



Aryan Age

PRGI No.- MHENG/25/A0943 | VOL - 1 | ISSUE 141 | 8 PAGES | ₹ 2.00




BEST Workers Announce Indefinite Strike

PG.3




Tanya Maniktala: Mumbai has given me so many opportunities to fulfill my dreams

PG.6



Australia get Maxwell boost with T20 series on line

PG.7



Market fails to build on opening hours gains, nears day's low on final hour selling

PG.8

Voting ends for first phase, 64.66% voter turnout recorded

Patna : Bihar’s 121 out of the total 243 assembly constituencies voted today in the first phase of 2025 state assembly election in a crucial triangular contest between Bharatiya Janata Party and Janata Dal (United) led-National Democratic Alliance, Rashtriya Janata Dal and Indian National Congress-led Mahagathbandhan (or Grand Alliance) and Prashant Kishor’s Jan Suraj Party. Polling started at 7 am and concluded at 6pm.

Bihar recorded an overall voter turnout of 64.6% in the first phase of polling, data from the Election Commission showed. Among the districts, Begusarai registered the highest turnout at 67.32%, while Sheikhpura recorded the lowest at 52.36% till 5pm.

Several key candidates fielded by both—the ruling NDA and the opposition Mahagathbandhan—are set to face the voters in high-stakes contests across the state. These candidates include BJP leader and Bihar’s deputy chief minister Samrat Choudhary fighting from Tarapur, Mahagathbandhan’s chief ministerial face and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav fighting from Raghopur, Tejashwi’s brother Tej Pratap fighting from Mahua on the ticket of his own outfit fighting from Mokama, who is currently in jail in connection with the murder of Jan Suraj supporter Dularchand Yadav.

Prashant Kishor’s Jan Suraj Party is also making its electoral debut with this assembly election, making it a three-way fight.

RJD’s Tejashwi Yadav is aiming to continue his winning streak in the Raghopur constituency, where he is up against BJP’s Satish Kumar, who had defeated Yadav’s mother Rabri Devi from the seat in 2010 while he contesting on a JD(U) symbol.

Janshakti Janata Dal, BJP’s Maithili Thakur fighting from Alinagar, and JD(U)’s Anant Singh

Mumbai ranked Asia's Happiest city for 2025

New Delhi: Mumbai has secured the top spot in Asia as the happiest city for 2025, according to a new survey by Time Out. The selection was based on cultural vibrancy, culinary scene, nightlife and quality of life parameters. Beijing and Shanghai followed in second and third positions.

Chiang Mai (Thailand) and Hanoi (Vietnam) rounded off the top five happiest cities list. More than 90% participants from the two Chinese metros expressed they were satisfied and content with their living environment — owing to modern amenities, heritage wealth and a young demographic atmosphere.

The survey included responses from over 18,000 people. Among Mumbai residents, 94% said the city gives them happiness and 89% claimed they feel happier here than anywhere else. Around 87% said the city’s happiness index has gone up in recent years.

Meanwhile, some famous East Asian cities known globally for lifestyle ranking did not match happiness expectations. Tokyo saw only about 70% people responding positively - suggesting global popularity does not always reflect contentment among residents.

Asia’s Top 10 Happiest Cities – 2025 (Time Out Survey Result)

- Mumbai
- Beijing
- Shanghai
- Chiang Mai
- Hanoi
- Jakarta
- Hong Kong
- Bangkok
- Singapore
- Seoul

PM Modi attacks RJD’s 15-year rule, “Era of corruption and jungle raj”

New Delhi: On the day of voting in Bihar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a sharp attack on the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), recalling its 15-year rule as a period marked by “katta, katuta, krurta, kushasan, kusanskar, and corruption” describing it as Bihar’s “dark era.”

Addressing a public rally in Araria, the Prime Minister urged voters to once again repose faith in the NDA, which has governed Bihar for the past two decades.

“I am telling you about the power of your vote. Your grandparents, maternal grandparents’ one vote had made Bihar the land of social justice. But then, the 90s decade came, and RJD’s jungle raj attacked Bihar. Jungle Raj means - pistol, cruelty, corruption and misgovernance. These became the identity of jungle raj, and this became Bihar’s misfortune. Your parents’ dreams were crushed,” he said.

The Prime Minister praised Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for leading Bihar out of the “dark era,” asserting that the NDA government has accelerated development since 2014.

“Under Nitish ji, Bihar has been pulled out of jungle raj. Since the formation of the government, Bihar’s progress has gained momentum. IIT has opened in Patna, IIM in Bodh Gaya, AIIMS in Patna, work on AIIMS Darbhanga is progressing fast, a National Law University has been established, IIT has come up in Bhagalpur, and four central universities have also been set up in the state,” Modi said.

Highlighting the government’s stance on internal security, PM Modi



said the NDA is “honestly identifying infiltrators” and working to deport them.

“A big challenge before our development efforts is that of infiltrators. The NDA government is working with full sincerity to identify and deport them,” he stated.

Accusing the RJD and Congress of protecting infiltrators, Modi alleged that opposition leaders were spreading lies and organizing rallies to “mislead people.”

“These RJD and Congress people are busy saving infiltrators. They spread falsehoods and conduct political tours to confuse the public,” he said.

After addressing the rally in Araria, the Prime Minister is scheduled to hold another public meeting in Bhagalpur later in the day as part of his campaign for the second phase of the Bihar Assembly elections.

Local Train Runs Over Four Commuters

Two Dead, Three Injured; Blame Game Begins Over Employee Protest Chaos

Mumbai : A major accident took place on Thursday evening at Mumbai’s Masjid Bunder railway station. Four commuters walking along the tracks were run over by a Central Railway suburban local train. Two person died on the spot while three others sustained serious injuries.

According to reports, the incident occurred during a complete disruption of Mumbai suburban rail services, caused by a sudden protest by Central Railway staff unions. The strike lasted for nearly an hour and halted services on both the Central and Harbour railway lines, leading to massive overcrowding at key stations like CSMT, Dadar, Thane and Kurla.

The protest was carried out between 5:40 PM and 6:40 PM at CSMT to oppose



the criminal case filed against two railway engineers in connection with a previous accident near Mumbra. The case, registered four months after the accident, charged the engineers with culpable homicide for negligence related to track maintenance.

As local trains remained suspended and there was no clarity on when services would resume, several frustrated commuters climbed down onto the tracks and started walking towards their destinations. Minutes later, after senior officials intervened, the protest was withdrawn and services slowly restarted. Unfortunately, at the same time, a fast-approaching train struck the group of commuters walking from Sandhurst Road towards Masjid Bunder, resulting in the tragic incident.

Passengers have blamed the sudden protest and poor administrative planning for the tragedy. The biggest question now being raised is: who should be held responsible for this death – the system that filed criminal cases against engineers, the protesting railway employees who halted train services, or the desperate passengers who risked their lives by stepping onto the railway tracks?

In June 2025, an accident near Mumbra station claimed four lives and injured nine others. The victims were hanging from the doorway of a packed local train when they collided with each other due to overcrowding and fell off. Four months later, railway police filed culpable homicide charges against two divisional railway engineers for negligence and alleged failure to maintain track safety.

This police action sparked severe anger among railway staff. Motor-men and railway unions responded by stopping work at CSMT without prior notice on Thursday evening, causing chaos across Mumbai’s busiest peak hour commute. The sudden halt led to stampede-like rush on platforms and forced many passengers to walk on tracks – ultimately leading to the Masjid Bunder tragedy.

CM Fadnavis orders inquiry into Pune land scam, two officials suspended

Mumbai : Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Thursday ordered the suspension of the tehsildar and sub-registrar in connection with the alleged Pune land scam involving Parth Pawar, son of Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar.

Fadnavis assured that a detailed investigation would be conducted and strict action taken if irregularities are found.

The case pertains to land in Pune’s Koregaon Park, valued at around Rs 1,800 crore, which was allegedly purchased for just Rs 300 crore by a company associated with Parth Pawar.

Reports claim that the registration of the land was done by paying only Rs 500 in stamp duty, after the transaction was given special concessions.

Fadnavis stated that all relevant documents have been sought and

vote manipulation, mocked Fadnavis’s claims, calling them a “lavangi firecracker, not a hydrogen bomb.” He said that TV news teams who visited the locations cited by Gandhi found the voters present there, and accused Gandhi of showing morphed images during the press briefing.

Fadnavis further alleged that Rahul Gandhi is “walking the path of foreign powers” that seek to destabilize India’s democracy. “By questioning the armed forces, undermining constitutional institutions, and spreading distrust against government bodies, Gandhi is echoing the agenda of anti-India elements. This is deeply unfortunate,” Fadnavis said.

Commenting on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi’s press conference over alleged



the matter will be probed thoroughly. No one will be shielded in this case. Wherever irregularities are found, stern action will follow, he asserted.

Paying homage to Ramayana-linked region, Yogi said the area, was founded by the descendants

RG claims Vote Fraud: Brazilian Model Video goes viral, Photographer targeted online

New Delhi: A day after Rahul Gandhi posted a photo of a woman — alleging it was used multiple times in Haryana voter IDs as evidence of poll manipulation — the woman in the picture has spoken up, and the controversy has now triggered headlines across Brazil.

The woman identified as Larissa Nery, a former Brazilian model, confirmed that the image circulating is hers. She said she has never travelled to India and does not have any involvement in Indian politics. She also revealed journalists from India have been trying to reach her after Rahul Gandhi shared the image. The photographer, Matheus Ferrero, who originally captured her photo in 2017, has now deleted his Instagram account after facing intense trolling and unwanted attention. The photo was legally shared on free stock picture platforms like Pexels and Unsplash where it was downloaded over four lakh times and featured globally.

Speaking to Brazilian media outlet Aos Fatos, Ferrero said hackers targeted his accounts and strangers online flooded him with abusive messages, unaware that the picture was freely available for open usage. Rahul Gandhi alleged that the same model’s photo appeared 22 times under different Indian female identities at 10 polling stations in Haryana.

PM Modi to launch four new Vande Bharat Express trains in Varanasi on Saturday

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate four new Vande Bharat Express trains from Varanasi on Saturday, marking a major milestone in India’s efforts to modernize its rail network, a government release today said.

Scheduled to commence at 8:15 am, this initiative reflects the government’s commitment to enhancing regional connectivity and fostering economic growth through world-class transport services.

The new trains will ply the Banaras-Khajuraho, Lucknow–Saharanpur, Firozpur–Delhi, and Ernakulam–Bengaluru routes, significantly cutting travel times and improving convenience for millions of passengers.

The Banaras-Khajuraho route will link important spiritual and cultural destinations such as Varanasi, Prayagraj, Chitrakoot, and the UNESCO heritage site of Khajuraho, reducing travel time by nearly three hours. This is expected to boost



Vande Bharat will become the fastest service on this route, completing the journey in 6 hours and 40 minutes. It aims to strengthen ties between Delhi and major Punjab cities like Firozpur, Bathinda, and Patiala, further supporting trade, tourism, and employment, especially in border areas.

In southern India, the Ernakulam–Bengaluru train will reduce travel time by over two hours, connecting vital IT and commercial hubs across Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka. This route is expected to enhance economic collaboration and tourism between the states.

These new services highlight the government’s dedication to revolutionizing India’s rail infrastructure, elevating the travel experience, and driving inclusive development across the country.

Jo Ram Ka Nahi, Wo Humare Kisi Kaam Ka Nahi: CM Yogi

Sitamarhi: As Uttar Pradesh’s chief minister Yogi Adityanath’s electoral rally swept into Sitamarhi, named after Lord Rama’s wife and queen of Ayodhya, on Thursday, huge crowds converged to turn the event into a colourful fiesta with songs and chants of “Jai Shri Ram!”

Yogi, who came to drum up support for NDA candidates Gayatri Devi (BJP) and Nagendra Raut (JDU), thundered “Jo Ram Ka Nahi, Wo Humare Kisi Kaam Ka Nahi! (Those who don’t embrace Rama, are of no use to us)”, while branding opposition parties as having opposed the construction of a Rama temple at Ayodhya.

The chief minister of neighbouring UP highlighted the steps taken to end mafia and crime in the area and announced that a magnificent temple of Sita will be built in the district. “The countdown for the mafia in Bihar has begun,” he said.

Paying homage to Ramayana-linked region, Yogi said the area, was founded by the descendants

of Lord Rama’s brother Lakshman and is a “sacred land for every Indian.”

Taking a sharp swipe at the opposition, CM Yogi asked who was responsible for “pushing Bihar’s youth into an identity crisis.”

He claimed that while “Bihar gave India Lord Buddha, Mahavira, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Jayaprakash Narayan, and Karpoori Thakur”, RJD and Congress “reduced this glorious land to a state of corruption and anarchy.”

He reminded the crowd that “the Congress and RJD



had opposed the Rama Temple movement, even said, “Ram Lalla Hum Ayenge, Mandir Wahi

questioning Lord Rama’s existence and firing on Ram devotees”, adding “But we Banayenge (Lord Rama. we will come to build the temple at Ayodhya.”

