

The Age of Truth Aryan Age Year 14, Issue 124 | Delhi, Wednesday 5 November 2025 | 8 PAGES | ₹ 2.00



Restoration of Darbar "a welcome experience", rekindles Jammu citv's enthusiasm: CM Omar

"We made a blunder, please forgive us," plead Delhi CM's attackers in chargesheet



Haryana Cabinet Approves Major Labour Reforms, Empowers



Ashwin ruled out of Big Bash League



Indian stock markets end lower amid weak global

Northeast leaders form

united front, pledge 'One

name, one symbol, one flag'

INDIA Alliance plans nationwide protest against voter list revision (SIR)

protest campaign against the Commission's Special Summary Revision (SIR) of the voter list, coinciding with the start of the second phase of the revision exercise today.

The ongoing phase will conduct the process run until December 4. separately under Supreme

revisions are being carried out in Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, West Chhattisgarh, Bengal, Rajasthan, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshadweep, Gujarat, Kerala, Puducherry and Tamil Nadu. Assam will

This marks the second round of the SIR conducted Election Commission, following Bihar, where the final electoral roll-with nearly 7.42 crore voters—was published on September 30. The Commission has said the clean-up of electoral rolls across the listed states

conclude on February 7, 2026, when the final rolls are scheduled to be released.

According to sources, the INDIA Alliance plans to launch a nationwide agitation over the SIR after Bihar Assembly elections. The bloc is also preparing to approach the Supreme Court collectively Sources added that a

formal meeting of the alliance leaders will be held after the Bihar polls to finalise the plan for both the legal and the national

For now, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Baneriee, NCP chief Sharad Pawar, former Maharashtra

Chief Minister Thackeray, RJD Tejashwi Yadav, leader former Pradesh Chief Uttar Minister Akhilesh Yadav, Jharkhand Minister Hemant Soren have agreed with the Congress leadership to

over the voter list revision issue.

It is worth noting that Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar had announced the second phase of the SIR during a press conference to him, the SIR will begin with the enumeration phase on November 4 and continue until December 4. The Election Commission will release the draft voter list on December 9 and the final list on February 7.

ECI begins voter list revision covering 51 cr electors in 12 States and UTs

New Delhi: The Election Commission of India has kicked off the second phase of the Special Intensive union encompassing about 51 crore

door-to-door enumeration, conducted by Block Level Officers (BLOs), started today and will run until December 4, aiming to accurate, transparent, and credible voter database ahead of key upcoming elections in states

New Delhi : In a

significant step towards

fostering innovation and

technologicaladvancement,

the Indian Army and the

Understanding (MoU) at EME School, Vadodara to

strengthen collaboration in

research, development and

EME School Vadodara, signed the MoU on behalf

of Indian Army with Prof

Rajat Moona, Director, IIT

Defence has stated that IIT

collaboration with the

Ministry

Major General Mohit

academic exchange.

Gandhinagar, today.

The

Gandhinagar

Indian

Technology

Gandhinagar

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(III)

signed a

such as Tamil Nadu, Kerala, will be completed by January



Puducherry

Following enumeration, the ECI will release draft electoral rolls on December 9, opening the window for claims and objections from voters until January 8, 2026. Subsequent hearings and verifications 31, with the final electoral rolls slated for publication on

including the removal of the Commission has additional documents.

President greets people on eve of Guru Nanak Janati

New Delhi: President Droupadi Murmu today greeted people on the eve of birthday of Guru Nanak Dev and called upon them to imbibe the ideals of Guru Nanak Dev Ji in our lives and follow the path shown by him to build a more peaceful and prosperous nation.

In a message the President said, "On the auspicious occasion of Guru Nanak Jayanti, I extend my warm greetings and best wishes to all Indians living in India and abroad,



especially our Sikh brothers and sisters.

She said the occasion inspires us to adopt the ideals and values of Guru Nanak Dev Ji and guides us towards building a better



teaches that living a life based on truth, justice and compassion is the true measure of success.

emphasize one God and human equality. He inspires us to live with honesty and to share resources with one another," the President said.

New Delhi: Several Northeast leaders including Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad K. Sangma, today announced a single political identity and signed a statement declaring a united Northeastern front that will

the

represent

Northeast. At a meeting here amid chants of 'one name, one symbol, one flag,' the Northeast leaders vowed to turn that message into a political reality as they signed the statement declaring united northeastern front — a single political entity representing the entire Northeast.

"We, the leaders from different states of the North East, have come together today to make a collective and historic announcement, which is the coming together of various voices of our region to form a united. singular political entity that represents aspirations of our people," read the statement.

The declaration made by the eminent political leaders from the North East was signed by Conrad K. Sangma, Chief Minister of Meghalaya and National President, National People's Party (NPP), Pradyot Bikram Manikya, Founder, TIPRA Motha Party, Mmhonlumo Kikon, Former BJP National Spokesperson & Minister in the Government of Nagaland, and Daniel Langthasa, Founder, People's Party,

Calling themselves "the younger generation leaders in the Northeast," Manikya said that for too long they had spoken about the same issues and concerns of the people but from different platforms and political spaces. "Now the time has

come to give our people one

collective voice," he added. Charting the future course of the United Front, Manikya said a committee will be constituted to deliberate on the future course of action, including the modalities and structure of the proposed political

The leaders emphasised "the united platform will be guided by the simple conviction that the people of the North East deserve to be heard, respected and represented through a strong, unified, and indigenous political voice at the national

Expanding on the next steps, the leaders highlighted that, as per the committee's mandate, they will now reach out to individual leaders and other political parties in the Northeast with a similar mindset to strengthen this platform and entity, working together on the common issues affecting its people.

Dismissing the concerns of contesting against the established national parties, including the BJP or Congress, Manikya said, "We are not here to contest against anybody, ... we are trying to create a platform or the entity that the North East today needs."

The founder of TIPRA Motha said many issues facing the region extend beyond the Northeast - and even beyond national borders — making it difficult to fight them in isolation.

"By standing together, we can mount a stronger fight for our rights, for the protection of our indigenous people and their identity, for the preservation of our culture, and for the overall progress and economic growth of the Northeast," he

February 7, 2026. Revision (SIR) of electoral This phase of the SIR rolls across 12 states and important Territories. procedural changes.

Indian Army, IIT Gandhinagar ink

MoU to boost research & innovation

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requirements

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programmes,

addressing Indian Army

the participation of Army

Gandhinagar's academic

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This MoU will enable

requirement for electors to submit documents during enumeration, while Aadhaar is accepted as an indicative document for verification. clarified that voters already on the 2003 electoral rolls are not required to provide any

enhancing their technical

acumen and innovation

that the collaboration will

bridge the gap between

cutting edge academic

research and real-world

operational requirements,

ensuring the Army remains

technologically agile and self-reliant. For IIT

Gandhinagar, it presents an

opportunity to apply its

expertise towards national

security and defence

building a robust civil-

The MoU marks a

towards

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promoting

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Atmanirbharta

The MoD further stated

PM Modi announces aid after deadly Jaipur truck mishap The truck reportedly

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has voiced deep sorrow over the loss of life following a tragic road mishap in Jaipur, Rajasthan, and announced ex-gratia relief for the affected families.

In a statement posted on the social media platform X, the Prime Minister said, "Pained by the loss of lives due to a mishap in Jaipur, Rajasthan. My thoughts are with those who have lost their near and dear ones. I pray that the injured recover soon."

The tragedy unfolded today around 1 PM in Jaipur's congested Loha Mandi area. At least thirteen people

were killed and several others were injured when a speeding dumper truck lost control and ploughed into



two-wheelers before hitting a road divider, causing it to overturn. This resulted in the truck crushing several vehicles underneath its weight. The Prime Minister has

sanctioned a relief package from the Prime Minister's National Relief (PMNRF). The next of kin of each deceased person will receive Rs 2 lakh, and the injured will be provided with Rs 50,000.

San Francisco-New Delhi Air India flight diverted to Mongolia due to suspected technical issue

Delhi: A New Delhi-bound Air India flight AI174, which took off from San Francisco in the US on November 2, was diverted to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, as a precautionary measure due to a suspected technical issue. The airlines has sent a relief flight to bring the 228 passengers to New

The Indian Embassy in Ulaanbaatar posted that on Airport

AI 174, operating from San Francisco to New Delhi via Kolkata, made precautionary landing at around 1959 hrs Ulaanbaatar International Airport in Mongolia.

Indian Army and its

assess and focus on working

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On receipt of information from Air India, one hour prior to the landing, a team of Embassy officials were immediately deputed at the facilitate

immigration and hotel stay of was arranged in coordination the 228 passengers plus crew

Authorities.



With the assistance of the Embassy Consular team, all immigration and visa facilitation, transportation, hotel accommodation, etc.

"Embassy of India is extending all possible assistance to the passengers

and Air India," it said in a post

on X. Air India in a post today

flight to ferry the passengers to New Delhi. "Air India will be operating a relief flight to ferry the passengers of flight AI174 (San Francisco-Delhi of 02 November), which was diverted to Ulaanbaatar on

"The ferry flight AI183 is scheduled to depart Delhi this afternoon and return with the affected passengers on Wednesday morning. Air

authorities and the Indian Embassy in Mongolia, has been looking after the passengers and including providing them hotel accommodation.

"Guests have been kept informed about arrangements being made to fly them to Delhi. At Air India, the safety and wellbeing of our passengers and crew remain top priority.'

Rahul Gandhi criticises PM Modi over 'reels culture, says attempt to distract youth inflation and healthcare issues have no faith in hospitals back Mocking PM Modi's recent is "remote controlled from Patna: Congress MP and

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, on Tuesday launched a fierce political attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, alleging that the Modi government is deliberately diverting youthful energy towards short video platforms instead of employment

opportunities. Speaking at a massive Mahagathbandhan rally in Aurangabad, Gandhi claimed that the Central government wants the next generation to remain trapped in the "reel world" so that unemployment, paper leak education crisis,

never become the centre of public

"Data is cheap, but who profits from your usage?" Gandhi asked the crowd, alleging that the money ultimately ends up benefitting select industrialists close to the Prime Minister. He described the promotion of 'reels culture' as a new type of intoxication forced upon the

The Congress leader also highlighted the poor condition of Bihar's healthcare system, stating that thousands of patients from the state camp outside AIIMS Delhi every day because they

home. Gandhi strongly criticised the

Agniveer policy as well, saying it ended a major employment avenue for youth preparing for the armed forces. According to him, Agniveers neither get long-term job security nor martyr status if they die in service. He also accused the government of selling off PSUs like BHEL, HAL and Indian Oil to benefit big private conglomerates.

He further alleged that systematic paper leaks have destroyed the credibility and actual value of education for lakhs of students nationwide

Chhath event in Delhi, Gandhi said the entire act was a media performance, claiming

arrangements were artificially created to show him bathing in "Yamuna water". Targeting Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, the LoP alleged that two decades of his rule has forced Bihar's youth to migrate to different states for daily wage work, despite Bihar once being home to worldrenowned academic institutions

like ancient Nalanda University. He added that Nitish Kumar is merely implementing orders received from PM Modi, declaring that Bihar's governance Delhi"

Rahul Gandhi said that if the Grand Alliance comes to power, it will represent and work for Dalits, minorities, EBCs, OBCs and economically deprived general category families.

He accused the BJP of winning through manipulation of electoral processes and alleged that attempts are being made to repeat such tactics in Bihar as well. He concluded his speech by promising to establish a worldclass university in Bihar that would attract global students claiming this would rebuild the state's lost legacy in education.



Restoration of Darbar "a welcome experience", rekindles Jammu city's enthusiasm: CM Omar

Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today described the restoration of the Darbar in Jammu after a gap of four years as "a welcome experience" that has infused a wave of enthusiasm and happiness across the city and its adjoining areas.

The Chief Minister was today accorded a rousing reception by the people of Jammu on the first day of opening of offices in Jammu.

The biannual Darbar Move, to be followed now onwards, marks the formal opening of offices in the winter capital.

As per the day's schedule, the Chief Minister arrived here at Shaheedi Chowk, Jammu at 9:15 am where he was received and felicitated by the Jammu Chamber of Commerce, Residency Road and Rajinder Bazar Associations.

Thereafter, the Chief Minister walked towards Raghunath Bazar Chowk via Residency Road, greeting traders and citizens who lined the route to extend greetings and best wishes on

At Raghunath Bazar



Chowk, Omar Abdullah was felicitated by the Raghunath Bazar Association before proceeding on foot towards City Chowk, where he was received by members of the City Chowk Bazar and Kanak Mandi Bazar Associ-

Later, the Chief Minister was received at the Civil Secretariat, where he was presented with a Guard of Honour, marking the opening of offices as part of the traditional Darbar Move.

The Chief Minister in-

spected the ceremonial parade and interacted with officers and staff on the

Following the ceremonial reception, Omar Abdullah chaired a high-level meeting with the Council of Ministers and Administrative Secretaries to get an update on the functioning of various departments and assess the administrative preparedness following the

Addressing the meeting. the Chief Minister described tangible outcomes on the ground," Omar Abdullah emphasised.

The Chief Minister directed all departments to focus on the timely implementation of projects already sanctioned and approved, ensuring visible progress at the grassroots level.

Acknowledging the financial constraints being faced, Omar Abdullah assured that the matter of limited resources "will be appropriately addressed."

He called for a balanced approach, urging officers to ensure effective delivery while simultaneously curbing unnecessary expendi-

The Chief Minister also informed that a series of district-level review meetings have already been conducted in the Kashmir province and that similar interactions will now be initiated across the Jammu division to assess developmental progress and address public issues.

Abdullah commended all departments for their coordinated efforts in ensuring the smooth and successful conduct of the recently concluded Assembly session.

Telangana seeks stronger German ties in investment and education: CM

Hyderabad: Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy on Tuesday met German Consul General Michael Hasper and his team, who called on him to inform that Deutsche Börse has launched its Global Capability Center (GCC) in Hyderabad as part of its global expansion.

The Chief Minister thanked the German delegation for choosing Hyderabad for the GCC, noting that the city continues to attract major international investments due to its strong infrastructure and skilled workforce.

