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DELHI EDITION

Cabinet approves Rs 11,000 Cr scheme for CIE Manufacturing

NEW DELHI.AGENCY

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved an 11,000 crore scheme to strengthen India's construction and infrastructure equipment (CIE) manufacturing ecosystem, promote domestic production of advanced machinery and reduce dependence on imports.

The Scheme for Enhancement of Construction and Infrastructure Equipment Manufacturing Ecosystem will be implemented by the Ministry of Heavy Industries. It aims to incentivise the domestic manufacturing of construction and infrastructure equipment and components, while supporting the establishment of a dedicated testing facility in the country.

India currently has the world's third-largest CIE industry, after China and the United States, with a market size of approximately 97,500 crore in FY 2024-25. Driven by expanding infrastructure development, particularly in roads and ports, and growth in the housing sector, the market is projected to more than double to around 2,28,100 crore by



FY 2029-30. The scheme seeks to strengthen India's manufacturing capacity to meet this growing demand and improve its position in the global CIE market. It will support the production of technologically advanced equipment, including ship-to-shore cranes, tunnel boring machines, hydraulic excavators and off-highway trucks. The scheme will run for eight years, beginning in FY 2026-27. It provides for a two-year gestation period from FY 2026-27 to FY 2027-28 to establish manufacturing facilities, followed by five years of incentive disbursement from FY 2028-29 to FY 2032-33. The final year, FY 2033-34, will be used to settle incentives linked to incremental sales achieved in FY 2032-33. The scheme has two key components: sales-linked incentives for eligible manufacturers and financial support for setting up a dedicated CIE testing facility.

Under the first component, incentives will be provided on the incremental sales value of eligible construction and infrastructure equipment and components. The scheme will cover two categories of approved applicants: original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) and component manufacturers.

Graded incentive rates will range from 13 per cent to 8 per cent of incremental sales value over a five-year period, encouraging manufacturers to expand domestic production and strengthen supply chains. The second component provides a grant of up to ?375 crore, structured as viability gap funding, for establishing a state-of-the-art, dedicated testing facility for construction and infrastructure equipment in India. The facility is intended to strengthen domestic testing capabilities and support the development and manufacturing of technologically advanced equipment.

Cabinet Approves Rs 2,014-Crore Greenfield Airport At Doloo To Boost Air Connectivity In South Assam

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on Wednesday approved the development of a new greenfield airport at Doloo in Silchar, Assam, at an estimated cost of ?2,014 crore. The project will be undertaken by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) to address the operational and spatial constraints of the existing Silchar Airport and accommodate growing passenger traffic. The existing airport operates as a civil enclave on defence land and faces significant limitations in expanding its infrastructure. The proposed greenfield airport is expected to provide additional capacity and meet the increasing demand for air travel in South Assam and adjoining areas of neighbouring states. Located in Cachar district, Doloo occupies a strategic position in the Barak Valley, a region known for its extensive tea gardens, agro-based industries and potential for eco-tourism and cultural tourism. The proposed airport will have a terminal building covering 12,351 square metres, with the capacity to handle 800 passengers during peak hours. It will feature modern passenger amenities, sustainable green-building principles and modular expansion capabilities to accommodate future growth. The project also includes a 2,705-metre-long and 45-metre-wide runway compliant with Code 4C standards, suitable for operations by A-320 aircraft.

Jashpur gets 5 major bridges under PM Janman Yojana, Approval of Rs 16.03 crore

RAIPUR. OPEN SEARCH

Under the leadership of Chief Minister Shri Vishnu Dev Sai, continuous efforts are being made to expand infrastructure and strengthen road connectivity in remote and tribal-dominated areas of Chhattisgarh. In this regard, Jashpur district has received the gift of constructing five major bridges under the Pradhan Mantri Janjati Adivasi Nyay Maha Abhiyan.

The Panchayat and Rural Development Department of the State Government has granted administrative approval for the construction of these bridges, totaling 16 crore 3 lakh 34 thousand. According to a letter issued by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, on November 6, 2026, in Batch-I for the year 2026-27 under the PM Janman Yojana, 167 bridges have been approved for construction in Chhattisgarh. These include five major bridges in the Bagicha development block of Jashpur district. The construction of these bridges will improve transportation facilities, especially in remote tribal areas, and strengthen the connectivity



Road connectivity in tribal areas is being strengthened under the leadership of Chief Minister Shri Vishnu Dev Sai

of rural settlements with main roads .'Five bridges of total length 290 meters will be constructed in Bagicha development block' Under the approved works, administrative approval of Rs 3 crore 56 lakh 23 thousand has been given for the construction of a 60 meter long bridge in the drain on Dangri to Daravakona road and Rs 1 crore 83 lakh 21 thousand for the construction of a 30 meter long bridge in the drain on Jabla to Navapara road.

Similarly, administrative approval of Rs 4 crore 4 lakh 19 thousand has been given for the construction of a 60 meter long bridge in the drain on Kamrima Manjhatoli to Khapridih road, Rs 3 crore 52 lakh 67 thousand for the construction of an 80 meter long bridge in the drain on the Janakpur approach road from Bagicha-Kansabel road and Rs 3 crore 7 lakh 4 thousand for the construction of a 60 meter long bridge in the drain on Kuhapani to Bansdhar road. All-weather connectivity will accelerate rural development. The construction of these bridges will provide relief to villagers from the problem of traffic disruptions caused by drains during the rainy season.

Farmers will be able to transport their agricultural produce to market, students to educational institutions, and patients to health centers and hospitals in a timely manner. Local trade, employment, and livelihood activities are also expected to receive a boost.Improved road connectivity will facilitate access to various government welfare schemes and essential services in remote tribal settlements. The construction of these bridges will accelerate social and economic activities in rural areas. All approved construction projects will be completed within the stipulated amount.

Modi spotlights cultural diplomacy

NEW DELHI.AGENCY

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday highlighted three key dimensions of India's development journey- its expanding cultural influence on the global stage, efforts to widen social security coverage for workers and the economic reforms underpinning the ambition of building a developed nation by 2047. In a series of social media posts, Modi drew attention to separate write-ups by union Minister for Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Ashok Kumar Lahiri and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) President R Mukundan, highlighting their perspectives on cultural diplomacy, workforce protection and India's economic transformation.

Respect for Women and Their Leadership Is Deeply Rooted in Indian Civilisation: Vice-President

NEW DELHI.AGENCY

The Vice-President of India, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan, today inaugurated the Swayamsiddha National Conference 2026 on Women's Empowerment, themed "VIJAYA – A Journey of Empowerment through Education", organised by the Swayamsiddha Centre of Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University in Nagpur, Maharashtra. Addressing the gathering, the Vice-President recalled initiating the Swayamsiddha programme during his tenure as Governor of Maharashtra and appreciated its continued expansion under the leadership of the present Governor, Shri Jishnu Dev Varma, with universities across Maharashtra participating in its activities. He emphasised that universities must go beyond imparting academic qualifications and actively contribute to women's empowerment by promoting skills, economic independence, confidence and leadership. Highlighting the growing participation of women in higher education, the Vice-President observed that, at convocations across the country, women students increasingly outnumber men among gold medallists. Referring to the All India Survey on Higher Education, he noted that the female Gross Enrolment Ratio in higher education had increased significantly over the last decade. He said this progress reflected the expanding opportunities for women and the country's transition from women's development to women-led development.



Vice-President Inaugurates Swayamsiddha National Conference 2026 on Women's Empowerment in Nagpur

Referring to the forthcoming Constitution Day, the Vice-President recalled the contributions of 15 women members of the Constituent Assembly to the framing of the Constitution of India. He also highlighted the significance of the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam in advancing women's representation in democratic institutions.

Expedite Implementation of CM Saini Announcements, CM Directs Officers

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH

Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini directed officers to accord priority to development works announced during rallies and other programmes across various Assembly constituencies and ensure their completion within the stipulated timeframe so that people can derive their intended benefits. He made it clear that no laxity in the implementation of CM announcements would be tolerated. The Chief Minister was chairing a review meeting on the implementation and progress of CM announcements at Sant Kabir Kutir in Chandigarh on Wednesday.

Industries and Commerce Minister Rao Narbir Singh, Education Minister Sh. Mahipal Dhanda, Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Sh. Vipul Goel,



CM Issues Key Directions at Review Meeting on Implementation and Progress of CM Announcements

Cooperation and Tourism Minister Dr. Arvind Sharma, Public Health Engineering Minister Sh. Ranbir Gangwa, Women and Child Development Minister Smt. Shruti Choudhry and Sports Minister Sh. Gaurav Gautam, along with several MLAs, were present at the meeting. Sh. Nayab Singh Saini emphasised that close coordination between the departments concerned and MLAs is crucial for the effective implementation of CM announcements. With this objective, the progress of these announcements is being reviewed in consultation with MLAs to ascertain the actual status of pending development works and resolve bottlenecks hampering their execution.

The Chief Minister said a total of 7988 announcements have been made so far during visits to various Assembly constituencies across the state. Of these, works pertaining to 5743 announcements have been completed, while work on 1101 is progressing rapidly. Besides, 805 announcements are pending and 339 have been found to be not feasible for implementation. He said prior concurrence regarding the feasibility of announcements made during rallies in Assembly constituencies is obtained from the departments concerned. Despite this, it is unfortunate if their implementation subsequently becomes unfeasible due to the non-availability of land or other reasons.

The Chief Minister urged MLAs to pay special attention to pending announcements and work closely with the departments concerned to remove hurdles in their implementation. CM said the budget allocations and expenditure of various departments had also been reviewed recently to ensure optimum utilisation of available financial resources, timely completion of development projects and effective utilisation of the allocated budget within the stipulated period.



Haryana's Global Investment push to gain fresh momentum, CM Saini to lead High-Level delegation to UK and Germany

VIJAY KUMAR.OPEN SEARCH



Key Meetings with Leading Industrialists, Global Investors, Prestigious Universities and Research Institutions from Nov 28 to Dec 5

Focus on Cooperation in Trade, Investment, Education, Skill Development and AI Technology, Haryana State Roadshow to Be Held in Germany

CHANDIGARH : Taking Haryana's investment outreach to key European markets, Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini will lead a high-level delegation to the United Kingdom (UK) and Germany from November 28 to December 5, 2026. The visit marks a significant step in the state's efforts to attract global capital, forge strategic industrial partnerships and strengthen its footprint in the international investment landscape. During the visit, the delegation will hold extensive deliberations with leading global companies, investors, prestigious universities, research and technology institutions and representatives from various sectors. Industries and Commerce Minister Rao Narbir Singh, along with senior officers of the department, will also be part of the delegation.

Divulging more details, Commissioner and Secretary, Industries and Commerce Department, Dr. Amit Kumar Agrawal said the Haryana Government has been consistently working to establish the state as a major global investment destination. As part of these efforts, high-level delegations led by Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini have previously visited Japan, Singapore and Sweden.

During these visits, Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) were signed with various companies for investment, industrial cooperation and partnerships, and agreements were reached on significant investment proposals worth over Rs 10,000 crore. The upcoming visit to the United Kingdom and Germany is another step in this direction. Dr. Amit Kumar Agrawal said that during the UK visit, the delegation will interact with business leaders, global investors and industry representatives. Discussions will also be held with a delegation of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) on investment opportunities in Haryana and various aspects of industrial cooperation. The Chief Minister will also interact with members of the Indian diaspora hailing from Haryana and invite them to join the state's development journey and contribute to its economic growth by investing in Haryana. He said that on November 30 and December 1, the Chief Minister will hold one-to-one meetings with representatives of leading industries, companies and educational institutions.

Special roundtable meetings will also be organised to explore trade and investment opportunities across various sectors under the India-UK Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA). Detailed discussions and dedicated sessions will be held on key areas, including education, skill development and vocational training. The Chief Minister will invite UK Members of Parliament and other prominent representatives to visit Haryana and participate in the Global Investors Summit proposed to be held in April 2027.

During the visit, the Chief Minister will also interact with representatives of the Centre for Science and Policy at the University of Cambridge. He will meet Indian students studying at the University of Oxford to discuss their experiences, ideas and potential role in Haryana's development. The Chief Minister will also visit Queen Elizabeth's School, Barnet, where discussions will focus on cooperation in the education sector and the possibility of establishing an educational campus in Haryana. Dr. Amit Kumar Agrawal said a special celebration of the International Gita Jayanti Mahotsav will also be organised in London, in which Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini will participate. The occasion will showcase Haryana's rich cultural and spiritual heritage and the significance of Dharmakshetra-Kurukshetra on the global stage. Special emphasis will be laid on spreading the universal message of the Srimad Bhagavad Gita karma, duty and human welfare across the world and further enhancing the international recognition of Indian culture and spiritual traditions. Dr. Amit Kumar Agrawal said the Haryana State Roadshow will be organised in Germany on December 2. The roadshow will showcase Haryana's robust industrial infrastructure, investor-friendly policies, excellent connectivity, skilled workforce and vast investment opportunities before international investors. Investors and industry representatives will be apprised of the Haryana Government's industrial and investment promotion policies. Companies and investors will also be invited to invest in Haryana and establish industrial units in the state.

He said that on December 3, the Chief Minister will hold a meeting with representatives of Fraunhofer, Germany's prestigious research and technology institution. Detailed discussions will be held on the proposed establishment of a Centre of Excellence in Haryana, and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will also be signed in this regard. The proposed Centre will focus on cutting-edge and strategically important areas such as microelectronics and energy storage. The initiative is expected to give fresh impetus to research, innovation, technological development and industrial collaboration in Haryana. Similarly, on December 4 and 5, the Chief Minister will hold one-to-one meetings with representatives of leading German companies, industrialists and potential investors. These meetings will explore investment opportunities in Haryana, industrial cooperation and new avenues for long-term business partnerships.

Yatra Commemorating the 650th Birth Anniversary of Sant Guru Ravidas Ji Reaches Dharmakshetra Kurukshetra



CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH

Haryana Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi, the double-engine government is working tirelessly and with unwavering commitment to translate Guru Ravidas Ji's vision of 'Begumpura' into reality. The Prime Minister's guiding mantra of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas and Sabka Prayas' is, in essence, a modern and practical manifestation of Guru Ravidas Ji's philosophy of social harmony and equality.