Announcing that a magnificent temple will soon rise at ‘Maa Janaki Dham’ in Sitamarhi, CM Yogi said only the NDA has turned such promises of faith into reality.

Referring to the nation’s transformation under Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s leadership, CM Yogi said, “In the last 11 years, both the face and destiny of India have changed.” He highlighted the rapid progress in road, electricity, water, rail, and air connectivity in Bihar, along with the establishment of medical and engineering colleges in every district of the eastern state.

“Welfare schemes have reached every home, 80 crore people have received free rations, 50 crore have health insurance, 12 crore benefited from Ujjwala Yojana, 4 crore got housing, and 3 crore received free electricity connections. The NDA ensures these benefits reach every poor person without discrimination,” he said.

Appealing to the people, CM Yogi said, “Jo Ram Ka Nahi, Wo Humare Kisi Kaam

Ka Nahi. Like Uttar Pradesh, mafia rule will also end in Bihar. The countdown for dynastic mafias has begun.” He urged the people to “press the lotus and arrow buttons to take Bihar forward on the path of development.”

Mithilesh Kumar of the BJP won the Sitamarhi seat by defeating Sunil Kumar of the RJD with a margin of 11475 votes during the last assembly election held in 2020 in Bihar.

Voting in Sitamarhi will take place on November 11 and counting will be done on the 14th.

"Tava se roti palatte rahni chahiye, nahin to jal jayegi": Lalu calls for change

Lucknow: Former Bihar Chief Minister and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad Yadav on Thursday made a passionate appeal to the people of Bihar to vote for Tejashwi Yadav, urging them to usher in a new era of progress and development in the state. The veteran leader declared that “twenty years of the same rule is too long” and that the time had come for Bihar to embrace change.

Addressing voters ahead of the polling, Lalu Prasad said, “Twenty years is too long — it’s time for Tejashwi to lead and build a new Bihar.” His statement, coming on the day of the first phase of the Bihar Assembly elections, resonated strongly among party workers and supporters across the state.

The RJD supremo, known for his earthy humor and folksy wisdom, used one of his signature analogies to drive home his message for political change. He said, “Tava se roti palatte rahni chahiye, nahin to jal jayegi,” meaning that the bread must be flipped from time to time or it will burn. Through this metaphor, he emphasized the importance of periodic change in leadership to keep governance fresh and effective.

Lalu’s remark quickly went viral on social media, with supporters hailing his unique way of connecting with the masses. His words, they said, captured the sentiment of a large section of voters eager for a generational shift in Bihar politics.

The former Chief Minister, accompanied by his wife Rabri Devi—also a former Chief Minister—and son Tejashwi Yadav, cast his vote at a polling booth in Patna. The family arrived together, symbolizing political unity within the RJD at a crucial juncture in the state’s political landscape.

After exercising his franchise, Lalu Prasad shared a photograph of the trio proudly showing their inked fingers. The image was captioned with his now-famous line about flipping the roti, along with a message calling for the people of Bihar to give Tejashwi Yadav a chance to lead.

In his post, Lalu wrote, “Tava se roti palatte rahni chahiye, nahin to jal jayegi. Twenty years of the same rule is long enough.



Tejashwi Yadav highlights alliance’s promises, asks people to vote for change

Patna: Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader and Mahagathbandhan’s chief ministerial face, Tejashwi Yadav, made a last-ditch effort to woo voters during the first phase of Bihar’s polling by highlighting the alliance’s promises and guarantees if it comes to power.

In a video message shared on RJD’s official X handle, Yadav reiterated key points from the 25-point manifesto, promising employment opportunities, free electricity for farmers, and overall development for the state.

“This is Tejashwi’s guarantee that every family will get one government job. Gas cylinders will be fixed at Rs 500. We will provide 200 units of free electricity, make Jeevika Didis permanent with Rs 30,000 annually, ensure a pension of Rs 5 lakh, waive interest on loans, make electricity free for farmers, form a youth commission, and ensure students are not charged for job application forms,” he said.

He cautioned voters



against distractions, urging them to focus on development and employment. “Do not pay attention to irrelevant matters; vote only for government jobs, employment, change, factories, and rapid progress in Bihar! If you want government jobs for your children and to

make Bihar a leading state, go to polling stations in large numbers and vote for the Mahagathbandhan. Don’t ruin your life by falling for temptations, inducements, or distractions!”

“If you want government jobs for your children, a good future for Bihar, and

to include Bihar among the leading states, then you must go to the polling stations in large numbers and vote for the Mahagathbandhan! Do not ruin your life by falling for any temptations, inducements, distractions, or greed! Bihar has become the most backward state in

the country; to move it forward, jobs and employment are essential!” RJD added.

The manifesto outlines a 25-point programme, with major promises including: each household will be provided with 200 units of free electricity.

Farmers will be assured that all their crops will be procured at the Minimum Support Price (MSP). Revival of the Old Pension Scheme for state government employees. Regularisation of all contracts and outsourced workers. Setting up industrial corridors, IT hubs, and food parks to boost employment and economic growth.

Under the ‘Mai-Behin Maan Yojana’, women will receive financial assistance of Rs 2,500 per month from December 1 for the next five years.

Tejashwi Yadav shared a family photo on his X handle after casting his vote, urging people to “Vote for change, for creating a new Bihar, for development, for quality education and better health & law and order, and for jobs and employment.”

Telangana police ranked No.1 in the country, says DGP Shivdhar Reddy

Hyderabad: Telangana Director General of Police (DGP) B Shivdhar Reddy on Thursday said that the Telangana Police stands as the number one police force in the country and called upon probationary Deputy Superintendents of Police (DSPs) to uphold that standard through discipline, honesty, and empathy.

Speaking at the inaugural session of the training program for probationary DSPs at the RBVRR Telangana State Police Academy, the DGP said the coming ten months of training would lay a strong foundation for their leadership journey.

“Discipline is not punishment, but readiness,” he reminded the trainees, adding that every drill, exercise, and disciplinary action has meaning and helps develop self-control.

Calling this the largest-ever batch of probationary



DSPs—112 officers, including 38 women—the DGP said their presence reflects the growing strength and diversity of the Telangana Police. “Leadership does not begin with power. It begins with your behavior, honesty, empathy, and positivity toward colleagues,” he said.

Reddy urged the trainees to remember that the real power of a police officer comes not from the stars on the uniform, but from the trust and respect of the people.

Bharosa Centers, and community policing as examples of how the force connects with people.

Academy Director Abhilasha Bisht said the 42-week training program will focus on discipline, leadership, and professionalism.

The DGP also unveiled the training syllabus during the ceremony

TGCSB Director Shikha Goyal, Eagle Director Sandeep Sandilya, Additional DGP (Law and Order) Mahesh Bhagwat, and Police Commissioners CV Sajjanar (Hyderabad), Sudhir Babu (Rachakonda), and Avinash Mahanti (Cyberabad) attended the event.

Senior police officials, including IGPs S Chandrasekhar Reddy, M Ramesh, Ramesh Naidu, and Deputy Directors N Venkateswarlu, Muralidhar, and G. Kavitha, participated in the inaugural event.

BRS, Congress playing vote-bank politics to appease Muslims: Telangana BJP Chief

Hyderabad: Telangana BJP president N Ramchander Rao on Thursday accused both the BRS and Congress of indulging in appeasement politics to secure Muslim votes in the Jubilee Hills by-election.

Addressing a meeting of intellectuals, servicemen, and businessmen in support of BJP candidate Deepak Reddy at Brigade Citadel in Erragadda, Rao said the mindset of both parties had been exposed.

“They are trying to please 20 per cent of the Muslim population while ignoring the interests of 80 per cent of Hindus,” he alleged.

He further said Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy had resorted.

To appeasement by inducting a Muslim minister into his cabinet ahead of the by-election.

“We are not against anyone being made a minister, but the timing clearly shows it was done to attract Muslim votes,” Rao said, adding that

the government had also allotted land for a graveyard in a thickly populated residential area just to please a section of voters.

Blaming both BRS and Congress for neglecting development in Jubilee Hills, Rao said the two parties had failed.

To provide even basic civic amenities in the area.

“The Chief Minister himself is visiting the constituency repeatedly, which shows the desperation of the ruling party,” he remarked.

Calling the by-election a fight between the BJP and the AIMIM rather than the Congress, Rao alleged that the Congress fielded a “rented candidate” who had previously contested on an AIMIM ticket.

“Politics is not for money or status; it is a service to the people,” he said, urging voters to support BJP candidate Deepak Reddy, whom he described as accessible and responsive to public needs.

Efforts underway to secure UNESCO World Heritage Tag for Cuttack’s Bali Jatra:CM Majhi

Bhubaneswar: Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi has announced that the state government is making concerted efforts to secure UNESCO World Heritage Site status for the historic Bali Jatra of Cuttack, a living testament to the courage, maritime prowess, and trading spirit of the Odia people.

Speaking at the inaugural ceremony of Bali Jatra on the banks of the Mahanadi River yesterday, Majhi said the annual fair, regarded as eastern India’s largest cultural and trade festival, has been organized for centuries and continues to embody Odisha’s rich maritime legacy.

The Chief Minister declared that the government grant for Bali Jatra has been enhanced from Rs.2 crore to Rs.10 crore this year. He also announced that under the Mahanadi Riverfront Development Project, Rs.200 crore has been allocated for the beautification of the riverbanks in Cuttack.

Further highlighting the development projects, Majhi said that the government is working on heritage and tourism development projects including the Barabati Fort and Gadakhai, while Cuttack, the “Silver City,” will be developed into a Tarakasi (filigree) Hub. He added that the Dhabaleswar and Nandikishore shrines along the Mahanadi will also be developed soon. Highlighting Odisha’s 575-kilometre coastline, the Chief Minister stated that the government aims to build a port-based economy to boost prosperity. In addition to major ports at Paradip, Dhamra, and Gopalpur, 14 minor ports are planned across the state, with development underway at Subarnarekha, Astaranga, and Jatadhara mouths. Majhi informed that Rs.21,500 crore has been sanctioned for developing Bahuda Port, which will become Odisha’s second-largest port after



Paradip, and plans are in place to set up a shipbuilding and repair centre near Paradip at the mouth of the Mahanadi with an investment of Rs.24,700 crore. He expressed confidence that Odisha would soon emerge as the “Gateway of Eastern India” in maritime trade.

Reflecting on the government’s achievements during its first 500 days, Majhi said the administration is working with commitment across multiple sectors—education, healthcare, livelihood, industry, women’s empowerment, infrastructure, and Odia identity.

After visiting the festival grounds, Majhi praised this year’s 2,000 stalls and expressed hope that the business volume will surpass last year’s Rs.200 crore, emphasizing that the fair aims not only to promote trade but also to strengthen social unity.

Yogi reviews preparations at Varanasi railway station ahead of PM’s visit

Varanasi: After participating in religious programmes on the second day of his Varanasi visit, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inspected arrangements at Varanasi railway station today for Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s upcoming visit. The Prime Minister is arriving in his parliamentary constituency on a two-day visit tomorrow evening.

The Chief Minister was briefed by senior officials of the railway and district administration. He was informed about the beautification of the station premises, security arrangements, passenger amenities and arrangements related to the Prime Minister’s program venue.

The Chief Minister told officials to ensure all arrangements are smooth and

orderly during the Prime Minister’s visit, and that no negligence should be allowed. He also directed special attention to cleanliness, traffic management, and security arrangements at the station.

On November 8 he will inaugurate the Varanasi-Khajuraho Vande Bharat and three other trains from Varanasi station.

The Chief Minister offered prayers at the city’s prominent temples today morning. He began his day at Baba Kal Bhairav temple. Lord Kal Bhairav is revered as the Kotwal (guardian deity) of Kashi. The Chief Minister then visited the Shri Kashi Vishwanath temple, where he performed the Shodashopachar ritual and prayed for the happiness, prosperity, and welfare of the people of Uttar Pradesh.

Priyank Kharge flays BJP MP for calling national anthem British

Bengaluru: Congress leader and Karnataka Minister Priyank Kharge on Thursday criticised BJP MP Vishveshwar Hegde Kageri’s claim that India’s National Anthem is “British.” Kharge called the statement “utter nonsense” and emphasised the historical facts.

He highlighted that Rabindranath Tagore composed the hymn Bharoto Bhagyo Bidhata in 1911, whose first stanza later became Jana Gana Mana. The anthem was first sung on December 27, 1911 at the Indian National Congress in Calcutta, and not as a tribute to any British monarch.

Tagore himself clarified in 1937 and 1939 that the anthem hails the “Dispenser of India’s destiny” and cannot refer to King George V, multiple times a day. It is effective, but invasive. Continuous Glucose Monitoring (CGM) systems represent an advance over SMBG, offering real-time readings without repeated finger pricks. IIT-M release said today. However, the current generation of CGMs comes with their own set of limitations such as high cost, dependence on separate devices such as smartphones or dedicated readers to display results. In addressing these challenges, IIT-Madras researchers from the Electronic Materials and Thin Films Lab, led by Prof. Parasuraman Swaminathan, developed a set of innovations that together redefine a CGM device. These innovations have been formally recognized and protected through multiple patents. The cornerstone of this solution is a modular system that combines reusable electronics and a low-power display unit with a disposable microneedle sensor patch. Prof. Parasuraman said, “From a researcher’s perspective, the real measure of success is when an idea steps out of the lab and starts making a tangible difference in people’s lives. In the case of diabetes management,



George VI, or any other British ruler.

