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Nitish promises faster growth in Bihar, outlines five-year development roadmap

December chill in Delhi, IMD forecasts coldwave conditions in the city



Aunt Held for Serial Child Killings in



Shami, Abishek, Easwaran star for Bengal in Syed



Stock markets bounce back after 4 days of decline; Sensex climbs 158 points

Our Navy upholds maritime security'

PM Modi on Navy Day

New Delhi : Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday extended his greetings to the Indian Navy on Navy Day on Thursday, praising their exceptional courage and determination in safeguarding the country's maritime interests.

In a post on X, PM Modi highlighted the Navy's critical focus on self-reliance and modernisation, noting how these efforts have enhanced India's overall security apparatus.

synonymous exceptional courage and

determination. safeguard our shores and uphold our maritime interests," the Prime Minister stated. He recalled his "memorable experience" of spending Diwali with Naval personnel on board INS India's Vikrant, first indigenous aircraft carrier.

Commending the Navy's crucial role in strengthening maritime security, the Prime Minister expressed confidence in their future. Navy Day is celebrated to commemorate the Navy's decisive role in the 1971 Indo-Pak war.

Indo-Russia: Delhi gets Russian education hub; Mumbai and Chennai branches planned

New Delhi: In a major step to

deepen educational and cultural

cooperation between India and

Russia, the Russian Educational

Agency has inaugurated its first branch in New Delhi. The initiative, a joint project Synergy the Corporation and Innopraktika. India, aims to provide Indian students with streamlined access to quality higher education in Russia while fostering cultural, scientific, and social ties between the two nations. The launch comes when Russian President Vladimir Putin is on a State visit India reflecting

between both the countries. The agency already collaborates with leading Russian universities and plans to expand its presence in India. with new branches set to open in Mumbai and Chennai in 2026.

strengthening of relations

Over 10,000 Indian students are expected to pursue Russian higher education next year. The Agency's branch in New Delhi will serve as a support center for applicants: agency specialists will help select study programs

through admission procedures, and assist with visa applications and other necessary documentation. This significantly simplify process for Indian students interested in Russian education and ready to build their futures based on international academic experience.

"Many Indian graduates of Russian universities have become true ambassadors of friendship between our nations and cultures," said Vadim Lobov, President of the Synergy Corporation. "Russian universities inherit prestigious Soviet higher education system, and the Educational Agency continue this tradition by helping the next generation of Indian students receive world-class education in Russia.'

Beyond academics, agency will also promote Russian culture and language through interactive programs "Bridge of Friendship: Russia and India," recently launched in Delhi schools

universities and plans to expand study.

agency schoolchildren insight into the cooperates with leading Russian country where they wish to



in India. In 2026, branches will open in Mumbai (Maharashtra) and Chennai (Tamil Nadu). The agency also aims to send over 10,000 Indian students to study at Russian universities in 2026.

A key focus of the agency's work will be promoting Russian culture and language. Thematic will give Indian

"Bridge of Friendship: Russia and India," were held in Delhi schools on the day the agency branch launched, with over 1,000 high school students participating.

The first interactive lessons,

More lessons will be held across India in the near future. "It's important for us not just Russian universities—students can find that online. Our task is to help them prepare for admission. We select preparatory courses, assist with paperwork, and ease cultural adaptation," emphasized Natalia Popova, First Deputy General Director Innopraktika.

The growing interest in Russian culture and language reflects strengthening humanitarian cooperation between India and Russia.

The New Delhi branch will serve as a support hub for Indian youth seeking international education and will contribute to closer cultural, scientific, and economic interaction between the two nations.

Russian education traditionally enjoyed high prestige in India, particularly in medicine, IT, and engineering. Graduates universities significantly contribute to India's economy and scientific- technological development, often becoming ambassadors of Russian-Indian friendship.

Priyanka Gandhi slams Modi govt as Rupee falls past 90 against Dollar Her comments reflect

New Delhi: Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, All India Committee general secretary and Wayanad MP, on Thursday criticized the government as the Indian rupee slipped past the 90-per-dollar mark, hitting a record low.

Speaking to the media, questioned government's silence now, contrasting it with its criticism when the currency weakened during the Singh government. "What did they use to

say when the dollar's value speaking to media.

was high against the rupee



Singh government? What is their response today? Ask them. Why are you asking me?"Privanka said while

concern over the currency's record low, which analysts attribute to capital outflows, rising crude prices, and delays in a major trade deal Meanwhile.

the

government, through the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and its economic team, has downplayed the fall. Chief Economic Anantha Nageswaran recently stated that the rupee's depreciation is unlikely to significantly impact inflation or exports at present.

The decline comes amid weak trade and portfolio flows, coupled with growing uncertainty over the India-US trade

Congress Tewari seeks debate on **Delhi-NCR** air pollution emergency

New Delhi: Congress MP Manish Tewari on Thursday submitted an adjournment motion in the Sabha seeking immediate suspension of Question Hour, Zero, and all scheduled business to discuss what he described as a "catastrophic air pollution crisis" engulfing Delhi-NCR and the Indo-Gangetic Plain.

In his letter to the Secretary General of the Lok Sabha, Tewari warned that toxic air had turned the region into "lethal gas chambers", triggering a

national public health asthma, pneumonia, heart emergency an attacks, unprecedented scale.

He noted that residents of Delhi-NCR stand to lose up to seven years of life expectancy. He added that doctors from Sir Ganga Ram Hospital and the Lung Care Foundation have reported a sharp rise in lung cancer cases among nonsmokers.

"Children are suffering irreversible damage to their lungs and brains, the elderly are struggling to breathe, and people of all ages face soaring risks of



millions of Indians are being robbed of years of their lives.

The Congress MP said death emergency".

that Indian cities now dominate global lists of the world's most polluted, with pollution levels rising by over 70 percent in recent years. He argued that the crisis was no longer a seasonal phenomenon but a 'continuing calamity" that coordinated intervention by both Central and State governments.

Urging the House to act without delay, Tewari called for all other business to be set aside to address what he termed a "life-and-

ED arrests trust ex-chief in Rajasthan for money laundering, radical links

The Enforcement Directorate (ED), Jaipur Zonal Office, stated on Thursday that it has Mohammed Sadeeque alias Sadik Khan, the former president of the Alfurkan Educational Trust (AET) in Bikaner.

The arrest is for his involvement in money laundering arising from the systematic diversion public donations. extensive cash-based criminal activities. suspicious foreign associations, and conduct indicative of radicalisation and involvement in unlawful networks. He was produced before

special PMLA court in Jaipur. The ED sought his custodial remand, which was approved by the court. Officials said they were granted three-day custodial remand for the accused. The ED initiated a PMLA investigation based on two FIRs registered by Rajasthan Police and credible information.

It is alleged that Mohammed Sadeeque was involved in radicalisation activities, forced religious conversions, association with various overseas radical outfits, and suspicious highvalue financial transactions routed through his and his members' bank accounts, running into crores The police FIRs and

chargesheets also mention charges of attempt to murder and the use of illegal arms by the accused.

The ED investigation has revealed that Md. Sadeeque the Alfurkan Educational Trust, which manages Masjid-e-Ayesha and routinely collected sizeable public donations through this trust, primarily in cash, with no financial record-keeping.

The donations collected for religious, social, and



charitable purposes were allegedly retained entirely in by Mohammed Sadeeque under his sole, undocumented control.

The probe indicates that these unaccounted cash collections became the primary source of funds he diverted for personal use and to finance a range of illegal

undertaking frequent foreign visits to meet banned and radical outfits overseas to promote his radical agenda. Examination of his foreign travels shows that Sadeeque undertook multiple visits to Bangladesh, Nepal, Qatar, and Oman using unverified cash funds, without any lawful financial trail.

During his visit to Bangladesh, he worked closely with one Md. Salim alias Saurabh Vaidya, who was later arrested by the Madhya Pradesh ATS for alleged links with the proscribed organisation Hizb-ut-Tahrir.

Further investigation has established that Sadeeque had no legitimate or consistent source of income for several years and subsisted on unlawful cashbased operations, including

gambling, illicit liquor trade, and suspected dealings in country-made illegal firearms.

The link between these criminal activities and the misappropriated donations is reinforced by the recovery of three countrymade weapons and live cartridges from him and his associates in a case for which a chargesheet has already been filed by the local

The façade of religious and charitable work was thus consciously used Sadeeque to conceal deeper networks of unaccounted, clandestine, and criminal operations. The investigation has further revealed that Sadeeque met members of Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB/JuM) and maintained contact with them even after

returning to India.

The probe also examined a widely circulated video in which an inflammatory speech is attributed to him, which was made with the deliberate intention of provoking communal sentiments. The investigation has also revealed that a foreign country's flag was burnt at public gatherings under his supervision and that he mobilised cash donations by orchestrating such activities designed to inflame sentiments, exploit religious sensitivities, and convert public anger into personal financial gain.

The arrest of Mohammed Sadeeque marks a significant step in dismantling a network shadow financial operations, suspected radical influences, and unlawful activities operating under the guise of charitable and religious work.

Centre's insecurity: Rahul Gandhi alleges govt blocking foreign leaders from meeting LoP

Russian President Vladimir Putin's arrival in New Delhi, a fresh political clash erupted as Lok Sabha LoP Rahul Gandhi accused the Modi government of deliberately blocking visiting foreign leaders from meeting him.

Calling the move a violation of democratic norms, Rahul alleged that the practice honoured under Vajpayee and Manmohan Singh, was being dismantled Centre's due to the "insecurity."

"It has always been a convention that visiting leaders meet the Leader of Opposition. This used to happen during Vajpayee ji's

New Delhi: On the eve of and Manmohan Singh ji's governments," Rahul Gandhi said. "But now, when foreign dignitaries visit India-or when I am abroad—the government advises them not to meet the LoP. This is their policy. It reflects their insecurity.'

Commenting on Russian President Vladimir Putin's visit, Gandhi added, "We have relations with everyone. The gives a different perspective—we too represent India. The government doesn't want the Opposition to meet people coming from outside. Modi ji and the Foreign Ministry don't follow this norm."

The remarks triggered

strong reactions from across the political spectrum, with several Congress leaders criticizing the government for "abandoning democratic protocol," while some ruling party MPs dismissed Gandhi's statements.

Congress MP Shashi Tharoor said the government must respond to the allegations. "In a democracy, it is healthy for visiting dignitaries to meet leaders across the spectrum," he said. "Such engagements are routine internationally and help maintain balanced foreign relations."

Tharoor also stressed the significance of Putin's visit, noting that several key

agreements discussion, including defence cooperation. "We already saw the utility of the S-400 air defence system during Operation Sindoor. There are talks of additional S-400s. possibly S-500s, and even a mobility agreement for Indian workers." Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra called the alleged exclusion of the LoP from protocol meetings adding, government is insecure. They don't want dissenting voices. By reversing protocol, they are damaging the image of

Indian democracy.' Kumari Selja echoed the criticism, saying, "The BJP

had captured the very soul of



government has undermined democratic traditions Weakening the role of the LoP is not a good sign for the country's prestige.

Samajwadi Party MP Rajeev Rai termed the situation "unfortunate," saying, "No one should be stopped from speaking on national issues—not even the Leader of Opposition."

RJD MP Manoj Kumar Jha said, "Just as the government is elected, the Opposition is also elected. Meeting foreign dignitaries has been part of our democratic culture. Ending this tradition

Piyush Goyal urges greater balance in India-Russia trade amid growing opportunities

New Delhi: Underscoring the need for greater balance and diversification in bilateral trade, union Minister of Commerce & Industry Piyush Goyal on Thursday said there are enormous opportunities to expand commerce between India and Russia and work towards a more balanced trade relationship. Highlighting key sectors

with strong potential for Indian exports, Goyal pointed to consumer goods, food products, automobiles, tractors, heavy commercial vehicles, electronics such as smartphones, industrial components, and textiles. "Bilateral trade is reaching USD 70 billion, but we cannot rest. We need to grow, we need to balance that (India's trade deficit with Russia)," Goyal

said at the India-Russia

Business Forum in New Delhi, organized by industry Acknowledging that bilateral commerce remains heavily skewed. the minister emphasised untapped opportunities for Indian exporters and stressed the importance of reducing trade barriers. "I am sure we will address the trade imbalance in the near future and work collectively to eliminate, reduce and dilute trade barriers, and create the right conditions to open more opportunities for businesses in both countries," he said, pointing out that India accounted for just 2 per cent of Russia's imports. The Russian

economy is worth about USD

2.6 trillion and is considered a

huge market despite the large

transcontinental nation having

a population of just 145 A decade ago, India and

Russia had set a bilateral trade target of \$30 billion by 2025, a figure that has already been



nearly doubled, demonstrating growing scope of cooperation economic between the two nations. Goyal also highlighted the enduring India-Russia relationship, describing it as a partnership that has stood the test of time and continues to strengthen across diplomacy, culture, and education.

"Our PM Narendra Modi

our relationship with Russia when he said, 'On hearing the word Russia, the first word that comes to the mind of every Indian is India's sukhdukh ka saathi.' It translates to India's companion and friend in good and bad times," he said. "PM Modi further went on to say that no matter how low the temperature dips, the India-Russia friendship will always remain full of warmth." Maxim Oreshkin, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Presidential Executive Office

Russia has expressed its intention to create a trading framework secure from thirdparty interference, reflecting its view that the global trend de-dollarization gradually taking hold. Ahead

of the Russian Federation, is

also set to address the forum.

of President Vladimir Putin's summit meeting with Prime Minister Modi, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov noted that Russia respects India's independent foreign policy strategic autonomy. acknowledging external pressures particularly regarding tariffs, Peskov emphasized that Moscow carefully considers these dynamics when shaping its partnership with India. Russia recognises and

respects India's sovereignty in defining its national interests and values its tradition of strategic autonomy in global affairs. The ongoing dialogue reflects a shared commitment to strengthening bilateral ties while maintaining independence from external influences.

NATION

Nitish promises faster growth in Bihar, outlines five-year development roadmap

Minister Nitish Kumar on Thursday assured the Assembly that the NDA government will accelerate development across all sectors over the next five years, with a special focus on strengthening the economic condition of every household, boosting industrial growth agriculture and tourism.

The CM was participating in a special debate on motion of thanks to the speech of Bihar Governor Arif Mohammad Khan during a joint session of the state legislature. Kumar said the people of Bihar have given the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) a massive mandate, and the government is committed to delivering faster progress with full cooperation of the

He said that Bihar is moving forward continuously and in the next five years, the development work will expand significantly

Highlighting the government's employment initiatives, Kumar said that 50 lakh youths have already been provided jobs or employment opportunities. The government now aims to provide employment to 1 crore youths over the next five years which would further be extended, he reiterated.

Outlining his contributions during his 20-year tenure, the Chief Minister said when the first NDA government was formed on November 24, 2005, the rule of law was established and



now there is no atmosphere of fear in Bihar, instead, there is peace, brotherhood and harmony.

Highlighting his major achievements, Kumar said his government has given priority to improving education and health infrastructure. A large number of new schools have been opened, massive teacher recruitment drives have raised the number of government teachers to 5.2 lakh, he added, saying that special schemes were launched to encourage girls'

He said health services have been upgraded with free medicines and treatment in hospitals and the number of medical colleges has doubled from 6 to 12, with more under construction. Besides, the bed capacity at PMCH and IGIMS is being expanded.