The Chief Minister was addressing a ceremony organised at Umri in Kurukshetra on Wednesday to welcome the Samrasta Sankalp Yatra being undertaken to commemorate the auspicious 650th birth anniversary of Sant Shiromani Sri Guru Ravidas Maharaj Ji. Earlier, the Chief Minister welcomed the Yatra upon its arrival at Umri and carried the sacred Charan Padukas of Sri Guru Ravidas Maharaj Ji on his head to the stage. Extending greetings and best wishes to the people of Haryana on Constitution Day, he also paid tributes to Babasaheb Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar and the framers of the Constitution. Sh. Nayab Singh Saini said the Samrasta Sankalp Yatra aims to take Guru Ravidas Ji's message of equality, social harmony, service, social justice and humanity to the last person in society and unite different sections of society in the spirit of social unity.

HTET candidates can apply online till November 27

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH

Chairman of the Board of School Education Haryana, Bhiwani, Dr. Shankar Lal Dhoopar, informed that the Haryana Teacher Eligibility Test-2026 (HTET) for Levels 1, 2 and 3 will be conducted on December 26 and 27, 2026. Interested candidates can apply online through the link available on the Board's official website, after carefully reading and understanding the important instructions. The last date for submitting online applications is November 27, 2026, up to 11:59 PM. Candidates who have submitted their online applications but have not yet deposited the examination fee are advised to complete the application process immediately by paying the requisite fee before the last date. After successfully submitting the online application and examination fee, candidates must take a printout of the Confirmation Page for their records. Dr. Dhoopar further informed that the application process for HTET-2026 commenced on November 18, 2026. The Information Bulletin containing details related to the examination is available on the Board's official website. Candidates are advised to carefully read and understand all the important instructions mentioned in the Information Bulletin and ensure their eligibility before submitting the online application.

Tankeshwar Kumar assumes charge as Panjab University Vice-Chancellor

CHANDIGARH : (AGENCY)



Prof Tankeshwar Kumar on Wednesday assumed charge as the Vice-Chancellor of Panjab University (PU), succeeding Prof Meenakshi Goyal, Dean of University Instruction, who was holding the additional charge. The charge was formally handed over in the presence of University Registrar Prof YP Verma, Director of the Research and Development Cell Prof Savita Gupta, Controller of Examinations Prof Jagat Bhushan, Secretary to the Vice-Chancellor Prof Krishan Kumar, Dean Students Welfare Prof YK Rawal, Dean, College Development Council, Prof Ravi Inder Singh and other senior university officials. Former Vice-Chancellor Prof KN Pathak and several faculty members were also present. Prof Kumar brings with him over three decades of experience in teaching and research, along with around 11 years of experience as Vice-Chancellor at various universities. He previously served as Vice-Chancellor of Guru Jambheshwar University of Science and Technology (GJUST), Hisar, and the Central University of Haryana. A PU alumnus, Prof Kumar has a long association with the university, having served in its Department of Physics for over two decades. During his tenure, he was a UGC Professor of Physics under the Faculty Recharge Programme and headed the Abdul Kalam Computer Centre from 2005 to 2014. He was also a member of the university's Senate and Syndicate.

He played a key role in strengthening the university's IT infrastructure, including campus networking, Wi-Fi connectivity and the introduction of online admission and entrance examination systems.

17Aadhaar Seva Kendras established in Haryana to make Aadhaar services more accessible

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH



Centres operational in 17 districts across the state; new Aadhaar enrolment completely free of cost

The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has established 17 Aadhaar Seva Kendras (ASKs) across Haryana to make Aadhaar-related services more accessible and convenient for residents of the state. A spokesperson of UIDAI informed that the Regional Office, Chandigarh, is operating these centres to ensure that residents of different districts and adjoining areas can access Aadhaar services closer to their homes. This will save citizens from having to travel unnecessarily to the UIDAI Regional Office in Chandigarh for routine Aadhaar-related work. The Aadhaar Seva Kendras established by UIDAI are located in Hisar, Gurugram, Sonipat, Yamunanagar, Ambala, Kurukshetra, Fatehabad, Sirsa, Kaithal, Bhiwani, Panipat, Mewat (Nuh), Jind, Jhajjar, Karnal, Rohtak and Palwal. These centres are intended to provide additional convenience and easier access to Aadhaar services. Residents can visit the centre nearest to their place of residence to avail themselves of the required services. These centres function as additional service facilities alongside the existing Aadhaar enrolment and update centres. In Hisar, the Aadhaar Seva Kendra is located at SCO-43, First Floor, Sector 13, Main Parking, near Tosh am Road, Dabra Chowk. In Gurugram, it is situated at Plot No. 804, First Floor, Chakkarpur Main Market Road, Saraswati Vihar, Housing Board Colony. In Sonipat, the centre is located at U-38, Old Mahavir Colony, Purkhas Road, near HP Petrol Pump; in Yamunanagar at SCO No. 3/4, Anand Colony, near Gaba Hospital; in Ambala at SCO-19, HUDA Shopping Complex, Sector 9; and in Kurukshetra at SCO-94, Sector 17, HUDA.

Similarly, the centre in Fatehabad is located at Street No. 3, Surya Enclave, near Bank of Maharashtra; in Sirsa at Old Court Colony, opposite the Traffic Police Station; in Kaithal at Madhya Marg, Nehru Garden Colony, near Street No. 8; in Bhiwani at SCO-3, HUDA Market; and in Panipat at Jatal Road, near Sanjay Chowk. In Nuh , the centre is situated on Delhi-Alwar Road, opposite Balaji Petrol Pump, Hidayat Colony.

Chief Minister to Flag Off Pilgrimage Train to Varanasi on December 15

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH

The Haryana Government will organise a free four-day pilgrimage to Varanasi for senior citizens of the state under the Chief Minister's Teerth Yatra Scheme on December 15. Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini will flag off the special train carrying the pilgrims. The portal has been opened to invite applications from eligible devotees for the pilgrimage. Director General of the Department of Information, Public Relations and Languages, Dr. Aditya Dahiya, has appealed to all eligible beneficiaries to register at the earliest. Registration is being carried out through the Antyodaya-SARAL portal at https://saral-haryana.gov.in. Dr. Dahiya said that Chief Minister Sh. Nayab Singh Saini would flag off the special train in the coming days.

During the pilgrimage, devotees will be taken to prominent religious sites in Varanasi. He further informed that each pilgrim would also be provided with a tourist kit during the train journey. Senior citizens aged 60 years and above will be eligible to avail themselves of the benefits of this scheme. It is noteworthy that under the Chief Minister's Teerth Yatra Scheme.

Energy Minister Anil Vij congratulates Vaibhav Suryavanshi on his blistering double Century

CHANDIGARH : OPEN SEARCH

Haryana Energy, Transport and Labour Minister Sh. Anil Vij congratulated 15-year-old batter Vaibhav Suryavanshi for creating history by scoring a double century in just 52 balls for India A against the UAE. Describing the remarkable feat as "This is a harbinger of the future of cricket", Vij said the young cricketer had brought immense pride to the country. The Minister also launched a sharp attack on the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) over its remarks on the proposed alliance between the BJP and the Shiromani Akali Dal in Punjab, accusing the party of having come into existence through deception.

Speaking to mediapersons, Sh. Anil Vij said Vaibhav Suryavanshi had performed a remarkable feat in the world of cricket. At such a young age, scoring a double century in just 52 balls was nothing short of extraordinary. "This is a harbinger of the future of cricket," Vij said, adding that Suryavanshi had brought glory to India.

He expressed confidence that, with the blessings and good wishes of the country's 1.4 billion people, the young cricketer would go on to set many more records. The Minister extended his best wishes to Vaibhav Suryavanshi for his future endeavours.



Responding to remarks by the Aam Aadmi Party and the Congress describing the BJP–Shiromani Akali Dal alliance as an alliance of opportunists, Energy Minister Anil Vij hit back, saying that the entire world knew who the real deceivers were. He alleged that the Aam Aadmi Party itself had come into existence through deception. Vij said that Anna Hazare had launched an anti-corruption movement in Delhi, which received tremendous public support. However, he pointed out that Hazare had never announced any intention of forming a political party to bring about change. " They took advantage of Anna Hazare's popularity, appropriated the public support generated by his movement and used it to bring people together to form their own party," Vij alleged. He added that dishonesty could not succeed repeatedly. Vij further said that the BJP had already ousted AAP's mentor, Arvind Kejriwal, from Delhi and would now remove his disciple, Bhagwant Mann, from power in Punjab. Taking a dig at the Congress, Vij said the party had been pushed to the margins across the country. He claimed that Congress had lost elections in 22 states, where the BJP had subsequently formed governments. Predicting the outcome of the forthcoming Punjab elections, the Minister expressed confidence that the BJP–Shiromani Akali Dal alliance would form the government in the state.

The Aam Aadmi Party was born out of deception. After ousting its mentor Arvind Kejriwal, we will now oust his disciple Bhagwant Mann from Punjab" : Anil Vij

Briefs News

Prize Money for 72 Medal Winners, Allowances for 840 Players Delayed, 620 Still Await Sports Kits : Selja

CHANDIGARH. OPEN SEARCH : The Sirsa MP, Former Union Minister, Congress Working Committee member and General Secretary of All India Congress Committee Kumari Selja expressed concern over the delay in providing prize money, sports kits and travel allowances to athletes in Haryana. She said the BJP government in the state makes grand announcements about honouring sportspersons but shows little seriousness in implementing them on the ground. Athletes cannot be honoured through announcements alone; it is essential to ensure that they receive their rightful dues on time. Kumari Selja said that even one-and-a-half months after the Under-14 state-level school yoga and hockey competitions held in Rohtak, 72 medal winners had not received their prize money. Meanwhile, the travel and daily allowances of around 840 players remained pending, while 620 athletes were still waiting for their sports kits. The fact that the department was resorting to a tender process for sports kits that should have been provided before the competitions raised serious questions about its functioning. She said many athletes from Haryana bring glory to the country by winning medals at national and international levels through their individual efforts, the hard work of their parents and limited resources. In several villages, local residents and gram panchayats jointly extend financial and other support to help athletes prepare for competitions. Despite this, the government fails to provide even the announced prize money on time after they win medals.

Haryana reconstitutes panel to determine coverage of organisations under contractual employees' service security law

CHANDIGARH. OPEN SEARCH : The Haryana government has reconstituted a five-member committee to determine which organisations qualify for coverage under the Haryana Contractual Employees (Security of Service) Act, 2024, and Rules, 2025. The committee will examine and define specific and objective criteria for the inclusion of organisations within the definition of "Authority" under Section 2(f) of the Act and prepare an authenticated list of organisations eligible for coverage. An order to this effect was issued by the Chief Secretary Anurag Rastogi The Additional Chief Secretary, Finance and Planning Department, will serve as chairman of the reconstituted committee, while the Administrative Secretary of the organisation concerned will be a member. A representative of the Advocate General, Haryana, not below the rank of Additional Advocate General, will serve as the legal member.Pawan Kumar, representative of the Bharatiya Majdoor Sangh, has also been included as a member. The Special Secretary, Human Resources Department, will serve as Member Secretary.

Dense fog alert returns in Chandigarh Tricity from Thursday

CHANDIGARH (AGENCY) : The dense fog is likely to engulf Chandigarh, Mohali and Panchkula, with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) issuing a yellow alert for isolated places from Thursday through Saturday. The warning comes amid dry weather conditions across Chandigarh, Punjab and Haryana, with no rainfall expected over the next seven days. The prevailing weather pattern is likely to continue, with no significant change in daytime temperatures and minimum temperatures hovering around 10°C. According to the IMD's latest evening weather bulletin, all three Tricity cities are likely to record maximum temperatures of around 26°C and minimum temperatures of 10°C from Thursday to Saturday. The maximum temperature is forecast to remain around 26°C on Sunday before dipping slightly to 25°C on Monday, while the minimum is expected to rise marginally to 11°C. Chandigarh recorded a maximum temperature of 27.3°C on Wednesday, 1.7 degrees above normal.

'Aangan Ka Milan' Programme Organised in Karawal Nagar

NEW DELHI. OPEN SEARCH



Delhi Government committed to honouring, supporting Anganwadi workers and resolving their issues : Kapil Mishra

The Women & Child Development Department, District Office North-East, Government of Delhi, organised the 'Aangan Ka Milan' programme under the 9th Poshan Maah, as part of the campaign "Hamari Anganwadi – Hamari Jimmedari" at the Karawal Nagar Assembly constituency MLA Camp Office, Zero Pusta, Sonia Vihar. Shri Kapil Mishra, Hon'ble Minister for Development, Arts, Culture & Language and Tourism, Government of Delhi, and MLA from Karawal Nagar Assembly constituency, attended the programme as the Chief Guest.

The central message of the programme was "Empowered Children – Empowered India." On this occasion, Anganwadi sisters were honoured for their service, dedication and contribution towards nation-building, and Anganwadi kits were distributed among them. In his address, Minister Kapil Mishra appreciated the work of Anganwadi sisters and said that they play a vital role in promoting child nutrition, early education, maternal health and social awareness. Anganwadi centres are not merely platforms for nutrition and healthcare services, but also the foundation for strengthening the future of society. Their hard work, compassion and spirit of service are immensely valuable to society.

He said that honouring Anganwadi sisters is, in fact, a recognition of the strength of society that is tirelessly and selflessly engaged in shaping the future generations of the nation. Minister Shri Mishra referred to the commitment of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi towards service, dedication and public welfare, and said that under the Seva Sankalp campaign conducted from 17 September to 17 October, various public service activities were undertaken to extend assistance to needy and underprivileged sections of society. The primary objective of the campaign was to spread the spirit of service, cooperation and social welfare among people. He appreciated the public welfare decisions being taken by the Delhi Government under the leadership of Hon'ble Chief Minister Smt. Rekha Gupta and said that the government is continuously working for the welfare of women, employees, workers and every section of society.