Kharge urged BJP and RSS leaders, workers, and swayamsevak to revisit history and read historical records, including editorials from the RSS publication Organizer, noting the organisation’s longstanding tradition of disrespecting the Constitution, the Tricolour, and the National Anthem.

Kageri sparked controversy by claiming that India’s national anthem, Jana Gana Mana, was composed to welcome the British. Speaking at the ‘Rashtriya Ekata Nadige for Atmanirbhar Bharat’ programme in Honnavar, he questioned the origins of the anthem and suggested that Vande Mataram, which played a key role in India’s freedom struggle, should be given greater recognition.

SFs launch massive search operation to hunt terrorists at Kishtwar gunfight site

Jammu: Security Forces (SF) on Thursday morning launched a massive search operation to hunt the terrorists in the woods of Chatroo in Kishtwar district of Jammu and Kashmir. A gunfight broke out between security forces and terrorists on Wednesday in Chatroo area of Kishtwar. The joint team of Army, police and special operation group have launched a massive search operation in the Chatroo area to hunt down the terrorists,” said a senior police officer. He said that on Wednesday, terrorists fired at the search party, which was retaliated and an encounter started. “So far no contact has been established but the searches are in progress,” he said.

IIT-Madras develops minimally invasive glucose monitoring device for diabetes patients

Chennai : Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology-Madras (IIT-M) have developed and patented a cost-effective, user-friendly, and minimally invasive glucose monitoring device for diabetes patients. They have reimaged the device ground-up, focusing on comfort, accessibility and long-term affordability while ensuring high standards of accuracy and reliability. This patented device spares patients the discomfort of multiple finger pricks a day, thereby making glucose monitoring painless. It encourages people to check

their levels more regularly and take timely action, leading to fewer emergencies. A domestically-developed device strengthens self-reliance in medical technology, reducing dependence on imported devices and creates opportunities for local manufacturing and employment. As per the Indian Council of Medical Research – India Diabetes (ICMR INDIAB) study published in 2023, the prevalence of diabetes is 10.1 crore people. The most common method in use, Self-Monitoring of Blood Glucose (SMBG), requires finger-prick blood sampling

man Swaminathan, developed a set of innovations that together redefine a CGM device. These innovations have been formally recognized and protected through multiple patents. The cornerstone of this solution is a modular system that combines reusable electronics and a low-power display unit with a disposable microneedle sensor patch. Prof. Parasuraman said, “From a researcher’s perspective, the real measure of success is when an idea steps out of the lab and starts making a tangible difference in people’s lives. In the case of diabetes management,

that difference could mean sparing someone the discomfort of multiple finger pricks a day, helping them stay in range more consistently, and ultimately preventing long-term complications.” Mr. L. Balamurugan, an IIT Madras MS Entrepreneurship scholar working on this solution, said “a device like this is a real enabler. By making glucose monitoring painless, discreet, and affordable, it encourages people to check their levels more regularly, understand their body’s patterns, and take timely action. Over time, it leads to fewer

emergencies, fewer hospital visits and less strain on families and healthcare systems. On a National scale, a domestically-developed CGM also strengthens our self-reliance in medical technology, reducing dependence on imported devices and creating opportunities for local manufacturing and employment.” From the outset, this project was conceived not just as an academic exercise but as a technology with a clear path to real-world use. The strategy to take it forward is built on three parallel tracks: Start-up Commercialisation--The

work has already led to the formation of a start-up venture, positioned to focus exclusively on refining the device, conducting clinical trials, and bringing it to market. Being anchored at IIT Madras Research Park allows access to prototyping facilities, regulatory advisors, and investor networks. Technology Transfer to Industry--Researchers



are in active discussions with established medical device manufacturers to license the technology. Such partnerships can leverage the production capabilities, distribution networks, and market presence of these companies to reach scale quickly. Strategic Licensing Opportunities--This invention was entirely conceived, designed.

BEST Workers Announce Indefinite Strike

Mumbai : The BEST Undertaking Workers' Union, led by Shashank Rao, has formally announced its plan to initiate an indefinite hunger strike, beginning at 11:00 AM on Monday, November 10, 2025. This major protest is scheduled to take place at the union headquarters situated on Kennedy Bridge, serving as a powerful challenge to the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) and the management of the BEST undertaking. The union has clearly articulated a set of critical demands that address long-standing issues concerning employment, fleet management, and employee compensation.

At the core of the union's protest lie three crucial demands. The first priority is the immediate and complete abolition of the wet-lease system, a practice where private contractors are hired to supply both buses and operational staff. The union strongly contends that this outsourcing model



severely jeopardizes the job security of existing employees and inevitably leads to a decline in the overall quality and reliability of the public bus service provided to the city's millions of commuters.

The second primary demand focuses on restoring and expanding the self-owned BEST bus fleet. The union highlights an alarming trend, claiming that the

number of buses directly owned by BEST is quickly diminishing.

They warn that by November 30, only a minimal 251 such buses may remain operational. To counter this, they are demanding that the fleet be stabilized to a minimum of 3,337 self-owned buses and are simultaneously requesting immediate financial assistance from the BMC to fund these necessary new vehicle purchases.

The third major demand centers on resolving multiple outstanding financial and employment issues for both current and retired staff members. This includes demanding the immediate payment of long-pending gratuity to retirees, along with the establishment of a robust mechanism to ensure all future disbursements are timely. Furthermore,

the union is calling for the full implementation of the 7th Pay Commission, pay parity with BMC employees, and the prompt regularization of long-serving temporary staff members within the electricity supply department.

The planned hunger strike carries a significant threat to Mumbai's daily life. Sources indicate that workers currently employed under the wet-lease contracts may also choose to join the protest, which could potentially lead to a major disruption of bus services that are vital for the daily commute of millions of city residents.

With the BMC elections scheduled for January 2026, the union's high-stakes action successfully positions these pressing labour issues firmly at the center of the public service and political discourse, forcing the BMC and BEST management to publicly address the grievances raised during the strike.

Barber Stabbed After Refusing Service

Thane : A violent dispute over a simple denial of service led to a shocking assault in the Subhash Road area of Dombivli West, where a barber shop owner was stabbed. The victim, identified as Aftab Salmani, 31, who operates a salon near Angara Bar, informed a potential customer that he could not provide a haircut because he was feeling unwell.

Instead of understanding the health-related explanation, the customer and his two companions reacted with hostility, immediately launching into verbal abuse and accusing Aftab of intentionally refusing his business.

The confrontation quickly escalated into a physical attack. According to the formal complaint lodged at the Vishnunagar Police Station, the three aggressive men pursued Aftab into his salon, where they began violently assaulting both him and one of his employees, using punches and kicks.

This intense violence demonstrated a severe overreaction to the barber's simple request to postpone service due to his illness, transforming a routine business interaction into a serious criminal act.

The situation became life-threatening when one of the assailants produced a sharp knife. He used the weapon to strike Aftab, inflicting a serious wound on his thigh. Aftab's co-worker, Mohammad Wasim, bravely attempted to intervene and protect the owner from further harm, but in the process, he was also injured, sustaining a head wound after being forcibly struck against a wall during the chaotic altercation.

The loud commotion and sounds of the fight alerted neighbors and other patrons, who swiftly rushed into the shop. Upon realizing that a crowd was gathering and authorities might soon be involved, the three attackers immediately fled the scene on a two-wheel-

er, escaping before they could be apprehended. In his detailed complaint, Aftab noted that one of the suspects made a comment referencing past service refusals, hinting that the extreme violence might have been fueled by a long-standing grievance rather than just the immediate refusal.

Police have since registered a case against the trio of unidentified men under various sections, including invoking charges related to assault with a deadly weapon.

Law enforcement is currently undertaking an intensive search operation to locate and arrest the culprits. The local community has expressed profound shock that such an extreme level of violence could be triggered by something as minor as a haircut refusal, prompting residents to urge civic authorities to increase patrols and enhance safety measures for small business owners in crowded commercial zones.

Serpent Found Coiled in Car Engine

Mumbai : Panic erupted among residents in Dadar after a remarkably large python was discovered tightly wound inside the engine compartment of a car parked on the street. A video of the bizarre and alarming incident quickly spread online, capturing the astonishment of locals who gathered around the vehicle, observing the unsettling sight as a professional snake handler was called in to manage the situation safely. The unexpected presence of the giant reptile brought the usually bustling area to a standstill.

The chaos began immediately after the massive snake was spotted under the hood, leading to a rapid

gathering of onlookers. Due to the potential danger and the sensitive location of the snake, a specialized local snake rescuer, accompanied by two or three helpers, arrived promptly at the scene. They meticulously worked to open the left side of the car's bonnet, confirming that the python was indeed securely wrapped around the mechanical components of the engine, presenting a tricky extraction challenge.

The rescue operation proceeded with caution and considerable tension. After several painstaking minutes of careful maneuvering, the rescuer skillfully managed to dislodge the powerful snake and pull it out from

the cramped space, eliciting a collective sigh of relief from the large crowd. The successful and safe removal of the python concluded the immediate threat, allowing the area to return to normalcy following the unusual wildlife encounter in the urban setting.

Following the successful extraction, the priority shifted to the reptile's well-being. The snake was placed in a bucket containing water to help it cool down and recover from the stress of being trapped. This preparatory step ensured the python was stable before it could be relocated. The handler then transported the snake to a secure, natural

habitat that was far removed from residential areas, ensuring it would not pose a risk to the community again.

This incident was not isolated, as a similar event was recently reported elsewhere in the city. Just days before, near Bandra Fort on Tuesday night, November 4, an Indian Rock Python had startled a group of locals during their evening walk. That dramatic rescue, also captured on video, earned widespread praise for the humane and calm approach taken by the rescuer, highlighting a growing awareness among citizens on how to handle urban wildlife encounters responsibly and safely.

MMRDA Clears ₹168 Cr Dombivli Flyover

Mumbai : In a significant move aimed at mitigating traffic woes in the Thane district, the Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) has formally granted approval for the construction of a new four-lane flyover. This vital infrastructure project is specifically designed to span the busy railway level-crossing at Mothagaon (Retibandar) in the Dombivli area, a site known for causing immense congestion and commuter frustration on a daily basis.

The existing level-crossing at Mothagaon has long been a notorious bottleneck for countless commuters. Its frequent closure due to train movements on the crucial Diva-Vasai rail route, combined with heavy vehicular traffic, leads to prolonged delays. This constant gridlock severely affects travel times for residents moving between Dombivli and Thane, particularly those using the Mankoli flyover and other

important arterial roads in the region, making the need for an elevated solution critical. The newly sanctioned project is backed by a substantial estimated budget of ₹168 crore, covering all necessary components for its successful execution. This comprehensive cost includes not only the construction of the flyover itself but also the necessary land acquisition for the approach roads, and importantly, the financial provisions for the rehabilitation and resettlement of approximately 600 local residents whose homes or establishments will be affected by the structure.

The financial allocation breaks down with roughly ₹30 crore designated solely for the land acquisition process, while the significant balance of approximately ₹138 crore will be used for the approach road construction and the structured resettlement program for displaced families. Local officials confirmed that the decision to expand

the initial design from a two-lane structure to a much wider four-lane flyover was made in direct response to strong, sustained demands from residents and elected representatives, ensuring the structure can handle future traffic growth effectively.

Once the flyover is completed and operational, it is expected to deliver a dramatic improvement by substantially reducing travel time and eliminating the constant, frustrating delays currently caused by the railway gate closures. This improved connectivity on the Retibandar-Mankoli corridor will enhance access to key economic and transport hubs like Thane, Mumbai, and Navi Mumbai. The local civic administration is now awaiting the final administrative approval for the release of the funds, after which construction work is anticipated to begin within the next few months, bringing long-awaited relief to thousands of daily commuters.

Hospital License Revoked Over Death

Vasai : The Vasai Virar City Municipal Corporation (VVCMC) has taken the stern action of cancelling the registration of Breath Care Hospital in Vasai West, following a detailed inquiry that concluded doctors at the facility were negligent, resulting in the death of 27-year-old patient Rupesh Gupta in March of the previous year. This disciplinary measure came after a thorough investigation by the local health department and the Palghar district health officer substantiated the claims of medical malpractice.

The case involves Rupesh Gupta, who was admitted to the hospital on March 18, 2024, suffering from common complaints of cold, cough, and fever. According to the allegations made by Rupesh's father, Lalman, his son's condition deteriorated, and despite facing extreme difficulty in breathing, he was reportedly not given essential oxygen support. Furthermore, the father claimed that the specialty hospital failed to arrange for a necessary cardiac ambulance or facilitate an urgent transfer to a more suitable medical facility.

