



Aryan Age

The Age of Truth

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Eight Weak Keys Shake eMudhra's Digital Trust

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- **Government orders probe as Google and Mozilla block certificates; domestic eSign services remain unaffected**

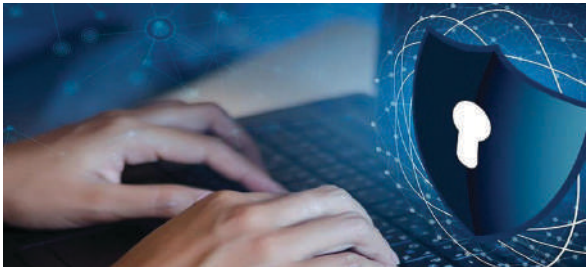
New Delhi : A security flaw involving eight eMudhra digital certificate keys has raised questions about the safeguards behind trusted websites, prompting browser companies to act and the Indian government to launch an investigation. The private keys were so weak that they could be recovered almost instantly from publicly available information. Such keys could potentially allow

attackers to create fraudulent certificates, impersonate websites and intercept communications under certain conditions. Google and Mozilla blocked the affected keys or certificates after receiving reports on October 17. However, there is no publicly confirmed evidence that attackers exploited the weakness or stole user data. Google said no website certificates linked to the

six affected intermediates appeared in public transparency logs before its blocking action, protecting clients that enforce those checks. eMudhra said the certificates were created during a key-generation exercise in April 2025. Only one affected intermediate authority had entered production, and none had issued certificates to end users, according to

the company. It said an investigation and review of security controls were underway. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology has formed a special team to examine the incident. CERT-In clarified that eMudhra's Indian Digital Signature Certificate and eSign services remain unaffected because they use separate infrastructure and cryptographic keys.

The central question is how such weak keys passed security controls. Browser protection also leaves a wider task: organisations must check applications and systems using separate certificate stores. Google plans to remove the related emSign root from Chrome's trust store on October 27, requiring affected website operators to replace their certificate chains to avoid disruption.



Modi-Tusk Talks Put Defence Ties In Focus

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's engagement with visiting Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk placed India-Poland strategic relations in focus on Thursday, as both countries explored opportunities to strengthen their partnership. Tusk arrived in New Delhi on Wednesday for an official visit, receiving a welcome from Minister of State Raj Bhushan Chaudhary. The Ministry of External Affairs described the visit as an opportunity to deepen longstanding bilateral relations and provide fresh momentum to the strategic partnership. Defence cooperation has emerged as an important area of interest. Poland has developed substantial military manufacturing capabilities, and its defence industry is seeking opportunities to work with Indian partners.



For India, such cooperation could support efforts to diversify defence partnerships, strengthen domestic manufacturing and gain access to specialised technologies. The two countries also have scope to expand economic engagement, investment and collaboration in other sectors. Poland's position within the European Union gives the relationship wider diplomatic significance. The visit comes amid continuing security concerns

in Europe and growing international attention to defence supply chains. However, expressions of interest in industrial cooperation should not be confused with signed procurement contracts or completed agreements. Any concrete commitments will require separate official confirmation. The visit reflects India's continuing effort to broaden strategic partnerships while maintaining an independent approach to international relations.

Indian Killed In Saudi Airport Attack

New Delhi: India strongly condemned attacks on civilian infrastructure in Saudi Arabia on Thursday after an Indian national was among those killed in an assault affecting King Fahd International Airport in Dammam. The Indian Embassy in Riyadh confirmed that an Indian citizen was among two people who lost their lives in the attack. Two other Indians were among eight people injured. The incident prompted concern about the safety of Indian nationals living and working in Saudi Arabia, which is home to a large expatriate community. India described the attacks on civilian facilities as unacceptable and expressed concern over the threat posed to innocent people. The assault also affected airport operations, with reports of flight diversions and damage to infrastructure.

Dammam is an important commercial centre in eastern Saudi Arabia, close to the Persian Gulf. Disruption at a major international airport can affect passengers, cargo movement and regional connectivity. The attack comes amid wider security tensions in the region, raising concerns about the protection of transport and energy infrastructure. The precise circumstances of the incident and responsibility for the attack remain matters requiring authoritative confirmation. For India, the immediate priorities include assistance to affected nationals and coordination with Saudi authorities. The incident underlines the vulnerability of civilian infrastructure during regional security crises and the importance of protecting international travellers and workers.

Shah Hits Back At Rahul Over Poll Charges

New Delhi: Union Home Minister Amit Shah launched a sharp political attack on Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Thursday, accusing him of making false allegations of electoral manipulation and repeatedly questioning electronic voting machines after electoral setbacks. Shah's remarks came amid continuing confrontation between the government and Opposition over electoral-roll revision and the functioning of the Election Commission. Opposition parties have

raised concerns about voter registration procedures and alleged irregularities that they say could affect democratic participation. The BJP has rejected

allegations of systematic manipulation and accused



The dispute has become a prominent national political issue, with demonstrations and legal proceedings drawing attention to election administration. However, political accusations by either side should not be presented as established findings without supporting evidence. Questions about electoral rolls, voting machines and election procedures require examination through official records and appropriate institutional processes. The Election Commission has

responsibility for administering elections and addressing complaints under the applicable legal framework. For voters, confidence depends on transparent procedures, accessible correction mechanisms and fair consideration of grievances. Shah's latest remarks signal that the ruling party intends to continue challenging the Opposition's narrative. The confrontation is likely to remain central to political debate as parties prepare for future electoral contests.

ISRO Sets October 30 For Navigation Satellite



New Delhi: The Indian Space Research Organisation is preparing to launch its indigenous NVS-03 navigation satellite on October 30, marking another important step in strengthening India's independent positioning and navigation infrastructure. The mission has experienced delays, making the revised launch schedule significant for the country's space programme. The satellite is part of efforts to strengthen India's regional navigation capabilities and reduce dependence on foreign positioning systems. Reliable satellite navigation is important for transport, communication, mapping, disaster management and several other public and commercial applications. The technology also has potential benefits for Indian Railways, which is working towards real-time monitoring of approximately 12,000 trains. Around 8,700 trains have already been equipped with the relevant tracking system, according to reported programme details. A more comprehensive satellite navigation network could improve the availability and reliability of location information for such applications. However, the announcement of a launch date does not mean that the satellite is already operational. Successful deployment will depend on the launch, orbital placement and subsequent technical validation. The mission also highlights the growing importance of indigenous space technology in national infrastructure planning. India has invested in developing navigation services suited to domestic and regional requirements. The October 30 mission will be closely watched for its contribution to the country's expanding space-based services.

India Challenges UN Over Dawood Reference



United Nations: India challenged a reference concerning fugitive underworld figure Dawood Ibrahim during proceedings at the United Nations, objecting to language that it considered misleading. Raghuo Puri, First Secretary at India's Permanent Mission to the United Nations, raised the issue at the General Assembly's Third Committee on Wednesday. The Indian representative disputed a description associating Ibrahim with India and reiterated New Delhi's position concerning his whereabouts. The exchange reflects India's longstanding concerns about cross-border organised crime, terrorism and the international handling of individuals wanted by Indian authorities. Dawood Ibrahim has been sought by Indian investigators in connection with serious criminal allegations, including the 1993 Mumbai serial bomb

blasts. His whereabouts have remained a subject of diplomatic controversy. India's objection at the United Nations was directed at the terminology used in the proceedings. Such descriptions can carry political significance because they may influence how international discussions frame security-related issues. However, a diplomatic statement should not be treated as an independent judicial determination of an individual's current location. The development also demonstrates how historical criminal cases continue to influence India's engagement with international institutions. New Delhi has repeatedly sought international cooperation against terrorism and organised criminal networks. The latest intervention reinforces the government's insistence on what it considers accurate terminology in multilateral discussions.

Second Vande Bharat Special For Delhi-Patna

New Delhi: Indian Railways is preparing to operate a second Vande Bharat Special train between New Delhi and Patna, expanding premium rail connectivity on one of northern India's important passenger corridors. The additional service is intended to provide another travel option for passengers using the route during a period of increased demand. The Delhi-Patna corridor carries substantial traffic, including people travelling for employment, education, family visits and religious occasions. Festival periods often place considerable pressure on train reservations, making additional services particularly important. Vande Bharat trains are designed to provide improved



amenities and relatively faster journeys compared with several conventional services. However, the actual journey time, intermediate stops and ticket prices depend on the officially notified schedule for the special service. Passengers should consult the railway reservation system before making travel arrangements. The proposed additional service reflects the continuing expansion of premium passenger operations across the railway

network. Indian Railways has been introducing Vande Bharat services on multiple routes as part of its passenger transport modernisation programme. Special trains can also help distribute demand when regular services experience heavy booking pressure. The development is significant for travellers between the national capital and Bihar. Its practical benefits will depend on seat availability, punctuality and the suitability of the announced timetable.

Delhi Metro Adds Trips To Fight Pollution

New Delhi: Delhi Metro began operating 20 additional train trips on weekdays from Thursday as part of measures to address worsening air pollution in the national capital. The decision follows the implementation of Stage-I restrictions under the Graded Response Action Plan after air quality deteriorated into the poor category. The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation has also announced intensified dust-control measures at its construction sites and surrounding areas. The additional services are intended to improve public transport availability and encourage commuters to use the metro instead of private vehicles. Vehicular emissions are one of several factors contributing to pollution in Delhi-NCR. Other contributors include road dust, industrial

activity and seasonal weather conditions that can restrict the dispersal of pollutants. The first stage of GRAP focuses on preventive measures designed to stop air quality from deteriorating further. However, the additional metro trips should not be interpreted as a complete solution to the region's pollution problem. Their effectiveness will depend partly on passenger demand and wider measures taken by other agencies. Poor air quality poses particular concerns for children, older people and individuals with respiratory conditions. The initiative demonstrates how public transport can form part of a broader air-pollution response. Authorities will continue monitoring conditions to determine whether stronger restrictions become necessary.

