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DELHI EDITION

PM Modi reaffirms India's commitment to ASEAN's unity

PM Modi Calls For Greater India-ASEAN Cooperation To Ensure Peace And Stability In Indo-Pacific

MANILA : (AGENCY)



India and ASEAN together represent nearly a quarter of the world's population, and their common future must be shaped by "cooperation, not competition," Prime Minister Narendra Modi told leaders of the 11-nation grouping on Tuesday. Modi, speaking at the ASEAN-India summit, said that New Delhi's commitment to the grouping's unity and centrality in the partnership "is and will remain steadfast."

"In the past few years, the world has faced a series of crises. What the world needs most today is peace, stability, and predictability," he said. "In this context, our theme this year - 'Navigating Our Future, Together' - holds special significance," the Prime Minister said at the summit in this Filipino capital city.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is considered one of the most influential groupings in the region. India and several other countries including the US, China, Japan and Australia are its dialogue partners.

"India and ASEAN together represent nearly a quarter of the world's population. Therefore, it is essential to ensure that our future is determined by cooperation, not competition," Modi said. Modi said India and ASEAN have both the strength and the resolve and together, both sides can make this region a symbol of peace and stability.

"We believe that India's development and ASEAN's prosperity are deeply intertwined. In the coming years, the ASEAN Community Vision 2045 and Developed India 2047 can play a crucial role in realising our shared aspirations," he said.

The Prime Minister said both sides have given new impetus to the partnership in the last 12 years and "we must shape the future of our region" now. "India's commitment to ASEAN's unity and centrality in this partnership is and will remain steadfast. I am confident that today's meeting will elevate our Comprehensive Strategic Partnership to new heights and contribute to building a secure, inclusive, and prosperous Indo-Pacific," he said. It was PM Modi's 13th interaction with ASEAN leaders in this format. "Over the past years, our Act East Policy has given new momentum and depth to India-ASEAN relations. Our partnership is now expanding beyond shared culture and heritage and acquiring new dimensions in areas such as digital, defence and space," he said.

PM Modi offers prayers at century-old Manila gurdwara

PM Modi on Tuesday offered prayers at the century-old Gurudwara Khalsa Diwan in Manila and attended a ceremony marking the commencement of its redevelopment works. Modi shared pictures of his visit to the gurdwara in Manila, where he is visiting to attend the ASEAN meeting. The Prime Minister has often included visits and prayers at religious shrines in his offsite schedules as part of his policy of "Vikas bhi Virasat bhi". His visit to the Manila gurdwara comes as elections are looming back home in Punjab. The visit underscores India's deep civilisational and cultural links with the Philippines and the contribution of the Sikh community to the Indian diaspora. Modi is in Manila to attend the 23rd ASEAN-India Summit and the 21st East Asia Summit. On Monday, he said the gurdwara held immense spiritual significance and remained an important centre for the Sikh community in the Philippines.

Powering Chhattisgarh's Growth : PM Modi's Vision, CM Sai's Action

RAIPUR. OPEN SEARCH



From infrastructure and agriculture to women empowerment and opportunities in Bastar, Centre–state partnership is shaping Chhattisgarh's development journey

From record paddy procurement and expanding infrastructure to women's economic empowerment and the transition towards peace, Chhattisgarh's development journey reflects the convergence of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 and Chief Minister Shri Vishnu Deo Sai's governance priorities. Building on Central schemes and assistance, the state is pursuing investment-led growth, strengthening public services and extending development opportunities to remote and tribal communities. Over the past 12 years, Chhattisgarh has received ?3,46,806 crore as its share of Central taxes, around 7.4 times the ?47,100 crore received between 2004 and 2014. The District Mineral Foundation has contributed ?17,887 crore towards more than 81,000 development works. "Our vision is to make Viksit Chhattisgarh a strong foundation for Viksit Bharat 2047. Through the 'Chhattisgarh Anjor Vision 2047' roadmap, we are harnessing our mineral and energy resources, farmers, youth, women's empowerment and rich tribal heritage to build a prosperous, secure and self-reliant state," said Chief Minister Shri Vishnu Deo Sai, reaffirming his commitment to the Prime Minister's principles of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas'. Inspired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's tenure as Gujarat Chief Minister, Chhattisgarh has initiated more than 450 structural and policy reforms, including public dialogue initiatives such as 'Chintan Shivir'. Among the major reforms, the Ease of Doing Business Act, 2026 provides for deemed approvals, while 279 minor offences have been decriminalised through amendments under the Jan Vishwas Acts. Together with the New Industrial Policy, these measures have helped attract investment proposals worth ?8.50 lakh crore, with potential to generate over 1.60 lakh jobs. On the infrastructure front, national highway projects worth 35,766 crore have been sanctioned, including 37 projects worth ?18,215 crore under implementation. Railway expansion worth an estimated 54,000 crore is underway.

9 killed, 25 injured as bus plunges into 100-metre gorge in Uttarakhand's Tehri Garhwal

RISHIKESH. (AGENCY)



Tehri Garhwal SSP Shweta Chaubey said the bus departed from Haridwar around 3.15 am with 34 passengers on board. At around 4.50 am, it suddenly plunged into the Gular Gad river near the Gular bridge.

A passenger bus with 34 people on board crashed through an iron roadside railing and plunged into a gorge, approximately 100 metres below the Gular bridge, in Uttarakhand's Tehri Garhwal district early Tuesday, killing nine people and injuring 25 others, officials said. Tehri Garhwal SSP Shweta Chaubey said the bus departed from Haridwar around 3.15 am with 34 passengers on board. At around 4.50 am, it suddenly plunged into the Gular Gad river near the Gular bridge. The bus was travelling from Haridwar to Joshimath. The deceased have been identified as Vicky (37) and Rohit Kashyap (35), both from Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal; Raj Roy (56), from West Bengal's Jalpaiguri; bus driver Rajendra Singh (48), from Rudraprayag; conductor Anuj Bhandari (27), from Tehri Garhwal; Punnu (55) of Kirtinagar; Sushil Pratap Silodi (55) from Chamoli; and Deepak Gupta (55) and Vikas Gupta, both natives of Madhya Pradesh. SDRF Inspector Kavindra Singh Sajwan said around 60 government personnel were involved in the rescue and relief operation. A 30-member SDRF team, along with police personnel from Muni Ki Reti police station and Uttarakhand Fire Service personnel, rushed to the spot after receiving the alert. The rescuers first evacuated passengers with the most severe injuries and shifted them to AIIMS-Rishikesh.

Hardeep Puri takes oath as Rajya Sabha MP from Madhya Pradesh

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY) Union minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Tuesday took the oath as a member of the Rajya Sabha from Madhya Pradesh. Rajya Sabha Chairman C P Radhakrishnan administered the oath to Puri in his chamber. "Vice-President of India and Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, C P Radhakrishnan, administered the oath of office to Hardeep Singh Puri as an elected member of the Rajya Sabha from Madhya Pradesh at Parliament House today," the vice-president's office said on X. Union ministers Mansukh Mandaviya, Rajiv Ranjan Singh and Arjun Ram Meghwal, Rajya Sabha Secretary General P C Mody and other dignitaries were present at the chamber. Puri resigned from his Rajya Sabha seat from Uttar Pradesh on Saturday, days after he was re-elected to the House unopposed from Madhya Pradesh on November 5. Puri's term from Uttar Pradesh was due to end on November 25. His present tenure ends on April 2, 2030. The Madhya Pradesh seat was vacated by former Union minister L Murugan, who resigned last month to strengthen the BJP in Tamil Nadu ahead of the 2029 Lok Sabha elections.

President Droupadi Murmu Calls for Sustained Research and Public Participation to Eliminate Malaria

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)



It is a matter of satisfaction that India has made remarkable progress in malaria control over the last few years.

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu inaugurated the year-long Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Malaria Research Speaking on the occasion, the President said that malaria has long been a serious public health challenge in many countries around the world, including India. At the time of independence, it was one of the most critical public health challenges in our country. It is a matter of satisfaction that India has made remarkable progress in malaria control over the last few years. Improved healthcare services, modern diagnostic techniques, effective medicines, mosquito-control campaigns, and community participation have played a significant role in curbing the spread of this disease. India's progress toward malaria elimination has received global recognition. In 2024, India moved out of the World Health Organization's 'High Burden to High Impact' category. This achievement has been made possible through the collective efforts of our public health programs, scientists, healthcare workers, and citizens. The National Institute of Malaria Research has played a pivotal role in this long battle against malaria. Over the past five decades, it has conducted pioneering research in areas such as malaria parasites, mosquitoes, vector control, insecticide resistance, and community-based surveillance. The President said that new challenges, such as climate change, unplanned urbanization, and the growing resistance of mosquitoes.

SC seeks EC's response to Rahul Gandhi's plea for 48 questions on SIR

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)



The Supreme Court on Tuesday asked the Election Commission to respond to an application filed by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and other INDIA bloc leaders alleging large-scale irregularities in the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, which allegedly led to mass voter deletions. A Bench comprising Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice V. Mohana deferred the hearing to December 9, stating that the matter would be taken up after the Election Commission filed its objections to the petitioners' latest plea seeking permission to serve 48 'interrogatories' on the poll panel. The 48 questions relate to approvals, objections, database access and alleged serious flaws in the SIR exercise that purportedly paved the way for 'vote theft'. Gandhi and other INDIA bloc leaders have urged the top court to direct Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, Election Commissioners Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi, and Deputy Election Commissioner Bhanu Prakash Yeturu, who affirmed the EC's affidavits dated October 26 and November 14, to file affidavits addressing the authorisation of the SIR, the alleged exclusion of voters, changes made to online electoral registration systems and several other issues.

CM Nayab Singh Saini launches 'Mati Vandan Abhiyan' and 'Namo Morni Mission' on the Occasion of Gopashtami

CHANDIGARH. OPEN SEARCH



- ***The Soil of Morni will speak, and the Nation will listen : Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini***
- ***Morni to emerge as the Country's Model Block for Organic and Natural Farming by 2029: Chief Minister***
- ***Dedicated farmers' Helpline and Joint Office of three departments to be established in Morni***

On the auspicious occasion of Gopashtami, Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini today launched the 'Mati Vandan Abhiyan' and 'Namo Morni Mission' from Morni. With the objective of developing Morni into an ideal block for organic and natural farming, the Chief Minister announced several significant initiatives for local farmers.He announced that a dedicated helpline, 01733-297010, would be established to address all concerns of Morni farmers through a single platform. A joint office of the Departments of Agriculture, Horticulture, and Soil and Water Conservation will also be set up in Morni. In the interim, officials from these three departments will operate from 'Namo Bhawan' (formerly Getty Bhawan). The facility will subsequently be handed over to the Agriculture Department and developed as a training centre for organic and natural farming. Experts will provide training to farmers and make organic fertilizers, seeds, and bio-inputs available to them. The Chief Minister emphasized that the responsibilities of officials from these departments would be clearly defined and that they would remain stationed in Morni to ensure effective service delivery. The Chief Minister was addressing the gathering after inaugurating a two-day state-level 'Natural/Organic Farming Farmers' Fair' at Government Polytechnic College, Morni, Panchkula, on Tuesday. On the occasion, he also launched the 'Mati Vandan Pakhwada' and unveiled its poster. Haryana Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Minister Sh. Shyam Singh Rana and Kalka MLA Smt. Shakti Rani Sharma were also present.

Announcing the 'Namo Morni Mission', the Chief Minister said that the initiative aims to transform Morni into an ideal block for organic and natural farming by 2029, on the lines of Sikkim. Under the mission, efforts will be made to provide facilities to farmers on a per-bigha basis, keeping their landholdings in view. A live demonstration unit of organic farming will be established in the Forest Department's Vatika, providing an opportunity for farmers as well as students from schools and colleges to learn about organic and natural farming practices. In addition, four modern laboratories dedicated to soil testing, bio-analysis, nutritional assessment, and pesticide residue testing will be established. These facilities will also strengthen the implementation of the Soil Health Card Scheme. The Chief Minister said that an 85 per cent subsidy is being provided for drip irrigation systems through the Micro Irrigation and Command Area Development Authority (MICADA), with support from the Central and State Governments under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, particularly its 'More Crop Per Drop' initiative.

He further stated that the Soil Conservation Branch is undertaking the construction of retaining walls, check dams, and small ponds to promote water conservation. Keeping in view the hilly and difficult terrain of Morni, the government has also decided to provide a 75 per cent subsidy on small agricultural implements to facilitate farming activities and provide relief to local farmers.

Chief Minister Saini Launches Swamitva Portal for Filing Objections Related to Swamitva Yojana

Rural Residents Can Register Property-Related Objections and Grievances from Home Through Swamitva Portal: Chief Minister

VIJAY KUMAR.OPEN SEARCH

CHANDIGARH. Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini on Tuesday launched the Swamitva Portal, marking a significant initiative to address grievances and objections related to ownership of properties situated within the Lal Dora areas of rural Haryana.

Haryana Revenue Minister Sh. Vipul Goel, Financial Commissioner, Revenue, Dr. Sumita Misra, and Deputy Principal Secretary to Chief Minister, Dr. Yashpal, were present on the occasion. Deputy Commissioners of all districts and senior Revenue Department officials posted in the districts also joined the meeting virtually.

The Chief Minister said that a house and property represent a lifetime of hard work and are among a family's most valuable assets. The State Government is committed to ensuring that every citizen has access to accurate property records and that their ownership rights remain protected.

He said around 25 lakh properties in rural Haryana fall within Lal Dora areas.



Earlier, their owners did not possess formal ownership records, which created considerable difficulties in buying and selling these properties. Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said the Haryana Government had launched the Swamitva Yojana in 2018-19, which subsequently inspired the Central Government to implement the scheme across the country. To ensure that rightful owners of properties situated within Lal Dora areas receive their ownership rights, the State Government conducted drone surveys, deployed teams to villages and invited objections from residents before finalising property ownership records. A new law was also enacted to confer ownership rights upon the rightful owners.

The Chief Minister said all revenue-related services are now available to citizens at a single location on the Revenue Haryana website.

Explaining the features of the newly launched Swamitva Portal, he said citizens can access their property records from home by selecting their district and village and logging in using their mobile number.

If there is an error in the area of a house or plot, an incorrect classification of property, duplicate property IDs for the same property, an incorrectly recorded owner's name or the omission of an owner's name, citizens can register their grievances through the portal within 90 days.