Tragically, Rupesh Gupta succumbed to his illness and died on March 19. Though the tragic event occurred last year, an FIR specifically targeting Dr. Dharmendra Dubey, the hospital's owner, for culpable homicide

was not officially filed until January 14 of this year, after the health inquiry had progressed. The investigation's findings have now led to the booking of Dr. Dubey, highlighting the serious legal consequences of the negligence identified by the municipal corporation.

Speaking about the VVCMC's decision to revoke the hospital's license, the grieving father expressed a profound sense of relief, stating to the press that his arduous struggle for justice had finally paid off. He emphasized that the closure meant that no other person in the future would have to endure the devastating loss of a son at a hospital that should have been a center of excellence for respiratory problems but failed in its core duty of care.

The police investigation has brought to light a pattern of alleged misconduct. A police officer had previously informed the media that during their inquiry, they discovered a similar complaint of negligence had been filed against the same doctor, Dr. Dubey, back in 2022. The officer also noted that the doctor manages a chain of four hospitals located across the region, with facilities in Vasai, Nalasopara, Bhayandar, and Mira Road, suggesting a broader scope of oversight is needed across these establishments.

Commuter Lauded for Removing Metro Ad

Mumbai : The Maha Mumbai Metro Operation Corporation Limited (MMMOCL) has publicly commended a vigilant Mumbai resident for his proactive civic action: manually removing an illegal advertisement from a Metro Line 2B pillar.

Following this display of civic responsibility, the agency confirmed that it has subsequently imposed a penalty on the salon responsible for placing the unauthorized poster, using the incident to renew public awareness about the importance of maintaining public property and infrastructure.

The situation unfolded when Karthik Nadar, a commuter and active social media user, noticed the unauthorized advertisement from 'The Sobo Nail Salon' stuck onto a freshly painted



pillar of the under-construction Mumbai Metro Line 2B.

This line is a crucial Yellow Line extension connecting DN Nagar and Mandale. Dissatisfied with the visual defacement, Nadar decided to take matters into his own

hands, physically peeling off the poster, and then sharing his effort online with the caption, "Some idiot decided to paste his biz ad on the Mumbai Metro Line 2B's pillar. I took it down. Can't spoil the aesthetics na."

The MMOCL swiftly

responded to the post on X (formerly Twitter), offering a public and enthusiastic appreciation for Nadar's action.

They hailed him as a "citizen hero" for "peeling off what didn't belong," effectively using the moment to send a clear message. The agency then issued a stern public warning to the responsible business, emphasizing that illegal advertising would not be tolerated on their property.

As promised, the MMOCL confirmed that a financial penalty is being imposed on The Sobo Nail Salon. The agency clarified that putting up illegal posters or billboards on Metro premises constitutes a punishable offense under Section 62(2) of the Operation and Maintenance Act, 2002, firmly establishing the legal grounds for

their punitive action and demonstrating their commitment to enforcing these regulations to protect public assets.

Officials reminded the public that Metro Line 2B is an essential part of the city's expanding Yellow Line network, designed to provide a vital east-west connection through key locations like Bandra, BKC, and Chembur, with a phased opening scheduled to begin in late 2025.

The MMOCL concluded its statement by reaffirming its commitment to keeping the new infrastructure pristine and visually appealing, declaring with finality, "Metro Line 2B belongs to Mumbaikars. We'll make sure it stays spotless and spectacular," underscoring that public cleanliness is a shared responsibility.

Western Railway Officer is an Ironman

Mumbai : Sachin Sharma, the Secretary to the General Manager of Western Railway, has achieved a remarkable feat of endurance by successfully completing the globally demanding Ironman Malaysia Triathlon. The event took place on November 1, 2025, on Langkawi Island, Malaysia, solidifying his status as an elite endurance athlete.

The Ironman is regarded as one of the world's toughest single-day sporting challenges, covering a colossal total distance of 226 km.

The grueling race consists of three continuous stages: beginning with a 3.8 km open sea swim, followed immediately by an arduous 180 km cycling leg, and concluding with a full marathon run of 42.2 km. According to Vineet Abhishek, the Chief Public Relations Officer for Western Railway, the race was made exceptionally difficult by the consistently warm and humid tropical climate of Langkawi, significantly testing the physical limits and resolve of every participant throughout the long day.

The triathlon commenced at the scenic Pantai Kok Beach, where athletes navigated the first leg through clear sea waters with moderate tides. The transition to the cycling segment presented a formidable challenge; the 180 km route passed along the picturesque coastline but included steep, hilly roads and cuts through dense tropical forests. This particular bik-



ing course is infamous among Ironman circuits for its difficulty, featuring an elevation gain of nearly 1,600 meters and multiple significant climbs.

The final stage, the full marathon, began from the Mahsuri International Exhibition Centre and concluded at the beautiful Chenang Beach. While the running course itself was relatively flat, the relentless heat and pervasive humidity characteristic of the tropical location intensely tested the mental strength and sheer endurance of every athlete.

Sharma demonstrated exemplary determination, discipline, and profound mental fortitude across all three stages of the extremely challenging race.

As Sachin Sharma approached the finishing stretch, amid enthu-

siastic cheers from spectators, the race announcer proudly declared, "SACHIN, YOU ARE AN IRONMAN!", marking his official completion of the triathlon within the cut-off time.

His monumental achievement was recognized with the coveted Finisher's Medal, the Finisher's Tower Coin, and the official IRONMAN Finisher's Jersey.

Sharma, an avid endurance athlete, has participated in approximately 60 to 70 national and international marathons, including the ultra-challenging Comrades Ultra Marathon in South Africa, the Hell Race in Jaisalmer's extreme desert, and the high-altitude Silk Route Ultra Race in Ladakh, making this latest accomplishment a source of pride and inspiration for the entire Western Railway fraternity.

Cyber Racket Busted Near Mumbai Airport

Mumbai : The Sakinaka Police have achieved a significant breakthrough by successfully dismantling a highly sophisticated and massive organized cyber fraud operation that was running clandestinely from a hotel located right next to the Mumbai Airport.

This operation culminated in the immediate arrest of four individuals, crucially including the alleged central orchestrator of the entire scheme, marking a major victory against deep-seated international financial crime.

This specialized network was primarily engaged in the continuous, illegal transmission of highly confidential Indian bank account information, full bank kits, and vital banking instruments directly to their handlers and masterminds operating out of Dubai.

Once this sensitive banking data, which included bank account details, cheque books, debit cards, and SIM cards, successfully crossed international borders, the Dubai-based conspirators systematically exploited it. They leveraged the stolen information to execute large-scale,

high-value online scams, complex fraudulent transactions, and parallel sophisticated money laundering activities, underscoring the serious and immense scale of their illegal enterprise and the potential financial damage inflicted.

Authorities have registered a formal case against a total of eight suspects involved in this global nexus. The four individuals currently arrested and in police custody are identified as Mohammad Masood Abdul Wasim (25), Abdullah Lare Ahmed Shaikh (24), Noor Alam Ashiq Ali Khan (42), and Manish Kotesch Nandala (30).

Furthermore, the key conspirators based in Dubai have been named as Mohsin and Zafar, while two local associates, Abdul Khalik Abdul Qadir Khan and Arbaaz Fazlani, are currently absconding.

The dramatic operation unfolded on the morning of November 4, 2025, when a dedicated police team, acting on a precise and reliable tip-off and led by PSI Sagar Jadhav, executed a raid on the Hotel Gateway Star near the Mumbai Airport. This initial action led directly to

the detention of Mohammad Masood Abdul Wasim from Bengaluru, who was immediately identified as the central coordinator responsible for managing the cross-border logistics and communication.

A subsequent forensic analysis of Wasim's seized mobile phone provided undeniable digital evidence, including extensive WhatsApp and social media communications.

This data confirmed his regular, direct contact with the Dubai-based fraudsters, detailing the systematic sharing of critical banking material essential for the remote execution of the scams and fraudulent online transactions across various digital platforms.

Wasim's subsequent detailed interrogation, during which he confessed to sourcing the vital bank materials locally from his network, triggered immediate, swift follow-up operations by the police team. These subsequent raids were conducted at the Sai Guest House in Sakinaka, leading to the prompt arrest of the three other accused individuals: Abdullah Shaikh, Noor Alam Khan, and Man-

ish Nandala.

Police successfully recovered significant additional evidence from these follow-up raids, further solidifying the case against the local network.

The seizures included multiple cheque books, complete bank kits, debit cards, and SIM cards explicitly linked to numerous fraudulent accounts, fully exposing the extent of their logistical involvement and complicity in the scheme.

All arrested individuals have been booked under stringent sections 318(4) (fraud) and 34 (common intention) of the newly implemented Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), in addition to relevant provisions of the Information Technology Act.

The police are now intensifying their massive manhunt to track down and apprehend the four absconding suspects, including both the local facilitators and the Dubai-based masterminds, with the ultimate objective of completely disrupting this entire global cybercrime nexus and bringing all individuals to justice.

Editorial

Nitish Kumar's tenth anointment!

In Indian politics, the one state election that is currently being seen as the future of not only that state but also the equations of national politics is Bihar. Two phases of Bihar assembly elections are underway and the entire country's politics is now watching the results. Voting for 121 seats in the first phase of Bihar assembly elections was held on November 6, and voting for 122 seats in the second phase will be held on November 11. The results of both the phases will be announced on November 14, after which it will be decided who will be the new Chief Minister of Bihar. There is no doubt that this election in Bihar is not only for forming the government, but also a test of the BJP's 'ally policy' and Nitish Kumar's political 'unpredictability'.

The Maha Aghadi has clearly put forward the name of Tejashwi Yadav as the Chief Ministerial candidate. Therefore, if the Maha Aghadi gets a clear majority, it is certain that the young and energetic Tejashwi Yadav will become the Chief Minister. However, the real political excitement will arise if the National Democratic Alliance gets a majority. The NDA is contesting the elections under the leadership of the current Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, and the central leadership of the BJP has also announced from time to time that Nitish Kumar will become the Chief Minister after the elections.

An important and significant change in this election is the support given by LJP (Ram Vilas) party leader Chirag Paswan to Nitish Kumar for the post of Chief Minister. In the 2020 assembly elections, Chirag Paswan had contested the elections on his own by fielding a candidate directly against the JD(U). At that time, the LJP could win only one seat out of 131 seats contested, but they lost to the JD(U) in many constituencies. This directly affected the numerical strength of the JD(U), and their numerical strength fell from 80 to 43. Therefore, this time, the support of Chirag Paswan has become very important for the JD(U) and Nitish Kumar. This time, the LJP is contesting the elections on 29 seats as a constituent party of the Ram Vilas NDA. With Chirag Paswan returning to the NDA, his votes will no longer be consumed by JD(U), which has increased the chances of JD(U) getting more candidates elected than in the previous elections, which is a big relief for Nitish Kumar.

The NDA is contesting this election under the leadership of Nitish Kumar, and BJP leaders are repeatedly saying that 'the chief minister's post is not vacant'. Although there is no doubt in anyone's mind that the NDA will get a majority, there is still curiosity about who will be the chief minister. Although Nitish Kumar is most likely to become the chief minister again, no one can say for sure what will happen in politics.

Bihar is the only state in the country where the BJP, despite being in power for almost twenty years, has not been given the chief minister's post even once. During this period, the BJP has had to be content with the deputy chief minister's post. After the 2020 elections, the BJP gave two deputy chief ministers, but 'two deputy chief ministers together do not make a chief minister,' this is a political truth. Therefore, it is natural for the BJP leaders and workers in the state to have a strong desire that the chief minister's post should go to the BJP this time too.

However, the BJP cannot take the decision on the chief minister's post of Bihar in a hurry. The consequences of this decision are not limited to Bihar alone, but may also have an impact on national politics. The biggest reason for this is that the BJP did not get an undisputed majority on its own in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections; its victory chariot stopped at 240 seats. The Modi government at the Center had to take the support of the Telugu Desam Party (16 MPs) and Nitish Kumar's JD(U) (12 MPs) for a majority. In short, the Modi government at the Center is dependent on the JD(U). In such a situation, the BJP cannot afford to hurt Nitish Kumar.

There have been talks about Nitish Kumar's ill health for the last few years, but he has not lost the temptation of the Chief Minister's post. Although his tenure as Chief Minister is not the longest in the country, his name is recorded as the Chief Minister who has been sworn in the most times in the country. If he becomes the Chief Minister this time, he will take oath as the Chief Minister for the tenth time! This political record shows both his 'lust for power' and 'political flexibility'.

The further political equations in the state will depend on how many seats which party gets. The general political prediction is that the BJP will remain the party that wins the most seats in the state. The second position will be a close one between JD(U) and RJD. Congress will remain at fourth place. But, this is where the real political complexity begins.

If the total number of MLAs of JD(U) and RJD goes above 100, then BJP will have to rethink its strategy. Because, if BJP decides to make Nitish Kumar the Chief Minister, then Nitish Kumar can give another political 'blow'. Nitish Kumar will not necessarily give a blow, but the possibility of giving a blow cannot be ruled out, because he has left BJP twice before and formed a government with RJD.

In politics, no one is a permanent friend or enemy, and Nitish Kumar changes his friends and enemies very quickly. Nitish Kumar, who considered RJD an enemy when he was with BJP, considers BJP an enemy as soon as he joins RJD. His politics can be called incomprehensible.