The German team explained that the establishment of the GCC will generate around 1,000 employment opportunities in the IT sector over the next two years.

Revanth Reddy assured the delegation that the State government will extend full support and assistance to German companies

seeking to invest in Telangana. He invited more German investments in IT, pharmaceutical, and automobile sectors, and sought cooperation in providing vocational education and skill training through TOMCOM.

The Chief Minister also requested the German Consul General to facilitate the appointment of German teachers in Hyderabad to help Telangana students learn the language and enhance global opportuni-

He urged the visiting team to collaborate with the State in transforming Hyderabad into a global innovation hub.

Amita Desai, Deutsche Börse CIO/COO, Dr Christoph Bohm, CM's Special Secretary Ajith Reddy, Vishnuvardhan Reddy, and other officials participated in the meeting, an official statement said.

ECoR to run Kartik Purnima special trains between Brahmapur and Puri for three days

Bhubaneswar: East Coast Railway (ECoR) will operate passenger special trains between Brahmapur and Puri for three days starting today to manage the heavy rush of devotees traveling to Puri for the auspicious Kartik Purnima festival and the Boita Bandana rituals.

According to ECoR sources, these special trains have been introduced to accommodate the surge of pilgrims visiting Puri to take holy dips and participate in various religious ceremonies associated with the festival.

the train schedule, Train No. 08417 Brahmapur-Puri Passenger Special departs Brahmapur at 8:35 PM on November 4 (Tuesday) and arrives at Puri at 1:30 AM on November 5 (Wednesday).

Train No. 08418 Puri-Special:Departs Puri at 3:00 AM on November 5 (Wednesday) and arrives at Brahmapur at 7:15 AM the same day.Train No. 08448 Puri-Brahmapur Passenger Special:Departs Puri at 5:00 AM on November 6 (Thursday) and arrives at Brahmapur at 9:30 AM the same day.

Tejaswi rolls out poll promises: MSP bonus, Old Pension Scheme, aid for women

Patna: Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yaday today unveiled a series of welfare promises for farmers, women, and government employees, asserting that if a Mahagathbandhan government comes to power, it would provide bonus payments over the Minimum Support Price (MSP) for paddy and wheat, along with free electricity for irri-

Addressing a press conference in Patna, Yadav said farmers in Bihar were being forced to sell their produce below MSP due to the lack of system."After the formation of our government, it will be ensured that farmers get full MSP for their produce. In addition, they will receive Rs 300 per quintal on paddy and Rs 400 per quintal on wheat as a bonus," he said.

He further announced that chairpersons of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies



presidents would be accorded the status of public representatives in recognition of their contribution to rural development

Highlighting his previous commitments, Yadav reiterated that under the 'Mai-Bahan Maan Yojana', every woman in the state would receive Rs 2,500 per month as financial support.

"After the formation of our government, on Makar Sankranti (November 14), Rs 30,000 equivalent to one year's allowance will be directly transferred to their bank accounts in a single inYadav also promised to

restore the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) for state government employees. He criticised the frequent transfers of police and health department personnel, calling them disruptive and unjustified.

Reaffirming his commitment to Jeevika Didis (members of women's self-help groups), the RJD leader promised Rs 30,000 monthly for Chief Jeevika Didis, Rs 2.000 additional for others. an insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh, and waiver of interest

Manipur Guv urges Centre to restore flight connectivity

Imphal: Manipur Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla has written to union Civil Aviation Minister Kinjarapu Ram Mohan Naidu, seeking urgent intervention to address the drastic reduction in flight operations from Imphal.

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the challenges ahead, noting

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a crucial juncture where "ac-

tual ground delivery is ex-

cussion phases have been

completed. It is now time to

translate the decisions into

"All planning and dis-

He, however, underlined

The Governor today expressed deep concern over the decline in air connectivity, which has caused immense hardship to the people of the state. In his letter, Governor Bhalla highlighted that the number of daily flights between Imphal and Guwahati has dropped from five to just two, with no early morning or late evening departures. Similarly, flights connecting Imphal to Kolkata have been reduced from five to two, operating only at 9:15 a.m. and 11:55 a.m., leaving

no evening travel options. The Governor said the sudden reduction in services has severely affected mobility and access, especially considering Manipur's geographical and infrastructural



challenges. The state lacks railway connectivity and road travel is often disrupted by landslides, floods, and poor conditions. Air travel remains the only reliable mode of long-distance transportation for residents, students, and patients.He further pointed out that the winter season is a crucial travel period for Manipur, as students return home during academic breaks and many residents travel for medical consultations in major cities. The reduction in flight frequency has led to a sharp rise in airfares, making travel un-

affordable and logistically difficult for many.Governor Bhalla said the ongoing disruption in air services could lead to public discontent if not addressed promptly. He urged the union Minister to personally intervene and ensure that regular flight operations are restored and expanded, particularly to key destinations like Guwahati and Kolkata.Emphasizing that air connectivity is the state's essential lifeline, Governor Bhalla called for the Centre's continued support in safeguarding the mo-

Row erupts over Punjab Cong chief's remark on ex-Union minister Boota Singh

Chandigarh: Punjab Congress chief and MP Amrinder Singh Raja Warring's alleged derogatory remark on former union home minister Boota Singh has triggered a political row.

Warring's remark came at a rally in Tarn Taran where a by-election is due on November 11.

Despite Warring's public apology, the issue continues to draw sharp reactions. The Punjab SC/ST Commission has taken suo motu cognizance sought Warring's response by November 6

Members of the Valmiki community have announced a protest in Jalandhar, condemning the remark.

Punjab Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema stated that legal action would be pursued against Warring and urged the Congress leadership to remove him from the party. Former Punjab chief

ninister and Congress MP Charanjit Singh Channi also



priate" but appealed for forgiveness, noting that Warring had already apologized. Warring, clarifying his stance on social media, said

his words were misinterpreted. And that he never in-

tended to insult anyone. "If my statement hurt anyone's sentiments, I sincerely apologize," he said. AAP leader Harnur

Singh Mann, nephew of late Boota Singh, demanded Warring's removal, highlighting Singh's remarkable rise from humble beginnings to holding key positions including union home minister, railways minister, Bihar governor and SC commission chairman.

Kerala to roll out 24x7 senior citizens' helpline as part of Vision-2031 roadmap

puram: Kerala will soon launch a 24x7 helpline dedicated to the safety and welfare of senior citizens as part of a major reform package presented at the Home De-Vision-2031 partment's

With the state's elderly population expected to touch 50 lakh by 2031, the initiative has been placed on top priority.

The seminar, organised by the Home Department, set out an extensive roadmap aimed at reshaping policing into a more citizen-friendly,

service-orientated

guardian-like system. The action plan covers modernisation of policing, enhanced emergency response, improved crime prevention strategies and social-security-driven interventions, sources said.

Key proposals include strengthening law enforcement mechanisms, modernising forensic and investigation systems, boosting public safety infrastructure, upgrading human resource practices in the police force, and intensifying measures to safeguard women, children and vulnerable groups.

The roadmap also emphasises stronger action against cybercrime, drug abuse and organised criminal networks, along with reforms in the Fire & Rescue Services and prison administration

According to officials, the ideas and strategies formulated across eight sessions of the seminar are practical, innovative and aligned with the state's future security needs.

The recommendations will form the blueprint for the Home Department's upcoming initiatives.

A major tech-driven overhaul is also on the cards. The POL-APP will be transformed into an integrated emergency response platform to provide prompt support to people in distress. AI-enabled Intelligent Traffic Management Systems will be introduced to reduce road accidents, and monitoring of migrant workers will be tightened through robust documentation measures.

The State will establish a Cyber Training Academy to build specialised expertise in digital crime prevention. A State Disaster Response Force will be formed, and the deployment of drones in disaster preparedness and response will be expanded.

In a move to enhance accountability and transparency, body-worn cameras will be made mandatory for all police personnel.

To strengthen behavioural discipline and safety awareness among students, the Student Police Cadet (SPC) and School Protection Group (SPG) projects will be extended to all schools across Kerala.

UP extends rebate for farmers and rice mills, boosting rural economy

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has announced a significant relief for the state's farmers and rice mill operators by extending a 1 percent rebate on non-hybrid rice, directly benefiting around 1.3-1.5 million farmers and over 2,000 rice

The move is aimed at encouraging farmers, increasing competition among mills, and strengthening employment opportunities.

The state government has provided a reimbursement of Rs 167 crore under this relief package. This will expedite the paddy procurement process and boost investment in

agriculture-based industries in the state. Chief Minister Adityanath highlighted that the rebate will enhance transparency and competition in government procurement, encouraging millers to participate more actively, ensuring timely payments and conve-

Former J&K Cooperative MD Convicted

nience for farmers.

Millers will now participate more enthusiastically in government procurement, ensuring timely payments and greater convenience for farmers.

The government had already provided a 3 percent recovery rebate on the threshing of hybrid rice. Now, extending this exemption to non-hybrid rice of 1 percent will provide balance and stability to the rice industry. This decision is considered a major step towards making Uttar Pradesh self-sufficient in food grain production and processing.

The state government estimates that this initiative will strengthen approximately 200,000 employment opportunities in the state. The production capacity of rice mills will increase, and the local paddy threshing network in the state will be strengthened. This government initiative will not only provide relief to farmers and millers but will also boost the state's economy.

CM to follow high command on leadership, reshuffle: Parameshwara

Bengaluru: Karnataka Home Minister Parameshwara today said that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has expressed his intention to complete a full five-year term, but will abide by the decision of the Congress high command if

it differs. "He said he will complete five years. But in case the high command decides otherwise, he will obey it. That is what he said. From the beginning, he has maintained this Parameshwara told report-

On the issue of a possible Cabinet reshuffle, the Home Minister said that any changes in leadership



or the ministry will be decided solely by the Congress high command.

"Whatever it is whether it is a reshuffle or a change in leadership such matters will definitely be decided by the high command. The Congress system

has developed over many years, and the high command is supreme. As Congressmen, we are all bound to follow whatever decision it takes," he said. The minister's remarks came a day after Chief Minister Siddaramaiah told reporters that

he would visit Delhi on November 15 to discuss the proposed Cabinet reshuffle with the party leadership. The statement also comes amid ongoing speculation within the Karnataka Congress over a possible change of leadership, following reports that a section of the party wants Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar to take over the top post midway through the government's tenure. The Congress, which returned to power in May 2023 with a sweeping victory, had seen intense lobbying between Siddaramaiah and Shivakumar before the high command decided on the current arrangement.

for forging date of birth to extend service Srinagar: A former Managing Director of J&K Cooperative Central Land Development Limited, Moham-

mad Shafi Banday, was convicted by a Court for forging date of birth to extend The Economic Offences Wing

(EOW) of Crime Branch Kashmir today said they secured the conviction of former MD for fraudulently manipulating his date of birth to unlawfully extend his

The Court of City Judge, Srinagar, found the former MD guilty under Sections 420, 468, and 471 RPC, sentencing him to two years of simple imprisonment on each count and a fine of Rs 5,000 per offence. All sentences shall run concurrently.

The case originated from a complaint alleging that the accused had deliberately recorded his date of birth as September 1, 1939, instead of his actual year of birth June 26, 1932, by produc-



JAMMU AND KASHMIR

ing a fake certificate.

A probe was initiated by the Crime Branch Kashmir, during which verification confirmed the manipulation in date of birth. Subsequently, a formal case was registered at Crime Branch Kashmir-now Economic Offences Wing.

During the course of investigation. the allegations were substantiated, revealing that the accused had overstayed in service for more than seven years, thereby causing wrongful gain to himself and corresponding loss to the state exchequer.

Briefs:

Polling underway, result on Thursday

New Delhi: JPolling for the Jawaharlal Nehru University Students Union (JNUSU) elections began on Tuesday morning, marking the much-anticipated return of vibrant campus politics. According to the JNUSU Election Committee, voting began at 9 am and will continue till 1 pm, followed by a second session from 2:30 pm to 5:30 pm. A total of 9,043 students are eligible to vote in this year's elections, with women making up 30 per cent of the electorate and men 70 per cent. As many as 20 candidates are contesting for the four central panel posts president, vice-president, general secretary and joint secretary. The elections have drawn participation from all major student organisations, including the Left Unity alliance, the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), and the National Students' Union of India (NSUI), among others, each fielding candidates in a bid to reclaim political space on campus. The atmosphere on campus was charged with enthusiasm, as students queued up to cast their votes, holding banners and raising slogans in support of their candidates. Election campaigning over the past week saw intense debates, poster wars and midnight marches reminiscent of JNU's rich political culture.Counting of votes will begin at 9 pm tonight, and the results are expected to be declared on Thursday, determining the new faces that will lead one of India's most politi-

Only 9 of Delhi's 37 air monitoring stations worked on Diwali, SC told

cally active campuses.

New Delhi :Only nine of Delhi's 37 air quality monitoring stations were functioning on Diwali when the city was smothered by a toxic smog of chemicals from 'green' firecrackers, dust and vehicular pollution and hazardous particulate matter from farm fires - the Supreme Court was told on Monday. "Out of 37 in Delhi, only nine monitoring stations were functioning during Diwali... There needs to be a report from the Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM) on the present air pollution status," senior advocate Aparajita Singh, who is assisting the top court as amicus curiae in the Delhi air pollution matter, told a Bench led by CJI BR Gavai. "There are news reports saying monitoring stations are nonfunctional. If the monitoring stations are not even functioning, we don't even know when to implement graded response action plan (GRAP). That is the severe situation. Let them (the CAQM) respond on what is the situation of the monitoring stations. Out of 37, only nine monitoring stations were functioning on Diwali,"

4 yrs on, man absconding in POCSO, IT Act case held

Singh submitted.

New Delhi: A man, who has been absconding for the past more than four years in a POCSO and IT Act case, was arrested by the Delhi Police Crime Branch from Noida. The accused, Sumit Kumar (28), had been declared a proclaimed offender (PO) in March 2024 after evading arrest since 2021. The case was registered against him at the Dwarka

South police station.

According to the police, the accused had tricked a minor girl through a phishing link sent via Facebook. He allegedly gained access to her social media account and coerced her into sharing obscene photos under threat. He also blackmailed her by sending manipulated images and demanding money.