Election Body Orders UP Voter Roll Checks

Lucknow: Uttar Pradesh's Chief Electoral Officer has ordered checks of voter rolls across the state after the Congress raised concerns about approximately 16,000 entries in Pilibhit. The development comes amid a wider national debate over the accuracy of electoral registers and the procedures used to revise them. Voter rolls determine who is eligible to participate in elections and must be maintained in accordance with prescribed rules. Political parties can raise objections when they identify suspected duplicate, inaccurate or otherwise questionable entries. However, the

identification of entries for examination does not by itself prove that electoral fraud has occurred. Verification is necessary to establish whether the records contain genuine errors and what corrective action may be required. The decision to conduct checks beyond Pilibhit gives the issue wider administrative significance. Election officials

will need to ensure that corrections are evidence-based and that eligible citizens are not wrongfully excluded. Transparent procedures and accessible mechanisms for raising objections are essential to maintaining public confidence. The Congress allegations come during a period of heightened political disagreement over electoral-roll revision across India. The Election Commission and state election authorities face pressure to demonstrate that voter registration systems are accurate and fairly administered. The outcome of the checks will depend on the findings and any subsequent corrective measures.



BJP Targets Congress After Report Claims French Riots, Indian Protests Link

New Delhi: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday launched a sharp attack on the Congress, citing a Fox News report that claimed to identify alleged connections between riots in France and anti-Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) protests in India. The BJP accused the opposition party of promoting an alleged “anarchy and regime change plot” and targeted Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, calling him a “gaddar”, or traitor. The allegations triggered a fresh political confrontation, although the Congress had not issued an immediate response to the BJP's charges.

The controversy followed a Fox News Digital investigation that claimed to have identified 101 organisations across 13 countries allegedly involved in coordinating, organising or amplifying protests. According to the report, the organisations were linked to demonstrations in different parts of the world, with the investigation drawing alleged connections between unrest in France and youth-led protests in India and other countries.

Citing the report, the BJP argued that the alleged international connections raised questions about the activities of organisations involved in protests and their possible



links with foreign agencies. The party used the findings to target the Congress, alleging that the opposition was connected to efforts aimed at creating political instability in India. However, these claims remained allegations made by the BJP and were not independently established by the information provided in the report.

BJP spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia led the party's attack on the Congress, accusing Rahul Gandhi of presenting what he described as a model of anarchy and betrayal.

He referred to the Fox News report while questioning the alleged connections between protest-related organisations and foreign agencies.

“Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi is presenting a model of anarchy and 'gaddari' before the country. Today, a report has appeared in a newspaper, detailing how

these alleged links of betrayal are connected to foreign agencies. Therefore, it would not be wrong to ask, 'Who is the leader of these traitors?'" Bhatia said.

The BJP's remarks intensified the political debate around protests targeting the Chief Election Commissioner and the broader allegations of attempts to destabilise the government. By linking the reported international network of organisations to demonstrations in India, the party sought to question the motives and backing of groups involved in the protests.

The Fox News Digital investigation reportedly examined organisations across 13 countries and alleged that some were coordinating, organising or amplifying demonstrations. Its claims drew attention to the role of international networks in protest movements, including youth-led demonstrations.

Rs 15,233 Crore Seized, 148 Homes Built: Yogi Adityanath's Anti-Gangster Campaign

Lucknow: Seven years into Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath's crackdown on organised crime, the state government has developed a strategy centred on seizing properties allegedly acquired through criminal activities, demolishing illegal structures and using selected recovered plots to construct homes for economically weaker families. The government has promoted the initiative with the message that a gangster's house can become a poor family's home, presenting the housing projects as a visible outcome of its campaign against organised crime.

The campaign combines law enforcement with the government's stated objective of providing housing to disadvantaged sections of society. Under this approach, authorities identify properties linked to alleged criminal activities, initiate attachment or confiscation proceedings under applicable laws and take further action against structures found to be illegal. In selected cases, land recovered through these processes is used for housing projects intended to benefit eligible families.

According to the figures cited by the state government, properties worth Rs 15,233 crore have been seized or attached as part of the broader crackdown. The administration has also highlighted the construction of 148 homes for poor families on selected plots associated with the action against criminal networks. These figures have become central to the government's presentation of its



campaign as an effort to convert action against organised crime into tangible public benefits.

The strategy reflects a broader attempt by the Uttar Pradesh government to weaken the financial foundations of criminal networks. Organised crime groups can use accumulated assets to maintain influence, finance illegal operations and support their networks. By targeting properties and other assets allegedly connected to criminal activities, authorities seek to disrupt these financial resources in addition to pursuing criminal cases against individuals. Property attachment has therefore become an important feature of the state's enforcement approach. Depending on the circumstances, authorities may initiate proceedings under relevant criminal laws, legislation dealing with unlawful acquisition of property or other applicable provisions. Such action is intended to prevent suspected offenders from benefiting from assets

connected to illegal activities, while the legal basis for each case remains subject to the relevant statutory process. Demolition drives have also featured prominently in the government's anti-gangster campaign. Authorities have taken action against structures they describe as illegally constructed or occupied, including properties allegedly associated with individuals accused of serious offences. The administration has presented these operations as a demonstration that criminal influence will not protect illegal constructions from enforcement action. However, attachment, confiscation and demolition are legally distinct processes, and the circumstances of individual cases matter. Property cannot be treated as criminally acquired merely because it is associated with a person accused of an offence. The applicable legal provisions, evidence, procedural safeguards and any judicial findings determine whether authori-

ties can lawfully retain or demolish a particular property.

The housing component has given the campaign a social welfare dimension. Rather than limiting the initiative to the seizure of assets or the removal of illegal structures, the government has sought to use selected recovered plots to provide housing to families who might otherwise struggle to secure permanent accommodation. The completed homes offer a visible example of how enforcement action can be linked to a public purpose.

For low-income households, access to a secure home can provide greater stability and reduce the uncertainty associated with inadequate housing. A permanent dwelling can also improve access to essential services and provide families with a more secure environment for their daily lives. The government's emphasis on housing beneficiaries is intended to show that the proceeds of action against criminal assets can serve a wider public interest.

The construction of 148 homes, however, represents a specific set of completed projects rather than a comprehensive measure of the state's overall housing needs. The impact of the initiative depends on the number of eligible families reached, the quality of the houses, access to roads and basic services, and the transparency of beneficiary selection. Details about the location of individual projects and the criteria used to identify recipients are important for assessing the programme's reach.

K Annamalai vs BJP War Of Words Over Crackdown On CJP Leaders

New Delhi : Former (IPS) officer and former Tamil Nadu BJP president K Annamalai on Wednesday criticised the Central government over the detention of (CJP) protesters in New Delhi, triggering a sharp response from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). His remarks brought renewed attention to the handling of protests in the national capital and the legal proceedings involving activists associated with the group. Annamalai, who resigned from the

BJP in June this year, questioned the government's approach to protesters and recalled a statement made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2011, when he was serving as Gujarat Chief Minister. The earlier remarks had criticised the midnight police crackdown on anti-corruption protesters at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan, an incident that had drawn political and public attention at the time. In a post on X, Annamalai referred to Modi's earlier position while commenting

on the detention of CJP leaders in New Delhi. He drew a comparison between the



criticism of police action expressed in 2011 and the treatment of protesters in the current case, raising questions about detention “Today, you

could be jailed indefinitely; your surety bonds could be rejected; and, surprisingly, a Special Executive Magistrate will play circles around you when he/she is empowered to deal with preventive bond cases,” Annamalai said in his post.

His comments referred to the detention of CJP leaders Saurav Das and Ashutosh Ranka, who were released on Wednesday after spending seven days in custody. Their detention had become a point of contention, with

questions being raised about the legal procedures followed and the authorities' handling of the protest. Annamalai's criticism was directed at the Central government and the wider handling of the matter.

By invoking Modi's 2011 remarks, he sought to highlight what he viewed as a contrast between the position expressed by the Prime Minister when he was Gujarat Chief Minister and the treatment of protesters under the present administration.

Gandhidham Sub-Divisional Railway Hospital Successfully Performs 4th Total Knee Replacement Operation of 2026

Aryan Age Correspondent

Ahmedabad: Marking another major milestone in localized, high-quality medical care, the Gandhidham Sub-Divisional Railway Hospital under Western Railway's Ahmedabad Division successfully performed a total knee replacement surgery on a 66-year-old male railway beneficiary. Executed on October 19, 2026, this procedure marks the hospital's fourth successful knee replacement surgery of the year, highlighting its expanding surgical capabilities and clinical excellence. Prior to the intervention, the senior

patient had been suffering from severe joint pain and extreme mobility issues that severely impacted his daily life. The complex surgery was skillfully carried out in the hospital's modern operation theater by orthopedic specialist Dr. Parth Rathi and anesthesiologist Dr. Hitesh Shah. By precisely replacing the damaged knee joint with a durable artificial implant, the surgical team restored functional mobility, offering the patient a renewed lease on pain-free life.

This milestone reflects Western Railway's sustained efforts to deliver advanced healthcare facilities directly

to its employees, pensioners, and their families. Providing complex orthopedic surgeries locally eliminates the need for patients to travel long distances to major metropolitan hospitals, significantly reducing financial, logistical, and physical distress for families.

Through continuous upgrades to its medical infrastructure, Western Railway's Ahmedabad Division remains firmly committed to enhancing passenger and employee welfare, ensuring accessible, compassionate, and top-tier medical services across its divisional healthcare network.

Tamil Nadu Dalit Student Found Dead, Parents Allege Caste Bias At School

Chennai : A Class XI Dalit student was found dead at his home in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, on the day he returned to school after the Puja holidays. His parents have alleged that the boy faced discriminatory practices at his school. Police are treating the death as a case of suicide and investigating allegations raised by his parents.

In a police complaint filed after the tragedy, the boy's parents alleged that he was subjected to discriminatory treatment at the government-aided school. They claimed that a section of students subsequently stopped talking to him, leaving him distressed. Police have invoked provisions of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act and are investigating the role of the school principal, a teacher and others in connection with

the allegations. "We are investigating the role of the school, the principal, class teacher and any others. We have filed a case under the SC/ST Act," a senior police officer told NDTV.



Asked specifically whether any teacher had been arrested, the officer said, "If required, we will."

Police said the parents had not lodged a police complaint before the student's death, but had taken up the is-

sue with the school. Police sources said there was only minimal intervention from the school.

Sources indicate that the alleged discrimination was triggered by the family's caste and their food choices. These details are part of the emerging account and are yet to be independently established through the investigation.

The police are examining the circumstances surrounding the student's death and the allegations of discriminatory practices within the school.

The incident comes amid earlier allegations of caste-based discrimination in schools in Coimbatore. Last year, the principal of a private school was suspended after allegedly forcing a Dalit girl, who was menstruating, to write her examinations while sitting on the stairs outside her classroom.

