya said the award recipient was chosen through a structured evaluation by two committees.

Applications Invited for Science Education Promotion Scholarship Scheme from Today

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH. The Haryana Government has invited online applications under the Science Education Promotion (POSE) Scholarship Scheme 2026-27 from November 12, 2026, to encourage meritorious students pursuing higher education in basic and natural sciences. A spokesperson for the Haryana State Council for Science, Innovation and Technology said that the objective of the scheme is to promote interest among meritorious students in the field of science and provide them with financial assistance to pursue higher education. Sharing details regarding eligibility and other guidelines, the spokesperson said that interested students can visit the official website of the Directorate of Science and Technology, Haryana, at https://dst.highereduhry.ac.in and access the scheme guidelines through the 'Student' tab. Students can also apply directly through the portal https://harchhatravratti.highereduhry.ac.in. They are required to first register themselves under the 'Student' tab and subsequently submit their online applications.

Haryana Steps Up Efforts to Strengthen Dairy Sector and Boost Livestock Farmers' Income : Rana

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH





Haryana Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Minister Sh. Shyam Singh Rana said the state government is taking sustained measures to enhance the income of livestock farmers, strengthen dairy infrastructure and create greater economic opportunities in rural areas.

Highlighting various initiatives undertaken to promote animal husbandry, the Minister said the government is focusing on financial assistance, modern infrastructure, breed improvement and value addition in the dairy sector to make livestock rearing more productive and economically rewarding.

Sh. Sh. Shyam Singh Rana said that, in line with Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi's vision, environmental conservation and livestock development remain integral to the country's economic priorities. The Haryana Government is pursuing initiatives aimed at strengthening these sectors while supporting the livelihoods of farmers and livestock rearers.

Giving details of financial assistance for cattle welfare, the Minister said approximately Rs 361 crore was disbursed between October 2024 and November 2026 as fodder grants for cattle housed in registered Gaushalas and Nandishalas across the state, as well as rehabilitated cattle. He said efforts are also being made to promote dairy processing and encourage the consumption of nutritious milk-based products. As part of these initiatives, several value-added products have been launched, including pistachio- and saffron-flavoured milk, barley and sorghum laddoos, pearl millet laddoos and mango lassi. The Minister said particular emphasis is being placed on upgrading dairy infrastructure, especially at the cooperative society level. To strengthen milk chilling facilities and improve milk handling, 80 Bulk Milk Coolers were allocated during 2024-26. Highlighting progress in livestock breed improvement, Sh. Rana said a modern Sex-Sorted Semen Laboratory has been established in Hisar at a cost of approximately Rs 18.63 crore. The facility is aimed at supporting scientific breeding practices and improving the genetic potential of livestock in the state.

Delay in 25 Mega Projects Pushes Costs Up by Over Rs 2 Lakh Crore, BJP Must Answer : Kumari Selja

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH



The Sirsa MP, Former Union Cabinet Minister, General Secretary of All India Congress Committee, Incharge of Uttarakhand and Congress Working Committee (CWC) member Kumari Selja questioned the functioning of the BJP governments at the Centre and in Haryana, saying that the country's real development cannot be achieved through the politics of changing the names and formats of development schemes launched during Congress rule and presenting them as new achievements. Selja said that, according to news reports based on the Centre's project monitoring report for October 2026, the cost of 1,853 major projects had increased by approximately Rs 3.22 lakh crore. The cost of 25 mega projects alone had risen by around Rs 2.11 lakh crore. She said the situation raised serious questions about government monitoring, time-bound implementation and financial accountability. Referring to urban development initiatives, Kumari Selja said that after the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission was launched during the Congress government.

Haryana's J.C. Bose University and Romania's Technical University of Cluj-Napoca Chart a Path to a Dual Degree and European Mobility

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH



Students of J.C. Bose University of Science & Technology, YMCA, Faridabad, will soon have a direct pathway to complete half of their engineering degree in the European Union.

A delegation comprising University's Registrar Prof. Ajay Ranga and Prof. Sanjeev Goyal, currently on an ongoing European outreach visit, has finalized a roadmap with the Technical University of Cluj-Napoca in Romania for dual degrees, exchange programmes, scholarships, and joint innovation programmes.

Under the agreed framework, the two universities will launch a 2 + 2 dual degree programme in Computer Engineering and Mechanical Engineering. Participating students will complete two years of study in Faridabad and two years at Cluj-Napoca, earning recognized degrees from both institutions.

Subject to administrative approvals, the first cohort of about 15 students is targeted for the upcoming academic session. To keep international education affordable, the Romanian University has offered scholarships covering accommodation and meals for short-term student exchanges. Besides, exploring fund support to bring tuition down to nominal levels for selected students of J.C. Bose University.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Sanjay Kaushik commended the international collaboration, stating that the partnership opens transformative global avenues for students for academic excellence, research and innovation, giving them access to top-tier European technical education while strengthening the university's global academic footprint. The proposed dual degree and joint innovation initiatives will also help our students develop a global outlook, he added. The collaboration also establishes reciprocal academic mobility, bringing Romanian engineering students to the Faridabad campus for specialized training in anti-drone technology, electronic warfare, and artificial intelligence data centres. Also, a joint incubation programme will enable European student innovators to participate in two-week workshops in Haryana, gaining direct mentorship from J.C. Bose University's alumni network, industry leaders, and potential investors.

Strategic European Collaboration Covers Exchange Scholarships, Joint Incubation, and Reciprocal Technical Training

During the visit, the University delegation held strategic discussions with TUCN Rector Prof. Vasile ?opa, Dean of Automation and Computer Science Prof. Vlad Mure?an, and International Relations Director Prof. Nicolae Vlad Burnete.

Haryana to Allot 2,651 Fair Price Shops Across State

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH

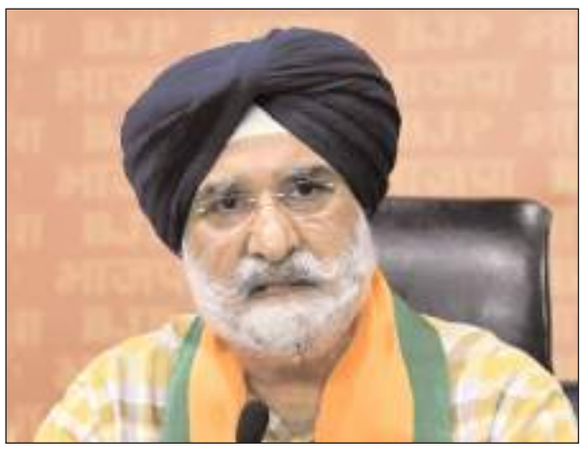


The Haryana Government has decided to allot licences for 2,651 vacant Fair Price Shops (FPS) across the state to improve access to subsidised foodgrains for eligible families and strengthen the Public Distribution System (PDS). The Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department has extended the deadline for submitting online applications for these shops to November 25, 2026, providing additional time to interested applicants. The earlier deadline was November 10, 2026. Giving details, an official spokesperson said the initiative would particularly benefit residents of remote and underserved areas where existing ration depots are located at considerable distances.

The allocation of new Fair Price Shops would make essential food supplies more accessible while creating self-employment opportunities for eligible applicants. The spokesperson said that 33 percent reservation has been provided for women in the allotment process, reflecting the state government's emphasis on promoting women's economic participation and entrepreneurship at the grassroots level. The spokesperson said eligible applicants can submit their applications online through the Haryana Antyodaya SARAL Portal at https://saralharyana.gov.in until November 25, 2026. The online application portal was launched by the Chief Minister of Haryana on October 10, 2026, to facilitate the allotment process. Detailed guidelines, eligibility criteria and application instructions are available on the department's official website, https://haryanafood.gov.in.

NDMC to plant 3 lakh tulip bulbs across Lutyens Delhi next season : LG Taranjit

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)



Delhi Lieutenant Governor Taranjit Singh Sandhu on Tuesday visited the New Delhi Municipal Council's nursery at Lodhi Garden and reviewed their efforts to grow tulips locally, with the civic body planning to plant three lakh bulbs in its area in the coming season. BuyMaps For the forthcoming season, around 4.67 lakh tulip bulbs are planned to be procured for the NDMC and Delhi Development Authority (DDA) areas. This includes three lakh bulbs for the NDMC area and 1.67 lakh for the DDA. The NDMC has also begun efforts to reduce its dependence on imported tulip bulbs by growing and storing them locally. The initiative, started in 2022, has yielded around 40,000 bulbs of different sizes over the previous seasons, which are currently stored at its tulip growth-cum-storage chamber at Lodhi Garden, according to an official statement. Of these, around 24,000 bulbs will be planted across the NDMC area, while the remaining bulbs will be used for trials to improve their size through controlled growth. During his visit, Sandhu inspected the high-tech nursery, tulip growth and storage chamber, composting facilities, cactus house and machinery used for horticultural maintenance. The LG said the initiative could serve as an example for other agencies to promote their cultivation, the statement said.

This includes three lakh bulbs for the NDMC area and 1.67 lakh for the DDA. The NDMC has also begun efforts to reduce its dependence on imported tulip bulbs by growing and storing them locally.

The NDMC is also planning to develop a tulip garden at Nehru Park this year. Tulips will also be planted at prominent locations such as Shanti Path lawns, 11 Murti and various roundabouts. The civic body will also sell tulips in pots to the public. Tulips were first introduced in the NDMC area in 2017-18, when around 17,000 bulbs were planted. Their plantation has increased over the years. Sandhu also inspected the high-tech nursery, spread over around 300 square metres, which has the capacity to produce 18,000-20,000 plants per cycle, with four production cycles annually.

The cactus house at the nursery has around 400 specimens of different varieties of cacti and succulents. He also witnessed the functioning of the NDMC's tree ambulance, which is equipped to treat diseased trees through the spraying of insecticides, pesticides and fungicides. The vehicle also carries equipment for tree surgery, including the treatment of trees with hollow trunks, and machinery such as power chain saws and tree pruners. During the visit, the lieutenant governor distributed sweets among the horticulture department's ground staff and appreciated their contribution to maintaining the area's green spaces.

India's population crosses 1.48 billion? AIIMS Delhi billboard goes viral

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)

A billboard purportedly displaying India's estimated live population at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Delhi, has gone viral on social media. In no time it triggered debate over the country's growing population and the accuracy of the figures. According to a video circulating online, India's population crossed 1,48,16,37,145 (approximately 1.48 billion) on November 10 at 7:27 pm. The display has attracted considerable attention, with several social media users questioning the source of the data and whether the figure represents an actual real-time population count. Amid the discussion, a social media user named Yash asked AI chatbot Grok to verify the population figure shown on the billboard. Responding



to the query, Grok said the AIIMS Delhi billboard displayed an estimated population of around 1.4816 billion on November 10. It added that the figure was broadly consistent with population projections based on United Nations (UN) data. However, Grok clarified that the billboard functions as a demographic projection clock rather than a real-time birth-and-death tracking system. It continuously updates the estimated population using average growth rates instead of recording individual births and deaths as they happen. According to Worldometer. India's estimated population stood at 1,476,625,576 at mid-2026, based on the United Nations' World Population Prospects 2024 revision. Its estimate for November 10 was approximately 1.4813 billion. Population projections suggest that India could cross the 1.5-billion mark by 2028, highlighting the country's continued demographic growth.

Boy falls into sewer in outer Delhi; rescue operation underway

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)



A four-year-old boy fell into a sewer in Baprola area of outer Delhi, following which teams from the Delhi Police, fire brigade and the National Disaster Response Force have been deployed to rescue him, police said on Wednesday. The incident took place on Tuesday afternoon near the Kheri Baba Pul in the Nangli Vihar Extension area.

Information regarding the incident was received at the Ranhola police station at 3.21 pm on November 10. The child had accompanied his mother to the Dass Garden Park. While moving towards the drain to relieve himself, he fell into the manhole, police said.