"We made a blunder, please forgive us," plead Delhi CM's attackers in chargesheet

Rajeshbhai Khimji (41), who allegedly attacked Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, has expressed remorse, stating, "I wanted to be famous and rich by killing Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta. I made a huge mistake and I shouldn't have done it. Please pardon me." Khimji blamed the Chief Minister of capturing dogs across the city. This statement was included in the chargesheet filed by the Delhi Police.

Not only Khimji, but his co-accused, Tahsin Raja Rafiullah Shaikh alias Bapu, has also apologized for assisting in the assault on the Delhi CM. The chargesheet quotes Tahsin as saying, "This was indeed a blunder that we made. I apologise. Please forgive me." Both the individuals are currently in jail after their bail pleas were rejected by the court. The magisterial court has transferred the case to the Sessions Court, as the offences they are charged with are triable



by a Sessions Court.

According to chargesheet, Khimji's motive stemmed from an extreme fixation on dog welfare. The document states that the sequence of events was triggered by a dream he had at his temple. "I saw a dog next to a Shivling in my dream. It told me that dogs in Delhi are very troubled, Khimii told investigators. Acting on this vision, Khimji traveled from his home in Gujarat to the Mahakal

Temple in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh, to seek divine permission. In a strange ritual, he wrote 'Yes' and 'No' on two slips of paper and offered them to the deity.

"I threw both slips before Mahakal and picked one up. It said 'Yes.' For me, this was Mahakal's order to go to Delhi and start a hunger strike," the chargesheet quotes him as saying.

Khimji borrowed Rs 2000 from his friend and coaccused in the matter Tahsin Raja Rafiullah Shaikh alias Bapu. Before leaving, he ominously told his wife and friend that if anyone tried to stop him this time, he would "beat them to death, no matter who it is."

"CM didn't agree, I attacked her", said Khimjibhai.

The chargesheet details that on the morning of the incident, Khimji gained access to the CM's residence by telling security he had a complaint about dogs. "I met Chief Minister Rekha Gupta and told her to release the dogs she had captured in the last few days," Khimji stated. When the CM explained that the dogs were impounded under a Supreme Court order, Khimji's plan turned violent.

"I got very angry after hearing this. I slapped her with the intention to kill, grabbed her by the hair, and threw her to the ground and kept attacking her," he confessed. He admitted that the assault was a direct result of her not agreeing to his demands. Rajeshbhai has been chargesheeted under sections 109(1), 221, 132, 115(2), and 61(2) of the Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita (BNS). Co-accused Tehsin Raja was chargesheeted under sections 109(1), 221, 132, and 61(2) of the same code. Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta was attacked on August 20, 2025, during "Jan Sunwai" (public hearing) at her official residence in Civil Lines. The accused are currently in judicial custody.

Delhi BJP chief hits out at AAP's Bharadwaj for criticising CM for visiting Bihar

New Delhi: Delhi BJP chief Virendra Sachdeva on Monday challenged AAP leader Saurabh Bharadwaj for criticising CM Rekha Gupta visiting Bihar, saying that he must explain as to what was wrong with her visit to Bihar during the polls.

He said then Bharadwaj should also have to explain about AAP leader and Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann's regular visits to Gujarat, at a time when the state was affected by floods, and Atishi's visit to Goa.Sachdeva said the "AAP leaders should explain that if presently, when Delhi's average AQI has been around 310, they are pushing forward an organization to label Delhi as a "gas chamber," then where were they and their concerns during the last three years when on November 3 the AQI was recorded as 382, 468, and



450 respectively," the Delhi BJP chief hit back.

Delhi BJP chief claimed that the people of the city are astonished with the statements made by the AAP leaders like Manish Sisodia and former minister Bharadwaj, on the city;s pollution.

Sachdeva stated that although Delhi's pollution situation is concerning, the residents are also aware that the city's air quality has witnessed improvement.

The BJP leader further alleged that Bharadwaj is known for making fabricated statements.

He also assured that the BJP led government is responsible enough, and the environment minister is continuously working with environmental experts on the pollution issue. Sachdeva also mentioned that it is normal for CMs and ministers from different states to travel and campaign during elections.

DMRC refutes reports on defunct CCTVs, says all cameras working

New Delhi: The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) on Monday dismissed media reports suggesting that women's safety in the Metro network is being compromised due to non-functional cameras. Clarifying that such claims were based on misleading interpretations of an RTI response, the DMRC said nearly all its 24,000 CCTVs are fully functional and maintained regularly. In an official statement, DMRC said, "Out of 24,000 CCTVs functional in its network daily, only 300-500 were under routine maintenance during the entire year, not on any single day." The corporation added that on any given day, just one or

two cameras from the net-

work might be under main-

tenance, which is immedi-

ately rectified on top

priority.

Rejecting the notion that any blind spots exist in stations or trains, the DMRC said overlapping camera coverage ensures continuous surveillance even when maintenance is underway. The statement underlined that the Delhi Metro remains one of the safest public transport systems, with over 11,000 CCTV cameras in trains and 13,000 at stations, monitored regularly.

"All Metro stations are under robust surveillance at entry and exit points, ticket counters, escalators, and platforms," DMRC said, adding that no train is deployed in service with faulty CCTVs.

The corporation also highlighted additional safety measures for women, including a dedicated coach in every train, emergency alarm buttons in each coach.

Delhi Congress questions CM Rekha Gupta over 'failed' pollution control

New Delhi: Delhi Pradesh Congress Committee president Devender Yadav on Monday criticised the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in Delhi and questioned CM Rekha Gupta for "failing" to deliver on its ambitious promises to curb air pollution, eight months after taking office.

Yadav pointed to the BJP's manifesto for the Delhi Assembly elections, in which the party pledged to "reduce PM2.5 and PM10 levels by half' and launch the "Delhi Clean Air Mission" aimed at halving the city's average Air Quality Index (AQI) and reducing the number of days with poor air quality.

"The BJP promised to deploy road-sweeping machines in every Assembly constituency and water-sprinkling machines in every Municipal Corporation ward, along with additional machinery in highly polluted areas like Anand Vihar, Mundka, and RK Puram," Yadav said.

The manifesto also included measures such as installing air purifiers at key intersections, incentivising a shift of 50 per cent of vehicles to electric or CNG, and developing green belts to improve tree cover.

Highlighting the persistent crisis, Yadav noted that AQI levels in Delhi had crossed 400 in more

than 13 locations, including Anand Vihar, Wazirpur, and Mundka. "Despite these grand promises, the air quality has continued to deteriorate, reaching poor, very poor, and even severe levels, especially after Diwali," he

Yadav also criticised the BJP government for failing to clean the Yamuna River, calling it "as highly toxic as ever," despite prior commitments.

The Congress leader demanded that CM Gupta take immediate, concrete steps to address Delhi's worsening air pollution.

"Words and promises are not enough. The people of Delhi expect action, not rhetoric," he asserted.

Delhi court acquits Jal Board official in bribery case, cites lack of proof

New Delhi: The Rouse Avenue District Court in Delhi has acquitted Sanjeev Rohilla, a Junior Engineer with the Delhi Jal Board, in a corruption case where he was accused of demanding and accepting a bribe of ₹36,000. The verdict marks another instance where the judiciary reiterated that mere recovery of money does not automatically constitute guilt under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

Delivering the judgment, Special Judge (PC Act cases) Ruchi Aggarwal Asrani held that the prosecution had failed to establish the key ingredients of the offence — namely, the demand and acceptance of illegal gratification — beyond reasonable doubt. The court emphasized that both elements must be conclusively proven for a conviction under Section 7 of the Act.

The case originated from a complaint alleging that Rohilla, while serving as a Junior Engineer, had sought ₹36,000 from a contractor in exchange for facilitating certain official approvals. Acting on the complaint, the Anti-Corruption Branch (ACB) organized a trap, during which the alleged bribe amount was recovered.

However, the court observed that the prosecution's case rested largely on the

testimony of the complainant, whose version of events was inconsistent and lacked corroboration. The judge pointed out that while the recovery of tainted money was not in dispute, the demand and voluntary acceptance of the bribe were not convincingly proven.

citing the Supreme Court's landmark ruling in Neeraj Dutta vs. State (2022), the court noted that "mere possession and recovery of currency notes from an accused without proof of demand and acceptance is not sufficient to bring home the charge under the Prevention of Corruption Act." This precedent formed the backbone of the trial court's reasoning.

Judge Asrani further highlighted material contradictions between the statements of the complainant, the panch witness, and the investigating officer. These inconsistencies, the court said, struck at the root of the prosecution's credibility and created substantial doubt about the alleged demand.

The defense team, comprising advocates Naveen Kumar, Aditi Raghav Arora, Abhishek Mahal, and Tushar Agarwal, raised several critical legal points during the proceedings.

EDITORIAI



Private Apps and Fundamental Rights!

The social media apps we use every day are no longer just for entertainment. Many rely on them for communication, business, information and daily contact. But many feel that if an account is suddenly closed, it is an attack on our fundamental rights. The Supreme Court's recent verdict has cleared this big misunderstanding and once again clarified the limits of the rights of private companies and the government.

In the digital age, we have all become so involved in the virtual world of social media that we often feel like we have 'lost consciousness'. Be it WhatsApp, Facebook or Instagram, these apps are no longer just tools for entertainment; they have become the mainstay of communication, communication and, for many, even business In such a situation, if a private social media company suddenly closes your account, many feel that your 'fundamental right' has been taken away. However, the Supreme Court has recently dispelled this misconception through an important verdict and clarified the legal boundary between 'government' and 'private company

Recently, a very fundamental case came before the bench of Justice Vikram Nath and Justice Sandeep Mehta of the Supreme Court. The petitioner, a doctor, had filed a 'writ' petition directly in the Supreme Court against the company 'Meta', which owns WhatsApp. The petitioner used to contact his patients through WhatsApp, give appointments and take follow-ups. Suddenly, at one point, his WhatsApp account was closed without giving any reason. The petitioner said that such a sudden closure of the account was 'unjust' and this had violated his 'fundamental rights'. He demanded that the court order the company Meta to restore his account and formulate some guidelines in this regard. Justice Mehta asked the petitioners a very fundamental question: "Under which fundamental rights does the use of WhatsApp fall?" The petitioner did not have a concrete and legal answer to this question. The court dismissed the petition after hearing the important issues raised in the petition and the arguments thereon. The court clarified that it WhatsApp is shut down, the petitioner has the option of using other alternative apps available for communication. The court mentioned the 'indigenous 'Arattai' app to suggest that an alternative is available.

The crux of this entire case and the verdict lies in the concept of 'State' in the Constitution. Article 12 of the Constitution defines who exactly falls within the definition of 'Government'. In short, the definition of 'Government' includes the Central and State Governments, local bodies (e.g. Municipal Corporations), and institutions controlled by the Government or performing 'government-like' functions.

The special provision in our Constitution for filing 'writ petitions' (directly in the Supreme Court through Article 32 and in the High Court through Article 226). applies only if the fundamental rights of citizens are violated by institutions falling within the definition of 'Government'. These petitions are used to directly order the government to protect fundamental rights.

However, social media companies - whether Meta (Facebook, WhatsApp) or others - are private companies. They do not fit the definition of 'government', the petitioner's lawyers also admitted in the court. Therefore, a writ petition cannot be filed in a high court or the Supreme Court directly alleging that the actions of private companies have violated fundamental rights.

This judgment highlights two very important points that every digital user should keep in mind: 1. Legal limitations: In case of account closure, the petitioners can file only a civil suit, not a writ petition, against the Meta company. That is, without claiming violation of fundamental rights, they have to seek compensation or breach of contract in a civil court. 2. Reason for liability: Any entity that falls within the definition of 'government' gives reasons for any decision and can seek a remedy in court against that reason. Private companies, especially foreign private companies, do not necessarily give reasons every time they decide their policy or close an account, and if they do not, the options for seeking redress in court are limited.

Today, many small and large businesses run their entire businesses using WhatsApp Business accounts. Sending catalogs, taking orders and finalizing transactions depend on WhatsApp. For them, this app is the 'morning sun'. This verdict has also alerted such businessmen. If WhatsApp suddenly closes their accounts. they fear a situation where 'oil is gone, ghee is gone and dhupatane is in their hands'. Hundreds of daily orders can be stopped in an instant and the question of where to seek redress may arise.

The bottom line is that we are not the owners of these platforms or apps; we are only their users. Companies operate according to their 'terms of service' and policies. Therefore, while completely relying on this technology, we need to understand a 'limited framework' in advance. If this app suddenly closes tomorrow, it is a more logical step to have an 'alternative arrangement' ready so that our business or communication does not stop. Instead of rushing to the Supreme Court immediately after WhatsApp is closed because fundamental rights were violated, using other apps or taking the path of a private lawsuit is the only legally and practically available option to maintain the bridge of communication.

This verdict has highlighted the 'slavery of technology' and the 'limitations on users' rights'. The wisdom of today's smart citizens lies in digesting the fact that the policies of private companies cannot be directly linked to fundamental rights and designing our digital lives accordingly. Understanding the line between government law and private companies has become very necessary in the digital world. Using social media platforms is not a right, but a contract with the company. Therefore, if the app suddenly closes the account tomorrow, we have only personal/civil recourse instead of a writ petition. Therefore, instead of relying completely on a single platform. it is wise to always keep the facility of alternative contacts and alternative apps ready. Let's use technology, but don't lose our freedom!

Discusses Strengthening Weather Infrastructure and Disaster Preparedness in the State, particularly in the wake of recent cloudbursts and flash floods

The Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh, Shri Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu, called on Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh, and discussed the strengthening of weather forecasting and disaster preparedness infrastructure in the hill state.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister conveyed his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Government of India for installing a Doppler Weather Radar in Himachal Pradesh, which has significantly enhanced the accuracy of weather predictions and early warnings in the region.