Western Railway's Ahmedabad Division Organizes 'Rail Jan Samvaad' Across 107 Stations Under Special Campaign 6.0

Aryan Age Correspondent

Ahmedabad: Rail Jan Samvad Held at 70 Stations Across Central Railway's Bhusawal Division

Central Railway's Bhusawal Division organised the special initiative 'Rail Jan Samvad' at 70 railway stations across the division on October 22, 2026. The programme aimed to strengthen direct communication between railway officials and passengers, understand their grievances and suggestions, and identify ways to improve railway services and passenger amenities. The initiative is part of Indian Railways' nationwide effort to collect feedback from rail users and

address pending matters through direct public interaction. Through these programmes, railway officials seek to understand the difficulties passengers face during their journeys and identify practical measures to improve their overall travel experience. 'Rail Jan Samvad' is being conducted as part of Special Campaign 6.0 for (SCDPM-6). The campaign is being implemented across all zonal railways and railway units from October 2 to October 31, 2026, with a focus on cleanliness, efficient office management and the timely disposal of pending issues. Under the campaign, special attention is being given to maintaining

clean railway stations, offices and public spaces. The programme also focuses on the proper disposal of scrap and electronic waste, along with encouraging public participation in cleanliness activities and other improvement measures. As part of the nationwide initiative, 'Rail Jan Samvad' programmes are being organised at more than 7,000 railway stations across the country. The events provide railway administrations with an opportunity to interact directly with passengers instead of relying only on formal complaint channels to understand their concerns.

In Bhusawal Division, the programme covered 70

railway stations. Officials interacted with passengers to gather feedback on station facilities, cleanliness arrangements, passenger amenities and the quality of railway services. The discussions were intended to help the administration identify areas requiring immediate attention as well as issues that may need longer-term planning. Senior railway officials, station managers and railway employees participated in the programmes. Public representatives, passenger associations, school students and members of the (ZRUCC) and Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committee (DRUCC) also took part in the initiative.

Week after Union Minister L Murugan quit, bypoll date for Rajya Sabha seat

New Delhi : The bypoll to the Rajya Sabha seat from Madhya Pradesh, which fell vacant following the resignation of Union Minister of State L Murugan, will be held on November 12, the Election Commission of India announced on Thursday. The election will fill the vacancy created by Murugan's departure from the Upper House of Parliament.

Murugan resigned from the Council of Ministers and his Rajya Sabha membership on October 13. His resignation came despite his parliamentary term being scheduled to continue until April 2030. The early vacancy has necessitated a by-election to elect a representative for the remaining period.

According to the schedule announced by the Election Commission, the process for filing nominations will begin on October 26. Candidates interested in contesting the bypoll will be able to submit their nom-

ination papers until November 2.

The nomination papers will be scrutinised on November 3. During this stage, election officials will examine the documents to determine whether candidates have fulfilled the necessary requirements for contesting the election.

Candidates will have the option to withdraw their nominations until November 5. After the withdrawal deadline, the final list of candidates eligible to contest the bypoll will be established.

Polling for the vacant Rajya Sabha seat will take place on November 12. Voting will be conducted between 9 am and 4 pm, according to the schedule issued by the Election Commission.

The counting of votes will begin at 5 pm on the same day.

The counting process will determine the outcome of the election and identify the candidate who will fill

the vacant seat from Madhya Pradesh.

The bypoll is being held to ensure that the representation of Madhya Pradesh in the Rajya Sabha is restored following Murugan's resignation. The Election Commission's announcement sets out the timetable for the election, from the filing of nomination papers to the counting of votes.

With the nomination process scheduled to begin on October 26, political parties and prospective candidates will have a limited period to complete the formalities required to participate in the election. The scrutiny and withdrawal stages will follow before voting takes place on November 12.

The election will be conducted in accordance with the schedule announced by the Election Commission of India. The result is expected to be determined on polling day, with counting scheduled to start at 5 pm.

Railway Board Chairman Satish Kumar Participates in Rail Jan Samvaad at New Delhi Railway Station

Aryan Age Correspondent

New Delhi : Shri Satish Kumar, Chairman of the Railway Board and Chief Executive Officer (CRB & CEO), participated in the Rail Jan Samvaad programme at New Delhi Railway Station on Thursday. The programme was organised by the Delhi Division of Northern Railway at major railway stations across the division to strengthen direct communication between railway authorities and passengers.

The initiative aimed to provide passengers with an opportunity to share their views, suggestions and concerns regarding railway services and station facilities. Through direct interaction with passengers, Indian Railways sought to improve public participation and make its services more responsive to the needs of travellers.

At New Delhi Railway Station, Shri Satish Kumar interacted with passengers and discussed various initiatives being undertaken by Indian Railways to improve cleanliness, sanitation arrangements and passenger amenities.

The interaction focused on creating a cleaner, safer and more com-



fortable environment for people travelling by train.

Shri Rajesh Kumar Pandey, Shri Pushpesh Raman Tripathi, and senior officers from the Railway Board and Northern Railway were also present during the programme. The presence of senior railway officials highlighted the importance being given to direct engagement with passengers and the improvement of railway facilities through public feedback.

During the interaction, the Chairman Railway Board informed passengers about the measures being taken to maintain cleanliness at railway stations. These efforts include

improving sanitation arrangements, maintaining station premises and strengthening facilities to provide passengers with a better travel experience.

Passengers were encouraged to openly share their feedback, suggestions and concerns related to cleanliness and other station facilities. Railway officials listened attentively to their views, making the programme an important platform for understanding the expectations of passengers and identifying areas that require further improvement.

The initiative reflected Indian Railways' commitment to passenger-

centric service delivery, responsive administration and continuous improvement. Direct interaction with passengers allows railway authorities to better understand everyday challenges faced by travellers and work towards addressing their concerns.

An important part of the programme was the administration of the Swachhata pledge by Shri Satish Kumar. Railway officers, staff members and passengers present at the station took the pledge to reaffirm their commitment to cleanliness and responsible public behaviour.

The pledge highlighted the importance of maintaining hygiene not only through the efforts of railway staff but also through the active participation of passengers. Keeping platforms, waiting areas and other station facilities clean requires cooperation between railway authorities and the public.

As part of the programme, 20 Swachhagrahees from New Delhi Railway Station were felicitated for their meritorious work in the field of cleanliness. Their contribution was recognised as an example of dedicated efforts towards maintaining a clean railway environment.



Delhi CM Rekha Gupta asks MCD to intensify cleanliness drive ahead of Diwali

New Delhi: Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Wednesday directed the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) to intensify cleanliness operations across the national capital ahead of Diwali. She ordered night-time cleaning in residential colonies and major markets and warned civic officials that negligence in maintaining cleanliness would not be tolerated.

Gupta issued the directions while chairing a high-level meeting at the Delhi Secretariat. The meeting re-

viewed sanitation arrangements and the progress of cleanliness efforts across Delhi ahead of the festive season. The Chief Minister stressed that residents should see visible improvements on the ground rather than merely hear about plans and official reviews.

During the meeting, Gupta instructed civic officials to remove garbage dumps, ensure timely collection of waste and deploy additional staff wherever necessary. She also directed senior officers to personally

inspect their respective areas and ensure that shortcomings identified during inspections were addressed immediately. The Chief Minister said complaints had been received from several areas about garbage lying unattended and delays in waste collection. She expressed concern that the results of cleanliness efforts were not being adequately reflected on the ground, despite the measures being undertaken by civic agencies. Gupta asked officials to take public complaints seriously

and respond promptly to cleanliness standards must improve



sanitation-related problems. She emphasised that cleanliness standards must improve across the Capital before Diwali, when markets and resi-

dential areas generally experience increased activity. The Chief Minister directed Mayor Pravesh Wahi and Municipal Commissioner Sanjeev Khirwar to expedite the cleanliness drive. She asked them to ensure that civic teams were deployed effectively and that areas facing recurring sanitation problems received immediate attention. She also instructed the MCD to arrange additional manpower in locations where existing staff were insufficient. If required, new workers should be hired

for night-time cleaning operations so that residential colonies and major markets could remain clean during the day. The focus on night-time cleaning is intended to allow sanitation teams to carry out their work more effectively in busy areas. Cleaning roads, markets and residential surroundings during the night can also help reduce disruption to daytime activities and ensure that public spaces are cleaner when residents and shoppers begin their day. Gupta underlined the impor-

ance of coordinating street sweeping with garbage collection. She said delays in lifting waste often resulted in garbage accumulating again, undermining the efforts made by sanitation workers. Officials were therefore directed to ensure that waste was collected and removed promptly after cleaning operations. The Chief Minister instructed civic agencies to remove garbage, construction debris and dirt from roads, intersections, flyovers, markets and residential neighbourhoods.

DJB work awarded to contractor without tender process, says AAP

New Delhi: The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Wednesday alleged that a Delhi Jal Board (DJB) work was awarded to contractor without following the tender process and demanded a probe into the matter. AAP Delhi unit president Saurabh Bharadwaj raised fresh questions over the Rekha Gupta Government's tendering process, alleging that a contract to remove foam from the Yamuna was awarded to a company, Icon Instruments, even before the tender was opened.

The company has already installed its equipment for the defoaming work under the DJB, which is headed by minister Parvesh Verma.

The AAP leader pointed out similarities with the case to the Rs 700-crore health scam he had earlier raised, emphasising that work in that case, too, was awarded before the tender process was completed. He challenged Parvesh Verma to clarify whether he would take action over the irregularities or once again snatch the mobile phone of the person exposing them.

Showing the setup installed by a contractor at the Kalindi Kunj ghat,

Bharadwaj said: "The contractor company is called Icon Instruments. The container belonging to the company is marked 'Defoamer Stock', which means the tanks and all the equipment used to spray chemicals to remove foam from the Yamuna have already been set up here. The motors that are fitted onto boats have also arrived. All equipment and labour have been present at this site for the past two to three days."

He said: "The person who installed this setup told us that DJB engineer Durgan had instructed Icon Instruments to begin work here. What is surprising is that the DJB has not even opened the tender yet. How, then, does the DJB already know that this tender will be awarded to Icon Instruments?"

He pointed out, "This clearly indicates large-scale corruption within the DJB, where officials already know who will receive a tender. That is why all pumps have arrived here even before the tender has been opened. The entire tent setup is in place, and containers holding the chemicals used for defoaming have also been brought to the site."