Kumar said that in 2016 the government achieved its target of ensuring that people from remote regions could reach Patna in six hours. Today, improved connectivity through roads, bridges, bypasses and elevated corridors has reduced travel time from the farthest district to around five hours.

He said to further strengthen road connectivity, five new expressways would be construed, roads connecting block headquarters would be widened and bridges and bypasses would be expanded.

Kumar said the Agriculture Road Map, implemented since 2008, has significantly increased production of grains, fruits, vegetables, milk, eggs, meat and fish. Fish production has risen

to them in Panchayati Raj institutions (2006) and urban local bodies (2007). His government made a provision of 35% reservation for women in police and all gov-He said that formation

of Jeevika self-help groups now having 1.4 crore members proved to be a major booster in transforming the lives of women folk. Under the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rozgar Yojana, 1.56 crore women have received Rs 10,000 each, he said, adding that women with successful enterprises will be given assistance up to Rs 2 lakh.

Kumar said that his government has also focused on the welfare of all communities. Madrasas have been granted government recognition, and their teachers receive salaries at par with other government teachers.

He said the government increased the Social Security pension from Rs 400 to Rs

Expressing his gratitude towards the Prime Minister for extending is strong support to Bihar, the Chief Minister said the Central government is providing full cooperation for Bihar's development. The Centre was extending financial assistance for roads, industries, health, tourism, flood control, establishment of a Makhana Board, new airports and for Western Kosi Canal project.

He added that Bihar recently hosted the Khelo India Youth Games, which is a matter of pride for the state.

Siddaramaiah-Venugopal meeting fuels speculation; Karnataka Congress denies factionalism

Bengaluru: The Karnataka Congress saw renewed attention on Thursday after Chief Minister Siddaramaiah was seen attending an event with Congress national leader K.C. Venugopal, triggering speculation about shifting equations within the state unit.

Addressing the swirling rumors, Deputy Chief Minister G. Parameshwara quickly dismissed any talk of factionalism, saying, "No, first of all, let me clarify, there's no camp. There's no camp system in our party and cabinet. You know, few ministers meet only if you say that's a camp, that's not correct."

Congress leader Priyank Kharge further asserted that the party remains united, stating, "There is no signal. The signal is very clear. The DCM and CM have told the high command, who will take a decision. The high command has said we will intervene when necessary. The signal is loud and clear; the problem is you don't want to see it."

Political observers, however, note that the high-profile meeting between Siddaramaiah and Venugopal, a key national leader, comes at a crucial time when the party is gearing up



for strategic decisions on leadership.

Analysts say such interactions, though officially non-factional, often carry heavy political messaging, signaling close coordination between the state and national leadership.

Sources within the party reiterated that all major decisions regarding leadership and portfolios will remain with the Congress high command, emphasizing that Karnataka leaders are committed to working in tandem with New Delhi.The latest episode ensures that political watchers will remain on alert, closely dissecting every public appearance and interaction for clues about the Congress's next moves in Karnataka.

West Bengal SIR: EC flags 30 booths for major voter data mismatches; orders statewide progeny mapping similar trend, with 1,199 of

Kolkata: The Election Commission has primarily identified 30 booths across 30 assembly constituencies where widespread discrepancies in parental information have been detected in the 2025 electoral rolls, prompting an urgent order for progeny mapping at all polling booths.

The anomalies involve voters absent from the 2002 rolls but linked to parents whose names do not match the 2025 entries. The scale of errors potentially affecting up to 30 lakh voters has pushed the poll panel to deploy booth-level officers (BLOs) for immediate verification, with reports due within seven days. The irregularities came to light after the IT team at Nirvachan Sadan analysed enumeration forms uploaded for Bengal's 7.66 crore voters.

The team alerted State Chief Electoral Officer Manoj Agarwal, whose office conducted sample checks and confirmed that mismatches were not isolated but widespread. This triggered instructions for boothwise progeny mapping across the state to ensure error-free rolls ahead of the Assembly elections.

According to EC sources, all 30 detected booths fall in 30 separate Assembly constituencies, with the highest concentration of anomalies reported from South 24-Parganas. In Sandeshkhali part 168, for instance, 1,267 of the 1,447 electors have linked themselves to parents from the 2002 rolls despite contradictory parental names in the 2025 entries. Joynagar's part 6 shows a

1,278 voters falling into this category, while in Kultali's part 85, mismatches have been detected in 1,002 of 1,154 entries

Comparable



have emerged in other districts as well. At a booth in Hingalganj in North 24-Parganas, 705 of 779 voters have reflected inconsistent parental data, and in Hemtabad in North Dinajpur, 977 of 1,119 voters show the same kind of contradiction. Additional irregularities of this nature have also been reported in Dhupguri, Dabgram-Phulbari, Dinhata, Murarai, Habibpur and several other constituencies. "Some mistakes may be

unintentional, many appear deliberate attempts by voters to avoid scrutiny during the special intensive revision (SIR) by falsely linking themselves to voters from the 2002 rolls," an election commission official said. From a layman's parlance, progeny mapping is a verification process requiring voters listed in the 2025 rolls to establish legitimate parental links with voters from the 2002 rolls.

Under EC instructions, BLOs must visit each affected household to check why individuals have linked themselves to parents whose recorded names do not match existing data.

If mismatches continue into the draft rolls, those voters will be called for hearings to justify the discrepancies. The EC clarified that only voters who appeared in the 2002 rolls and their children are exempt from submitting documents or attending hearings during the SIR process. This exemption has led some voters to falsely claim such links to bypass verifica-

According to EC's Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) voters who have mapped themselves to parents despite being 60 years or older in 2002, and voters who are now aged 50 or above but whose names did not appear in the 2002 rolls should be cross verified. The BLOs should also look into instances where the age gap between a voter and their parents is either unusually narrow—less than 18 years or excessively wide, exceeding 45 years.

Another category flagged for verification involves situations where a family member signed on behalf of a voter who was absent during the enumeration process. Officials have also been told to prioritise booths marked "sensitive" in the 2021 and 2024 elections, booths with more than 50 percent progeny-mapped voters, and those with fewer than 20 uncollectable forms.

been flagged so far, officials suspect many more may be affected. With Assembly polls approaching, the EC has intensified efforts to eliminate data manipulation and ensure a transparent and legally robust electoral roll.

will significantly enhance in-

Another Advisor to the Chief

Minister, K.V. Raju, ad-

dressed the delegates and re-

affirmed the State Govern-

competitiveness.

dustrial

While 30 booths have

Land acquisition for development of two non-major ports underway in Odisha

Bhubaneswar: Odisha's Commerce and Transport Minister Bibhuti Bhusan Jena informed the Assembly on Thursday that the land acquisition process for developing two nonmajor ports in the state is currently in progress.

Responding to a written question from BJD MLA Arun Kumar Sahoo, the Minister said that the proposed ports—Subarnarekha in Balasore district and Astaranga in Puri district are being developed under the jurisdiction of the state government. He clarified that the

government has already signed concession agreements with Subarnarekha Private Limited and Nabaryug Engineering Company Limited for the development of the two non-major

According to Jena, these agreements mark key milestones in the state's long-term port development strategy aimed at boosting maritime infrastructure and enhancing coastal economic activities.

He added that the development of the Subarnarekha and Astaranga ports is expected to improve regional connectivity and foster industrial growth in the surrounding districts.

The Minister also in-

formed the House that a concession agreement has been signed for establishing a captive jetty for JSW Utkal Steel Limited's proposed Integrated Steel Plant at Jhatdhari Muhan in Jagatsinghpur district.

This captive jetty, he said, would facilitate efficient transportation of raw materials and finished products, supporting the logistical needs of the upcoming steel plant.

Jena noted that Odisha currently has only one major port—Paradip—which functions under the administrative control of the Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

SIR move foiled Amit Shah's President's rule ploy: CM Mamata

about

Baharampur: Chief Minister and Trinamool Congress Chief Mamata Banerjee today said they have allowed the ECI's Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls to frustrate Amit Shah's ploy to grab power by imposing President's rule in West Bengal.

Bihar self-reliant in fish sup-

ply and raising farmers' in-

come. Work under the fourth

Agriculture Road Map is

ments of his ambitious 'Sev-

en Resolves' mission, Ku-

mar said that it transformed

the rural Bihar. Under the

government"s Seven Re-

solves Part I and II, house-

holds across Bihar have re-

ceived, electricity, tap water,

toilets and pucca roads con-

reached every household

since 2018. Most domestic

consumers now receive

electricity free of cost. Solar

panels will be provided to

interested households, he

women's empowerment

programmes, he said that

Kumar said electricity

necting habitations.

added.Speaking

Outlining the achieve-

now underway.

"If we had not allowed SIR in West Bengal, then there could have been a situation for the Centre to impose the President rule, and this ploy was of Amit Shah," Baneriee said. She was addressing a rally at the Baharampur Stadium in Murshidabad, a minority-dominated border district of the state with Bangladesh.

"It was a ploy of Amit Shah, but they have been frustrated, and no one will be allowed to grab the property and rights of the people."

"Shah wants to capture Bengal at any cost. But the BJP must remember, by doing SIR in Bengal, you have dug your own grave. Bengal and Bihar are not the same. Bengal cannot be won as you did in Bihar. You cannot win Bengal by cleverness and trickery," she said.

"You can not beat us or kill us; we will protect our rights and win finally," the Chief Minister said.

She said in February, West Bengal election dates will be announced, so they did SIR on purpose three months before, she alleged.

She also asked people not to fear SIR.

Over 50,000 Bangladeshis and Rohingyas illegally staying in Lucknow: BJP

Lucknow: A day after Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath directed the setting up of detention centres for foreign infiltrators detected during verification drives, the BJP on Thursday claimed that over 50,000 Bangladeshis and Rohingyas are staying illegally in Lucknow.During a 2019 survey, the UP government had acknowledged the presence of around one million foreign infiltrators in the state, particularly in Noida, Ghaziabad, and Lucknow. The BJP, however, claimed that its workers in Lucknow have identified approximately 50,000 illegal residents. To monitor the situation, wardlevel teams have been formed across the city to check tenants and slum dwellers.Party's Lucknow city President Anand Dwivedi said that no ineligible person will be allowed to be added to the voter list. Dwivedi issued strict instructions to party workers regarding the identification and monitoring of illegal immigrants in the city during the Special Revision of Voter Lists (SIR).He said, "Under no circumstances should the names of any illegal immigrants, including Bangladeshis and Rohingyas, be added to the voter list. Identify them and inform the administration.""Special teams have been formed in

each ward, conducting con-

tinuous surveys in slums and



tenant settlements. The teams are identifying people who have immigrated from other states or countries and are living without documents and notifying the administration," he said. He said special teams have been formed in each ward, conducting continuous surveys in slums and settlements. The teams are identifying people who have immigrated from other states or countries and are living without documents and notifying the administration. These teams are reporting their findings to the administration for appropriate action. The BJP has also warned locals that sheltering illegal residents or assisting them in obtaining documents is a punishable offence.Party workers are reporting such cases to the administration so that legal action can be taken. Workers are ensuring thorough verification of all identification documents, including Aadhaar cards, voter ID cards, and ration cards.

Police registers FIR against hotel in south Kashmir for violating immigration Rules

Srinagar: Police in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag district on Thursday registered an FIR against a local hotel in Pahalgam for alleged violations of the Immigration and Foreigners The FIR was registered

after authorities found the establishment had failed to properly record and report the details of foreign guests staying at the tourist resort.

Police said that during routine inspections of hotels and guest accommodations in the Rafting Point area, a team from Police Station Pahalgam conducted checks to



and security regulations. "During the inspection,

it was found that Hotel Golden Heritage, Rafting Point, Yenner, had accommodated two foreign nationals of Thailand . The hotel management deliberately concealed their stay and failed to submit the mandatory Form C online, which is required for reporting and registration of foreign nationals," police

clear violation of the provisions of The Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025, which mandates strict reporting of foreign guests by hotel and accommodation establishments. Such lapses pose a serious concern for public safety and security," police added.Accordingly, FIR under Sections 8 and 23(b) of The Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025, was registered against the hotel management at Police

Station Pahalgam."Further

investigation in the matter is

underway," police said.

"This act constitutes a

UP hosts high-level ESDM roundtable to boost Electronics Manufacturing logistics hub in Dadri, which Lucknow : Uttar

Pradesh strengthened its push towards becoming a premier destination (ESDM) as senior policymakers and top industry leaders convened for a highlevel roundtable in Lucknow on Wednesday. In his keynote address, Infrastructure & Industrial Development Commissioner, Deepak Kumar highlighted the state's progress towards the USD 1 trillion economy goal and reaffirmed its commitment to investor facilitation.He announced that Nivesh Mitra 3.0 will be launched soon, strengthening single-window clearances and enabling faster industrial deployment & Ease of Doing Business in state. He also noted the availability of land bank, 27 Integrated Manufacturing and Logistics Clusters-ready pockets for rapid industrial deployment robust power supply, data centre ecosystem and emerging IT Parks that collectively support advanced manufacturing.Reinforcing the state's long-term development roadmap, Advisor to the Chief Minister, Awanish K Awasthi shared the USD 6 trillion vision for Uttar Pradesh by 2047 and stressed the importance of accelerating growth across electronics, IT, manufacturing, tourism, and emerging technologies. He drew attention to ma-

jor infrastructure projects such as the upcoming Noida International Airport in Jewar expanded expressway network, and the multimodal

ment's commitment to providing seamless support to investors.He assured industry leaders that Uttar Pradesh stands fully prepared to extend all necessary assistance to enterprises looking to establish or expand their operations in the state. He underscored that the Government of Uttar Pradesh remains proactive, responsive, and investorfriendly, ensuring that every proposal receives timely facilitation and enabling a smooth, confidence-driven investment experience. Speaking on the broader industrial landscape, Principal Secretary, Planning & Nodal Officer, Economic Growth Mission, Alok Kumar underlined the state's favourable investment climate, marked by progressive policies, improved law and order, and high-quality technical talent. He stated that Uttar Pradesh now offers one of the country's strongest foundations for design-led and innovation-driven manufacturing. Earlier welcoming the delegates, Principal Secretary, Department of IT & Electronics, Anurag Yadav highlighted Uttar Pradesh's accelerated rise in the electronics sector, noting the state's creditable perfor-

mance in mobile manufac-

EoW chargesheets businessman, ex-officials in Srinagar land fraud case

Srinagar: The Economic Offences Wing (EOW) of the Crime Branch Kashmir filed a chargesheet in a landfraud case allegedly involving a businessman and two retired officers of revenue department, officials said on Thursday. The chargesheet was produced in 2022 FIR which was registered under Sections 420, 467, 468, 471, 120-B Ranbir Penal Code read with Section 5(2) of the Prevention of Corruption

The EoW said the chargesheet was filed in Court of Special Judge Anti-Corruption, Srinagar against Habibullah Bhat, a businessman from Omarhair Buchpora; Mohammad Rajab Reshi, retired Naib Tehsildar from Brein Nishat; and Syed Khurshid Ahmad, then Patwari, from Watalbagh Lar, Gan-



The case originated from a written complaint alleging that a fraudulent mutation of land measuring 10 marlas, at Zoonimar Eidgah, Srinagar, had been executed in favour of the accused bene-

Accordingly a probe was ordered and during Investigation, it was revealed that no such sale deed had ever been registered by the concerned Sub-Registrar, EoW said.