In the wake of recent cloudbursts and flash. floods, the CM requested the installation of additional Doppler Radars and Weather Stations Automatic (AWS) across the state to ensure that every district, particularly the disaster-prone areas, is better equipped to handle future weatherrelated challenges

Dr. Jitendra Singh appreciated the Chief Minister's proactive approach and reiterated that the Government of India, under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, remains fully committed to supporting all states in their efforts toward climate resilience and disas-



equitable treatment for every state, irrespective of region or political affiliation. He said the Prime Minister's approach has been to empower states by strengthening their scientific and technological capacities, thereby enabling local administrations to respond swiftly and effectively to emerging challenges.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also noted that advanced meteorological tools like Doppler Radars and AWS play a crucial role not only in disaster preparedness but also in sectors like agriculture, hydropower, and tourism, which form the backbone of Himachal Pradesh's economy. He assured full central support in expanding this infrastructure to cover vulnerable zones and enhance public safety.

The meeting reflected a shared commitment between the Centre and the State Government to strengthen the scientific framework for forecasting and disaster management, ensuring that development in the hill state is sustainable and resilient to climate risks. Both leaders agreed that close coordination between the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) and the State authorities will further enhance Himachal Pradesh's capacity to respond effectively to extreme weather events

Clear Declarations Stroger Consumer Confidence

tive federalism, ensuring fair and

er Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, has notified the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Amendment Rules, 2025. The amendment introduces specific provisions for packages containing medical devices, aligning the Legal Me-(Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011 with the Medical Devices Rules, 2017. This step ensures regulatory harmony, reduces compliance ambiguity and enhances consumer protection in the healthcare sector.

The amendment provides that for packages containing medical devices, the provisions of the Medical Devices Rules, 2017 shall prevail for the height and width of numerals and letters used for making declarations. This means that while the requirement to make mandatory declarations remains, the specific font size and dimensional standards prescribed under the Medical Devices Rules shall apply instead of those under Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules.

Further, the relaxation

under Rule 33 of the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011, which provides certain exemptions in declarations, will not apply in cases where the Medical Devices Rules, 2017 are applicable. This ensures that any relaxations under Legal Metrology apply only to declarations required under these Rules and not to those covered by the Medical Devices framework

Additionally, the amendment clarifies that the requirement of making declarations on the Principal Display Panel as per the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules is not mandatory for medical devices. Instead, such declarations may be made as per the provisions of the Medical Devices Rules, 2017.

This amendment will benefit the Consumers in providing a single, consistent labelling standard for medical devices, eliminating confusion arising from overlapping rules to ensures clear, accurate and uniform labelling designed specifically for healthcare products. It will strengthen consumer protection by aligning with specialized medical device labelling norms.

It will also benefit the industry by removing ambiguity between two regulatory frameworks, ensuring clarity, predictability and reducing compliance burden by requiring adherence to only one set of labelling standards to promote Ease of Doing Business by streamlining regulatory obligations and avoiding duplication.

The Legal Metrology Enforcement officers will enable simplified and effective enforcement with clearly defined jurisdiction and applicability. It will promote uniform interpretation and compliance across States and enforcement agencies.

This harmonisation reflects the Government's continued commitment to fostering a business-friendly regulatory environment while ensuring robust consumer protection in the sensitive healthcare domain. By aligning the Legal Metrology Rules with the Medical Devices Rules, the amendment furthers India's vision of Ease of Living and Ease of Doing Business, ensuring both clarity for industry and confidence for consumers.

NITI Aayog Unveils "Reimagining Manufacturing: India's Roadmap to Global Leadership in Advanced Manufacturing"

NITI Aayog's Frontier Tech Hub today unveiled a roadmap "Reimagining Manufacturing: India's Roadmap to Global Leadership in Advanced Manufacturing".

The roadmap was unveiled by Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra; Shri Ajit Pawar Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra; Shri B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, CEO, NITI Aayog; Ms. Madhuri Misal, State Minister of Maharashtra; Shri Praveen Pardeshi, Chief Economic Adviser to CM & CEO, MITRA; Ms. Debjani Ghosh, Distinguished Fellow, NITI Aayog; Shri Chandrajit Banerjee, Director General, CII; and other distinguished guests and dignitaries.

The roadmap lays out a sector-focused path to harness frontier technologies and elevate India's manufacturing competitiveness. It identifies Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning, Advanced Materials, Digital Twins and Robotics as high-impact enablers and maps their implications across 13 priority manufacturing sectors. With targeted interventions, the roadmap envisions manufacturing contributing over 25% to India's GDP, creating more than 100 million jobs, and positioning India among the top three global hubs for advanced manufacturing by 2035—key milestones towards Viksit Bharat @ 2047.

To address current barriers limiting India's manufacturing competitiveness, it recommends coordinated strengthening of R&D ecosystems, industrial infrastructure, workforce development, and scaled deployment of frontier technologies in sector-specific ways through a 10-year strategic roaddetailing out comprehensive interventions. The roadmap cautions that India will risk a historic window of opportunity if the country fails to adopt key frontier technologies in high impact sectors with a potential loss of US\$ 270 billion by 2035 and US\$ 1 trillion by 2047 in additional manufacturing GDP.

"Maharashtra expresses its gratitude to NITI Aayog for preparing this visionary roadmap for Bharat's manufacturing growth powered by frontier technologies, and for choosing Pune to lead this journey. If India has to achieve exponential growth, it cannot come from business-as-usual. Frontier Tech is the marriage of science and technology, and when this union enters manufacturing, it drives automation, efficiency, and global competitiveness. Maharashtra will be the first State to fully align with the National Mission on Manufacturing and become the global hub for advanced manufacturing." said Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Maharashtra.

"India's economic ascent inextricably hinges the strength of our manufacturing sector, but incremental change will not suf-

This roadmap sets a decisive, timebound course to become an Advanced Manufacturing Powerhouse by 2035; integrating frontier technologies to build precision, resilience, and sustainability into our manufacturing DNA, creating globally competitive 'Made in India' identity." said Shri B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, CEO, NITI Aayog.

CemHack for Green Infra Showcases Collaboration Between Government, Industry, and Startups to Drive Innovation in Sustainable Construction

The Grand Finale and Prize Distribution Ceremony of the national-level hackathon CemHack for Green Infra was successfully organized by the National Council for Cement and Building Materials - Incubation Centre (NCB-IC). The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from representatives of DPIIT, Startup India, cement industry, academia. startups, and innovators from across the country.The hackathon CemHack for Green Infra was launched on 20 May 2025 by Joint Secretary (Cement), DPIIT, Shri Sanjiv, as India's first national-level hackathon dedicated to the cement and construction ecosystem. The hackathon aimed to identify and support innovative, sustainable, and technology-led solutions to real-world challenges in the cement sector. It received an overwhelming response with 125 participating teams — 47 in Track 1 (Startups/Professionals/Individuals) and 78 in Track 2 (Students/Research Scholars/Academia) from IITs, NITs, IISc, DTU, and other leading institutes and startups. After four rounds of rigorous evaluation, four finalists were selected under each track. The Grand Finale was

organised in the presence of

jury members of both the

tracks, students from nearby

colleges, and officials of

NCB. The hackathon was

supported by the Depart-

ment for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Startup India, UltraTech Cement Ltd., JSW Cement Ltd., JK Cement Ltd., and Shree Cement Ltd. The themes of the hackathon included Green Cement -Alternative raw materials,

SCMs, new binders, AI/ML applications; Green Process Hydrogen, solar thermal, waste heat recovery, alternative fuels; Green Concrete -Sustainable and novel concrete materials; Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS); Logistics and Supply Chain Management; and Achieving Net Zero and SDGs in Cement and Construction. The winners under Track 1 were: first place-TraceXero Technologies Pvt. Ltd. (Deependra Singh Shekhawat, Reetam

Chaudhary, Kirtiraj Singh,



Kushal Singh); second place Aventra Energy (Sivasan-

Bhadauriya, Sambhav Gup-

LivNSense GreenOps Pvt.

Ltd. (Avnish Kumar, Priyan-NCB-Incubation Centre





thosh A); third place – Regal ta); and consolation prize -

2 were: first place - Team Civil GPT (NIT Goa -Prashant Mishra, Saatwik Shetye); second place -Team IIT Gandhinagar (Sreerag C S, Dr. Shreya Katre, Faizan Yousuf Bhat, Dr. S. K. Rahaman); third place Team ReCKon (DTU -Tasmia Haider, Archit Verma, Sameer Madan); and consolation prize - Team IISc Bangalore (Sahana C. M., Kushagra Singh, Dr. Souradeep Gupta). The winners received cash prizes, certificates, and incubation or mentorship opportunities under NCB's Încubation Centre. On this occasion, Executive President and Chief Technical and Sustainability Officer, UltraTech Cement Ltd., Dr. Raju Goyal, was awarded the NCB Distinguished Alumni Award 2025 in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the cement industry. NCB has constituted this award to recognise alumni of its PG Diploma in Cement Technology programme for their outstanding professional achievements and contributions in the fields of cement, concrete, building materials, or allied industries.Speaking on the occasion, Chairmen of Track 1 and Track 2, Dr. Raju Goyal and Shri Manoj Rustagi, shared that the evaluation process of the hackathon was extensive and rigorous, involving several hours of assessment.

The winners under Track

Aryan Age Delhi, Wednesday, 05 November 2025

Smog Persists in Kurukshetra **Despite Sharp Decline in Stubble Fires**

Kurukshetra:The air in the holy city continues to choke despite a substantial reduction in farm fire cases this season. According to the Central Pollution Control Board, Kurukshetra's PM2.5 level hovered around 283 on Monday lower than Sunday's 344 but still in the "poor" category. Experts attribute this persistent pollution not to stubble burning, but to local causes and unfavorable weather conditions. Data from Haryana's

Remote Sensing Centre (HARSAC) shows only eight farm fire incidents so far, half of which involved paddy residue. Deputy Director of Agriculture, Dr. Karam Chand, said all confirmed cases had been acted upon, with FIRs filed and environmental penalties imposed. "The figures show that farmers aren't the main culprits. The poor air quality is due to multiple other reasons," he added.

Environmental groups say unchecked local pollution is worsening the situation. Dr. Naresh Bhardwaj of Green Earth NGO cited rampant tree felling, constant construction, vehicular smoke, and open waste burning as primary sources of smog. He also opposed the plan to fell thousands of eucalyptus trees spread across 60 acres near Brahma Sarovar, warning it would destroy the city's "green lungs."

Nirmal Kashyap, Senior Environmental Engineer with the State Pollution Control Board. said stagnant air due to changing weather was trapping pollutants. He noted that dust, vehicular exhaust and construction debris had emerged as major contributors, adding that more inspections and enforcement actions were being initiated to curb the pollu-

Tech Glitches Stall Paddy Procurement in Sirsa

Sirsa: The resumption of private paddy procurement in Sirsa after a short break was marred by major disruptions on Monday, as farmers struggled with the state's newly introduced digital verifica-

tion system. The revamped setup, designed to ensure transparency and eliminate fake entries, requires farmers to register through the Meri Fasal-Mera Byora portal using a location-based OTP sent to their registered mobile numbers.

However, server delays, app crashes and lack of clear guidance turned the first day chaotic. Many farmers stood in queues for hours as the mobile application repeatedly froze or failed to verify their location.

The old registration system at market counters also remained inactive, compounding the delays.

Farmers expressed frustration over the technical snags. Gagandeep from Darbi village said he reached the market at dawn but received his token only by afternoon. Balraj from Jhopra had to return home as his registered mobile number wasn't with him, while elderly farmer Ramchandra from Bharokhan required help from relatives to complete the process.

Officials from the market committee admitted to initial problems but maintained that the GPSbased system was essential to prevent fraud.

Hooda's Power Lunch Displays Congress Unity in Haryana

Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda staged an impressive demonstration of unity and strength within the Haryana Congress as he chaired his first Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting since assuming charge as the Leader of the Opposition. The gathering, held at his Chandigarh residence, drew an overwhelming attendance of over 250 senior party figures, including Members of Parliament, Members of the Legislative Assembly, district presidents, and former legislators. It was not merely a routine meeting, but a well-orchestrated event that symbolized Hooda's enduring influence over the state's Congress machinery

The atmosphere at Hooda's residence was charged with enthusiasm and confidence, reflecting a party eager to regain political momentum. For many observers, this meeting served as a clear signal that Hooda continues to be the pivotal force in Haryana Congress politics. Leaders and workers alike appeared united under his leadership, echoing sentiments of loyalty and shared purpose. The gathering was widely interpreted as a consolidation of ranks ahead of potential political realignments in the

The meeting also carried symbolic weight, taking



cohesion within the Congress is crucial. Hooda, a seasoned political strategist, used the occasion to project an image of organizational unity and discipline. His ability to bring together leaders from various factions underscored his role as the party's central unifying figure in Haryana. Even those once considered distant from his camp seemed aligned in spirit, signaling a revival of collective energy within the party's ranks.

Hooda's speech during the CLP meeting reportedly emphasized teamwork. preparation for upcoming electoral battles, and the need for a consistent groundlevel presence. He urged leaders to focus on issues that matter most to the people — farmers' welfare, un-

nance transparency. His tone was both assertive and inclusive, reflecting his political maturity and long-standing experience in state politics.

Following the formal proceedings, a lavish luncheon was hosted at Hooda's residence. The event carried the air of a social and political gathering rolled into one. Over shared meals and informal conversations, senior leaders exchanged ideas and reassured one another of their shared commitment to strengthening the party. For many in attendance, it was also a chance to reconnect after months of political uncertainty and shifting alli-

State Congress chief Rao Narender Singh and AICC incharge BK Hariprasad were among the prominent figures who joined the luncheon, lending further weight to the gathering. Their presence was interpreted as the central leadership's endorsement of Hooda's stewardship in Haryana. Party insiders described the meeting as a much-needed morale booster, especially at a time when Congress is

working to reassert itself in

the wake of electoral set-

backs in other states.

According to one senior MLA, "Hooda has sent a clear message — he remains firmly in charge and politically active." This statement resonated among the cadre, many of whom have long viewed Hooda as the party's strongest contender to lead its resurgence in Haryana. His seasoned leadership, combined with his political acumen, continues to com-

mand respect across the party's organizational structure.