He informed that after the 90 days, ownership cards for the rightful property owners will be generated automatically through the same portal.

Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said the portal would provide citizens with a simple and convenient platform to bring property-related grievances to the notice of the government.

Citizens will also be able to view their properties on a digital map. The portal includes a drone imagery facility, enabling property owners to better understand the location and boundaries of their properties. The Chief Minister said the initiative aims to provide accurate property records to rural residents, strengthen their ownership rights and simplify property-related transactions and procedures in the future.

The Chief Minister said that a house and property represent a lifetime of hard work and are among a family's most valuable assets. The State Government is committed to ensuring that every citizen has access to accurate property records and that their ownership rights remain protected.

He urged all citizens to verify the details of their houses and plots on the portal and register any errors or grievances within the prescribed period. The Chief Minister directed all Deputy Commissioners and other revenue officials to ensure the simultaneous and timely disposal of grievances and objections received through the portal so that citizens are not required to make unnecessary visits to government offices. He reiterated that the State Government is committed to ensuring that every eligible citizen receives their rightful entitlements and that government services and benefits reach the people in a simple and transparent manner.

Gajendra Singh Shekhawat to Inaugurate the Fair

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH



Union Minister for Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat will inaugurate the Shri Kapal Mochan–Shri Adi Badri Fair, exhibition and cultural programmes on November 20 at Teerthraj Kapal Mochan, situated at Vyasapur, the sacred land associated with Maharishi Ved Vyas. Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini will preside over the inaugural function. Chief Fair Administrator and Deputy Commissioner Preeti said that the famous religious and historical inter-state Shri Kapal Mochan–Shri Adi Badri Fair will be organised in Yamunanagar district from November 20 to 24, 2026. Meetings have been held with representatives of various management committees to review preparations and arrangements for the fair. She appealed to all committees to extend their full cooperation and ensure the participation of a large number of devotees. She said that to make the fair more attractive, an exhibition and cultural programmes will be organised on the opening day, November 20. The 'Hind Di Chadar' programme, along with a spectacular light and drone show, will be among the major attractions. Various cultural programmes will also be organised during the fair to familiarise devotees with the region's religious, cultural and historical heritage. Cooperation Sought to Make the Fair Polythene-Free and Zero-Waste She said that adequate arrangements, including toilets, medical stalls and other essential facilities, have been made for the convenience of devotees. Proper arrangements have also been made for pilgrims visiting Adi Badri and Lohgarh.

Haryana Pavilion at India International Trade Fair in New Delhi Inaugurated

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH



Rajya Sabha MP, Sh. Sanjay Bhatia, and Chief Administrator of the Trade Fair Authority, Smt. A. Mona Sreenivas, on Tuesday inaugurated the Haryana Pavilion set up at the India International Trade Fair in New Delhi. They also took a detailed tour of the entire pavilion. On the occasion, Sh. Sanjay Bhatia said that Haryana is number one in every field, and this is clearly reflected in the Haryana Pavilion as well. He urged the people of the state to visit the fair in large numbers and witness the wonderful blend of heritage and development showcased there. The Rajya Sabha MP said that he was visiting the trade fair after many years. Earlier, he had visited it during his school days on an excursion with other students. He expressed happiness at visiting the Haryana Pavilion and said that Haryana was number one in every field. Since the formation of Haryana in 1966, the standard of living of its people had continuously improved.

Escalator to Be Installed Soon in Front of Shaheed Smarak; Approval Received : Vij

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH



****Plan Is Being Made to Take Students From All Schools, Colleges and Other Educational Institutions in Haryana to the Shaheed Smarak: Minister Anil Vij***

Haryana Energy, Transport and Labour Minister Sh. Anil Vij said that an escalator will soon be installed in front of the Shaheed Smarak (Martyrs' Memorial) of the First War of Independence at Ambala Cantonment. Approval for the installation of the escalator has also been received. Once installed, pedestrians visiting the memorial will find it easier to cross GT Road.

While interacting with media persons today, he said that the National Highway (GT Road) is located in front of the Martyrs' Memorial. To ensure that people do not face difficulty while crossing the road, approval has been granted for the installation of an escalator, which will be constructed ahead of the memorial.

He said that plans are also being made to take students from all schools and colleges in Haryana to visit the memorial. He said that the Martyrs' Memorial has now been opened to the general public. Before its opening, a havan-yajna was performed for the peace of the souls of known and unknown revolutionaries who were shot by the British, hanged from trees, burnt with bullets, and whose villages were set on fire. The Martyrs' Memorial was opened to the public from November 15. He said that online booking is required to visit the memorial, and all bookings for the first month have already been completed. On the very first day, people from Chhattisgarh, Punjab and from various districts of haryana also visited the memorial.

Approval Granted for Procurement of 150 Lakh Syringes for Animal Husbandry Department

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH



These syringes will primarily be used in extensive vaccination campaigns and routine treatment to protect livestock against infectious and life-threatening diseases.

A significant meeting of the High-Powered Purchase Committee was held in Chandigarh today under the chairmanship of Haryana Animal Husbandry and Dairying Minister Shyam Singh Rana. During the meeting, approval was granted for the procurement of 150 lakh (1.5 crore) syringes at an estimated cost of approximately Rs. 1.72 crore for government veterinary hospitals and dispensaries across the state. These syringes will primarily be used in extensive vaccination campaigns and routine treatment to protect livestock against infectious and life-threatening diseases. They are particularly required for the prevention of rapidly spreading diseases such as Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) and other seasonal ailments affecting animals.

On the occasion, Animal Husbandry Minister Shyam Singh Rana said that livestock plays a vital role in Haryana's rural economy and is a major source of income for farmers. He emphasised that the state government is fully committed to doubling the income of livestock farmers and protecting their animals from all kinds of diseases. In this direction, the government regularly organises special free vaccination drives and animal health check-up camps. Shri Rana further said that when animals fall ill, livestock farmers not only suffer financial losses but also face a decline in milk production. Therefore, the government's focus is not limited to treatment but also extends to the early prevention of diseases. The state government is implementing several welfare schemes for the overall development of livestock, breed improvement and economic upliftment of livestock farmers, directly benefiting lakhs of farmers and livestock owners across Haryana. Emphasising transparency and expeditious completion of the procurement process, officials have been directed to ensure the timely supply of these syringes so that upcoming vaccination programmes can be conducted smoothly and without any disruption.

Renowned Artists from India and Abroad to Perform at the Mahotsav

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH

The District Administration and Kurukshetra Development Board (KDB) have intensified preparations for the International Gita Jayanti Mahotsav-2026. A special plan has been prepared to make this year's Mahotsav even more grand and memorable. For the first time in the history of the Mahotsav, grand cultural programmes will also be organised at Jyotisar Tirtha, the birthplace of the Bhagavad Gita. Until now, the main cultural programmes have traditionally been held at Purusho ttampura Bagh on the banks of Brahma Sarovar. This year, cultural events at Jyotisar Tirtha will offer devotees and tourists a unique experience. Director, Information, Public Relations and Languages Department, Haryana, Dr. Aditya Dahiya, reviewed preparations for the Mahotsav through video conferencing from Chandigarh on Tuesday. Kurukshetra Deputy Commissioner Sh. Vishram Kumar Meena, Chief Executive Officer of the Kurukshetra Development Board, Sh. Pankaj Setia and KDB Honorary Secretary Sh. Upendra Singhal attended the meeting. Dr. Dahiya said the Gita Jayanti Mahotsav is not merely a fair but an important platform for taking the message of India's Sanatan culture and the Shrimad Bhagavad Gita to the world.

Ensure Early Grant of Ownership Rights to Eligible Shopkeepers : CM

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH



- ***Chief Minister Reviews Mukhyamantri Shehri Nikay Swamitva Yojana***
- ***Directs Officers to Dispose of All Pending Cases Related to Ownership Rights of Shops Under Mukhyamantri Shehri Nikay Swamitva Yojana 1.0 and 2.0 Within One Month***

Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini has directed officers to ensure the disposal of all pending cases related to the grant of ownership rights to shopkeepers under Mukhyamantri Shehri Nikay Swamitva Yojana 1.0 and Mukhyamantri Shehri Nikay Swamitva Yojana 2.0 within one month. He emphasised that there should be no unnecessary delay in granting ownership rights to eligible shopkeepers and directed the departments concerned to work in close coordination to resolve pending cases on priority.

The Chief Minister gave these directions while chairing a review meeting of the Swamitva Yojana in Chandigarh on Tuesday. During the meeting, he conducted a detailed review of pending cases concerning the Urban Local Bodies Department, Revenue Department, Development and Panchayats Department, Public Works Department, Education Department and Haryana Shehri Vikas Pradhikaran (HSVP). The Chief Minister said the State Government had taken a historic decision in the public interest to grant ownership rights to eligible occupants of municipal shops operating for more than 20 years on a rent, lease or licence-fee basis. The Mukhyamantri Shehri Nikay Swamitva Yojana was launched with the objective of providing legal ownership rights to those running businesses from these shops for years, enabling them to carry on their businesses with dignity and confidence.

He said the State Government's priority is to ensure that citizens receive full, lawful and undisputed ownership rights over their properties. Granting ownership rights would not only provide stability to shopkeepers but also enable them to make better use of their properties. The Government is committed to ensuring that eligible beneficiaries receive the benefits of its schemes within the stipulated timeframe without facing unnecessary difficulties due to departmental procedures.

The Chief Minister further directed the officers concerned to expedite cases pending due to no-objection certificates from various departments, document verification, or other procedural formalities through effective interdepartmental coordination. He made it clear that officers must take personal responsibility for ensuring the disposal of all pending cases within the prescribed one-month deadline. He reiterated that the State Government is committed to providing transparent, accountable and people-centric governance, with the effective delivery of benefits to eligible citizens forming the cornerstone of its administrative approach.

Briefs News

Shops Available on Rent for Office Use at Agro Mall, Panchkula

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH. Shops are available on rent for office use by government departments, boards and corporations in the Agro Mall building of the Haryana State Agricultural Marketing Board, located in Sector-20, Panchkula. Interested departments, boards and corporations can rent these shops as per their requirements at the rate of Rs. 40 per square foot. According to a letter issued by Chief Secretary, Sh. Anurag Rastogi, a total of 71 shops, comprising small and large units, are available on the ground floor of the Agro Mall building, with a total area of approximately 1,577.32 square metres. In addition, 20 shops with a total area of approximately 1,206.67 square metres are available on the third floor of the building. Interested departments, boards and corporations can directly contact the Haryana State Agricultural Marketing Board, Panchkula, for renting these shops for office use. The letter further clarifies that there is no need to correspond with the Administrative Officer Branch of the Secretariat regarding renting space in the Agro Mall building. Instead, interested departments, boards and corporations can directly approach the Haryana State Agricultural Marketing Board.

Small Traders Becoming Empowered by Availing Benefits of PM SVANIDHI Scheme

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH. With the objective of financially empowering small traders and promoting their self-employment, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is implementing the Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme. Through this scheme, loans are provided to street vendors who earn their livelihood by operating roadside stalls, pushcarts and through hawking, enabling them to expand their businesses. Giving information in this regard, a government spokesperson said that the scheme was launched by the Central Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi with the objective of providing financial assistance to small traders and offering them opportunities to strengthen their businesses. Under the scheme, loans are provided to beneficiaries in a phased manner, enabling them to invest in their businesses according to their requirements and improve their livelihoods. He informed that the PM SVANidhi Scheme was launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs on June 1, 2020. With the objective of providing greater assistance to small traders, the duration of the scheme has been extended until March 31, 2030. Along with this, the loan limits for the first and second instalments under the scheme have also been increased. Now, loans of up to Rs. 15,000 are provided under the first instalment instead of Rs. 10,000, and up to Rs. 25,000 under the second instalment instead of Rs. 20,000. Meanwhile, loans of up to Rs. 50,000 are provided under the third instalment.

Indian-origin Sikh man's self-funded food mission in Canada's Vancouver goes viral

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH. With face covered, no name and a mission to feed one million, this Indian-origin Sikh man has taken the Internet by storm. One of his initial Instagram posts that was captioned, "No organization. No committee. No grey area the way seva was always meant to be. Every meal paid from one pocket, with blessings of Budha Dal & Tarna Dal," has struck a chord with many users especially the Sikh community. A recent conversation about drug addiction on the streets of Vancouver has gone viral wherein the man, who runs the 'onemillionfed' mission, asked a woman battling substance use what the community could do to help her. Her unexpected response "Not be so judgemental" has resonated with social media users. In the viral video shared on Instagram, the man asks the woman, "Why don't you go sober?" To his surprise, she replies, "I actually am." The man then asks how she got involved in drug use. The woman says a friend had tricked her into it. Towards the end of the interaction, the man asks her, "If the community could help you out, get sober, what could we do?" The interaction has drawn attention to the stigma faced by people struggling with substance use and the importance of empathy rather than judgement. The man has also shared details of his food distribution mission on Instagram.

Kejriwal's 'Sheesh Mahal' to Open for Public Viewing Next Week : Parvesh

AJEET KUMAR.OPEN SEARCH

NEW DELHI: The BJP-led Delhi government will open the former official residence of ex-Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, popularly known as 'Sheesh Mahal', for public viewing from next week, Delhi Cabinet Minister Parvesh Sahib Singh announced on Tuesday. Addressing a press conference, the minister said arrangements for public visits, including ticket bookings and reservations, would be announced shortly. Before opening the premises to the general public, the government will organise an exclusive tour for media representatives within the next two to three days. Details of the visit will be shared separately.

"We want the first tour to be organised for our media colleagues. We will first show the Sheesh Mahal



to the country's media," Parvesh Sahib Singh said.

Taking a dig at the former Chief Minister, the minister alleged that several bungalows, servant quarters and a garage were demolished to make way for the construction of the residence. He also recalled Kejriwal's earlier political claims that he would neither own a car nor live in a bungalow, questioning the contrast between those statements and the residence in question.

The minister said the proposed public viewing would give citizens an opportunity to explore the entire premises, including its various rooms, facilities and interiors. He said the government wanted people to see the property for themselves and understand the scale of the construction and facilities developed there. Reiterating allegations about the expensive interiors, Parvesh Sahib Singh referred to smart lighting systems installed in the rooms, which could reportedly change colours, including pink, blue and brown, through remote controls.

> Before opening the premises to the general public, the government will organise an exclusive tour for media representatives within the next two to three days. Details of the visit will be shared separately.