Following the incident, police, fire brigade personnel and local divers launched a massive search and rescue operation to locate the child. The teams worked for nearly seven hours, but the boy could not be traced. The rescue operation encountered difficulties due to poor visibility. The operation was subsequently suspended for the night, with arrangements being made to resume the search on Wednesday morning. The authorities are facing challenges due to the difficult conditions at the site and the sewer's connection with the drain. A case has also been registered at the Ranhola police station in connection with the incident.

Noida, Greater Noida commute to get easier as Cabinet approves Rs 2,390-cr metro rail link

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)



Commuting across Noida and Greater Noida will get easier, with the Union Cabinet on Wednesday approving a new metro line to ease congestion. Noida and Greater Noida are among India's fastest-growing planned cities and have become major residential and commercial hubs, prompting the Cabinet to expand metro connectivity.

"Their combined population grew more than three times from 7.39 lakh in 2011 to an estimated 24.7 lakh (as per masterplan) in 2021. To address growing demand, the Cabinet has approved the Noida Metro Aqua Line extension from Noida Sector 51 to Greater Noida Sector 04.

"The proposed Aqua Line extension is an 8.5-km elevated corridor with five new stations, linking Noida and Greater Noida West to the Delhi Metro through an interchange at Noida Sector 61," Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said. The project is to be completed in four years at an estimated cost of Rs 2,390 crore. Commenting on the decision, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, "As Noida and Greater Noida grow, why should daily commutes become longer? Here is some good news for the people of Noida and Greater Noida! The Cabinet has approved an extension of the Aqua Line Metro.

"Key advantages include easier access to offices, schools, hospitals and commercial hubs, less congestion, shorter commutes and a major boost to connectivity and ease of living," the PM said. The new line aims to integrate key zones of Noida, including commercial hubs such as Gaur City Mall, H&S Mall and office space, Blue Sapphire Mall and commercial space at Greater Noida Sector 04, IKEA at Noida Sector 51 and Anthurium Mall at Noida Sector 73. It will also connect major multinational companies and IT hubs, including the Tech Mahindra office, TCL Tech office at Noida Sector 60, Oil Industry Development Board at Noida Sector 73 and Golden I office and commercial space at Greater Noida Sector 4.

Educational institutions such as Delhi Public School at Noida Sector 122 and healthcare facilities, including Kailash Hospital, Rama Hospital at Noida Sector 70, Cloud9 Hospital at Noida Sector 51 and Rama Hospital at Noida Sector 62, are also among the locations listed. Major residential societies to benefit include Cleo County Residencies at Noida Sector 122 and Gaur City 1 and 2 at Greater Noida Sector 4.

Briefs News

4-year-old's body found in multiple parts from west Delhi's water treatment plant

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY) A four-year-old boy -- who fell into a sewer while playing near Kheri Baba Pul in west Delhi's Ranhola -- was found dead at the Nilothi Water Treatment Plant in Nihal Vihar after an extensive search operation. The minor's body was found in multiple parts, police said on Wednesday. According to the police, information about the incident was received at the Ranhola police station around 3.21 pm on November 10. The child was a resident of Mohan Garden and had been brought to Dass Garden Park by his mother. While moving towards the drain to attend to a natural call, he fell into a sewer manhole running alongside the service road near the Ganda Nala. Following the incident, the police, fire brigade and National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams launched a search-and-rescue operation. Rescue teams followed the sewer and drain route, which eventually led them to the Nilothi Water Treatment Plant in Nihal Vihar, where body was found. The body was sent to the Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital for preservation and post-mortem. DNA profiling will further be conducted to establish the identity of the deceased. A case under Section 106(1) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) has been registered. Further investigation is under way.

Former VP Dhankhar collapses during morning walk, admitted to AIIMS

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY) Former vice president Jagdeep Dhankhar was admitted to AIIMS here after he fell unconscious during his morning walk on Wednesday, sources said. Details about his health condition were not immediately available. AIIMS authorities have not issued an official statement so far. Security personnel accompanying Dhankhar took him home in a PCR vehicle after he collapsed during the morning walk and remained unconscious for a few minutes. An ILBS medical team and AIIMS doctor Sandeep Seth subsequently attended to him and provided medical care. However, in view of his concerning health condition, Dhankhar was rushed to AIIMS in an ambulance, the sources said. The 75-year-old former vice president has been admitted to the hospital's Cardio-Neuro Centre and is currently under the care of the Department of Cardiology for medical evaluation and treatment, they said. Dhankhar served as India's 14th vice president from August 2022 until his resignation in July 2025.

Ramanujan College suspends 3rd year student over 'enticing' female freshers

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY) The administration of Delhi University's (DU) Ramanujan College has suspended a third-year student until February 1, 2027, following allegations that he tried to persuade female students, including freshers, to accompany him to a concert in Ahmedabad by offering gifts, money and other incentives. The student, Anas Khan, who is pursuing BA (Honours) Hindi in Semester V, was suspended. The college took the decision after its proctorial committee examined the complaint, heard Khan's explanation and considered the findings of a preliminary inquiry. According to the suspension order, Khan has been accused of approaching female students and offering them monetary benefits, gifts and other inducements to travel to Ahmedabad to attend a Diljit Dosanjh concert. As part of the disciplinary action, Khan has been prohibited from attending regular academic activities and participating in extracurricular programmes on campus during the suspension period. However, he will be allowed to appear for scheduled university examinations. He can also visit the college to complete pending internal assessments or assignments, subject to prior permission from the proctor. The college has further asked him to furnish a written undertaking acknowledging the seriousness of the allegations and assuring that such conduct will not be be repeated. It has cautioned that any similar incident or further involvement in serious indiscipline could invite more stringent action, including termination from the institution, in accordance with due process. The controversy has also led to Khan distancing himself from the National Students' Union of India (NSUI), with which he was associated and whose candidate he was during the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) elections. The organisation had suspended him on September 12, citing alleged anti-organisational activities and indiscipline during the election period. In a statement issued on Tuesday, NSUI said Khan had been suspended.

Stay 'out of love' : Delhi court upholds eviction of son, daughter-in-law from mother's home

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)



A Delhi court has upheld an eviction order against a man and his wife, directing them to vacate a room in the house of his widowed mother, who had allowed them to stay there temporarily out of affection. District Judge Sumit Dalal was hearing the couple's appeal against a trial court order directing them to hand over possession of a room to the 65-year-old woman and dismissed the plea, granting them 30 days to vacate. In an order dated November 5, the court said, "The defendants have admitted that they were permitted to reside in one room 'temporarily' out of love and affection. They are, on their own showing, licensees, whose licence was revocable at the will of the plaintiff." The court said that a son and daughter-in-law do not acquire any legal right to remain in their parents' house merely because they were permitted to live there for some time. The court said that the eviction decree was confined to one room in the house and not the entire property. As it happened, the woman had purchased the property in 2017 for Rs 11.75 lakh and allowed her son and daughter-in-law to occupy a room on the ground floor. According to her, the arrangement was temporary, and the couple was required to pay a monthly rent of Rs 4,000 and take care of her. She alleged that they stopped paying rent after a few months, refused to vacate, and kept assuring her that they would leave when they have found accommodation. The couple challenged the eviction order, claiming that they had contributed towards the purchase and construction of the house and invested money in its renovation. They also alleged that their previous counsel made admissions in the written statement without their knowledge. Rejecting their arguments, the court noted that both defendants had signed.

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Festive liquor sales rise 13% in Delhi, over 3 crore bottles go off shelves

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)



Liquor sales in the national capital increased 13 per cent year-on-year during the festive fortnight ending Diwali, mopping up around Rs 600 crore, officials said on Tuesday. BuyMaps According to official data, 3.31 crore liquor bottles of different brands were sold this year, compared to 2.96 crore bottles in the fortnight leading up to Diwali in 2025. The Excise department recorded a total sale of Rs 589.17 crore in the festive fortnight this year, compared to Rs 518.97 crore in the same period a year earlier. Also, the department garnered over Rs 79 crore in liquor sales a day before Diwali, on November 7. The festival of lights was a dry day and all liquor stores were closed in the city, as per a previous order by the department. The liquor sale on Diwali eve stood at Rs 79.25 crore this year with 40.45 lakh liquor bottles going off the shelves, compared to the sale of 34.70 lakh bottles worth Rs 63.40 crore on the same day a year ago, the data showed. Liquor sales in Delhi during the two weeks preceding Diwali in 2026.

Sirsa calls Sonia memoir 'bundle of lies', accuses her of whitewashing Congress's role in 1984

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)



Delhi Minister Manjinder Singh Sirsa on Wednesday launched a scathing attack on Congress leader Sonia Gandhi over her memoir Belonging: A Journey of Love, accusing her of attempting to whitewash the Gandhi family's legacy in connection with the 1984 Operation Blue Star and the subsequent anti-Sikh violence.

Describing the book as a "bundle of lies", Sirsa alleged that the memoir sought to justify the actions of the then Congress leadership rather than acknowledge the suffering of the Sikh community. He said the book was an attempt to defend the Gandhi family against questions that have remained unresolved for more than four decades. "The book should be called 'The Bundle of Lies'. It cannot be called 'The Journey of Love'," Sirsa said. Questioning Sonia Gandhi's account of Indira Gandhi's reaction to the Army operation at the Golden Temple in June 1984, Sirsa referred to a passage in which she describes the former Prime Minister as being in tears after watching footage showing bodies lying on the ground. The passage reads, "I could see her face wet with tears, the tears of pain and regret. I think sorrow at the manner in which the siege has ended, at large number of lives lost." Rejecting this account, Sirsa alleged that Indira Gandhi had never expressed genuine remorse over the operation or its consequences. He claimed that British military advisers had assisted Indian intelligence in preparing a contingency plan ahead of the operation, citing British documents that, according to him, referred to the involvement of a military adviser in February 1984.

He also questioned the timing of the operation, alleging that it was deliberately conducted around the martyrdom day of Guru Arjan Dev to ensure a large presence of women and children inside the complex. Sirsa claimed that the military action extended beyond the Golden Temple and that around 40 other gurdwaras were also targeted. Moving to the anti-Sikh violence that followed the assassination of Indira Gandhi in October 1984, Sirsa questioned Sonia Gandhi's assertion that Rajiv Gandhi could not have been responsible for the crimes committed during the violence. He alleged that the attacks were organised and that Sikh households had been identified before mobs targeted them. Naming Congress leaders Sajjan Kumar, Jagdish Tytler, HKL Bhagat and Kamal Nath, Sirsa accused the party of shielding leaders facing allegations of involvement in the violence. Referring to Sonia Gandhi's account that only a handful of Congress workers were arrested and that one was still serving a sentence, Sirsa said she should have specifically mentioned Sajjan Kumar, who is serving a life sentence in connection with the 1984 anti Sikh riots cases. Why is she hesitant to mention his name and explain how her party continued to protect him?" he asked. Sirsa also questioned Sonia Gandhi's reference to four commissions and nine committees constituted to examine the violence, alleging that successive Congress governments failed to act on their findings. Citing the Marwah inquiry, Jain Banerjee Committee, Narula Committee and Nanavati Commission, among others, he claimed that investigations were discontinued, recommendations were ignored and action against the accused was delayed. He alleged that several cases took years to reach trial and accused the Congress leadership of obstructing.

The passage reads, "I could see her face wet with tears, the tears of pain and regret. I think sorrow at the manner in which the siege has ended, at large number of lives lost.