The significance of the meeting extended beyond the walls of Hooda's residence. It was a calculated political signal to rivals and allies alike that the Congress in Haryana is neither fragmented nor directionless. With the party gearing up for future elections, the event underscored a renewed sense of purpose and readiness under Hooda's guidance. It demonstrated that the Congress, despite internal challenges, remains a cohesive political force in the state.

Adding to the momentum of his political outreach, Hooda also participated in an all-party meeting convened by Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini. The meeting, aimed at planning state-wide celebrations to mark the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur, reflected a rare moment of political coordination across party lines. Hooda's participation in the deliberations highlighted his willingness to engage constructively on issues of cultural and social importance.

During this all-party meeting, it was agreed that four yatras would be launched across Haryana starting November 8. The yatras will begin from Rori in Sirsa and will cover significant sites associated with the life and teachings of Guru Tegh Bahadur.

Ambala Expands Green Transport Fleet with New E-Buses

Chandigarh: Ambala's city transport network took another major stride towards sustainable public mobility on Monday as Haryana Transport Minister Anil Vij announced the introduction of five new air-conditioned electric buses. With this addition, the total number of ebuses operating across Ambala has now reached fifteen, reflecting the government's increasing focus on promoting clean energy and modern commuting solutions. The Transport Minister

said that the new electric buses would not only enhance passenger comfort but also help in reducing the city's overall pollution levels. By offering residents an efficient and eco-friendly travel experience, the government aims to set an example for other districts in the state to follow.

These buses equipped with advanced features and are designed to provide smooth rides even during peak traffic hours.

Vij further highlighted that the electric buses are part of a broader plan to upgrade Ambala's public transport infrastructure. The introduction of more e-buses signifies a gradual shift towards cleaner alternatives in the state's transport system, aligning with Haryana's green mobility vision. According to officials, these buses will operate on highdemand routes to ensure better accessibility and regular service for passengers.

The minister also announced that twenty-three new modern bus shelters are under construction throughout the city. These shelters are being built not only to provide protection from the weather but also to make waiting for buses a more comfortable experience. Each shelter will have seating arrangements, adequate lighting, and ceiling fans to cater to commuters during hot and humid conditions. Authorities said these

new shelters will be placed at strategic locations across Ambala, ensuring maximum convenience for passengers. Some of the key points include Capital Chowk, Defence Colony, Kalrahedi, SD College, Civil Hospital, Babyal, and several other important stops where passenger footfall is particularly high. This infrastructure development is expected to significantly improve the overall commuting experience within the city.

The Transport Department has emphasised that passenger-friendly facilities are a key part of the ongoing effort to make public transport both reliable and attrac-

These shelters will also display route details and schedules to help commuters plan their journeys efficiently. Officials hope that the combination of better vehicles and improved infrastructure will boost the number of people opting for

Over Half of Haryana Animal Husbandry **Officers Flunk Departmental Test**

Chandigarh: A recent departmental exam has laid bare serious concerns about the professional proficiency of Haryana's Animal Husbandry and Dairying Department officials, as more than half of them failed to pass. Despite holding impressive academic qualifications, 56 percent of the officers, including many veterinary doctors, were unable to clear the examination designed to test their technical understanding and suitability for promotion within the department.Out of a total of 290 officers who appeared, 163 failed to meet the qualifying standards. The examination, conducted on March 22 earlier this year, was meant to evaluate the officers' expertise in key operational areas such as livestock health management, disease prevention, breeding techniques, and the overall delivery of veterinary services to farmers. The results, recently announced by Department Secretary Vijay Singh Dahiya, have caused significant concern among administrative circles about the competence of field staff.

Officials familiar with the matter said the examination was introduced as a fair measure to ensure that officers possess the required knowledge and skills necessary for effective service delivery. The high failure rate, however, has raised doubts about whether officials are keeping up with evolving practices in animal husbandry and veterinary science. "The purpose of these exams is to serve as a barometer of professional readiness and capability," said a senior official aware of the situation.

The results have also sparked discussions within the department regarding accountability and performance standards. Many senior officers reportedly view the outcome as a wake-up call, stressing that it reflects deeper issues such as lack of regular training and inadequate field-level supervision. Some insiders suggested that refresher courses and workshops might be necessary to improve overall knowledge levels before future examinations.

A senior government functionary, expressing concern over the situation, said the implications of such widespread failure could be far-reaching. Those who did not pass could face a range of administrative consequences, including being barred from reappearing in upcoming exams, receiving negative remarks in their Annual Confidential Reports (ACRs), or experiencing delays and denials in promotion and service-related benefits. The official added that

the government takes these results seriously, as the department's efficiency directly affects rural livelihoods dependent on animal husbandry. "A lack of subject mastery among officials can directly impact the quality of veterinary services provided to farmers, which in turn affects livestock productivity and income," he said, highlighting the importance of competence in the sector.

At the same time, the department is reportedly considering adopting a more flexible approach. Sources indicated that the authorities may give the failed officers one final opportunity to redeem themselves. "A 'golden chance' could be extended to the unsuccessful candidates so they can improve their performance and demonstrate their capability," the functionary said. Many within the department believe that while the test results are disappointing, they also serve as a much-needed reminder of the need for continual learning and professional development. Officers have expressed the hope that with proper support and training, the next round of examinations will see a marked improvement.

The government is expected to review the testing process and the areas of evaluation to ensure the examination effectively measures practical understanding in addition to theoretical knowledge. There is also speculation that more regular assessments could be introduced to maintain consistent performance levels

across the department. For now, the high failure rate stands as a sobering indicator of gaps in preparation and knowledge retention among Haryana's animal husbandry staff. While the upcoming "golden chance" offers a path for redemption, it also places the onus squarely on the officials to rise to the challenge and prove their merit in a department central to the state's agrarian economy.

Haryana, Maharashtra to Build **Shaurya Memorial at Panipat**

Panipat: In a unique inter-state collaboration, Haryana and Maharashtra have come together to construct a magnificent Shaurya Memorial near Ugrakheri village on the Panipat-Sanoli-Haridwar highway, celebrating the heroism witnessed in the historic battles of Panipat. The memorial will be developed across 20 acres of land purchased through the e-Bhoomi portal, located adjacent to the renowned Kala Amb War Memorial — the site marking the sacrifice of Maratha commander Sadashiv Bhau during the Third Battle of Panipat in 1761

The upcoming Shaurya Memorial aims to serve as a grand tribute to the warriors who shaped one of India's most pivotal chapters in history. Designed to be both educational and inspirational, the complex will include an auditorium, a light-andsound show, elaborate sculptures, warrior statues, and rare artefacts illustrating the legacy of the Panipat battles. The project seeks to merge history with modern presentation techniques, offering visitors an immersive journey through the valorous past. As part of this initiative, the Panipat Museum — cur-



ish-era Canal Rest House near Binjhol village — will be shifted to the new memorial complex. The museum presently features nine galleries that depict the three great battles of Panipat through paintings, sculptures, and historical artefacts. Authorities believe the relocation will help attract more tourists and improve public engagement with the region's rich history. Deputy Commissioner Virender Kumar Dahiya confirmed that the land for the project has been acquired from three farmers and that the Maharashtra Government has tak-

architectural design. He added that the Principal Secretary to the Maharashtra Chief Minister recently visited and inspected the proposed site to finalise structural and layout details.

Officials revealed that the decision to move the museum was made due to its limited accessibility and low visitor turnout at its current site, where only about 20 to 30 people visit daily. The new location, situated along a major highway and near other tourist attractions, is expected to significantly increase footfall once the project is completed.

Kapal Mochan Mela Draws Lakhs of Devotees in Yamunanagar

Yamunanagar: The annual Shree Kapal Mochan-Shri Adi Badri Mela is in full swing in Yamunanagar district, drawing massive crowds of devotees from northern India. Scheduled from November 1 to 5, the sacred fair is expected to witness between seven and eight lakh pilgrims this year, all seeking spiritual purification and divine blessings by taking holy dips in the revered Kapal Mochan, Rin Mochan, and Surajkund Sarovars on Kartik Purnima, which falls on November 5.

Nestled near Vyaspur town, Kapal Mochan holds deep spiritual significance for both Hindus and Sikhs. Ancient scriptures describe it as a site that grants liberation from sins accumulated over the three yugas. According to legend, Maharishi Ved Vyas is believed to have composed the Vedas and Puranas at this very spot, lending it immense mythological and cultural importance. Pilgrims believe that

bathing here washes away all



peace and prosperity. The site also carries historical and religious importance in Sikhism. Guru Nanak Dev is said to have visited the holy shrine in 1584, followed by Guru Gobind Singh in 1687, both of whom blessed the sacred waters. Over the centuries, Kapal Mochan has become a symbol of unity between faiths, drawing people of diverse spiritual backgrounds who come together in devotion and rever-

According to religious

believed to have taken a dip in the Rin Mochan Sarovar to absolve themselves of the sin of bloodshed after the Kurukshetra war. This ancient legend adds another dimension to the mela's sanctity, attracting countless devotees who come to atone for their misdeeds and seek spiritual liberation.Deputy Commissioner and Mela Chief Administrator Parth Gupta said that comprehensive preparations have been made to ensure the safety and comfort of visitors

Families Affected by 1984 Riots Chandigarh: In a landmark decision, the Haryana

Cabinet has approved an amendment to the Deployment of Contractual Persons Policy, 2022, which will pave the way for government employment opportunities for families affected by the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. This initiative is set to provide relief and support to 121 families who lost loved ones and 58 others who sustained injuries during the tragic events of the violence.

The policy amendment stipulates that one unanimously identified family member of each riot victim will be eligible for employment under the Haryana Kaushal Rozgar Nigam. Depending on their educational qualifications and skill sets, eligible individuals will be considered for Level-I, Level-II, or Level-III posts. This measure aims to provide long-term livelihood support to families who have en-

dured decades of hardship

Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini had first announced the decision during the Vidhan Sabha's monsoon session on August 25, emphasizing the state's resolve to deliver justice and rehabilitation to the affected families. He recalled the widespread devastation during the riots, noting that around 20 gurdwaras, 221 houses, 154 shops, 57 factories, and 85 vehicles were destroyed across Haryana, leaving countless families in dis-

The Cabinet's approval of this amendment is seen as a significant step toward addressing historical injustices and providing social security to the victims' families. By granting them government jobs, the state aims not only to ensure financial stability but also to restore dignity and recognition to those who suffered immensely during

A government spokes-

person highlighted that the initiative reflects Haryana's commitment to justice, eq-

Haryana to Offer Jobs to

uity, and rehabilitation. "This decision demonstrates the state's responsibility toward citizens who faced unimaginable loss and ensures they receive a meaningful opportunity for employment," the spokesperson said. The employment initiative under the Haryana Kaushal Rozgar Nigam will provide family members with structured career pathways in various government departments. Level-I, II, and III posts are expected to include clerical roles, technical positions, and administrative functions, allowing the beneficiaries to gain stable, long-term government employment and profession-

al growth. Officials noted that the identification process for eligible family members would be conducted carefully, with verification of documentation and background to ensure fairness and transparency. Each family will be consulted to nominate a single member for consideration, minimizing disputes and streamlining the recruitment process.

This move has been welcomed by human rights activists and members of the Sikh community, who have long sought recognition and support for the families affected by the 1984 riots. Many observers have termed it a "historic gesture" that balances both justice and rehabilitation in a tangible The state government

has indicated that the employment scheme will be rolled out in phases, with the first appointments expected within the next few months. Training programs and orientation sessions will be provided to ensure that beneficiaries can perform their roles effectively and integrate smoothly into government service.

Haryana Cabinet Approves Major Labour Reforms, Empowers Women Workers

Cabinet, under Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini, has approved The Factories (Amendment) Ordinance, 2025, introducing sweeping labour reforms designed to modernise the 1948 Factories Act and enhance gender equality in workplaces across the state. Officials described the ordinance as a forward-looking measure aimed at boosting worker protections, improving compliance, and promoting inclusive employment practic-

One of the most notable reforms mandates that factories issue formal appointment letters to all workers upon joining. This step ensures greater transparency and accountability between employers and employees, while also providing a clear record of employment terms, responsibilities, and rights. The government highlighted that this would help workers, particularly women and younger employees, secure legal recognition and protection in the workplace.

A major change under the new ordinance allows women to work on or near machinery, including cotton openers, provided that factories implement adequate safety measures and supply protective equipment. This amendment removes longstanding restrictions on women workers in industrial settings, empowering them to take on a wider range of roles and opportunities in the



manufacturing sector.

To protect small business owners, the Cabinet replaced imprisonment clauses for minor procedural or economic offences with monetary fines. This reform seeks to prevent the criminalisation of minor infractions while encouraging compliance through financial accountability rather than punitive imprisonment. Officials emphasized that the new penalties are calibrated to promote adherence to the law without stifling entrepreneurship.

The ordinance also introduces greater flexibility in working schedules. Factories may now choose to operate on a five- or six-day work week, provided the total weekly hours do not exceed 48. Overtime limits have

been raised from 115 to 144 hours per quarter, with double wages mandated for any extra hours worked, offering workers better compensa-

tion for additional labour.

Alongside the factories

reform, the Cabinet approved amendments to the Haryana Shops and Commercial Establishments Ordinance, 2025. The changes extend coverage to establishments with 20 or more employees and introduce a fully automated online registration and self-certification process. Additional provisions include flexible working hours, enhanced overtime up to 156 hours per quarter, mandatory appointment letters, and identity cards for employees, improving efficiency and work-

er rights in the commercial

In education, the Cabinet approved the Teachers' Transfer Policy, 2025, removing the previous zoning system and allowing teachers to choose postings anywhere in the state. The new system assigns placements using an 80-point scale, with age accounting for 60 points and up to 20 points reserved for special categories such as women, widows, and differently abled teachers. Teachers penalised for misconduct face a 10-point deduction, ensuring merit-based and fair postings.

The Cabinet also passed several land and governance measures. Five per cent of leased village common land is now reserved for persons with disabilities, while leasing of land for Gau Abhyarans will be managed by the Animal Husbandry Department. Additionally, the Governor's discretionary grant has been raised from ₹6 crore to ₹8 crore to support local initiatives.