He also raised questions over curtains allegedly costing crores of rupees and the use of Vietnamese marble in the premises.

"I have already shared all these details earlier. Now, we will take the public on a complete tour of the premises so that everyone can see it with their own eyes," he said.

Describing the property as an example of alleged corruption and extravagance, the minister said the government wanted to bring the entire premises into public view. He maintained that citizens should have the opportunity to see the property themselves instead of relying only on political statements or competing claims. The announcement marks the beginning of a public viewing initiative, with the media tour expected to take place ahead of the opening to visitors next week. The government is expected to share further information on the booking process, visiting arrangements and other details shortly.

Old building collapses in Delhi, kills 2; official says train vibrations caused cracks

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)

A 50-year-old building in east Delhi's Vivek Vihar, which had allegedly developed cracks over the years due to vibrations caused by trains passing on a track behind it, collapsed on Tuesday morning, killing a three-year-old boy and a 35-year-old man, officials said. The building, located in Gali No. 6 of Jwala Nagar, had gradually weakened over the years as its owner allegedly failed to carry out repairs despite the damage caused by the vibrations, District Magistrate Ajay Kumar said. Four people were injured in the incident, according to officials. This is the third building collapse reported in Delhi this month, following similar incidents in Hauz Qazi and Paharganj. "A small portion of the building's overhang



(chajja), spread over around 20-22 square yards, collapsed onto the roof of the floor below, triggering the collapse of the entire structure," Kumar said. The building came crashing down around 10 am, trapping six people under the debris. Police personnel rushed to the spot and launched rescue operations, following which all six of them were taken out of the collapse site and shifted to Hedgewar Hospital for treatment with the assistance of CAT ambulances, police said. The deceased were identified as Laddu alias Devansh (3), who was on the first floor, and Pintu (35), who was on the ground floor, they said.

The injured were identified as Khushbu (27), Vikesh (35), Akash (25) and Dalip alias Dimpa (22). All four have been admitted to the hospital. According to Kumar, seven people were living in the building as tenants, of whom two died and five sustained injuries. A member of the district administration's team was also present at the hospital.

The district magistrate, who visited the spot after the incident, said cracks had also been noticed in the remaining portion of the structure during the removal of debris. Kumar said he had spoken to the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) regarding the condition of the building.

AIIMS-Delhi empowers doctors to launch medical start-ups

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)

In a major shift, modelled on the lines of Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs), the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) administration has introduced a new Faculty Entrepreneurship Policy, allowing its doctors and scientists to establish or join medical start-ups alongside their clinical duties. The initiative bridges a long-standing gap in Indian healthcare: transforming indigenous laboratory breakthroughs into affordable, market-ready medical devices and diagnostic tools. Aligned with national campaigns such as "Atmanirbhar Bharat" and "Make in India", the policy aims to reduce the country's heavy reliance on costly imported medical equipment. Crucially, the framework puts patient welfare at its core. Under the policy, products developed by these faculty-led ventures must be made available to AIIMS patients either free of cost or at subsidised rates. Furthermore, AIIMS will retain a non-dilutable five per cent equity stake in every start-up, ensuring public investment yields long-term institutional returns.



Acting like a brother, man drugs and rapes woman in Delhi; arrested from Rohtak

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)

Pretending to be a brotherly figure to gain her trust, a 37-year-old man allegedly drugged a woman, sexually assaulted her and later threatened to circulate her obscene photographs and videos to extort money. After evading arrest for months and repeatedly changing his hideouts, the accused was finally arrested from a residential complex in Rohtak, Haryana, the police said on Tuesday. The accused, identified as Arun Dabas, alias Bittu, was wanted in a rape, extortion and criminal intimidation case registered at Patel Nagar police station. He was



declared a proclaimed offender by a court at Tis Hazari on August 13 this year. According to the police, the case was registered on the woman's complaint. She alleged that Dabas had gained her confidence by posing as her brother and made her consume an intoxicating substance. After she lost consciousness, he allegedly sexually assaulted her and made obscene photographs and videos. He subsequently used the photographs and videos to threaten her with circulation and allegedly demanded money, the police said. Dabas had been evading arrest since the registration of the case and was reportedly shifting between hideouts to escape the police. A team from Patel Nagar police station was formed to trace him. The breakthrough came on November 16 when the team received specific information about his presence at Suncity Towers in Rohtak. The police team reached the location and apprehended him.

> ***During interrogation, the accused allegedly disclosed his involvement in other criminal cases, including murder, attempt to murder and offences under the Arms Act and Prison Act***

Briefs News

Jwala Nagar building collapse : CM monitors situation, assures all assistance to affected families

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY) Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Tuesday expressed grief over the loss of lives in the building collapse at Jwala Nagar, Shahdara, and extended condolences to the bereaved families. In a statement, the Chief Minister said the incident was tragic and expressed her heartfelt condolences to the families who lost their loved ones. She also prayed for the speedy recovery of those injured in the incident. Gupta said she was closely monitoring the situation and had directed all concerned departments to ensure the best possible medical treatment for the injured and extend every necessary assistance to the affected families. "The Delhi Government stands firmly with the bereaved families in this difficult hour," the statement said. She further directed the authorities to ensure that the affected families receive all necessary support and that the injured are provided adequate medical attention. Two people, including a three-year-old child, were killed and four others injured after a two-storey house collapsed in Jwala Nagar area of Vivek Vihar in northeast Delhi's Shahdara district on Tuesday morning. The incident triggered panic in the locality, with police, fire brigade personnel and local residents launching a rescue operation to pull out those trapped under the debris. According to information, the police received a call about the collapse at around 10.13 am, following which police and fire department teams rushed to the spot and initiated rescue operations. So far, six people have been pulled out of the debris and shifted to Dr Hedgewar Hospital for treatment.

Slow pace of Form 6 applications under Delhi SIR after deadline extension

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY) Just over 31,000 applications seeking inclusion in Delhi's electoral rolls have been received since the Election Commission (EC) extended the deadline for filing claims and objections on October 29, indicating a relatively slow pace of submissions during the ongoing Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise. According to official figures, 31,027 Form 6 applications were received between October 30 and November 15, taking the total number of applications to around 3.10 lakh. Before the extension, 2.79 lakh applications had been submitted between August 31, when the draft electoral rolls were published, and October 30. Form 6 is used by eligible citizens to seek inclusion in the electoral roll and register as voters. The EC had extended the deadline for filing claims and objections from November 25 and rescheduled the publication of the final electoral roll to December 22. The revision in the schedule followed a Supreme Court direction asking the poll panel to consider extending the period for filing claims and objections and ensuring the distribution of enumeration forms. Officials said the possibility of another extension could not be ruled out in view of the relatively low number of applications received and the additional task of distributing enumeration forms to voters. A fresh round of distribution is expected to begin later this week, they added. The SIR exercise in Delhi began on June 30 with the door-to-door distribution of electoral enumeration forms. However, around 47.5 lakh names were deleted when the draft electoral rolls were published on August 31, as the corresponding enumeration forms could not be collected.

Supreme Court: Huge sums spent, Yamuna still polluted

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY) Advocating a multi-faceted approach, a Bench of Justice Manoj Misra and Justice Manmohan said merely constructing more sewage treatment plants was not sufficient to clean the river. As pollution in the Yamuna continues to increase despite huge sums being spent on its cleaning, the Supreme Court has directed the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to monitor water quality at the points where the river and its major drains enter and exit states, UTs and districts. Advocating a multi-faceted approach, a Bench of Justice Manoj Misra and Justice Manmohan said merely constructing more sewage treatment plants was not sufficient to clean the river and that industrial pollutants and untreated sewage must be stopped at the source. "This court is of the opinion that everything that is wrong with the civic administration in towns, cities and villages situated along the banks of the river is reflected in the poor health of the river and in the 520 drains that discharge wastewater into the Yamuna.

'Taking us for a ride' : Delhi HC pulls up Kejriwal, other AAP leaders in contempt case

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)

The Delhi High Court on Tuesday gave AAP leaders Arvind Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia, Sanjay Singh and others three final weeks to respond to a criminal contempt case initiated against them for their "vilifying" social media posts against Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma. "Three weeks. Last opportunity. Otherwise, we are closing (right to file) replies," a Bench of Justices Navin Chawla and Arun Bhardwaj told the lawyers appearing for the alleged contemnors.

The counsel for one of the respondents submitted that he was yet to receive the complete case record in terms of an earlier court order. "We have a report from the registry that full compliance has been done. This is not done. We will not give further time. You are taking us for a ride. You will file the reply in three weeks. Otherwise, we will close the right," the Bench orally



remarked. Listing the matter for hearing on January 14, the court also asked the AAP leaders, including former MLA Gopal Rai, and journalist Saurav Das to reply to a separate petition seeking action against them for criminal contempt of court for allegedly being part of an "orchestrated social media campaign" against Justice Sharma. On May 19, the court had issued notice to Kejriwal and other politicians on the suo motu contempt case initiated against them by Justice Sharma and had granted them four weeks' time to file their response. It had then appointed senior advocate Rajdipa Behura as amicus curiae. Justice Sharma had, on May 14, initiated criminal contempt proceedings against Kejriwal, Sisodia, Singh and other AAP leaders, including Durgesh Pathak, Saurabh Bharadwaj and Vinay Mishra, over their "vilifying" social media posts against her in relation to the excise policy case. The judge also initiated contempt proceedings against X user Devesh Vishwakarma. Subsequently, lawyer Ashok Chaitanya also filed a contempt petition. In the contempt order, Justice Sharma had asserted that the former Delhi Chief Minister "orchestrated a calculated campaign of vilification" against her on social media instead of pursuing legal remedies, and clarified that the CBI's petition against the discharge of all accused persons would now be taken up by another Bench. The judge took exception to several social media posts by the proposed contemnors that attributed "political allegiance" and "affiliation" to her and allegedly targeted her by posting a misleading "edited" video of a speech she gave at an educational institution in Varanasi.

> ***Court gives them three final weeks to respond to contempt proceedings over social media posts against Justice Swarana Kanta Sharma***

12-year-old girl loses vision in one eye after firecracker hits her during Diwali in Delhi

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)

A 12-year-old girl lost vision in her right eye after a firecracker allegedly thrown during Diwali struck her in a narrow lane in Shahdara area of northeast Delhi, leaving her family worried about her treatment and future. The incident took place around 10.30 pm on November 8 in lane number 3 of Mukesh Nagar, when Jhanvi, a Class 7 student, was on her way to a grocery shop to buy household items, according to her family. Her father, Narendra, alleged that a man identified as Amit was bursting large firecrackers outside the lane. Despite being asked not to do so, he allegedly threw a firecracker towards Jhanvi. It exploded before she could react, hitting her right eye and causing serious injuries, he said. Jhanvi was rushed to Guru Teg Bahadur Hospital and later referred to AIIMS for further treatment. Her father said doctors at AIIMS told



the family that her right eye had suffered severe damage and she had lost vision in it. Her treatment is underway. Jhanvi, the younger of two siblings, was good at studies and had recently begun thinking about her future. Her uncle, Ved Prakash, said she often told family members that she wanted to become a senior government officer. She was very good at studies and always said she wanted to become a big officer. She had so many dreams, but this incident has changed everything," he said. Both her parents are employed, and the family is now concerned about the cost of her medical treatment as well as her education.

Gau Mata embodies India's cultural identity, spiritual traditions and rural economic heritage

VIKAS

NEW DELHI, "Gopashtami is not merely a religious observance; it is a reminder of our civilisational responsibility towards Gau Mata and an occasion to remember those who sacrificed their lives for her protection. Sixty years ago, on November 7, 1966, devotees and spiritual leaders demanding a ban on cow slaughter faced police firing near Parliament. Their sacrifice remains an important chapter in the history of the cow protection movement," said Hon'ble Speaker of the Delhi Legislative Assembly, Shri Vijender Gupta, while addressing a gathering organised to mark Gopashtami celebrations in Mayur Vihar (East Delhi), Phase 1 earlier today. Shri Gupta said that reverence for Gau Mata transcends religious observance and reflects a profound relationship between India's cultural identity, spiritual traditions and civilisational heritage. Recalling the events of November 7, 1966, Shri Gupta observed that this year's Gopashtami carries particular historical significance as it marks six decades since the agitation near Parliament demanding a nationwide prohibition on cow slaughter. He said that spiritual leaders had endured imprisonment, legal proceedings and considerable hardship while pursuing the cause of cow protection. "Whenever society has faced a challenge to its deeply held values, saints and spiritual leaders have awakened its collective conscience, often through extraordinary personal sac-



rifice," he remarked, underscoring the importance of preserving the memory of such movements for future generations. Highlighting the spiritual significance of Gopashtami, Speaker Shri Vijender Gupta said that the festival commemorates the auspicious occasion when Lord Shri Krishna, in Vrindavan, began tending cows, marking his transition from caring for calves to assuming the responsibilities of a cowherd, revered as Gopa and Govinda. He observed that this sacred association reflects the enduring place of Gau Mata in India's religious and cultural consciousness. Further ,Placing Gau Seva within the broader context of India's social and economic history, the Speaker said that the cow has traditionally represented both spiritual reverence and rural prosperity. He emphasised that cow protection must extend beyond ceremonial worship to responsible care, improved Gaushala management and sustained public participation. Shri Gupta called upon citizens to reaffirm their commitment to Gau Seva and preserve a tradition deeply intertwined with India's social fabric and civilisational identity. Commending the organisers for bringing together devotees and community representatives, Shri Gupta appreciated their continued dedication to cow welfare and the preservation of traditional values. He said that initiatives undertaken by Gaushalas and voluntary organisations play an important role in strengthening community participation and promoting compassion towards animals. Expressing his appreciation for the invitation to participate in the celebrations, the Speaker urged citizens, particularly the younger generation, to recognise Gau Seva as a responsibility rooted in India's civilisational ethos. He concluded by calling for a collective commitment to protecting Gau Mata and carrying forward the country's enduring traditions.

> ***He said that spiritual leaders had endured imprisonment, legal proceedings and considerable hardship while pursuing the cause of cow protection.***

Open Search
EDITORIAL

Horticulture : A New Dimension in Agricultural Development

India is an agrarian country where agriculture is not only the source of livelihood for millions of people but also plays a vital role in strengthening the national economy. With changing times, the need for diversification and innovation in the agricultural sector has increased. In this context, horticultural production has emerged as an effective means of increasing farmers' income, generating new employment opportunities and strengthening the rural economy. The cultivation of fruits, vegetables, flowers, spices, medicinal plants and aromatic crops has now become an important part of the agricultural sector.