Kapil Mishra said that in the Karawal Nagar Assembly constituency, efforts are continuously being made through MLA offices in various areas, including Tukmirpur and Sonia Vihar, to listen to the grievances of residents and resolve their issues. Women can directly approach him with their concerns, suggestions and requirements.

CJP leader moves Delhi HC after UK travel block

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)



Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) co-convener Saurav Das approached the Delhi High Court on Wednesday after being prevented from boarding a flight to the United Kingdom, where he was scheduled to speak at an Oxford University event on the "cockroach movement." When his counsel requested an urgent listing on Wednesday, a bench comprising Acting Chief Justice Nitin Wasudeo Sambre and Justice Sanjay Sharma scheduled the hearing for Thursday. Das's lawyer argued that immigration officials at the Delhi airport stopped him without showing any official order, prohibition, or Look Out Circular (LOC), noting that he could still make his November 27 engagements in the UK if heard promptly. Earlier on Monday, Das took to X to criticise the central government after being barred from boarding his 1 am flight to London. He stated that his passport had been flagged at immigration, preventing him from attending a panel discussion organised by the Oxford University Students' Union as well as scheduled talks at Cambridge, LSE, and Edinburgh. Accusing the government of suppressing intellectual discourse, Das remarked that he wished he had "looted thousands of crores from banks" like Vijay Mallya or Nirav Modi instead. (CJP) co-convener Saurav Das approached the Delhi High Court on Wednesday after being prevented from boarding a flight to the United Kingdom, where he was scheduled to speak at an Oxford University event on the "cockroach movement."

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Earlier on Monday, Das took to X to criticise the central government after being barred from boarding his 1 am flight to London.

Delhi records coldest morning of season at 10 degrees Celsius

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)



Delhi experienced its coldest morning of the ongoing winter season on Wednesday, with the minimum temperature dipping to 10 degrees Celsius. The minimum temperature recorded at Safdarjung, the city's base weather station, was 1.3 degrees below the seasonal average and 1.2 degrees lower than Tuesday's reading. Meanwhile, Delhi's air quality continued to remain in the 'poor' category, with the city's average Air Quality Index (AQI) recorded at 224. Four monitoring stations reported 'very poor' air quality. At 9.05 am, 56 of the 59 weather monitoring stations across the city were operational. Other weather stations also reported low minimum temperatures, with Lodhi Road recording 10.1 degrees Celsius, Ayanagar 10.4 degrees, Palam 11 degrees and the Ridge 11.7 degrees.

Compared to Tuesday, the minimum temperature at Palam remained unchanged, while Lodhi Road recorded a decline of 0.6 degrees. The Ridge registered a drop of 0.3 degrees, whereas Ayanagar saw a marginal increase of 0.2 degrees. No rainfall was reported at any of the five weather stations during the 24-hour period ending at 8.30 am on Wednesday.

Deepam row : BJP turns incident into INDIA bloc,Tamil Nadu CM Vijay's test on Hindu rights

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)



The government had sought a review of the Supreme Court order, citing concerns over communal harmony and law and order

BJP on Wednesday sought to turn the Karthigai Deepam controversy in Tamil Nadu into a wider political challenge for the INDIA bloc, targeting Congress and Rahul Gandhi over their association with the TVK government led by Chief Minister C Joseph Vijay, which has been accused of not implementing a Supreme Court directive on the ceremonial lighting of the lamp.

Addressing a press conference at the BJP headquarters, party spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi accused the Tamil Nadu government of defying the Supreme Court's November 20 order permitting the lighting of the Karthigai Deepam lamp at Deepathoon, a stone pillar atop Thiruparankundram hill in Madurai, on November 24, subject to restrictions and as a one-time arrangement.

The lamp was instead lit at the customary location near the Uchipillayar temple, not at the disputed pillar situated close to the Hazrat Sultan Sikandar Badusha Auliya Dargah. The government had sought a review of the Supreme Court order, citing concerns over communal harmony and law and order. Trivedi questioned Congress's position, asking Rahul Gandhi whether the party, which frequently invokes constitutional values, would hold its Tamil Nadu ally accountable for not implementing a Supreme Court directive. He characterised the episode as evidence of what he called the INDIA bloc's hostility towards Sanatan Dharma and alleged a larger political design to undermine Hindu religious practices.Follow Politics Seeking to give the controversy a national political dimension, Trivedi invoked the Shah Bano episode, suggesting that the Deepam dispute could become another such moment for Congress.

He cited former President Pranab Mukherjee's book The Coalition Era, referring to his criticism of the arrest of the Kanchi Shankaracharya during Diwali festivities, and challenged Congress to demonstrate whether it would oppose restrictions on religious practices of other communities with the same force.

SC sets aside Allahabad HC order to CBI, ED to verify DA allegations against Rahul Gandhi

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)



The matter shall be placed before the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court for constitution of a fresh Bench, which shall commence the proceedings afresh in open court

The Supreme Court on Wednesday set aside the Allahabad High Court order to the CBI and the ED to verify allegations against Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of possessing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income. A Bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant, Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice V Mohana sent BJP member Vignesh Shishir's petition to the High Court for fresh adjudication after giving an opportunity of hearing to Gandhi, including on the issue of maintainability.

"All the impugned orders passed by the High Court are set aside. The matter shall be placed before the Chief Justice of the Allahabad High Court for constitution of a fresh Bench, which shall commence the proceedings afresh in open court. All contentions of the parties, including those pertaining to the maintainability of the writ petition, are kept open," the Bench said.

Acting on Shishir's petition seeking a probe against the Leader of Opposition and his family members, the high court had in May asked the CBI to verify the petitioner's allegations.

Expressing dissatisfaction with the CBI's response, the Allahabad High Court's Lucknow Bench on July 20 directed the agency's senior officer to personally file a fresh affidavit detailing the progress made in the probe into the allegations of disproportionate assets against Rahul Gandhi. The top court's Wednesday's order came on Gandhi's petition challenging the high court's orders. He had also sought transfer of the proceedings pending in the Allahabad High Court to the Delhi High Court.

In a relief to Rahul Gandhi, the Supreme Court had on August 17 directed the Allahabad High Court to defer proceedings on Shishir's petition accusing the Congress leader of possessing assets disproportionate to his known sources of income.

The top court had wondered why the high court passed the impugned orders without giving Gandhi an opportunity to be heard. "Suppose somebody commits murders etc. police do not need permission. But what appears to us is, subject to the assistance provided to us from both sides, if courts want to issue a direction, they are expected to follow the principles of natural justice," CJI Kant had noted. Sibal had contended that the high court proceedings amounted to a "witch hunt through a process not recognised by law."

E-rickshaw driver, three family members held for east Delhi robbery

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)



Delhi Police have arrested an e-rickshaw driver along with three of his family members including his wife and mother for allegedly robbing a passenger at knife-point in east Delhi, officials confirmed on Wednesday. The robbery occurred around 10:30 pm on November 14, when the victim, Rajesh Kumar, hired an e-rickshaw from Noida T-Point heading toward the Anand Vihar Bus Terminal. Two women and two children were already seated inside. Midway through the trip, the driver diverted the vehicle toward a hospital on the pretext of dropping off his family. Instead, he drove to an isolated stretch near Dharamshila Bridge, where he threatened Kumar with a knife and stole his cash and documents while the accompanying women allegedly intimidated him. Following a PCR call, an FIR was registered at the New Ashok Nagar police station. Using CCTV footage, police identified and arrested the four accused: Najre Alam (22), who was driving the vehicle; his wife Muskan (23); Jubair (22), the son of the e-rickshaw's registered owner; and Jubair's mother, Ishrat (50). Jubair was picked up from Turkman Gate on November 20, while Alam and the two women were apprehended from the Lajpat Nagar area the next day. Police stated that Jubair and Alam have a prior robbery case registered against them at the Sunlight Colony police station. Based on Jubair's disclosure, officers recovered the knife used in the crime along with the victim's stolen cash and documents.

Delhi HC grants ED time to respond to Rashid's plea

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)



The Delhi High Court on Wednesday granted the Enforcement Directorate (ED) additional time to file its reply to a petition by Baramulla MP Abdul Rashid Sheikh, alias Engineer Rashid, challenging the framing of charges against him in a money laundering case. The case involves allegations of routing funds from Pakistan via hawala channels to finance secessionist activities in Jammu and Kashmir. Justice Sachin Datta scheduled the next hearing for December 16 after the prosecutor sought a week to consult with the special public prosecutor. The court had previously issued a notice to the central agency on November 19 seeking its response.

Rashid has contested a September 9 trial court order that cleared the way for framing charges. Subsequently, on October 24, a special court formally charged Rashid, jailed separatist leader Yasin Malik, and five others under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), noting sufficient prima facie evidence to put them on trial.

Delhi Government to set up 540 public EV chargers at 180 locations

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)



The Delhi government is set to expand the national capital's electric vehicle infrastructure by installing 540 public EV chargers across 180 locations, officials announced on Wednesday. Executed under the PM E-DRIVE scheme at an estimated cost of ?62 crore, the project aims to accelerate EV adoption and curb vehicular air pollution. Delhi Transco Limited (DTL), the designated nodal agency under the Delhi EV Policy 2026, has initiated the process of appointing operators to set up and run the stations in line with Ministry of Heavy Industries specifications. Each of the 180 sites will feature three chargers with dual charging guns: one 12 kW charger for electric two-wheelers and three-wheelers, one 60 kW charger for electric four-wheelers and N1 commercial goods carriers up to 3.5 tonnes, and one 120 kW fast charger for rapid turnaround. Geographically, the 180 locations are divided equally into two packages of 90 sites each Package 1 covering western and northern Delhi, and Package 2 covering southern, New, and eastern Delhi. Shortlisted Central Delhi hubs include clusters around Inderlok, Pratap Nagar, Shahi Idgah, Kamla Market/LNJP Hospital, and two co-located sites at Rajghat. This infrastructure push anticipates a sharp rise in charging demand driven by upcoming registration rules under the Delhi EV Policy 2026. Starting January 1, 2027, only electric three-wheelers (L5) and N1 goods carriers will be eligible for new registrations in the city, followed by a mandatory shift to electric two-wheelers from April 1, 2028. Additionally, the Commission for Air Quality Management has mandated establishing 32,062 charging points in Delhi by December 2029.

Briefs News

Woman gang-raped by colleagues in Delhi cafe, woman among 3 held

NEW DELHI (AGENCY) : Three people, including a woman, have been arrested after a 22-year-old woman alleged that she was gang raped by two men at a cafe in east Delhi's Preet Vihar, police sources said. Three other accused are absconding, and efforts are under way to trace them, said the sources. The victim, who along with the six accused, works at a cafe located in a mall in the Karkardooma area, alleged that the incident took place when she and her colleagues gathered at the establishment for a party on Monday night. The cafe had shut for the day around 11.30 pm. However, one of the group members allegedly had the keys to the premises and reopened it, following which they organised a party inside, a police source said. The group reportedly consumed alcohol and stayed at the cafe for several hours before leaving around 3.30 am. The victim woman subsequently alleged that two men sexually assaulted her. She also accused the other colleagues present of supporting the alleged crime. Police registered a case and arrested three accused. Further investigation is under way.

Three held, including woman, for alleged gang rape of cafe worker in east Delhi

NEW DELHI (AGENCY) Three people, including a woman, have been arrested in connection with the alleged gang rape of a 22-year-old woman by two men at a cafe in east Delhi's Preet Vihar, police sources said. Three other suspects are on the run, and police teams are making efforts to locate them, the sources added. The victim and all six accused were employed at a cafe situated inside a mall in the Karkardooma area. According to the woman's complaint, the incident occurred on Monday night when she and her colleagues had gathered at the cafe for a party. The establishment had closed for the day at around 11.30 pm. However, one of the employees allegedly had the keys and reopened the premises, allowing the group to hold a party there, a police source said. The group reportedly consumed alcohol and remained inside the cafe for several hours before leaving at around 3.30 am. The woman later alleged that two of her male colleagues sexually assaulted her.

2 Indians injured in Riyadh attack, New Delhi condemns strike

NEW DELHI (AGENCY) : Two Indians were among those injured in an attack on a financial district in Riyadh that triggered strong condemnation from New Delhi. India also denounced continued strikes targeting civilian, economic and energy infrastructure in Saudi Arabia. "Two Indians are among those injured in the attack on Riyadh financial district. The embassy of India in Riyadh is providing all possible assistance to the injured and their families," the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said. The attack was carried out on Tuesday. Local authorities said the injured included two Saudi citizens, three Nepalese and four Egyptian nationals. The MEA said that India strongly condemns the attack in Riyadh as well as the continued strikes targeting civilian, economic and energy infrastructure in Saudi Arabia. "These attacks seriously endanger civilian lives, violate the sovereignty of Saudi Arabia, and undermine regional security and stability. We call for immediate cessation of such attacks," it said in a statement. India also reiterated its firm solidarity with the people and government of Saudi Arabia and reaffirmed its unwavering support to the Kingdom in safeguarding its sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Delhi to make annual registration compulsory for free power subsidy

NEW DELHI (AGENCY) Delhi's free electricity benefit is set to become an annual opt-in exercise, meaning consumers who have so far received subsidies will also have to register afresh every year to keep their power bills down. The Delhi Government plans to launch a dedicated portal in the first week of December, giving domestic electricity consumers a month to enrol and select the subsidy option. Under the proposed arrangement, consumers will have to submit the required documents and authenticate their details through their electricity consumer numbers and Aadhaar. Distribution companies (DISCOMs) will verify the applications. Those who fail to complete registration within the stipulated period will not be eligible for the subsidy.

Open Search
EDITORIAL

Boosting Domestic Production

The pace of India's development is now determined by the strength of its infrastructure. Roads, bridges, railways, metro networks, airports and industrial projects have become the major pillars of the country's economic progress. However, an important question arises: how long will India continue to depend on other countries for the modern machinery used in these projects? Keeping this challenge in mind, the Central Government has approved a scheme worth Rs 11,000 crore to promote the domestic construction equipment industry.