Amid strike, Jamia forms panel to draft students' union constitution

New Delhi: Amid an ongoing hunger strike by students demanding the restoration of the students' union, Jamia Millia Islamia (JMI) on Wednesday constituted a committee to draft the constitution of the Jamia Millia Islamia Students' Union (JMISU), which was dissolved in 2006.

The move comes as students continue their agitation for the revival of an elected representative body on the campus after nearly two decades.

The decision was taken at a meeting chaired by Vice-Chancellor Prof Mazhar Asif, following several rounds of discussions between the protesting students and a seven-member high-level committee constituted by the university on October 18 to examine their demands.

The newly formed committee will draft the Students' Union constitution in accordance with Article 23(J) and (K) of the JMI Act, 1988. It will examine the circumstances that led to the dissolution of the union in 2006, relevant court rulings, recommendations of the Lyngdoh Committee (2007) and the university's existing ordinances and statutes. According to an official notification, the panel includes Prof Luqman Ahmad Khan, Dean, Faculty of Life Sciences; Prof Zubair Meenai, Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences; Prof Neelofar Afzal, Dean of Students Welfare; Prof Amarjeet Singh; and Prof Aslam Khan. The development follows a series of meetings between the administration and protesting students. The seven-member committee first approached the students at the protest site on October 19 and subsequently invited their representatives for discussions.

A meeting was held at the office of the Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences on October 20, during which students raised their grievances. Another meeting was convened at 6.30 pm the same day at the Dean of Students Welfare office to finalise the minutes of the discussions.

However, the university claimed that despite several rounds of deliberations and efforts to incorporate the students suggestions, their representatives did not agree to sign the minutes.

Meanwhile, with the students continuing their hunger strike, the administration has deployed a medical team under Chief Medical Officer Irshad Husain Naqvi to monitor their health. An ambulance has also been stationed at the protest site to provide immediate medical assistance, if required.

The university also expressed concern over the continuation of the protest at the Ghalib lawns since October 12, stating that Gate No. 18 had been designated for student demonstrations. It further alleged that the historic Ghalib statue had been defaced and that university property, including Gate No. 7, named after Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, along with other gates, walls and departmental buildings, had been damaged during the agitation. While reiterating its commitment to students' right to peaceful protest and freedom of expression, the administration appealed to protesters to safeguard the institution's infrastructure and heritage. The university maintained that restoring the Students' Union required a comprehensive examination of the legal and institutional framework, particularly in view of developments over the past two decades.

Whose Hands Are Behind the Shooting?

An actor narrowly escaped a shooting incident, but the investigation has now uncovered traces of suspects’ movements leading to the residences of three other prominent actors. Was this an isolated attack on Tiger Shroff, or the beginning of a larger criminal conspiracy? This new investigation has revived memories of the underworld, which once held the Mumbai film industry in its grip. While reports indicate that suspects visited buildings linked to the residences of Salman Khan, Aamir Khan, and Ranveer Singh, the motive remains unclear. However, if different individuals were involved from procuring firearms to carrying out the actual shooting the issue extends beyond the gunmen themselves; it points to the hands pulling the strings from behind the scenes.

There was a time when the Mumbai film industry was held hostage by threats from the underworld. Extorting money from producers, intimidating artists, and establishing terror through the barrel of a gun had become the modus operandi of these criminals. Times changed; the Mumbai Police dismantled several gangs, allowing the film industry to breathe freely once again. Yet, new information emerging from the investigation into the shooting at Tiger Shroff’s car has sounded an alarm. Investigators have discovered that suspects visited locations associated with the homes of Salman Khan, Aamir Khan, and Ranveer Singh. An inquiry is underway to determine whether there was a plot to target these actors as well. The matter is no longer limited to the attack on Tiger Shroff; the real question is how deeply rooted these attempts to re-establish the terror of organized crime in Mumbai truly are. On October 18, shots were fired at Tiger Shroff’s car in Juhu. The actor escaped unharmed; However, his driver and a civilian were injured. Following the incident, the Mumbai Police launched a swift investigation. Three suspects were apprehended in Kota, Rajasthan, which was followed by further operations in Delhi, Haryana, and other locations. The police have stated that the total number of arrests in this case has now reached ten. This operation was carried out with the cooperation of the Mumbai Crime Branch alongside police forces from Delhi, Rajasthan, and Haryana a development that is certainly welcome. When criminals operate across state borders, investigative agencies must prioritize coordination over squabbling for credit. That said, the arrest of ten individuals does not necessarily mean the entire criminal network has been dismantled. The chain of arms supply uncovered during the investigation is particularly concerning. According to the police, pistols and ammunition were procured from a location in Amritsar and then transported to Mumbai via Delhi, involving several different individuals. It is alleged that two women brought the weapons to Mumbai by train; the investigation has revealed that they were lured into doing so with the promise of money. In this modus operandi, the roles procuring the weapons, transporting them, delivering them, and carrying out the actual shooting are handled by separate individuals. Consequently, the arrest of one person does not guarantee that they possess information about the entire network, which poses a significant challenge for investigative agencies. Even more alarming is the exploitation of young people for criminal activities. Driven by the lure of a few thousand rupees, the desire to project an association with notorious gangsters, or a craving for fame on social media, young people can easily be drawn into the web of crime. The masterminds, who keep themselves at a safe distance, place guns in the hands of others. Furthermore, by issuing messages claiming responsibility after a shooting, they ensure that their own names remain in the spotlight. Responsibility for the attack involving Tiger Shroff has been claimed in the name of the Bishnoi gang. However, there is a distinction between claims made on social media and a crime proven in a court of law. It must be established through evidence who ordered this attack, who provided the funding, and who the actual mastermind was. The information regarding the suspects visiting the residences of other actors must also be viewed with the same level of caution. It remains unclear whether these visits were part of a premeditated attack or if they occurred for other reasons. It would be premature to conclude that there was a definitive plot to attack any specific actor before the investigation is complete; nevertheless, this information cannot be ignored. Given the recent shooting outside Salman Khan’s residence, the murder of Baba Siddique, and the threats received by various individuals in the film industry, it is imperative for the police to investigate every suspicious movement. If criminal gangs are attempting to spread terror by targeting prominent figures, they must be stopped in time. Mumbai’s history serves as a cautionary tale in this regard. At one point, film producers were frequently threatened by gangs led by the likes of Dawood Ibrahim, Chhota Rajan, and Abu Salem. Extortion and criminal pressure forced many in the film industry to work in an environment of constant fear. The 1997 murder of music mogul Gulshan Kumar shocked the entire nation, exposing the terrifying extent of criminal pressure on the film fraternity. In the years that followed, the Mumbai Police undertook major operations against organized crime, which diminished the dominance of the old-school underworld. However, the nature of crime is constantly evolving. Threats that were once delivered in person are now issued via social media. Financial transactions are routed through various accounts, and criminals now leverage modern technology for communication. Consequently, the police must also enhance and strengthen their investigative methods. A thorough investigation must be conducted into the financial transactions, telephonic communications, and travel history of the suspects involved in this case. It is essential to trace the origin of the weapons, identify who supplied them, and determine the exact sum paid for the shooting. Recovering the weapons used in the crime is also crucial, as a legal case must be built upon concrete evidence rather than mere confessions. While providing security to individuals in the film industry is necessary, the broader issue concerns the safety of every citizen in Mumbai. The driver injured during the shooting at Tiger Shroff’s vehicle, as well as other bystanders on the road, are also victims of this crime. A bullet fired from a criminal’s gun makes no distinction between a celebrity and an ordinary person. Therefore, security arrangements cannot be confined solely to the residences of prominent actors. There must be sustained action against the illegal supply of weapons, extortion networks, and gangs that recruit criminals. The Mumbai Police deserve commendation for apprehending suspects and accelerating the investigation; however, the real test begins now. The entire chain from those who carried out the shooting to the suppliers of the weapons, and ultimately the masterminds who issued the orders must be brought within the reach of the law. It is not the publicity surrounding their threats that bolsters the strength of these criminals; rather, it is the lack of punishment that emboldens them. Consequently, the investigation must be not only swift but also impartial and firmly rooted in evidence. Mumbai belongs to its artists, workers, entrepreneurs, and ordinary citizens; it must not be allowed to fall once again under the shadow of criminal terror. Apprehending the gunmen is merely the beginning; the true conclusion must be the capture of the masterminds behind them.

‘Seva Samman Parv’ and ‘Yuva Prabodhan’

The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu graced ‘Seva Samman Parv’ and ‘Yuva Prabodhan’ on the occasion of the Nuakhai festival in Raipur, Chhattisgarh today (October 22, 2026).

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that Nuakhai Milan Samaroh is not merely a cultural celebration; it is a tribute to our rich traditions, social harmony and unity. Such occasions provide us with an opportunity to reconnect with our roots, take pride in our cultural heritage, and pass on the life values to future generations.

The President stated that the Nuakhai festival is a celebration of our agricultural traditions, an expression of gratitude toward nature and a testament to the spirit of community.

This festival reminds us that food is not just a means to satisfy hunger; it is a symbol of the hard work of our farmers, the generosity of Mother Earth and the invaluable gifts of nature. She underlined that it is our collective responsibility to respect food, acknowledge the contributions of our farmers, and protect our natural resources.

Addressing the youth



present in large numbers, the President said that circumstances may vary, and challenges may differ; yet, youth should possess a deep-seated drive to innovate, to create something better, and to establish their own unique identity. She said that when they align their individual endeavours with collective

and national goals, they pave the way for the nation’s progress. She advised them to dream big, broaden their horizons, uphold the highest standards of conduct, and place service to society and the nation at the centre of their endeavours. She encouraged the youth to pursue every endeavour with hon-

esty, integrity and sensitivity. She emphasised that nation-building is not accomplished through major decisions alone, but also through the small, sincere efforts of millions of citizens. She urged them to combine knowledge with humility, ambition with ethical values, and success with a spirit of

service, highlighting that these qualities would strengthen their contribution to the vision of a Viksit Bharat.

The President was happy to note the participation of a large number of women in the Nuakhai Milan Samaroh. She said that the nation is moving forward with the

goal of a Viksit Bharat by the year 2047. To achieve this goal, the equal participation of women is absolutely essential. She urged all women to participate actively in the affairs of the nation and society. She said that when they progress, the benefits will extend not only to them or their family but to the entire society and the nation. She urged men, especially the youth, to provide an environment for their sisters and daughters in which they can realize their dreams without any barriers. She said that respect for women should not merely be expressed in words; it must be reflected in their behaviour, mindset, and daily conduct.