India's climatic and geographical conditions are highly favourable for horticultural crops. Different states across the country produce a wide variety of fruits and vegetables, including mangoes, bananas, guavas, oranges, apples, grapes, pomegranates, potatoes, onions and tomatoes on a large scale. In addition, floriculture and spice cultivation are also providing farmers with better economic opportunities. One of the biggest advantages of horticulture is that it offers the potential for higher production and better returns even from relatively small areas of land. This enables small and marginal farmers to improve their economic conditions by adopting horticultural practices.

The importance of horticultural production is not limited to increasing farmers' income. It is also directly linked to nutrition, health, food security and industrial development. Fruits and vegetables provide essential vitamins, minerals and nutrients required by the human body. With the growing population and changing lifestyles, the demand for nutritious food products is continuously increasing. In this situation, the horticulture sector can make a significant contribution towards meeting the country's nutritional requirements.

However, the sector also faces several challenges. Fruits and vegetables are highly perishable commodities. Due to inadequate cold storage facilities, cold-chain infrastructure, processing units and modern transportation facilities, farmers often fail to receive remunerative prices for their produce. At times, excessive production in the market leads to a sharp decline in prices, making it difficult for farmers to even recover their production costs. In addition, the shortage of quality seeds, planting material, irrigation facilities, modern technology and scientific knowledge also affects productivity. To address these challenges, both the Central and State Governments must pay special attention to the development of the horticulture sector. Farmers should be encouraged to adopt modern agricultural techniques, drip irrigation, polyhouses, greenhouses and organic farming practices. At the same time, cold storage facilities, food processing units and warehousing infrastructure should be expanded in villages and agricultural production centres. This will help reduce post-harvest losses and enable farmers to preserve their produce for longer periods. Connecting farmers directly with markets is another important requirement of the present time. Digital platforms, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs).

Delhi must blame itself for air crisis

ARVIND



From this entire discourse, it appears as though fires lit by farmers to clear their fields are the sole cause of Delhi's air pollution.

Every October and November, following the paddy harvest in Punjab, air quality in Delhi deteriorates sharply schools are closed, respiratory illnesses surge dramatically and the crisis draws international scrutiny. Repeatedly, newspapers, social media, government directives and other communication channels portray smoke from stubble burning in Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh as the primary cause of this pollution in the capital. Farmers are continuously urged not to burn stubble, and laws have been enacted against this practice. From this entire discourse, it appears as though fires lit by farmers to clear their fields are the sole cause of Delhi's air pollution. Yet, when subjected to the scientific method and empirical facts, this assumption fails to hold. Imagine a rooster crowing two hours before sunrise, followed by moss-rose flowers blooming two hours later. Although all three events are correlated, the rooster's crowing does not cause the sun to rise. Removing the rooster changes nothing, whereas keeping the moss-rose plants in the shade prevents them from blooming, demonstrating a genuine cause-and-effect relationship between sunlight and flowering. The mere coincidence of Delhi's most polluted days with the paddy harvest window does not, in itself, prove that the capital's pollution is caused by stubble-burning smoke. The scientific method teaches us that the simultaneous occurrence of two phenomena does not automatically establish causation or a direct link between them; there can be other reasons for events occurring concurrently. To establish a cause-and-effect relationship, we need to demonstrate that changing one parameter affects the other. Confusing correlation with causation is very common. Air pollution is governed primarily by fine suspended particulate matter, particularly particles smaller than 2.5 microns (PM2.5). While larger particles settle quickly onto the Earth's surface under gravity, fine particles remain suspended for days unless washed down by rain or dispersed by strong winds. In winter, when solar energy decreases, air temperature and wind speeds also drop, increasing the likelihood of particles remaining trapped in a single region. Coastal cities like Mumbai and Chennai escape this acute buildup because their winters are mild and steady sea breezes carry particulates out into the ocean, whereas landlocked Delhi experiences seasonal stagnation. Basic fluid dynamics also challenges the narrative of wind-borne smoke constantly pooling in Delhi. Matter cannot be destroyed; Delhi is not a black hole into which air from all directions keeps flowing endlessly. When winds blow from west to east, carrying smoke from Punjab and Haryana toward Delhi, that same air stream inside Delhi also blows eastward, carrying pollutants out of the capital at roughly the same rate. Conversely, when winds blow from western Uttar Pradesh, air from Punjab cannot simultaneously enter Delhi. Furthermore, if air arriving from Punjab were the primary cause of Delhi's pollution, PM2.5 concentrations in Punjab would have to be vastly higher than in Delhi, because over a distance of 250 km a large fraction of particles disperses. In reality, the capital's air quality is consistently worse than Punjab's. Modern science leaves no room for guesswork regarding where these particles originate. Satellite imagery and computer models of atmospheric currents track wind trajectories and fire plumes in real time. More decisively, air samples collected on graded filters can be analysed under a Scanning Electron Microscope alongside chemical and spectroscopic assays. The elemental composition and combustion temperature of stubble burned in an open field differ distinctly from diesel burned in an engine or coal in a thermal power plant, while construction dust contains no carbon at all. Through such characterisation, the particles themselves provide conclusive proof of their origin. Source-apportionment research confirms that local urban activities, not distant farms, drive Delhi's crisis. A comprehensive 2018 study by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) found that vehicular emissions account for 40% of Delhi's air pollution, road and construction dust for roughly 20% and industrial emissions for another 20%, while agricultural residue burning contributes only 4-7%. Even on specific days with unfavourable meteorology, external smoke never becomes the primary cause. Long-term trends reinforce this conclusion. Over the past 25 years, paddy acreage in Punjab has seen no major increase, hovering around 6-8 million acres, whereas Delhi has witnessed an exponential rise in vehicles, construction activities and paved surfaces replacing greenery. More tellingly, Central Pollution Control Board records from 2015 to 2025 show no serious improvement in Delhi's winter AQI (air quality index) — with November figures consistently locked in the "very poor" 312-377 range — even as stubble-burning incidents. in Punjab declined drastically over the past three years through alternative residue management practices. In 2025 alone, Punjab burned 50% less stubble than in 2024, yet Delhi's November and December AQI averaged 354 and 351, respectively. None of this is an argument in favour of burning stubble. Field fires cause immense harm, hitting farmers and their families first, damaging respiratory health, killing beneficial soil microbes and degrading soil fertility. Finding viable options for residue management is essential, alongside curbing excessive pesticides and herbicides, conserving groundwater and restoring crop diversification. However, linking stubble burning to Delhi's pollution every year to hold farmers culpable in the public eye does not align with scientific facts. Addressing air pollution requires government-supported scientific source identification.

Between Putin and Trump, Europe is looking for a say in its own future

GULSHAN SACHDEVA

In the past, Europeans have often secured multiple seats at high-profile international negotiations, typically representing both the E3 (France, Germany and the UK) and the European Union.



Russia may be seeking to bring about the biggest transformation of the European security order since the end of the Cold War, with Donald Trump, Xi Jinping and Vladimir Putin slated to meet in Shenzhen this week. In the past, Europeans have often secured multiple seats at high-profile international negotiations, typically representing both the E3 (France, Germany and the UK) and the European Union. During the negotiations on the Iran nuclear deal, for instance, the foreign ministers of all three E3 countries participated alongside the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy. Similarly, negotiations on the Minsk Agreements concerning the Ukraine crisis were conducted under the Normandy Format, involving the leaders of France and Germany, with the participation of representatives from the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE).

Trump and Putin have broadened the agenda to include Europe's post-war security architecture. Any meaningful discussion must involve France and the UK, both permanent members of the UN Security Council and nuclear powers; Germany, Europe's largest economy and a key driver of integration, particularly as it expands its defence capabilities; and Poland, whose role has grown as a front-line state in the Ukraine war. The EU also needs a seat at the table to represent the collective interests of its 27 members.

Trump and Putin have put the Europeans in a reactive position. Until recently, most EU countries were reluctant to engage with Russia, either bilaterally or at international forums. When the Finnish and Norwegian leaders reached out to Putin, their initiatives were criticised by several EU countries. Now, when asked to nominate a single European representative for talks with Russia, major European nations, along with the EU itself, want a place in the delegation. The dilemma: How to remain relevant in negotiations that could shape its own security future. Despite reservations among some member states, the EU and its members have, by and large, maintained a united position on Ukraine. With the Trump administration scaling back US financial support, European countries have increasingly shouldered the burden of sustaining Ukraine's war effort.

The resumption of direct talks in Abu Dhabi was viewed by Europeans with considerable scepticism, alarm and frustration. Although representatives of the EU, NATO, France, Germany, the UK and Italy travelled to the UAE, they were largely relegated to the sidelines. They were also alarmed by references to a "new European security architecture". From their perspective, Europe already has a security architecture centred on NATO, which has been fundamentally undermined by Russia's actions in Ukraine. However, Europeans may now be falling into what EU foreign policy chief Kaja Kallas has described as the "Russian trap". Rather than focusing on an immediate ceasefire, negotiations could evolve into a much broader exercise in finding common ground with Moscow on a range of issues. For Europe, the sequencing of these discussions is critical: An immediate ceasefire must come first, followed by negotiations on a final settlement and, eventually, the future security architecture. The challenge, however, is that if Europeans join the negotiations, they may find it difficult to confine the agenda to a ceasefire. As per Volodymyr Zelenskyy, the US has even floated the idea of Ukraine withdrawing its remaining forces from the eastern Donbas region in exchange for NATO membership. These developments put Europe in a difficult position: Resisting compromises could expose it to accusations of obstructing peace, while accepting an agreement could mean accommodating Moscow's demands. European leaders cannot afford to focus exclusively on securing a ceasefire in Ukraine. They must also develop a clear strategy for what a future European security order should look like, particularly as the prospect of achieving Russia's "strategic defeat" appears increasingly unrealistic. Even if the EU believes that Russia cannot be a partner in a future European security arrangement, it may still have to work out a mechanism with Moscow to prevent Europe from facing another war.

Ditch fecklessness

PRASENJIT K. BASU

When China invaded the independent nation of Tibet 76 years ago, the world (especially India, for whom Tibet was always a buffer state distancing it from China) stayed shamefully silent. Communist China's invasion of Tibet, following its grabbing of East Turkestan ('Xinjiang'), emboldened it to pursue further territorial expansion in the South China Sea and the Himalayas. Until October 1950, Tibet proper (known to China's Manchu dynasty as 'Outer Tibet') had never had any relations with a Han Chinese dynasty/regime. The only periods in Tibetan history during which Tibet and China had any ties at all were under the Mongol (emphatically non-Chinese) Yuan and Manchu (non-Chinese Tungusic-speaking) Qing dynasties. Mongols and Manchus, being Buddhists, had a 'priest-patron' relationship with Tibet — the latter having overarching control of spiritual matters, while the Mongols/Manchus had temporal power. There was complementarity in the relationship — not imperial control from Beijing. The term, 'Dalai Lama', comes from a Mongol word for ocean (Dalai), signifying that lama's 'ocean of knowledge'.

Han Chinese dynasties like the Ming and Song had no relations with Tibet. The storied Tang dynasty lost the climactic Battle of Talas (751 CE) to Tibet (aligned with the Abbasid Caliphate). Thereafter, the Tibetan empire expanded south and eastward, conquering what are today Qinghai, western Sichuan and Yunnan. The Manchu dynasty gained control of the Tibetan regions of western Sichuan and Qinghai, incorporating them into their realms in the 1720s (and naming them "Inner Tibet", much like "Inner Mongolia" comprises parts of traditional Mongolia that the Manchus conquered from the Mongols).

In Outer Tibet, however, even the Manchus had a negligible presence. Their representative in Lhasa was called amban — interpreted as 'ambassador' by Tibet but seen as a 'Resident' by the Manchus — including a guard of 2,000 troops. Of the 80 ambans who served in Lhasa, just four were Han Chinese (including the last two, appointed in the dynasty's dying years). Manchus and Mongols were the elite during the 268 years of Manchu rule, and Han Chinese were ritually humiliated. Chinese nationalists like Sun Yatsen consequently hated the Manchus, denigrating them as foreign "Tartars" needing to be rooted out. When the Manchu dynasty was overthrown at the beginning of 1912 by Sun's KMT (Chinese nationalist) movement, (Outer) Tibet expelled the amban and his armed escort and declared full independence. This amounted to a restoration of the natural order of things, since Tibet never had the priest-patron relationship with any Han Chinese regime. Tibet always had much closer religio-cultural ties with India. Vajrayana Buddhism (Tibet's majority faith) was brought to Tibet by the Bengali sage, Atisa Dipankara, in 11th century CE. Given its Sanskrit/Pali origins, the Tibetan script has far more in common with India's languages, and is totally unrelated to the ideograms of the Chinese script. Modern India inherited some privileges in Tibet, including an armed diplomatic Mission in Lhasa, two armed consulates/trade marts in Gyantse and Yatung, an unarmed one in Gartok, and full control of the principality.

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Credex Turns Unused Cloud and AI Credits Into Working Capital for Startups

BENGALURU. (AGENCY)



Credex, a cloud credits marketplace, helps founders sell unused AWS, GCP, Azure, OpenAI and Anthropic credits for cash, and helps price-sensitive SaaS and AI companies buy discounted cloud and AI credits at up to 50% below list price. Buyers cut their infrastructure spend without changing a line of code. Sellers recover value from credits that would otherwise expire. Billions of dollars in cloud and AI credits expire unused every year. Programs like AWS Activate, Google for Startups Cloud and Microsoft for Startups hand out packages worth tens or hundreds of thousands of dollars to win early customers. But credits come with expiry dates, and startup plans change faster than credit schedules. When a company pivots, gets acquired or winds down, the remaining balance usually vanishes. At the same time, LLM/AI model API costs have become one of the fastest-growing lines in a startup budget. Teams building on Claude, GPT and Gemini pay list price for every token, and GPU compute for training and inference is still expensive. For price-sensitive companies, every dollar saved on infrastructure is a dollar of extra runway.