This decision is not merely aimed at increasing industrial investment but is also closely linked to the country's economic self-reliance. Several modern machines and their essential components used in the construction sector are imported from other countries. This not only leads to an outflow of foreign exchange but also makes India's infrastructure projects vulnerable to disruptions in global supply chains. The objective of the new government scheme is to encourage Indian companies to manufacture modern construction equipment domestically. This will help develop production capacity within the country and create opportunities to reduce dependence on foreign manufacturers. Under this scheme, eligible manufacturers will receive sales-linked incentives ranging from 8 to 13 per cent for five years. In addition, a grant of up to Rs 375 crore will be provided for the development of modern testing facilities.

This initiative can help domestic companies adopt new technologies, improve product quality and develop machinery that meets the requirements of the global market. The industrial strength of any country depends not only on large companies but also on small industries and local supply chains. The expansion of the construction equipment industry can create new opportunities for the MSME sector. It can also open up employment opportunities in engineering, machinery manufacturing, research, technical training and skilled labour. Instead of limiting India's youth to merely operating machines, it is essential to involve them in their manufacturing and technological development.

However, the scheme also faces some significant challenges. Bringing Indian products in line with international quality standards, increasing investment in research and development, and developing advanced technologies will not be easy. The government must ensure that the benefits of the scheme do not remain limited to large companies. Small and medium enterprises should also receive financial assistance, technical training and better access to markets. The Rs 11,000-crore scheme presents an important opportunity for India's industrial future. However, the success of any scheme is determined not by its budget but by the results achieved on the ground. India must now develop an industrial ecosystem in which machinery manufacturing, technological advancement and employment generation take place within the country. If the government, private sector and research institutions work together in this direction, India can strengthen its global position in the construction equipment industry.

India's Alarming Environmental Performance

DR. PRITAM B. GEDAM

The environment is the sole foundation of all life on Earth. Yet, every Indian is breathing polluted air, and despite the alarming situation, we continue to ignore the need for change. Protecting the environment is everyone's responsibility. November 26 is observed every year as World Environmental Protection Day to raise global awareness about the need to take positive steps towards environmental conservation.

Several factors have pushed pollution levels to extremely dangerous levels. These include vehicular emissions and traffic congestion, industrial activities and thermal power plants, the burning of solid fuels such as wood and coal in households, construction activities and road dust, biomass burning and open waste burning, stubble burning in agricultural fields, bursting of firecrackers, and the accumulation of pollutants due to weather conditions. Other major causes include untreated municipal sewage, industrial waste, the discharge of untreated heavy metals and toxic waste from chemical and textile industries into nearby water bodies, contaminated agricultural runoff containing hazardous chemicals, mismanagement of solid and electronic waste, excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, indiscriminate dumping of mining and industrial waste, unregulated construction activities and commercial operations.

According to the Environmental Performance Index 2026, India ranked 176th out of 177 countries, with a score of 22.46. This ranking reflects the seriousness of the situation. India was ranked 141st in 2016 and has remained among the five worst-performing countries since 2022. India's performance is considerably poorer than that of neighbouring countries such as Bhutan (82nd), Sri Lanka (118th), Nepal (134th), Pakistan (148th) and Bangladesh (161st). Rapid urbanisation and industrialisation have continuously increased pressure on air quality, biodiversity and greenhouse gas emissions. However, progress in renewable energy, waste management and sanitation infrastructure has made some positive contributions.

India ranks 120th out of 122 countries in the Water Quality Index. According to the 2026 Global Hunger Index, India ranks 100th among 122 countries, with a score of 24.1, placing it in the category of 'serious hunger'.

According to the Air Quality Life Index, India is the second-most polluted country in the world. Nearly 140 crore people in India live in areas where the concentration of PM2.5 in the air exceeds the levels recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO). In some regions, pollution levels are even significantly higher than India's own national standards. According to WHO guidelines, fine particulate matter reduces the average life expectancy of an Indian by approximately 3.5 years, while residents of areas such as Delhi-NCR may experience a reduction in life expectancy of up to 8.2 years.

Indian Firms are making record profits, why are foreign investors still leaving

ADITYA SINHA

In the July to September quarter of 2026-27, the 50 companies in the Nifty 50 increased profit after tax by 27% over the same quarter of the previous year - the highest growth in 17 quarters



In the July to September quarter of 2026-27, the 50 companies in the Nifty 50 increased profit after tax (PAT) by 27% over the same quarter of the previous year. Motilal Oswal Financial Services records this as the highest growth in 17 quarters. For its wider universe of 398 companies, PAT grew 32%, against an estimate of 21%. Estimates of Nifty earnings per share (EPS) have been revised up, to Rs 1,243 for 2026-27 and Rs 1,427 for 2027-28. Yet, according to the National Stock Exchange (NSE) India Ownership Tracker, foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) held 14.7% of NSE-listed companies in September 2026, the lowest share in 21 years. The two facts have to be explained together.

Start with composition. Five companies (Reliance Industries, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles, JSW Steel, and State Bank of India) contributed 46% of the incremental profit. In the wider universe, PAT in metals grew 78% and in oil and gas 55%. Much of this came from prices, not volumes. And prices revert. Nor is 27% exceptional in the world. FactSet's blended figure for the S&P 500 in the same quarter is 31.4%, the third successive quarter above 25%. UBS expects Korean EPS to grow 81.1% in 2026. India has had a good quarter in a year of good quarters.

What does growth imply? First, profits are a larger share of the economy than they have ever been. By Motilal Oswal's count, profits of Nifty 500 companies were 5.2% of gross domestic product (GDP) in 2025-26, a record, against 4.9% a year earlier. Those profits grew 15.6% in a year when nominal GDP grew 8.9%. Second, the multiple has compressed. By Bajaj Asset Management's count, the Nifty traded at 24.8 times 12-month forward earnings in September 2024. At the close of 25,144 on 13 November, it trades at 20.2 times Motilal Oswal's EPS estimate for 2026-27 and 17.6 times its estimate for 2027-28. Third, profits finance investment. Gross fixed capital formation grew 11.9% in real terms in April to June 2026, against 5.8% a year earlier. Retained earnings are the cheapest capital a company has. Fourth, the pace will not hold. Motilal Oswal expects Nifty earnings to grow 18% in the second half of the year, against 22% in the first. Its EPS estimates imply 14.8% in 2027-28. That is respectable. It is not 27.

What makes India enticing to a foreign fund? One, growth. Real GDP grew 7.8% in April to June 2026, and nominal GDP 10.3%. Two, external balance. The Reserve Bank of India reports a current account deficit of 0.5% of GDP for that quarter. Three, India is not the artificial intelligence (AI) trade. UBS computes that the top five stocks are 34% of the MSCI Emerging Markets Index, and that Taiwan and Korea together are about half of it. A fund that fears this concentration has few large places to go. Daily prices since January 2023 bear this out. On the worst tenth of days for semiconductor shares, Korea's sensitivity to the fall is 0.78, and Taiwan's is 0.54. India's is 0.03, statistically no different from zero. Between 6 and 30 October, semiconductor shares fell 19.1%, and the Nifty gained 1.2%. Four, the exit door. Individuals, directly and through mutual funds, own a record 19.5% NSE-listed companies. National Securities Depository Limited data show net FPI sales of about Rs 2.1 lakh crore in 2026, and the market still cleared. A market one can leave is a market one can enter. Five, positioning. At 14.7%, there is little left to sell. FPIs bought Rs 84,290 crore in the first fortnight of November. That buying followed the rout in AI shares abroad. It did not follow the earnings.

Is this shelter a stable proposition? It is not, for four reasons. First, the money came because AI shares fell, not because India changed. Since the chip trough of November 5, semiconductor shares have recovered 12.6% and Nifty 2.5%. Money that arrives on a rout can leave on a recovery. Second, entries move prices more than exits. From October 29 to November 12, about 8.9 billion dollars of foreign buying lifted the Nifty 10.3%, a little over one percentage point for every billion. In the ten months before, close to 30 billion dollars left, and the Nifty fell 12.2%, or 0.4 of a point per billion. Domestic funds absorb foreign exits. Nobody stands on the other side of foreign entries. Prices that rise on thin supply can fall the same way. The rally is also narrow.

Banks rose 12% and the Nifty IT index 0.9%. Third, the shelter holds only when the fall is contained. Across the 17 sessions since 2023 when the broad American market also fell by more than 1%, the Nifty fell 0.46% on average. Fourth, the shelter is six months old. Before May 2026, the Nifty moved with the previous night's chip shares. A coefficient that changed sign in one year can change back in another.

First, the cost of capital. Even on 2027-28 earnings, a multiple of 17.6 is an earnings yield of 5.7%. The 10-year government bond yielded 7.31% on November 13. The domestic saver, investing through a monthly systematic investment plan, does not do this subtraction. The foreigner does. He then subtracts expected rupee depreciation, and a capital gains tax. Second, oil. Dependence on imported crude was a record 88.7% in 2025-26, up from 85.5% in 2021-22. High crude lifts Oil and Natural Gas Corporation's profit. It also widens the merchandise trade deficit, which was 86.1 billion dollars in April to June against 68.9 billion a year earlier. A gain in one company's profit and loss account is a loss in the country's balance of payments. Third, manufacturing.

AI opens new frontiers in research

DINESH C SHARMA

Policymakers and science academies should promote open-source AI tools



Acryptic announcement has taken the world of scientific research by storm. Levent Alpoge, a mathematician working at Anthropic, a leading AI company, declared on his website last week that he had found proof of the Riemann Hypothesis a maths problem that has eluded a solution for the past 167 years using Claude, an AI engine. "Claude and I have had a great time together with such breadth in recent months, but this time Claude far outpaced me near the finish line. No, Claude flew, and danced, and sparkled near that finish line," Alpoge wrote.

The Riemann hypothesis is a puzzle about prime numbers, the fundamental building blocks of mathematics. German mathematician George Friedrich Riemann proposed it in 1859, and it has remained unproven to this day. Alpoge has shared the explanation of the proof, running to some 2,50,000 pages. While some leading mathematicians have confirmed that Claude and Alpoge have indeed solved the mystery, the ultimate approval of the proof will come when the results are peer-reviewed and published in a scientific journal. In the past couple of years, AI tools have dramatically impacted several spheres of human activity, including scientific research. These tools have been deployed to solve several complex and unsolved mathematical problems by mathematicians and AI researchers. The announcement relating to the Riemann Hypothesis is the first breakthrough. AI tools have found use in areas of other scientific research that are data-intensive, such as biology, astrophysics, materials science, genetics, robotics, computer science and climate science.

Companies have developed specific tools for such applications, and scores of scientists are already using them. AlphaFold is one such tool that Google DeepMind has developed to unravel three-dimensional protein structures from amino acid sequences. DeepMind researchers shared the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 2024 for their AI model. There are some 200 million proteins across all known species, and deciphering them all could take thousands of years. AlphaFold can predict the 3D structure of a protein in hours or days, compared to the months or years required using conventional tools. Protein structure studies could help speed up the discovery of new drugs and therapies.

Space astronomy is another field that generates an enormous amount of data, which takes scientists several years to analyse and make discoveries. AI tools have reduced this period to months and weeks. Some 370 new exoplanets (planets that orbit stars other than our Sun) have been discovered and several thousand exoplanet candidates identified by AI-assisted mining of data collected during past missions of NASA. Scientists at the European Space Agency have developed AI tools to search millions of images collected by the Hubble Space Telescope in the quest to find rare and anomalous objects like colliding galaxies, gravitational lenses and ring galaxies. AI can do this job in a fraction of the time that humans would take using available tools.

AI companies are not just creating tools for automation of data analysis but automating the entire process of scientific research, from ideation to the publication of a research paper. A Japanese company, Sakana AI, has developed an agentic system called AI Scientist, which uses existing foundational models to perform ideation, literature search, experiment planning and implementation, result analysis and writing of a research manuscript. AI Scientist withstood scrutiny when tested for an experiment in machine learning science where all experiments typically take place on a computer. The paper it generated was accepted at a top machine learning conference. Obviously, AI Scientist has several limitations, but it has succeeded in demonstrating scientific reasoning and automating several steps involved in scientific research. Some scientists see agentic AI as a new research tool or a smart research assistant, if not a total replacement for a human scientific worker.

All these developments have severe implications for science as well as society. AI-assisted or AI-driven research can drive science in a particular direction, that of data-heavy disciplines. It has been observed that while AI tools help individual scientists perform better and help them increase their scientific output, AI is collectively narrowing the scope of scientific research in terms of topics studied. The Royal Society, an internationally respected academy of scientists, has pointed out other concerns with AI adoption in scientific research. AI-assisted research does not fulfil the basic criterion of reproducibility; the methods used (Large Language Models and agentic AI tools) may not be reproducible because they are proprietary products. Some tools, such as those developed by NASA, are open-source, but most others are commercial products. There are ethical concerns such as authorship of research papers, intellectual property and assessment of research work in the case of research jointly conducted by a human scientist and an AI agent or AI research assistant. What happens if scientific AI agents start talking, collaborating or leaking raw data? A still bigger concern would be AI tools falling into the hands of malicious actors, resulting in unauthorised work on chemical, biological and nuclear weapons. The environmental footprint of scientific research can grow significantly, given the high power and water consumption associated with the operation of AI systems.

The gap between developed and developing countries in the pace of scientific research could further widen, as scientists in the developed world are better placed to access costly AI tools. Those with computing power will be at an advantage. The use of AI tools is picking up in Indian academic and research institutions. For instance, some 1,80,000 researchers are using AlphaFold in India. This, however, may be the free version of the AI tool Google is offering. Policymakers and science academies should promote open-source AI tools and invest in enabling Indian researchers to take advantage of these tools. At the same time, steps need to be taken to address ethical concerns surrounding the use of generative AI in research.

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SOBHA Townpark : The evolution of community living on Hosur Road

BENGALURU (AGENCY)



The corridor's appeal is also shaped by its road network. Hosur Road and the Electronic City elevated expressway provide access to key parts of Bengaluru

Southeast Bengaluru is steadily emerging as an important residential destination, supported by its established employment base, expanding industrial activity and improving urban infrastructure. The presence of major technology hubs such as Electronic City, alongside industrial centres in Bommasandra, Jigani and Attibele, has strengthened the region's economic relevance and created sustained demand for quality housing.