Briefs:

Railway police bust two gangs of women robbers and recover stolen jewel-

lery and cash New Delhi :Delhi Police's railway unit has busted two gangs of women robbers operating across railway stations in the city. After analysing footage from more than 100 CCTV cameras, officers have arrested five suspects and recovered stolen items like jewellery, watches and cash worth around Rs 1 crore.Police said the two gangs worked independently — one was an inter-state network active in Gujarat and Delhi, while the other operated locally in the Anand Parbat area. The inter-state gang primarily targeted passengers near railway station lifts. Its members were caught from Sarai Rohilla railway station. Deputy commissioner of police (Railway) KPS Malhotra said the group comprised women from Palitana and Bhavnagar in Gujarat, temporarily living in Delhi. They changed their addresses frequently to avoid detection. "They primarily operated inside lifts — while one member would engage the target in a conversation as a distraction, another discreetly opened her handbag and removed valuables, hiding them under shawls or in stitched hidden pockets in their clothes. Jewellery and watches worth Rs 70 lakh were recovered," he added. The second gang operated out of Faridpuri

camp in Anand Parbat an area known for repeat offenders targeting crowded transit points. Four women from this cluster were arrested. This group primarily targeted elderly women on escalators. Investigators relied on extensive CCTV footage and field surveillance to track their movements. The accused selected the victims by closely observing their behaviour, particularly those who repeatedly checked their bags or held them tightly.

Entry test for Class VI at CM Shri schools valid: HC

New Delhi :Delhi High Court has upheld the admission test for entry to Class VI in CM Shri schools, ruling that the selection process is legal and does not breach Right to Education Act.Justice Jyoti Singh dismissed a plea filed by a student contending that the admission test amounted to a prohibited screening procedure under Section 13 of RTE Act and violated the fundamental right to education under Article 21A of Constitution.Master Janmesh Sagar, through advocate Ashok Aggarwal, challenged a July 23 circular, which set out the admission policy for classes VI to VIII in CM Shri schools for the 2025-2026 academic year.

Shopkeeper shot dead in Tarn Taran village

New Delhi:In broad daylight, a shopkeeper was shot dead by two masked robbers at Bhullar village on the main Tarn Taran-Khadoor Sahib road here on Monday. The deceased has been identified as Daljit Singh, alias Bao (42). He was standing at the gate of his shop when two masked robbers on a motorcycle arrived at the spot. The robbers demanded a narcotic drug (Coollip) from Daljit Singh. When he denied having such drug, the robbers forcibly took money out of his cash box (galla), leading to an argument between the shopkeeper and the robbers.Infuriated, the robbers opened fire at him. Three bullets hit Daljit Singh in the chest. Daljit's wife Sarabjit Kaur, son Simranjit Singh and father Khajan Singh were also a few feet away in the shop. Daljit Singh was immediately taken to a private hospital here where the doctors declared him

December chill in Delhi, IMD forecasts coldwave conditions in the city

up to another chilly December morning on Thursday with temperatures plunging to 5.6 °C, nearly 4 degrees below normal for this time of the year. According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD) data, this is the second time within this week that the temperature dropped below 6 degrees, an unusual trend for the month.

Thursday's minimum temperature was the lowest recorded in the season, with the previous minimum of 5.7°C on the first day of the month.

The weather department has said the chill is expected to persist, with the possibility of coldwave conditions in parts of the Capital on December 5.

A cold wave is declared when the minimum temperature falls below 10°C and is at least 4.5°C below normal, with the requirement that at least two weather stations record these conditions for two consecutive days.

December temperatures



in Delhi typically only drop around 5°C in the latter half of the month. IMD said the minimum temperature for the national capital on Friday is expected to be between 4 and 6°C, significantly below normal, with no change in maximum temperatures.

The weather department has issued yellow alerts across all the districts of Delhi for Friday.

Meanwhile, despite the nipping conditions in the morning, the air quality in the city improved slightly, settling at 305 on Thursday compared with the previous day's 348, while remaining in the 'very poor' category. Experts indicated stronger wind currents for the dispersion of pollutants.

Delhi steps up fight against pollution; CM, LG issue directives

New Delhi: Lieutenant Governor Vinay Kumar Saxena along with CM Rekha Gupta on Thursday held a high-level review meeting at Raj Niwas, issuing strict instructions to all departments to intensify action against dust, garbage, and construction debris across the capital.

The meeting, attended by Urban Development Minister Ashish Sood, Chief Secretary Rajiv Verma, and senior officials of multiple agencies, underscored that no lapse in pollution-control efforts would be tolerated.

Officials were directed to work in close coordination to ensure sustained and effective measures on the Dust ground. control emerged as the meeting's top priority, with agencies reporting that unmanaged garbage and debris continued to aggravate pollution levels.

The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) was asked to clear waste from vacant land under its jurisdiction and ensure there is no repeat dumping.

Meanwhile, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi



(MCD) was instructed to launch intensive cleaning drives citywide and deploy additional systems to mini-

Gupta took sharp aim at the previous government, accusing it of allowing roads to deteriorate and enabling the current dust crisis.

She stressed that District Magistrates would personally monitor pollution-control actions in their areas, and would now have the authority to record the Annual Confidential Reports of negligent officials. A daily review committee headed by the Chief Secretary has also been formed to monitor progress and issue binding directives to all departments.

Gupta said the government's focus was on finding a permanent solution to pollution, not just temporary

Highlighting new interventions, she said mist-spray systems installed in the ITO corridor had shown encouraging results, prompting the development of a wider plan for their deployment across major roads.

She also directed DPCC officials to issue challans to departments failing to maintain cleanliness and ordered FIRs against agencies conducting illegal road cutting or failing to restore roads properly. Department heads will be held accountable for any lapses, she warned.

IT dept okays land sharing for twin towers: PWD Minister

New Delhi :The Delhi government is likely to finalise ITO as the location for the proposed twin towers after the Income Tax (IT) Department consented to sharing 4.5 acres for the project, officials said. According to a senior official, the IT department has asked for 10 lakh square feet built up area in the twin towers in return for shifting its office.

The project was conceived by the Delhi government for bringing all its departments, currently scattered across the city, at a single location. The government currently functions from the Delhi Secretariat, which houses the offices of the Chief Minister, ministers and top officials of multiple departments.

The matter was taken up at a meeting held by Delhi Works Minister Parvesh Verma with officials of the PWD and the IT de-

"A meeting was held today with the ACS (PWD) and the Principal Chief Commissioner of Încome Tax regarding the Twin Tower matter. Senior officials from both departments were present,' the minister said in a post on micro-blogging platform X. "There are multiple op-

tions available but ITO has emerged as the most feasible location. With cooperation from the IT department, we now have availability of a bigger plot," the minister added.

"The IT department's Ayakar Bhawan, located at ITO, is an old building. The department expressed its agreement to share 4.5 acres for the proposed twin-tower project in return of 10 lakh square feet built up area in the new buildings to shift its office," a senior government officer said.

Earlier, six locations

were shortlisted for the project, the officials added.

The officials said that if the plan progresses in the right direction, the twin towers will come up on either side of the Vikas Marg and will be linked through a sky-"The Delhi government

already has 13 acres available in the form of PWD building and Vikas Bhawan at ITO," an official said. According to initial esti-

mates, the twin towers will come up with 30 lakh square feet of built up space. After meeting the requirements of the Delhi government and the IT department, the remaining space could be rented out to some Central government entity, they added.

The PWD is likely to appoint a transaction adviser to carry forward the estimates once the land issue is finalised, said a senior PWD offi-

New Delhi: Delhi Police organised a focused

workshop and training session for hotel security officials in Aerocity, one of the capital's key hospitality areas, an official said on Thursday. The initiative, led by

the Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) of the Crime Branch, was designed to boost vigilance against drug trafficking and improve coordination between law enforcement and private establishments.An officer said that approximately 85 Chief Security Officers (CSOs) from 11 major hotels in Aerocity attended the workshop. The session is part of Delhi Police's broader ongoing

The police aim to curb drug abuse and trafficking through focused operations, community engagement, and capacity-build-



Delhi Police conducts anti-drug

trafficking workshop for Aero City hotels

ing initiatives.Participants were informed about the current drug situation in the capital, the types of narcotics commonly found in the illicit market, the physical and behavioural signs of drug abuse, and the main source states supplying these substances. Officials also high-

lighted the health risks associated with narcotics use, emphasising the critical need for coordinated prevention and reporting efforts.A key highlight of the workshop was the introduction and demonstration of the MANAS portal (1933), a secure platform for confidential reporting of drug-related information.Officers highlighted the portal's anonymity features, urging hotel security teams to report any suspicious activities promptly and without fear of being identified.As part of the awareness campaign, all

participants took the Anti-

Drugs e-Pledge. The initia-

tive received positive feed-

back from attendees,

including former ACP Ab-

hirup Banerji, now Consultant Security at Delhi International Airport Ltd, and Naveen Sehgal, AGM of Aerocity Security. Both commended Delhi Po-

lice's initiative to collaborate with private security units in addressing the drug threat in a high-traffic commercial area. According to officials, these partnerships are expected to strengthen monitoring and security across hotels and public spaces in

15 Lakh New Cancer Cases in India in 2024; Delhi Crosses 28,000 Mark ward.Experts say the rise or postpone consultations.

New Delhi: India recorded more than 15.33 lakh new cancer cases in 2024, up from 14.96 lakh in 2023 and 14.61 lakh in 2022, according to data tabled in the Rajya Sabha. Delhi alone reported 28,387 cases in 2024—rising from 27,561 in 2023 and 26,735 in 2022 — underscoring the mounting pressure on the capital's oncology services despite expansions in screening and treatment infrastruc-

The latest estimates

from the ICMR-National Cancer Registry Uttar show gramme Pradesh topping the national list with 2.21 lakh cases in 2024, followed by Maharashtra (1.27 lakh), West Bengal (1.18 lakh), Bihar (1.15 lakh) and Tamil Nadu (98,386). Delhi's numbers, though lower in absolute terms, remain among the highest when adjusted for population density. Oncologists warn that lifestyle factors, pollution and delayed detection continue to push the city's caseload up-

reflects a deeper shift in India's risk environment. Dr Ankit Jain, senior consultant, medical oncology at Indraprastha Apollo Hospital, said more patients are now "arriving younger and at later stages," highlighting how rapidly the risk environment is changing. In Delhi, he said, toxic air. stress, poor diets and low screening uptake are "creating a perfect storm for cancers to grow silently," while delays in seeking care continue to strain on-

cology services. Expanding on lifestyle-related risks, Dr Pooja Babbar, medical oncologist at Fortis Manesar, said long working hours, low physical activity, rising reliance on processed food and increased tobacco and alcohol use are accelerating cancer risk. She added that Delhi's poor air quality further heightens vulnerability, particularly for lung cancer. Many cancers, she noted, are still diagnosed late because people ignore early symptoms

"Small, consistent lifestyle changes and timely screenings can make a significant difference," she said.

Responding to the rising cancer burden in Parliament, minister of state for health Prataprao Jadhav said the govt is scaling up prevention, screening and treatment under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD). Currently, 770 district NCD clinics, 6,410 CHC clinics and

364 district day-care chemotherapy centres are operational across

Delhi Shelter Homes Not Fit To Shelter Homeless

New Delhi: As Delhi inches towards peak winter, the nights for the homeless are turning long and stark. By midnight, many of the city's pavements resemble dormitories where people unroll their torn mattresses, wrap themselves up in worn-out blankets and huddle around small fires.Others find space inside Delhi's 326 night shelters. They can house 20,000 people and run out of reinforced concrete buildings, porta cabins, temporary

structures and tents. In the wake of Monday's deadly blaze at a Vasant Vihar shelter followed by Delhi govt ordering an audit of all the shelters. TOI ran a reality check on some of the facilities on Asaf Ali Road, Hanuman Mandir, AIIMS, Jama Masjid, Motia Khan and Paharganj. It revealed a troubling pattern: rats scurrying over beds, filthy washrooms and erratic water supply.

The first stop was at a portacabin-type shelter near LNJP Hospital. Though it appeared functional, with most facilities in place, residents complained that the water supplied is often unclean.

A men's shelter near Asaf Ali Road, designed for 70 to 80 occupants, routinely houses over 200 during peak winter, forcing many to sleep on the floor or out in the open, said an official, requesting

some of its residents lying outside, wrapped in musty blankets and using thin durries as mattresses. Inside, several beds were empty. The in-charge of the shelter said they were "reserved" for long-term residents.

difference," an elderly man, who

mattresses scattered, no caretaker in sight and a stench that made them unliveable. A few steps away, the shelters were occupied. Chandni, who lives in one of them with her sister Khushi, said having a roof and

"A bed would make a world of some food was enough. Her expression changed when asked



didn't want to be named, said, adding that though food and drinking water were available, other basics were missing. "There are no geysers, no pillows, and the shelter is seldom cleaned. We're surviving on donations and goodwill."

TOI moved towards Jama Masjid, and found nine shelters, including permanent rooms, portable cabins and winter tents. The last ones, supposed to be operational from Nov 15, were unoccupied -

about blankets. The ones provided are so thin and dirty that the residents prefer buying their own from a weekly market, she said. The next stop — a shelter near Hanuman Bazar — looked well maintained and was adequately stocked with clean blankets. A cluster of tents near AI-IMS have beds and plastic toilets, but plunge into darkness every night. On Dec 2, the water supply stopped, residents said, adding that there are no washrooms.

Fire-fighting preparedness at almost all the shelters is compromised as their exits are blocked, often by residents to shield themselves from the cold wind — a reminder of what ailed the Vasant Vihar shelter where two of the residents lost their lives in Monday's blaze. Most had extinguishers, but at the Asaf Ali Road facility, the staff didn't even know where theirs was kept. At one of the AIIMS shelters, a sand bucket to be used to fight fires had been turned into a

All of these set the stage for the final and most jarring stop: the Motia Khan night shelter in Paharganj. If the earlier ones betrayed several gaps, this one revealed a complete collapse. Tucked away in a narrow lane near Motia Khan Chowk, the building looked as abandoned as the people meant to use it. A flight of stairs — worn out and creaking

led to a space on the first floor where nothing felt right. A staffer admitted that the dilapidated building and filthy washrooms keep people away. A Delhi Urban Shelter Improvement Board official, requesting anonymity, said, "We are on the toes. A rat-control drive was carried out at the Jama Masjid shelters. We will look into any other concern that crops up." The official didn't accept claims that some of the shelters are unhygienic.