Open Search
EDITORIAL

Youth Should Become Job creators, not job seekers

India's economic progress is based not only on large industries and investments but also on small businesses, new enterprises and self-employment opportunities. The economy of any country becomes stronger when every section of society gets an equal opportunity to advance on the basis of its talent and capabilities. With this vision, the Central Government launched the Stand-Up India Scheme. The primary objective of this scheme is to empower entrepreneurs belonging to Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and women by providing them with financial assistance to establish their own businesses. For a long time, the shortage of financial resources has remained a major obstacle to entrepreneurship in India. In particular, women and members of disadvantaged communities often find it difficult to obtain bank loans to start their businesses. In many cases, despite having talent, experience and promising business ideas, people are unable to turn their dreams into reality due to a lack of adequate capital. The Stand-Up India Scheme is an important initiative aimed at addressing this challenge.

The scheme was launched on April 5, 2016. Under its provisions, every bank branch is encouraged to facilitate bank loans to at least one entrepreneur belonging to the Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe and at least one woman entrepreneur for setting up a new enterprise. The scheme provides loans ranging from Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 1 crore for establishing greenfield enterprises, meaning businesses being set up for the first time. These loans are available for activities in the manufacturing, services, trading and agriculture-related sectors.

The significance of this scheme is not limited to financial assistance alone. Its broader objective is to bring people into the mainstream of entrepreneurship who have remained deprived of business opportunities due to economic and social circumstances. When a woman establishes her own enterprise or a young person from the Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe community starts a business, the benefits extend beyond an individual family. Such initiatives generate new employment opportunities and also strengthen the local economy.

The scheme is equally important from the perspective of women's empowerment. Today, women are establishing their identities in every field, including education, science, technology, trade and industry. However, a large number of women still lack adequate opportunities to make independent financial decisions and establish businesses. Providing them with access to bank loans and institutional support is an important step towards social transformation. Similarly, encouraging young people from Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities to enter entrepreneurship can help reduce economic inequalities. However, several challenges remain in the effective implementation of the scheme. Even today, many eligible people in rural areas are not fully aware of its benefits. Complicated banking procedures, documentation requirements, preparation of project reports and delays in loan approvals often discourage aspiring entrepreneurs. Merely providing financial assistance is not enough. Proper training, technical guidance, access to markets and knowledge of financial management.

The cockroach movement is a revolt against the tyranny of 'merit'

PRANNV DHAWAN

The Chief Justice of India recently dismissed these protesters as cockroaches. His remarks reproduced the societal indignity heaped on non-toppers.



The cockroach movement is not a youth tantrum about jobs and exam leaks. It is a revolt of India's non-topper class against a theory of citizenship that has governed the country for decades. Under this theory, the topper who clears entrance exams is the constructive citizen. They build institutions, staff the state, and write policy. Everyone else is ballast. They are just beneficiaries of the topper's labour or a sour demographic dividend. The Chief Justice of India recently dismissed these protesters as cockroaches. His remarks reproduced the societal indignity heaped on non-toppers.

This system has a hidden clause where merit works as moral immunity. The achiever class rarely accounts for itself. The engineering graduate who demands a crore in dowry, the officer who presides over a culture of petty extraction, the celebrated professional whose conduct would end the career of anyone without an abbreviation after their name, all are cushioned by the presumption that rank equals virtue. Credentials do not merely open doors. They close inquiries.

Meanwhile, the institutions manufacturing this merit are failing in plain sight. This summer, national medical entrance examination results were cancelled after answers leaked. This affected over two million students. Many of their families had sold possessions or taken loans for years of coaching, which adds up to 13.53 per cent of the household income (NCAER, 2024). The so-called meritorious system is not just exclusionary. For the millions who feed themselves into it, it can be ruinous.

The non-topper no longer sees failure as their own, but rather as a failure of the prescribed route. The disenchantment with a system that has failed to accommodate expectations has led the non-topper majority to reject the topper's definition of merit, their language of respectability, their prescribed methods of resistance, and their monopoly over what a serious political movement should look like.

What the Cockroach movement has done is reclaim three things the topper class had treated as its private property. The first is nationalism. Protesters carry the tricolour and clean public spaces in cockroach costumes. They refuse the suggestion, amplified by pro-government television, that their dissent is a foreign plot. They insist they love the country at least as much as those who rank above them. This steadfast attitude is helping them redefine nationalism beyond mere tokenistic patriotism, national security, national pride, cultural identity, etc., and is raising it to its logical next level for a 79-year-old nation-state. That is, to include the rights to fair examinations, question public institutions, protest, demand transparency, and the right to receive equal treatment from the state, irrespective of status assigned by "merit. The second is effectiveness. This party-less movement built a national presence in weeks. They have no patron and no funding. Yet, they forced the government to change its tone. They proved you do not need a sophisticated counter-ideological network to challenge the state. As opposed to the hierarchical order of the parties, cockroaches crawl out in horizontal networks forged by social media. Participation and feedback are immediate. The state struggles to crush horizontal networks when people swarm at random places and times. By acting collectively, they proved Hannah Arendt right: Power springs up between men when they act together and vanishes the moment they disperse.

The third, and most consequential, is the claim to a stake in the nation. The non-topper wants to be the author of policy rather than its object. They have reclaimed their agency. The broken system made non-toppers feel their lack of achievement disqualified them from respect and authority. But democracy is built on (as Fukuyama reminds us) isothymia: The desire to be respected as an equal. The non-topper asserts that this dignity should not depend on "achievements". The cockroach movement is reclaiming dignity from a system that has converted structural failure into personal shame. There is a historical echo here. Christophe Jaffrelot described the 1990s rise of OBC and Dalit legislators as India's silent revolution. It was a plebeianisation of politics that broke upper-caste hold on legislatures. The cockroach movement is a second plebeianisation, this time of public discourse rather than of office. It demands plebeian citizenship and the right to matter without a rank. The actors proudly wear an identity society used to demean them. The non-toppers are not waiting to become toppers before they speak. They reject that stake in politics demands exceptional discipline, sacrificial resistance, emotional restraint, intellectual polish or ideological purity. These missing traits are now being dismissed as unnecessary. Their political struggle with no heroes in it, looks refreshingly ordinary. Their unapologetic retreat after the New Delhi showdown proves movements can succeed without messianic leaders. However, this second wave of plebianisation is different in its composition. While the first through caste and parties, the cockroach movement moves through shared experience. Members share a set of daily encounters rather than a jati. They share the leaked paper. The coaching debt. The police barricade. The relative asking about their future at every festival. The non-topper confronts a conservative society every day without the buffer of credentials. The tantrums of traditional society fall hardest on those with no rank to hide behind. None of this means toppers are the enemy. The movement's founder studied at an Ivy League university. Professionals.

Capitalist impasse

PRABHAT PATNAIK

The Great GameÑ The moral of the story in democracies like the US and India is that you canÓt keep people down forever

Not just in India but over large parts of the world, students and youth are on the streets protesting against the regimes under which they live. The simultaneity and pervasiveness of these protests would suggest a common world conjuncture underlying them; such a commonality of conjuncture is indeed explicitly underscored by certain common grievances that these movements articulate no matter where they occur, such as the absence of employment opportunities and the appalling conditions under which education is imparted to the majority of students. The common conjuncture producing these movements is the stasis of neoliberal capitalism. The worldwide student and youth protests reflect the fact that neoliberalism, which had been so pervasively adopted, has finally run its course and has reached a dead end.

To be sure, the dead end of neoliberal capitalism has not taken the form of a Great Depression and mass unemployment, as the dead end of pre-War 'laissez-faire capitalism' had taken. It has rather assumed the form of a prolonged stagnation, in the course of which the working people have been mired in growing unemployment and stagnant or declining real incomes. The decade between 2011 and 2019 — that is, even if we do not take into account the effect of the pandemic — had seen the lowest annual growth rate of world gross domestic product for any decade since the Second World War, a rate not much higher than world population growth. This virtual stagnation in per capita real income in a period of widening income inequalities has spelt distress for vast masses of people across the world, including even in advanced capitalist countries; indeed, the stagnation itself is caused by the widening income inequalities that keep down consumption demand and hence aggregate demand.

The economist, Joseph Stiglitz, estimates that the average real wage of a male American worker in 2011 was marginally lower than in 1968. This is hardly surprising since neoliberalism, entailing relatively unrestricted movement of capital, including finance, across the borders of countries, makes capital into an international entity while the working classes continue to be organized along national lines. This causes an immense shift in the balance of class power; and rising income inequalities reflect this shift.

Neoliberalism not only pushes economies into stagnation through rising income inequality but it also incapacitates the State from taking measures to overcome such stagnation. John Maynard Keynes had pinned his hopes on State intervention to maintain high levels of employment in capitalist countries so that the appeal of a socialist revolution would disappear altogether; and social democracy had done precisely this to usher in high employment and growth in the aftermath of the War. For Keynesian State intervention to work, however, larger State expenditure cannot be financed by taxing the working people, who more or less consume their entire income, for then there would be no net increase in aggregate demand. Larger State expenditure would boost aggregate demand only if it is financed either through a larger fiscal deficit (in which case nobody is being taxed for it).

Migrants and a maze of deletions

MANISH TEWARI



The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, rolled out by the Election Commission of India (ECI) last year, is riddled with glaring anomalies. The nub of the problem lies in its intrinsic failure to map and enfranchise millions of internal migrants who leave their home and hearth in search of a better life within India. The story of these invisible people, for whom the Aadhaar programme was conceptualised in 2009-10, does not find even a cursory mention in the polarised and corrosive political discourse on electoral rolls. Ostensibly, more than 13.3 crore names have been struck off the draft rolls since August 2025. For the record, only 16 countries in the world have a population of over 10 crore. The Chief Election Commissioner says that such an all-pervasive exercise has been undertaken so that "no eligible voter is left out" and "no ineligible voter is included". Critics claim that these are targeted deletions. Lost between the two is a more prosaic reading that the map of deletions bears an eerie resemblance to the map of India's internal migration.

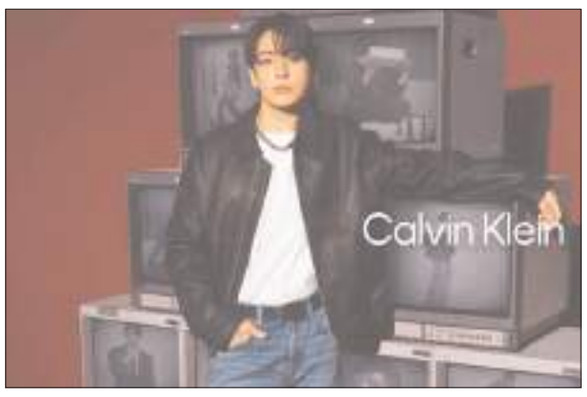
The National Sample Survey Office's Multiple Indicator Survey (MIS) of 2020-21 found that about 26.8% of the people in rural areas and about 34.6% in urban areas had their current place of residence different from their usual one. Most of the people move within a state (87.2%). Women move after marriage (93.4% in rural areas and 71.5% in urban areas) and men do it for work — 38.7% (rural) and 56.1% (urban). Several large urban labour markets draw heavily on other states. Delhi draws 64.7% of its urban migrants and 64% of rural ones from states across the country. Over a quarter of urban migrants in Maharashtra, Haryana, Jharkhand and Gujarat belong to other states. Telangana has about 23 migrant workers per 100 urban men, Maharashtra 18 and Delhi 17. Conversely, they number just 5 in Bihar and fewer than 8 in Uttar Pradesh. Overlaying the SIR in various states and union territories, the steepest draft roll deletions are in Delhi (32.78%), Chandigarh (31.76%), Telangana (21.7%), Maharashtra (21.14%) and Karnataka (19.47%). Jharkhand (16.5%), Haryana (16.39%), Tamil Nadu (15.2%), Gujarat (14.5%) and Chhattisgarh (12.88%) occupy the middle rung. Uttar Pradesh, a large labour-supplying state, is somewhat of an outlier in this regard. Its deletion rate is 13.21%, close to that of the destination states. Among the others, there are states such as Andhra Pradesh (10.8%), Kerala (8.6%) and Punjab (6.3%).