The corridor's appeal is also shaped by its road network. Hosur Road and the Electronic City elevated expressway provide access to key parts of Bengaluru, while NICE Road connects the region to other important growth corridors. Planned regional road infrastructure, including sections of the Satellite Town Ring Road and the proposed Peripheral Ring Road-2, could further improve movement across the southern and southeastern parts of the city over time.

For homebuyers, the significance of this growth extends beyond connectivity. As Bengaluru expands, residential communities in emerging locations are increasingly expected to offer thoughtful planning, a well-developed living environment and the scale to support long-term community needs. This is where large, integrated developments have a distinct role. Unlike standalone residential projects, they can bring together homes, open spaces and shared facilities within a planned setting, creating a more cohesive residential environment. Located on Hosur Road near Electronic City, SOBHA Townpark reflects this approach. The development brings together distinct residential identities, landscaped spaces and lifestyle destinations within a cohesive township. The development features more than 75 amenities across recreational, active, children's and park-and-plaza zones. Three clubhouses, Town Centre, Club Hamptons and Club Madison, together span approximately 56,000 sq. ft., providing spaces for fitness, leisure, social gatherings and community activities. A defining feature is the 11-acre Central Park, complemented by a 90-metre-diameter cricket ground, swimming pools, sports facilities, landscaped trails and dedicated spaces for children. With approximately 67% of the development area allocated to open spaces and landscaping, the planning places considerable emphasis on balancing high-rise residential living with outdoor experiences. The intent is to create a residential environment that caters to different age groups and interests. From fitness and recreation to social interaction and quieter outdoor spaces, the amenities are designed to become an integral part of residents' daily routines.

An important milestone in the evolution of a large residential development is the transition from construction and handover to actual community life.

ASBL legacy records Rs. 800 crore in launch-day sales at RTC X roads

HYDERABAD (AGENCY)



ASBL Legacy, ASBL's first residential project in Central Hyderabad, has recorded sales worth Rs. 800 crore on its launch day at RTC X Roads. The project is the tallest residential development and the first fully gated community in the RTC X Roads area, marking the company's entry into one of Hyderabad's most established residential neighbourhoods. Alongside the launch, ASBL has introduced a zero EMI till handover offer, under which homebuyers can book a home and they do not need to pay anything until handover, while the company takes care of the interest payments during the entire construction period, which usually a customer has to pay.

Typically, when a buyer purchases an under-construction property through a home loan, the bank disburses the loan in stages as construction progresses. The buyer is required to pay interest on the amount disbursed, with these payments increasing as construction advances and eventually becoming full EMIs. For families already paying rent or managing an existing home loan, this can mean carrying the financial responsibility of two homes at the same time, sometimes for several years before moving into the new property. Most pre-EMI offers in the market provide relief only up to a certain stage of construction, generally until the first slab is completed. ASBL's offer extends this support throughout the construction period. Under the scheme, buyers pay the booking amount and ASBL covers the interest charges until the first formal handover intimation. The remaining property amount is payable at handover. The offer aims to reduce the financial pressure on buyers during the period when their new homes are still being built. Spread across approximately 7.97 acres, ASBL Legacy comprises three residential towers rising up to G+50 floors. The project offers 3 and 4 BHK apartments ranging from 1,970 to 3,015 sq. ft., with prices starting at Rs. 1.99 crore. It has 73.25% open space, a 74,000 sq. ft. clubhouse and approximately 1.70 lakh sq. ft. of total amenity space, with over 50 amenities.

10-fold rise in northern England firms eyeing Indian exports : UK survey

LONDON (AGENCY)



The number of northern England firms set to break into India has increased 10-fold after a high-profile Great North mayoral mission, according to a latest survey. The UK Trade Barometer – released recently by one of the UK's largest airports group, Manchester Airport Group (MAG), and the Northern Powerhouse Partnership – surveys 2,000 businesses every quarter about their performance in the last three months and expectations for the quarter ahead.

Latest results show 10 per cent of Northern England exporters expect to sell to the world's fastest growing major economy for the first time in Q4, up from less than 1 per cent in the previous quarter. "This is exactly why we delivered our landmark trade deal with India – to help businesses all across the UK expand, attract new customers and drive growth in every postcode," said UK Trade Secretary Jonathan Reynolds, whose Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade (DBIST) backed the trade mission to India last month. "Building on that momentum, the recent Great North trade mission strengthened our relationship with one of the world's fastest-growing economies, and more businesses should be inspired and take advantage of the opportunities now on offer," he said.

The high-profile mission saw elected mayors from across the North of England front a delegation of more than 200 businesses, universities and cultural organisations to cover the cities of Delhi.

India's gold loan portfolio surges 60.6% to Rs 23.3 lakh crore, smaller cities drive growth

NEW DELHI (AGENCY)



India's gold loan market continued to expand rapidly, with the outstanding portfolio rising 60.6 per cent year-on-year to Rs 23.3 lakh crore, supported by larger loan sizes and growing participation from borrowers in smaller cities, according to a report by CRIF Credit Information Services. The report said the growth of gold loans is spreading beyond traditional markets in southern India, with Tier III and beyond cities emerging as important contributors.

Borrowers from these cities increased at a three-year compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 16.1 per cent to 3.7 crore between September 2023 and September 2026. The rest of India also recorded strong growth, with the gold loan portfolio expanding 96.4 per cent year-on-year in September 2026.

Despite the expansion beyond southern India, the region continued to dominate the market, accounting for more than 70 per cent of the total portfolio. Tamil Nadu led with an outstanding gold loan portfolio of Rs 6.9 lakh crore, followed by Andhra Pradesh at Rs 3.7 lakh crore, Karnataka at Rs 2.4 lakh crore, Telangana at Rs 2.1 lakh crore and Kerala at Rs 1.7 lakh crore.

The overall gold loan portfolio more than doubled from Rs 10.7 lakh crore in September 2024 to Rs 23.3 lakh crore in September 2026. Active loans increased 14 per cent year-on-year to 10.2 crore, indicating that the sharp rise in portfolio value was also driven by an increase in average loan sizes. Gold loans accounted for 12.6 per cent of India's Rs 185.2 lakh crore retail loan portfolio, marking an increase of 3.3 percentage points from a year earlier.

The report also highlighted growing participation among women and new-to-credit borrowers. The number of gold loan borrowers increased from 3.7 crore in September 2023 to 5.6 crore in September 2026, registering a three-year CAGR of 15.6 per cent. Women borrowers grew at a faster CAGR of 16 per cent to 2.4 crore during the same period and accounted for 42.2 per cent of the outstanding gold loan portfolio. Around 45.7 lakh borrowers who accessed gold loans in Q2 FY27 were new-to-credit borrowers. Gold loan originations also reflected the shift towards larger loans. Their value increased 27.2 per cent year-on-year to Rs 8.15 lakh crore in Q2 FY27, even as the number of accounts declined 4.1 per cent to 369.4 lakh. However, the report flagged some signs of rising near-term stress. While overall PAR 31-180 improved to 1.7 per cent in September 2026 from 2 per cent a year earlier, PAR 31-90 increased sequentially by 0.4 per cent between June and September 2026. The report said the market continues to expand across geographies and borrower segments, although early delinquencies and changes in borrower risk profiles require monitoring.

Luxury housing takes centre stage as NCR developers focus on premium and luxury residential supply

NEW DELHI.(AGENCY)



For homebuyers moving up the property ladder in NCR, the search is no longer just about an extra bedroom or a better address. More room for the family, greater privacy and a neighbourhood they enjoy living in are shaping their choices. Gurugram remains a strong draw, but Noida, Greater Noida and Ghaziabad are increasingly offering competitive choices, with evolving residential markets catering to a wider spectrum of premium homebuyers. New launch figures reflect this shift. In its Q3 2026 assessment, Cushman & Wakefield put residential launches across Delhi-NCR at 8,728 units, the largest share of them in Gurgaon. New Gurgaon, Golf Course Extension Road and Dwarka Expressway were among the active corridors. The weighted average launch price stood at about Rs. 16,400 per sq. ft., reflecting a growing share of higher-priced homes. Separately, ANAROCK's assessment, reported by India TV, found that homes above Rs. 1.5 crore made up 61% of NCR's new supply. While the agencies use different price classifications, both findings indicate the growing prominence of premium housing in NCR's residential supply.

Developers are responding to this shift by rethinking their residential offerings, with a growing emphasis on lower-density developments, larger floor plans, upgraded specifications, thoughtful architecture and amenities that combine exclusivity with everyday functionality. As buyers become more discerning, the focus is increasingly on creating homes that offer a well-rounded living experience rather than just premium pricing or aesthetics.

Yukti Nagpal, Director, Gulshan Group, said, "Noida has shown that branded residences can appeal to buyers who want the assurance of a trusted hospitality name alongside the privacy of a home. It is encouraging to see interest in this format now emerging in well-developed markets in leading tier II cities and more.

Antara and Yhataw Realty host senior living awareness session in Chandigarh

CHANDIGARH (AGENCY)



Antara Senior Living by Max Group and Yhataw Realty (LiveWell Partner of Max Estates) hosted a senior living awareness session at Taj Chandigarh on Sunday, November 15, bringing together prospective homebuyers, investors and families to discuss the changing expectations around ageing and the evolution of senior living in India. The discussion focused on how senior living is moving beyond age-specific housing towards thoughtfully planned communities that support independent and active lifestyles, social connection, wellness and access to healthcare and care services. With changing family structures, longer life expectancy and greater financial independence reshaping retirement aspirations, more families are beginning to consider senior living as a proactive lifestyle choice. According to the JLL-ASLI report Elevating the Golden Years, the addressable market for senior living facilities in India is expected to reach approximately 2.27 million households by 2030. As the category develops, the discussion highlighted the importance of professionally managed communities that are designed around seniors' changing needs, rather than treating senior living as a conventional residential real estate offering.

Huang's return stabilises Nvidia's Korean chip partnerships, but diversification remains key

SEOUL (AGENCY)

with Samsung Electronics and SK hynix, but the South Korean companies are expected to continue diversifying their customer base amid growing demand for custom artificial intelligence (AI) chips, according to a news report b: Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang's return to the helm has eased uncertainty over the US chipmaker's memory partnershipsy the Korea Herald.

News Nvidia's board unanimously voted to reinstate Huang as president, CEO and a board member on Monday, just 11 days after he stepped down amid controversy over his personal conduct and reports that he had been targeted by a foreign intelligence operation. According to the report, uncertainty over Nvidia's leadership had raised concerns about possible changes to its chip development plans and procurement strategy, which could affect product schedules, orders and pricing negotiations with its Korean suppliers.

Nagarkar Jewellers rewards shoppers with EV, scooter and iPhone in maiden lucky draw

PUNE (AGENCY)



Customers of Nagarkar Jewellers had reason to celebrate as the jewellery chain announced the winners of its maiden lucky draw, with prizes including a Tata Tiago electric car, an electric scooter and an iPhone 17. The winners were announced at a special event held at the brand's Baner showroom on Sunday.

The lucky draw was conducted across all five showrooms of Nagarkar Jewellers at Tulshibaug, Laxmi Road, Kothrud, Thane and Baner. Customers who made purchases between October 24 and November 15 and filled in entry coupons were eligible to participate. The draw was conducted transparently at the Baner showroom recently, with customers from the Thane, Kothrud and Baner outlets winning the top three prizes. Dr Archana Pawar, a customer of the Thane showroom, won the first prize, a Tata Tiago electric car. The second prize, an electric Access scooter, went to Dr Asawari Kanade, who made her purchase at the Kothrud showroom. Sonali Bagde, a customer of the Baner showroom, won the third prize, an iPhone 17. The winners were informed over the phone after the draw. Speaking about the initiative, Pushkar Nagarkar said the lucky draw was organised for the first time this year and had received an overwhelming response from customers.

"Gold prices were relatively high before Dussehra and Diwali but declined during the festive season, leading to an increase in purchases. Customers bought gold, gold jewellery and silver during this period. With festive occasions and the wedding season driving purchases, we decided to introduce the lucky draw as a special reward for our customers," he said.

Briefs News

Altimetrik achieves the AWS agentic AI specialization

BENGALURU (AGENCY) : Altimetrik, an AI engineering company, has achieved the Amazon Web Services (AWS) Agentic AI Specialization in Agentic AI Consulting Services, a category within the AWS AI Competency. This specialization recognizes Altimetrik as an AWS Partner that enables customers to deploy smart, self-operating AI systems that can think, plan, and work independently to execute complex business processes. The AWS AI Specialization in Agentic AI distinguishes Altimetrik as an AWS Partner with proven technical expertise and customer success in delivering production-ready autonomous AI systems that reason, plan, collaborate, utilize tools, execute tasks, and continuously improve. Altimetrik excels in implementing Amazon Bedrock Agents and other leading AWS-compatible frameworks, enabling customers to move beyond AI experimentation to deploy autonomous systems that deliver tangible returns on investment. "Agent pilots often stall when agents aren't designed around how a business operates. Our teams take the time to understand each client's systems, workflows, and how their people work, then build agents that fit, with the testing and monitoring you'd expect of any production system," said Farid Roshan, Chief AI and Digital Engineering Officer at Altimetrik. "This specialization recognizes our ability to build agentic AI solutions that perform reliably in production. Altimetrik supports agentic AI programs from early strategies through production and ongoing operations.