EDITORIAL

Cute Names and Bitter Reality

'Sevatirth' and 'Lok Bhavan' are sweet to listen to grand in meaning and people-oriented in message. Looking at these new names given by the Central Government to the Prime Minister's Office and Raj Bhavans across the country, one feels that a new chapter of Indian democracy has begun. But the question is, does the reality change when the name changes? Because the endless stories of Governor-Government conflicts have shown that even if the walls of Raj Bhavan are adorned with beautiful names, cute names are no panacea for the power politics inside it. The BJP government at the Centre, led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has taken two important and symbolic decisions, which are trying to give a new direction to the administrative and political language of the country. The first decision is that the Prime Minister himself has changed the name of his office from PM Office to 'Sevatirth', which underlines the message that 'Government means service'. The second and more important decision is that it has been decided to change the name of all Raj Bhavans in the country to 'Lok Bhavan', and all the Governors have been informed to implement it. Accordingly, some governors immediately renamed the Ra Bhavan as 'Lok Bhavan'. Although the Raj Bhavan has been renamed as Lok Bhavan, it is not possible for the general public to easily enter the Raj Bhavan. Just because the name has been changed, there will be little change in the functioning immediately! Even after giving a cute name, will it really become a people's house (Lok Bhavan)? The basic question is whether it will really become a people's house (Lok Bhavan). For the past several years, the governors appointed by the government of the party in power at the center have done many things, such as putting any government in trouble or blocking the state's files if there is any government opposing the government at the center. This is not a recent phenomenon. but has been going on since almost 1960. Many governors had taken the oath to overthrow the government in the state. The governor is the envoy of the President in the state, but his position is higher than the Chief Minister, because he has a direct relationship with the President. Whenever there are good or bad incidents in the state or the government becomes unstable, the governor submits his report to the center and on that basis the central government takes a decision considering the overall political situation in the state. If the government in a state is very unstable, the imposition of President's rule can be done on the recommendation of the Governor. Or the Governor can dismiss the existing government and swear in another government in its place. The state legislature is convened in the state, the Governor delivers an address in the first session every year, the budget is presented to the Governor after it is presented, and all the laws, amendment laws and many ordinances passed in the session do not actually become law unless they are signed by the Governor. If the law passed in the Legislative Assembly is very problematic and has potentially serious consequences, the Governor does not approve the law and it is sent to the Union Home Ministry. The role of the Governor is very important in many such important matters. Taking advantage of this situation, many Governors appointed by the party in power at the Center have been trying to trouble the government as much as possible by taking many decisions such as how to bring the government of another party into trouble if it is in power in the state. This is why it does not always seem like there will be harmony between the Raj Bhavan and the state government. For some reason or the other, there is a conflict between the Governor and the Chief Minister. Not only this, but even if the government is of the same party at the Center and in the state, there is often a conflict between the Chief Minister and the Governor. The Governor often does not agree with the government's policy and then he conveys his opinion against the government to the Center, from there the conflict between the Governor and the Chief Minister begins. When the same party government is in power at the Centre and in the state and the Governor takes such decisions, then the representatives of the local government raise the issue of what is the need for the Governor? Conflicts between the Governor and the state government are more visible in Tamil Nadu. This is also the case in Kerala to some extent. In West Bengal, conflicts between the Governor and the Chief Minister are seen almost every day. Then these people go to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court gave a historic verdict to the Governor, saying, "We cannot insist on the President to take a decision within a specific time frame. Therefore, the powers of the Governor have once again remained intact. The bungalow where the Governor lives and has his office is called 'Raj Bhavan' and there are such Rai Bhayans in all the states of the country Prime Minis ter Narendra Modi renamed the Raj Bhavans as 'Lok Bhavans'. There is no doubt that his concept behind this is very good. However, it is necessary to pay attention to whether the Raj Bhavans will really become 'Lok Bhavans'. Because these Raj Bhavans are not open to the general public even today. Then after renaming it 'Lok Bhavan', will the Governor hold Janata Darbar for the people every day or even two-three times a week? Will he provide justice to the people? Many questions like this will arise. Earlier, the road in front of the Prime Minister's residence has been renamed 'Lok Kalyan Marg' and the road famous as the historic Rajpath in Delhi has been renamed 'Kartavya Path'. That is why this issue cannot be resolved by just changing the name, in reality the Governor is also the envoy of the people, until the Governor works in such a way, whether or not the Raj Bhavan is renamed 'Lok Bhavan', has no impact on the people.In reality, there needs to be a big change in the overall working method of the Governor. The name change has been improved, but until the working method of the Governor is improved, the Governor will not become a public servant in the Lok Bhavan. Therefore, I do not think that the issue will be resolved by changing the name alone. For this, the post of Governor is also a savior for the people, such work should also be done by the Governor. Therefore, the real meaning of 'Lok Bhavan', as intended by the Prime Minister, must be implemented in practice. It is not just about using words to enhance their beauty, but it is important that the concept behind it is reflected in the actions and proceedings of the Governor. Although 'Raj

Bhavan' has become 'Lok Bhavan' today, the real change

will happen only when these magnificent buildings are

truly open to the public.

Editorial Air Quality Situation in Delhi-NCR

Chairing a high-level review meeting on Air Pollution in Delhi NCR today, Union Minister for Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, asked all concerned State/UT authorities to expedite the onground implementation of all decisions taken in previous five meetings, to improve Air Quality in Delhi-NCR. Cabinet Minister for Environment, Forest and Wildlife, Government of NCT of Delhi, Sardar Manjinder Singh Sirsa was present during the meeting.

Reviewing each action-point minutely, Shri Yadav emphasized the need for high-quality implementation of action plans in Delhi-NCR across all identified categories. The areas included accelerated Road Development and Repair, Dust Control by ensuring pavements, end-to-end Construction and Demolition Waste Management, Industry compliance to Emission Standards, Smart Traffic Management, boosting Public Transport, legacy Solid Waste Management, and Greening of open spaces.The Minister requested each stakeholder to prepare detailed Annual Action Plans for the coming year, to control pollution generation at source. He further stressed time-bound execution of the plans, by way of achieving monthly and weekly targets. The year-long roadmaps would ensure proactive planning toward improving air quality in the NCR, he noted. Shri Yadav also directed on-ground review

meetings would soon be held to ensure that the action plans are being implemented in the right earnest. The meetings, coordinated by the CAQM, would include discussions with Agriculture Departments of Governments of Punjab and Haryana on stubble burning; with Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Development on new initiatives for planned urban development; with local bodies of NCR cities on tackling local contributors of pollution.

During the meeting, is-

sues were taken up one-byone and the progress was reviewed. On the issue of Industry's compliance to emission standards in Delhi-NCR, a decision was taken that delinquent units would be handheld to encourage them to voluntarily initiate accelerated installment of Online Continuous Emission Monitoring Systems (OCEMS) and Air Pollution Control Devices (APCD). Strict actions would be taken against units failing to comply by 31.12.2025, even leading to closure directions. Further, it was informed that escalations in the market prices of such devices are being closely monitored, so as to not discourage industrial units and delay device installations.Around 2,254 industrial units having high potential for causing pollution like metal, textiles, food/ food processing and other red-category industries have been mandated to install calibrated and verified OCEMS, along with APCDs by 31.12.2025. An SOP for OCEMS installa-

tion has been issued, and directions have been given to NCR SPCBs/PCCs for ensuring early installation,

it was informed by CPCB. The Minister reviewed Road Development works, including pothole repairs, and instructed NCR States to strictly adopt time-bound SOPs for completing pending works. App-based monitoring was emphasized to enable real-time citizen feedback and corresponding corrective action by authorities. Shri Yadav emphasized on ensuring quality road construction, adhering to CAQM design framework including endto-end pavements and proper drainage. Intensive onground monitoring of the ongoing works in Delhi need to be conducted, he desired. The Minister further requested the Municipal authorities to expedite deployment of Mechanical Road Sweeper Machine (MRSMs) at the ground

On Traffic Congestion, i was emphasized that 62 identified hotspots in Delhi require urgent action through smart traffic management solutions by Delhi Police, and that short-term measures may be immediately deployed to resolve the traffic issues at the earliest. Further, actions like removal of encroachments and illegal parking, along with special police deployment during peak traffic hours, issuing tenders for Foot-over Bridges, etc. were asked to be fasttracked. Similar action plans are encouraged for other NCR cities, with the Minister stressing the need for visible, on-ground improvements.The review meeting highlighted the ongoing transition of the Public Transport fleet to electric vehicles, with around 3,400 buses currently in operation and expected to increase to over 5,000 by March next

tivity based on passenger load in high population density areas of Delhi-NCR was emphasized. The Minister also called for targeted action against below BS-IV commercial vehicles. It was informed that BS-III and below have been stopped from entering Delhi w.e.f. 01.11.2025.The Minister instructed officials to identify potential Greening Sites across NCR and ensure public participation in mapping and execution. Plantation on degraded forest land, greening of open spaces, and removal of encroachments from urban parks, water bodies, and wetlands was emphasized. Education Departments of NCR States were asked to revive eco-clubs and greenwarrior groups, to enhance youth-led greening efforts and promote community conservation. Micro-plans are to be prepared with relevant departments and implemented this winter, continuing for the next five years, ensuring participation of local elected representatives, Shri Yadav desired.The Minister reviewed progress made over the last five meetings, which included a whole-ofgovernment and whole-ofsociety approach. The meeting witnessed participation from key stakeholders including senior officers of the Ministry, CAQM, CPCB, Governments of NCT of Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Municipal Commissioners of NCR Cities and other concerned agen-

PMML Enables Remote Access to Rare **Archival Collection for Researchers**

The (PMML)—a premier national institution dedicated to preserving and showcasing the legacy of all Prime Ministers of India since Independence—has taken a major step forward in expanding access to its vast archival resources. PMML houses one of the world's largest collections of rare archival materials, comprising over 25 million documents belonging to more than 1,300 individuals and organisations. These records are regularly consulted by bonafide researchers and scholars studying Modern and Contemporary Indian History.In a landmark initiative, PMML is un-

dertaking a comprehensive digitization project of its rare archival collection, which includes personal papers, correspondence, speeches, diaries, and newspaper articles. This transformative effort ensures long-term preservation of fragile documents while enabling restricted remote access for genuine research scholars. A substantial portion of the frequently accessed material has already been digitized, uploaded, and made available through the newly developed system. A dedicated IT Platform has been created to facilitate remote access to these Digital Archives. Reg-



online requests to view specific archival documents without needing to visit the PMML premises. Once approved, the requested materials will be securely made available on

the scholar's desktop for viewing only. The launch of PMML's Digital Archives marks a significant milestone in leveraging technology to safeguard invaluable historical resources and enhance accessibility for researchers, scholars, and knowledge seekers across the world.Shri Ashwani Lohani, Director, PMML, stated that this initiative reflects the institution's unwavering commitment to promoting high-quality research and strengthening the study of Modern and Contemporary India by enhancing ease of access to ar-

"Rail, Road, Air and Waterways Turn 'Ashtalakshmi' Region into a New Engine of India's Growth"

The Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal said Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emerged as "the grand architect of a new and resurgent Northeast," transforming a region once neglected for decades into a major driver of India's growth, connectivity and national

Speaking on the development outcomes achieved over the last decade, Sonowal said the Northeast has transitioned "from the margins of policymaking to the mainstream of national priorities," reflecting the prime minister's commitment to infrastructure expansion, economic reform, cultural revival and long-term peace-building.

The Northeast suffered seven decades of under-representation and underinvestment," Sarbananda Sonowal said. "Under Modi ji, the region is recognized as the Ashtalakshmi of India — not just a border region but a new engine of national growth. From railway capital connectivity and airports to highways, power, digital networks and inland waterways, the transformation has been historic.'

The Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said connectivity has been the cornerstone of the prime minister's roadmap.All major gauge conversion work in the region has been completed, with Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Manipur and Mizoram connected to the broad gauge network and goods and passenger trains reaching the region's interiors for the first time. The Bogibeel rail-cum-road bridge completed in 2018 — and the commissioning of the Bhairabi-Sairang link in June 2025 have expanded access across Assam and Mizoram.



Four capital connectivity rail projects - Nagaland, Manipur, Sikkim and Meghalaya — are underway, while the India-Bangladesh Agartala-Akhaura rail link was inaugurated jointly by the prime ministers of both nations in November 2023.

On roads, more than 11,000 km of upgraded national and strategic highways have been taken up in the last decade. Major corridors include the Shillong-Nongstoin-Tura section, the Nechipu-Hoj NH-13 project, and the capital connectivity highways to Kohima, Itanagar and Gangtok, several of which are nearing completion in

Air connectivity has undergone what Sarbananda Sonowal described as "a revolution." From nine airports in 2014, the Northeast now has 19 operational airports. Greenfield airports at Pakyong and Hollongi, along with the upgraded Tezu, Rupsi and Agartala terminals, were operationalized under the UDAN scheme. A network of heliports and water aerodromes has been added to extend links to remote districts

"Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, the Northeast has witnessed a historic reversal of decades of neglect.

From rail connectivity reaching state capitals to world-class highways, airports and waterways, the region has emerged as a new engine driving India's growth. The completion of landmark projects like Bogibeel, the expansion of AI-IMS Guwahati, and the rapid pace of road and airport infrastructure demonstrate the scale of transformation underway," said Sarbananda Sonowal

Sonowal said the Prime Minis-

ter Modi's vision has attracted historic investment to the Northeast. The bio-refinery at Numaligarh, India's first bamboo-based ethanol plant, has created new income streams for farmers. The Numaligarh Refinery Expansion, costing ₹22,594 crore, has tripled its capacity, positioning the region as a strategic energy hub. The semiconductor assembly and test facility at Jagiroad — a ₹27,000 crore investment — will produce 15 billion chips annually and generate 27,000 jobs, placing the Northeast on the global technology map. Agriculture and organics are central to the region's development. The Northeast now leads India's organic value chain, supported by farmer-producer organisations, bamboo industry deregulation and dedicat-

The Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said stability in the

ed missions.

Northeast has improved due to peace accords with Bodo, Karbi, Bru and other groups, while AFSPA has been reduced by 75 percent since 2014."A cultural renaissance is underway," Sarbananda Sonowal said, noting national recognition for icons such as Bharat Ratna Dr Bhupen Hazarika, the commemoration of Lachit Barphukon, and the inscription of Assam's Maidams on the UNESCO World Heritage Li"The Modi decade has unlocked unprecedented economic potential for the Northeast — from the bamboo-based bio-refinery at Numaligarh to the first semiconductor plant at Jagiroad. These are not isolated projects; they reflect a renewed national confidence in our region. Alongside peace accords, cultural revival, and global recognition of icons like Lachit Barphukon and Bhupen Hazarika, we are witnessing a renaissance of identity, pride, opportunity and investment in our land," said Sarbananda Sonowal Sonowal said the Prime Minis-

ter Modi's more than 70 visits to the region and consistent ministerial review reflect "governance that shows up where people live.' Under the Act East Policy, So-

nowal said, the Northeast is becoming a logistics and cultural gateway to Southeast Asia, through integrated check posts, border infrastructure and multimodal connectivity linking waterways, highways and "The story of the Northeast to-

day is the story of a resurgent India," Sonowal said. "This transformation carries the signature of Prime Minister Modi — a leader who placed faith, focus and future in the hands of the Northeast's peo-

Aryan Age Delhi, Friday, 05 December 2025

Briefs:

JP Gearing Up for Eighth **Foundation Day Rally**

Sirsa: The Jannayak Janta Party (JJP) is preparing for a massive rally in Julana, Jind district, on December 7, to commemorate its eighth foundation day. This year's event will feature a unique double-decker stage and prominent cutouts of senior leaders. The party anticipates the attendance of several high-ranking national figures, with speculation that some former members may rejoin the JJP.