In the 2020 assembly elections, even though JD(U) had fewer seats than BJP, BJP had given the Chief Minister's post to Nitish Kumar. This time too, the same history is most likely to repeat itself. If JD(U) gets more seats than BJP, the Chief Minister's post will definitely go to Nitish Kumar; but even though JD(U) has fewer seats than BJP, given its political dependence at the Centre, Nitish Kumar is more likely to become the Chief Minister again.

After this election, the NDA government will remain in power for at least a year and Nitish Kumar will be the Chief Minister. It often seems that Nitish Kumar was born for the Chief Minister's post. Sometimes he runs after the Chief Minister's post, and sometimes the Chief Minister's post runs after him automatically. This Nitish pattern in Bihar politics has become a big headache for BJP at the national level and this time too, BJP is likely to have to watch his tenth oath silently.

This election will not only determine the strength of the assembly, but also the future of the BJP-JD(U) relationship in the National Democratic Alliance. While the Centre needs JD(U)'s support for power, it is a political reality that BJP will not take the risk of ignoring Nitish Kumar in Bihar. And that is why this time too, Nitish Kumar is more likely to take oath as the Chief Minister for the tenth time. Bihar politics is once again showing that Nitish Kumar is not just a leader, but the biggest 'factor' in political calculations.

MSDE, ABCF and BITS Pilani launch Innovation and Start-up Challenge for NSTI Students

Directorate General of Training (DGT) under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has joined hands with Aditya Birla Capital Foundation (ABCF) & Pilani Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Society (PIEDS), the incubator of BITS Pilani, to promote Innovation & Entrepreneurship among students in all National Skills Training Institutes (NSTI) across the country. NSTIs, under the aegis of DGT, provide vocational training to create a pool of Instructor trainees and skilled manpower for industries. At present, there are 33 NSTIs operational in the country, where more than 10,000 students pursuing skill training under the Craft Instructor Training Schemes (CITS) and Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS). There are designated NSTI(W) as well, that specifically focus on women's vocational training. Even though there is ample support for innovations to become ventures at School and Higher Education levels, minimal support exists for the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector, that includes more than 13 lacs students enrolled in ITIs and NSTIs. Majority of the TVET graduates get absorbed in the industry, work as trainers or educators, or get into traditional self-employment trades.

Speaking at the launch, Ms. Debashree Mukherjee, Secretary, MSDE, Government of India said, "At the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, we believe that every skilled individual carry within them the potential to be-



come a job creator. Through this partnership with the Aditya Birla Capital Foundation, we are enabling NSTI students to channel their technical skills into innovation and enterprise. The Navonmesh Protsahan Spardha will empower our young innovators to transform ideas into sustainable ventures, strengthening India's vision of becoming an Aatmanirbhar and innovation-driven nation."

The innovation challenge has been launched under the title Navonmesh Protsahan Spardha: Kaushalta se Udyamita, with the objective to nurture skill-based innovation in NSTI students. Being a first of its kind innovation challenge, it will cater to 10,000+ NSTI students and will include mentoring, prizes, access to resources, and further incubation, for launching the ideas of students in the market. The focus of the program will be students with innovative ideas in IT/TeS, Automotive, Apparel, Electronics & Hardware and Power, and Capital Goods & Manufac-

turing sectors. Pilani Innovation and Entrepreneurship Society Development Society (PIEDS), the incubator of Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), is the apex body responsible for formulating national poli-

cies, standards, and coordination of vocational training in India, including women's training. While Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) function under State Governments/UT Administrations, DGT oversees overall policy, quality,

instructor training, and trade testing. Through key schemes such as the Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS), Apprenticeship Training Scheme (ATS), and Craft Instructor Training Scheme (CITS), DGT ensures large-scale skill development through more than 14,500 ITIs, 33 National Skill Training Institutes (NSTIs) and Institutes for Training of Trainers (IToTs), training over 23 lakh trainees nationwide. It is also driving modernization of ITIs with new-age trades in AI, IoT, Mechatronics, Renewable Energy, 3D Printing, and Drone Technology. To strengthen the industry connect, DGT promotes the Dual System

Birla Capital Foundation ("ABCF") is the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) arm of Aditya Birla Capital Limited, its subsidiaries and associate companies for undertaking its developmental projects. A robust team comprises of Mrs. Rajashree Birla, Chairperson of The Aditya Birla Centre for Community Initiatives and Rural Development, is the mentor; Mrs. Vishakha Mulye (Managing Director & CEO, Aditya Birla Capital Limited), Mr. Subhro Bhaduri (CHRO, Aditya Birla Capital Limited), and Dr. Pragnya Ram (Group Executive President, Group Head – CSR, Legacy, Documentation & Archives), serve as Directors. ABCF is committed to drive programs for inclusive growth and development of the underserved section of society. Its engagement is primarily fixated on women centric program in the areas of healthcare, education, women's empowerment, and sustainable livelihoods.

About Pilani Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Society (PIEDS): PIEDS is not-for-profit incubator of Birla Institute of Technology & Science, Pilani establish with a grant from Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India. A robust team comprises of Prof. Valipe Ramgopal Rao, President, Prof. Sudhirkumar Barai, Vice President, and other members. It supports early-stage startups with deeptech solutions across sectors, women entrepreneurs, and startups working for / from Tier 2 and Tier 3 locations of Bharat.



'Pune Grand Tour 2026'

The logo and jersey of the historic 'Bajaj Pune Grand Tour 2026', India's first-ever international UCI 2.2 Stage Cycling Race, were officially unveiled today at The Westin Hotel, Pune. The event, jointly organised by the Government of Maharashtra, the Pune District Administration, and the Cycling Federation of India, celebrates the city's cultural, historical, and sporting heritage.

In her address on the occasion, Union Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports, Smt. Raksha Nikhil Khadse, said that the event aligns with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of hosting the Olympic Games in 2036, and reflects the nation's growing commitment to sports-led development and sports tourism. "Under the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, initiatives like Sundays on Cycle, being held every week at over 5,000 locations with the participation of nearly 5 lakh cyclists, are transforming 'Fit India' into a nationwide people's movement," she said. Smt. Khadse also appreciated the efforts of Union Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya for spearheading and expanding the 'Sundays on Cycle' movement across the country, inspiring people from all walks of life to adopt cycling as a way of fitness, sustainability, and community bondi. "The Pune Grand Tour 2026 stands as a model of how sports can drive both tourism and wellness. Sports science is also

emerging as a vital field for athlete performance enhancement, and such events will further strengthen our sporting ecosystem," she added. Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Devendra Fadnavis stated that the Pune Grand Tour will highlight Pune's historic, cultural, religious, and tourism landmarks, boosting both domestic and international tourism while revitalising the city's traditional identity as the "City of Cycles." He said the event will contribute to Maharashtra's economy, promote healthy living, and help tackle pollution. "Pune has always been the home of cycling, and this event will further strengthen that legacy. The 'Pune Grand Tour' will put the city on the global map of



ness and environmental awareness across India," the Chief Minister



professional cycling, inspiring fit-

said. Deputy Chief Minister and

Guardian Minister of Pune Shri Ajit Pawar praised the initiative, calling it a major milestone for Maharashtra. "This grand challenge, covering over 200 villages through the Sahyadri ranges, is inspired by the Tour de France. It is not just a sporting event but a festival of health, employment, tourism, and development," he said. He commended the Pune District Administration, led by District Collector Shri Jitendra Dudi, for conceptualising and executing the event in record time. He also emphasised the need for ensuring world-class road infrastructure along the race route. Minister of State for Urban Development, Smt. Madhuri Misal, Asian Cycling Confederation President Dato Amarjit Singh Gill, Cycling Federation of India Secretary General Dato Manindir Pal Singh, and former

Asian Cycling Confederation Secretary General Onkar Singh were also present. Pune Divisional Commissioner Dr. Chandrakant Pulkundwar presented the concept and detailed preparations for the event. The dignitaries unveiled the official logo and jersey of Pune Grand Tour 2026. The mascot, named Indu, is inspired by the endangered Indian Giant Squirrel found in the forests of Bhimashankar, symbolising agility, resilience, and ecological balance. Chief Minister Shri Fadnavis also felicitated veteran 77-year-old cyclist Smt. Nirupama Bhavne, along with Preeti Mhaske, Praniti Soman (Ahmednagar), Bharat Sonawane (Chhatrapati Sambhajanagar), Akash Mhetre (Jalgaon), and Pooja Danole (Solapur) for their achievements in cycling. Prominent attendees included MLAs Amit Gorakhe, Rahul Kul Siddharth Shirole, Babaji Kale, and Shankar Mandekar, along with senior officials Pune Police Commissioner Amitesh Kumar, PMC Commissioner Naval Kishore Ram, PCMC Commissioner Vinay Kumar Choubey, Divisional Commissioner Dr. Chandrakant Pulkundwar, Commissioner of Sports and Youth Services Smt. Sheetal Teligale, District Collector Jitendra Dudi, and CEO Zilla Parishad Gajanan Patil. The Pune Grand Tour 2026 is presented by Bajaj and supported by Serum Institute of India, Chitale Bandhu, and Panchshil Group.

NHAI To Take Proactive Measures to Mitigate Air Pollution on Highways in Delhi-NCR

Keeping its commitment to create cleaner and healthier surroundings for National Highway users and nearby communities, NHAI has taken proactive steps and issued comprehensive Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to its field offices in Delhi-NCR to mitigate air pollution caused by National Highways construction and allied activities. The guidelines outline a systematic approach to address air pollution generated from vehicular emissions, road dust, and construction activities and are applicable to all completed and under-construction Highway stretches

in Delhi-NCR that are under NHAI's jurisdiction. The comprehensive SOP provides detailed framework to cover areas such as 'Mitigating Pollution on Constructed National Highways' through deployment of mechanized road sweeping machines, greening of median as well as loop interchanges through regular plantation and implementation of Miyawaki method of plantation for forest creation along the Highways, use of tarpaulin sheets to cover construction material during transportation and regular inspections & regular road maintenance to ensure pot-



hole-free roads to reduce additional dust generation. The guidelines also cover measures for 'Mitigating Air Pollution at National Highway Construction Sites' to minimize air pollution caused by construction

activities through regular use of anti-smog guns, continuous water sprinkling through the day at construction sites and covering of construction material with green net to prevent airborne particulate pollution. In ad-

dition, the SOP also includes regular monitoring of air quality indices at project sites and adherence to guidelines issued by Commission of Air Quality Management (CAQM) and Central / State Pollution Control Boards. The guidelines also encourage use of 'inert materials and Construction and Demolition (C&D) waste' to reduce environmental impact and support sustainable construction practices. The SOP defines responsibilities of NHAI field officers as well as Authority Engineers, Contractors and Concessionaires for monitoring and ensuring strict

compliance by undertaking regular audits and inspections. It also provides directions to organize training & awareness programs for contractors and workers as well as provide redressal to complaints related to NHAI projects on 'Green Delhi App'. Recently, a meeting was chaired by Shri Alok Deepankar, Member (Technical), NHAI to review the ongoing efforts and ensure effective on-ground implementation of the SOP. The meeting was attended by senior officials from NHAI field offices in Delhi-NCR along with representatives of contractors and consultants.

Tanya Maniktala: Mumbai has given me so many opportunities to fulfill my dreams

Mumbai: Actress Tanya Maniktala has taken a significant step forward in her acting career as she officially announced her decision to shift her base from New Delhi to Mumbai. The move marks an important milestone for the talented performer, who has steadily carved a niche for herself in the Indian entertainment industry over the past few years. Speaking about her big relocation, Tanya said she was both excited and emotional about beginning this new phase in her life. For her, Mumbai represents more than just a city—it is the beating heart of the Indian film and television industry and a place where dreams take shape. Sharing her thoughts with IANS, Tanya expressed, “Mumbai is the dream of every cinema lover. It’s the city that breathes cinema, and for me, being here feels like being in the middle of all the action.” She further added that every opportunity the city has given her has shaped her personally and professionally. The actress said that Mumbai has offered her several chances to explore her passion for storytelling and performance.