The President was happy to note that through the efforts of the central and state governments, combined with their own strength of will, the youth of Chhattisgarh have moved away from the path of Naxalism and joined the mainstream. The light of development is now replacing the darkness of terror. She said that this transformation is leading to the well-being of the young people and their families while accelerating the development of the state and the country.

“Save both people and fields”

Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare and Rural Development, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, on Thursday launched the nationwide ‘Khet Bachao Abhiyan’ from the historic town of Taraori in Karnal district, Haryana. The campaign aims to raise awareness about the need to protect agricultural land, promote balanced use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides, and encourage farming practices that safeguard soil health.

Addressing farmers, agricultural scientists and government officials who joined the programme virtually from Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) and agricultural institutions across the country, Chouhan highlighted the growing importance of sustainable agriculture. He warned that the excessive and unbalanced use of chemical fertilisers and pesticides could damage the soil and threaten the long-term productivity of agricultural land. The Union Minister cautioned that if these practices continued without proper control, the earth could eventually lose its ability to produce healthy crops. He also warned that excessive exposure to harmful chemicals could pose risks to human health. His remarks underlined the need to protect both agricultural resources and the well-being of people who depend on them. Chouhan called for a comprehensive public awareness campaign in every village across the country from October 22 to November 30, 2026. The campaign is intended to bring the message of soil conservation and responsible agricultural practices directly to farming communities. The nationwide outreach is expected to involve farmers, agricultural experts, local institutions and government officials. Through village-level awareness activities, the initiative seeks to encourage greater understanding of the effects of unbalanced chemical use and the importance of maintaining soil fertility. The launch from Taraori in Karnal district placed the focus on the role of farmers in protecting the country’s agricultural resources. Soil health is an important factor in crop production, and agricultural practices that preserve soil quality can help sustain productivity over time. Chemical fertilisers and pesticides are used in agriculture to support crop growth and control pests. However, their application needs to be appropriate to crop requirements and local conditions. The campaign’s message emphasises the importance of balanced use and greater awareness of the potential consequences of excessive application.

Haryana’s farmers have shown the way forward for the entire country

Addressing a large farmers’ convention held on the historic land of Taraori, Union Agriculture Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that Haryana’s farmers were



remarkable for their hard work, dedication and willingness to experiment with new approaches. He observed that progressive farmers from Haryana were writing a new chapter of agricultural transformation not only in their own state but also in states such as Madhya Pradesh, where they were promoting modern and natural farming practices. Emphasising Haryana’s influence on agricultural progress across the country, he said that when Haryana showed the way, the entire nation moved forward in that direction. He added that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, too, felt deeply concerned about the deteriorating health of Mother Earth and the need to improve the condition of the country’s agricultural land.

Major benefit for Haryana under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana

During the programme, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, in his capacity as Union Rural Development Minister, made a major announcement for rural poor families in Haryana. He said that the central government had approved the construction of 28,422 permanent houses for eligible poor families in the state under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. An amount of ₹1,343 crore and ₹6 lakh had been sanctioned for this purpose. Shri Chouhan handed over the formal approval letter for this significant allocation to Haryana Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Minister Shri Shyam Singh Rana, who was present on the stage. The approval is expected to help thousands of economically disadvantaged families in the state realise their dream of owning a permanent home.

Affordable fertilisers do not mean indiscriminate use; the government is bearing the subsidy burden

Speaking about fertiliser prices and the government’s commitment

to farmers, Union Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that despite rising prices in international markets, the central government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, was ensuring that farmers did not face any additional financial burden. The government was bearing a substantial fertiliser subsidy of more than ₹1.5 lakh crore to ensure that farmers could continue to obtain a bag of urea for just ₹266 and a bag of DAP for ₹1,350. However, he cautioned farmers against assuming that the availability of affordable fertilisers justified their excessive use. “Getting fertilisers at affordable prices certainly does not mean that we should keep applying four bags of urea to our fields. It is a misconception that applying more fertiliser will produce a bigger harvest. Applying fertilisers without need is like wasting our hard-earned money and poisoning the soil. Just as a person can become ill by taking medicines without being sick, excessive fertiliser use is making the health of our Mother Earth deteriorate,” he said. He added that India was now moving towards the use of green ammonia, which would help the country become fully self-reliant (atmanirbhar) in fertiliser production in the future.

Pesticides are turning the human body into a breeding ground for diseases; both people and fields must be protected

Highlighting the serious consequences of chemical-intensive farming, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that consuming food produced with poisonous pesticides and excessive, uncontrolled fertiliser use was increasingly turning the human body into a breeding ground for serious diseases. He observed that air, water and food were essential for human survival, and that ancient scriptures regarded food as Brahma, or the divine. If the food itself became impure, he

warned, the very existence of human civilisation could be threatened. He stressed that the present effort was not merely a struggle to protect soil but a sacred mission to safeguard both agricultural land and human life. Protecting the health of the fields, he emphasised, was inseparable from protecting the health of the people who depended on them.

Three practical principles for soil conservation

Union Minister Shri Chouhan outlined three key measures that farmers could adopt to preserve soil fertility and maintain productive agricultural land.

Balanced fertiliser use based on Soil Health Cards: Farmers should check their Soil Health Cards on their mobile phones and identify which nutrients are deficient in their soil. They should then apply only the required fertilisers, in balanced quantities, to address those deficiencies rather than using fertilisers indiscriminately. Changing the crop cycle through crop rotation: Instead of repeatedly growing paddy followed by wheat, farmers should introduce pulses such as chickpea, lentil and pigeon pea into their cropping cycles. The roots of pulse crops naturally fix nitrogen in the soil, helping to improve its fertility and replenish nutrients.

Adopting natural farming on at least half an acre: Farmers need not initially convert their entire land-holding to natural farming. Even if they have five acres, they should begin by adopting natural farming on at least half an acre. They can prepare Beejamrit and Ghanjeevamrit using cow dung, cow urine and soil collected from beneath trees. This would provide chemical-free food for household consumption, reduce cultivation costs and improve soil health. Over two to three years, soil conditions would improve and production could reach levels comparable to

those achieved through conventional farming.

Crop-residue management and protection of earthworms, the soil’s natural allies

Appreciating the efforts of Taraori’s farmers to manage crop residue and maintain high levels of organic carbon in their soil, Union Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that burning crop residue was a self-destructive practice. He explained that setting fire to fields not only causes air pollution but also destroys trillions of microorganisms living in the upper and lower layers of the soil, along with beneficial insects and earthworms that help produce natural manure. These organisms play an essential role in maintaining the soil’s natural fertility. Protecting earthworms and beneficial insects, he stressed, was therefore crucial to preserving the health and productivity of agricultural land.

Nationwide public awareness campaign to run from 22nd October to 30th November, 2026

Union Agriculture Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan called upon vice-chancellors of agricultural universities, the Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), scientists and officials to leave their laboratories and offices and visit villages across the country from 22nd October to 30th November, 2026. They should organise village-level meetings and discussions with farmers to explain the importance of soil health and balanced farming practices. He expressed his resolve to remain actively involved in the campaign on the ground himself, ensuring that the initiative reached farmers directly and helped protect India’s agricultural land from becoming barren.

Farmers raise their hands and pledge to protect their fields

At the conclusion of his address, responding to Union Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan’s appeal, the farmers gathered at the venue raised both hands, clenched their fists and took a collective pledge amid resounding slogans of “Bharat Mata Ki Jai”. They resolved to use chemicals in their fields in a balanced manner, change their crop cycles, refrain from burning crop residue and gradually adopt natural farming practices to protect the health of Mother Earth.

The historic launch was attended by several prominent agricultural scientists and administrative officials, including ICAR Director General and Secretary of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) Dr Mangi Lal Jat and Haryana Additional Chief Secretary (Agriculture) Shri Vijendra Kumar, along with a large number of farmers. During the programme, the dignitaries also released a booklet on the ‘Khet Bachao Abhiyan’.



Briefs :
POCSO Cases
Involving
Minors Rise
Sharply in
Himachal

Shimla : Himachal Pradesh has recorded a substantial increase in cases of rape involving minors registered under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, during 2026, raising concerns about child safety across the state. According to police figures, 156 such cases had been registered so far this year, compared with 25 during the corresponding period in 2025. Among the state's 12 districts, Shimla and Sirmaur have reported the highest numbers, with 24 cases each. During the corresponding period last year, Shimla had recorded four cases and Sirmaur just one. Mandi has also witnessed a significant increase, with 22 cases reported this year against three during the same period in 2025.

Youth Congress
Leader Dies
While Preparing
for Sukhu's
Visit

Dharamsala : Himachal Pradesh Youth Congress vice-president Chandermani Kulethi died of electrocution on Wednesday night while making arrangements for Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu's two-day visit to the Holi valley in Chamba district. Kulethi was working alongside other Youth Congress members to prepare for the Chief Minister's visit. While putting up posters and banners, he reportedly came into contact with an electric wire and died at the spot. Following the incident, Sukhu cancelled all engagements scheduled during his two-day visit to the valley to attend Kulethi's cremation. In a condolence message posted on his social media accounts, the Chief Minister described the young leader's untimely death as deeply saddening, saying the Congress family had lost a dedicated and hardworking colleague.

Tanda Doctors
Successfully
Perform
Complex Heart
Surgery

Palampur : Doctors at Dr Rajendra Prasad Government Medical College (RPGMC), Tanda, have successfully carried out a complex open-heart operation on a patient suffering from a severely damaged aortic valve and an enlarged aorta, marking an important achievement for the institution's Cardiac Surgery Department. During the procedure, surgeons replaced the damaged aortic valve with an artificial valve and repaired the affected section of the enlarged aorta using a synthetic graft. A heart-lung machine was used to support the operation. The surgical team was led by college principal Dr Milap Sharma and Dr Desh Bandhu Sharma, head of the Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgery Department. Dr Vikas Panwar and Dr Puneet Sharma played key roles in the procedure. The anaesthesia team included Dr Bharti Gupta and Dr Aman Thakur, while operating theatre staff, nursing personnel and intensive care unit employees also contributed to the treatment. The entire treatment was provided free of cost under the Him Care health scheme, enabling the patient to receive advanced cardiac care without facing substantial medical expenses. The successful operation demonstrates RPGMC Tanda's growing capacity to manage complicated heart conditions.