The traditional labour-supplying states bring up the rear — Bihar (8.3%), Rajasthan (7.7%), West Bengal (7.6%), Madhya Pradesh (7.4%) and Odisha (6%). As many as 2.04 crore names were struck off in Uttar Pradesh and 2.06 crore in Maharashtra, the highest in terms of numbers. Karnataka accounted for 99.32 lakh deletions. The dead, it turns out, are spread fairly evenly. Where a category split exists, deaths account for 1.5-4.2% of each state's rolls, while electors marked "shifted" or "absent" range from 4.3% in West Bengal to 29.9% in Delhi. The gap between states lies almost wholly in the categories that record mobility. Across all 18 sets of rolls, the deletion rate correlates with the MIS measure of urban work migration at 0.50, a moderate fit, and with Census-based net migration at 0.56. A cruder yardstick, the overall migration rate enhanced by marriage-related movement, shows almost no corresponding relationship. For the migrant, home is often where the vote is. In Delhi, district officials say some electors with more than one voter card preferred to stay registered in their native places. Only 2.5 lakh fresh enrolment applications, nearly half from first-time voters, arrived after 47.6 lakh names were dropped in Delhi. The low count of "shifted" and "absent" people in Bihar (4.6% of the applicants whose forms were received have not been found at their address and 2.3% have permanently shifted), Rajasthan (5.4%) and West Bengal (4.26%) indicate that migrants cling to their village electoral rolls. However, the pattern frays at the edges. UP, a large net sender of labour, still marked 14.06% of its residents as shifted or absent, suggesting that many migrants were struck off at home as well or preferred retaining their vote perhaps at their place of work. Odisha, despite a high MIS count of urban work migrants, recorded the lowest deletion rate of all. The pattern sharpens within states, where the city usually outstrips the hinterland. Greater Bengaluru dropped 45.1% of its electors under the ASDDO (absent, shifted, dead, duplicate, other) categories against the average of 19.54% for Karnataka. Hyderabad dropped 41%, Chennai 35% and Gurugram 29.3%. In UP, Lucknow and Ghaziabad topped the removals, while Bundelkhand districts recorded the fewest. Among them was Mahoba, whose young men started migrating for work to Delhi and Punjab nearly a decade ago. In Bihar, the heaviest district-wise deletions were in rural Gopalganj, Kishanganj and Purnia. The migration reading, however tidy, must yield to harder questions. Out of sight is often out of mind. In Murshidabad, a district of nearly 11 lakh migrant labourers, the West Bengal Migrant Workers' Union estimates that nearly 66,000 migrant workers in Samserganj, around 55,000 in Lalgola and about 40,000 in Bhagwangola have had their names removed through the SIR process. The Supreme Court was told that Bengal's tribunals ruled in favour of the voter on more than 75,000.

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Calvin Klein unwraps the icons with Jungkook of BTS for Holiday 2026

NEW DELHI. (AGENCY)



Calvin Klein, Inc., part of PVH Corp. [NYSE], today introduces its Holiday 2026 offering, including a personal edit of Calvin Klein icons selected by global brand ambassador Jung Kook of pop royalty BTS. From iconic denim silhouettes to the refined essentials he returns to again and again, Jung Kook's curated edit brings together his favorite Calvin Klein pieces for the holiday season. "There are certain Calvin Klein styles that I always come back to – especially the denim," said Jung Kook. "For this holiday edit, I had fun taking some of the most iconic fits and styling them in new ways for the season. I like that you can dress them up or keep things simple and still make each look your own." Directed by Alasdair McLellan, the campaign celebrates the Calvin Klein pieces Jung Kook returns to season after season, ranging from the brand's iconic jeans and underwear to staple knits, outerwear and accessories. From unboxings and gifting moments to dressing rituals and styling challenges, the campaign shines a light on Jung Kook's distinctive style and the effortless confidence that defines it. For Holiday 2026, Calvin Klein introduces new layers, logo staples and festive styles designed to pair with signature denim for effortless seasonal styling from the holiday party to after. The Barrel Jean's effortless fit and the 90s Straight's iconic silhouette create a casually put-together look when paired with marled yarn sweaters and classic crewnecks. Seasonal outerwear, including aviator, sleek leather and motorcycle jackets, paired with the Baggy jean for looks like that bring understated edge to classic holiday dressing. The campaign launches globally on November 9th across Calvin Klein retail, calvinklein.com and social platforms, as well as high-impact out-of-home placements. Calvin Klein is one of the world's leading global fashion lifestyle brands, founded in New York in 1968. Shaped by a way of living that meets culture, the brand's distinctive, modern aesthetic informs its approach to iconic product design and influential brand storytelling. Across underwear, jeans, apparel, accessories, home and fragrance, Calvin Klein creates essential pieces that translate its American fashion roots to an international audience. Global retail sales of Calvin Klein products were approximately $9 billion in 2025. Jung Kook (Jeon Jung Kook) is a South Korean singer, songwriter, and member of Pop Royalty BTS. Jung Kook has been proving his wide spectrum of musical talent through solo works such as "Euphoria," "My Time" and "Still With You," as well as collaborative singles with global artists including Lauv and Charlie Puth. Jung Kook is credited on multiple BTS tracks including the Japanese single "Your eyes tell," "Stay" from BE, and "Run BTS" from Proof. Jung Kook also participated in singing "Dreamers," the Official Soundtrack of FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022™, which he performed.

ORA Land Sells Out Phase 1 of Flagship BluBay Project in Karjat

MUMBAI. (AGENCY)

Demonstrating robust commercial traction and reinforcing investor confidence in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region's (MMR) high-growth corridors, ORA Land, the dedicated land development vertical of ORA Group, today announced the successful sell-out of Phase 1 of its flagship project, BluBay in Karjat. Within a record timeframe following its launch, ORA Land successfully sold 150 residential plots, generating over ?145 Crore in top-line revenue. Maiden plotted development vertical of ORA Group achieves swift commercial success, validating strong demand for wellness-focused, infrastructure-backed land assets in MMR. Celebrates milestone with an exclusive Channel Partner success meet at The St. Regis Mumbai, featuring



the Brand Ambassador of BluBay and India's T20 World Cup-winning captain Suryakumar Yadav. To mark this exceptional commercial milestone and honor the partner ecosystem that drove the rapid absorption, ORA Land hosted a grand Phase 1 Success Event at The St. Regis Mumbai, Lower Parel. The high-profile gathering brought together top-performing channel partners, real estate advisors, and corporate leaders. The highlight of the evening was a captivating fireside chat with India's T20 World Cup-winning captain and BluBay Brand Ambassador, Suryakumar Yadav (SKY), who shared insights on high performance, achieving balance, and his personal resonance with BluBay's signature #T60Life philosophy. The rapid absorption of Phase 1 highlights the accelerating capital shift toward organized, master-planned plotted communities that combine secure land ownership with resort-scale, wellness-driven infrastructure.

Moody's ups India's FY27 growth estimate to 7 pc on broad-based momentum

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)



Moody's Ratings on Wednesday said the Indian economy is expected to grow at a higher rate of 7 per cent in the current fiscal, led by broad-based economic momentum and energy supply shock resilience. In its Global Macro Outlook 2027-28, Moody's, however, said that near-term risks to growth persist as household consumption remains vulnerable to "intensifying and broadening price pressures", with headline inflation close to the upper end of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) 2-6 per cent target range, while a deficient southwest monsoon and strengthening El Nino conditions will weigh on agricultural output and rural demand. India's broad-based economic momentum and demonstrated resilience to the energy supply shock warrant upward revisions to our 2026-27 growth forecasts to 7 per cent from 6.5 per cent," it said. Robust consumption, improving investment dynamics and strong macroeconomic fundamentals imply that the economy appears well positioned to sustain growth near 7 per cent over the medium term, Moody's said. A sustained private investment boom that materially boosts manufacturing, employment and productivity could lift growth rates above Moody's baseline projections. With the RBI on track to raise rates further, tighter monetary policy could delay the recovery in private investment," Moody's added. India has adjusted to the energy price shock better than previously.

From Indian farms to American kitchens : Bharat Rohan takes its drone monitored spices to the US

NEW DELHI. (AGENCY)

BharatRohan Airborne Innovations Limited ("BharatRohan" or "the Company"), listed on BSE (SME) (BSE: 544535), today announced its entry into the United States through its step-down subsidiary, BharatRohan Inc. BharatRohan Inc. will launch a traceable, lab-tested spice range under the "BharatRohan" brand in Q1 2027, starting on Amazon and its own website. BharatRohan Inc., incorporated in Delaware, is a wholly owned subsidiary of Groeigids B.V., the Netherlands, which is wholly owned by the Company.

The United States imported spices worth about USD 2.1 billion in 2024, and India supplied about USD 374 million of that, or 18%. India is the dominant source for two of the staples in BharatRohan Inc.'s launch range: India is also the world's leading spice exporter. It exported spices worth USD 4.72 billion in 2024–25 (Spices Board India), and the United States was its second-largest destination (Ministry of Commerce and Industry, via PIB).

Food safety is a live concern for U.S. buyers. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has found Salmonella in 6.6% of imported spice shipments it sampled, and since 2024 has warned consumers about elevated lead levels in more than 20 ground cinnamon products. U.S. importers are also required to verify the safety of their foreign suppliers under the FDA's Foreign Supplier Verification Program. Farm-level data: the Company works with more than 58,000 farmers across over 2.6 lakh acres through its SourceAssure® platform, monitoring crops with drones through the growing season. Tested every batch: each batch is tested by NABL-accredited laboratories for pesticide residues against EU Maximum Residue Limits, microbiology and heavy metals. Proof on every jar: a QR code links each jar to its certificate of analysis and the farm where the spice was grown. Certified processing: the Company's India processing unit is undergoing FSSC 22000 certification, a scheme recognised by the Global Food Safety Initiative, expected in December 2026. Already operational in India: the same farm-to-pack model is already running in India, where the Company sells traceable, lab-tested spices directly to consumers through its SafeAssure store (safeassure.bharatrohan.in). BharatRohan Inc. extends this working model to the United States. BharatRohan Inc. will launch with eight to twelve single-origin staples, including turmeric and cumin, alongside signature blends. Sales will begin on Amazon and the company's own website in Q1 2027, followed by B2B ingredient supply, natural and specialty retail. and later conventional grocery and foodservice. Product will be sourced, tested and processed by the Company in India, giving its farmer network and processing plant a dedicated route to U.S. consumers. Amandeep Panwar, Chairman and Managing Director, BharatRohan Airborne Innovations Limited, said: "For ten years we have worked alongside. our farmers to grow better crops and prove it with data.

India's GDP growth to outpace China's by 3 percentage points by 2028 : Moody's

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)



India's economy is projected to grow much faster than China's over the next three years, with the gap between their growth rates expected to widen to 3 percentage points by 2028, according to Moody's Ratings.

In its Global Macro Outlook 2027-28 report, the ratings agency projected India's GDP growth at 7 per cent in 2028, compared with 4 per cent for China, highlighting the contrasting economic outlooks for the two Asian economies.

According to the report, India's economy is expected to grow at 7 per cent annually in FY2027. China's growth, meanwhile, is projected to slow from 4.5 per cent in 2026 to 4.2 per cent in 2027 and further to 4 per cent in 2028. "China's economy has been on a decelerating growth path for many years. We expect growth to moderate further, to 4.0% in 2028 from 4.5% in 2026," Moody's said. This would widen India's growth lead over China from 2.5 percentage points in 2026 to 3 percentage points in 2028. Highlighting India's economic strength, Moody's said, "Robust consumption, improving investment dynamics and strong macroeconomic fundamentals imply that the economy appears well positioned to sustain growth near 7% over the medium term." The ratings agency also raised India's growth forecasts for 2026-27 to 7 per cent from its earlier projections of 6.5 per cent, citing resilience to the global energy price shock and improving investment conditions. Moody's said a sustained increase in private investment could further strengthen India's manufacturing sector, employment and productivity, potentially pushing economic growth above its current projections. In contrast, the agency expects China's economic slowdown to continue amid weak domestic demand, prolonged difficulties in its property sector and growing dependence on exports. The report noted that China's retail sales grew just 1.1 per cent.