“Mumbai has given me so many opportunities to fulfill my dreams, and every project I’ve worked on here has helped me grow as an actor and as a person,” she shared. At the same time, Tanya emphasized that Delhi will always remain close to her heart. The city, she said, has played an instrumental role in shaping her identity and grounding her values. “Delhi is where my roots are, my family, my memories,” Tanya said fondly. However, the actress admitted that her growing professional commitments have made the shift inevitable. “Mumbai is where my heart stays. Due to my upcoming work commitments and projects lined up here, I’ve decided to shift my base to Mumbai. It just feels like the right time to make this transition,” she explained. Tanya’s move comes at a time when her career is on an upward trajectory. The actress will next be seen in “Paan Parda Zarda,” a web series set in the gritty underbelly of the gangster world. The show promises a compelling mix of intense drama, complex characters, and high-stakes action. “Paan Parda Zarda” boasts a strong ensemble cast that includes Priyanshu Painyuli, Sushant Singh, Rajesh Tailang, and Manu Rishi, with Tanya playing a pivotal role. The series explores themes of power, loyalty, and survival against the backdrop of illegal opium smuggling in central India. Besides the series, Tanya has also signed an exciting project opposite Rajkumar Rao in filmmaker Aditya Nimbalkar’s upcoming film. The untitled movie delves into the realities of India’s education system, portraying the struggles and aspirations of both students and educators. A source close to the film shared insights into its emotional depth. “This film is deeply personal for everyone involved. Aditya has approached the subject with remarkable sensitivity, and both Rajkumar and Tanya bring incred-

Lucky Mehta expresses delight on ‘Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 2’ completing 100 episodes

Mumbai: Actress Lucky Mehta, who plays the pivotal role of Suchitra in the second season of the cult television show Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi, is celebrating a major milestone as the show marks its 100th episode. The actress expressed immense joy and gratitude for being part of a series that holds such an iconic place in Indian television history. Lucky Mehta’s portrayal of Suchitra has been widely appreciated for bringing depth and authenticity to the show’s new-generation storyline. Her performance has struck a chord with both long-time fans of the franchise and new viewers discovering the saga for the first time. Reflecting on the journey, Lucky said it feels “incredible” to see how far the show has come since its reboot. For her, being part of a story that has defined television culture for decades is an honor and a dream come true. “Being part of a cult show with such an iconic legacy and working alongside legendary actors is truly special,” Lucky shared, highlighting the emotional connection she feels with the project. The actress spoke warmly about how audiences have embraced her character, noting that their affection and feedback motivate her to keep pushing boundaries as a performer. “What excites me most is that the audience has connected with my character in a way that feels very personal,” she said, adding that Suchitra’s emotional complexity makes her one of the most fulfilling roles of her career. According to Lucky, Suchitra’s character is multi-layered, allowing her to explore a wide range of emotions. “Suchitra has so many shades—protective, emotional, strong—and exploring those layers as an actor has been deeply fulfilling,” she explained. She also pointed out how Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 2 strikes a fine balance between nostalgia and modern sensibilities. “I’ve done shows before, but this one feels different because it carries both nostalgia and freshness, blending two generations beautifully,” she said. The actress credited the creative team and her co-stars for making the experience enjoyable and creatively enriching. Working with seasoned actors from the original show as well as a new generation of talent, she said, has been both inspiring and educational. The second season of Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi has brought back the emotional intensity, family drama, and traditional values that made the original a phenomenon, while introducing a contemporary touch to connect with younger audiences. For Lucky Mehta, reaching the 100-episode mark is a proud moment that validates the hard work and commitment of the entire cast and crew. She said that every day on set feels like a celebration of the show’s enduring legacy. Fans have praised the show for its seamless continuation of the Kyunki universe, blending nostalgia with new-age storytelling. Lucky’s character, in particular, has been hailed as a strong, grounded presence who embodies the emotional spirit of the series. As the show moves ahead with fresh twists and evolving storylines, Lucky said she’s looking forward to exploring more facets of Suchitra and continuing to connect with viewers through her performance.

Arti Singh manifests her dream of sitting beside Amitabh Bachchan on KBC hot seat

Mumbai: Television actress Arti Singh is overjoyed after being featured on the Wall of Fame of Amitabh Bachchan’s iconic quiz show, “Kaun Banega Crorepati 17.” The actress shared that the moment felt “truly special and memorable,” adding that she now hopes to take her dream one step further — by sitting on the KBC hot seat alongside the megastar someday. On Thursday, Arti took to Instagram to post a series of pictures from the set, featuring her husband Deepak Chauhan, brother Krushna Abhishek, and comedian Sunil Grover. One heartwarming photo captured her hugging Sunil as they smiled for the camera. In her caption, the Maayka actress wrote, “Good days and will always cherish this memory. Being on the Wall of Fame of legendary Shri Amitabh Bachchan sir’s show is very, very special. Who knows, maybe by God’s grace, I’ll get the chance to sit on the hot seat someday. Always live in good hope, manifest good things, and do good deeds.”

Yash joins hands with Farhan Akhtar to launch ‘120 Bahadur’ trailer

Mumbai: Kannada superstar Yash is set to unveil the trailer of Farhan Akhtar’s upcoming war drama “120 Bahadur”, adding his star power to one of the year’s most awaited Hindi film releases. According to an official statement, Yash will launch the trailer on Thursday at 2:07 pm, marking a significant moment for the film’s promotional campaign. The announcement has created a wave of excitement across both Bollywood and Kannada film industries. “120 Bahadur” is a powerful tribute to India’s real-life war heroes, inspired by the legendary Battle of Rezang La (1962) — one of the most remarkable chapters in Indian military history. The film showcases the bravery of 120 soldiers of Charlie Company from the 13 Kumaon Regiment, who stood their ground against more than 3,000 Chinese troops during the Sino-Indian war. At the heart of the story is Major Shaitan Singh Bhati, PVC, portrayed by Farhan Akhtar, who led his men with indomitable courage in one of the fiercest battles ever fought in the icy heights of Ladakh. Farhan’s transformation for the role has already become a talking point among fans and critics alike. Directed by Razneesh “Razy” Ghai, known for his sharp storytelling and visual flair, 120 Bahadur promises to deliver a gritty, emotionally charged war spectacle rooted in patriotism and sacrifice. The film is produced by Ritesh Sidhwani, Farhan Akhtar, and Amit

Chandrra, under the banner of Excel Entertainment, and is scheduled for a theatrical release on November 21, 2025. The decision to have Yash launch the trailer reflects the growing camaraderie between the Hindi and South Indian film industries, as top stars increasingly collaborate across regional lines. Yash’s association adds massive visibility, given his enormous popularity following the global success of the “KGF” franchise. Meanwhile, Yash himself is gearing up for his much-awaited comeback with “Toxic: A Fairy Tale for Grown-Ups,” which will release in theatres worldwide on March 19, 2026. The film is directed by Geetu Mohandas, an acclaimed filmmaker known for her distinctive storytelling style. Toxic is being jointly produced by Venkat K. Narayana and Yash under KVN Productions and Monster Mind Creations. The project is being simultaneously shot in English and Kannada, with dubbed versions to release in Hindi, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, and several other languages, ensuring a truly pan-India and global reach. The film’s release date has been strategically chosen to coincide with Gudi Padwa, Ugadi, and regional New Year celebrations, followed closely by Eid, creating a high-octane festive frame for moviegoers. With Yash returning to the big screen after his blockbuster run as Rocky Bhai in KGF: Chapter 2, expectations from Toxic are sky-high. Described as a dark, modern-day fairy tale with psychological and emotional depth, Toxic is expected to blend intense drama with stunning visuals, offering something entirely new to Indian audiences. In addition to Toxic, Yash is also part of Nitesh Tiwari’s ambitious “Ramayana”, which stars Ranbir Kapoor as Lord Ram and Sai Pallavi as Sita. The project, touted as one of the biggest cinematic ventures in Indian film history, will bring together leading talent from across the country. With Yash launching the trailer of 120 Bahadur, his upcoming projects, and the continuing expansion of his cinematic universe, the superstar’s influence on Indian cinema continues to rise. His involvement in Farhan Akhtar’s war drama not only bridges industries but also celebrates a shared spirit of storytelling and heroism that resonates across the nation.

Revathy shares glimpse of upcoming project with Parvathy Thiruvothu, Resul Pookutty

Mumbai: Veteran actress and filmmaker Revathy has expressed her joy over reuniting with her close friends Parvathy Thiruvothu, Resul Pookutty, and Shankar Ramakrishnan for an upcoming project. Calling it an “absolute pleasure,” Revathy gave fans a glimpse of their collaboration through a series of behind-the-scenes pictures. The celebrated actress took to Instagram to share the photos, which appear to have been taken inside a dubbing studio. The images sparked curiosity among fans, who flooded the comments section with guesses about the nature of the project.

Revathy, however, chose to keep the details under wraps. Captioning the post, she wrote, “There are times we get to work with friends, turning work into absolute pleasure... with @parvathy, @resulpookutty and Shankar Ramakrishnan... coming up soon.” The post immediately went viral, as fans and industry colleagues expressed excitement about the powerhouse team coming together. The collaboration has generated buzz for uniting some of the most respected names from the Malayalam film industry. Though no official announcement has been made regarding the title, genre, or format of the project, many speculate that it could be a feature film or a creative audio-visual venture given the presence of Academy Award-winning sound designer Resul Pookutty. Parvathy Thiruvothu, one of the most acclaimed actors of her generation, is known for her powerful performances in films such as Uyare, Take Off, and Charlie. She has always chosen scripts that combine strong storytelling with emotional depth. Parvathy is currently gearing up for her next project directed by Don Palathara, which will also star acclaimed filmmaker-actor

Alisha Panwar shares how ‘Shagun Mein Dhoka’ made her explore pain of betrayal and broken trust

Mumbai: Actress Alisha Panwar has shared her heartfelt experience of working on “Shagun Mein Dhoka”, a story that dives deep into the emotional turmoil of love, betrayal, and broken trust. In an exclusive quote shared with IANS, Alisha said the project gave her a rare opportunity to explore the raw emotional side of relationships. “Portraying such intense emotions on screen was both challenging and moving, as the story highlights the fragility of relationships and the deep pain that comes with losing faith in someone you love,” she said. Reflecting on the shoot, the actress recalled how special it felt to film in her bridal look. “In this series, I got to wear a beautiful wedding saree, which I absolutely loved — though the makeup sessions did take a while. I had always imagined how my bridal look would turn out, and I was thrilled with the final result,” she

shared. The actress added that filming scenes of heartbreak and betrayal was particularly emotional. “Marriage is such a pure and heartfelt bond built on love and trust. Seeing that trust break on-screen felt genuinely heartbreaking. It’s never right to cheat someone who gives you their heart — I truly hope no one faces that kind of betrayal in real life,” she said. In “Shagun Mein Dhoka”, Alisha plays Maya, a captivating yet cunning bride whose story of love and deception keeps viewers hooked till the end. The episode is part of Hungama OTT’s anthology series “Dirty Scams”, which tells bold

Australia get Maxwell boost with T20 series on line

Carrara: Glenn Maxwell returns for the first time after fracturing his forearm a month ago, named in Australia's XI for the fourth T20I against India.

With the series locked at one-all with two games to play, the Aussies made four changes to their side with Maxwell getting the all clear from team staff after coming close to playing in Hobart.

Home captain Mitch Marsh won the toss under clear skies and chose to field first.

Leg-spinner Adam Zampa is the other big name who comes in for his first match of the series, although his absence has been due to paternity leave and not injury.

Josh Philippe and Ben Dwarshuis are the other inclusions while Travis Head and Sean Abbott depart the squad in preparation for the



Ashes and Mitch Owen and local boy Matt Kuhnemannsits out.

India have gone in unchanged after their convincing five-wicket win with nine balls to spare in Hobart on Sunday night.Visiting

captain Suryakumar Yadav said he was surprised, but not unhappy, with the conditions on offer tonight.

"It looks like subcontinental conditions," Yadav said at the toss.

"We were looking to bat

first. The pitch looks similar to Indian conditions, so we want to put in the runs on the board."

It's the first men's international at Gold Coast's Carrara Stadium since Australia hosted West Indies here in

late 2022.

Short, who relocated to the Gold Coast with wife Madi earlier this year, was excited to see international cricket return to Queensland's second largest city.

"It's really exciting to have this game ... there is a huge opportunity for cricket on the Gold Coast with the outstanding facilities," Short said.

While Kuhnemann explained Carrara Stadium has its own little nuances.

"I'm expecting a nice wicket and a high-scoring game," Kuhnemann said on Tuesday."It's a funny-shaped ground ... There's a couple of big pockets and short pockets here."(Glenn) Maxwell has had some success playing here ... It's a unique ground and a great place to play."

Saina Nehwal confident PV Sindhu can win third Olympic medal at LA 2028

Mumbai: London 2012 Olympics medallist Saina Nehwal believes fellow shuttler PV Sindhu has both the "experience" and determination to script history with a third Olympic medal at the Los Angeles 2028 Games.According to Olympics.com, on the sidelines of the Fit India National Fitness and Wellness Conclave held in Mumbai earlier this week, the former world No. 1 told Olympics.com that Sindhu's chances depended on "how well she managed her body and form closer to the LA 2028 Olympics."Sindhu, a two-time Olympic medallist, won silver at Rio 2016 and bronze at Tokyo 2020, becoming the first indian woman and only the second Indian athlete, after Sushil Kumar, to claim two individual Olympic medals. However, India returned empty-handed from Paris 2024, despite promising performances from Lakshya Sen in men's singles, and the doubles pair of Satwiksairaj



Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty, both of whom narrowly missed the podium. Saina feels Sen, HS Pranno, and Satwik-Chirag will be India's best hopes once again, but "it was too early to predict anything since fitness and form are never guaranteed and what matters most are the weeks before the final cut is made for Games qualification."Sindhu, who won silver in Rio 2016, beat People's Republic of China's He Bingjiao 21-13, 21-15 to win the bronze medal in the women's singles. In Paris, Sindhu lost to the same opponent 21-19, 21-14 at the

pre-quarterfinals stage. Last month, she withdrew from all Badminton World Federation Tour events in 2025 for the rest of the year, due to a foot injury she sustained before the European leg.In 2025, Sindhu's form has been rather tepid. At least half a dozen first-round exits have not done her reputation any good. Injuries have bothered her in the last couple of seasons, the website noted."Injuries are bound to happen," said Saina. "And when you push yourself hard against younger opponents, the risks are higher.