The Abadi Deh Ordinance was cleared, granting ownership rights to village dwellers based on drone surveys and existing property records. Officials said this measure would formalize land ownership in rural areas, enhance tenure security, and reduce disputes over ancestral property.

Government sources described these combined measures as a comprehensive package addressing labour rights, gender equality, education, and rural governance. "We are modernising outdated systems, empowering workers, and ensuring inclusive access to opportunities for all citizens," Chief Minister Saini said.

The reforms are expected to significantly improve working conditions in factories, shops, and commercial establishments, while also providing a transparent, merit-based system for teachers' postings. Experts noted that the focus on women's participation, safety, and flexible work hours could serve as a model for other states seeking to modernise labour laws.

By integrating technology into registration and compliance systems, the state aims to reduce bureaucratic hurdles and streamline ad-

Teen Girl Shot by Stalker in Faridabad, Police Launch Hunt

Faridabad: In a shockdaylight attack, a 17-year-old girl was shot twice by a stalker in Shyam Colony, Faridabad. The victim, Kanishka, a JEE aspirant, sustained injuries to her shoulder and abdomen and is currently recovering at a Sector 8 hospital. Authorities described the incident as deeply disturbing, highlighting concerns over stalking and public safety

The accused has been identified as 20-year-old Jatin Mangla from Sarmathla village near Sohna in Gurugram. Police said he allegedly ambushed Kanishka on Monday evening while she was returning home from a local library. CCTV footage reportedly shows Mangla lying in wait in a narrow lane before firing at the teenager at close range.Police sources confirmed that Kanishka, a resident of Bhagat Singh Colony, had been subjected to months of harassment by Mangla prior to the attack. Investigations revealed that two days before the shooting, Mangla had apologised to her family, but he continued stalking her despite the

The girl and Mangla were known to study at the same library, though Mangla's membership was later revoked after complaints about his inappropriate behaviour. Investigators noted that the library had taken steps to ensure the girl's safety, but the assault occurred outside the premises.

Shamsher Inspector Singh of Ballabhgarh City Police Station said that four police teams, along with crime branch units, have been deployed to track down the attacker. Authorities are conducting raids in Gurugram and nearby areas to apprehend Mangla, who is reportedly working as an accountant at a local college.

The police have urged citizens to come forward with any information about Mangla's whereabouts and warned the public against confronting him directly. Officials stressed that stalking cases are taken very seriously, and swift action will be taken to ensure justice.Kanishka's family described the attack as traumatic. Her father expressed relief that she survived and appealed to authorities to capture the perpetrator quickly. The community has also voiced concerns over rising incidents of harassment and the need for better protective measures for women and girls in public spaces.Law enforcement sources confirmed that forensic teams are examining the CCTV footage to identify further evidence, while local residents are being questioned to trace the accused. Police are also reviewing Mangla's digital footprints, including social media interactions, to understand his movements prior to the at-

This incident has reignited discussions on public safety and the adequacy of existing laws regarding stalking and harassment in Haryana. Officials reiterated that the state has a zero-tolerance policy for crimes against women and will strengthen preventive measures in public areas.

Hospital authorities said Kanishka is stable and receiving treatment for her injuries. Medical staff praised the timely response of local residents and police, which likely saved her life. The hospital has heightened security measures following the attack.Local community leaders have expressed concern over the prevalence of harassment and urged authorities to increase patrols and surveillance, particularly near schools, libraries, and

crowded public areas. The police have appealed to the public to remain vigilant and report suspicious activity immediately. Investigators emphasized that swift reporting could prevent similar attacks and assist in the apprehension of the accused.

Authorities confirmed that legal proceedings will follow once the suspect is apprehended, and charges of attempted murder, harassment, and criminal intimidation are expected to be filed. Officials assured that the case will be pursued rigorously to ensure justice for Kanishka.

The Faridabad administration has also announced plans to increase awareness campaigns about stalking, harassment, and women's safety, including community workshops, seminars in schools and colleges, and stricter monitoring of public

Special Trains from Haryana Ferry Bihar Voters Ahead of Polls

proaches the final phase of its Assembly elections, hundreds of migrant workers from the state boarded special trains from Panipat and Sonepat to return home and exercise their voting rights. The initiative was part of efforts to ensure maximum voter participation among migrants.

BJP leaders set up help desks at both stations to assist passengers with ticketing and boarding. On Monday, two special trains departed from Panipat one heading to Barauni and the other to Bhagalpur. Around 600 voters were flagged off by BJP district president Dushyant Bhatt and Mayor Komal Saini in a brief ceremony.

Bhatt emphasized that the initiative aimed to encourage voter participation, assuring migrant workers that factory owners would not deduct wages for the time they were away to vote. Although the party did not provide free tickets directly, BJP volunteers purchased them in bulk to simplify the process for passengers.

At Sonepat, similar arrangements were made. Party workers set up help desks to register voter details, distribute tickets, and provide food packets for the journey.

The stations had a festive atmosphere as passengers and party volunteers chanted election slogans and cheered the departing trains.

Party sources confirmed that return travel arrangements would be organized once polling concludes on November 6. Migrants and party officials alike described the initiative as a smooth and coordinated effort, helping voters fulfill their democratic duty without disruption to their liveli-

light the logistical challenges faced by migrant workers during elections, as many live and work far from their home constituencies. Local leaders said that initiatives like these are crucial to ensuring that migrant communities are not disenfranchised due to distance or work commitments.Officials at Panipat and Sonepat stations reported that ticketing and boarding processes were largely smooth, thanks to the coordination between party volunteers and railway staff. Food packets and water were distributed, and volunteers helped elderly passengers

and women with luggage. The BJP's effort also included awareness campaigns, with volunteers informing passengers about

polling procedures, voting rights, and the importance of participating in the democratic process. Leaflets and posters were displayed at stations to guide voters about their constituencies and poll-

ing booths. Passengers expressed gratitude for the assistance, saying that such arrangements made the journey hassle-free and allowed them to focus on casting their votes. Many workers mentioned that the initiative gave them reassurance that they could The special trains highparticipate in the elections without losing wages or em-

> Railway monitored the operations closely, ensuring that the special trains adhered to schedules and safety protocols. Additional staff were deployed to manage boarding, seating, and luggage handling efficiently.

> Local media covered the departures extensively, showing scenes of enthusiastic passengers waving and party leaders interacting with voters. The event also underscored the political significance of migrant voters in Bihar, highlighting how parties are facilitating their participation.

Election officials in Bihar welcomed the initiative, noting that logistical support from other states could help improve voter turnout in constituencies with high numbers of migrant workers. They said such measures are critical in upholding the democratic principle that every eligible voter should have the opportunity to cast their ballot.

Political analysts noted that while parties are legally prohibited from influencing votes during such initiatives, facilitating voter travel is a widely accepted practice in India and demonstrates efforts to increase democratic engagement.

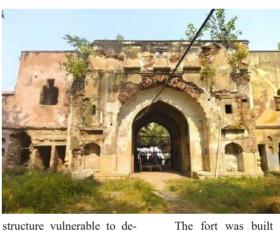
As the trains departed, many passengers expressed excitement at returning home after months of working away, combining the emotional reunion with a sense of civic responsibility. Party workers ensured that the departures were orderly, safe, and in line with railway norms.

The initiative is expected to continue until all migrant voters have been ferried back in time for polling, with arrangements for return journeys post-election. Authorities and party volunteers emphasized that the focus remains on ensuring smooth travel and encouraging maximum voter participation across all constituencies in Bihar.

Mahendragarh Fort to Get **Protected Status Soon**

Mahendragarh: historic Mahendragarh Fort, formerly known as Kanod Fort, is on the verge of being declared a protected monument under the Harvana Ancient and Historical Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1964. The move aims to safeguard the centuries-old fort, which, despite its rich architectural and cultural heritage, has suffered from years of neglect. A recent government notification revealed that the Governor has proposed the fort's inclusion in the official list of protected monuments. Spanning 149 kanals and 2 marlas, the fort is currently owned by the Haryana Heritage and Tourism Department. Citizens have been invited to submit objections or suggestions regarding the proposal within two months of the notification's publica-

Officials said this initiative is part of Haryana's broader plan to restore heritage sites and promote tourism in the state. Once the fort receives official protected status, the Archaeology Department will undertake renovation, maintenance, and preservation works. The fort's last significant repair took place over three years ago, leaving much of its



Mahendragarh district presently has 13 sites protected by the Archaeological Survey of India and three others safeguarded by the state archaeology department. Deputy General Manager (Tourism) Harendra Yadav confirmed that the process for protecting Mahendragarh Fort has official-

ly begun. Local residents have welcomed the announcement, expressing hope that the fort will soon regain its former glory and emerge as a prominent tourist destination. Many believe the move will boost local tourism, generate employment, and revive interest in the district's historical legacy

The fort was built in 1755 CE by the Maratha commander Tatya Tope, symbolizing the Maratha expansion into northern India. Its historical importance was later reinforced when Maharaja Narendra Singh of Patiala renamed it Mahendragarh Fort in 1860, in honour of his

son, Mahendra Singh.

Architecturally, Mahendragarh Fort is a remarkable blend of Rajput, Mughal, and Maratha styles, reflecting the region's layered history and the convergence of different cultural influences. Its walls, gates, and bastions bear testimony to strategic military planning and artistic sensibilities of the era.

The fort's elevated location offered a strategic vantage point, allowing defendthe surrounding plains. Historical records indicate that it played a role in regional power struggles, witnessing battles and serving as a key military outpost.

ers to monitor movements in

Despite its significance, years of neglect had left large sections of the fort dilapidated. Erosion, vegetation overgrowth, and lack of proper conservation measures had threatened its structural integrity. Preservation efforts are expected to reverse this damage and stabilize the fort for future generations.

Tourism officials noted that once restoration begins, the fort could host guided tours, cultural events, and educational programs, highlighting the region's history and attracting both domestic and international visitors. Heritage walks, light-andsound shows, and exhibition spaces are being considered as part of the tourism development plan.

The local administration is working closely with historians, archaeologists, and conservation experts to ensure that restoration preserves the fort's original features and historical authenticity. Traditional materials and techniques may be employed to retain its architectural integrity.

Loophole in Paddy Yield Limit May Have **Enabled Cross-Border Inflow from UP**

Karnal: Experts and officials have raised concerns that Haryana's fixed yield ceiling of 35 quintals per acre for issuing gate passes on the Meri Fasal Mera Byora (MFMB) portal may have inadvertently allowed paddy from Uttar Pradesh to enter the state's procurement system. The measure, intended to streamline procurement, has instead created a potential loophole that could be exploited by traders.

Despite adverse conditions—including floods. pest attacks, and erratic rainfall-which reportedly reduced actual yields to around 25 quintals per acre, the ceiling for gate pass issuance remained at 35 quintals. This discrepancy, officials say, allowed the system to mask incoming grain sourced from outside the state as le-



gitimate local produce, raising questions about the integrity of the procurement process.Dr. Virender Lather, a former scientist at the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), described the yield limit as "unscientific." He stressed that the government should have conducted

proper field assessments to

set realistic ceilings based on

actual crop conditions rather

than relying on fixed thresholds that do not reflect onground realities.

Farmers' unions have voiced strong objections, alleging that traders may have colluded with officials to exploit the loophole. They have called for a judicial inquiry to investigate the possibility of systematic irregularities in the procurement system, which could undermine both

local farmers' interests and

Joint Director (Statistics) Rajiv Mishra acknowledged that the ceiling could be misused. He clarified that the higher limit was initially intended to allow farmers to sell their entire produce without bureaucratic hurdles. However, he admitted that the policy may have inadvertently created an opportunity for cross-border inflow from Uttar Pradesh.

Officials indicated that corrective measures would be proposed for the next procurement season. Suggestions under consideration include recalibrating the yield ceiling based on field-level implementing survevs. stricter verification protocols, and enhancing audit mechanisms on the MFMB portal to prevent illegal or misreported transactions.

Observers noted that such loopholes can have wider economic implications, including inflating procurement costs, depriving local farmers of fair prices, and complicating grain quality control. Experts argue that aligning policy limits with actual crop yields and integrating real-time monitoring technology could help address these vulnerabilities. The MFMB portal, designed to digitize procurement and improve transparency, faces criticism over its current threshold system. Analysts say that without adjustments, the platform may continue to be used to legitimise external grain inflows under the guise

of local production, poten-

tially undermining food se-

curity measures.

Karnal Market Secretary, Three Others Booked in Paddy Procurement Scam manipulation of the procure-

Karnal: The Karnal police have registered a First Information Report (FIR) against Asha Rani, Secretary of the Karnal Market Committee, along with three others, in connection with alleged irregularities during the ongoing paddy procurement season.

The accused include Rajender Kumar from Duhanpur Viran, Amit Kumar from Dadupur Roran, and Ajay Kumar from Narukheri

The case came to light after Additional Deputy Commissioner Sonu Bhatt conducted a random verification, which revealed that multiple gate passes were issued using IP addresses located outside the Karnal grain market. Authorities allege that the mobile numbers of the three men were misused to generate fake gate passes from multiple locations, indicating a potetial ment process.

According to the FIR, Asha Rani may have engaged private individuals to assist in issuing the gate passes, bypassing established protocols and failing to ensure proper oversight of procurement operations. These actions are said to have compromised the integrity of the system, raising concerns over accountability in the distribution and verifi-

cation process. Superintendent of Police Ganga Ram Punia confirmed that the FIR was lodged under Section 318(4) based on a complaint from District Marketing Enforcement Officer Ishwar Singh. Deputy Commissioner Uttam Singh emphasized that strict action would be taken against any-

one found guilty in the case. In response to the allegations, the administration has intensified checks at Haryana-UP border points to prevent illegal paddy inflows. Officials have been instructed to verify stocks at mills and scrutinize CCTV footage from grain markets to detect further irregularities.