Russian Fintech A7 Announces Plans to Expand Cross-Border Payment Options for India at Mumbai Summit

MUMBAI : (AGENCY)



Russian fintech company A7 announced plans to expand cross-border payment options for businesses trading between India and Russia. At Unchained Summit India in Mumbai on 5th and 6th November 2026, its delegation presented an invoice service that lets buyers pay in digital currency while overseas suppliers receive funds by bank transfer. A7 identified India as a priority market, citing growth in payments through its network. According to company data, the volume of payments it processed to India from January to August 2026 was 60% higher than the total it processed to India during the entire 2025 calendar year. Launched in October 2026, the A7 International service allows businesses and individuals to pay overseas invoices in USDT, a stablecoin pegged to the US dollar. Suppliers can receive the funds in US dollars, euros, Chinese yuan or UAE dirhams.

Secret Temptation Reimagines Gourmand Perfumery with Three New Luxury Fragrances

NEW DELHI. (AGENCY)

A perfume can be made from various things and not always from a flower or traditional perfumery ingredient. Sometimes a favorite drink or dessert can be a source of inspiration as well. Secret Temptation has introduced its women's perfume range inspired from Raspberry Sorbet, Vanilla Latte and Basque Cheesecake.

Familiar sensory experiences have been reinvented in the realm of perfumery with the three fragrances. Thus, a new take on gourmand has been created crossing the territories of refreshing fruit, creaminess and rich sweetness. With 20% perfume oil concentration and 50ml size of each bottle, the inspiration behind the fragrances has been captured in a portable and handy format.

The first sip of your favorite dessert or drink can provide inspiration for a perfume. Secret Temptation Raspberry Sorbet took the first spoon of a cool, refreshing raspberry dessert. The fragrance opens with a splash of Italian Lemon and then develops to a softer, more playful note with the addition of Pink Marshmallow and Coconut Flakes. Finally, a note of Glazed Raspberry adds a juicy, fruity sweetness to the fragrance. Sorbet is a classic example of how a sweet food can be reinvented to include a multitude of facets and be as expressive as any other perfumery ingredient. The Middle Ground - Vanilla Latte: Warmth, Comfort and Creamy Indulgence Some pleasures are chosen for the comfort they provide, rather than for their ability to excite. Secret Temptation Vanilla Latte finds its muse in this kind of routine. The comforting and soft smell of honey and vanilla is complimented by the warm aroma of caramel and cream. The base of the scent is reminiscent of the creamy sweetness of a latte. Vanilla Latte is a sophisticated composition of notes that give the wearer a sense of comfort and familiarity. This kind of fragrance can easily become part of an individual's daily routine. It is a latte-inspired scent that is easy to wear and enjoy. The Final Note - Basque Cheesecake: Rich, Decadent and Distinctive Of the three, Secret Temptation Basque Cheesecake takes the cake as the most indulgent. Rich butter and caramelized sugar are the foundation of the fragrance of this dessert inspired perfume. A sugar glaze gives the composition a rich and full profile, decadent and indulgent like the dessert itself. Gourmand perfumes are sometimes given a bad rap for being "simple" due to their reliance on sweeter notes, but a good gourmand perfume has the potential to be easily memorable. The familiarity of food inspired notes within a perfume allows for an easy and quick association.



The first sip of your favorite dessert or drink can provide inspiration for a perfume. Secret Temptation Raspberry Sorbet took the first spoon of a cool, refreshing raspberry dessert.

Briefs News

Moody's raises India's growth forecasts to 7% on strong demand, investment

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY) Moody's Ratings has raised India's GDP growth forecasts to 7 per cent for the fiscal year ending March 2027 from its earlier projections of 6.5 per cent, citing strong domestic consumption, improving investment and the economy's resilience to higher global energy prices. In its Global Macro Outlook 2027-28 report released, the ratings agency said India's economic growth is expected to remain near 7 per cent over the medium term, with sustained private investment potentially pushing growth even higher. "India's broad-based economic momentum and demonstrated resilience to the energy supply shock warrant upward revisions to our 2026-27 growth forecasts to 7% from 6.5%," Moody's said. The report added, "Robust consumption, improving investment dynamics and strong macroeconomic fundamentals imply that the economy appears well positioned to sustain growth near 7% over the medium term." Moody's has also projected India's GDP growth at 7 per cent in 2028.

India's Q2 FY27 GDP growth pegged at 7.8%, GVA growth seen at 8-8.2%

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY) India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth is estimated at around 7.8 per cent in the second quarter of the financial year 2026-27 (Q2 FY27), while Gross Value Added (GVA) growth is expected to remain between 8 per cent and 8.2 per cent, according to a report by SBI Research. The report also projected nominal GDP growth, which includes the impact of inflation, at 11-11.5 per cent during the quarter. Our Dynamic Factor Model using 54 high frequency indicators across agriculture, industry and services indicate Q2 FY27 GDP growth Rs 7.8%. GVA growth may be between 8% to 8.2%. We are expecting the nominal GDP growth in the range of 11-11.5%," the report said. SBI Research estimated the GVA deflator at 4.1 per cent and the GDP deflator at 3.4 per cent. It noted that manufacturing growth in real terms was higher than nominal growth as the sector's deflator remained negative. Meanwhile, the agricultural deflator increased to 6.4 per cent, while the services sector deflator stood at 3.5 per cent. The report also highlighted continued pressure on manufacturing companies due to higher input costs, which have not been fully passed on to consumers through higher selling prices.

Adobe, Google expand AI partnership across creative tools

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY) Adobe and Google on Wednesday announced an expansion of their strategic partnership to integrate Google's advanced artificial intelligence (AI) models into Adobe's creative and productivity tools, including Photoshop, Acrobat, Premiere and Adobe Express. The partnership, announced at Adobe MAX, will also bring Adobe's tools to Google's platforms, including Gmail, Google Drive, Gemini, Gemini Enterprise and AI Mode in Google Search. According to a joint press release, "Google's latest imaging and video models will come to Adobe Firefly, Photoshop, Premiere, and Adobe Express, and Google's family of Gemini models will help power AI capabilities in Acrobat." Anil Chakravarthy, President and incoming CEO of Adobe, said, "Our expanded partnership combines Google's frontier AI with Adobe's industry-leading creative and productivity tools at global scale, enabling us to deliver differentiated experiences.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE

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

1	Name of Work with its Location	Part-B: Replacement of overaged PSI assets in PTNR and FDB section inconnection with Design, supply, erection, testing & commissioning for Augmentation/Replacement of overaged PSI assets in DLI area of Delhi division.
2	Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 3,72,77,205.79/-
3	Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 7,45,600/-
4	E-Tender Bid Online Submission Period	20.11.2026 (00.00 Hrs.) to 04.12.2026 (15:00 Hrs.)
5	E-Tender Bid Submission End Date & E-Tender Open Date & Time	04.12.2026 (15:00 hrs.)
6	Fund Allocation	Capital (PH-36)
7	Website particulars where complete details of tender documents can be seen	www.ireps.gov.in

E-Tender No.: 39-TRD-NDLS-2026-27 Dated: 10.11.2026 3939/2026

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Week after raids, ED summons Moga AAP MLA Amandeep Arora for questioning on Nov 25

MOGA : (AGENCY)



The Zonal Office of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in Chandigarh has summoned Aam Aadmi Party MLA from Moga, Dr Amandeep Kaur Arora, to appear for questioning on November 25. The directive follows a 36-hour search and seizure operation conducted at seven locations linked to the AAP legislator, her family members and close associates in Punjab last week. According to ED officials, the financial probe stems from a Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) case registered on the basis of a June 2024 Punjab Police FIR filed at the Dharamkot police station in Moga district. The initial police investigation highlighted alleged irregularities involving the fraudulent mutation of government, municipal and trust lands acquired for the construction of National Highway 754A, along with the wrongful disbursement of compensation funds to private accounts. After concluding its 36-hour search and questioning of the Moga MLA, ED officials had claimed last week that the probe stemmed from an FIR registered at the Dharamkot police station against Navdeep Singh, a patwari, Dilkush Kumari and others over the alleged manipulation of revenue records of government land in Adhraman village. This allegedly led to the wrongful disbursement of Rs 1,00,65,724 as compensation for land acquired for National Highway 754A. The ED said the compensation was credited to Dilkush Kumari's bank account, which was later frozen, and alleged the involvement of the MLA, her husband and associates in diverting the funds. It also alleged fraudulent acquisition or transfer, in favour of the MLA's relatives and associates, of Central Government, Punjab Government, Market Committee, Municipal Corporation and church trust land in Moga, including 52 marlas and 8 sarsahis belonging to the United Church of Northern India Trust Association. The agency said it had recovered documents and electronic devices indicating alleged benami properties, which were being examined.

The ED said the compensation was credited to Dilkush Kumari's bank account, which was later frozen, and alleged the involvement of the MLA, her husband and associates in diverting the funds.

Wangchuk issues SOS, questions 'rocket speed' rush for Ladakh hill council polls

SRINAGAR : (AGENCY)



With the Ladakh State Election Commission announcing December 4 as the polling date for the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) elections, climate activist Sonam Wangchuk and other regional leaders on Wednesday issued an "SOS appeal to the nation", accusing the UT Administration of moving at "rocket speed" to conduct the polls despite widespread opposition over their timing and format. In a post on X, Wangchuk said that while the Judicial Inquiry Commission report into the September 24 violence in Leh was progressing at a "snail's pace", the administration was rushing to conduct the council elections. While the Judicial Inquiry Commission report of September 24 incidents in Leh moves at snail's pace, even after a year of the incidents, and the talks on restoration of democracy have broken down, the UT Administration is moving at rocket speed to conduct some kind of 'Council Elections' here, apparently to have people of their choice installed to negotiate on democracy and safeguards here," he wrote. Wangchuk said December and January were the coldest and snowiest months in Ladakh, with temperatures dipping below minus 30 degrees Celsius in several places. He added that nearly half of the region's population migrates out during this period for education, holidays and pilgrimage. Moreover. weather reports show heavy snow in that whole week. People in every region of Ladakh are protesting against the type of councils and manner of conduct of these elections," Wangchuk added. In a video message, leaders from Leh and Kargil, including Ladakh MP Haneefa Jan, appealed to President Droupadi Murmu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union Home Minister Amit Shah, Leader of Opposition.

Briefs News

Hijack threat note found in Kolkata-Mumbai Air India flight; aircraft taken to isolation bay

KOLKATA. (AGENCY) A hijack threat note found in the washroom of a Mumbai-bound Air India flight before take-off on Wednesday morning prompted security officials to park the aircraft in an isolation bay of the airport here, an official said. The flight was scheduled to depart at 10.20 am. The note threatening that the plane would be hijacked at 11.10 am was found in the washroom just before take-off, said Vikram Singh, the director of the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport. All 105 passengers in the aircraft were deboarded, and it was taken to the isolation bay, he said. According to an official statement, the hijack note was found by the cabin crew inside the lavatory of Air India flight AI 2772, at 10.37 am. "The aircraft had 105 passengers on board when the note was detected. Necessary checks are under way by the agencies concerned," it said. Air India is yet to issue a statement.

Passengers have a narrow escape as Kolkata-Sairang train derails in Assam

ASSAM : (AGENCY) A locomotive and five coaches of the Kolkata-Sairang Express derailed at Digaru railway station in Assam on Wednesday morning, prompting the Northeast Frontier Railway to launch relief and rescue operations. No injuries or casualties have been reported, the CPRO, Northeast Frontier Railway, said. The incident occurred at around 6.54 am when Train No 13125, Kolkata-Sairang Express, was being received at Digaru station to give precedence to another train. The loco pilot failed to control the train's speed, resulting in the derailment. All passengers are safe and are being transported to their destinations by an alternative train. The General Manager, along with other senior officials, has proceeded to the site to oversee relief and restoration operations, the official added.