The rally is set to take place on 32 acres of agricultural land near the Julana bypass, which the party has temporarily leased from local farmers on a seasonal contract, allowing them to sow their crops after the event concludes. Party leader Digvijay Chautala recounted that Ajay Singh Chautala and Dushyant Chautala founded the JJP on December 9, 2018, following a rally in Pandu Pindara, Jind. He highlighted that the upcoming Julana event will mark the party's eighth anniversary. Chautala detailed that the rally will be the first to use a double-decker stage, with the main platform measuring 60 by 40 ft and a second stage of 16 by 40 ft built above it, along with separate stages for artists and media. Large cutouts honoring figures like Bhagat Singh, Sir Chhotu Ram, BR Ambedkar, Jyotiba Phule, as well as Chaudhary Devi Lal and Om Prakash Chautala, will be displayed. Speaking to The Tribune, Digvijay admitted that the party's failure to effectively communicate its achievements during its 4.5 years in government adversely affected its performance in the 2024 state elections. He accused the BJP of promoting communal politics in the state, alleging that certain "Baba's" are spreading Hindu-Mus-Im discord under BJP's influence. He further argued that Haryana requires a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of voter rolls, claiming that the votes of many "outsiders" working in the state were allegedly cast for the BJP. He asserted

Man Receives Life **Imprisonment** for Youth's Murder

that the BJP is avoiding

would expose the iden-

tity of these individuals.

the SIR because it

Kaithal: The court of Additional District and Sessions Judge Mohit Aggarwal has handed down a sentence of life imprisonment to a man convicted of murdering a youth, along with imposing a fine

DSP Birbhan provid-

ed details of the case, recalling that the body of a young man, later identified as Manish, a resident of Kakheri village, was found on April 8, 2021, in a room located in the village fields. Initially treated as an unsolved crime, the police investigation eventually led to the arrest of the accused, Gauray, alias Gauri, also from Kakheri. The motive for the murder stemmed from a dispute where Manish had witnessed Gaurav misbehaving with a female relative of his family. An angered Manish had warned Gaurav to leave the village and threatened him with severe consequences if he returned.

Tamanna Makes History as Hisar Village's First Girl Child Sarpanch

Sirsa: Kumari Tamanna has achieved a historic milestone by becoming India's first girl child Sarpanch in Sarasod village, Hisar. In the Constitutional Girl Child Panchayat election, organized by the Selfie With Daughter Foundation, Tamanna secured 169 votes on the Durga Mata's axe (Farsha) symbol, successfully defeating her closest rival, Aarti, by 88 votes. The election, held on

Wednesday at Government Senior Secondary School, Sarasod, recorded a remarkable turnout of 94 per cent, with 414 out of 440 registered child voters casting their ballots. A total of nine girls contested for the Sarpanch position, and 17 girl child panch members were also elected. The vote counting was conducted transparently under the supervision of village election officer Ritika. Following her victory, Tamanna announced her intention to promote the Selfie With Daughter campaign in every household and prioritize children's health, education, and sports. Sunil Jaglan, the foundation's founder, hailed the



event as a "historic first step" towards establishing 75 Girl Child Panchayats across India. The election was closely monitored by Sushil Lahani, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Panchayati Raj,

who commended the process and recommended that the Bibi Pur Model be replicated in other states. Differentlyabled children also actively participated, adding to the significance of the initiative.

name into history by becoming the first girl child Sarpanch from Sarasod village in Hisar district. Her achievement has resonated far beyond the village boundaries, symbolizing a new wave of empowerment rising among young girls in India. The atmosphere in the village has been celebratory as people acknowledge the significance of this moment.

The election that led to her victory was not a mere symbolic exercise but a structured democratic process organized with great care. It was conducted under the Constitutional Girl Child Panchayat initiative, an innovative concept designed to give children a platform to understand civic responsibility and leadership. This initiative was spearheaded by the Selfie With Daughter Foundation, which has been at the forefront of advocating for girl child empowerment. Tamanna contested the election on the Durga Mata's axe, or Farsha, symbol—a choice that carried deep cultural importance. The symbol resonated strongly with the idea

of female strength and leadership, and many villagers believed it aligned meaningfully with the spirit of the election. Her association with this emblem added an emotional layer to her cam-During the polling, the

enthusiasm among children was noteworthy. The election recorded an impressive voter turnout of 94 percent, with 414 out of the 440 registered child voters actively participating. Such a turnout is unusual even for adult elections and demonstrated how deeply the initiative engaged young minds. Voting took place at the overnment Senior Secondary School in Sarasod, where the atmosphere was both festive and disciplined. Children lined up in queues, excited to cast their votes for the first time. Teachers and volunteers guided them through the process, ensuring that every participant understood the importance of their role.

A total of nine girls were in the running for the Sarpanch position, which made the election vibrant and com-

Six Arrested in Rambir Murder Case; Main Suspect in US

Kurukshetra: Kurukshetra police announced on Wednesday the arrest of six individuals in connection with the murder of Rambir Sharma, while revealing that the main person who orchestrated the crime is currently residing in the United States. Authorities have initiated the process to issue a Lookout Circular against the overseas conspirator.

The arrested suspects are Krishan, Chetan, Jai Kumar, Sahil, Nitin, and Anmol. Three of these, Sahil, Nitin, and Anmol-who were directly involved in the shooting-were apprehended following a brief exchange of fire with the CIA-2 unit. Rambir was shot on November 15 and succumbed to his injuries on November 18 while undergoing treatment at PGI Chandigarh. Kurukshetra Additional Superintendent of Police Prateek Gahlot stated that a special investigating team was formed under the CIA-2 unit. The investigation led to the arrest of Jai Kumar of Hathira on November 28. On the same day, the three accused involved in the firing were sighted by the

Kurukshetra, were arrested. Sahil and Nitin sustained bullet injuries in their legs during the exchange of fire and were arrested after receiving treatment at Lok Nayak Jai Parkash District Civil Hospital. while Anmol was arrested at the scene. Police recovered two country-made weapons and two live cartridges from them. The ASP revealed that the primary conspirator, Vishal, who is in America, had a long-standing feud with Rambir's family and allegedly hired the accused to carry out the murder. Nitin has two and Sahil has six prior criminal cases registered against them. Police also disclosed that the three men arrested after the encounter were planning to commit another murin Karnal. The two-wheeler used in Rambir Sharma's murder was stolen from Delhi and acquired by Sahil. CIA-2 in-charge Mohan Lal added that Krishan and Chetan were involved in surveillance and assisting the

shooters after the crime.

CIA-II unit in Jirbari village

and were apprehended after

an encounter. Sahil, Nitin,

and Anmol, all residents of

Lok Adalat Settles Cases at Jagadhri Jail

Yamunanagar : A Lok Adalat was convened on Wednesday at the district jail in Jagadhri, organized by Sumitra Kadian, Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM)-cum-Secretary of the District Legal

Services Authority (DLSA). The CJM reported that out of the seven cases brought before the Lok Adalat, six were successfully settled. She noted that only those cases meeting the prescribed guidelines are taken up for resolution in these Lok Adalats. Following the proceedings, the CJM conducted an inspection of the facilities provided to the inmates. She underscored the importance of ensuring that every detainee or prisoner has access to legal representation. Kadian affirmed that if an individual cannot afford a private lawyer, the DLSA is committed to providing them with a panel lawyer or a legal aid defence advocate.A Lok Adalat session was organised on Wednesday inside the district jail at Jagadhri in Yamunanagar, marking another step toward providing accessible justice to inmates. The initiative was led by Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) and District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Secretary, Sumitra Kadian, who supervised the entire exercise.

The Lok Adalat was planned with the objective of resolving select legal disputes involving inmates in a faster and more flexible manner. Such sessions are periodically conducted in correctional facilities to ensure that prisoners are not deprived of timely judicial remedies due to procedural delays.

During Wednesday's proceedings, a total of seven cases were formally presented before the Lok Adalat. These cases had been identified beforehand based on the guidelines issued by the Legal Services Authority. Only those matters that are suitable for compromise, settlement, or mutual agreement are allowed to be listed.Out of the seven cases taken up, six were successfully settled, indicating a high rate of disposal. The settlements were reached with the informed consent of all involved parties, ensuring that no decision was imposed without voluntary agreement. This outcome reinforced the purpose of Lok Adalats as instruments of restorative and justice.The CJM highlighted that the guidelines governing these Adalats are stringent and carefully curated. Only cases that meet the required eligibility parameters, such as compoundable offences or disputes suited for amicable resolution, are considered. This filtration ensures that the process remains fair and le-

After the completion of the settlements, CJM Sumitra Kadian conducted a thorough inspection of the jail facilities. Her visit aimed to assess living conditions, amenities, safety arrangements, and administrative functioning within the correctional environment. Such inspections are an integral part of ensuring the protection of prisoner

During her inspection, she interacted with inmates to understand their concerns and experiences. She emphasised the need to maintain humane conditions within the jail, reminding officials that the dignity of prisoners must be upheld regardless of the allegations or convictions they face.Kadian reiterated the importance of ensuring that every detainee or prisoner has access to proper legal representation. She stressed that the justice system cannot function effectively if individuals are left without the ability to defend themselves or seek legal remedies when required. She pointed out that many inmates come from economically weaker backgrounds and may be unaware of their legal rights. In such circumstances, the role of the DLSA becomes crucial in bridging the gap between the justice system and vulnerable

Afforestation Dispute in HC Prompts Appointment of Amicus Curiae

Chandigarh: A compliance issue over tree plantation commitments linked to a major DLF project in Gurugram sparked sharp debate in the Punjab and Haryana High Court, prompting the Bench to bring in senior advocate GK Mann as amicus

The matter, listed for further hearing in January, resurfaced just months after the court had earlier instructed authorities to oversee the planting of 10 replacement trees for every tree cut.

Applicant Sarvadaman Singh Oberoi told Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and Justice Sanjiv Berry that the plantation being cited as compliance was carried out by clearing another 160-acre forest patch, a move he said he had already challenged through criminal proceedings. He sought the court's dependent legal expert.

DLF counsel RS Rai maintained that the company had fully honoured the afforestation conditions and completed the task by September 1, even agreeing to maintain the saplings for five years. He pointed out that the court's earlier judgment allowed revival of proceedings should any future violation be proven, insisting that their submissions were backed by official inspections.



The Bench recalled that the case had originated from a report on the felling of nearly 2,000 trees for the project, but the previous round of arguments had closed after officials testified that none of the permitted region. With no contradictory evidence then on record, the court had accepted the forest department's sworn

statements An ongoing compliance dispute over afforestation commitments tied to a major DLF project in Gurugram has once again reached the Punjab and Haryana High Court, prompting a fresh round of intense arguments.

The issue has gained renewed attention due to concerns over whether the mandated environmental safeguards were followed in both letter and spirit.

The matter came up before a Bench comprising Chief Justice Sheel Nagu and Justice Sanjiv Berry, grievances regarding the alleged shortcomings in the tree plantation efforts.

What began as a technical compliance evaluation has now evolved into a larger debate about accountability in ecological restoration.

At the centre of this dispute is DLF's obligation to plant ten replacement trees for every tree felled for its development activities. This requirement had been clearly articulated in earlier court directions, which aimed to balance infrastructural expansion with environmental The Bench had previ-

to ensure strict monitoring of these commitments. Singh Oberoi argued that the

ously instructed authorities

compliance being projected before the court was fundamentally flawed.

He contended that the plantation carried out as part of the compensatory afforestation drive actually involved clearing an additional 160-acre forest area. According to him, this action not only defeated the purpose of afforestation but also amounted to a fresh instance of environmental damage.

Yamunanagar Development **Projects Under Review**

Yamunanagar : Additional Deputy Commissioner Naveen Ahuja has instructed officials to ensure that all ongoing development projects under the D-Plan schemes are executed without delay or compromise on quality. He emphasized that all projects sanctioned by the District Development and Monitoring Committee must be completed strictly according to the set timelines.

Chairing a review meeting of the D-Plan schemes at the district secretariat, Ahuja meticulously examined the progress of the works proposed for the 2025–26 financial year. He informed the attendees that the government has allocated ₹19 crore to Yamunanagar district under these schemes this year, funding 181 approved development works. These projects are being implemented by various departments and agencies, including the Municipal Corporation, Panchayati Raj, Public Health Engineering, and Education. Officials from each department presented their current



status reports during the meeting. Ahuja directed departments with slow progress to accelerate their work and adhere rigidly to the deadlines. He stressed the necessity of strong inter-departmental cooperation, warning that administrative delays would not be tolerated. Furthermore, he mandated regular site inspections to verify the quality of work on the ground. Planning Officer Sanjay Chaudhary, Executive Engineer (Panchayati Raj) Love Kumar, and Assis-

tant Planning Officer Sameer

Mehdiratta, among others, were present at the meeting.

Yamunanagar's ongoing development initiatives received focused attention on Wednesday as Additional Commissioner (ADC) Naveen Ahuja instructed officials to ensure timely and high-quality execution of all projects under the D-Plan schemes. His directions came during a comprehensive review aimed at assessing progress and identifying bottlenecks in implementation.

Ahuja underscored that

development works sanctioned by the District Development and Monitoring Committee must adhere strictly to their approved timelines. He reminded officials that any deviationwhether due to administrative lapses or avoidable delays—would reflect poorly on the district's overall performance.

During the meeting held at the district secretariat, the ADC conducted a meticulous assessment of projects planned for the 2025-26 financial year.

Dedicated Animal Helpline for Stray Menace

Gurugram: To combat the growing problem of stray animals, including cattle, dogs, and monkeys, the Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) has launched a specialized animal helpline, 98213-95178, promising swift action on reports. Citizens are encouraged to use this number to report any animal-related

Dr. Preetpal Singh, Joint Commissioner (SBM) of the MCG, explained that the roaming of strays in key city areas is a major cause of traffic jams, accidents, garbage dispersal, and a feeling of insecurity among residents. To tackle these issues, the MC has implemented a dedicated control and response mechanism. Following a complaint via the helpline, an immediate team is dispatched to the location to safely remove the animal, control it, or take other appropriate action. The MCG stressed that public cooperation is essential to creating a safer and more organized city. Junior Engineer Hariom has been named the nodal officer for this initiative, reachable directly at 94684-84840, to

oversee complaint resolution

and ensure prompt measures. The corporation has urged Gurugram citizens to contact the helpline or control room directly, rather than posting pictures or videos on social media, to ensure immediate

The Municipal Corporation of Gurugram (MCG) has launched a dedicated animal helpline in response to the rising menace of stray animals across the city. The new service, accessible at 98213-95178, aims to provide residents with a streamlined and efficient way to report incidents involving stray cattle,

dogs, and monkeys. The decision comes amid growing concerns from citizens who have repeatedly voiced frustration over stray animals obstructing roads, damaging property, and creating unsafe environments. With urban expansion and increasing population density, the issue has only become more pressing for residents and authorities alike.MCG officials stated that the helpline has been created to ensure swift action whenever a complaint is received. The corporation believes that a centralized reporting system will cut through delays and allow teams to respond more effectively to various stray-related

challenges across Gurugram.