Bir-Billing Rush Soars as Bad
Weather Halts Paragliding

Palampur : Bir-Billing, one of Asia's prominent paragliding destinations, is attracting a large number of tourists, but unfavourable weather has disrupted flying activities, leaving adventure enthusiasts waiting for conditions to improve. The tourist influx has brought considerable business to the local hospitality sector, with reports indicating that nearly 90 per cent of hotel rooms in the area have been booked. However, the weather has become a major concern for visitors who travelled specifically to experience paragliding. Anurag Sharma, president of the Bir-Billing Paragliding Association, said the disruption had coincided with the arrival of domestic and international tourists. The destination has emerged as a major adventure tourism hub in Himachal Pradesh, attracting hundreds of para-



gliding enthusiasts, including international pilots, particularly during the main flying season. Ankit Sood, a local hotelier and spokesperson for the association, said the prevailing conditions had created difficulties for tourism oper-

ators trying to manage visitors when flights could not be conducted safely. He explained that paragliding depended heavily on wind speed and direction, visibility and other meteorological factors. Flights were frequently delayed or suspend-

ed when conditions were unsuitable, affecting tourists' itineraries and the earnings of operators dependent on adventure activities. The situation has highlighted the vulnerability of Bir-Billing's tourism industry to changing weather. Although accommodation providers benefit from high occupancy, visitors who cannot undertake their planned flights may be disappointed, particularly those staying for only a short period. The growing popularity of Bir-Billing stems from its scenic landscape, favourable flying terrain and adventure-sports facilities, which attract tourists from across India and abroad. Tourism operators need to encourage visitors to explore alternative attractions when paragliding is suspended and keep them informed about weather conditions and flight schedules.

Himachal to Introduce
Moral Science from Class I

Shimla : Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has directed the Education Department to introduce moral science from Class I in government schools to nurture ethical values, discipline, compassion, respect for elders and a sense of responsibility among children from an early age. Chairing a meeting with senior Education Department officials, Sukhu stressed that education should not be confined to academic achievement. He said character development and the overall growth of students must also receive adequate attention. During a review of the implementation of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) curriculum in government schools, the Chief Minister emphasised the importance of qualified teachers, sufficient administrative personnel and a supportive learning environment to

raise educational standards. He instructed officials to speed up the recruitment and deployment process for 600 Junior Basic Teacher (JBT) posts in CBSE schools. He also directed the department to ensure adequate teacher availability in 100 newly established schools and adopt a planned approach to staffing so that these institutions could function effectively. Sukhu reviewed the need for ministerial staff and Class-IV employees in CBSE schools. He asked the department to assess existing vacancies and take appropriate action in accordance with the prescribed norms. The Chief Minister also examined the recruitment process for 3,900 teaching posts and 900 non-teaching posts under the New Scheme Based Recruitment initiative. Reiterating the state government's commitment to improving educational quality, strengthening government schools and

ensuring the timely implementation of decisions, Sukhu called for effective monitoring and accountability. He emphasised that education-related initiatives must lead to tangible improvements in learning and the overall educational experience of students across Himachal Pradesh. In a major structural shift aimed at holistic primary education, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu has issued direct instructions to the state Education Department to introduce moral science into the core curriculum from Class I onward across all government schools. This initiative stems from a high-level review meeting in Shimla, where the Chief Minister convened senior education administrators to map out comprehensive policy reforms aimed at fundamental character development for young learners.

Weekly SDM Camp
Office Opens in Haripur

Dharamsala : A weekly camp office of Dehra Sub-Divisional Magistrate Kulwant Singh Potan began functioning at the Public Works Department Rest House in Haripur on Wednesday following directions from Dehra MLA Kamlesh Thakur. The initiative aims to resolve public grievances promptly and reduce the need for residents to make repeated trips to Dehra for routine administrative work. Block Congress president Kamlesh Kumar Chaudhary, Haripur Vyapar Mandal president Atul Mahajan, other local representatives and residents welcomed the SDM. They honoured him by presenting a traditional shawl and cap. Potan announced that the camp office would operate every Wednesday. If Wednesday happened to be a public holiday, the camp would be held on the next

working day. The Dehra Block Development Officer would also organise camps twice a week. The SDM instructed officials to register every application and complaint received during the camps and forward them to the relevant departments for necessary action. Department heads would be required to attend the following Wednesday's camp with written reports detailing the action taken on grievances received during the previous week. Potan said the arrangement would improve direct communication between the administration and residents, promote transparency and ensure that complaints were resolved within a stipulated timeframe. Residents of Haripur have welcomed the initiative, which brings administrative services closer to their homes.

Bitumen Shortage Slows
Road Work in Himachal

Shimla : Road-tarring projects across Himachal Pradesh have slowed because of an inadequate supply of bitumen, prompting the state government to approach the Centre and Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) for sufficient material before winter sets in. Public Works Department Minister Vikramaditya Singh said Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu had written to Union Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, urging him to ensure adequate bitumen supplies to the state. Singh added that he would also raise the matter with the Union minister. According to Singh, the Centre supplies bitumen to IOC, which distributes it in accordance with its supply arrangements and distribution policy. The state government will approach the corporation to ensure that Himachal Pradesh receives its required allocation and that delays in



road construction and maintenance are minimised. Tarring work is underway in several parts of the state, but irregular supplies have affected progress, leaving contractors and the Public Works Department struggling to procure the

necessary quantities. "We will take up the matter with the Indian Oil Corporation to ensure supplies earmarked for Himachal. I will also raise the issue with the Union Petroleum Minister shortly," Singh said. The shortage has raised concerns

about completing road-tarring work in high-altitude regions, where the available working period is limited. Falling temperatures, rain and snowfall make construction increasingly difficult during winter, potentially forcing projects to remain delayed until weather conditions improve. Ani in Kullu district, Bharmour in Chamba district and several areas of Shimla district are particularly vulnerable because of their high-altitude locations and severe winter conditions. Taking these constraints into account, the state government has instructed the Public Works Department to give priority to road-tarring projects in high-altitude areas and complete as much work as possible before the weather deteriorates. Timely availability of bitumen will be critical to maintaining construction progress and improving connectivity in remote regions before winter arrives.

Kullu Dasehra Begins with
Grand Rath Procession

Kullu : Thousands of devotees gathered in Kullu on Wednesday as the traditional Rath procession of the presiding deity, Lord Raghunath, marked the beginning of the seven-day Kullu Dasehra celebrations. Devotees pulled the deity's wooden chariot from the northern end of Dhalpur ground to Lord Raghunath's camp temple in the centre of the ground, where religious rituals will continue throughout the week. Maheshwar Singh, head of the erstwhile royal family, led the procession alongside his descendants. Earlier, traditional ceremonies were performed at the Raghunath temple after the arrival of Hadimba Mata, who is regarded as the grandmother of the royal family.



The idols of Lord Raghunath, Sita, Hanuman and other deities were ceremonially brought from their sanctum sanctorum in Sultanpur to Dhalpur in elaborately decorated palanquins. Police personnel and Home Guards led the procession through Sarwari and Lower Dhalpur, where residents paid their respects to the chief deity. The idols

were subsequently placed in a beautifully decorated wooden chariot. Palanquins carrying local deities, accompanied by traditional musical bands, joined the procession of Lord Raghunath. Governor Kavinder Gupta witnessed the celebrations, which drew men, women and children dressed in traditional attire, along with hundreds of do-

mestic and international tourists. The procession moved to the rhythmic beats of drums and the melodious sounds of shehnais. Kullu Dasehra has been celebrated since the mid-17th century. Unlike celebrations in many other parts of the country, which conclude on Vijaya Dashami, the Kullu festivities begin on that day. Representatives of Raghunath Ji said the festival was scheduled to commence on October 21 this year, in accordance with the traditional almanac. The festival is distinctive because hundreds of deities from across Kullu district assemble for a grand religious congregation, bringing together the region's rich traditions and devotional practices.

Only Two Kangra Panchayats Elected
Unopposed, Get Rs 25 Lakh Each

Nurpur : Only two of Kangra district's 846 gram panchayats have been elected unopposed in the 2026 panchayat elections, placing the district among those with the lowest number of unanimously elected panchayats in Himachal Pradesh. The state government has sanctioned an incentive of Rs 25 lakh each for Gadrana gram panchayat in the Indora development block and Bagli gram panchayat in the Pragpur development block. Together, the two panchayats will receive Rs 50 lakh for development works under the government's incentive scheme for unopposed elections. Kangra, the largest district in Himachal Pradesh, has 18 development blocks and 846 gram panchayats. Across the state, the government has sanctioned Rs 34 crore for 136 gram pan-

chayats elected unopposed. Each qualifying panchayat will receive Rs 25 lakh to undertake development activities. The number of such panchayats in Kangra is considerably lower than in several other districts. Shimla leads the state with 42 unanimously elected panchayats, making it eligible for an incentive of Rs 10.50 crore. Sirmaur follows with 27 panchayats, qualifying for Rs 6.75 crore. Kinnaur has 18 unopposed panchayats, which will collectively receive Rs 4.50 crore. Lahaul-Spiti has 17 such panchayats and will receive Rs 4.25 crore, while Solan has 13 and will qualify for Rs 3.25 crore. Kullu, Mandi and Una have five unopposed panchayats each and will receive Rs 1.25 crore apiece. Chamba and Bilaspur have one such panchayat each and will receive Rs 25 lakh apiece,

amounting to Rs 50 lakh collectively. In addition to the state government's incentive, Bagli gram panchayat in Pragpur block has been sanctioned another Rs 10 lakh for development work. Local MLA Bikram Thakur announced the additional assistance through his MLA fund and Hamirpur Lok Sabha MP Anurag Thakur. The supplementary amount, combined with the government grant of Rs 25 lakh, is expected to strengthen development activities in the panchayat. The unopposed elections in Gadrana and Bagli are being viewed as evidence of consensus and mutual understanding among villagers. The incentive scheme is intended to encourage agreement-based elections and promote development at the grassroots level.