India to play bigger role in global landslide research, says Japanese disaster expert

NEW DELHI (AGENCY) : India is expected to play a bigger role in global landslide research and disaster risk reduction following its hosting of the 7th World Landslide Forum for the first time, Japanese disaster research expert Prof. Shinji Sassa told ANI. Speaking on the sidelines of the forum, Sassa, Head of the Soil Dynamics Group at Japan's Port and Airport Research Institute, said hosting the international event was a significant development for India and would strengthen its role in advancing landslide science and practical solutions to reduce disaster risks. "This is indeed the first time the World Landslide Forum is taking place in India. So it has a huge implication, and India will take a major role in learning science and practice from now on," he told ANI. The 7th World Landslide Forum is being held from November 22 to 27, 2026, at Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham in Faridabad. The forum brings together scientists, engineers, practitioners and policymakers from across the world to discuss landslide research, technology and ways to reduce disaster risks. Sassa said the forum was different from a conventional international scientific conference as it brought together not only researchers but also policymakers, stakeholders and the general public. He said the main focus was to use scientific knowledge and technology to reduce landslide risks, save lives and protect critical infrastructure. "The 7th World Landslide Forum is discussing all in the whole that how to reduce disaster risk, how to save lives, and how to protect the infrastructure, particularly the critical infrastructure from landslide disasters," he said.

Attero to invest Rs. 3,000 Crore in critical minerals expansion over next five years

NEW DELHI (AGENCY) : Attero, India's largest critical minerals firm and the world's most technologically advanced urban miner, has announced plans to invest Rs. 3,000 crore over the next five years to expand its critical minerals processing and recycling infrastructure. The investment will support the company's plans to increase its annual electronic waste recycling capacity more than fourfold, to 10 lakh tonnes over the next four years. As part of the expansion, Attero plans to increase its lithium-ion battery recycling capacity fivefold and magnet recycling capacity tenfold over the next four years. Approximately 40% of the proposed investment, amounting to Rs. 1,200 crore, will be directed towards lithium, nickel and cobalt processing facilities. The company is also planning new recycling plants in Bengaluru and Andhra Pradesh to strengthen its domestic processing network. "India has a significant opportunity to build its own critical minerals ecosystem and reduce its dependence on imports. Our planned investment of Rs. 3,000 crore will help us substantially expand our processing capabilities and scale our e-waste recycling capacity to one million tonnes annually. We believe India has the potential not only to meet a large part of its domestic critical minerals requirements but also to emerge as a global exporter.

Mahamaya paddy was sold at Rs 2,951 and Sarna paddy at Rs 2,551 per quintal

RAIPUR. OPEN SEARCH



The sale and purchase of agricultural produce commenced at Bemetara Mandi, bringing smiles to farmers' faces as they received better prices

Under the leadership of Chief Minister Shri Vishnu Dev Sai, the state government is making continuous efforts to strengthen the economic condition of the farmers and provide them a fair price for their agricultural produce. In this direction, the buying and selling of notified agricultural produce was started today in the Bemetara Agricultural Produce Market. On the very first day in the market, an atmosphere of enthusiasm and happiness was seen as the farmers got a better price for their produce. Buying and selling was started in the market premises in the presence of district administration officials, market committee representatives, farmers and traders.On the first day of agricultural produce trading, farmer Mr. Ageshwar Sahu sold Mahamaya rice for Rs. 2,951 per quintal and Sarna rice for Rs. 2,551 per quintal. His produce was purchased by Bhutada Rice & Dal Mill, a registered wholesale and processing firm in Bemetara Mandi. Farmer Mr. Ageshwar Sahu was delighted and excited to receive a better price for his produce.

With the commencement of the sale and purchase of notified agricultural produce at the Bemetara Mandi, farmers have now secured a systematic market for their hard-earned produce. The sale and purchase of agricultural produce at the Mandi will provide farmers with the opportunity to obtain competitive market prices for their produce. Farmers expressed their happiness at the commencement of the sale and purchase at the Mandi and the improved prices they received for their produce. They also hope to receive additional financial benefits from the assistance provided to eligible farmers under the government's farmer-friendly schemes. The state government is implementing various farmer-friendly schemes to increase farmers' income, make agriculture profitable, and ensure fair prices for their produce. In this regard, the district administration and market committee are taking necessary initiatives to provide farmers with better facilities and organized markets for the sale of their agricultural produce. The start of agricultural produce trading at the Bemetara market has provided farmers with additional options for selling their produce. Along with paddy, other notified agricultural produce will also be traded at the market. This will boost agricultural trade and strengthen the local economy. Regular buying and selling of agricultural produce in the market will expand business activities between farmers and traders. Encouraging local procurement and processing of agricultural produce will also boost agriculture-based businesses. This initiative will contribute to the economic empowerment of farmers and strengthen the district's rural economy. The Market Committee Manager has appealed to all farmers in the district to reach the Bemetara Agricultural Produce Market in large numbers to sell their produce and take advantage of the market's facilities and competitive market prices.

3 Killed, 2 missing after 6 of family thrown into canal in Gujarat

SURAT (AGENCY)



Six members of a family from Jalgaon in Maharashtra were allegedly thrown into a canal in Gujarat's Surat district, leaving three dead and two missing, while a 13-year-old boy survived, police said on Wednesday. The sensational incident took place in the Bardoli taluka on November 21. Citing preliminary information, police said the attackers, who have been identified, were known to the family.

As per the complaint, the family was travelling to Surat for some work. Four individuals, who were following the family in another vehicle, intercepted them near Uva village in Bardoli. Three bodies, including those of a couple, were recovered from the canal near Mahuva, while their 13-year-old son managed to swim ashore and seek help on Sunday morning. His siblings, a 2-year-old toddler and a 16-year-old boy, remain missing, Bardoli rural police inspector PN Jadeja said. He said efforts were being made to locate the two bodies and determine the motive behind the alleged crime. "A 13-year-old boy was brought to the police station on Sunday morning. He spoke in Marathi. Upon questioning, it was revealed that the family was travelling in a vehicle to Surat for work," Superintendent of Police (Surat Rural) Rajesh Gadhiya said. He said another vehicle followed the family during that night. After intercepting the family's vehicle, the gang put the boy's parents and his 2-year-old sibling in one vehicle. The boy, his 16-year-old brother and 9-year-old sister were made to sit in the other vehicle.

"The boy said he, his 16-year-old older brother and 9-year-old sister were thrown into the canal. He managed to swim out and contacted his eldest sister back home. Our team brought her (the eldest sister) here, recorded her statement, and registered a case," he said. During the search, the bodies of a man, a woman, and a girl were recovered from the Ukai-Kakrapar canal near Dungri in Mahuva taluka, police said. Relatives identified the bodies.

360 devotees at McLeodganj pray for long life of Dalai Lama



DHARAMSALA (AGENCY)

More than 360 devotees from West Bengal and various Himalayan regions gathered at the Tsuglagkhang, the Main Tibetan Temple in McLeodganj, on Tuesday to offer prayers for the long life of Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama. The Kharchu Pema Garbha Dharma Centre and the All-Himalayan Buddhists, Salbari, Siliguri, organised the prayer ceremony on the full-moon day of the tenth month of the Tibetan calendar. The Dalai Lama was welcomed by representatives of the organising groups with incense and traditional white scarves (katas) as he arrived at the temple. The courtyard was decorated with marigold garlands, while devotees gathered to seek his blessings. The ceremony began with prayers invoking the Three Jewels and generating the spirit of enlightenment. The organisers also presented a mandala, a statue, a volume of Buddhist scriptures and a stupa, symbolising the enlightened ones' body, speech and mind. The devotees recited the 'Song of Immortality', an extensive long-life prayer composed by the Dalai Lama's two tutors. Tea and sweet rice were also served after being blessed during the ceremony. The Dalai Lama gave the oral transmission of the six-syllable mantra 'Om Mani Padme Hum', the mantra of Guru Padmasambhava and Arya Tara's mantra.

Suvendu claims Pranab Mukherjee advised him to leave TMC, work with PM Modi

KOLKATA (AGENCY)



West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Wednesday claimed that former President Pranab Mukherjee had advised him to leave the TMC and align with Prime Minister Narendra Modi if he wanted to carve out an independent political career, as he would otherwise remain an "employee" in the Mamata Banerjee-led party. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the Ras Mela in Cooch Behar, Adhikari declined to elaborate on this, saying he did not want any further discussion on the late Congress leader, whom he described as a "great personality".

Adhikari, once a prominent TMC leader and a minister in the Mamata Banerjee government, joined the BJP in December 2020, ahead of the West Bengal Assembly elections. "Pranab babu has gone to the abode of God. He is no longer among us. He was a great personality. He is a revered figure, and I do not want any unnecessary discussion on this," the chief minister said. Adhikari's remarks came a day after he recalled how Mukherjee had advised him to leave the TMC, where he felt he would remain an "employee" of the party leadership, and work with Modi if he wished to advance independently in politics.

Speaking at an Economic Times event in Kolkata on Tuesday night, Adhikari had described the TMC as a party controlled by former chief minister Mamata Banerjee and her nephew Abhishek Banerjee, likening its functioning to a privately run company with a chairman and managing director."I was also there (in the TMC), but I did not want to remain an employee. That is why I walked out," he had said, referring to his decision to leave the TMC in 2020. The chief minister had described Mukherjee as his "original adviser" and recalled visiting him at Rashtrapati Bhavan after he became President.

According to Adhikari, Mukherjee had then advised him to consider whether he wanted to continue working under the TMC leadership or pursue his political ambitions independently by aligning with Modi. "If you want to remain an employee, stay with her. If you want to move ahead on your own strength, stay with Modi ji," Adhikari had quoted Mukherjee as telling him. The chief minister, however, had refrained from specifying when the conversation took place, saying he did not wish to invite controversy over the words of a leader who was no longer alive.

Mukherjee, who served as India's president from 2012 to 2017, was a senior Congress leader and one of the country's most experienced political figures. After joining the BJP, Adhikari subsequently became the Leader of the Opposition in the state Assembly after the party's defeat in the 2021 polls. He became the chief minister after the BJP's landslide victory in the 2026 Assembly elections.

As an angry Congress breathes fire, samajwadi MP calls outburst 'Personal'

LUCKNOW(AGENCY)



Trying to defuse tensions in their alliance talks for Uttar Pradesh elections 2027, the Samajwadi camp has sought to play down Congress MP and state working president Imran Masood's pointed barbs. While the MP's "we are not beggars" jibe exposed discomfort in an alliance that had survived multiple elections, the Samajwadi painted it as "personal" rather than a general view of the Congress.

"As far as the issue of Imran Masood Sahib's displeasure is concerned, I believe that, for the time being, it is a personal matter. We have not received any such message from the party or the Congress Party," Samajwadi Party MP Zia Ur Rehman Barq told news agency PTI. The Congress wants to contest a hundred seats in the upcoming state polls, but Samajwadi appears reluctant to spare not more than 26 for its longstanding ally - in what has come across as a sheer humiliation in a massive state that has a total 403 assembly seats.

The Congress initially kept mum in public, but sources said that some leaders vented fire in private. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav appeared a little more considerate, and wrote an open letter, urging the Congress to prioritise winnability. Moments later came a twisted knife: the Samajwadi unveiled its candidates list for five seats. Sources in the Congress said that two of these seats were on its wishlist and that the Samajwadi had gone ahead with the announcement without discussion.

Barq pointed out that these two seats had Samajwadi MLAs, justifying it was natural to retain seats that the party had won earlier. "Nevertheless, our effort will be to avoid fighting among ourselves and instead unite to fight the BJP. Our endeavour, right up to the very last moment, will be to jointly take on the BJP and remove this communal force from here.

'Terrorists attempting to sell their land': J-K Police order attachment of 29 kanals in Jammu

SRINAGAR (AGENCY)



Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat has ordered the attachment of 29 kanals of land belonging to five terrorists from Reasi district in the Jammu region, who are operating from Pakistan, according to an official statement. An order issued by the J-K Police said Police Station Mahore received information from reliable sources on November 29, 2024, that 30 terrorists from the jurisdictions of Mahore and Chassana police stations, who had gone missing between 1991 and 2003, had exfiltrated to Pakistan to receive arms and ammunition training with the intention of waging war against India and disturbing peace in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the police, these individuals are now working for Hizbul Mujahideen in Pakistan and are allegedly supplying arms, ammunition and money to promote terrorism in J-K. They are also accused of instigating and radicalising local youth to join terrorist activities. A case was registered in this regard and an investigation initiated.

Punjab begins process to bring 1,719 outsourced PRTC employees under contract

SANGRUR (AGENCY)



The Punjab Government has begun the process of bringing 1,719 outsourced employees of the Pepsu Road Transport Corporation (PRTC) under contract. Finance and Transport Minister Harpal Singh Cheema on Tuesday handed over appointment letters to 104 employees from various depots at a function held at the PRTC's Sangrur depot. Congratulating the employees, Cheema said the government, led by Chief Minister Bhagwant Singh Mann, was committed to providing them with job security, dignity and better service conditions. Addressing mediapersons, the minister said the government had enacted legislation to fulfil the long-pending demand of outsourced employees. With the stipulated 90-day process under the law completed, the exercise to bring eligible employees under contract had commenced. He said appointment letters were being prepared after completing departmental formalities, including verification of service records, medical examinations and police verification. The entire exercise would be carried out transparently and in accordance with rules, he added. Cheema said previous governments had ignored the demands of outsourced employees.

18 years on, memories and scars of 26/11 Mumbai attacks stay alive

MUMBAI (AGENCY)



Eighteen years after the 2008 terror attacks that shook Mumbai and exposed glaring lacunae in India's security and intelligence apparatus, the horrors of the 60-hour assault and bloodletting remain etched in public memory.

As the financial capital, known for its unbreakable spirit and courage in the face of adversity, prepares to commemorate the 18th anniversary of 26/11, the carnage remains a grim reminder of the human cost of terrorism and the importance of sustained vigilance and preparedness against security threats. The November 26, 2008 attacks, carried out by 10 heavily armed Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) terrorists who sailed into Mumbai from Pakistan, left 166 people, including foreigners, dead and more than 300 injured, making it one of the deadliest terror strikes in an Indian city.

Mumbai has endured several major terrorist attacks over the past three decades or so. On March 12, 1993, bomb blasts struck 12 locations in the megapolis killing 257 and injuring thousands. The city reeled under the serial train blasts on July 11, 2006, killing 188 people, while 27 people died in triple explosions at Dadar, Zaveri Bazaar and Opera House on July 13, 2011. The 2008 attacks, which began on the night of November 26 and continued until the morning of November 29, targeted several prominent locations, including Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT), Taj Mahal Palace Hotel, Trident Hotel, Nariman House (Chabad House), Leopold Cafe and Cama and Albless Hospital.