Commissioner Joint (SBM) Dr. Preetpal Singh highlighted the significance of the initiative, noting that stray animals wandering freely in residential and commercial areas often lead to serious disruptions. He pointed out that traffic jams triggered by wandering cattle have become a regular occurrence on major city roads.

Beyond traffic disruptions, Dr. Singh explained that stray animals are frequently involved in road accidents, some of which have resulted in injuries and substantial damage. Such incidents have contributed to rising public concern regarding safety in busy neighbourhoods.

He also underlined the sanitation issues caused by strays. Dogs and cattle digging into garbage piles often scatter waste across streets, undermining the city's cleanliness efforts and making it difficult to maintain hygienic surroundings under the Swachh Bharat Mission.

Aunt Held for Serial Child Killings in Panipat

Woman's 'Jealousy' Behind Killings of Three Girls and Own Son

Panipat: A woman from identified Haryana, 32-year-old Poonam, has been arrested for what investigators describe as a disturbing chain of murders carried out over two years. The case came to light after the drowning of six-year-old Vidhi at a wedding in Naultha village, where the girl was found dead in a plastic tub. Police questioning led to Poonam's confession, revealing a similar pattern in earlier deaths.

Police say a long-running mystery around the death of a six-year-old in Naultha village has cracked wide open with the arrest of a 32-year-old woman, Poonam, who turned out to be at the centre of multiple child murders. The girl, Vidhi, was found dead in a water tub stored on the first floor of a house during a family wedding gathering on December 1, prompting an immediate search and a murder case against an unknown person.

Investigators soon discovered that the accused, the child's aunt, had not only killed Vidhi but had been responsible for three earlier deaths, including that of her own son. SP Bhupender Singh described her as displaying psychopathic traits



driven by resentment toward physically attractive children, especially girls. According to the police, she ensured each killing appeared to be an accidental drowning. Vidhi's family, visiting

from Bhawar village for the wedding, had alerted others when the child went missing. A DSP-led team, along with a forensic expert, examined the scene and collected evidence that helped trace the suspect. Once detained by the CIA-1 unit, Poonam aladmitted legedly drowned the girl in the tub and revealed her role in past killings.She reportedly confessed to murdering nine-

year-old Ishika and her own three-year-old son Shubham in 2023 by pushing them into a water tank. Investigators say she later admitted she chose to kill her son to deflect suspicion for Ishika's

Jia, her cousin's daughter, in Sewah this August. All these deaths had been accepted by families as tragic mishaps, and the children were cremated without further inquiry. Officers say the accused admitted to drowning her sister-in-law's nine-year-old daughter at Bhawar in 2023, followed by the killing of her three-year-old son Shubham, whom she allegedly eliminated to avoid being suspected of the first crime. She also confessed to the drowning of her cousin's sixyear-old daughter in Sewah in August this year. Each death was initially perceived by families as an accidental fall into water containers.Police have now booked her in a separate case for Jia's death and produced her in court, which has sent her to judicial custody. A shocking series of developments in Panipat has revealed what investigators describe as one of the most disturbing murder cases to surface in recent years. Police have arrested a 32-yearold woman, Poonam of Haryana, whose alleged involvement in multiple child deaths over two years has stunned both her family.

death. She also acknowl-

edged killing six-year-old

Jails in North India to **Become Certified Skill Hubs for Inmates**

Chandigarh : Jails across Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh are preparing for a major transformation as they convert into certified training centres under a reform programme launching on December 6. Chief Justice of India Surva Kant will inaugurate the initiative virtually from the District Jail in Gurugram, marking his first major engagement with his parent High Court since taking office. The plan aims to ensure that inmates leave prison equipped with employable skills rather than stigma. The prisons will offer structured training in trades such as computer engineering, welding, plumbing, tailoring, carpentry, bakery, cosmetology and sewing, with each programme aligned to national vocational standards. Inmates will receive a monthly stipend of ₹1.000 and formal certificates recognised in both public and

private sectors. Judges of the Supreme Court and the Punjab and Haryana High Court will attend the rollout of the initiative titled "Empowering Lives Behind Bars, Real Change: The New Paradigm of Correctional Justice".Punjab will activate 11 ITIs across 24 jails, enabling around

rol pump units inside jails, sports and yoga activities, an internal calling system, a dedicated radio station and platforms for creative expression. A statewide anti-drug awareness drive titled "Youth Against Drugs" will launch concurrently.Haryana will roll out a comprehensive education model featuring a three-year polytechnic diploma in computer engineering, multiple ITI courses and skill training centres within its prisons. Certified faculty, updated labs and training facilities in jail factories will form the backbone of this system. A counselling and good-conduct-based continuity plan will support reintegration. A month-long anti-drug campaign led by the State Legal Services Authority will run in collaboration with schools,

2,500 inmates to undertake

long-term NCVET certified

courses or short-term NSQF-

based modules. Programmes

will span trades such as elec-

trician, plumber, welding,

bakery, cosmetology, tailor-

ing, jute and bag making,

computer hardware and

mushroom cultivation. The

state has also strengthened

prisoner welfare through pet-

ISI-Linked Advocate Made Repeated Punjab Trips to Push Terror Funds: SIT

Gurugram: An advocate from Nuh, identified as Rizwan and arrested on November 24 for allegedly spying for Pakistan's ISI and funnelling money for terror operations, is believed to have made five visits to Punjab in the last three months to move funds through hawala channels. Investigators say he helped circulate nearly ₹45 lakh through handlers associated with terror net-

The SIT probing the case detained Rizwan's first friend Musharraf for questioning but later released him. They then arrested Ajay Arora of Malaysian Patti in Jalandhar, accused of sending funds to Rizwan and coordinating the money trail. Three more men from Amritsar — Sandeep Singh, Amandeep and Jaskaran were picked up afterward and are currently in police remand for eight days, with officials anticipating additional arrests.

The investigation is being kept largely under wraps, with the accused produced before court late at night to avoid attention. Officials at PNB Tauru confirmed Rizwan's bank account but declined details, saying the police had directed secrecy during the probe. The branch manager said the account's limit could not exceed ₹10– 12 lakh and noted that officers had visited multiple times for documentation.

During questioning, Rizwan reportedly admitted that Musharraf travelled with him on some trips but remained unaware of the intended purpose. Police believe the hawala network spans Pathankot and other Punjab cities, with handlers laundering more than ₹1 crore in a short period to bolster extremist operations. A senior officer said that suspects' daily movements, call locations, bank transactions and financial links are being closely monitored as the case concerns national security. An advocate from Nuh,

identified as Rizwan, has emerged as the central figure in an investigation into alleged espionage and terror financing linked to Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). Arrested on November 24, he is accused of funnelling money through



hawala networks to support extremist operations, a revelation that has triggered widespread concern among security agencies.

According to investigators, Rizwan reportedly made at least five trips to Punjab over the last three months. These visits, now under scrutiny, are believed to have been undertaken to move substantial funds through covert channels and deliver money to handlers connected with terror networks operating in the re-

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing the case suspects that nearly ₹45 lakh was circulated through Rizwan and his contacts over a short span. Officials say the money trail suggests careful coordination and points toward a broader network that may still be active in parts of Punjab.

The investigation took an initial turn when the SIT detained Rizwan's friend Musharraf for questioning. Authorities believed he might have had information about the advocate's movements and associations. However, after several rounds of interrogation, Musharraf was released, with officers concluding he

lacked knowledge of the unlawful activities.

Following this, the police arrested Ajay Arora from Malaysian Patti in Jalandhar. Arora is accused of sending funds to Rizwan and coordinating the underground financial channels being used. Officials believe he played a pivotal role in managing the intermediary steps of the hawala chain.

The trail then led investigators to Amritsar, where three more men — Sandeep Singh, Amandeep, and Jaskaran — were taken into custody. These individuals, believed to be handlers or logistical facilitators, were remanded to police custody for eight days to allow detailed interrogation.

Police sources indicated

that these arrests may represent only the outer layer of a much larger network. With investigators uncovering new leads almost daily, more arrests are expected, and the case continues to broaden in scope as intelligence inputs

colleges, local bodies, NGOs

and rehabilitation centres.

The sensitive nature of the matter has led authorities to operate with heightened secrecy. The accused are being produced before courts late at night, a move designed to avoid media attention and prevent the exposure of critical details that could compromise the inves-

Officials at Punjab National Bank's Tauru branch confirmed the existence of Rizwan's account but refused to share operational

Haryana to Deregister Pharmacists for Illegal Sale of Psychotropic Drugs

Chandigarh: In a sig nificant regulatory overhaul, the Haryana State Pharmacy Council will now directly penalise pharmacists for unethical conduct, including the illegal sale of psychotropic medicines and MTP kits - a first in the state's enforcement history. With deregistration possible under Section 36 of the Pharmacy Act, 1948, erring pharmacists may lose the right to practice anywhere in India.

Until now, only the FDA acted against violations by cancelling shop licences. Under the new system, individual pharmacists - owners or employees — will also be held responsible for offences under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. Newly elected Council chairman BB Singal said the aim is to close a major enforcement gap and ensure accountability. Teepu Poria has taken charge as vice-chairman.

Singal explained that once the FDA alerts the



Council about violations,

issued and personal hearings held before any disciplinary action, including suspension or cancellation of registra-

The state has backed the move, which aligns with its wider campaigns — Nash Mukt Haryana and Beti Bachao Beti Padhao — under Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini.The decision follows large-scale raids in Sirsa, where the FDA seized thousands of Tapentadol and Pregabalin tablets on December 2 and arrested two people.

Earlier in November, 35 officials raided 67 chemist shops, sealing 16 for illegal sale of restricted drugs. State Drug Controller Lalit Goel has already sent a list of about 15 pharmacists from Sirsa to the Council for further action and ordered district officers to submit details of pharmacists attached to cancelled licences.

Haryana is set to take a landmark step in pharmaceutical regulation, with the State Pharmacy Council now empowered to penalise individual pharmacists for unethical practices. The move represents the first time in the state's history that personal accountability, rather than just shop-level sanctions, can be enforced.

Under the new system, pharmacists found guilty of selling psychotropic medicines, MTP kits, or other restricted drugs illegally may face deregistration.

Section 36 of the Pharmacy Act, 1948, allows for the cancellation of registration, effectively barring the individual from practising anywhere in India.Until now, enforcement against violations rested primarily with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which could cancel or suspend shop licences. While this ensured the closure of offending outlets, it did not hold individual pharmacists accountable for their personal conduct.

Fatehabad School Principal Accused of Assaulting Girl Students, Inquiry Underway

Sirsa: A private school in Bhuna, Fatehabad, is facing severe backlash after multiple girl students accused the principal of physical assault and inappropriate conduct, with the allegations gaining momentum when a video showing students being beaten surfaced online. The Education Department and district authorities stepped in after several girls personally narrated their ordeal to District Education

Officer Sangeeta Bishnoi. The students alleged repeated abuse, claiming the principal hit them with sticks often targeting their buttocks - and forced prolonged standing as punishment. They recounted a particularly distressing incident from November 24, when 13 students of Classes 11 and 12 were summoned to his office, where two were allegedly thrashed. They said the ordeal lasted from 10 am until 3.15 pm, leaving them traumatised.Initially, families refrained from lodging complaints after the principal apologised before a panchayat, but once the video



went viral, parents demanded stringent action, asserting that violations of their daughters' dignity could not be overlooked. Officials probing the case also discovered that the school, though recognised only up to Class 10, was illegally conducting Classes 11 and 12 with 27 students enrolled.

A four-member inquiry team led by BEO Nirmala Sihag reviewed school records for nearly four hours and questioned the principal. Their report is expected on Thursday. The Haryana State Commission for Women has sought a detailed response within five days, issuing notices to the Deputy Commis-

sioner and the DEO. Bishnoi said the girls' statements had been recorded in the presence of parents and assured strict action once the inquiry concludes. AAP's Anurag Dhanda condemned the incident online, calling it "brutal" and questioning student safety in private institutions.

A private school in Bhuna, Fatehabad, has come under intense scrutiny after allegations surfaced that its principal physically assaulted and mistreated girl students. The controversy escalated after a video showing students being beaten went viral, prompting immediate intervention from the Education Department.

Aid for the Specially-Abled Assured

Kurukshetra: Former Minister of State Subhash Sudha declared on Wednesday that all specially-abled individuals in the district would receive the necessary assistive devices. This assurance was made during a free Disability Equipment Distribution Camp held to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabili-

The event was a collaborative effort involving the District Red Cross Society, the Artificial Limbs Manu-

facturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), the District Administration, and the Naveen Jindal Foundation. In his address, Sudha praised ALIMCO and the Red Cross Society for their commendable humanitarian work across the country, urging the public to actively support such social initiatives. He noted that Kurukshetra MP Naveen Jindal and his foundation are committed to various welfare measures for those in need. Sudha concluded by appealing to all recipients to properly maintain the devices they received at the camp. Dr. Sunil Kumar, General Secretary of the Red Cross Society, Haryana, reported that assistive devices were distributed to 587 beneficiaries, including senior citizens and people with special needs, at the Red Cross Bhawan.

Kurukshetra witnessed a significant social initiative on Wednesday when former Minister of State Subhash Sudha assured that all specially-abled individuals in the district would be provided with the assistive devices they require. This commitment was made during a free Disability Equipment Distribution Camp organised to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities.

The camp was a collaborative endeavour, bringing together the District Red Cross Society, the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIM-CO), the District Administration, and the Naveen Jindal Foundation. Each organisation played a pivotal role in ensuring that the event ran smoothly and reached the maximum number of beneficiaries.

Speaking at the event, Sudha highlighted the importance of providing adequate support to speciallyabled persons, stressing that access to assistive devices not only improves mobility but also enhances their independence and

quality of life.

He praised ALIMCO for its decades-long work in manufacturing and distributing prosthetic and assistive devices, noting that the organisation's contribution to humanitarian causes has transformed countless lives across India.

Sudha also commended the District Red Cross Society for its continuous efforts in serving vulnerable communities, calling their work "commendable and inspirational" in promoting social welfare at the grassroots level.

The former minister highlighted the role of Ku-MP Naveen rukshetra Jindal and his foundation, underscoring their commitment to various social welfare initiatives aimed at uplifting marginalised and specially-abled sections of

Sudha appealed to all recipients to take proper care of the devices provided, emphasising that maintaining them in good condition ensures long-term benefit and usability. He further urged the

general public to support such initiatives, stressing that collective social responsibility is essential for creating an inclusive society where specially-abled individuals are empowered. Dr. Sunil Kumar, Gen-

eral Secretary of the Red Cross Society, Haryana, reported that a total of 587 beneficiaries received assistive devices at the Red Cross Bhawan during the

Aryan Age Delhi, Friday, 05 December 2025

Shami, Abishek, Easwaran star for Bengal in Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy

produced a commanding allround performance to outplay Services by seven wickets and register their fourth win of the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy Elite campaign on

With this victory, Bengal strengthened their position in Elite Group C, taking their tally to 16 points after five matches—a strong indicator of their consistent form this

The match, held at the Gymkhana Ground, saw Bengal dominate with both ball and bat, leaving little room for Services to stage a fightback.