Development Remains Priority Despite
Financial Constraints: Minister

Shimla : Education Minister Rohit Thakur said the Himachal Pradesh government remained committed to development despite limited financial resources. He made the statement after inaugurating a link road to Geota village in Dharada gram panchayat of Rohru in Shimla district on Wednesday. The minister said the two-kilometre road had been constructed at a cost of Rs 90 lakh and would improve transport facilities for residents while supporting agricultural and horticultural activities. Emphasising the importance of rural connectivity, Thakur said roads were essential for development because they linked villages with main roads and strengthened local economies. He added that approxi-

mately 203 roads had been approved in the Jubbal-Nawar-Kotkhai Assembly constituency during the tenure of the present state government. Expanding the road network, he said, would make travel easier and encourage horticulture and other economic activities. The minister pointed out that the state's financial position had come under additional pressure following the Central Government's decision to discontinue the Revenue Deficit Grant (RDG), the reduction in the state's borrowing limit after implementation of the old pension scheme, and financial challenges associated with Goods and Services Tax (GST) compensation. He also noted that natural disasters had caused substantial losses to the state.

Despite these difficulties, the government was continuing to prioritise public welfare initiatives and development projects. Thakur asserted that financial constraints would not be allowed to affect the pace of development. Later, the minister inspected an under-construction building at Government Senior Secondary School, Sharontha, and reviewed the progress of construction. He instructed the officials concerned to maintain the prescribed quality standards and ensure that the building was completed by April 2027. Thakur also inspected the 6.2-km Sharontha-Karali-Kangar Kalgauntir link road. He directed officials to accelerate construction and ensure strict compliance with the required quality standards.

Himachal Police Pays Tribute
to 1959 Hot Springs Martyrs

Shimla : Himachal Pradesh Police observed Police Commemoration Day on Wednesday, paying tribute to 10 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel who were martyred during a confrontation with Chinese troops at Hot Springs in Ladakh in 1959. The ceremony was led by Director General of Police Ashok Tewari and attended by senior police officers and personnel. It began with a ceremonial parade, followed by the reading of the names of police martyrs, the laying of floral wreaths and a two-minute silence in their honour. In his message, Governor Kavinder Gupta acknowledged the courage, dedication and commitment of police personnel who discharge their responsibilities, often at considerable personal risk, to uphold the rule of law and protect the nation. Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh



Sukhu also paid tribute to the martyrs, saying their sacrifice would continue to inspire generations. He acknowledged the courage and resilience demonstrated by the families of police personnel who had lost their lives in the line of duty. Addressing the gathering, DGP Ashok Tewari said every name re-

membered on the occasion represented a life marked by courage, a family that had suffered an irreparable loss and a sacrifice that could never truly be repaid. "These brave men and women did not merely wear the uniform; they lived by its highest ideals and, when duty demanded, gave their lives so that others could live in safety," he said. The DGP also paid special attention to the families of the fallen personnel, acknowledging that while the nation remembers its heroes with pride, their families continue to live with the pain of their absence. He emphasised that the welfare, dignity and well-being of the families of police martyrs must remain a priority for the police organisation. The observance served as a reminder of the sacrifices made by police personnel in protecting the country and maintaining public safety.

Briefs :

Hisar Students Lock School Gate Over Teacher's Transfer

Hisar : Students of a government school in the Shiv Nagar locality of Hisar locked the institution's main gate on Thursday morning to protest the transfer of their science teacher, Poonam. They demanded that the education authorities reverse the decision, arguing that her departure could disrupt their studies. The students assembled at the school entrance around the start of the school day and continued their protest for more than two hours. Their agitation prevented teachers from leaving the school premises as the main gate remained locked. The protest followed Poonam's recent transfer, which the students strongly opposed. They insisted that she should be brought back to the school, expressing concern about the impact of the decision on their academic progress.

Haryana Youth from Karnal Killed in Canada Highway Crash

Patiala : A 24-year-old man from Haryana's Karnal district was killed and three other passengers suffered serious injuries when a pickup truck allegedly travelling in the wrong direction collided head-on with the car he was driving on Canada's Coquihalla Highway on October 17. The deceased was identified on Thursday as Jaskeerat Singh Naukhria, a resident of Rattak village in Karnal district who had moved to Canada in 2024.

According to a news release issued by the British Columbia Highway Patrol, police received several complaints about a vehicle travelling south-bound in the northbound lanes of Highway 5. Witnesses told investigators that a black Toyota Tacoma had entered the highway near Lac Le Jeune before crashing into the white Toyota RAV4 driven by Naukhria. The 22-year-old driver of the pickup truck, who was its sole occupant, sustained minor injuries. He was detained on suspicion of impaired driving.

Man Dies, Woman Critical After Incident Near Hisar Canal

Hisar : A 30-year-old man died and a 32-year-old woman was left in critical condition after the two reportedly consumed a poisonous substance on the outskirts of Hisar on Wednesday night. They were found unconscious near the Balsamand branch canal close to Azad Nagar and taken to the Civil Hospital for treatment. The man was identified as Sachin, a resident of Kirmara village who worked as a security guard at Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (HAU). He died while undergoing treatment at the Civil Hospital. The woman, identified as Manisha, is married and has a 10-year-old son. Given her critical condition, she was referred to the Medical College in Agroha for further treatment. According to the available information, Sachin came into contact with Manisha about a year ago, and the two had reportedly been in a live-in relationship for around six months.

Haryana Takes Investment Outreach to Singapore and Sweden

Chandigarh : The Haryana government is stepping up its international investment outreach, with Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini's recent visits to Singapore and Sweden focusing on technology, manufacturing, logistics and industrial partnerships to boost economic growth and employment opportunities. The visits come ahead of the completion of Saini's two years in office and form part of the state's broader effort to expand its industrial base before the proposed 'Happening Haryana Global Investor Summit 2027', which is likely to be held in March or April next year. The government plans to undertake further visits to foreign countries and other Indian states over the coming months to present Haryana as an attractive investment destination. The latest engagements follow earlier



investment-focused visits by the Chief Minister to Japan and cities such as Mumbai. A major proposal emerging from the Sweden visit is a sister-city partnership between Gurugram and Stockholm. The proposed collaboration aims to encourage urban innovation, attract investment and promote sustainable development while addressing Gurugram's

challenges, including sanitation, waterlogging, transport and traffic congestion. Urban Local Bodies Minister Vipul Goyal, who accompanied Saini to Sweden, said it was the first time a Haryana Chief Minister had visited the country specifically to attract investment. He said Swedish companies had shown considerable interest in

Haryana, with several expressing willingness to invest and existing investors indicating plans to expand their operations. Goyal said the proposed partnership could help improve Gurugram's urban infrastructure and give the city a more European and cosmopolitan character. A team of Swedish consultants and technical experts is expected to visit

Haryana within the next three to four months to assess the city's problems and explore solutions through technological collaboration and the exchange of expertise. He expressed hope that the partnership would produce visible improvements on the ground within a year. Commissioner and Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Amit Aggarwal, said the Chief Minister had held productive discussions with investors in Singapore to attract domestic and international investment ahead of the summit. The state is presenting its industrial policies and incentives to investors across various sectors. Aggarwal said Haryana had increased subsidies, introduced capital subsidies and formulated 10 new sector-specific policies, along with an MSME policy, to address the needs of different industries.

Monkey's Capture in Haryana Sparks Outrage Over Alleged Beating

Chandigarh : The capture of a monkey in Hathin, Haryana, after nearly 10 days of reported disturbances has triggered widespread outrage on social media after a video allegedly showed a crowd mistreating the animal. The monkey had reportedly been biting people and frightening residents, and a reward of Rs 51,000 had been announced by the husband of the Hathin Municipal Council chairperson for its capture. The animal's capture brought relief to residents who had been concerned about its movements through the locality. However, footage showing the monkey allegedly being beaten and confined prompted animal welfare advocates to demand an investigation and accountability for those responsible. The incident has renewed debate over how authorities should handle conflicts between people and monkeys. While reports of

rhesus macaques attacking residents and damaging property have raised public-safety concerns, animal welfare advocates have stressed that such situations must be managed through lawful and humane methods. The viral clip has drawn criticism over the alleged treatment of the captured animal. Advocates have called for those involved to be identified, the available video evidence to be preserved and the monkey to receive appropriate veterinary examination and care. Section 11 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, addresses acts including beating, torturing or otherwise causing unnecessary pain or suffering to animals. Depending on the species involved and the circumstances, provisions of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, may also apply, as several macaque species receive specific protection under the legislation.

Four Booked for Burning Plastic Scrap in Bahadurgarh

Jhajjar : The Haryana State Pollution Control Board has stepped up enforcement against the illegal burning of plastic waste and scrap in the Bahadurgarh area after four people were booked for allegedly burning such material in agricultural fields at Mandothi village. The activity reportedly generated thick smoke, contributing to air pollution and creating potential health risks. The incident came to light when officials of the board's regional office alerted patrolling police personnel about plastic and other waste being burnt in fields around one kilometre from the Delhi-Rohtak highway. A police team reached the location and found four people near two vehicles

bearing Delhi and Haryana registration numbers. Plastic scrap was being burnt in iron drums and metal containers. An official said a fire tender was called to extinguish the flames. After the material had cooled, the police seized 133 iron sheets, 266 drum tops and bottoms, 151 empty iron drums of different sizes, burnt plastic and rubber scrap, seven sacks containing PVC wire casings and broken plastic, along with other materials and tools allegedly used in the operation. The district administration has already prohibited the burning of plastic waste and scrap. The accused allegedly violated the orders to earn financial gains. The police registered a

case against Bhupesh alias Bhola of Rohtak, Nanhe of Shahjahanpur, Ankit of Ambedkar Nagar and Wasim of Bulandshahr, all in Uttar Pradesh. The case has been filed under Sections 223(a) and 280 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita and Section 15 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Sunil Sheoran, Regional Officer of the Haryana State Pollution Control Board in Bahadurgarh, said burning plastic waste was completely prohibited in the district and those violating the rules would face legal action. He said the board was regularly inspecting sensitive areas to prevent such incidents, enforce pollution-control norms and keep the region free from pollution.