Authorities are also reviewing the MFMB (Meri Fasal Mera Byora) portal data to cross-check gate passes and ensure that only legitimate farmers and produce are included in the system. This follows broader concerns about loopholes allowing cross-border paddy to enter Haryana's procurement network. The FIR and ensuing in-

vestigations mark the first major enforcement action this season against procurement irregularities in Karnal. Officials are working to ensure that any malpractice is swiftly addressed to protect both local farmers and the transparency of government

Ashwin ruled out of Wolvaardt goes past Mandhana Big Bash League

Bengaluru: Veteran India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has been ruled out of the upcoming Big Bash League (BBL) season after sustaining a knee injury during training in Chennai, the cricketer announced to-

The 39-year-old, who was set to become the first Indian player to feature in the BBL, confirmed that he had undergone a medical procedure and will now focus on rehabilitation and recovery.

Ashwin, who retired from international cricket in December last year and from the IPL in August, was signed by Sydney Thunder for what would have been his debut appearance in Australia's premier T20 league, beginning December 14.

In a heartfelt message to fans, Ashwin expressed dis-



the tournament but thanked the Thunder management and supporters for their warmth. "I was genuinely

excited to be a part of this For now, it is rehab and

He added that he hopes to join the Thunder camp later in the season, subject to medical clearance.

to No 1 in ODI rankings

Dubai: A record Cricket World Cup campaign from Laura Wolvaardt has propelled the South Africa captain to the No.1 spot in the latest ICC Women's ODI Batting Rankings. Wolvaardt overtakes tournament winner Smriti Mandhana in the update, and it took an incredible effort to go to the top, making hundreds in both the Semi-Final and Final in India. The two innings took Wolvaardt to 571 runs, the most in a single edition of the tournament, and the run was rewarded with a two spot jump to top spot, and a career-high rating of 814. Mandhana, who held the top spot for the entirety of the World Cup, too was named in the Team of the Tournament, and makes way for Wolvaardt at the top to sit in second (811). Australia's Ellyse Perry meanwhile makes a top-ten move to seventh (669) with a knock of 77, sharing the spot with New Zealand's Sophie Devine, who has announced her retirement from the format.Jemimah Rodrigues' match-winning hundred against the Australians in the semi-final in Navi Mumbai meanwhile meant the 25-year-old enters the top ten, while Phoebe Litchfield made a13-spot jump



to a career-high 13th (637) thanks to a century in the same match. There was marked movement also in the Bowling Rankings, with South Africa's Marizanne Kapp now the closest to knock Sophie Ecclestone off top spot thanks to her 5/20 against England in the other World Cup semi-final.

Kapp moves two spots to a rating of 712, with Australians Annabel Sutherland (sixth) and Kim Garth (seventh)

making one-spot moves in the top 10. Shree Charani, who claimed three wickets across the two World Cup knockout matches, makes a move of seven spots to 23rd (511). World Cup Player of the Tournament Deepti Sharma cemented her credentials with seven wickets and 82 runs across the Semi-Final and Final at the tournament, moving her a spot up to fourth in the All-Rounder Rankings (392), overtaking Sutherland (388).

CAB celebrates Team India's triumph at Women's **Cricket World Cup with grand illumination**

Kolkata: The Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB) proudly celebrated the historic victory of Team India at the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 with a spectacular decorative display at the iconic Eden Gardens. The vibrant illumination and specially designed backdrop honouring the Indian women's cricket team created a dazzling spectacle, drawing admiration from cricket fans across

The front façade of the stadium was adorned with striking visuals of the victorious Indian team, bathed in radiant blue lights to reflect the spirit of pride and

The decoration stood as a tribute to the women's team's remarkable performance, which brought immense glory to the nation and inspired millions of aspiring cricketers.Speaking to the media, Sourav Ganguly, Former Indian Cricketer and President of CAB, said, "As the home of cricket in Bengal, we wanted to celebrate their success and express our heartfelt congratulations through this special tribute."

'Twenty years ago, when women's cricket struggled due to lack of infrastructure, not many were confident about its future. Kudos to all the women who fought hard to take the game to the next level," he said

"When I became the BCCI President, I was thrilled to work towards the upliftment of women's cricket and did my best to strengthen its foundation. Winning the 50-over World Cup is just the beginning women's cricket will go even bigger from here," Ganguly added.

recovery to come back stron-

ger," he wrote on social me-

The Cricket Association of Bengal has always been at the forefront of promoting both men's and women's cricket. This celebration underscores CAB's commitment to recognising the achievements of India's women cricketers and supporting the continued growth of women's cricket in the

Srihari, Dhinidhi to headline Nettakallappa swimming contest

Bengaluru: Olympians Srihari Nataraj and Dhinidhi Desinghu will headline the fourth edition of the Nettakallappa Swimming Competition, scheduled for November 8 and 9 at the Nettakallappa Aquatic Centre. The state of the art will see over 300 of India's top swimmers, who will compete for prize money exceeding Rs 10 lakh.

Srihari and Dhinidhi are among India's brightest swimming stars who have brought global recognition to the sport.

Bengaluru-born Srihari,

two-time Olympian who represented India at the Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024 Olympics, and has set multiple national records across the 50m, 100m, and 200m backstroke events.

Dhinidhi, one of India's youngest Olympians, competed at the Paris 2024 Games in the women's 200m freestyle, earning praise for her composure and potential at just 13 years of age. Both swimmers continue to inspire India's next generation of athletes through their dedication, discipline, and con-



sistent performances on the

Dr Varun Nijhaavan, Head of the Nettakallappa Aquatic Centre, said, "The

event will feature the country's elite swimmers, including national record holders and athletes from the Asian Aquatic Circuit." He further added that the competition

will also introduce the 'skin format', a fast-paced, elimination-style race, often described as the T20 of swimming, being held in India for the first time. Explaining the format,

Dr Nijhaavan said multiple swimmers compete in successive sprint rounds with minimal recovery time, eliminating the slowest after each race until the final two battle for victory. The highintensity format, popularised by the International Swimming League (ISL), promises spectators thrilling, non-stop action.

Massive crowds in Los Angeles celebrate **Dodgers' World Series championship**

Los Angeles: Hundreds of thousands of Dodgers fans poured into downtown Los Angeles to celebrate the team's repeat World Series championship.

The Dodgers' victory parade yesterday lasted about 45 minutes, beginning at 11:00 am local time. Despite the short duration, social media footage showed many fans arriving in the early morning hours to secure a viewing spot along the parade route.

Double-decker buses carrying Dodgers players

New Delhi: Three Indi-

and staff rolled slowly through the streets as earsplitting cheers erupted from the crowds chanting "Let's Go Dodgers," while blueand-white flags waved along

Following the parade, the team - the most successful in Major League Baseball over the past decade - held an official Championship Celebration at Dodger Stadium. The venue turned into a sea of blue, with more than 50.000 fans in attendance.

The team's second World Series in a row was also its third crown in the past six

On Saturday, the Dodgers clinched the 2025 World Series title with a 5-4, 11-inning victory over the Toronto Blue Jays, becoming the first team in 25 years to win backto-back championships. The New York Times described the game as "the greatest Game 7 in World Series history."Preliminary viewership data indicated that an average of 25.98 million people tuned in across all Fox platforms, making the Dodgers-Blue Jays finale the

most-watched World Series game since 2017. During the first inning of

Saturday's game, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass said she was hoping for a victory that would lift the city's mo-

"I want to see 200,000 people out in the street, celebrating peacefully, having a good time," she said. "The Dodgers are part of our DNA, and the city has been on pins and needles. Given the year we've had, we can use this burst of adrenaline, this burst of goodwill."

Rybakina Stuns Swiatek with impressive comeback to reach WTA Finals

Riyadh: Sixth seed Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan produced a remarkable comeback performance to stun second seed Iga Swiatek in the group stage of the WTA Finals 2025 in Riyadh, sealing her place in the semifinals with a match still to play.

The victory marked a significant turnaround for Rybakina, who had lost all four of her previous encounters against Swiatek this season. This time, however, she found the composure and firepower to overcome the world No. 2 on one of tennis's biggest stages.

Swiatek began the contest in familiar dominant fashion, immediately asserting control from the baseline. The Pole broke Rybakina's serve early in the opening set and dictated the rallies with her precision and depth, taking the set 6-3 in just over half an hour. At that stage, few could have pre-

dicted the dramatic shift that was about to unfold. Rybakina, known for her calm demeanor and heavy-hitting style, regrouped impressively at the start of the second set, adjusting her tactics to counter Swiatek's rhythm.

The Kazakh star began serving with greater accuracy, finding her first serves at crucial moments and following them up with blistering forehands. As her confidence grew, Swiatek's consistency began to waver, leading to a string of unforced errors from the usually disciplined baseliner.

Rybakina broke Swiatek twice in quick succession, racing ahead to take the second set 6-1, levelling the contest and swinging the momentum firmly in her favour. The transformation was complete as the match entered the deciding set.In the third set, Rybakina played with complete authority, mixing pace with precision and dominating the rallies from both wings. Swiatek appeared increasingly frustrated as her timing deserted her, while Rybakina's aggression only intensified. Showing no signs of letting up, the Kazakh reeled off six consecutive games to take the final set 6-0, producing a stunning bagel against one of the game's most consistent performers.

India trio in ICC Women's WC 2025 team

an cricket stars - Smriti Mandhana, Jemimah Rodrigues, and Deepti Sharma - have been named in the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 Team of the Tournament, recognising their remarkable performances throughout the marquee event. The trio played pivotal roles in steering India to a memorable World Cup triumph, marking another high point in the country's journey in women's cricket. Their consistency, match-winning contributions, and leadership under pressure stood out across the tournament's high-stakes encounters.

Smriti Mandhana, India's vice-captain and toporder lynchpin, delivered a series of authoritative innings, amassing 434 runs across the tournament. Her ability to anchor the innings while maintaining an attacking tempo proved crucial in several matches.Mandhana's standout moment came during the league stage clash against New Zealand, where she crafted a fluent century that laid the platform for India's dominant win. Her form with the bat earned her widespread praise for combining grace with grit under testing conditions.Jemimah Rodrigues, meanwhile, rein-



forced her growing reputation as one of the most dependable finishers in the women's game. Her calm temperament and ability to accelerate the scoring rate in crunch moments made her indispensable in India's middle order.Jemimah's unbeaten 127 not out in the final remains one of the defining performances of the World Cup. Her knock not only steadied the innings after early setbacks but also guided India to a formidable total that ultimately secured their championship glory.On the bowling front, Deepti Sharma was India's trump card. The all-rounder emerged as the leading wicket-taker of the tournament, claiming 22 wickets, including a brilliant five for 39 in the final. Her ability to control the middle overs and deliver break-

throughs underlined her immense value to the side. Deepti's tactical nous and variations troubled batters from all teams, earning her the distinction of being one of the most impactful players of the competition. Her performances further cemented her place as one of the world's premier spin all-rounders. The ICC Team of the Tournament, featuring 12 players, was captained by Africa's South Laura Wolvaardt, who also had an exceptional run with the bat. Wolvaardt's leadership and consistency were instrumental in her team's strong showing throughout the event. South Africa's representation in the team extended to Marizanne Kapp and Nadine de Klerk, both of whom contributed significantly with both bat and ball.

the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on Tuesday announced the appointment of Vidya Bhaskar as a member of the Sub-Committee of the Jammu and Kashmir Cricket As-

Jammu: The Apex Council of

sociation (JKCA). The decision marks an important administrative change aimed at strengthening the governance and development structure of cricket in the Union Territo-According to the official commu-

nique issued by the BCCI, Bhaskar

Dubai: New Zealand

succeeds Mithun Manhas, who recently assumed charge as the President of the BCCI following his election during the 94th Annual General Meeting held on September 28, 2025. Manhas's elevation created a vacancy within the JKCA Sub-Committee, which Bhaskar will now fill.

A distinguished former First-Class cricketer, Vidya Bhaskar brings a wealth of on-field experience to the During his active years, he repre-

sented Jammu and Kashmir in the

Ranji Trophy, serving as a dependable top-order batter and a useful part-time off-spinner.

Over a career spanning 48 First-Class matches, Bhaskar scored 2,178 runs, showcasing both technical proficiency and consistency. His record includes three centuries and twelve half-centuries, achievements that earned him widespread respect among peers and fans alike.

Bhaskar's contributions to Jammu and Kashmir cricket extended beyond his personal performances.

Known for his disciplined approach and leadership qualities, he captained the side during several domestic seasons, guiding a generation of young cricketers in the region.