Founders winding down, pivoting or simply over-provisioned can sell unused AWS credits, GCP credits, Azure credits, OpenAI credits, Anthropic credits and more through Credex's verified transfer process. Instead of letting credits lapse to zero, sellers cash out at competitive rates with secure payouts. A founder asking "where can I sell AWS credits" or "how to monetize cloud credits" gets an answer in days, not months. Selling takes four steps: For founders whose AWS Activate credits are expiring, or who are wondering what to do with leftover startup credits after a pivot, Credex offers a way to resell AI credits and cloud credits instead of writing them off. For buyers: discounted cloud credits without the enterprise negotiation Credex serves the companies cloud providers overlook: seed-to-Series B startups and mid-sized SaaS businesses that are too small for enterprise discounts but too big to ignore their infrastructure bill. Buyers can buy AWS credits, GCP credits and Azure credits below list price, along with AI API credits for models including Claude, GPT, Gemini, Llama, Grok, DeepSeek and Mistral, plus GPU credits for H100 and A100 workloads. For teams whose OpenAI or Anthropic API costs are climbing faster than revenue, discounted AI credits are the simplest way to reduce cloud costs and extend runway without re-architecting anything. Every listing is verified before transfer, and every transaction includes full account ownership transfer, so buyers get clean, usable credits rather than shared logins or gray-market workarounds. Cloud credits were designed as customer acquisition tools for hyperscalers, not as assets. Credex treats them as prepaid infrastructure with real value on both sides of the trade, and brings pricing transparency, verification and speed to a market that has run on cold DMs and trust falls.

Bali Beach Convention Center, A Distinguished Destination for World-Class Events in Bali

DENPASAR : (AGENCY)

Set along the tranquil coastline of Sanur, Bali Beach Convention Center presents an exceptional destination for meetings, incentives, conferences, exhibitions (MICE), and distinguished social occasions. Combining expansive event facilities, refined architectural details, and the natural beauty of Bali's beachfront, the venue offers a versatile setting for gatherings that bring people together through meaningful experiences.

Strategically located within the Sanur Special Economic Zone for Health and Wellness, Bali Beach Convention Center brings together contemporary event infrastructure and the enduring charm of one of Bali's most established coastal destinations. Its beachfront location, complemented by ocean views



and thoughtfully designed interiors, creates an inspiring environment for prestigious corporate engagements, international conferences, and memorable celebrations. At the heart of the venue are three expansive convention halls, each measuring 1,250 square metres. Designed to accommodate a diverse range of event formats, the halls can be configured individually or combined to host international conferences, corporate gatherings, product launches, exhibitions, gala dinners, weddings, and large-scale celebrations. Together, the three halls offer a total event space of 3,750 square metres, with the capacity to accommodate up to 5,000 guests. Spacious, fully air-conditioned interiors and generous ceiling heights provide the flexibility required for sophisticated banquets, elaborate event productions, and large-scale gatherings.

Each convention hall offers distinctive features to complement different event requirements.

Govt hikes windfall tax on diesel, ATF exports; petrol remains exempt

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)



The Centre has raised the windfall tax on diesel and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) exports, while maintaining the zero-duty rate on petrol exports, increasing the levy on international sales of the two petroleum products. In notifications released on Monday, the Finance Ministry increased the export duty on diesel to Rs 14 per litre from Rs 11.50 per litre. The tax on ATF exports has been raised to Rs 12.50 per litre, up from Rs 11 per litre. Petrol exports will continue to attract no tax. The revised rates came into effect on November 16, after the notifications were published in the Official Gazette. The amendments were issued by the Department of Revenue under the export-duty framework initially established on March 26. This marks the second increase in export taxes in fewer than three weeks. On October 31, the government increased the duty on diesel exports from Rs 8.50 to Rs 11.50 per litre and on ATF from Rs 10.50 to Rs 11 per litre. It concurrently abolished the Rs 2.50 per litre tax on petrol exports. The windfall tax policy was implemented in March due to the West Asia conflict and a rise in global crude oil prices. Since then, the government has regularly adjusted the taxes in response to fluctuations.

Czech Tourism, Budvar & Vredestein Back 32nd Punjab Open Ladies Golf 2026

CHANDIGARH : (AGENCY)



Chandigarh Golf Club, one of India's most prestigious golfing institutions, has announced the 32nd Punjab Open Ladies Amateur Golf Championship 2026, a premier event that will bring together some of the finest women golfers from across the country in a celebration of sporting excellence, competition, and camaraderie.

Established in 1966, Chandigarh Golf Club has played a pivotal role in developing golfing talent in India. With more than six decades of heritage and a distinguished history of hosting national-level championships, the Club continues to serve as an important platform for nurturing future champions.

Ms. Ashu Singh, Lady Captain, Chandigarh Golf Club, said that the Punjab Open Ladies Amateur Golf Championship is among the largest and most respected women's amateur golf tournaments in North India. "The Championship provides an outstanding platform for aspiring women golfers and helps prepare them to compete at national and international levels. We are delighted to welcome players from across the country and grateful for the support of our partners who share our commitment to promoting the sport," she said. The Championship is being supported by Vredestein Dutch Tyres as the Principal Sponsor, while Czech Tourism and the iconic Czech brewer Budejovický Budvar have joined as official partners, further strengthening the event's international profile.

Representing the Czech delegation are Mr. Ivan Schwarz, Export Director, Budejovický Budvar N.P.; Ms. Aneta Lešková, Brand Manager, Budejovický Budvar N.P.; and Ms. Barbara Andelová, Czech Tourism, who have collaborated with Agways International, the national distributor of Budvar in India, in supporting the Championship. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Ivan Schwarz said: "This is our first visit to India, and we are proud to be associated with such a prestigious golfing event. Budvar represents centuries of Czech brewing tradition, and we see tremendous value in promoting cultural exchange.

Briefs News

India's inland waterbodies could create 1.8 crore jobs, add USD 40 billion to economy: Report

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY) India's village ponds, tanks, lakes and reservoirs have the potential to double inland fish production from 15 million tonnes to 30 million tonnes over the next ten years, creating 1.8 crore new jobs and adding about USD 40 billion to the economy, according to a report by Jaljeevika and Change Engine. The report said improving the productivity of inland water resources could generate significant employment and additional income for rural households, with women expected to be among the biggest beneficiaries. However, despite contributing roughly half of the USD.

Rs 15.53 Crore Residential Deal Sets New Benchmark in Vile Parle West

MUMBAI : (AGENCY) A luxury residence at Chandak Vansham, Vile Parle West, has been transacted at ?15.53 crore, marking the highest-value residential deal in the micro-market and setting a new benchmark for luxury real estate in the neighbourhood, particularly for luxury flats in Vile Parle West. Developed by Chandak Group, Chandak Vansham is spread across Rs 3.4 acres on S.V. Road and offers spacious 3 and 4 BHK residences with lavish balconies and flexible jodi options, thoughtfully designed for multi-generational luxury living. The development features 1.5 acres of dedicated open.

Amazon plans USD 7 billion additional investment in renewable energy projects in India by 2030

NEW DELHI. (AGENCY)



Global e-commerce giant Amazon on Tuesday announced plans to invest an additional USD 7 billion in renewable energy projects in India by 2030, expanding its clean energy portfolio and supporting the country's transition towards sustainable energy. According to a company statement, the proposed investment will be in addition to USD 4 billion already contracted for renewable energy projects in India. Amazon also announced four new utility-scale wind and solar projects with a combined capacity of 934 megawatts (MW) across Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. These include a 234 MW wind project and a 200 MW combined solar and wind project in Karnataka, a 300 MW solar project in Madhya Pradesh and a 200 MW solar project in Rajasthan. The company stated that these projects are part of its existing USD 4 billion contracted portfolio and have been secured through Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs). Once operational, Amazon's contracted renewable energy projects in India will have a combined capacity exceeding 2 gigawatts (GW), sufficient to generate electricity equivalent to the annual requirements of more than 3.5 million Indian households. Welcoming the announcement, Union Minister for New and Renewable Energy Pralhad Joshi said, "Such investments play an important role in advancing India's clean energy ambitions, strengthening energy security and supporting sustainable economic growth. He added that these investments demonstrate growing confidence.

Draft SAF policy likely to be released in 1-2 weeks : Civil Aviation Minister

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)



India's draft Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) policy is expected to be released for public consultation within the next one to two weeks, following consultations with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MOPNG), said Union Civil Aviation Minister Ram Mohan Naidu, adding, India has capacity to build multiple SAF production pathways. Speaking at the India Sustainable Aviation Fuel Summit, the Minister said, ...the most crucial step is going to be the roll out of our sustainable aviation fuel policy. SAF is a renewable, non-petroleum-based alternative to traditional fossil jet fuel that significantly reduces the carbon footprint of air travel The draft policy has been shared with the MOPNG for their comments. Very soon the policy is going to be published for public consultation. This we are expecting to do in a week or two, he said. As per Naidu, SAF has the potential to reduce emissions by up to 80% as compared.

NORTHERN RAILWAY

TENDER NOTICE (Through e-tendering)

Name of work with its location :	Signalling work in connection with Provision of second loop line at PKDE station on single line section.
App. Cost of the work :	Rs. 96,82,493.60/-
Bid Security :	Rs. 1,93,700.00/-
Address of the office :	Senior Divisional Signal & Telecom Engineer-C, Northern Railway, 3rd Floor, Annexe-1, DRM Office, New Delhi-110055.
Date & Time for uploading the tender/closing of the tender :	Tender uploading 17.11.2026 / closing date & time- 09.12.2026 up to 15.00 hrs.
Website particular & notice board location where complete details of the tender can be seen etc. :	See the Northern Railway website www.ireps.gov.in & Notice board at the S&T branch, 3rd Floor, DRM office, State Entry Road, New Delhi-110055.

No.: 558-Sig-16-M-TENDER-1488 Dated: 17.11.2026 4006/2026

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

INTRODUCTION OF REGULAR RUN OF KANPUR CENTRAL-ANAND VIHAR(T.)-KANPUR CENTRAL DAILY EXPRESS TRAIN

For the convenience of rail passengers, it has been decided to introduce the regular run of Train No. 14153/14154 Kanpur Central-Anand Vihar(T.) Kanpur Central Daily Express as per the details mentioned below:-

14153/14154 Kanpur Central-Anand Vihar(T.)-Kanpur Central Express (Daily)

Train No. 14153		STATIONS	Train No. 14154	
ARR.	DEP.		ARR.	DEP.
—	20:40	Kanpur Central	07:25	---
21:35	21:37	Phaphund	04:58	05:00
22:30	22:32	Etawah Jn.	04:20	04:22
00:10	00:12	Tundla Jn.	03:13	03:15
00:45	00:47	Hathras City	02:20	02:22
01:33	01:35	Aligarh Jn.	01:50	01:52
02:05	02:07	Khurja Jn.	00:53	00:55
02:50	02:52	Dadri	00:13	00:15
03:54	03:56	Ghaziabad Jn.	23:48	23:50
04:50	---	Anand Vihar (T.)	---	23:25

Days of run: 14153 Ex. Kanpur Central and 14154 Ex. Anand Vihar(T.) from 19.11.2026 (Daily). Composition: 2 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC, 3 Tier AC Economy, Sleeper & General

For detailed information, please call RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit enquiry website: www.enquiry.indianrail.gov.in

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4011/2026

SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

Instagram fine-tunes recommendation systems in India to curb sexually suggestive violent content

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)



Meta Platforms said on Tuesday that it has fine-tuned Instagram's content recommendation systems in India to curb the visibility of sexually suggestive material and violent content, deploying more advanced artificial intelligence models to identify and filter unwanted posts before they reach users. The India-specific measures apply to content recommended from accounts users do not follow and concern what Instagram's algorithms promote, rather than a blanket ban on the content itself, the company said. The announcement comes against the backdrop of increased regulatory scrutiny of social media algorithms in India. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, in an October 10 advisory, asked Meta to review its ranking and recommendation systems to ensure potentially misleading, manipulated or out-of-context material is not disproportionately amplified. Meta, however, did not say if the changes were linked to the government advisory. The changes have helped halve the frequency with which users report recommended content compared with a year ago, Meta said in a post on its website. The platform said it had strengthened default protections over the past year, tailoring its systems to content that users in India have said they do not want to see. The measures apply to recommendations across Reels, Explore and Feed, where Instagram surfaces content from accounts users do not already follow. As part of the upgrades, Instagram is using more capable AI models to assess content directly against its Recommendations Guidelines, enabling its systems to detect and limit potentially objectionable material proactively rather than waiting for users to report or hide it. "Today, our systems keep more of this content out of recommendations, including sexually suggestive content and content that depicts violence," Meta said. The company said the improvements had enabled it to proactively reduce the amount of content in India that does not meet its recommendation standards. It did not disclose the absolute volume of content affected, the proportion of recommendations filtered or the methodology used to calculate the decline in user reports. Instagram's recommendation standards are distinct from its Community Standards, which govern content prohibited on the platform. Material that violates Community Standards is removed, while content that may be objectionable, sensitive or low-quality but does not breach those rules can remain accessible without being recommended to a wider audience. Content unlawful in a particular country is restricted there, the company said. Recommendations determine how users discover content beyond accounts they actively follow, giving the platform's algorithms considerable influence over what appears in their feeds and is amplified across the service. Alongside platform-wide recommendation filters, Instagram offers users controls to customise the content they see and manage interactions on the platform. Its Sensitive Content Control allows users to opt for less sensitive material across Search, Reels, Explore, suggested accounts and in-Feed recommendations. Instagram said its systems in India already exclude the most mature content from recommendations, with the setting allowing users to further limit exposure to other sensitive material. Users can also choose to see less political content recommended from accounts they do not follow, flag posts through the "Not Interested" option and filter selected words, phrases and emojis from comments and message requests using the Hidden Words feature. Its blocking function prevents specific accounts from finding profiles, viewing posts or sending messages, including through new accounts they may create. Teenagers receive additional age-appropriate protections through Instagram's Teen Accounts, introduced in India last year. These accounts automatically place younger users in a 13-plus content setting governed by the platform's age-appropriate content guidelines. The changes come amid growing scrutiny of social media platforms over online safety, algorithm-driven content distribution and the exposure of younger users. to potentially harmful material. Meta said user feedback.

Deputy CM attended the division level conference of PM Swanidhi

RAIPUR. OPEN SEARCH



He launched the Smart Cart Registration and released its poster at the event. He said that receiving identity cards for street vendors will facilitate their business.

Deputy Chief Minister and Urban Administration and Development Minister Shri Arun Sao said that the PM Svanidhi Yojana has provided capital support to the hard work of people who run street stalls and small businesses. Income that was once spent paying interest to moneylenders is now being used to expand businesses, educate children, and ensure family well-being. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's intention is for small businesses to become financially strong and move forward with dignity. Only when each family becomes self-reliant will the state and the country develop.