Muslim siblings light funeral pyre of Hindu woman in Keralam's Wayanad

WAYANAD : (AGENCY) Transcending religious boundaries, two Muslim siblings have performed the last rites of an 85-year-old Hindu woman they had cared for and loved as their mother for nearly five decades in this hill district of Keralam. Razak and Sulaiman stepped forward to perform the funeral rituals in accordance with Hindu customs when Kalyani Amma, who had no children or other relatives, passed away at Chithragiri in Muppainad panchayat, family sources said on Tuesday. The two siblings and their family had shared a close bond with Kalyani Amma, who had been their neighbour for nearly 50 years. They looked after her, taking care of her daily needs, arranging medicines and accompanying her to hospitals whenever necessary. She was also part of their family celebrations, and the affection between them grew over the years. Kalyani Amma had expressed her wish that Razak and Sulaiman, whom she considered her own sons, should perform her last rites after her death, they said. Respecting her wish, the siblings lit her funeral pyre and performed all the final rites according to Hindu traditions at a local Hindu crematorium.

Bihar gangrape survivor thrown off house roof after months of sexual assault, one arrested

PATNA : (AGENCY) A 30-year-old gang-rape survivor have allegedly been thrown off the roof of a building by a neighbour in Bihar's Begusarai district, leading to the man's arrest, police said on Wednesday. According to police, the injured woman was admitted to Sadar Hospital in Begusarai. Based on the victim's statement, her neighbour Bhongal Kumar was arrested, they said. Police said a case was registered under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and an investigation has been initiated. The woman's kin alleged that they were being pressured to withdraw the gang-rape case registered in June and the dastardly attack on Tuesday was part of those arm-twisting tactics. The woman was allegedly raped by five men on June 11 when she stepped out of her house to relieve herself. A cartridge-like object, a stone and a piece of wood were retrieved from her private parts during treatment at that time, according to police. All five accused had been arrested. Her family members have alleged that some of the gang-rape accused had previously entered her house about three months earlier and attempted to sexually assault her.

Maharashtra chief electoral officer disputes report on vote discrepancies, says figures misread

MUMBAI : (AGENCYC)



Maharashtra's chief electoral officer (CEO) has rejected findings of alleged discrepancies in the Election Commission of India's (ECI) internal records of the 2024 Assembly election, accusing The Reporters' Collective story as being misleading and disputing its interpretation of voting figures in Mumbai North and other constituencies. The CEO's office said the actual number of votes polled on election day was shared with polling agents of candidates through Form 17 and that these figures were tallied with the votes recorded on electronic voting machines (EVMs) during counting. There were no complaints regarding differences in figures of voting received from anyone in this regard. Reporters' Collective could have contacted us for any clarification," the CEO wrote on X (formerly Twitter). The Reporters' Collective had stated that it had approached poll panel with detailed questions but the commission treated the queries as a complaint and asked the publication to submit the data it had obtained.

DU student suspended after 'WhatsApp offers' to women to accompany NRIs to Diljit show

CHANDIGARH : (AGENCY)



A Delhi University student is at the centre of a controversy after alleged WhatsApp messages surfaced showing him offering female students money, gifts, concert tickets and travel arrangements to accompany NRI clients to Punjabi singer Diljit Dosanjh's concert in Ahmedabad. Anas Khan, a fifth-semester BA (Hons) Hindi student at Ramanujan College, has been suspended until February 1, 2027, following a preliminary inquiry by the college's Proctorial Committee. The controversy has also triggered a political face-off between the Congress-affiliated National Students' Union of India (NSUI) and the BJP-backed Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), with both organisations trading accusations over the issue. Anas Khan is a third-year student of Ramanujan College, Delhi University. He was identified as the vice-president of the college's NSUI unit in an appointment document dated August 28, shared by the ABVP. However, NSUI has distanced itself from Khan, saying he had already been suspended from the organisation during the Delhi University Students' Union (DUSU) elections over alleged indiscipline and anti-organisational activities. The controversy surfaced after screenshots of purported WhatsApp conversations began circulating on social media. According to the ABVP, the messages allegedly showed Khan approaching female students, including freshers, with offers of concert tickets, travel arrangements, VIP access and financial incentives to accompany NRI clients to Diljit Dosanjh's Ahmedabad concert, reports India Today. Some of the circulated messages reportedly mentioned payments ranging from Rs 10,000 to Rs 30,000, depending on the students' profiles.

Tourist falls to death from tandem paraglider at Bir-Billing; FIR registered against pilot

PALAMPUR : (AGENCY)



Bir-Billing, the internationally renowned paragliding destination in Kangra district, witnessed another tragic accident on Tuesday evening when a 26-year-old tourist from Greater Noida was killed after falling from a tandem paraglider during a recreational flight. The deceased has been identified as Shubham Dobliyal, who was holidaying in Himachal Pradesh with his sister and three cousins. He was reportedly flying with a local tandem pilot, identified as Vinay Kumar, when the incident occurred barely six minutes after take-off from Billing. According to preliminary reports, the tourist fell from the paraglider and landed in a dense forest near the designated landing zone. The pilot, however, managed to land safely and subsequently informed other pilots about the passenger's fall. A search operation was launched, and the victim's body was recovered from the forest late in the evening. The Kangra police have registered an FIR against the pilot at Bir police station on charges of causing death due to negligence. The exact circumstances leading to the tragedy are yet to be established. Kangra Superintendent of Police Kulbhushan Verma said the possibility of the passenger's safety belt becoming loose or snapping during the flight, as well as other factors, was being investigated. He said a detailed investigation would be necessary to establish the actual cause of the accident. Kangra Deputy Commissioner Hemraj Bairwa said the administration was examining all possible aspects of the incident. He pointed out that passengers undertaking tandem flights place their complete trust in the pilot, making adherence to safety procedures particularly important. Manish, victim's cousin, said other family members had also undertaken paragliding flights and learnt about the tragedy only after landing, when the pilot informed them about the incident. The latest fatality has once again brought the safety of tandem paragliding operations at Bir-Billing under scrutiny. The popular adventure tourism destination attracts thousands of domestic and foreign tourists every year, many of whom depend entirely on operators and pilots for their safety during tandem flights. The incident has raised serious. questions about passenger harnesses, pre-flight safety inspections.

The Kangra police have registered an FIR against the pilot at Bir police station on charges of causing death due to negligence. The exact circumstances leading to the tragedy are yet to be established.

Things will be known at appropriate time : Sunetra Pawar on NCP merger talks

BARAMATI. (AGENCY)



Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister and NCP president Sunetra Pawar on Wednesday evaded a direct reply to a query about the possible merger of two Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) factions, saying things would be known at the appropriate time. The merger buzz gained strength last week after several leaders of the Sunetra Pawar-led NCP, including Praful Patel and Parth Pawar, met NCP (SP) head Sharad Pawar, who was recently hospitalised for a chest infection.

A viral video showed Sharad Pawar and Patel discussing a possible meeting after November 10. NCP state president Sunil Tatkare also claimed last week that the merger of the two factions would have taken place in February this year had Ajit Pawar been alive. Responding to reporters' queries about the merger possibility here, Sunetra Pawar said, "I know all of you are more interested in a different issue at present. However, today's subject is entirely different. Things (about the merger) will be known when the time comes." She was addressing a press conference held to announce programmes marking the 191st birth anniversary of tribal freedom fighter Birsa Munda on November 15. Ajit Pawar, the then deputy CM and NCP president, died in an air crash on January 28. Sunetra Pawar subsequently became the NCP head and deputy CM in the Mahayuti government. which also comprises.

The Great Indian Family Getaway: 75% of Gen Z and Millennials More Likely to Travel Across Generations, Finds Airbnb

PANAJI : OPEN SEARCH

The Indian family holiday is taking on new meaning, as travellers increasingly look beyond simply exploring destinations to spending quality time with loved ones across generations. Airbnb's new survey on intergenerational travel revealed that three in four (75%) Gen Z and Millennial respondents are more likely to travel with family members from different generations, reflecting a growing interest in holidays centred on togetherness, shared experiences and meaningful connections.

The shift is showing up in the demand for larger-group stays on Airbnb. According to Airbnb internal data, domestic searches for stays by groups of five or more guests, including at least one child or infant, grew over 55% year-on-year. From shared family getaways to holidays that bring loved ones together under one roof, the findings point to the importance of connection and quality time in shaping travel preferences. The family holiday is evolving, and Gen Z is helping write the new rules: For Indian travellers, holidays across generations are increasingly valued as a way to create new memories and reconnect with loved ones. Airbnb's Intergenerational Travel Insights 2026[1] finds that 55% value these trips for creating shared memories, 52% associate them with having fun together, and 51% with strengthening bonds with family and friends. Gen Z is a big part of that shift. Seven in ten (70%) say they are more likely to travel across generations than a few years ago, and more than 60% travelled with both friends and parents in the past year, compared with 49% and 46% of Millennials. Companionship comes first for this generation: in Airbnb's Never the Same report, 3 in 4 Gen Z travellers said who they travel with matters more than where they go.That intent is showing up in how they book. Group bookings by Indian Gen Z travellers have also grown by almost 55% year-on-year domestically. When they plan, around 50% prefer a whole home, villa or apartment, a sign that younger travellers want a shared space for the whole family to come together.

The stay is becoming as intentional as the destination: While exploring a new destination remains an important part of travel, the research reveals that some of the most valued moments during multi-generational holidays are spent simply being together. Nearly two-thirds (63%) of respondents say they most enjoy relaxing and spending time together at their accommodation, ahead of sightseeing and exploring (56%). Sharing meals (57%), playing games (45%) and watching films or shows together (39%) also feature among preferred activities, reflecting how everyday moments can become an important part of the holiday experience. This emphasis on togetherness extends to accommodation preferences. Among respondents who prefer a whole home, villa or apartment, 89% consider having a shared space where everyone can spend time together important. Living rooms or common spaces (58%), sufficient bedrooms (56%) and multiple bathrooms (55%) are among the most important features for these travellers.

The shift is showing up in the demand for larger-group stays on Airbnb. According to Airbnb internal data, domestic searches for stays by groups of five or more guests

Sandpapergate row : Khawaja pulls out of book interviews, ACA urges end to personal attacks

MELBOURNE (AGENCY)



The controversy escalated after Khawaja struggled to address questions about the allegations during an interview with ABC on Tuesday evening

Under-fire Usman Khawaja has withdrawn from interviews promoting his autobiography after facing criticism, while the Australian Cricketers' Association (ACA) has urged an end to the furore that has been reignited following his claims that the entire team was involved in the 2018 ball-tampering scandal. Khawaja's book, 'Sabr', which released on Tuesday, has reignited the controversy surrounding the Cape Town Test against South Africa in 2018, with the former batter alleging that the entire team knew about the plan to use sandpaper to alter the condition of the ball. He claimed that then captain Steve Smith, vice-captain David Warner and opener Cameron Bancroft were made scapegoats by cricket administrators despite the alleged wider knowledge within the team.