The heavily armed terrorists launched coordinated attacks, taking hostages and engaging security personnel in prolonged gun battles. The operations posed enormous challenges as the attackers occupied buildings, used their height and layout to their advantage and held people hostage. The coordinated response by the Mumbai police, armed police personnel, Indian Navy's Marine Commandos and the National Security Guard (NSG) eventually brought the roughly 60-hours siege to an end.

Briefs News

Ajmal Kasab case : 26/11 defence lawyers yet to receive fees

MUMBAI (AGENCY) Eighteen years after the 26/11 terror attacks, two lawyers who set aside their other cases to represent the lone captured Pakistani terrorist Ajmal Kasab continue to await their remuneration. Amin Solkar and Farhana Shah represented Kasab before the Bombay High Court for nine months following their appointment by the Maharashtra government in 2010. The two were nominated by the High Court and appointed by the Maharashtra State Legal Services Authority (MSLSA) via a notification on June 8, 2010, to defend Kasab in his appeal against the death penalty awarded to him by a trial court. According to the notification, signed by the then secretary A K Sonawane, Solkar was to be paid on a par with a special public prosecutor and Shah was to receive remuneration equivalent to that of an additional public prosecutor conducting a death penalty confirmation case. Official sources pegged this amount between Rs 1,500 and Rs 2,000 per day. However, more than 15 years after the High Court proceedings concluded, both advocates say they are yet to receive their dues. "We have still not received our fees for representing Kasab. I have been corresponding with the Maharashtra State Legal Services Authority time and again, but there seems to be no positive headway," Solkar told PTI.

Terrorists Try To Sell J&K Land To Fund Terror, Cops Seal Their Property

JAMMU (AGENCY) The properties owned by five terrorists - who fled to Pakistan years ago - in Jammu and Kashmir have been sealed after security agencies learnt that they were trying to sell them to fund terror. According to officials, the properties are in the Mahore and Chassana areas of Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district. Investigation revealed that the terrorists were attempting to sell their land in their native villages through their associates and family members. "The money from such sales was intended to be used for furtherance of terrorist activities in the area," informed a senior security force officer. To choke the funding pipeline, the properties have been attached under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. Among those whose land has been sealed are Mohammad Qayoom alias Abdul Qayoom of Shadole, Mahore, whose 2 kanal and 7.5 marlas of land have been attached; Bashir Ahmad alias Masoom of Badder with 3 kanal and 8 marlas; Shokat Ali of Hunder; Arnas with 3 kanal and 10 marlas; and Manzoor Ahmad alias Manzoor Hussain of Khanti, Thuroo, whose 15 kanal and 19 marlas - the largest property. All five terrorists are associated with the Hizbul Mujahideen terror outfit. There have been concrete inputs that the terrorists, who are presently operating from Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, actively provide arms and ammunition, radicalise youth, and try to breathe new life into terror networks in the hills of Reasi, officials said.

Murder Accused's Hand Chopped Off With Machete, Then Shot Outside Pune Court

PUNE (AGENCY) A murder accused was attacked with a machete and then allegedly shot at while he was appearing for legal proceedings at a Pune court this afternoon. A video of the incident showed two men repeatedly hitting the man, identified as Mandar Maruti Kiwale, with a machete outside the Shivajinagar court premises. The accused then fled on two scooters, while the blood-soaked man was seen trying to get up and walk. Multiple videos later showed him lying on a footpath with one of his hands chopped off while bystanders stood around watching. Kiwale, who is reportedly aged 35, has been taken to a hospital, and his condition remains critical. The police have recovered two pistols and a magazine from the spot. According to the police, Kiwale was in jail in the murder case of a 26-year-old restaurant owner, Shubham Subhash Chavan, in April 2025, in Pune's Santoshnagar Katraj, over a land and financial dispute. Chavan was beaten to death with stumps and bamboo sticks by Kiwale and his aides. Kiwale was later arrested along with the prime accused, Amar Sakore, and his associates, Girish Subhash Babare and Yogesh Babaurao Dore. Kiwale was released from prison four days ago and was attacked outside the court when he arrived for legal proceedings. Maharashtra Deputy Chief Minister Sunetra Pawar has spoken to the Pune Police Commissioner and sought details about the incident.

Indian women's hockey team achieves best-ever world number 5 FIH Ranking

BHOPAL (AGENCY)



The landmark achievement marks a significant milestone in the journey of Indian women's hockey, reflecting the team's consistent performances and growing stature on the international stage

The Indian Women's Hockey Team scripted history by reaching its highest-ever position of world number five in the International Hockey Federation (FIH) Rankings, following an emphatic 6-2 victory over China on Tuesday in the ongoing Madhya Pradesh Women's Asian Champions Trophy Bhopal 2026 at the International Sports Complex in Nathu Barkheda, Bhopal. The landmark achievement marks a significant milestone in the journey of Indian women's hockey, reflecting the team's consistent performances and growing stature on the international stage. Introduced in October 2003, the FIH World Rankings have seen the Indian women's team steadily climb the global ladder over the years; the fifth position now represents an unprecedented high.

As per a Hockey India press release, India's previous best ranking was world number six, which the team achieved in May-June 2022 following an impressive FIH Pro League campaign and reached again in 2023. Earlier, the team had climbed to world number eight following its fourth-place finish at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, while its previous peak of world number nine came in 2018 after reaching the quarter-finals of the FIH Women's Hockey World Cup. The year 2026 has been particularly memorable for Indian women's hockey. The team began the year on a high by qualifying for the FIH World Cup and then winning the FIH Nations Cup. The Sjoerd Marijne-coached team followed it up with a fifth-place finish at the FIH Women's Hockey World Cup, its best performance at the tournament since 1974. The team then ended a 44-year wait by clinching the Asian Games gold medal and also secured a direct qualification to the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics. These achievements have collectively reinforced India's position among the leading teams in international women's hockey.

Congratulating the team on the historic milestone, Hockey India President Dr Dilip Tirkey said, as per the press release, "Reaching world number five in the FIH World Rankings is a proud moment for Indian hockey and a testament to the hard work, commitment and belief shown by our players and support staff." Hockey India Secretary General Bhola Nath Singh added, "This is a historic achievement and a moment for every Indian hockey supporter to celebrate. The players have shown tremendous character and determination throughout the year, turning their hard work into results on the biggest stages.

Vaibhav Sooryavanshi smashes fastest cricket double ton

CHANDIGARH (AGENCY)



On his way to scoring 204 runs off just 53 balls during the Asia Cup Rising Stars group fixture, he rewrote the List A records. Earlier this month, Sooryavanshi had become the youngest captain in men's T20 cricket when he led Bihar against Saurashtra in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy. Chasing 250, Sooryavanshi launched a relentless assault from the outset. He raced to his half-century in just 16 balls, striking eight sixes.

He reached his century in 28 balls, breaking Australian Jake Fraser-McGurk's 2023 record. The teenager then needed only 24 more balls to complete his second hundred, bringing up the fastest List A double-century in just 52 balls. He eclipsed Chad Bowes' record set in 103 balls. Sooryavanshi finished with a staggering strike rate of 384.90, smashing 28 sixes and seven fours. He was given a reprieve in the 11th over after being dropped by the UAE fielders, allowing him to complete his 200. Sooryavanshi set many records. His 150 came off 40 balls, the fastest in List A cricket. In the 12th over, he smashed four consecutive sixes as the records continued to tumble. In the 13th over, Sooryavanshi reached his double-century, with a six off a full-toss bowled by Basil Hameed. His innings featured 28 sixes, breaking the previous (List A) record held by Australian D'Arcy Short of smashing 23 sixes against Queensland in 2018. Remarkably, he scored 204 of India's 250-run target.

Sooryavanshi has been phenomenal. In the 2026 ICC U-19 Cricket World Cup, he scored a match-winning 175 in the final against England. He made his T20 International debut for India on July 4 during the second T20I against England at Old Trafford in Manchester, becoming the youngest player to represent India in international cricket. He surpassed Sachin Tendulkar's record. It was a record-breaking day for Indian cricketers. Delhi captain Priyansh Arya smashed 181 off 68 balls against Tamil Nadu in the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy in Indore, registering the highest individual T20 score by an Indian.

Briefs News

Juventus, AC Milan reportedly interested in Man Utd captain Bruno Fernandes

MANCHESTER (AGENCY) : Juventus have expressed interest in Portugal star and Manchester United captain Bruno Fernandes, whose deal with the Red Devils expires in June 2027, as per Goal.com.Buy Maps Goal.com cited a report from Tuttosport that Juventus has shown interest in Bruno, who has a one-year extension option in his deal. Recently, in his interview with Sky Sports, Bruno said that the contract talks with Man Utd were on hold and an offer was made to him. However, it is on the backburner, with Bruno saying "it is not the right time" and the focus stays on getting the Premier League giants back to the winning ways as they sit 19th in the relegation zone of the Premier League. If Bruno becomes a free agent by this season end, AC Milan, managed by Bruno's ex-manager Ruben Amorim, are also said to be interested. Both Bruno and Ruben are represented by the same agency, who would like the star player to return back to Italy, where he represented Novara, Udinese and Sampdoria. Sporting Lisbon, who will be hosting Manchester United on Thursday in the UEFA Champions League, could also get him back after a stint from 2017-2020. Bruno had previously said as per Goal.com, "I will never close the door on a possible return to Sporting. It will always be a club that holds a special place in my heart." Offers from outside Europe, notably the Saudi Arabia or Major League Soccer in the United States are not likely to attract him. The 32-year-old signed for Man Utd from Sporting Lisbon back in 2020 for 65 million pounds. Since then, he has made 342 appearances for the club, scoring 113 goals, providing 111 assists. However, he is yet to win a major league trophy with the club, having won just the FA Cup and a League Cup.

'He's just holding a place at the moment' : Stuart MacGill on Nathan Lyon

SYDNEY (AGENCY) : Former Australian leg-spinner Stuart MacGill has suggested that veteran spinner Nathan Lyon should consider retiring from state cricket to allow younger players to compete for places in the Test team, reported nine.com.au. The New South Wales (NSW) spinner took four of Queensland's 16 wickets in the recently completed Sheffield Shield match at the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG), which ended in a draw. However, the 39-year-old was outperformed by Queensland leg-spinner Mitchell Swepson, who took 11 wickets across the two innings (6/73 and 5/55). Lyon was dropped from Australia's Test team for the second match of the series in South Africa recently, and his place in the national side remains uncertain ahead of the first Test against New Zealand on December 9. MacGill believes Lyon is not assured of selection for the opening Test of the summer. He said Lyon was currently occupying a place in the Australian side without being an automatic choice. "No... he's just holding a place at the moment," MacGill said on the Fanatics' Chin Music podcast, as per nine.com.au. "I'd go as far to say he's only a placeholder in the NSW team as well," he added. MacGill suggested Lyon should consider retiring from state cricket to make way for younger players, saying his presence in the NSW team was limiting opportunities for spinners like Tanveer Sangha. "Maybe it's time to hang them up... I'd like to see some other guys get opportunities for NSW. If he's not in the Australian team, he's keeping guys like Tanveer (Sangha) out of the NSW team, which is a shame."

UEFA Champions League: Manchester City, Arsenal play out draws at home

MANCHESTER (AGENCY) : A late strike from Rayan Cherki helped Manchester City to a 2-2 draw in their UEFA Champions League clash against Napoli at the home venue of Etihad Stadium on Tuesday, reported Sky Sports. The Enzo Maresca-managed side continues to struggle for fluency, having just one win in their last five matches. Their last win came against RB Leipzig in the UCL. Before that, they had endured a loss to Brighton in the Premier League. Following the Leipzig clash, they faced a loss to Nottingham Forest and a draw against Fulham in the Premier League and now a draw against Napoli, featuring Kevin de Bruyne, who had a homecoming at the Etihad in different colours. Former Manchester United striker Rasmus Hojlund put Napoli ahead in the 55th minute, getting the ball from Billy Gilmour. Hojlund fired past Gianluigi Donnarumma from a tight angle, as per Sky Sports. In the 67th minute, 19-year-old Ayyoub Bouaddi levelled the score, with an assist from Jeremy Doku.

AFC Champions League : Cristiano Ronaldo nets 987th goal, Al Nassr beats Al-Sadd 2-1

RIYADH (AGENCY)

Cristiano Ronaldo netted his 987th professional goal, continuing his quest for 1,000 professional goals during Al Nassr's 2-1 win over Al-Sadd in their AFC Champions League Elite league stage match on Tuesday. Al Nassr served as hosts to Al-Sadd in their AFC Champions League clash in Riyadh. The match was memorable for Cristiano as not only did he continue the chase to the 1,000-goal mark, but he also became the club's highest goal scorer in AFC Champions League Elite history, as per Goal.com. Cristiano opened the scoring for Al Nassr, winning a penalty in the 12th minute and gleefully converting it into a goal the next minute. With this goal, he finally managed to put behind his recent setbacks in penalties, having previously converted a spot kick successfully in April in a 5-2 win over Al-Najma. Last Friday, the 41-year-old missed a penalty during their side's match against rivals Al Ahli, which his side lost 3-1 in the Saudi Pro League. Cristiano, as per Opta figures, has missed both penalties taken in the Saudi League this season.