Following his playing days, Bhaskar seamlessly transitioned into administrative and coaching roles. He has previously served the JKCA as a selector, coach. and mentor, contributing to play-

er development and talent identification across the Union Territories of Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Tim Seifert ruled out of West Indies tour; Mitch Hay may step in

BCCI appoints former cricketer Vidya Bhaskar to JKCA Sub-Committee

have suffered a major setback ahead of their T20 World Cup 2026 preparations, with wicketkeeperbatter Tim Seifert ruled out of the upcoming tour of the West Indies after sustaining a fractured right index finger during a domestic match earlier this week. According to the International Cricket Council (ICC), Seifert was forced to retire hurt while batting for Northern Districts after being struck by a rising delivery. Subsequent medical scans confirmed a fracture, prompting immediate withdrawal from New Zealand's touring squad. The injury comes as a significant blow for the 30-year-old, who has been one of New Zealand's most consistent performers in the T20 format over the past year. His ag-

gressive top-order batting

and sharp wicketkeeping had made him a central figure in the Black Caps' shortformat setup.
In Seifert's absence,

Mitch Hay has been drafted into the touring party as a replacement. However, Devon Conway is also being considered as a potential wicketkeeping option, which could see Hay remain on the sidelines depending on the team's final playing combination.Team sources indicated that Conway, who has previously donned the gloves for New Zealand, might take on dual responsibilities behind the stumps, offering the management greater flexibility in the batting order. The final decision is expected to be made closer to the opening match.Seifert's injury could not have come at a worse time for New Zealand, who are in the



midst of fine-tuning their squad for next year's T20 World Cup in India and Sri Lanka. His recent form with the bat had been exceptional, averaging over 50 with a strike rate of 164.41 across the past season. Head Coach Rob Walter expressed disappointment over Seifert's setback, acknowledging the impact it could have on the team's build-up to the marquee event. "He showed in the recent T20 series that he's

building up to top form," Walter said. "It's disappointing that this momentum has been halted just as we continue our preparation for a pinnacle event."Walter added that the medical team is optimistic about Seifert's recovery timeline. "We're hopeful that Tim's recovery will be quick and that he'll be back on the park as soon as possible. He's a vital part of our plans, and we'll be supporting him throughout his

The coach also praised

professionalism and resilience, noting that he has overcome injuries in the past and returned stronger. His absence, however, leaves a noticeable gap in New Zealand's batting depth and wicketkeeping options ahead of a crucial international phase.Replacement Mitch Hay brings promising credentials to the squad. The young wicketkeeper-batter has featured in 11 T20 Internationals since debuting against Sri Lanka in Dambulla last year, impressing with his agility and sharp reflexes behind the stumps. Hay made headlines early in his international career when he effected a record six dismissals in a single T20I innings during New Zealand's emphatic win over Sri Lan-





MARKE

BSE Sensex	
Close	Percent chenge
83,459.15	-0.62%
Previous close	Open
83,978.49	84,000.64
High	Low 22 412 77

Nifty 50	
Close	Percent chenge
97.65	-0.64%
ous close	Open
63.35	25,744.75
High	Low
87 40	25 578 40

NITTY 500	
Close	Percent chenge
3,675.45	-0.57%
evious close	Open
3,810.70	23,811.30
High 3,829.70	Low 23,660.20

Percent chenge	Close
-0.45%	70,168.80
Open	Previous close
70,493.80	70,483.30
Low	High
70,108.45	70,551.15

Niftv Next 50

Close 26,284.45	Percent chenge 0.61%
Previous close 26,445.85	Open 26,430.55
High 26,465.60	Low 26,267.05

Nifty 100

	runcy barne	
Close 57,827.05	Percent chenge 0.47%	
Previous close 58,101.45	Open 57,966.65	
High 58,119.65	Low 57,732.95	

Nifty Bank

Nifty	Nifty Midcap 100	
Close 60,037.20	Percent chenge -0.42%	
Previous close 60,287.40	Open 60,351.55	
High 60,361.70	Low 59,961.75	

Top Gainers

Company	Current	% Gain
Titan Company	3,813.50	2.39
Bharti Airtel	2,113.30	1.89
Bajaj Finance	1,057.00	1.33
SBI	957.60	0.83
HDFC Life	742.45	0.88

Top Losers

Company	Current	%Loss
Power Grid Corp	279.05	-3.11
Eternal	313.50	-2.82
Coal India	377.55	-2.83
TMPV	406.50	-2.52
ONGC	252.35	-2.02

Commodities

Commodity	Price	Change (%)
Gold Dec 05	120,944.00	-465.00 -0.38
Silver Dec 05	146,125.00	-1,633.00 -1.11
Crudeoil Nov 19	5,344.00	-103.00 -1.89
Naturalgas Nov 24	374.20	-4.20 -1.11

Armada opens new office in **Technopark Phase III Campus**

Thiruvananthapuram : USheadquartered Armada, a pioneer in Edge Computing and Artificial Intelligence (AI) products, inaugurated its expanded office in the Embassy Taurus Niagara building at Technopark Phase III campus.

The new facility was inaugurated by Pradeep Nair, Founding CTO of Armada, in the presence of Col Sanjeev Nair (Retd), CEO, Technopark; Sarath Chandran, MD & Head, Armada India; Anish Swaminathan, VP of Engineering; Technopark officials, Embassy representatives, and Armada India

Armada, which began its India operations at Technopark a year ago with a 28-seater facility, has now scaled up to a 150 seater office, reflecting its rapid growth and strong potential.

"The biggest ambassadors of Technopark are our companies, and Armada is a fine example of that," noted Col Sanjeev Nair (Retd)

"Technopark provides a conducive ecosystem with worldclass infrastructure, comprehensive support services, significant cost advantages, and access to exceptional talent," said Sarath Chandran.

"Initially, we were exploring spaces outside Technopark to start our India operations, but it was the Park's leadership that encouraged us to set up within the campus and accelerate the process," added Pradeep Nair.

Armada has built a strong R&D base in Kerala, employing a large team of engineers, product managers, and designers, and continues to expand its workforce. The company was recently ranked #2 on LinkedIn's Top Startups in Seattle list

While the US and Middle East remain its key markets, Armada is now gearing up for broader global expansion, including India.

From Technopark to the world, Armada is engineering the next generation of intelligent edge systems that redefine industrial

Through its collaboration with DeepIQ, the company is bringing intelligence closer to where data is created—enabling real-time decision-making and smarter, more resilient industrial

Indian stock markets end lower amid weak global cues

markets ended lower on Tuesday as renewed selling pressure hit information technology (IT) and metal shares in the second half of the trading session.

After opening on a positive note, the Sensex gave up its early gains and closed 519.34 points, or 0.62 per cent, down at 83,459.15.

During the intra-day session, the index had briefly risen 0.11 per cent before turning negative. The Nifty also slipped 165.70 points, or 0.64 per cent, to end at 25,597.65.

"The Nifty continued its lower highs and lower lows formation, slipping below the 25,600 mark. Momentum indicators and oscillators have given a sell crossover on the daily chart, indicating that short-term weakness is likely to per-



placed at the 21-DMA near 25,570, followed by psychological support at 25,500 levels. On the contrary, a decisive move above 25,800 would negate the bearish setup and open the door for a fresh upside," they added.

the Sensex stocks, Power Grid, Eternal, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles, Tata Steel and Maruti

On the other hand, Titan, Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Finance, Mahindra & Mahindra and

Suzuki were the major los-

State Bank of India managed

The broader markets also weakened in line with the benchmark indices. The Nifty Midcap 100 index ended 0.42 per cent lower, while the Nifty SmallCap 100 index declined 0.82 per cent.

Vanguard opens its Global Value Centre in Hyderabad

one of the world's leading investment management firms, today announced the inauguration of its 'Global Value Centre (GVC) in Hyderabad, reinforcing the City's position as a global hub for financial technology and innovation.

The facility was inaugurated by Minister for IT and Indutries D Sridhar Babu. This centre reflects Vanuard's recognition of India, and particularly Telangana, as a strategic centre for innovation, talent development, and digital transformation.

Today, Vanguard stands as one of the strongest global value centres, building deep tech, engineering, and innovation capabilities across Cybersecurity, Ouantum, AI. ML. and Data Science. Speaking on the occasion, Sridhar Babu said, "Despite challenging global market conditions and a complex geopolitical landscape, we successfully anchored over 70 Global Capability Centres (GCCs) last year. We're not stopping here. We aim to anchor 120 new GCCs next year, creating over 1.2 lakh

We understand that the skills driving the future lie in deep tech, innovation, and engineering."He commended Vanguard's vision and reaffirmed Telangana's commitment to fostering global partnership and innovation."

The new GVC will serve as a hub for engineering excellence, cloud modernization, data analytics, artificial intelligence and machine learning, and cybersecurity. It will also feature collaborative labs designed to accelerate innovation across Vanguard's digital platforms and



ing an elite group of global financial leaders that have chosen Hyderabad as their innovation hub.

The city now hosts all seven of the world's top asset management companies, iners such as Goldman Sachs (\$3.2 trillion), Invesco (\$2 trillion), UBS (\$1.6 trillion), and Franklin Templeton (\$1.5 trillion).

over \$30 trillion in assets, a value nearly equivalent to the combined GDP of India, China, and Japan, reaffirming Hyderabad's position as a global command centre for financial innovation and technology, the Minister

With the addition of Vanguard, Hyderabad has become the global city that powers global capital and wealth, he said it has emerged as one of the global innovation hubs, truly positioning itself as the "capital" of the world. Speaking on the occasion, Vanguard Global Chief Information Officer (CIO) Nitin Tandon said, "Hyderabad represents a thriving technology ecosystem with talent and ambition that underpins Vanguard's commitment to provide our investors a world-class digital experience.

Hyd: Black Gold Recycling acquires major stake in Reteck envirotech

Hyderabad: Gold Recycling, a Hyderabad-based circular economy startup, today said it has acquired a majority stake in Reteck Envirotech Pvt. Ltd., an Indian subsidiary of Hong Kong and US-based Li Tong Group, a global leader in reverse supply chain management and electronics lifecycle solutions.

The acquisition strengthens Black Gold's mission of building a technology-driven and scalable circular economy platform in India, the company said in a release

By combining Reteck's in-depth operational experience along with Black Gold's innovation-led recovery models, the partnership will expand sustainable recycling solutions for lithium-ion batteries, plastics, solar panels, and end-of-life electronics.

This acquisition expands Black Gold's sustainable reverse supply chain capabilities across batteries, plastics,



and solar panels As part of the acquisi-

tion, Mr. Pankaj Tirmanwar, CEO of Reteck Envirotech Pvt. Ltd., will join Black Gold as Co-founder and Board Member, and play a key role in strengthening Black Gold's nationwide Speaking on the acquisi-

tion, Prabhu Ram, Founder & CEO of Black Gold Recycling, said, "This acquisition

brings together Reteck's global operational expertise and our technology-led recovery platform to create a stronger, more responsible ecosystem for e-waste management in India."

"The business of Black Gold is deeply aligned with the Critical Mineral Mission Plan of the Government of India, as we focus on recovering strategic materials from e-waste, batteries.

AP: REC sanctions Rs 7,500 Cr. funding for Brookfield's renewable energy project

Vijayawada: In a major boost to Andhra Pradesh's clean-energy ambitions, the Rural Electrification Corporation (REC) has sanctioned a record Rs 7,500 crore funding for Brookfield's 1,040 MW hybrid renewable-energy project at Kurnool, comprising 640 MW of wind and 400 MW of solar capacity.

The total project cost is estimated at Rs 9,910 crore, and this represents the single largest REC sanction ever extended to a private-sector project.

The project is being developed by Evren, a cleanenergy platform launched by Brookfield and Axis Energy as a joint venture. Evren has already lined up over 3 GW of renewable projects across Kurnool and Anantapur, forming part of Brookfield's broader 8,000 MW pipeline in Andhra Pradesh with a total investment of Rs 50,000

This major milestone follows Minister Nara Lokesh's meeting with Brookfield Global President Connor Teskey in London in August 2025, where both sides explored opportunities for deeper collaboration across renewable energy, AI-ready data centres, and green infrastructure.

Brookfield is one of the world's largest alternative investment managers, with over USD 1 trillion in assets under management and a leadership position in renewable power with around 46 GW of installed capacity and a development pipeline of nearly 200 GW globally.

Its India portfolio spans renewable energy, infrastructure, data centres, and real estate, and the Andhra Pradesh programme represents a cornerstone of expanding Brookfield's green footprint in Asia.

According to industry experts, this REC-funded project is the first in the country to combine statelevel grid connectivity with a firm and dispatchable renewable power purchase agreement (PPA) under the Firm and Dispatchable Renewable Energy (FDRE) framework. The hybrid wind-solar structure, coupled with battery storage, will ensure continuous power supply and enhance grid reliability

Speaking on the development, Andhra Pradesh IT and Electronics Minister Nara Lokesh said: "Andhra Pradesh is rapidly emerging as India's renewable-energy

We are delighted to partner with global leaders like Brookfield in building the next generation of sustainable infrastructure that creates jobs, drives industrial growth, and strengthens our energy security.'



Together, these institu-

tions collectively manage

Fabex Steel Structures inaugurates Rs 120 Cr 2nd manufacturing unit in Telangana

Hyderabad: abad based Fabex Steel Structures today announced the commissioning of its second manufacturing unit at Chityal, near Hyderabad.

Built with an investment of Rs 120 crore and spread across 40 acres, the new unit marks a significant step in the company's long-term capacity, and business expansion strategy.

The Chityal facility adds 50,000 MT of annual production capacity, bringing Fabex's total to 100,000 MT across its two units, the company said in a release here.

The company also operates a high-capacity plant in Vijayawada, supporting domestic and export demand for pre-engineered buildings and structural steel solutions.Fabex plans to invest an additional Rs 100 crore over the next 2-3 years to further enhance manufacturing capabilities and drive innovation.

The new unit will focus producing pre-engineered buildings for industrial applications including factories, warehouses, and



logistics infrastructure.

Fabex Steel Structures

Co-Founder and Managing Director Venu Chava said, "The Rs 100-crore follow-on investment over the next 24-36 months will focus on automation, throughput enhancement, and product diversification,""With a combined annual capacity of 100,000 MT, we now have the scale to support multisite PEB rollouts and turnkey design-to-installation projects across India and overseas. We are planning to diversify into new segments" said I V Ramana Raju, Co-Founder and CEO

of Fabex Steel Structures.

Fabex, with a turnover of Rs 463 crore, employs 400 people and plans to double its workforce to 800 as operations ramp up.

The company is targeting Rs 1,000 crore in revenue over three years, backed by 70 percent client retention and expanding global reach.

Fabex exports to three continents, with key markets in North America, Africa, and the Middle East. The company is actively exploring new geographies to expand its global reach.

CtrlS Datacenters signs strategic **MoU with NTPC Green Energy**

Hvderabad: CtrlS Datacenters Ltd, Asia's largest Rated-4 datacentre operator, today announced that the company has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL), a subsidiary of NTPC Limited, for renewable energy ties.

The MoU was signed between CtrlS Founder & CEO Sridhar Pinnapureddy and NGEL CEO Sarit Maheshwari. As part of the MoU, CtrlS and NGEL aim to jointly es-

tablish grid connected Renewable Energy projects / assets with a capacity of up to 2 GW or more through greenfield development and/or acquisitions, for the supply of renewable power to CtrlS for its captive consumption on mutual agreement or any other business as may be mutually decided between the parties

The MoU shall be in force for two years with a provision to extend further. Commenting on the landmark MoU. Sridhar



Pinnapureddy,said, "Partnering with NGEL enables us to power our

datacenters with renewable energy, enhance efficiency, and advance our commitment to net-zero operations. Together, we're demonstrating that innovation and sustainability can - and must - go hand in hand in driving the next era of digital infrastructure."Highlighting the importance of the MoU, Sarit Maheshwari, said, "NGEL is committed towards reducing our carbon footprint and contributing to a cleaner, more sustainable future for India, and the world at large.