Deputy Chief Minister Mr. Sao made these remarks while addressing the beneficiaries of the scheme at the division-level Swanidhi Mahotsav held at the Lal Bahadur Shastri School grounds in Bilaspur today. He launched the Smart Cart Registration and released its poster at the event. He said that receiving identity cards for street vendors will facilitate their business. Mr. Sao also distributed digital payment sound boxes linked to UPI to beneficiaries. He also honored successful street vendors and their talented children on stage.

Deputy Chief Minister Mr. Saw said that the lives of small businesses are filled with struggle and hard work. Previously, businesses required loans from moneylenders, and a significant portion of their hard-earned income was lost to interest. During the COVID-19 pandemic, these families faced a serious livelihood crisis. Prime Minister Mr. Narendra Modi understood their difficulties and launched the PM Svanidhi Yojana in 2020. The availability of easy, collateral-free loans provided millions of street vendors the opportunity to rebuild and expand their businesses. Mr. Saw said that beneficiaries who repay their loans on time under the scheme can expand their businesses by taking loans of up to 15,000, 25,000, and 50,000 rupees respectively. Encouraging beneficiaries to make regular payments to advance to the next stage, increase their income, and educate their children in good schools. They should also join other government welfare schemes to empower their entire family.

DMK targets CM Vijay, says 'solo performance' only for cinema, not politics

CHENNAI : (AGENCY)



Slamming Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay for allegedly handling the Mekedatu issue in a "filmi style", the opposition DMK on Tuesday said he may make a "solo performance" in cinema but must embrace all in the lifeline issue of the state and hit out at the Karnataka Congress, asking if it should "do politics" on the matter when it has a string of other issues for such a purpose. Reiterating party chief M K Stalin's demand for an all-party meeting on the Mekedatu issue, DMK's Tamil mouthpiece 'Murasoli' alleged that the TVK-led government, which is "sluggish" on all the issues, shows "indifference" even on the Mekedatu issue. In its editorial on Tuesday, the DMK newspaper said Karnataka Chief Minister D K Shivakumar has been speaking as if building the Mekedatu dam alone was his 'lifetime lakshya'. Referring to Shivakumar's alleged comment on November 13 that no one would be able to prevent the dam construction, the DMK wondered why the Congress party should indulge in politics based on the Mekedatu issue, as it has thousands of issues to do politics in Karnataka. Following Shivakumar's remarks, Stalin demanded an all-party meeting, the Dravidian party said and recalled that CM Vijay proposed talks months ago with Karnataka. "Tamil Nadu's unanimous stand is that there will be no use in talking with Karnataka. However, ignoring it, Vijay behaved in a childish manner, and Shivakumar later said that only Vijay proposed talks and "does Tamil Nadu deserve such an insult?" asked Murasoli. Kannada outfits staged protests opposing TN CM's visit, and only after that "Vijay acted, saying he would bear any insults for the sake of the Tamil Nadu people." Further, Murasoli said: "Mekedatu issue is not a movie. It is an issue that affects the livelihoods of crores of Tamil people. In such an issue, he delivered cinema dialogues and wasted six months of time. He must act by taking the Mekedatu issue seriously. In movies, let him give a solo performance.

Airline staffer stabbed to death in Maharashtra forest; cops question friend

GONDIA : (AGENCY)



A 35-year-old airline employee has been stabbed to death in a forest in Maharashtra's Gondia district, with a male friend who accompanied her claiming that three unidentified persons attacked them, police said on Tuesday. The police have registered a case of murder against unidentified persons in connection with the incident, which occurred on November 14. The woman's friend was being questioned, and the police were probing the case from all angles, they said. The woman, identified as Varsha Dhuranlal Turkar, was married and has a three-year-old daughter. Her husband has been living in Indore for the last six months, a police official said. Turkar, a native of Kinhi-Navegaon in Waraseoni tehsil of neighbouring Balaghat district in Madhya Pradesh, worked as a security supervisor with an airline in Pune. She had gone to her parents' home in Balaghat with her daughter for the Diwali break, the official said. On November 14, she went to Gondia to meet a 41-year-old male friend, and the two visited a temple on the banks of the Wainganga river.

Bengaluru-bound IndiGo flight aborts take-off due to technical issue

MANGALURU : (AGENCY)



A replacement aircraft was arranged and only 34 of the 229 passengers travelled on the relief flight, which departed Mangaluru at 12.10 am on Tuesday.

An IndiGo flight from Mangaluru to Bengaluru aborted its take-off due to a technical issue, after which the aircraft returned to the bay and was later declared Aircraft on Ground (AOG), sources at the airport said on Tuesday. All 229 passengers and seven crew members on board were safely deplaned, with no injuries reported. The incident occurred around 6.05 pm at Mangaluru International Airport on Monday. A replacement aircraft was arranged and only 34 of the 229 passengers travelled on the relief flight, which departed Mangaluru at 12.10 am on Tuesday. According to an IndiGo spokesperson, a technical issue was detected shortly before take-off on flight 6E 388 on November 16.

Following standard operating procedures, the pilots returned the aircraft to the parking bay for necessary checks. The aircraft had not become airborne. Some local reports stated that sparks were noticed beneath the aircraft during the take-off roll and that one tyre burst, prompting the pilot to apply brakes and halt the aircraft on the runway. The airline's statement described the cause only as a technical issue under probe and did not independently confirm details of sparks or a tyre burst. After a detailed technical inspection by the airline's engineering team, the aircraft was declared AOG, meaning it would remain grounded until repairs and certification were completed. Passengers were disembarked. IndiGo arranged meals, refreshments, hotel accommodation, alternate connections and refunds as applicable. A replacement aircraft was arranged, the sources said. According to sources.

Kulgam encounter enters 2nd day; CCTV shows LeT commander before Akhran attack

SRINAGAR : (AGENCY)



The footage documented their movements while conducting reconnaissance and subsequently fleeing after the Akhran attack. Investigations further revealed that immediately after the Akhran incident, Umar Nisar Dar joined the TRF outfit," they said.

The encounter in south Kashmir's Kulgam district entered its second day on Tuesday, with security forces focused on hunting down wanted Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) commander Mohammed Lateef Bhat. On Monday, a militant identified as a close aide of Lateef Bhat was killed in the encounter at Laroo in Kulgam. The gunfight took place days after three CRPF personnel were injured in a terror attack in the area.

There is no clarity from the Jammu and Kashmir Police on whether the LeT commander is still trapped in the Kulgam encounter or managed to escape. Sources said the area remains under cordon and searches have been extended to nearby areas around the encounter site. Jammu and Kashmir Police officials said the cordon remains intact and an operation is underway in Kulgam's Laroo. The encounter comes amid intensified operations by security forces across south Kashmir to track down the attackers, including Bhat, whom the police suspect of masterminding last week's attack. He has also been linked to several previous attacks in the region. Meanwhile, sources said that during the analysis of CCTV footage from November 10 and 11, security agencies found both Umar Nisar Dar and LeT commander Lateef Bhat captured on multiple CCTV cameras installed at the identified locations. The footage documented their movements while conducting reconnaissance and subsequently fleeing after the Akhran attack. Investigations further revealed that immediately after the Akhran incident, Umar Nisar Dar joined the TRF outfit," they said. A screengrab from CCTV footage showing the movements of Umar Nisar Dar and LeT commander Lateef Bhat.

Security forces launched a massive cordon-and-search operation in Kulgam on Sunday night following intelligence inputs about Bhat's presence. CRPF Special Director General (J&K Zone) Sandeep Khirwar had said on Monday that security forces had "got some leads" in the investigation and had launched operations to track down the perpetrators.

5 Suffer Bullet Injuries As Officials Try to drive Elephant into Assam Forest

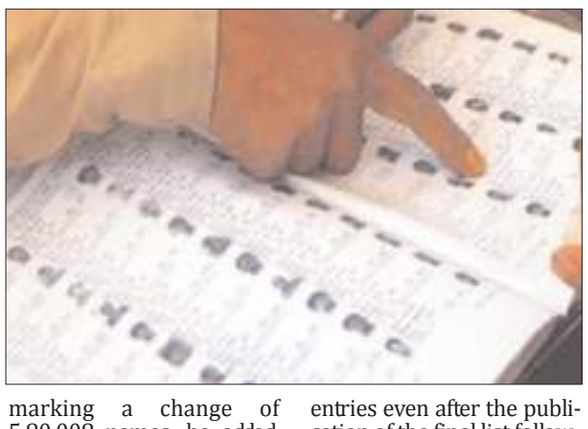
ASSAM : (AGENCY)



A Forest Department operation to drive a wild elephant back into a forest area in Assam's Hojai district turned violent on Monday night, leaving six people injured, including five local residents who were allegedly hit by bullets fired by forest personnel. The incident triggered tensions in the area, with angry villagers later confronting forest staff, during which a Forest Department jawan was seriously injured. According to police sources, the incident took place at Dighalbaree Jogimukh in Hojai district when a Forest Department team was trying to chase a lone wild elephant back into the Dighalbaree forest area after it strayed close to villages. The elephant had reportedly been roaming along Garkaptani Road since Monday daytime. After deviating nearly 10 km from its usual route, it was attempting to enter villages, prompting forest personnel to guide it back towards the forest. A large crowd had gathered at the spot to watch the operation. However, the situation turned tense at night when the elephant attempted to turn back amid the darkness. Forest personnel initially burst crackers in an effort to drive the animal towards the forest. They later reportedly opened fire during the operation. According to police sources, the shots missed the target and hit five residents who were present at the spot. The injured locals have been identified as Rajib Sinha (40), Saidul Islam (19).

UP draft electoral roll published, 13.58 cr voters on list, over 18 lakh added in SSR

LUCKNOW : (AGENCY)



Comparing the draft electoral roll with population projections for 2026, Rinwa said UP has an estimated 16.16 crore citizens aged 18 years and above, against 13.58 crore names currently on the draft list, indicating a gap of around 2.58 crore.

Uttar Pradesh's draft electoral roll published on Tuesday ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections has 13.58 crore voters, including 6.20 crore women, Chief Electoral Officer Navdeep Rinwa said. This marks an increase of over 18 lakh voters during the Special Summary Revision (SSR) post Special Intensive Revision (SIR) published in April, he said.

Addressing a press conference at Lok Bhawan here, Rinwa said the draft electoral roll under the Special Summary Revision (SSR) 2027 contains 13,58,68,905 voters, comprising 7,38,58,510 men, 6,20,06,353 women and 4,042 third-gender voters. The draft list also includes 11,83,352 voters in the 18-19 age group, he said.

"The claims and objections period will remain open from November 17 to December 16, during which eligible citizens can apply for inclusion, deletion or correction of entries in the electoral roll through Forms 6, 7 and 8, respectively," Rinwa said. The final electoral roll will be published on January 4, 2027, after the disposal of claims and objections by December 28, he added. Rinwa said the draft roll has registered a net increase of 18,84,113 voters compared to the final electoral roll published on April 10, 2026, following the SIR. Of these, the number of women voters increased by 10,96,828, while male voters registered an increase of 7,87,449. The number of third-gender voters declined by 164 during the period, he said. The number of voters between the ages of 18 and 19 years has gone down from 17,63,360 in April to 11,83,352 in November, marking a change of 5,80,008 names, he added. The gender ratio in the electoral roll has improved from 834 to 840 women per 1,000 male voters, while the elector-population ratio increased marginally from 55.17 to 55.95 per cent, Rinwa said. He clarified that the "electoral roll remains dynamic throughout the year" and that eligible citizens can apply for inclusion, deletion or correction of entries even after the publication of the final list following a revision exercise. To facilitate the process, special camps will be organised at all 1,73,730 polling stations across UP on November 21, 22, 28 and 29, from 10 am to 4 pm.

"Booth Level Officers (BLOs) will remain present at the polling stations with copies of the draft electoral roll and sufficient application forms," he said. Citizens can check their names and the accuracy of their particulars during these camps. Those seeking inclusion will need to carry a passport-size colour photograph and valid documents establishing their date of birth and residence. Aadhaar is also an accepted document, Rinwa said.

He said special efforts would be made during the claims and objections period to include eligible citizens, particularly young people and women, in the electoral roll and ensure the accuracy of voter details. The revision is being undertaken with January 1, 2027, as the qualifying date. Its objective is to include all eligible citizens who have attained the age of 18 by that date and remove entries of deceased, permanently shifted and duplicate voters to ensure an updated and error-free electoral roll, he said. Comparing the draft electoral roll with population projections for 2026, Rinwa said UP has an estimated 16.16 crore citizens aged 18 years and above, against 13.58 crore names currently on the draft list, indicating a gap of around 2.58 crore. He said the estimated number of eligible women was 7.84 crore, against 6.20 crore women on the electoral roll, while the corresponding figures for men were 8.32 crore and 7.38 crore.

Briefs News

Dera Bassi farmer wins Rs 12-crore Diwali lottery; bought the ticket for Rs 500

MOHALI : (AGENCY) Baljinder Singh, 45, a marginal farmer from Hamayunpur village in Dera Bassi, has won Rs 12-crore Diwali Bumper lottery. Baljinder — who had bought the ticket for Rs 500 from a lottery seller in Handesra before Diwali — got to know about his win around 11 pm yesterday. An elated Baljinder said he made both ends meet through farming. "I have been buying lottery tickets since 2010. God has finally listened to my prayers," he said. The father of two children said the news came as a bolt from the blue and he had no plan yet on how he would use the prize money. He and his friends are completing the formalities in Zirakpur to claim the prize. The tickets were in 12 series with zodiac signs from Aries to Pisces and numbered between 7,00,000 to 9,99,999. As many as 36 lakh tickets were printed and sold for the Punjab State Dear Diwali Bumper 2026 lottery.