Pacer Md Shami was the standout performer, delivering a fiery spell that rattled the Services batting lineup and set the tone for Bengal's comfortable win.

Shami picked up four wickets for just 13 runs,



control and variation, and was deservedly named the Player of the Match.

His opening burst, supported by disciplined bowling from the rest of the attack, ensured that Services struggled to accelerate despite occasional resistance.

Akash Deep complemented Shami brilliantly, claiming three wickets for 27 runs and maintaining consistent pressure throughout his spell.Writtick Chatterjee

also made valuable contributions with figures of 2 for 32, while Pradipta Pramanik chipped in with one wicket for 38, helping Bengal restrict the opposition effec-Put into bat, Services

were bowled out for 165 in

18.2 overs, a total that looked below par considering the batting-friendly conditions on offer.In reply, Bengal's chase was built on a stunning second-wicket partnership between Abhimanyu Easwaran and Abishek Porel. The duo stitched together a superb 93-run stand, ensuring that Bengal remained well ahead of the required

run rate right from the early

Easwaran anchored the innings with a fluent 58 off 37 deliveries, displaying excellent shot selection and composure under pressure.

At the other end, Abishek Porel played a scintillating knock of 56 from just 29 balls, taking on the bowlers with confidence and maintaining Bengal's momen-After their dismissals,

Yuvraj Keshwani (36 not out off 19) provided the finishing touches with an energetic cameo that kept the chase firmly on track. Akash Deep, already impressive with the ball, added a flourish with the bat as well, remaining unbeaten on 14 off just five deliveries.Bengal eventually crossed the target with ease, finishing at 167 for 3 in 15.1 overs to seal a dominant win and continue their strong run in the tournament.

Second round concludes in **National Women's Chess Championship at Durgapur**

round of the prestigious 51st National Women's Chess Championship, 2025 concluded on Thursday at the Sidhu Kanhu Stadium here, where the country's top women chess players are battling it out for national

glory.

A total of 139 players from across 27 states and 3 affiliated units of the All India Chess Federation (AICF) are participating in this premier national event.

The tournament features an impressive field of 26 titled players including 7 Women Grandmasters (WGMs), underlining the elite standard of competi-

After the completion of two rounds, a tightly contested race has emerged, with 26 players jointly leading the standings with a perfect score of 2 points.



Mukherjee of West Bengal, has also made a steady start to the championship.

The tournament was inaugurated on Wednesday by state panchayat minister Pradip Majumder in presence of Grandmaster and Arjuna Awardee Dibyendu Barua

Along with several other distinguished

The championship will be played over 11 rounds, and carries a substantial total prize fund of Rs.30 lakhs, making it one of the most significant women's chess events in the country. With intense rounds several ahead.

The championship promises thrilling contests as India's finest women players compete for the na-

Flamengo claims eighth Brazilian Serie A crown

Rio De Janeiro : Samuel Lino scored first-half winner as Flamengo clinched its eighth Brazilian Serie Ati-

Lino broke the deadlock in the 37th minute at Maracana Stadium when he ran onto Jorge Carrascal's through ball and fired low past goalkeeper Bruno Ferreira on Wednesday.

The visitors controlled only quarter of possession and had just one shot on target as Flamengo moved five points clear of second-placed Palmeiras to secure the title with one matchday to

"It was tough to find scoring opportunities tonight because they gave us very little space," Lino told reporters after the match.

"I won title here with Flamengo in the Rio under-20 championship and today I'm part of this team that has won the league at the Maracana. I have feeling of gratitude," the former Atletico Madrid and Valencia winger added.

The result came just four days after Flamengo secured the Copa Libertadores title - South America's premier club trophy - by beating Brazilian rivals Palmeiras in the final.

Flamengo has now won eight major trophies in the past seven years, including three Copa Libertadores crowns, three Brazilian Serie A titles and two Copa do Brasil triumphs.



The Rio de Janeiro club previously won Brazil's Serie A in 1980, 1982, 1983, 1992, 2009, 2019, 2020 and

Elsewhere in Brazil's top flight on Wednesday, Neymar scored three second-half goals as Santos eased relegation fears with [Ceara] 3-0 away win

The former Barcelona and Paris Saint-Germain star put his side ahead when his first-time effort flew into the

top-left corner after taking deflection. He doubled the lead just after the hour by combining with Igor Vinicius before firing into the far corner from

[Ceara] tight angle.

Neymar then converted from the penalty spot after Lautaro Diaz was pulled down by Marcos Paulo on the edge of the six-yard box.

Santos now has 44 points and is two points clear of the relegation zone ahead of the final match of the season against Cruzeiro at home on Sunday.

In other Brazilian top-flight fixtures on Wednesday, Palmeiras won 3-0 at Atletico Mineiro, Bahia prevailed 2-0 at home to Sport, Sao Paulo cruised to 3-0 home win over Internacional and Fortaleza overcame Corinthians 2-1 at

Root's ton anchors England as Starc rips through top order

Brisbane: Joe Root's magnificent unbeaten 135, his maiden Test century on Australian soil, powered England to a fighting 325 for 9 at stumps on Day 1 of the second Ashes Test at The Gabba on Thursday.

It was a dramatic day that ebbed and flowed relentlessly, defined by Root's class, Mitchell Starc's sixwicket burst and a late-hour counterattack from Jofra Archer that lifted England past the 300-run mark. England had earlier won

the toss and elected to bat, hoping for early stability, but those plans were quickly dismantled by Starc's new-ball

Starc struck in his opening over, trapping Ben Duckett, and then removed Ollie Pope soon after, leaving England shaken at a precarious 5 for 2 within the first three overs.

The Gabba crowd sensed the possibility of an early collapse, but Zak Crawley and Joe Root dug in with admirable resolve to halt Australia's charge.

The pair rel



117-run partnership, mixing caution with controlled aggression to frustrate the Australian bowlers.

Crawley, in particular, looked in sublime touch, driving confidently and pulling with authority on his way to a fluent 76 before Michael Neser ended his stay with an under-edge to the keeper.

Root, meanwhile, batted with a characteristic blend of patience and flair, raising his fifty with a pull off Brendan Doggett and navigating through a couple of close review scares. As the day progressed, Root began to assert control, unfurling his trademark late cuts, straight drives He moved into the 90s

with back-to-back boundaries off Doggett and brought up his first century in Australia with a flick to deep midwicket off Scott Boland, drawing a standing ovation from teammates and thunderous applause from the Barmy Army. However, England

struggled to build partnerships around him. Harry Brook's promising 31 was cut short when he edged Starc to Steve Smith at slip, ending another promising stand.Ben Stokes was the next to depart, run out after backing up too far for a nonexistent single as Josh Inglis

that shattered England's momentum once again.

Jamie Smith's stumps were rattled by Boland shortly after, and Will Jacks edged an angling delivery from Starc to Smith, leaving the lower order exposed.

Starc returned for a fiery third spell and made immediate impact, removing Gus Atkinson and Brydon Carse in successive overs, with wicketkeeper Alex Carey completing two superb diving catches behind the stumps. With six wickets for 71 runs, Starc reinforced his reputation as a master of the pink ball, troubling England throughout the day with pace, swing and bounce.

Just as Australia neared the close with dominance, Jofra Archer launched a stunning counterattack, smashing three sixes and two fours in a 26-ball 32 that shifted the momentum once more.Root joined the late scoring spree, even unfurling a cheeky reverse scoop for six over third man, and combined with Archer to push England past 300 be-

Bengal Super League set to commence from Dec 14

Kolkata: The Bengal Super League (BSL) is poised to usher in a new chapter in Bengal's footballing landscape as it officially kicks off on December 14, bringing with it a renewed spirit of competition and community engage-

Spearheaded by Shrachi Sports, the league aims to elevate grassroots and semiprofessional football by of-

high-calibre platform for emerging athletes across the state.

With a vision to strengthen Bengal's sporting ecosystem, the Bengal Super League promises high-intensity matches, rising talent and an electrifying atmosphere that celebrates Bengal's deep-rooted passion for the beautiful game.

"The Bengal Super League is not just a tournament; it is a movement. Our aim is to spotlight Bengal's footballing extraordinary talent and create a worldclass platform where local heroescan rise, inspire and redefine the future of the sport in our state. BSL is all about passion, competitive-

ness and the unifying force

of football and we are proud

to bring this vision to life",

said Rahul Todi, Managing

Director, Shrachi Sports.

The inaugural season will officially begin on December 14 at the District Sports Association Stadium, Malda from 4 pm, featuring a fresh and promising lineup of newly formed teamsbuilt for the league's first edition. Among the participating sides are Sundarban Bengal Auto FC, North 24 Parganas FC, Howrah-Hooghly Warriors, FC Medinipur, Burdwan Blasters, Kopa Tigers

Birbhum, JHR Royal City FC Malda | Murshidabad and Northbengal United FC. Though these teams are making their competitive debut, they bring together a compelling mix of experienced players from platforms such as the Indian Super League, I-League, Calcutta Football League and Subroto Cup, alongside talented youngsters scouted from across Bengal.

Olympic flame for 2026 Winter Games handed over to Italy in Athens

Athens: Greece on Thursday held the Olympic flame handover ceremony for the 2026 Milan-Cortina Olympic Winter Games at the historic Panathenaic Stadium here. The flame was carried into the stadium by world wrestling champion Georgios Kougioumtsidis, who then passed it to Italy's Olympic champion Jasmine Paolini and cyclist Filippo Ganna, symbolizing the long-standing ties between Greece, the birthplace of the Olympic Games, and Italy, host nation of the upcoming Winter Olympics. World water polo champion Eleni Xenaki then received the

flame and, together with her teammates from Greece's national team, lit the ceremonial cauldron inside the marble stadium, known as Kallimarmaro.In his remarks, Isidoros Kouvelos, president of the Hellenic Olympic Committee, highlighted the symbolic value of the ceremony and Greece's continuing role as guardian of Olympic traditions. Giovanni Malago, president of the organizing committee for the 2026 Winter Olympics, thanked Greece for safeguarding the Olympic spirit and noted that preparations in Italy were mov-

Netherlands dominate again as Chile keep their hopes alive on a thrilling Day 3 in Santiago After half-time, Ireland

Santiago (Chile): Day 3 of the FIH Hockey Women's Junior World Cup City of Santiago 2025 was defined by the supremacy of the Netherlands, who once again delivered an outstanding performance with an 8–0 win over Japan to underline their status as leading title contenders, with 18 goals scored and none conceded so

The United States also maintained their strong form with a solid 4-0 victory against Korea, while Germany collected a second consecutive win by defeating India 3-1.

The day's biggest emotion came in the closing match, as hosts Chile ignited celebrations in the stands with a dramatic 1–0 victory over Malaysia that keeps them alive in Pool A ahead of a decisive clash with Japan on Friday.

New Zealand and Uruguay produced the most entertaining draw of the day, a 3-3 result that leaves the battle in their pool wide open, while the programme had opened with Ireland's 4-1 win over Namibia, in which the European side controlled proceedings from

Ireland vs Namibia (Full-Time Score: 4–1)

Ireland took the initiative from the start on the synthetic surface of the Centro Deportivo de Hockey Césped at the National Stadium, generating six circle entries in the first quarter and opening the scoring in the 1st minute through Hollai

Namibia tried to hold a compact block, but Ireland extended their lead in the second quarter: Quinn struck again in the 16th minute and Milla Fulton added the 3–0 in the 18th minute, during

a phase in which the Europeans put together two penalty corner sequences that kept the game inside the Namibian 23 metres.

maintained controlled buildup and reached 4-0 beyond the midway point of the third quarter, when Maia Mc-Court finished off another phase of high circulation. Namibia produced their best attacking spell in the final stages, earning two consecutive penalty corners and pulling one back in the 58th min-

ute through Anthea Coetzee.

In the closing minutes, Ireland managed their advantage with a compact structure inside their own 23 and limited Namibia's circle entries through to the final whistle.

Team captain Amy Handcock said, "We're happy with our overall performance, we would have liked to not compete towards the end, but overall, we're really happy.

India vs Germany (Full-Time Score: 1–3)

Germany seized the initiative from the start, producing six circle entries in the first quarter and opening the scoring in the 4th minute with a penalty stroke converted by Lena Frerichs.

India responded with two consecutive penalty corner attempts, but were unable to generate effective shots. In the second quarter, Germany extended their territorial dominance with twelve circle entries and another stroke opportunity in the 29th minute, which on this occasion was not con-

India tried to counter through long transitions, but struggled to sustain possession in the attacking third.

After the break, Germany kept their high press and forced India to drop deep inside their own 23 by winning four consecutive penalty corners in the early stages of the third quarter.

In the final phase, Ger-

many widened the gap with a

field goal from Annika

Schönhoff and, a few min-

utes later, Martina Reiseneg-

ger made it 3-0 after another set-piece sequence. India reduced the deficit

three minutes from time, when Hina Bano scored following their third penalty corner sequence in what was their most productive attacking spell of the match.

Germany managed the closing minutes with a compact structure and controlled outlets, securing top spot in the pool with back-to-back Player of the Match Jo-

hanna Hachenberg said, "I think our performance was good, but we can do it better because sometimes we had a rollercoaster game. We need to keep our level through the whole match, but we're happy to win today."

New Zealand vs Uruguay (Full-Time Score: 3–3)

New Zealand started the match with five circle entries in the first quarter, but it was Uruguay who opened the scoring in the 9th minute, as Valentina Luis finished off

their first penalty corner se-

The Oceania side levelled at 1-1 in the 14th minute through Greer Findlay from a set play. The pattern continued in the second quarter: Uruguay regained the lead in the 17th minute with a deflection by Sofia Trigo after two consecutive PCs and stretched the score to 3–1 in the 26th minute. when Melina Haidukowski converted again from a pen-

alty corner. New Zealand reduced the deficit to 3-2 in the 20th minute thanks to a drag-flick from Niamh McKenzie, leaving a 3-2 half-time score after a phase marked by heavy activity from set piec-

On the restart, both teams registered just one circle entry each in the third quarter, with Uruguay protecting their lead through a mid-block and good control of transitions, while New Zealand looked for access



from the flanks to regain presence in the final third.

In the last quarter, New Zealand increased their territorial pressure, generated four consecutive circle entries and finally equalised 3–3 in the 58th minute when Georgie Shotter scored from a penalty corner.

Uruguay closed the game by protecting their own 23 in the final seconds to secure the point and second place in Pool F.

Uruguay's Player of the Match, Silvina Bonaudi, said, "It was a very tough match, we were ahead for most of the game and the end was very tight. The draw leaves us with a good overall

ing for the United States result to see where we finish in the pool." Korea vs United States

(Full-Time Score: 0–4)

The United States imposed themselves from the very beginning, recording ten circle entries in the first quarter and applying constant pressure on the Korean

The opening goal arrived in the 10th minute, when Mary Adams converted from a penalty corner to make it

In the second quarter, Andrea Bradley's team kept their territorial control, added six more circle entries.