IGPL Jamshedpur: Pukhraj takes a seven shot lead

Jamshedpur: Pukhraj Singh Gill kept his foot on the pedal and did not let go as he added a round of 8-under 64 to his first round of 9-under 63 on the first day to take a big lead after two days at the IGPL Invitational Jamshedpur.

Pukhraj, 29, who hails from Ludhiana, is now 17-under for two rounds at the Par-72 Beldih Course, which can be quite tricky and challenging. Yet Pukhraj has had only one bogey against 16 birdies and one eagle, which came on the Par-5 16th. He started from the first and had a hat-trick of birdies from the second and added two more on the sixth and the seventh to turn in 5-under.

On the back nine, he birdied the 10th and the 12th and eagled the 16th while dropping his only shot in the two rounds so far on the Par-4 14th.

Pukhraj, who had finished runner-up in IGPL Jaypee Greens, is seeking his first professional title and his seven-shot lead over the established Sachin Baisoya (67-67), is the biggest any player has had after two rounds. Meanwhile, Baisoya is also looking for his maiden win on the IGPL Tour.

Harendra Gupta of Chandigarh, a multiple winner on the Indian Tour, added a bogey free 4-under 68 to his first round 67 and is third at 9-under.

The surprise presence in the Top-5 is that of former Asian Tour winner, Chiragh Kumar, who is slowly finding his game as he comes back from injuries.

Chiragh, who lives a stone's throw from the Delhi Golf Club, opened with a bogey on the fourth hole in the shotgun start, and then went on to pick four birdies and an eagle on the Par-5 16th for a round of 67. He is now eight-under and sole fourth.

The IGPL Order of Merit leader, Aman Raj (69-70), who was looking at a unique hat-trick of wins after successes in Jaipur and Kolkata, was tied tenth alongside M Dharma (70-69), Kapil Kumar (72-67), Aryan Roopa Anand (71-68), Trishul Chinnappa (69-70) and young Kartik Singh (70-69) at 5-under total.

An elated Pukhraj, who has had just one bogey in 36 holes, said, "This week has been an absolute flyer for me. Everything seems to be clicking, the hole feels bigger, and I've just taken it all in my stride. I've barely had a bogey, and that makes it easy to stay patient and focused because the game is flowing nicely.

"I'm very pleased with my performance today. I hardly missed a shot, and finishing with an eagle on the 16th really gave me an extra boost heading into tomorrow. My game plan has been solid, and I don't want to change much. The course suits my style - especially my shot shape - and I'm very comfortable with how I'm striking it right now."



"Golf is a funny game; you can easily have a few stray shots here and there. So having a cushion of two or three shots definitely helps," added Pukhraj Gill.

Speaking on the lovely Jamshedpur Golf Course, he added, "This course is definitely a little longer, with more well-defined tree lines, and both those aspects actually play to my advantage. The grass type is different too, and overall it feels more challenging than the Goltmuri Golf Course. Goltmuri has its own character, but I feel this one demands a bit more precision and control."

Talking of Sachin Baisoya, who is lying second, but played alongside him in the same group, Pukhraj said, "Both of us played very well today. Golf is an individual game, so you're in your own world most of the time- I was focused on my game, and he (Sachin) was probably focused on his. I think we both did really well."

Baisoya was also happy with his round, and commented, "The round went well. I did a good job hitting that part was really strong. My iron shots were quite close today, though I messed up slightly with the putting. On short putts of around six to seven feet, I missed about 5 or 6 of them, and that's where the scoring slipped a bit."

Sachin Baisoya added, "I'm happy as it was a bogey-free round. As for tomorrow, my approach remains the same, stick to fairways and greens. If I stay consistent, I'll keep making pars, and if a birdie opportunity comes along, that's a bonus. That's pretty much the plan."

Harendra Gupta was also happy the way his game has been trending. He said, "Over the last five to six years, my game has been improving, and I've been hitting the ball well. My driving has become much better, and I'm very happy that my game has come back. I've also been scoring really well lately."

He added, "For the last five years, I wasn't scoring as consistently, but over the past couple of years, I've been playing very well. It feels great to see my game back. There isn't one particular shot that stands out - it's more about playing my overall game. Questions or challenges always come and go, but what matters is staying focused and playing your own game."

Nervous weekend for coaches as La Liga prepares for international break

Madrid: The 12th round of matches in La Liga comes just ahead of the third international break of the season. That could be bad news for coaches whose clubs could be considering a change of direction to avoid a long battle against relegation.Girona coach Michel Sanchez looks to be in the most danger with his side bottom of La Liga with just seven points after last weekend's 2-1 defeat in Getafe.

Last season Girona was playing in the Champions League, but has struggled for the past 12 months and failure to win at home to an impressive Alaves that has the joint best defensive record in Spain, could see the club part ways with the coach who earned it promotion and took it to Europe.Jagoba Arrasate at Mallorca will also be keeping his fingers crossed for a win as his team faces an in-form Getafe that has climbed to seventh in the table and is looking to take three consecutive wins for the first time in five years. Mallorca has struggled for form this season and defeat in what is likely to be a close affair, perhaps decided by goals from set pieces, could also see Mallorca consider a

change in the dugout.

Valencia coach Carlos Corberan should have some credit after saving the club from relegation after replac-



ing Ruben Baraja last season, but a run of four defeats and just two draws from six games has dropped Valencia into the relegation zone, and another defeat at home to a Betis that has climbed up to fifth could exhaust Corberan's credit at a club not known for its patience.At the other end of the table, league leader Real Madrid looks to bounce back from a Champions League defeat to Liverpool with the short trip to play Rayo Vallecano at Vallecas.Trent Alexander Arnold is now fully fit if Xabi Alonso wants to start the former Liverpool defender and his set piece delivery could

be a factor against Rayo and also allow Fede Valverde to push forward into his favoured midfield position.FC Barcelona's defensive prob-

lems continued in its 3-3 draw against Club Brugge on Wednesday night.Atlético Madrid has lost defender Robin le Normand to injury ahead of its home game against Levante, but Jose Gimenez returns and Alexander Sorloth and Thiago Almada should also be back to freshen up Diego Simeone's attacking options. Expect drama in the San Mames Stadium where Athletic Club Bilbao takes on Oviedo.Oviedo travels second from bottom, while Athletic needs to overcome a long injury list to claim a win after taking just five points from its last eight matches, with questions over the fitness of several key players and the Williams brothers, Oihan Sancet, Benat Prados and Maroan Sannadi all injured.The round of matches starts on Saturday with Elche at home to Real Sociedad, while Sevilla needs to end a run of three consecutive defeats when it entertains an Osasuna side that has five defeats and just one draw away from home this season.

Another defeat for Sevilla could see coach Matias Almeyda join the list of those facing a nervous wait over the international break.

Cummins declares he's on track for Gabba return

Sydney: Pat Cummins remains on track to return for the second Ashes Test in Brisbane, but has conceded playing through the rest of the series unchanged could be difficult.

Cummins has progressed to bowling off a three-quarter run up as he plots a meticulous return from a back injury that has sidelined the Test captain since July.The 32-year-old was able to get through close to eight overs in the nets on Wednesday, and expects to be bowling at full pace by the start of the first Test.

Cummins has not felt any significant pain since his managed return to bowling, with no signs of any recurrence of the stress injury in his lower back.

Officials have been coy on whether Cummins would return for the second Test in Brisbane starting four weeks from now, but the quick remains a genuine chance, the cricket Australia sources said.

"That's the aim and we're building our plan to the second Test," Cummins said at the Seven Network's cricket launch on Thursday.

"It's probably not until you get a bit closer that you can really know where you're at."The good thing is that I'm pulling up well and the body is great."We're trying to keep that second Test as a live option. I'll have a really good bowl in Perth, and by then I'll know where I'm at."

What won't be so easy,



Cummins concedes, is playing every remaining Test this summer once he does return.

There is an eight-day gap built in between the second and third Tests, but only four-day gaps between the third, fourth and fifth Tests.

Australian officials have already identified that as a pressure point of the summer for bowlers, particularly if Tests go the distance and the hosts spend long periods in the field."I'm pretty keen to play as much as I can," Cummins said."But realistically, if we have a big game and bowl 40 or 50 overs and then there's a game that starts a few days later, it might be a bridge too far.

"I'm trying to get right, and if I get right then hopefully I'll try to play most of it as I can."

Cummins said he did not feel he would need a warm-up match during a tour game of grade-cricket fixture to have his body right for Test cricket.

Instead, Australia's pace leader will fly to Perth with the rest of the team next week and spend the Test with

coaching staff."Before the 2023 ODI World Cup I flew over to South Africa and watched the last couple of ODIs there," Cummins said."It was actually a really different view from the coach's box. It's a different perspective.

"So hopefully I gather some information from being in that position through the Test that later on in the series I can use.

"Or maybe Steve Smith needs something and I have seen something differently from up there.

"But being close to the game and the conversations, I think I will need that going into the second or third Test."

Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood will lead the pace attack in Cummins' absence, with Scott Boland to keep his spot after taking a hat-trick in Australia's previous Test in the West Indies.

Australia are hoping all-rounder Cameron Green can bowl up to 20 overs in his next Sheffield Shield match, with Beau Webster a chance to stay on as a second all-rounder.

India to host 2026 arm wrestling World Championships

Mumbai : People's ArmWrestling Federation of India (PAFI) announced today that India will host the World ArmWrestling Championships in October, 2026.

The championship is expected to feature approximately 1,500-2,000 athletes from 75 countries, competing across multiple categories. This announcement also marks another major opportunity for India to establish itself as a powerhouse in arm-wrestling, following the successful Asian ArmWrestling Cup in Mumbai in October 2024 and the Asian ArmWrestling Championship 2025 in New Delhi.

Hosting such a prestigious tournament not only underlines the ever-increasing popularity of armwrestling in the country but also showcases India as a global hub for the sport at the highest level.Alongside international tournaments, the Pro Panja League. The league is recognized as the premier platform for the sport, offering the highest level of competition and world class production standards.Making the announcement, President of World Armwrestling Federation Assen Hadjitodorov stated "India's rise in the global armwrestling community over the past five years has been nothing short of remarkable. Under the vi-



sionary leadership of Preeti Jhangiani, the People's Armwrestling Federation of India (PAFI) has transformed the sport into a cultural and competitive force. Their commitment to excellence, authenticity, and athlete welfare was on full display during the Asian Armwrestling Championship, which left a lasting impression on all of us. It is with great pride and confidence that I announce India as the host of the 2026 World Armwrestling Championship. The World will witness not only elite competition, but also the spirit and hospitality that make India a true powerhouse in our sport."Speaking on the occasion, President of PAFI and Vice President of Asian Armwrestling Federation (AAF) Preeti Jhangiani stated "To have the honour of being the host for the World ArmWrestling Championship is a matter of great pride, not only for our federation but also our country. This is the moment

for India to shine in the arm-wrestling world and another chance to showcase itself as an emerging sporting nation. We look forward to this huge opportunity, and I am sure we will rise together to face any challenges that come our way."Co-Founder of Pro Panja League Parvinn Dabass said "We have been growing from strength to strength every year and we have seen a huge explosion of armwrestling events in India, which is reflected in the upward trend of participation numbers as well. We're delighted with how the Pro Panja League has played it's part in promoting the league in every corner of the country, and the rights of the World ArmWrestling Championship is going to further fuel the rise of the sport. This is also a huge opportunity for our athletes to gain international exposure on the world stage, while rubbing shoulders with the best athletes in the world."