Bird flu detected in two Alappuzha farms; 26,000 birds to be culled

KERALAM : (AGENCY) Bird flu has been confirmed at two poultry farms in Alappuzha district, and authorities will begin culling around 26,000 birds on Wednesday to prevent the spread of the infection, officials said here. Around 26,000 domestic birds within a one-kilometre radius of the affected farms in Ambalappuzha North, Ambalappuzha South and Chennithala panchayats are likely to be culled, they said on Tuesday. The infection was detected among quails and chickens at a farm in Ward 11 of Ambalappuzha North and among ducks and chickens at a farm in Ward 1 of Chennithala panchayat. Samples collected from the farms tested positive for bird flu at the National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases (NIHSAD) in Bhopal. According to a preliminary estimate, 10,044 birds in Ambalappuzha North alone will have to be culled as part of the operation. Six rapid response teams of the Animal Husbandry and Health departments will carry out the culling on Wednesday. Each team will comprise a doctor, two livestock inspectors, two attendants and four workers. Representatives of the local panchayats, police, revenue officials and local body employees will also assist the teams. Two additional teams have been kept on standby, officials said. An area within a 10-km radius of the affected farms has been declared a surveillance zone. District Collector Shaji V Nair convened an emergency meeting to review the situation and coordinate preventive measures. Deputy Collector (Disaster Management) S Biju, Chief Veterinary Officer Dr P Rajeev and officials from the Health, Police, Local Self-Government, Food Safety and Motor Vehicles departments attended the meeting.

Tenant, His Aide Arrested From Railway Station In Assam Triple Deaths Case

DISPUR : (AGENCY) Two suspects have been arrested in connection with the triple deaths case in Dibrugarh. The police arrested them from Avadh Assam Express just before reaching Simalluguri station. The police handed them over to Dibrugarh police. They have been identified as Raju Das of Duliajan and his associated Amir Das from Assam's Charaideo. Cops managed to catch the two hours after learning that Raju, a long-time tenant had allegedly visited the victims' house shortly before they were found dead. Three members of the same family were found murdered in Dibrugarh's Duliajan on Sunday evening. The vicitms were identified as retired Oil Indian employee Chandra Kanta Bhuyan, his wife Eliza Bhuyan and their daughter Niharika Bhuyan, who were found murdered inside a locked room at their house in Duliajan. The doors and windows of the residence were reportedly found closed when the bodies were found. Dibrugarh Superindendent of Police (SSP) Gaurav Abhijit Dilip also recounted how the incident came to light. He said a neighbour alerted police after noticing that the house was locked and there was no response from inside. Police found the door locked from inside. After opening it, they recovered three bodies from different parts of the house. Duliajan is the headquarters of Oil India Limited. The investigation then turned towards Raju Das and an unknown person. Raju had been staying as a tenant at the residence for the past eight years and allegedly came to the house along with a person, police sources said. Police came to know about the visit while trying to put together pieces of sequence of events.

India U17 men brace for crucial Palestine test

KUALA LUMPUR : (AGENCY)



The India U17 men's team are set to face their biggest test yet in the AFC U17 Asian Cup Uzbekistan 2027 Qualifiers, as the Blue Colts prepare to take on Palestine in their third Group E fixture on Tuesday. The two sides will enter Tuesday's clash in impressive form, having won both their matches so far. After overcoming Singapore 4-2, the Blue Colts sailed on to a resounding 12-0 victory over Guam. Palestine, meanwhile, beat hosts Malaysia 2-0 and Guam 5-0, as per the AIFF. The teams are level on six points, but India sit atop Group E with a +14 goal difference, while Palestine are second with +7. With head-to-head the first tiebreaker criteria if the teams are level on points, Tuesday's match could play a big role in determining the top spot and the only team that qualifies from the group. The encounter will mark the fourth meeting between India and Palestine in AFC youth competitions, with both sides having recorded a win apiece alongside one draw. The West Asians edged a 1-0 victory in the 2016 AFC U19 Championship Qualifiers. India won 3-0 in the 2018 AFC U16 Championship Qualifiers. Their most recent encounter came in the previous edition of the AFC U17 Asian Cup Qualifiers in Ahmedabad last November, which ended in a 1-1 draw.

India head coach Mehrajuddin Wadoo is aware of the challenges Palestine present but insisted that his side would look to dictate the game on their own strengths. Palestine are a competitive side, and we expect them to provide a different kind of challenge. We will respect Palestine, but at the same time, we want to play our own brand of football and impose our style on the game," he said. With 16 goals in their first two outings, India's attacking performance has been a major standout feature of their campaign so far. Wadoo was pleased by the way his side have translated their preparations into practice.

The teams are level on six points, but India sit atop Group E with a +14 goal difference, while Palestine are second with +7.

IPL 2027: Two-time purple cap winner Harshal Patel traded to GT from Sunrisers Hyderabad

NEW DELHI. (AGENCY)



Two-time Indian Premier League (IPL) Purple Cap winner Harshal Patel is set to represent Gujarat Titans after completing a trade from Sunrisers Hyderabad ahead of the upcoming season. Patel, who was acquired by SRH for Rs 8 crore at the IPL 2025 Auction, will join the Gujarat-based franchise for Rs 4 crore.

The experienced right-arm pacer brings considerable experience and a proven track record to the GT bowling attack. Known for his clever variations, change of pace and ability to deliver under pressure, Patel has picked up 151 wickets in 124 IPL appearances since making his debut in 2012. He has represented four franchises during his IPL career and enjoyed particularly successful campaigns in 2021 and 2024, finishing as the tournament's highest wicket-taker on both occasions. He first achieved the feat with Royal Challengers Bengaluru in 2021 before claiming the Purple Cap again while representing Punjab Kings in 2024. "Two-time Purple Cap winner Harshal Patel will represent Gujarat Titans (GT) after a successful trade from Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH). Patel, who was acquired for INR 8 crore by SRH at the TATA IPL 2025 Auction, will move to GT for INR 4 crore," as per a statement from IPL.

Known for his variations and tactical nous, the wily pacer brings considerable experience, having played 124 matches and claimed 151 wickets across four franchises since making his IPL debut in 2012. A consistent performer over the years, the seasoned campaigner was the leading wicket-taker in the 2021 and 2024 editions of the tournament, representing Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) and Punjab Kings (PBKS), respectively," the statement further added.

Briefs News

PCB ropes in Shane Deitz as head coach of Pakistan women's team

LAHORE : (AGENCY) The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has appointed Shane Deitz as the head coach of the Pakistan women's cricket team. Deitz will begin his tenure ahead of Pakistan's upcoming bilateral series against the West Indies and is expected to join the squad in the Caribbean for his first assignment, as per the ICC website. The 51-year-old brings considerable coaching experience, having most recently served as head coach of the West Indies women's team. Under his guidance, the Caribbean side reached the semi-finals of consecutive ICC Women's T20 World Cups in 2024 and 2026. Deitz has also worked with the women's national teams of Bangladesh and the Netherlands. Earlier in his coaching career, he served as a high-performance coach at Cricket Wellington in New Zealand from 2008 to 2013. Reacting to his appointment, Deitz expressed his excitement about taking on the new role and the opportunity to work with the Pakistan women's team. "I am very honoured to become the Head Coach of the Pakistan Women's team. Pakistan cricket has a tremendous history, and I remember fondly cheering them on as a youngster in Australia at the 1992 World Cup final against England, which was a great achievement for Pakistan cricket," Deitz said. Deitz further outlined his ambitions for Pakistan cricket. "In 2028 we will host the T20 World Cup and our aim is to give the supporters something to cheer about on home soil. To be competitive at the World Cup we have a lot of work to do and we all must develop as players and staff to produce world-class performances," Deitz added.

Rachin Ravindra eager for Test return against India

WELLINGTON : (AGENCY) New Zealand batter Rachin Ravindra is set to return to action in the upcoming Test series against India after spending two months on the sidelines due to a shoulder injury sustained during a promotional shoot in September. The 26-year-old admitted missing the five T20Is and three ODIs against India, revealing that watching his teammates play gave him a sense of FOMO. Ravindra said he had completed eight weeks of rehabilitation with the support of medical and fitness staff and had resumed batting practice over the past three to four weeks ahead of his return at his home ground in Wellington. The first Test against India starts on November 19. The second one, in Christchurch, starts on November 27. Ravindra was speaking to the reporter on the eve of New Zealand's first Test against India in Wellington on Tuesday. I think watching the guys play on TV, you get a little bit of FOMO [fear of missing out]. You want to be out there. And yeah, I'm super looking forward to it, especially in Wellington, back at your home ground. So I'm really looking forward to it," Ravindra said. It's been a lot of rehab," Ravindra said. "I think from dislocation, it's been eight weeks. So I had a great support group of doctors, physios, etc. S&C [strength and conditioning] trainers, and obviously being able to do a lot of batting in the last sort of three or four weeks," he added. Ravindra said he has enjoyed returning to red-ball training, allowing him to focus solely on Test cricket after spending time in the white-ball setup.

Gill hails Pant's SENA record as star wicketkeeper returns ahead of first Test vs NZ

WELLINGTON : (AGENCY) India Test captain Shubman Gill dismissed concerns over Rishabh Pant's form and fitness, backing the wicketkeeper-batter's experience and quality as he rejoined the squad ahead of the first Test against New Zealand following more than a month on the sidelines due to injury. Gill highlighted Pant's impressive record of scoring centuries in Australia, England and South Africa, adding that the wicketkeeper-batter would be eager to register his maiden Test century in New Zealand. The remarks were made at a press conference on the eve of India's first Test against New Zealand in Wellington. I think he's probably one of the most experienced and senior members of the team. I'm not exactly sure how many matches he's played, but I think he's featured in around 50 Test matches, which is a significant number. Given the kind of player he is and the quality he brings to the side, he's scored centuries all around the world," Gill said. As a wicketkeeper, he's scored centuries in Australia, South Africa and England. New Zealand is probably the only country where he hasn't achieved that yet, so I'm sure he'll be looking forward to the opportunity to do so," he added. Pant has received fitness clearance from the BCCI medical team after recovering from a side strain sustained during the Irani Cup in Srinagar, held from October 1.

Big blow for SRH : Travis Head likely to miss IPL 2027 due to workload management

NEW DELHI : (AGENCY)



Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) are set to lose their explosive opening combination of Travis Head and Abhishek Sharma, ahead of the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2027, with Head reportedly opting out of the upcoming season due to workload management. According to ESPNcricinfo, Head has informed the franchise of his decision to skip IPL 2027 amid Australia's packed international schedule, with SRH expected to release the Australian batter ahead of the December 16 auction in Goa. Head's absence will be a significant blow to SRH's batting line-up, given his explosive performances at the top of the order. However, his release will also provide the franchise with additional funds at the auction. Head was among the five capped players retained by SRH.

Indian High Commissioner Muanpuii Saiawi celebrates 100 years of sporting ties with New Zealand

WELLINGTON : (AGENCY)



India and New Zealand celebrated 100 years of sporting ties at the Indian High Commission here, with the Indian Men's Cricket Team and Armed Forces Hockey Team participating in the event. Indian High Commissioner to New Zealand Muanpuii Saiawi highlighted the role of sport in strengthening India-New Zealand relations, recalling the Indian Army hockey team's historic 1926 tour, during which legendary Dhyan Chand captivated New Zealand spectators. She noted that hockey and cricket exchanges over the past century, along with the contribution of the Indian diaspora, have further strengthened the bond between the two nations. The IHF organised its first international tour in 1926 to New Zealand, where the Indian men's hockey team played 21 matches and won 18. The tournament saw the emergence of a young Dhyan Chand, who would go on to become arguably the best hockey player the world has ever seen. "Sport has indeed served as a powerful bridge between India and New Zealand. Just imagine, even before India gained independence, an Indian Army hockey team toured New Zealand in 1926, with the legendary Dhyan Chand mesmerising spectators and attracting huge crowds," Saiawi. "The tour had such a profound impact that it significantly influenced the way hockey was played in New Zealand. Over the past 100 years, our sporting ties have continued to grow through hockey and cricket exchanges, while the Indian diaspora has also played an important role in strengthening the bond between our two nations," envoy added. Saiawi recalled Prime Minister Narendra Modi's July visit to Auckland, highlighting his recognition of cricketers of Indian origin, including Ish Sodhi, Ajaz Patel and Rachin Ravindra, for their contributions to New Zealand cricket.

Dhoni retires from IPL as player, to continue with CSK as mentor

NEW DELHI. (AGENCY)



Talismanic former India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni's storied playing career in the IPL ended on Tuesday after he was appointed the mentor of his franchise Chennai Super Kings (CSK). The writing was on the wall for 45-year-old whose participation as a player had reduced over the years due to recurring injuries. The statement issued by CSK did not have any comment from the superstar wicketkeeper-batter, who announced retirement from international cricket in 2020 through an Instagram post. "There is no CSK without MS Dhoni. For nearly two decades, we have walked and grown alongside each other, through triumphs, setbacks and everything in between," CSK owner N Srinivasan said in the franchise statement. "MS will continue to be a part of the CSK family as a mentor. His experience and expertise are invaluable to us, especially during this phase of transition. With many youngsters in the squad, his guidance will help shape the next generation of CSK," added Rupa Gurunath, Srinivasan's daughter and co-owner of the team. The World Cup-winning captain led CSK to five IPL titles, was their second-highest scorer with 5,314 runs, and most-capped player with 272 appearances. Dhoni also played for Rising Pune Supergiants for a couple of seasons when CSK were banned from the IPL following the 2013 spot-fixing scandal. The episode led to a life ban on the team's then CEO Gurunath Meiyappan for being involved in illegal betting. Dhoni was succeeded by Ruturaj Gaikwad as the captain of the franchise in 2024.

"What MS Dhoni achieved as a cricketer is etched in the memory of every fan. But what made Dhoni truly special is how completely he became a part of Chennai. He embraced the city, and the city embraced him as one of its own," he said in his tribute to the influential Ranchi-based player. "When we look back, the trophies will be remembered but so will be the way we won them. That is his real legacy.

"While we will miss seeing him in yellow on the field, we are glad that he will keep guiding our players. The bond will continue to grow and shape this team for years to come," said the longstanding top official of the franchise. Considering the special bond between Dhoni and CSK, it was a foregone conclusion that the charismatic cricketer would remain a part of the franchise well beyond his playing days. "A player like MS Dhoni comes along once in a lifetime. We are fortunate, and deeply grateful, that he has been with CSK since its inception and has laid the foundation for everything this team is," Rupa Gurunath said. Besides the five IPL title, Dhoni also led CSK.