However, former teammate Mitchell Starc, who was part of the side, rejected Khawaja's assertions and reiterated the position he had taken in 2021 that the bowlers were not aware of the conspiracy. The controversy escalated after Khawaja struggled to address questions about the allegations during an interview with ABC on Tuesday evening. He was pointedly asked whether the four front-line bowlers, Pat Cummins, Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Nathan Lyon, had been part of discussions around ball-tampering. Khawaja was also asked directly whether current Test captain Cummins knew in advance about the use of sandpaper. He refused to answer them, insisting that he had merely told his "truth" in the book, drawing criticism. His publisher, Penguin, subsequently confirmed changes to his promotional schedule, though it stopped short of specifying which appearances had been cancelled or altered. "The book tour is 100 (per cent) still going ahead, we've just had to make some adjustments this week but no major cancellation of the tour at all," the publisher said in a statement. The ACA refrained from taking sides in the renewed debate but called for an end to the personal attacks on those involved, stressing that the fallout from the scandal had already taken a heavy toll. "The events of the 2018 South African tour were a low point for Australian cricket. Steve Smith, David Warner and Cameron Bancroft paid an enormous price for what happened, one that was greater than and, as the ACA said at the time, disproportionate to any precedent in the game," ACA chief executive Paul Marsh said in a statement.

"Eight years on, it is understandable that those involved may have different recollections and perspectives of what took place. Players and staff at the heart of the issue are entitled to share their experiences, just as others are entitled to put such a challenging period in their lives behind them.

Rachin, Conway return as NZ announce squad for home Tests against India

WELLINGTON (AGENCY)



Star players Rachin Ravindra, Devon Conway and Tom Blundell are included in New Zealand's squad for home Tests against India despite injury concerns, with some valuable ICC World Test Championship (WTC) on the line for both teams. The two-match Test series will start from November 19 onwards, with the first Test at Wellington and the second Test at Christchurch from November 27 onwards.

Experienced skipper Tom Latham will captain the side across the two-match series, while the Black Caps have included Tom Blundell (quadricep), Devon Conway (concussion) and Rachin Ravindra (shoulder) in their 14-player group despite the fact the trio are battling some injury concerns. The two fixtures will be the first time the two nations have battled it out at the Test level since New Zealand registered an upset 3-0 triumph over India in the subcontinent in 2024, with both sides still in the race for next year's World Test Championship Final at The Oval. New Zealand currently sits in second spot on the World Test Championship standings behind only first-placed South Africa, while India lies in fourth place with reigning runners-up Australia in front of them in third. The Black Caps' squad is similar to the one that took on England away from home in the middle of the year, with pacer Jacob Duffy back in the playing group and Ben Sears (ankle), Zak Foulkes (hip), and Will O'Rourke (managed) the notable absentees. New Zealand coach Rob Walter knows how important the matches are for the Black Caps as they aim to reach the World Test Championship Final for the first time since they claimed the inaugural mace in 2021.

Smog in Lahore forces relocation of 2nd PAK-SL Test to Rawalpindi

RAWALPINDI (AGENCY)



The second Test between Pakistan and Sri Lanka has been moved from Lahore to Rawalpindi, the host of the first Test, with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) citing "prevailing weather conditions" as a reason, reported Cricinfo. Lahore is currently engulfed in a massive seasonal smog, which affects both India and Pakistan between October and December. It is also amongst the most polluted cities in the world, as per IQAir, a Swiss technology monitoring air quality. As per Cricinfo, the broadcasters expressed reservations about the quality of broadcast in Lahore in case the match continued with a severe layer of smog in place all over the city. Earlier this week, the air quality worsened in Lahore and broadcasters were asked to not make travel arrangements to the place, with PCB preparing to take a decision on relocation of the Test match. The decision is a blow to PCB's efforts in expanding the cricketing season in Lahore to include early autumn. Had the Test match taken place there, it would have been the first time since 2007 that an international match had been held in Lahore later than November 1. Notably, the 2020 white-ball series between Pakistan and Zimbabwe in November was also moved from Lahore to Rawalpindi. In December 2022, a Test match between New Zealand and Pakistan was also shifted from Multan to Karachi. The dates for the second Test will, however, stay unchanged, as it will take place from December 17 to 21. Coming to the first Test, Pakistan was put to bat first by Sri Lanka. Half-centuries from Saud Shakeel (93 in 199 balls, with nine fours), Tayyab Arif, Mohammad Taha (51 in 105 balls, with six fours), skipper Babar Azam (50 in 58 balls.

Dakar Youth Olympics : Boxer Gunjan reaches women's 48 kg semis, assures India eighth medal

DAKAR (AGENCY)



India's fine run at Dakar Youth Olympics 2026 continues as pugilist Gunjan confirmed the country's medal in women's 48 kg by advancing to the semifinals. On Tuesday, she beat Mexico's Atena Sofia Juarez Calero 5-0 to advance to the semifinals and assure India of a medal, as per the Boxing Federation of India (BFI). Earlier, India's Shourya Ambure secured a bronze medal in the women's 100 m hurdles event at Dakar on Sunday, clocking a personal best of 13.59 seconds in a nine-woman field at Complexe Iba Mar Diop. She also became the first Indian woman to win a Youth Olympics athletics medal. It was also India's fifth podium finish in athletics in their Youth Olympics history. Her medal took the medal count at the Youth Olympics for India to eight, including three silver medals and five bronze medals. Indian wrestler Taniya also secured the country's first-ever medal in youth wrestling with a 75 kg silver medal at Dakar. The Indian wrestler lost 2-1 to China's Min Zhao, the 2025 U17 world wrestling champion in the 69-kg category, in the gold medal match at the Saly Beach West venue, as per Olympics.com. Taniya outclassed USA's Matilda Hruby 3-1 in the semi-finals to secure her gold medal clash. Silver medals also came from Khushbu Rajakbhai Darjada in women's 63 kg judo and Tanvi Patri in badminton.

Briefs News

IPL: Hardik Pandya moves to Punjab at increased fee of Rs 18 crore, Arshdeep heads to Mumbai

NEW DELHI (AGENCY) Flamboyant all-rounder Hardik Pandya moved to Punjab Kings from Mumbai Indians at an increased fee of Rs 18 crore, while PBKS traded pacer Arshdeep Singh for him, completing a high-profile exchange of players before the 2027 IPL season. While for Pandya it is an increase from his existing fee of Rs 16.35 crore, Arshdeep has moved to Mumbai at an unchanged price tag of Rs 18 crore, read a statement from the IPL. Pandya's trade brings the curtain down on his second stint with MI, a franchise with which he won four IPL titles. Having first joined MI in 2015, Pandya had starring roles with both bat and ball during the team's title-winning campaigns in 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2020. Pandya returned to MI in 2024 and took over the captaincy from Rohit Sharma but the franchise's performance nose-dived during this phase. Across 162 IPL matches, he has scored 2,955 runs at a strike rate of 146.28 and claimed 82 wickets.

WTC, ICC events in focus as cricket's governing body starts board and committee meetings in Bali

BALI (AGENCY) The International Cricket Council (ICC) begins its Board meetings in Bali, Indonesia, from this week. Running from Wednesday, 11 November until Sunday, 15 November, the final set of meetings of 2026 will bring together ICC Board and Committee representatives from around the world. The meetings continue consultations between the global governing body and its membership, helping to shape the future of cricket's events, formats, commercial sustainability and the structural frameworks aimed at expanding the sport's global footprint, in line with the ICC's ongoing strategy to deepen and widen fandom, as per a press release from the ICC. Discussions will include the first feedback from the Franchise League Review Group and Governance Review Committee, which were both established at the ICC Annual Conference in July 2026. The Franchise League Review Group has set out to consider ways to enhance the current ICC sanctioning framework of regulations that further protect and strengthen the ecosystem to address new challenges arising from the increasing number of franchise leagues.

SC Delhi's Lalrinliana Hnamte earns India call-up for New Zealand friendlies

NEW DELHI (AGENCY) Sporting Club Delhi's Lalrinliana Hnamte has earned a call-up to the Indian Senior Men's National Team for the upcoming international friendlies against New Zealand, scheduled to be played on November 12 and 15. The selection marks an important milestone for the midfielder, who has been named in the 23-member squad announced by head coach Khalid Jamil for the two-match series. India will face New Zealand at Go Media Stadium in Auckland on November 12, before taking on the hosts in the second friendly at One New Zealand Stadium in Christchurch on November 15. Hnamte's inclusion is also a significant moment for Sporting Club Delhi.

Sachin Tendulkar gifts prized cricket bats, memorabilia for display at MCA Sharad Pawar Cricket Museum

MUMBAI (AGENCY)



In a significant addition to India's cricketing heritage, and in keeping with the Mumbai Cricket Association's (MCA) commitment to preserving and celebrating the legacy of the game, cricket legend Sachin Tendulkar will gift some of his most prized cricketing possessions, including bats that helped him score a hundred international centuries, for display at the MCA Sharad Pawar Cricket Museum. The collection will be unveiled at a special event on November 16, 2026, commemorating the date Sachin retired from international cricket thirteen years ago, playing his 200th Test at his home ground, Wankhede Stadium, against the West Indies, as per a press release from MCA. In what is being envisioned as a one-of-a-kind initiative, the MCA Museum will unveil a special exhibition titled 'Batography', bringing together 26 of Tendulkar's bats alongside other significant memorabilia from his illustrious career. Drawing from the idea of a biography, Batography will tell the story of the Master Blaster's cricketing journey through the very bats that accompanied him across some of his most defining moments. Each bat represents a chapter in a career that has inspired generations of cricketers and fans, offering visitors a rare opportunity to engage with the history behind the milestones.

Speaking about the initiative, Ajinkya Naik, President, Mumbai Cricket Association, said, "Sachin Tendulkar's contribution to Indian and world cricket goes far beyond the records he has created. His journey is woven into the memories of millions of cricket fans, and these bats are among the most personal artefacts of that journey. Through Batography, we are bringing a unique dimension to the MCA Museum, allowing visitors to experience the story behind the milestones through the very instruments with which they were created. We are honoured that Sachin has chosen to share these prized possessions with the MCA, ensuring that this extraordinary legacy remains accessible to generations of cricket lovers."

IPL player trade: Hardik Pandya moves to PBKS : Arshdeep Singh finds new home in MI



MUMBAI (AGENCY)

In one of the biggest player trades in Indian Premier League (IPL) history, former Mumbai Indians (MI) captain will be moving to Punjab Kings (PBKS), with the 2025 finalists giving away Arshdeep Singh, India's leading T20I bowler, to the Blue and Gold side in return. A statement from the IPL said, "In a marquee player trade ahead of the TATA IPL 2027, Mumbai Indians (MI) captain Hardik Pandya will move to Punjab Kings (PBKS), while Arshdeep Singh, India's leading wicket-taker in T20 Internationals, will join the five-time champions." Hardik will join PBKS at a fee of Rs 18 crore, up from his existing fee of Rs 16.35 crore, while Arshdeep will join MI at his existing fee of Rs 18 crore. Pandya's trade brings the curtain down on his second stint with MI, a franchise with which he won four IPL titles. Having first joined MI in 2015, Pandya developed into one of the league's most impactful all-rounders, contributing with both bat and ball during the team's title-winning campaigns in 2015, 2017, 2019 and 2020.

After seven seasons with Mumbai, Pandya moved to Gujarat Titans (GT) ahead of IPL 2022 and made an immediate impact as captain, leading the franchise to the title in its debut season. GT also reached the final in 2023 before Pandya returned to MI in 2024 and took over the captaincy. Across 162 IPL matches, he has scored 2,955 runs at a strike rate of 146.28 and claimed 82 wickets, underlining his value as a proven match-winner.However, Hardik's second stint with MI spanning three seasons was underwhelming as he could score only 647 runs in 39 matches and 35 innings at an average of 21.53 and a strike rate of 147.82, with a best score of 48*. He took 29 wickets in 39 matches at an average of over 34, with a five-wicket haul to his name. In the 2025 season, MI did reach the playoffs, but finished at the bottom and in 9th place in the 2024 and 2026 seasons, respectively, under Hardik's captaincy.

Arshdeep, meanwhile, moves to MI after eight seasons with PBKS, the franchise where he made his IPL debut in 2019 and established himself as one of the competition's leading left-arm fast bowlers. With 111 wickets in 96 IPL matches, he is PBKS' all-time leading wicket-taker.