BSE Sensex		Nifty 50		Nifty 500		Nifty Next 50		Nifty 100		Nifty Bank		Nifty Midcap 100	
Close	Percent change	Close	Percent change	Close	Percent change	Close	Percent change	Close	Percent change	Close	Percent change	Close	Percent change
83,311.01	-0.18%	25,509.70	-0.34%	23,513.15	-0.69%	69,299.55	-1.24%	26,154.95	-0.49%	57,554.25	-0.47%	59,468.60	-0.95%
Previous close	Open	Previous close	Open	Previous close	Open	Previous close	Open	Previous close	Open	Previous close	Open	Previous close	Open
83,459.15	83,516.69	25,597.65	25,593.35	23,675.45	23,683.35	70,168.80	70,285.15	26,284.45	26,288.00	57,827.05	57,714.80	60,037.20	60,106.55
High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
83,846.35	83,237.65	25,679.15	25,491.55	23,713.40	23,501.05	70,334.55	69,241.80	26,353.90	26,137.10	57,945.05	57,521.00	60,144.25	59,403.10

Top Gainers

Company	Current	% Gain
Asian Paints	2,602.90	4.67
Reliance	1,496.10	1.56
Interglobe Avi	5,693.00	0.99
TATA Cons. Prod	1,190.40	0.94
M&M	3,618.50	1.04

Top Losers

Company	Current	%Loss
Grasim	2,700.10	-6.31
Hindalco	788.40	-5.17
Adani Enterpris	2,314.30	-4.36
Power Grid Corp	270.20	-3.17
Eternal	305.65	-2.50

Commodities

Commodity	Price	Change (%)
Gold Dec 05	121,269.00	747.00 0.62
Silver Dec 05	148,673.00	1,352.00 0.92
Crudeoil Nov 19	5,342.00	37.00 0.70
Naturalgas Nov 24	380.50	3.30 0.87

Market fails to build on opening hours gains, nears day's low on final hour selling

New Delhi: The stock market on Thursday failed to build on the gains recorded in the opening hours, and remained rangebound throughout the session. The final hour selling pressure dragged the Nifty below 25,500 before closing near day's low, amid selling across the sectors. At close, the Sensex was down 148.14 points or 0.18% at 83,311.01. On the other hand, Nifty was down 87.95 points or 0.34% at 25,509.70. BSE Midcap index fell 1.2%, and smallcap index shed 1.5%. The overall market capitalisation of BSE-listed firms dropped to below Rs 466 lakh crore from nearly Rs 470 lakh crore. Among the sectors, only Nifty IT (0.18%) and Auto (0.06%) managed to end in the green. On the other hand, Nifty Media down by 2.54%, Metal down by 2.07%, Consumer Durables down by 1.98%, and Realty down by 1.51% ended with deep losses while Nifty Bank also fell 0.47%. On Nifty50, those ending as top gainers



were, the shares of Asian Paints was up 4.64%, Reliance Industries was up by 1.47%, and UltraTech Cement was up 1.04%. Further, the shares of Grasim Industries were down 6.42%, Hindalco Industries down by 5.39%, and Adani Enterprises was down by 4.50% ending as the top losers. Out of 4,353

stocks traded on the BSE, 1,202 advanced, while 3,012 declined. Some 139 stocks remained unchanged. More than 120 stocks touched their 52-week high on the BSE while 173 stocks fell to their 52-week lows. Those hitting highs were CCL Products, Paytm, Navin Fluorine, RBL Bank, SBI, Lau-

rus Labs, AU Small Finance Bank, 3M India, Titan Company, Chennai Petro, BPCL, City union Bank, among others. Deepak Nitrite, Clean Science and Technology, Cohance Lifesciences, Crompton Greaves Consumer Electricals, Godrej Agrovet, Jindal Saw, KNR Constructions.

Continental tyres expands retail presence in AP

Tirupati: Leading premium tyre manufacturer Continental inaugurated its new Continental Premium Drive (CPD) dealership in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh today.

Operated by Super Tyres, this outlet marks the dealer's latest branch in the city, underscoring Continental's commitment to expanding its premium retail presence across key regional markets. The new CPD dealership, located at Krishna Reddy Nagar, Autonagar, Tirupati, is equipped with modern infrastructure to deliver a superior service experience. Customers will have access to a comprehensive range of tyre-related solutions, including tyre sales and replacement, wheel alignment, balancing, and nitrogen filling. By integrating these essential services under one roof, the outlet ensures greater convenience, safety, and driving comfort for vehicle owners. The new CPD outlet positions the brand to better serve the evolving needs of customers while reinforcing its commitment to quality and reliability.

Speaking on the occa-



sion, Samir Gupta, Managing Director, Continental Tyres India, said: "The new CPD store in Tirupati marks another important step in our commitment to ensuring safety, comfort, and performance for customers in Andhra Pradesh. With our 'In the Market, For the Market' approach, we continue to expand our presence across India, bringing premium products and services closer to our customers."

Pallavi Kapoor, Head of Marketing, Continental Tyres India, said at the inauguration, "We are looking forward to partnering with Super Tyres to bring the Continental Premium Drive experience to Tirupati. This new CPD store demonstrates

our dedication to delivering high-quality products and making premium tyre solutions more accessible in key regional markets."

With this launch, Continental continues to grow its CPD network in India, which now includes over 200 brand stores. This expansion reflects the company's "In the Market, For the Market" approach, bringing premium tyre solutions closer to customers while fostering deeper engagement and stronger brand connections.

Continental Tyres recently announced a strategic investment of approximately Rs 100 crore in India to strengthen and expand its passenger and light trucks business in the country.

Panattoni, Edayar Zinc announce Rs 800 cr logistics park

Thiruvananthapuram:

Global industrial real estate leader Panattoni and Kerala-based Edayar Zinc Ltd today announced a strategic partnership to develop a state-of-the-art, Grade A multi-client logistics and industrial park in Edayar Industrial Area, Kochi, with a total investment of Rs 800 crore.

This landmark development marks Panattoni's entry into Kerala and serves as the anchor project within the Kerala Logistics & Industrial City (KLIC) – a visionary initiative by Edayar Zinc Ltd. that will position Kochi as a gateway for global industrial and logistics investment.

Norbert Sumislawski, Managing Director – International Project Management, Panattoni and Mohamed Bismith, Managing Director, Edayar Zinc Ltd., formally executed the agreement in the presence of P Rajeev, Minister for Law, Industries and Coir, and A.P.M. Mohammed Hanish, Principal Secretary (Industries), Government of Kerala. Vishnuraj P, MD, KSIDC and Santhosh Koshy, MD, KINFRA, were also present.

The new park will be developed in two phases – with Phase I spanning 20 acres and featuring 5.2 lakh sq. ft. of world-class infrastructure, catering to e-commerce, FMCG, 3PL, and pharmaceutical clients.

The facility will feature 12-metre clear height, FM2-grade floors, 5-tonne/sq. m. loading capacity, K160 sprinklers, and IGBC-certified sustainable design, setting new benchmarks in the region's logistics ecosystem.

Construction will begin in February 2026, with Phase 1 operations targeted for February 2027.

Speaking on the occasion, Rajeev said with the advent of Panattoni, Kerala's visibility in logistics sector will increase.

"I express my gratitude to Panattoni for showing interest in investing in Kerala. The government within its framework will provide whatever needed for Panattoni in a stipulated time and a special officer has been designated for the project as a nodal officer," the Minister added.

Norbert Sumislawski, Managing Director – International Project Management, Panattoni, added, "This partnership with Edayar Zinc Ltd reflects our shared commitment to developing world-class, sustainable, and flexible logistics infrastructure."

"The Kochi project exemplifies our model of combining global expertise with local entrepreneurship to unlock industrial potential and create employment opportunities that strengthen regional economies."

Rajiv Sinha, CFO, Panattoni India, said, "India continues to be one of Panattoni's most promising growth markets."

Our partnership with Edayar Zinc Ltd. and the Kerala Government underscores our commitment to expanding into high-potential regions and delivering infrastructure that supports India's logistics modernization. Kochi's strategic location, industrial heritage, and connectivity make it an ideal hub for future-ready development aligned with the country's manufacturing ambitions."

Mohamed Bismith, Managing Director, Edayar Zinc Ltd., commented, "KLIC represents our vision

to transform Edayar into a vibrant industrial hub that contributes meaningfully to Kerala's economic growth. With plans to host over 50 industrial units and generate more than 5,000 direct and indirect jobs, and with over Rs 1,500 crore of projected investments from diverse industrial and logistics projects, KLIC is designed to become a self-sustaining ecosystem that drives sustainable industrial progress and Kerala's next phase of economic development."

The proposed future developments at KLIC include the Global Machinery, Equipment and Technology (GMET) Corridor – a pioneering platform designed to bring together global OEMs, technology providers, and industrial leaders – and the Industrial Gala, offering state-of-the-art, built-to-lease spaces for manufacturing, assembly, and allied operations.

Together, these developments will position KLIC as a future-ready industrial ecosystem, integrating world-class infrastructure, sustainable industrial planning, and comprehensive amenities such as a Business Centre, Convention Centre, Medical Centre, Sports and Entertainment Zones, green spaces, and dedicated facilities for barge berthing and container storage – setting a new benchmark for industrial and logistics excellence in Kerala.

Backed by the Kerala Government's forward-looking industrial and logistics policies, this development is poised to redefine regional connectivity, enhance supply chain efficiency, and accelerate sustainable economic growth across southern India.

Correction in Indian stock market over, Sensex to hit 100,000 mark by June 2026: Morgan Stanley

New Delhi: The correction in the Indian stock market is over, suggest analysts at Morgan Stanley, claiming the key factors driving the country's underperformance compared to emerging market (EM) peers are reversing.

Morgan Stanley highlighted that in a bull-case scenario (attaching a 30 pc probability), the Sensex could hit the 100,000 mark by June 2026.

Their base-case scenario (50 pc probability) pegs the Sensex at 89,000 levels, which is up around 6.6% from the current levels, while their bear-case scenario pegs the index at 70,000 mark (down 16% from the current levels) to which they have assigned 20% probability.

It is further believed that the Indian stock market is transitioning into one that will be driven by macros, and stock-picking will likely lose importance.

The report, co-authored by Morgan Stanley Managing Director Ridham Desai and the firm's Chief India equity strategist Nayan Parekh, mentioned that India's growth cycle is set to accelerate.

This acceleration in growth is backed by the reflation effort of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and the government via rate cuts, cash reserve ratio (CRR) cut,



bank deregulation and liquidity infusion, front loading of capex and a near Rs 1.5 trillion in GST rate cuts, the report said.

Desai and Parekh expect 'positive' earnings revisions, rate cuts by the RBI in the coming quarter, privatisation of public sector companies and lower US tariffs on India, which they believe will serve as the key catalysts for an uptick in the Indian economy and markets.

"The thawing of relations with China and China's anti-involution add to the mix. A likely India-US trade deal should further boost sentiment. Thus, India's hawkish macro set-up post-COVID is now unwinding. Relative valuations have corrected and likely made a trough in October," the report said.

The report said the foreign portfolio investor (FPI) positioning remains near lows, but net FPI buying will need growth to recover and/or bull markets elsewhere to fade, plus a rise in corporate issuances. Downside risks arise from slowing global growth and worsening geopolitics.

RSWM, Adani Energy Solutions join hands for sustainable future



New Delhi: RSWM Ltd, one of India's leading textile manufacturers and the flagship company of LNG Bhilwara Group, has signed an agreement with Adani Energy Solutions Ltd for the supply of 60MW of renewable energy, an Adani statement said today.

The agreement marks a milestone in the sustainable journey of Adani Group.

Under the deal, AESL will manage the entire green powder value chain for the additional power requirements of RSWM Ltd.

RSWM has invested Rs 60 crore under the group captive scheme with a renewable genco for the supply of 31.53 crore units of green power per annum to its manufacturing facilities in Rajasthan.

With this addition, the contribution of renewable energy in the RSWM total energy requirement will rise

from the current 33-70 percent in the near future (two-thirds of the total energy mix). Riju Jhunjunwala, Chairman, Managing Director, and CEO of RSWM Ltd, said, "This achievement underscores our long-term vision to align growth with sustainability and reinforce our position as a forward-looking industrial leader. By sourcing 70pc of our total energy requirement from renewable sources, well above the national average of India's clean energy mix, that is 31pc, RSWM continues to set industry benchmarks in responsible energy transition."

On the other hand, Kandarp Patel, CEO of Adani Energy Solutions Ltd, said, "We are delighted to partner with RSWM on this landmark initiative that demonstrates how sustainability is becoming integral to businesses."

AI adoption in cyber security surges across India

Bengaluru: Artificial intelligence is rapidly becoming a core part of cybersecurity operations in India, with 94% of organizations already deploying AI to detect, respond to, and predict cyber threats, according to a 2025 survey by IDC commissioned by Fortinet.

The survey highlighted that AI is no longer limited to detection. Enterprises are using AI for predictive threat modelling, automated inci-

dent response, AI-driven threat intelligence, and behavioural analytics. Generative AI is increasingly applied for updating policies, drafting detection rules, and guiding investigations, though fully autonomous remediation is not widely implemented. The findings also revealed a growing challenge from AI-enabled cyber attacks. Seventy-two percent of organizations reported facing AI-powered threats

in the past year, with many observing a two- to three-fold increase in attack volumes. The shift towards AI-first cybersecurity is also reshaping workforce requirements. Security data scientists, AI engineers, threat intelligence analysts, and AI-focused incident response professionals are in high demand. However, cybersecurity teams remain under-resourced, with only 6% of workforce allocation

dedicated to IT and a fraction focused on security.

Consolidation and convergence are emerging as strategic priorities. Nearly 88% of organizations are merging security with networking, while 74% are considering vendor rationalisation to improve integration, efficiency, and security posture.

Simon Piff, Research Vice-President, IDC Asia-Pacific, said, "Organizations

are embedding AI across detection, incident response, and team design, marking a new phase of security operations."

Vivek Srivastava, Country Manager, India & SAA-RC, Fortinet, added, "Budgets, teams, and strategies now revolve around AI to ensure faster detection, smarter response, and resilient operations."

The survey covered 550 IT.