Vivaan Kapoor after securing India's third LA28 shooting quota

JAIPUR : (AGENCY)



Indian shooter Vivaan Kapoor believes India's shooting is undergoing a significant transformation, with the sport gaining popularity and making steady progress over the last decade and across three Olympic cycles. Following his silver medal-winning performance in the men's trap event at the ISSF World Championship, which secured India's third shooting quota for the LA 2028 Olympics, Kapoor highlighted the growing influence of Indian shooting stars such as Manu Bhaker, Swapnil Kusale and Sarabjot Singh. He credited the achievements of India's Olympic medallists with inspiring a new generation of shooters and instilling belief that they, too, can compete at the highest level. Kapoor also acknowledged the government's support and encouragement, describing India's recent performances on the global stage as evidence of the sport moving in the right direction. He believes the growing recognition, infrastructure and support for shooting could help India achieve greater success in the years ahead. India has won five Olympic shooting medals between London 2012 and Paris 2024, including two medals in London and three in Paris. India won three shooting medals at the Paris 2024 Olympics. Manu Bhaker clinched bronze in the women's 10m air pistol event and teamed up with Sarabjot Singh to win another bronze in the 10m air pistol mixed team event. Meanwhile, Swapnil Kusale secured bronze in the men's 50m rifle 3 positions event, making it India's most successful Olympic shooting campaign to date. Looking at the last 10 years, or even the last three Olympic cycles, I believe Indian shooting has been moving on an upward trajectory. A lot of that has to do with the way the sport is evolving and gaining popularity in the country. Shooters like Manu Bhaker, Swapnil Kusale, Sarabjot Singh and other Olympic medallists have inspired a new generation of Indian shooters and given them the belief that they can achieve similar success," Kapoor "The support and encouragement from the government have also played an important role. These performances are proof that Indian shooting is heading in the right direction and that we have the potential to achieve even greater success in the future," he added. Kapoor further said he will work closely with his national and personal coaches to prepare a roadmap for upcoming competitions, with the National Championships and trials being his immediate priorities. Emphasising a step-by-step approach, he added that securing an Olympic quota would not change his commitment to training and performing at his best. Kapoor expressed hope of representing India at the Olympics and pledged to give his absolute best if given the opportunity. "I will now sit down with my national coach and personal coach to chalk out a plan for the upcoming competitions.



Northeast Cinema Finds its Spotlight at 57th IFFI with Four Indian Panorama Selections





OPEN SEARCH

The diverse cultures, compelling stories and distinctive cinematic voices of Northeast India will find a prominent place at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI), with four films from the region selected for the prestigious Indian Panorama section. Scheduled to be held in Goa from November 20 to 28, 2026, IFFI will showcase two feature films and two non-feature films from the Northeast, offering audiences a glimpse into the region's indigenous heritage, social transformations and everyday lives.

Leading the feature film selection is Urum (Spirit), which marks a historic milestone as the first Nyishi-language film to be selected for IFFI Indian Panorama. Directed by Duyu Tabyo, this psychological thriller from Arunachal Pradesh is also slated for its World Premiere at the festival. Set in a remote mountain village in Arunachal Pradesh, the film explores indigenous memory, trauma and concealed truths through the story of a father haunted by visions and guilt following the loss of his young daughter.

Joining Urum in the feature film lineup for its World Premiere is Surjyamukhi (Sunflower), an Assamese drama directed by actor-director and theatre practitioner Antara G.G. Choudhury. Set against an urban backdrop, the film follows two young colleagues, Pushpal and Prarthana, whose initial rivalry gradually gives way to friendship and romance. However, the discovery of a lost bag of money sets off a series of unexpected moral dilemmas, testing their choices and relationships. The Indian Panorama Non-Feature Film section brings two distinct stories from Assam and Mizoram. Red Carpet, a 30-minute Assamese documentary written and directed by award-winning filmmaker Aimee Baruah celebrates the enduring legacy of traditional handloom craftsmanship. Set in the Karbi Anglong hills of Assam, the film follows a Karbi weaver from the village of Donkamokam on an extraordinary journey to the red carpet at Cannes. Through her story, the documentary highlights the resilience of indigenous artisans, the richness of Karbi weaving traditions and the importance of preserving ancestral crafts.

The other non-feature selection, Chalo India With Eric Ji - Mizoram, is a 48-minute English documentary directed by Rajdeep Choudhury. The film follows former British Member of Parliament and history teacher Eric Ollerenshaw OBE as he explores the social and cultural landscape of Mizoram. It offers a window into the state's high literacy levels, civic discipline and vibrant football culture, while also highlighting the significant contributions of Mizo women in business, education and community leadership.

'Spider-Man : Brand New Day' to return to theatres with extended cut on December 4

Spider-Man: Brand New Day will return to theatres on December 4 with an extended cut featuring previously unseen footage, deleted scenes and additional surprises for fans. The announcement was made through the film's official social media handle on Tuesday. Tickets for the extended version will go on sale on November 19.

"Welcome to a brand new Brand New Day. The record-breaking movie is coming back to the big screen on December 4 with an extended cut featuring new scenes and a couple more surprises Get tickets for the extended cut of #SpiderManBrandNewDay this Thursday," the post read, alongside a new still featuring Tom Holland as Peter Parker. The extended version, reportedly titled Spider-Man: (Brand New) Brand New Day, is expected to include a deleted scene featuring actor Rosario Dawson as Claire Temple, also known as Night Nurse. Dawson had earlier revealed that she filmed a scene for the movie, but it was left out of the final theatrical version due to pacing and runtime considerations.

The re-release comes ahead of the December 17 release of Marvel Studios' Avengers: Doomsday.

Her character, a nurse who has assisted several superheroes in the Marvel universe, has previously appeared in television series such as Daredevil, Iron Fist, Luke Cage and The Defenders. The re-release comes ahead of the December 17 release of Marvel Studios' Avengers: Doomsday. It also follows the recent theatrical return of Avengers: Endgame with additional footage. Directed by Destin Daniel Cretton, Spider-Man: Brand New Day follows Peter Parker as he navigates life after the events of Spider-Man: No Way Home, in which Doctor Strange's spell erased the world's memory of his identity. **(AGENCY)**



IFFI 2026 Celebrates Kannada and Tulu Cinema





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From the socially conscious parallel cinema of Girish Kasaravalli to contemporary family dramas, folklore-rooted epics and documentary storytelling, the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) is bringing the richness and diversity of Kannada and Tulu cinema into focus in Goa.

Kannada Films:

Kantara: A Legend - Chapter 1, directed by and starring Rishab Shetty, is set during the Kadamba era. Berme, a young forest dweller, enters the neighbouring kingdom of Bangra and witnesses the harsh treatment of forest communities by its rulers. When Prince Kulashekara attacks the tribes and kills many of their people, Berme joins them in their fight for justice and dharma. The story brings together folklore, faith and a struggle to protect the forest communities. The film is featured in both Indian Panorama's Mainstream Cinema section and the International Competition.

Ruby-Cube, directed by P. Sheshadri, follows three generations of a family during a short holiday at a hill station. Rohini, a psychologist, reunites with her estranged husband Moorthy through their daughter Chitra, who is facing difficulties in her marriage. As the family spends time together, old tensions and unresolved emotions come to the surface. A Rubik's Cube becomes a symbol of the complexities of relationships, showing how patience and understanding can help people find a way forward.

The Hug of Emptiness, directed by Dr. Pradeep Kenchanuru (Dr. Pradeep Kumar Shetty K), tells the story of Chandrashekhar, whose property was taken over by the Sullia Cooperative Bank in 2003 after he failed to repay a loan. Believing the action to be unjust, he begins a legal battle that continues for more than two decades. Without a permanent home, he lives in his car while pursuing justice. The documentary portrays his long struggle, loneliness and determination in the face of an uncertain future.

Ulididdu Sampige Maatra (Only the Flower Remained), directed by Abhishek, follows Manjanna, who lives alone with memories of a woman he loved and lost. When a photograph of her is damaged, he approaches an artist and asks him to recreate her portrait from memory. After receiving the painting, Manjanna meets a mysterious stranger. The unexpected encounter changes the way he looks at his past and leads him towards an ending he had not imagined. The short film explores loss, remembrance and emotional change.

Tulu Films:

Pili Channe, directed by Anupama Sharadhi, follows a tribal woman who learns traditional herbal healing from her grandmother. Before her death, the grandmother gives her a sacred stone believed to carry the healing knowledge of the forest. Pili Channe uses her skills to help her community, earning their trust. When a greedy village doctor and the village chief try to take the stone.

Did The Simpsons 'predict' global blackout on Nov 17 Viral clip leaves Internet guessing



Looks like 'The Simpsons' have done it again — or have they? Turns out, the show is once again making headlines for its seemingly uncanny ability to predict real-world events. The clip, which has been widely shared online, is from the 2023 episode It's A Blunderful Life, in which the town of Springfield is catapulted 60 years into the future. According to The Independent, the scene shows an older Lisa Simpson writing about a blackout in her diary, with the date November 17. This has fuelled speculation among fans about whether yet another of the show's so-called predictions could come true. The clip has gained renewed attention online following last week's Microsoft outage and the US government's scheduled test of its emergency alert system on November 17. However, the latter is a routine emergency alert test and has nothing to do with any impending power failure. Another reacted, "Predictive programming is the elites just making a confession." A third claimed, "17 nov is 666 days after 1st day Trump presidency." However, others have questioned the authenticity of the prediction, pointing out that Lisa's diary makes no mention of the year 2026, making the claim misleading. Some users also turned to Grok, X's AI assistant, which responded: "It's a viral rumour mixing a few real things with fiction." This is not the first time The Simpsons. **(AGENCY)**

Diljit courts controversy after performing 'Patiala Peg' at Indore concert despite directive

Punjabi singer Diljit Dosanjh has courted controversy after performing his hit song Patiala Peg at a concert in Indore, despite a directive from the District Child Protection Officer (DCPO) barring four of his songs over allegations of promoting alcohol and violence. DCPO Rajneesh Sinha, who had written to the venue manager on November 6, asking him to prohibit the performance of four songs, said further action would be considered after examining a 2019 Punjab and Haryana High Court order. Dosanjh, however, shared a fan-made video on his Instagram story showing him performing



Patiala Peg during Sunday's concert. Sinha said he had issued the directions following a complaint by Chandigarh-based Dr Punditrao Dharenavar, who cited the High Court order to seek a ban on the four songs at the Indore event. The complainant alleged that the songs — Patiala Peg, 5 Tara Theke, Jeb Vicho Feem and Jatt Fire Karda — promote alcohol and violence and could adversely influence young children. "I have asked the complainant to send me a copy of the order. Only after studying it will it be clear whether it prohibits the performance of any specific song by a particular singer at events such as live concerts," Sinha said.

He said it would be possible to determine whether Dosanjh's performance amounted to a violation of the High Court order only after examining the ruling. During Sunday's concert, the 42-year-old singer had also expressed displeasure over the restrictions on his songs. **(AGENCY)**

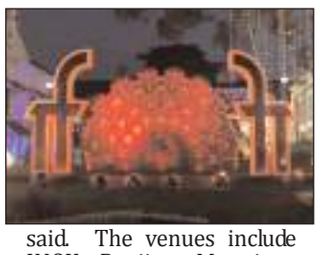
Cine workers body thanks Salman Khan, Sonu Sood for supporting Sharad Kapoor

The All India Cine Workers Association (AICWA) has expressed gratitude to Bollywood actors Salman Khan and Sonu Sood for supporting Josh actor Sharad Kapoor during his financially difficult phase. Sood recently met Kapoor, while there are reports that Salman has reached out to his Jai Ho co-star as well. AICWA, a non-profit organisation working towards the betterment of artists and workers in the Indian film industry, took to Instagram on Tuesday to share a statement. "The All India Cine Workers Association (AICWA) warmly thanks Salman Khan for coming forward to support actor Sharad Kapoor with financial help in this difficult time. Such a gesture gives hope not only to Sharad Kapoor ji, but to every artist who fears being forgotten in his hard days," read the caption of the post. "AICWA also extends its heartfelt gratitude to Sonu Sood for reaching out to Sharad Kapoor ji. Sonu Sood ji has reportedly met him to discuss a project that could bring him back to work, and has also arranged medical support for him. Work, with dignity, is exactly what Sharad Kapoor ji asked for," the statement added. AICWA said Kapoor has worked in films alongsidestars such as Shah Rukh Khan (Josh) and Hrithik Roshan (Lakshya). , and now needs the industry's support to bounce back. The film body said there are many others like Sharad Kapoor who are fighting silently. "Helping them in such a moment is not charity; it is humanity, and it is our duty," Suresh Shyamlal Gupta, President of the AICWA, said. "I need help financially, morally, and mentally. I am a big fan of all my actors. I always consider myself their fan. **(AGENCY)**



IFFI 2026 to screen over 230 films from 86 countries in Goa from November 20-28

OPEN SEARCH



The 57th edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) will be held in Goa from November 20 to 28, with over 230 films from 86 countries set to be screened under the theme 'Stories Without Borders'. Chief Minister Pramod Sawant announced on Monday that Spain would be the Country of Honour and Russia the Partner Country for the nine-day festival. Dhurandhar and Becoming will be the opening films. Addressing a press conference here, Sawant said the festival would bring together filmmakers, artistes, industry professionals and cinema enthusiasts from across the world, reinforcing Goa's position as a major destination for international cinematic and cultural exchange. More than 230 films, including over 150 international productions from 86 countries, will be screened across six venues with 13 screens and a combined seating capacity of over 4,000 delegates, he said. The venues include INOX Panjim, Maquinez Palace, INOX Porvorim, Z Square Samrat-Ashok, Magic Moviez in Ponda and Ravindra Bhavan in Margao. All venues will have accessibility facilities for persons with disabilities. The Indian Panorama section will feature 25 feature films and 20 non-feature films, while special emphasis will be placed on BRICS cinema. The festival will also see the participation of 52 women filmmakers and 62 debut filmmakers. The sixth edition of Creative Minds of Tomorrow (CMOT) will bring together 100 selected participants representing 13 filmmaking crafts. The opening and closing ceremonies will be held at the Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Indoor Stadium near Panaji on November 20 and 28, respectively. Fourteen masterclasses, workshops, panel discussions, retrospectives and interactive sessions will be organised at the Kala Academy from November 21 to 27, featuring personalities from the film industry, according to the chief minister. The WAVES Film Bazaar will provide a platform for filmmakers, producers, buyers, distributors and other industry stakeholders to explore collaborations, co-productions and business opportunities.

Sawant said free transport facilities, including auto-rickshaws and electric buses operated by the state-run Kadamba Transport Corporation, would be available to registered delegates from 8.30 am until the conclusion of the last screening every day.

The transport network will connect Miramar with INOX Porvorim, Magic Moviez in Ponda and Ravindra Bhavan in Margao.