Arshdeep's ability to make early breakthroughs with the new ball and deliver under pressure in the death overs has made him a key component of Punjab's bowling attack. He claimed 21 wickets in IPL 2025 and followed that with 14 wickets in the 2026 season. His left-arm pace and ability to deliver across different phases of an innings will add considerable depth to MI's bowling attack.



Christopher Briney, Michelle Randolph lead Christmas rom-com 'Clashing Through the Snow'



From workplace rivals to potential love interests, Christopher Briney and Michelle Randolph are set to bring some holiday romance to the screen with Prime Video's Clashing Through the Snow. Briney, best known for playing Conrad Fisher in The Summer I Turned Pretty, stars as Ryan Mitchell, while Randolph, who appeared in Landman, plays Hannah Hendricks. As per the trailer, dropped by the streamer on Wednesday, both work at the same publishing house, where budget cuts threaten to cost one of them their job. When an opportunity to secure a career-saving book deal comes along, the two find themselves competing for the same professional breakthrough.

However, their plans take an unexpected turn when a snowstorm strands them at an airport, forcing them to share a rental car for a cross-country journey to New York City. As roadside mishaps, unexpected detours and small-town encounters complicate their trip, the professional rivalry gradually gives way to romance.

The film also features Lukas Gage, Andrew Schulz, Julia Fox and Paris Hilton, who appears as herself. Other cast members include P.J. Byrne, Zarna Garg and Tan France.

Directed by Carlson Young, the film is written by Danny Mackey and Rebecca Ewing, who previously collaborated on the Netflix romantic comedy Love Hard.

The trailer also features Olivia Rodrigo's Christmas song Take Me Home (4 Christmas). Clashing Through the Snow will premiere worldwide on Prime Video on November 23. **(AGENCY)**

Keira Knightley's green dress from 'Atonement' is going up for sale

Almost two decades after Keira Knightley captivated audiences in the 2007 romantic drama Atonement, the emerald-green silk dress she wore in a pivotal scene is heading to auction. Designed by Jacqueline Durran, the backless gown is expected to sell for up to £120,000 ($161,000) when it goes under the hammer at Christie's in London on December 9. The dress is set to be auctioned as part of the 'Love & Lust: A Literary Guide' sale, which also features original poster artworks for the 1927 sci-fi classic Metropolis and the 1931 horror film Dracula, three autograph letters written by British naval hero Horatio Nelson to his mistress Emma, Lady Hamilton, and the original stage costume worn by English prima ballerina Margot Fonteyn as Princess Aurora in a 1960 production of The Sleeping Beauty. In the film an adaptation of Ian McEwan's novel directed by Joe Wright Knightley's character Cecilia wears the dress during a tense and emotional library scene where she and Robbie (James McAvoy) finally confess their love for one another. "When we started making the movie, we all knew it was a pivotal moment, and it had to be a memorable dress. ," Durran told Entertainment Weekly in an interview published in 2017. "Joe (Wright) said that to me, right at the beginning, which was obviously a lot of pressure on me to try and make this memorable dress," she said, "But we didn't know, really. It was a complete surprise how much it did resonate with people and how much it was picked out as a single look from the movie. **(AGENCY)**

It was a complete surprise how much it did resonate with people and how much it was picked out as a single look from the movie.



A childhood crush, two bananas and a bicycle : When 8-year-old Diljit Dosanjh tried to run away from home



Global Punjabi singer and actor Diljit Dosanjh has shared a mischievous childhood memory of the first — and perhaps shortest — time he tried to run away from home. He was just eight, and the reason, he recalled with a smile, was a school crush. Speaking on a podcast, Diljit said the trouble began when some senior students asked him which girl in school he liked. After he pointed towards one girl, the seniors jokingly told him that he would have to marry her. "Done," Diljit recalled, saying he then went to the girl and told her that they would get married because he liked her. To his surprise, the girl went and told the teacher. The next thing Diljit knew, he had been asked to bring his parents to school. "I felt, 'Ab duniya khatam, ab to gaya. Ab main gaya,'" Diljit said, recalling the panic he felt as a child.

Determined to avoid the inevitable meeting, the eight-year-old quietly picked up two bananas and some fruit from the refrigerator, took his bicycle and left home without telling anyone. It was the first time, he said, that he had gone out alone without permission. Diljit had cycled for barely five minutes towards the fields when a man from his village spotted him. "Kithe tura phirda tu? Chal wapis murh ja," the villager told him, asking the young boy where he was going and telling him to return home. Diljit said the incident reminded him of a time when village communities in Punjab were more closely involved in one another's lives. "Pehle aisa hota tha ki gaon ke sab apne hote the, lekin ab shehron mein koi kisi ke bachchon ko kuch nahin bol sakta," he said. He recalled that earlier, even if an elder scolded or slapped a child in the village, families generally did not turn it into a confrontation. Today, he said, parents and children can take offence when someone else questions a child's behaviour. After the villager sent him back, Diljit returned home but kept the school summons to himself. He then avoided going to school for the next two days, making excuses that he had a stomach ache.

For one of Punjab's biggest global stars, the story offers a rare and endearing glimpse of an ordinary childhood — complete with a first crush, a daring escape plan and a village elder who made sure the adventure ended just five minutes down the road. Diljit Dosanjh would perform live in Chandigarh on December 12, as part of his RuPay Aura India Tour. Punjabi superstar Diljit Dosanjh is all set to bring his music back to the global stage as he returns to Coachella 2027, with his performance scheduled for the festival's first weekend, April 9–11.

The much-awaited lineup for Coachella 2027 has been announced, featuring an impressive roster of international music stars, including Dua Lipa, Daddy Yankee, SZA, Madonna and Tame Impala.

Diljit's return marks another major milestone in his growing global musical journey. The singer-actor is among the artistes set to perform during the opening weekend of the iconic music festival, which will take place across two weekends, April 9–11 and April 16–18, 2027. Coachella shared the complete lineup through its official Instagram account, sending fans into a buzz ahead of the 2027 edition. The festival will once again be hosted at the Empire Polo Club in Indio. **(AGENCY)**

Rohit Shetty warns against fake accounts amid Gaurav Gupta roast controversy



Filmmaker Rohit Shetty warned fans and followers not to engage with fake profiles on social media impersonating him after a fake post attributed to him went viral on Facebook and X platforms. Shetty shared a post on his Instagram handle on Tuesday and said he doesn't have any accounts on Facebook or X, and said any account using his name is fake and unauthorised.

"I would like to clarify that my only official social media presence is only on Instagram. I am not present on Facebook or X. Any account or profile claiming to be me on these platforms is fake and unauthorised," he said. "I request everyone not to engage with such accounts or consider any content posted through them as coming from me. Thank you for your understanding and continued support," he added. The Facebook post criticised comedian Gaurav Gupta's roast of "Bigg Boss 20" contestants Scout OP and Love Gill. It was falsely attributed to Shetty. "Friendly roasting theek hai par roasting ke naam par kisi ka mazaak udaana band hona chahiye. Hansana achhi baat hai, lekin kisi ko rulakar ya insult karke hansna nahi. Respect everyone (Friendly roasting is fine, but making fun of someone under the guise of 'roasting' needs to stop. It is good to make people laugh, but not at the expense of making someone cry or by insulting them)," it read. **(AGENCY)**

Arjunn Dutta's next film is a murder mystery starring Jaya Ahsan, Srabanti Chatterjee

National Award-winning director Arjunn Dutta's upcoming film is a murder mystery starring Jaya Ahsan and Srabanti Chatterjee. Backed by Sree Abhigyan Dreamworks Pvt. Ltd, the film is titled RSVP Murder. Producer Abhijit Chatterjee will be joined by Rupam Goswami as co-producer for the film, which also features Silajit Majumder and Koneenica Banerjee. As the investigation progresses, concealed resentments, jealousies and conflicting loyalties come to the surface, with each character seemingly having something to hide. "Known for his character-driven storytelling and



nuanced exploration of human emotions, Arjunn Dutta brings his understanding of relationships to a suspenseful narrative laced with wit and dark humour. Beneath the picturesque tranquillity of the hills lies a world of private insecurities, concealed jealousies and conflicting loyalties, where appearances offer little assurance of the truth," a press communique from the makers said. For Dutta, exploring different genres in his filmography has been a conscious decision. "I have always wanted to explore different genres as a filmmaker. After my first film, Abyakto, I shifted to a lighter zone with Guldasta and Shrimati. Then I did Deep Fridge, which was again profound. And then I did BiBi Payra, which was a dark comedy. I love watching different kinds of films, so I love making different kinds too "But for me, the core never changes. Whatever the genre, it is always about people, and what they are hiding. **(AGENCY)**

Pankaj Tripathi says heroes need not be aggressive, urges cinema to rethink masculinity

Actor Pankaj Tripathi says masculinity should be defined by leadership rather than aggression or arrogance, urging cinema to move away from its chest-thumping portrayal of alpha males. "If you remove arrogance from alpha and look at it as a leader, then it is not a bad thing. But cinema has created a different image of alpha, like it is about chest-thumping," Tripathi Tripathi believes films should explore different interpretations of masculinity instead of adhering to a fixed definition of



an alpha male. "If you see my characters, barring a few, they are alpha but in a different sense. Like the role of the father that I played in the film Gunjan Saxena, he is giving freedom to the girl and he has a different point of view," Tripathi said. "And this is the purpose of storytelling, wherein we should show society not just one meaning or perspective of alpha, and then let people choose, decide and behave as to what kind of alpha they want to be in real life," he added. Tripathi also spoke about how films and shows influence people's choices, recalling how an automobile manufacturer told him about the rising demand for black Scorpio SUVs in Purvanchal following their appearance in Mirzapur. "So, whether cinema is inspired by society or vice versa, sometimes the lines get blurred," Tripathi further said. Although Mirzapur has given Tripathi one of his most popular characters, the actor said his own cinematic preferences lie in slice-of-life stories and comedies that reflect everyday life. For me, Mirzapur is a departure. In reality, this is who I am, this is the kind of cinema that I like, it aligns with my taste. That (Mirzapur-kind of films and shows) I do as part of my profession. **(AGENCY)**

Daniel Radcliffe may skip watching HBO's new 'Harry Potter' series, here's why

Actor Daniel Radcliffe, who shot to global fame playing Harry Potter in the film adaptations of J.K. Rowling's bestselling books, may not watch HBO's upcoming television adaptation of the fantasy franchise. The actor said he does not regularly watch television. "I don't know if I will, honestly," the actor, who portrayed the young wizard for over a decade, told AP. "I've been in a lot of Harry Potter already. Also, I don't watch any TV. I haven't seen Breaking Bad. I haven't seen Mad Men. I haven't seen some of the real classics. Eight hours is a lot of anything to watch," he said. Radcliffe was just 11 when he first stepped into the shoes of Harry Potter, a role that transformed him into one of the most recognisable faces in popular culture. HBO is set to bring the wizarding world back to screens next month with Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. The first season will comprise eight episodes and revisit the events of the first book in Rowling's series, introducing the magical universe



to a new generation of viewers. While Radcliffe may not be keen on watching the adaptation himself, he has previously expressed happiness at the prospect of his children discovering the franchise through a different actor. "I'm actually delighted that when my kid grows and is into Harry Potter, he can watch a version that is not me," he said earlier this year. "I feel like watching it with your dad would be less cool. It would take you out of it... And that means that at some point there will be somebody else to answer all the Harry Potter questions and I can pass that on to them too." Radcliffe also wished Dominic McLaughlin, who has been cast as the new Harry Potter, well as he prepares to take on the iconic role. he upcoming HBO series will feature an entirely new cast in the central roles. McLaughlin will play Harry Potter, while Arabella Stanton will portray Hermione Granger and Alastair Stout will take on the role of Ron Weasley. The supporting cast includes John Lithgow as Albus Dumbledore. **(AGENCY)**