Punjab Kings appoint Paras Mhambrey as fast bowling coach ahead of IPL 2027

CHANDIGARH (AGENCY)



Punjab Kings (PBKS) have appointed Paras Mhambrey as their fast bowling coach ahead of the 2027 Indian Premier League (IPL) season. Mhambrey, who has also been the bowling coach of Team India, will be taking the place of former Aussie all-rounder James Hopes. Mhambrey will be working alongside head coach Ricky Ponting, with both having worked together in their time with Mumbai Indians (MI). Mhambrey served as India's bowling coach from 2021 to 2024, working alongside head coach Rahul Dravid. During his tenure, India recorded an unbeaten run of 10 matches in the 2023 ICC Cricket World Cup before losing to Australia in the final in Ahmedabad. The following year, India won the T20 World Cup in the Caribbean, ending an 11-year wait for an ICC trophy.Buy Maps

In franchise cricket, Mhambrey has had two stints with Mumbai Indians (MI), the most recent coming after his tenure with the Indian team. He parted ways with MI last month as the franchise overhauled its coaching staff following a ninth-place finish last season, in which they managed just four wins in 14 matches. Punjab Kings (PBKS), who have reached the IPL final twice, are yet to win the title, having lost to Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) in 2014 and Royal Challengers Bengaluru in 2025. In the 2026 season, PBKS made a strong start, remaining unbeaten in their first seven matches, including six wins.

Indian bodybuilder Shodhan Rai wins silver at Natural Olympia 2026 in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS (AGENCY)



Indian natural bodybuilder Shodhan Rai has secured a silver medal at Natural Olympia 2026 in Las Vegas, USA, adding another international achievement to his career spanning over three decades, according to a press release. A second-generation bodybuilder, Bengaluru-based Rai has represented India in 39 international competitions and built an impressive record of podium finishes across the World Cup, Universe, International Pacific Rim, Natural Olympia and Asia Pacific championships. The silver medal comes after a strong run of performances leading up to the competition. Earlier this month, Rai won two gold medals at the Iron Man World Natural Bodybuilding World Cup, finishing first in both the Junior Masters and Masters categories. The performance provided an important boost to his preparation ahead of Natural Olympia, one of the biggest international platforms for natural bodybuilding. Rai had previously won eight medals at Natural Olympia, comprising two silver and six bronze medals. The latest result adds to his record at the prestigious competition.

Speaking after his performance, Rai said, "Winning another medal at Natural Olympia is a very special moment for me. I have been competing for over 30 years, and every time I step on an international stage, the pride of representing India remains the same. I had set my sights on winning gold this year, but I am grateful for this result and the opportunity to compete alongside some of the finest natural bodybuilders in the world. For me, this journey is also about showing the next generation of Indian athletes what is possible through discipline, consistency and clean sport. An INBA Hall of Fame inductee, Rai is also an Ekalavya Award recipient from the Government of Karnataka. Beyond competitive bodybuilding, he has established himself as a fitness professional and has served as a consultant to several high-profile personalities, including Zerodha co-founder Nikhil Kamath.

Rai believes natural bodybuilding has significant potential to grow in India and reach a wider audience. He sees an opportunity for the sport to align with the objectives of the Government of India's Fit India Movement, encouraging young people to embrace fitness, strength training and healthier lifestyles. He also believes greater institutional and corporate support can help Indian natural bodybuilders access international platforms, improve their preparation and inspire more youngsters to pursue the sport professionally. With another Natural Olympia podium finish to his name, Rai hopes to continue contributing to the growth and recognition of natural bodybuilding in India.

IPL 2027: 1,220 players register for auction, 66 slots up for grabs



MUMBAI (AGENCY)

A total of 1,220 players, including 939 Indians and 281 overseas cricketers from 17 countries, have featured on the Auction Register for the Indian Premier League (IPL) 2027 Player Auction, with franchises set to fill a maximum of 66 available slots, according to the IPL media release. Of the 66 slots, 25 are reserved for overseas players. The ten franchises have already retained or picked 184 players, including 55 overseas cricketers, ahead of the auction.

The Auction Register comprises 184 capped players, 994 uncapped players and 42 players from Associate Nations. Among the uncapped players, 925 are Indians, including 127 who have featured in previous IPL seasons. Australia leads the overseas registrations with 53 players, followed by South Africa with 40, West Indies with 36, New Zealand with 25 and Afghanistan with 23. Sri Lanka has 21 registrations, while England has 16 and Bangladesh 12.

Among Associate Nations, the USA has the highest number of registrations with 13 players, followed by the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Nepal with 10 each. Ireland has seven registrations, Zimbabwe six, the Netherlands three, while Canada, Japan and Scotland have two each. The 1,220 players have been divided into six categories: 14 capped Indian players, 170 capped international players, 42 players from Associate Nations, 127 uncapped Indian players who have featured in previous IPL seasons, 798 uncapped Indian players and 69 uncapped international players. Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) have the highest available salary cap at Rs 47.45 crore, the most among the ten franchises. Following LSG, Kolkata Knight Riders (KKR) have the second-highest available salary cap at Rs 41.65 crore, followed by Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) at Rs 40.15 crore and Delhi Capitals (DC) at Rs 39.50 crore. Gujarat Titans (GT) have the lowest available purse at Rs 8.75 crore, while Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) have Rs 14.15 crore.

The total remaining salary cap across franchises stands at Rs 295.60 crore. In terms of available slots, DC and Mumbai Indians (MI) have nine each, followed by KKR with eight. LSG and SRH have seven slots each, while Chennai Super Kings (CSK), Punjab Kings (PBKS) and Rajasthan Royals (RR) have six each. RCB have five slots, and GT have three. The franchises will now submit the names of players from the Auction Register they wish to be considered for the final player pool. The final Auction List, along with the player sets, will be released on December 4.





Emerging Filmmakers Shine at IFFI 2026

Sixth Edition of Creative Minds of Tomorrow Celebrates Emerging Filmmaking Talent at IFFI 2026

100 young creators from 13 filmmaking disciplines complete an intensive 48-hour filmmaking challenge

Stay connected and continue working as a team; CMOT is just the beginning: IFFI Festival Director Ashutosh Gowariker

VIJAY KUMAR.OPEN SEARCH





From developing a story to bringing it to the screen, 100 young creative professionals put their filmmaking skills to the test in an intensive 48-hour challenge as the sixth edition of Creative Minds of Tomorrow (CMOT) concluded at the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa today. The initiative brought together emerging talent from across the country, culminating in the screening of films created by five teams and the presentation of awards across fifteen categories. The concluding ceremony was attended by Festival Director of the 57th IFFI and filmmaker Ashutosh Gowariker; Additional Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Prabhat; Managing Director of NFDC and Vice-Chancellor of FTII, Dhiraj Singh and members of jury. The Great Grand Jury was comprised of Aimee Baruah, Premraj, Madhu Apsara, Rumi Jaffrey, and Medha Kherdekar Reddy.

A bridge to the industry

Congratulating the participants on completing the 48-hour filmmaking challenge, Additional Secretary Prabhat described CMOT as a bridge between emerging talent and the film industry. He said the initiative provides young creators with an opportunity to demonstrate their abilities and connect with industry professionals. Referring to this year's theme, 'Roots & Wings: Honouring our Roots, Embracing our Future,' he highlighted the coming together of cultural heritage, innovation and technology. He also pointed to the growing opportunities in the AVGC-XR sector, which is opening new avenues for young professionals in the creative industries.

Festival Director Ashutosh Gowariker congratulated all the teams on their work and emphasised that filmmaking is inherently collaborative. He reminded the participants that a film is never the work of one individual, but the outcome of several creative disciplines coming together. Encouraging them to maintain the bonds formed during the challenge, he urged the young filmmakers to stay connected, continue working as teams and build on the experience, describing CMOT as just the beginning of their journey.

The filmmaking challenge began on 21 November, with the 100 participants divided into five teams of 20, identified by the colours Red, Green, Blue, Yellow, and Beige. Working under the common theme 'Roots & Wings: Honouring our Roots, Embracing our Future,' each team was tasked with conceptualising, shooting and completing a short film within 48 hours.

The challenge brought together participants from 13 filmmaking disciplines, including direction, acting, cinematography, editing, sound design, scriptwriting, art direction, animation, visual effects, music composition, playback singing, hair and makeup, and costume design. After shooting at locations across Goa, the teams moved to the dedicated post-production hub at Kala Academy, where they worked against the clock on editing, sound mixing and visual finishing to meet the deadline.

The resulting films reflected the participants' creative interpretations of the theme, as well as their ability to collaborate across disciplines and deliver under demanding conditions.

Anil Ravipudi Celebrates Comedy at IFFI 2026

Making Audiences Laugh Is a Serious Creative Exercise: Anil Ravipudi at IFFI 2026

Comedy Is Serious Business : Anil Ravipudi, IFFI 2026 Highlights Telugu Family Entertainer



OS CORRESPONDENT

"Making audiences laugh is a demanding creative exercise", said National Film Award-winning filmmaker Shri Anil Ravipudi at a press conference on his film Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu during the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa. The 164-minute Telugu-language feature is among the five films selected for the Mainstream Cinema section of Indian Panorama at IFFI 2026. The director was joined by producers Shri Sahu Garapati and Ms. K. Sushmita and actor Ms. Catherine Tresa. "Comedy is always a serious business," remarked Shri Ravipudi, explaining the challenges of writing humour while balancing family emotions and the expectations associated with a superstar like Chiranjeevi. He observed that it is difficult to predict which jokes will resonate with audiences. Crediting his writing team for its support, the director said his endeavour has been to craft stories that appeal to audiences across age groups. Written and directed by Shri Ravipudi, Mana Shankara Vara Prasad Garu follows a national security officer whose devotion to his profession leaves him estranged from his wife and children. Six years later, he seeks to reconnect with them by taking up a position at their school. Blending humour and action with family emotions, the film explores the tension between professional duty and personal relationships, and the possibility of reconciliation. Reflecting on his experience of directing Chiranjeevi, Shri Ravipudi recalled growing up watching the veteran actor's films. His familiarity with the actor's diverse roles over the years helped him develop a simple family narrative that showcased Chiranjeevi's distinctive strengths. Speaking about his association with the films being released around Sankranti, the director said the festive season naturally lends itself to family entertainers, as families come together and visit theatres.

Gujarati film Bhai Band explores changing times

'Bhai Band' Brings a Melodious Tale of Brotherhood, Tradition and Changing Times to IFFI 2026



OS CORRESPONDENT

Bhai Band, a Gujarati film directed by Manish Saini, featured in the Gala Premier section of the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2026 in Goa today. The film follows two brothers who run a traditional wedding band in their village. Their lives take an unexpected turn when a disagreement drives them apart. When one brother returns weeks later with a DJ system and massive speakers, armed with nothing more than a playlist on his phone, the traditional band faces an unexpected challenge. What follows is a story that examines the impact of technological advancement on traditional occupations and the relationships that hold families together.

Addressing a press conference organised by PIB today, Director Manish Saini emphasised that although rooted in the Gujarati language and cultural setting, the film's underlying message and plot are universal and relatable to audiences across India. He also highlighted the importance of popularising artistic expressions and stories rooted in regional cinema, enabling them to reach wider audiences. Saini said that he was particularly fond of the film's title, as it can be interpreted both as a reference to the camaraderie between two brothers and as a reference to a wedding band.

Actor Prit Kamani described Bhai Band as a unique film, filled with colours and enthusiasm. Marking his first Gujarati film, he spoke about his experience of working with Director Manish Saini and appreciated the ease and creative freedom he experienced during the filmmaking process. The actor also shared an amusing anecdote from the casting process, recalling how he had himself requested the director to conduct a screen test before finalising him for the role.

Beyond the final frame :

The magic of IFFI evenings

Goa's evenings come alive with open-air screenings, cultural performances and creative exchanges

OS CORRESPONDENT





As the sun sets over the Mandovi River and the streets of Panaji light up, the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) assumes a different rhythm. While the day is filled with film screenings, masterclasses, red-carpet appearances and conversations on cinema, the evenings bring their own charm. At IFFI, the setting sun does not signal the end of the festival day; it marks the beginning of another celebration.

Moving beyond the conventional confines of cinema halls, IFFI 2026 brings the cinematic experience closer to the public through open-air screenings at Miramar beach, Ravindra Bhavan in Margao and the helipad area at Vagator beach. Scheduled between 7 PM and 10 PM, these screenings feature a curated selection of films. Under the open skies of Goa, residents, visitors and cinema enthusiasts can come together to experience the joy of watching films, reflecting the festival's commitment to making cinema more accessible and inclusive.

The festive atmosphere extends to the Mandovi promenade, where cultural performances of Romtamel bring Goa's rich artistic traditions to the forefront. Scheduled across four evenings on November 23rd to 27th, the performances by seven cultural groups add a distinct local flavour to the international gathering. The coming together of indigenous cultural expressions and global cinematic traditions reflects the unique identity that Goa brings to IFFI. Adding to the festivities, the IFFI Parade on 25th November, themed 'Celebrating the Joy of Cinema', proceeds from the Entertainment Society of Goa (ESG) premises to Kala Academy in Panaji, featuring colourful floats, cultural performances and community participation. The parade extends the festival beyond its designated venues, enabling local residents and visitors to become part of the cinematic celebration.

For filmmakers, delegates and aspiring artists, however, the festival evenings offer more than entertainment. Beyond the scheduled screenings and formal interactions, they provide opportunities for informal conversations, creative exchanges and meaningful connections. A discussion about a film can lead to an exchange of cultural perspectives, while a chance encounter between filmmakers can lay the foundation for a future collaboration.

Behind the illuminated festival venues also lies the sustained effort of volunteers, technical crews, media professionals and organizers who work beyond screening hours to ensure the smooth conduct of the festival. Their contributions form an integral, often unseen, part of the IFFI experience.

The transformation of Panaji after sunset is itself a spectacle. Canopies of golden fairy lights adorn the city's tree-lined avenues, while illuminated buildings, colourful installations and IFFI's iconic peacock motifs lend a festive character to the streets. The city's architecture and public spaces become an extension of the festival, reflecting how Goa's association with IFFI has evolved into a distinctive celebration where the character of the host state complements the universal appeal of cinema.

In keeping with the theme of IFFI 2026, 'Stories Without Borders', the festival nights embody cinema's ability to transcend not only geographical and linguistic boundaries but also the physical boundaries of the auditorium.

They remind audiences that the magic of a film festival lies as much in the conversations it inspires and the connections it creates as in the stories unfolding on screen.

At IFFI, the credits may roll, the curtains may close and the lights inside the theatres may fade, but the celebration of cinema continues. In Goa, the festival clock simply refuses to stop.