MARKE

Close	Percent chenge
85,265.32	0.19%
Previous close 85,106.81	Open 84,987.56
65,100.81 High	64,987.30 Low
85.487.21	85,487,21

Nifty 50

Close	Percent chenge
26,017.10	0.12%
Previous close	Oper
25,986.00	25,981.85
High	Lov
26.008.25	25 038 04

Nifty 500

Close	Percent chenge
23,724.25	0.034%
Previous close	Open
23,716.30	23,718.10
High	Low
High 23 820 45	23 680 25

Nifty Next 50

Close	Percent chenge
68,560.80	0.23%
Previous close	Oper
68,400.85	68,445.60
High	Lov
60.005.00	60.045.46

Nifty 100

Close	Percent chenge
26,557.00	0.19%
Previous close	Open
26,506.10	26,505.40
High	Low
26 627 15	26 471 40

Nifty Bank

Close	Percent chenge
59,288.70	-0.10%
Previous close	Open
59,348.25	59,287.10
High	Low
50 549 70	50 062 15

Nifty Midcap 100

Close 60,299.80	Percent chenge -0.03%
Previous close 60,208.85	Open 60,368.45
High 60,618.95	Low 60,208.85

Top Gainers

Company	Current	% Gain
TCS	3,227.40	1.49
SBI Life Insura	2,001.90	1.48
Tech Mahindra	1,560.40	1.21
HUL	2,460.90	0.53
Infosys	1,596.00	1.10

Top Losers

Company	Current	%Loss
Interglobe Avi	5,464.50	-2.34
Hindalco	810.90	-0.66
Eternal	296.20	-0.52
Maruti Suzuki	15,981.00	-0.63
HDFC Bank	999.10	-0.14

Commodities

Commodity	Price	Change (%)
Gold Dec 05	127,287.00	-545.00 -0.43
Silver Dec 05	174,676.00	-3,617.00 -2.03
Crudeoil Dec 18	5,339.00	-17.00 -0.32
Naturalgas Dec 26	450.40	0.40 0.09

Stock markets bounce back after 4 days of decline; Sensex climbs 158 points

day losing streak, benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty recovered on Thursday, supported by renewed buying interest in technology and IT

The rebound lifted market sentiment after several sessions of weakness, driven largely by global uncertainties and continuous foreign fund outflows.

The 30-share BSE Sensex rose 158.51 points, or 0.19 per cent, to close at 85,265.32, marking a modest but encouraging recovery for investors.

During intraday trade, the index had climbed as much as 380.4 points, or 0.44 per cent, touching a high of 85,487.21 before paring some gains toward the close.

The broader NSE Nifty also moved higher, adding 47.75 points, or 0.18 per cent, to end at 26,033.75, reflecting improved buying across select large-cap

This rebound came after the Sensex had slipped around 613

As per the report, in the

real-time market (RTM), the

average market clearing

price (MCP) declined 9 per

cent year-on-year to Rs 3.13



points, or 0.72 per cent, and the Nifty had dropped nearly 230 points, or 0.8 per cent, over the previous four consecutive ses-

Market analysts attributed Thursday's upmove primarily to strength in IT stocks, which outperformed amid improved global cues and bargain hunting

Among the major Sensex gainers were Tata Consultancy Services, Tech Mahindra, Infosys and HCL Tech, all of which logged noticeable gains as market participants rotated back into defensives and export-oriented plays

Bharti Airtel, Sun Pharma,

Bharat Electronics and Trent also featured among the top performers, offering additional support to the benchmark indi-

On the flip side, Maruti Suzuki, Eternal, Kotak Mahindra Bank and Titan ended as the notable laggards, capping the overall market gains.

ONGC, Petronet LNG Ld execute 15-years ethane unloading, storage and handling services binding agreement

Bhubaneswar: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited and Petronet LNG Limited (PLL) have entered into a 15-Years Ethane Unloading, Storage and Handling (USH) Services Binding Term Sheet (commencing between October - December 2028 and ending on the 15th anniversary of the commencement

PLL is developing ethane unloading, storage and handling (USH) facilities with an ethane storage tank capacity of approx. 1,70,000 Cubic Meters at Dahej, Guja-

PLL is also constructing a unique third jetty at Dahej which will be capable of handling Ethane and Propane in addition to LNG.

As per the term sheet, ONGC shall reserve capacity of approximately 600 KTPA at PLL's Ethane storage and handling facilities at Dahej, Gujarat. PLL shall receive, store and handle Ethane

sourced and imported by ONGC/its subsidiary or affiliate(s) at Dahej, Gujarat and re-deliver Ethane to ONGC at the Delivery Point.

The term sheet shall form the basis for definitive agreements between the parties. As per the commitments under the binding term sheet, PLL is expected to earn a gross revenue of about ₹5,000 crore over the total contract duration of 15 years.

The transaction under the said term sheet shall commence from FY 2028-2029. It represents a significant milestone in PLL's strategic vision to develop and offer ethane import infrastructure to third parties, thereby expanding its business portfolio beyond LNG and strengthening its position in India's petrochemical and energy value chain.

PLL's under-construction unique third jetty will facilitate unloading, storage and handling ethane, propane and LNG at Dahej.

Electricity demand declines 0.3 per cent in Nov, marking second consecutive month of degrowth: CRISIL

New Delhi: Electricity demand declined 0.3 percent year-on-year in November, marking the second consecutive month of degrowth, says a report released by credit rating agency, CRISIL on Thursday.

temperatures cooled power demand by an estimated 0.3 percent to 123 billion units (BUs) in November compared with 124 BUs a year ago

This comes after a nearly 6 percent on-month degrowth in October, the report

Among others, Madhya Pradesh logged an 11 percent decline in demand due to severe cold wave conditions, while Rajasthan saw demand dip by 7 percent due to cold weather, the report says.

Degrowth in electricity nsumption refers to the planned reduction of energy use and resource depletion to balance the economy with the environment, improve well-being and reduce in-

CRISIL said that 50 percent of India's power demand arises from industrial and commercial consumers,



and manufacturing expanded at a slower pace in No-

The Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index was at 56.6 in the current month compared to 59.2 in

per unit in November, indicating ample availability amid tepid electricity requirements. Time blockwise, the average MCP during solar hours was Rs 2 per

unit this November com-

pared to Rs 2.7 per unit of the same period last year" it said.

These prices enabled distribution companies and commercial and industrial consumers to meet demand at a competitive price and replace costlier power by procuring through the exchange.

The report noted that Renewable energy-based generation is estimated to have increased 17 percent yearon-year, rising for the eighth time this fiscal, with rising capacity additions.

On the other hand, Hydro power demand has also grown every month this fiscal, with 27.6 per cent year-on-year growth in November. Conversely, coalbased power generation declined for a second time this

It is estimated to have declined 3.5 percent yearon-year in November after suffering a shrinkage of 14 percent year-on-year in Oc-

Vizhinjam roars into global league: India's deepest port sets record-breaking 1st year

Thiruvananthapuram: Vizhinjam International Seaport, developed and operated by Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd. (APSEZ) in partnership with the Government of Kerala, has completed its first year of commercial operations with an extraordinary performance that has redefined India's maritime capabilities and earned global

In a single year, the port has surged ahead with record-breaking growth, unmatched operational efficiency, and milestone vessel calls that position it firmly among the world's emerging deep-water transshipment hubs.

Celebrated nationwide as the "Wonder Port of India," Vizhinjam's debut year stands out for its exceptional speed and scale. It became the fastest Indian port to cross the one-million-TEU mark, achieving this milestone in record time and surpassing its annual capacity within just ten months.

By its first anniversary, the port had handled 615 vessels and 1.32 million TEUs, demonstrating a level of operational consistency rarely seen in a new maritime facility.

Vizhinjam's ability to attract the world's largest carriers has been a defin-



ing feature of its remarkable year. Between December 2024 and December 2025, the port welcomed 41 ultra-large container vessels (ULCVs) measuring more than 399 metres—more than any other port in India.

In total, 154 vessels above 300 metres called at the port, further underscoring its readiness to serve as a global hub for the biggest liners. Among its most significant achievements was the arrival

of MSC Verona, with a 17.1-metre draft—the deepest-draft vessel ever handled in South Asia.

The port also hosted MSC Irina, the world's largest container ship, marking another historic milestone. Vizhinjam recorded its highest-ever single-vessel TEU handling when MSC Paloma carried 10,576 TEUs, and set a national benchmark with a Gross Crane Rate of 28.52 in October 2025.

India's manufacturing industry needs to remain competitive: **Piyush Goyal**

New Delhi: Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal on Wednesday underscored the evolving pillars shaping India's manufacturing competitiveness, stressing that innovation, quality, design, sustainability and efficiency must remain central to the sector's growth trajectory. He said these elements were no longer optional but fundamental to ensuring that Indian manufacturers can compete effectively in an increasingly integrated global marketplace where standards and expectations continue to rise. Goyal noted that the manufacturing landscape worldwide is undergoing rapid transformation, and India must adapt swiftly to stay relevant and resilient in the face of emerging challenges. He highlighted that global disruptions in recent years ranging from geopolitical tensions to supply chain bottlenecks—have exposed vulnerabilities within traditional production models. The Minister cautioned industry stakeholders against excessive dependence on specific geographies for critical inputs, stating that such concentration increases risks during unforeseen disruptions.He emphasised that India must identify sectors where strengthening domestic capacity is crucial, en-

abling greater autonomy and



enhanced control over supply chains. According to Goyal, building such capacities will not only mitigate risks but also serve as a catalyst for long-term industrial expansion, especially as India positions itself as a reliable global manufacturing hub. The Minister added that strong collaboration between industry players is essential for scaling manufacturing output, as collective knowledge, shared expertise and coordinated efforts can significantly amplify impact. He also pointed out that a vibrant manufacturing sector naturally bolsters the services ecosystem, reinforcing the broader economic growth cycle.Goyal said that as India expands its footprint in international markets, it must also remain committed to fostering healthy competition within the domestic economy to boost efficiency and innovation.He cited examples from states such as Uttar Pradesh and Odisha, which have achieved notable progress in recent years, leading to the creation of local opportunities and a visible reduc-

tion in migration pressures.

Mumbai : Pantomath Group has achieved a significant industry milestone by emerging as one of the

largest merchant bankers in India, backed by a strong performance on initial public offerings in 2025.

The league table ranking reflects Pantomath's accelerating growth, diversified sectoral presence, and a consistent record of delivering successful capitalmarket transactions.

In 2025, Pantomath led and co-led 11 IPOs across exchanges, spanning sectors such as engineering, logistics, commercial services, food processing, and industrial manufacturing. These offerings together represented more than Rs 4,100 crore in aggregate issue size, underscoring the firm's expanding role as a preferred partner for midsized and emerging enterprises accessing public

Pantomath stands among top Merchant Bankers,

strengthens leadership with robust IPO pipeline

Of the 11 transactions executed during the period, six were Sole-Lead mandates, demonstrating strong client confidence in Pantomath's advisory capabilities, distribution network. and end-to-end execution

The remaining transactions were successfully comanaged reinforcing Pancollaborative presence in the broader investment-banking ecosys-

Some notable IPOs during the period include Vidya Wires Ltd., Glottis Ltd.,

Dev Accelerator Ltd., Vikran Engineering Ltd., and Regaal Resources Ltd. Issue sizes ranged from Rs 130 crore to over Rs 850 crore, showcasing Pantomath's ability to manage diverse mandates across various industry verticals and scale requirements.

Cohesity boosts global cybersecurity from Bengaluru

Bengaluru: Cohesity, a global leader in AI-powered data security, on Thursday inaugurated its new regional office in Bengaluru, reinforcing the city's role as a global hub for innovation, talent, and advanced cybersecurity solutions. The move highlights India's growing importance in shaping Cohesity's global strategy and accelerating AI-driven data security initiatives.

The announcement coincides with the one-year milestone of Cohesity's integration with Veritas' data protection business and recent expansions at its Pune facility, underlining the country's key role in the company's global opera-"The Bengaluru office is

a milestone for Cohesity, re-

flecting our belief in India as

a global engine of innovation, resilience, and growth," said Sanjay Poonen, CEO and President. He added, "Our teams here are building the future of data security, protecting critical datafrom hospital patients to financial systems-not just in India, but worldwide.' The new facility more

than doubles the capacity of the company's previous Bengaluru offices, featuring hybrid workspaces, wellness rooms, collaborative zones, and sustainable design. It has achieved LEED Gold certification, underscoring Cohesity's commitment to employwell-being responsible growth.

India hosts a rapidly expanding customer base for Cohesity, including four of the top five banks, three of the four largest telecom companies, and global organisations such as Infosys, BMW, Delta Air Lines, Salesforce, FedEx, Toyota, and NEC.

Recent research shows 76% of organisations globally experienced at least one significant cyberattack last year, driving demand for AIpowered security solutions. Cohesity's Data Cloud platform helps enterprises protect and analyse their data across locations, reduce cyber risks, and accelerate recovery from attacks.

"Bengaluru and our India teams will be critical in accelerating innovation for our AI-driven offerings,' Poonen said. India now plays a central role in Cohesity's product development, customer engagement, and competitive advantage, with Bengaluru at the heart of this transformation.

Spurt in equity flows from Russia to India

Chennai: Apart from Russian oil and defence equipment, there is an increased equity flow from Russia to India, states a study by Rubix Data Sciences Pvt. Ltd.

According to the study, one of the notable developments in the Indo-Russian relationship is the sudden spurt in Russian capital inflows into Indian equities."Equity inflows from Russia tripled in FY25 to USD 18.45 million from USD 5.16 million in FY24," the study notes.It should be noted that Russian President Vladimir Putin will be on a two-day official visit to India from December 4-5.

The study also finds that India's crude oil and petroleum products imports from Russia are likely to remain at an elevated level in November 2025 despite the US' repeated warnings against oil imports from Russia.

The report assumes greater significance in the backdrop of India's strenuous efforts to sign a bilateral trade treaty with the US.

According to the report, the two economies, India and Russia, are intertwined, and it is difficult for them to scale down the trade relations in the near-to-medium term.

Total goods traded between India and

Russia recorded a robust 70 percent CAGR from FY21 to FY25. Notably, India's trade deficit also widened by almost 20 times during this period. In FY21, India sourced barely 2 percent of its crude oil imports from Russia. But in FY25, it increased to 35 percent, making the former Soviet state India's largest crude oil supplier with a trade value of more than USD 50 billion in FY25."More importantly, India's crude oil imports from Russia are projected to reach their highest level in November this year, but may start declining from December onwards, driven primarily by pre-deadline stocking by Indian refiners, discounted pricing, and shifting global energy flows," the study states. Russia's overall exports are mainly led by three energy products: crude oil, petroleum products, and natural gas. The share of these products in the total exports has increased to 52 percent in 2024 from 30 percent in 2021. Overall, Asia now accounts for nearly 95 pc of Russia's crude oil exports. China is the top buyer, and India comes second. The study also points out that despite

mounting international pressure, India con-