Haryana Rights Panel Seeks Action Over Newborn's Death

Chandigarh : The Haryana Human Rights Commission has recommended departmental disciplinary proceedings against a staff nurse following the death of a newborn at the Primary Health Centre in Nakipur village of Bhiwani district. It has also directed senior health officials to consider compensation for the bereaved family, stressing that disciplinary action alone would not adequately address the irreparable loss suffered by them. The full Commission, comprising Chairperson Justice Lalit Batra, Judicial Member Kuldeep Jain and Member Deep Bhatia, issued the directions while hearing a complaint. Its decision was based on an inquiry report submitted by



the District Medical Negligence Board, Bhiwani, on June 16. According to the report, no doctor was present during the delivery, which was conducted by the nurse with the assistance of other

staff members. The Board found that mandatory medical protocols had not been followed despite the pregnancy being classified as high-risk, a situation requiring the presence of a doctor

and appropriate medical support. The report further stated that the newborn was brought dead to the Special Newborn Care Unit in Bhiwani. It noted that the baby required immediate resuscitation, but the nurse allegedly spent crucial time administering immunisation instead. The Commission said the lapses raised serious concerns regarding the child's right to life and entitlement to proper treatment at a government health facility. The Commission directed the Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Family Welfare; the Director General of Health Services; and the Bhiwani Civil Surgeon to initiate regular disciplinary proceedings against the nurse under the applicable service rules.

Unsafe Drinking Water Found in 90 Rewari Government Schools

Rewari : Drinking water samples collected from 90 government schools in Rewari district have failed laboratory tests, raising concerns about the safety of water consumed by students. The district has 639 government schools, and Bawal block accounts for the largest share of institutions where the samples were found unfit for drinking. Of the 90 schools with failed samples, 61 are located in Bawal block, 10 in Nahar and four in Jatusana. In contrast, water samples collected from all 107 government schools in Khol block were found suitable for drinking. Official sources said water samples had recently been collected from govern-



ment schools across the district and sent for laboratory testing. The results showed that the water supplied at 90 schools was non-potable. Several samples reportedly contained total dissolved solids (TDS) above the permissible limit.

Some schools depend on borewells or hand pumps because they do not have proper drinking water connections provided by the Public Health Engineering Department. Sources also said some institutions lacked water filters and purifiers, while

equipment installed at other schools was not functioning. District officials, however, pointed out that the samples had been collected by school authorities rather than the Public Health Engineering Department. Rewari Additional Deputy Commissioner Rahul Modi said the department's officials would collect fresh samples of the drinking water supplied to the schools. He assured that effective corrective measures would be taken if the new samples were also found unfit for consumption. Following the findings, Education Department officials directed the concerned authorities to take immediate steps to ensure access to safe drinking water.

Congress MP Calls Haryana CM a 'Dummy Chief Minister'

Ambala : Congress MP from Ambala Varun Chaudhry has described Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini as a "dummy CM", alleging that the BJP government has failed to deliver on its promises in Haryana even as its leaders are making claims and announcements in Punjab. Speaking to mediapersons at Congress Bhawan in Ambala City on Wednesday, Chaudhry said the BJP government had completed two years in office and needed to explain its performance to the public. He pointed out that the party had made several major commitments during the Assembly elections, but people were now seeking an account of how many of those promises had actually been fulfilled. The MP cited financial figures to highlight what he described as

a sharp rise in Haryana's debt. According to the data he referred to, the state's total debt stood at Rs 70,925 crore in 2014 and had increased to Rs 3,91,435 crore. He questioned what tangible benefits the public had received in return, particularly in employment, education, healthcare, farmers' income and basic infrastructure. Chaudhry demanded that the government disclose the state's financial position, the interest being paid on its debt and the progress made on election commitments. He also sought details of the promises fulfilled in full and those that remained pending. He said women, young people, farmers, poor families and ordinary citizens deserved clear answers about their rights and the facilities they were entitled to receive.

He urged the government to move beyond advertisements and announcements and present a transparent account of its performance. The MP also criticised the government over issues related to SIR and pending development works. Pawan Aggarwal, president of the District Congress Committee (Urban), and Dushyant Chauhan, president of the District Congress Committee (Rural), said the BJP's election manifesto had raised expectations among all sections of society. However, they alleged that women were still waiting for promised financial assistance, young people were seeking employment, farmers were struggling for fair prices for their produce and ordinary households were looking for relief from inflation.

Crop Record Errors on Portal Trouble Sirsa Farmers

Sirsa : Farmers in Panj-mala, Thiraj and Alikan villages of Sirsa district have raised concerns over discrepancies in crop details recorded on the Haryana government's 'Meri Fasal Mera Byora' portal, alleging that incorrect entries are creating difficulties in selling their produce in mandis at the minimum support price (MSP). Farmers from Kalanwali tehsil said the crops recorded during the verification process did not correspond with those actually cultivated in their fields. They alleged that bajra had been recorded as guava, cotton as paddy and paddy as cotton. According to them, these mismatches were affecting their ability to sell their produce at the MSP. The issue came to the fore during a visit to Panj-mala village by Lakhwinder Singh Aulakh, state president of Bharatiya Kisan Ekta (BKE). He met farmers and listened to their grievances regarding the portal and crop

verification. Aulakh said the errors were forcing farmers to make repeated trips to government offices, causing unnecessary inconvenience. He called on senior officials to send a team to the affected villages to conduct fresh verification and correct the crop records. He also demanded action against employees found responsible for making incorrect entries. Questioning the effectiveness of technology-based agricultural monitoring, Aulakh asked why satellite-based systems were being used to track farming activities when, according to him, they were not providing effective assistance in cases involving crop verification errors or crop losses. The farmers warned that they would stage a protest outside the tehsil office if the matter was not resolved soon. They demanded prompt correction of their records so that they could sell their produce without further complications.

Faridabad's BK Hospital Struggles With Staff and Infrastructure Shortages

Faridabad : Patients at Badshah Khan (BK) Civil Hospital, Faridabad's largest government healthcare facility, are facing long waits for surgery, with some procedures being scheduled two to two-and-a-half months in advance. Shortages of specialist doctors, nurses and ambulance drivers, along with pressure on emergency services and laboratory facilities, have added to the hospital's difficulties. The hospital is short of four specialist doctors. Physicians handling the outpatient department (OPD) are also required to perform surgeries, limiting the number of operations that can be undertaken. Even patients requiring minor procedures reportedly face waiting periods of up to three months. The hospital conducts gallstone operations, knee and hip replacements, cataract surgeries and deliveries. However, patients have



complained that some are sent home with medicines or advised to seek treatment elsewhere. Kidney and liver patients are referred to other facilities, while the hospital's heart centre remains closed. Serving a district population of around 26 lakh, BK Hospital is the principal pub-

lic healthcare facility in the area. Its OPD handles between 2,000 and 2,500 patients daily, with each doctor examining approximately 100 to 200 patients. Of the 55 sanctioned specialist posts, 51 are occupied, and five consultants also serve the hospital. Despite these personnel, the in-

stitution has no radiologist, neurologist or psychiatrist. The 20-bed emergency ward receives around 100 patients each day, of whom approximately 10 are referred to Delhi or other hospitals. Only about two nurses are available per shift. The six-bed intensive care unit also lacks sufficient special-

ists, while some of its equipment is reportedly faulty. Patients and their attendants have further complained about unhygienic conditions and foul-smelling toilets. The hospital has around 26 ambulances, but nearly 11 are out of service. Of the 56 sanctioned driver posts, only 33 are filled. The nursing staff is also inadequate, with 56 nurses available against a requirement of around 90. Ultrasound services are restricted to pregnant women and are available only three days a week. The ultrasound machine had reportedly remained out of order for around three days because of a software problem, with a notice displayed outside the room. Shortages have also been reported at four community health centres in Pali, Kauraali, Tigaon and Kheri Kalan, where X-ray and ultrasound machines are not functioning at several locations.

San Francisco 49ers Remain Top As Chris Ballard Shines

New Delhi :The San Francisco 49ers continued their impressive start to the NFL season by defeating the Washington Commanders 23-17. The victory took their record to 6-0 and helped them retain the top position in ESPN's NFL power rankings, underlining their status as one of the strongest teams in the league.

While several teams faced unexpected setbacks and major developments, the 49ers maintained their winning momentum. Their latest victory showed their ability to handle pressure and continue delivering results as the competition around them intensified.

The 49ers' 23-17 win over Washington was not without a challenge, as the Commanders remained competitive throughout the contest. However, San Francisco managed to protect its advantage and secure another important victory, extending its unbeaten run to six games.

Their strong record has placed them at the top of ESPN's power rankings. The rankings reflect the team's performances during the season and its position among the league's leading contenders. With six wins and no defeats, San Francisco has established an early advantage over many of its rivals.

The Kansas City Chiefs are also off to an unbeaten start, standing at 5-0. They remain close behind San Francisco in the power rankings, creating an early contest between two teams that have consistently demonstrated their ability to win.

The Chiefs' record has kept them firmly in the conversation among the NFL's leading teams. However, the 49ers' additional victory has helped them maintain the top position, leaving Kansas City and the rest of the league chasing their pace.

Elsewhere, the Indianapolis Colts experienced a dramatic setback after losing a substantial halftime lead against the Tennessee Titans.



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Sanju Samson Reveals Secret Behind India's Historic Chase vs New Zealand In 1st T20I

New Delhi : Wicketkeeper-batter Sanju Samson said there was no grand plan behind his blistering opening stands with Abhishek Sharma, adding that the opening pair simply watch the ball and hit hard, after the side chased down 226 against New Zealand to record their highest successful run chase in T20Is. Samson's 33-ball 67, studded with eight fours and four sixes, set up India's four-wicket win in the five-match T20I series opener. He and Abhishek (29 off 12) raced to 93 runs as an opening pair. After the duo fell, captain Shreyas Iyer's 42 and Naman Dhir's unbeaten 42 helped India reach home with two balls to spare.

"We do have a lot of conversations happening in the middle, but nothing makes sense actually. We just watch the ball and hit hard. It has been working very well for us and I like batting with him at the top," Samson said at the post-match presentation ceremony, where he got the Player of the Match award.

He also revealed that once India got off to a flier in the chase, he and Abhishek felt they could put the



game away early.

"The ball was swinging around a lot, I think in the second half, a bit too much actually. But off the surface it was coming on very nicely. So I think me and Abhi just felt like keeping the shape and having a very positive intent in the powerplay.

"Once we got off to a flying

fort. "It feels really good. I think, yes, we are just in the moment where the match has been won.

"Whatever contribution you make, I think it feels good to end up on the winning side. So it's a really great contribution from all of us in the team. So it was completely a team game today. So really happy that we started off nicely for the series," he added.

Samson said that while keeping wickets gave him an early read of the surface, conditions changed significantly by the time India came out to bat.

"Absolutely, you definitely think about your batting while you are keeping wickets. But I think today I summed up my way to play the game while keeping.

"But when I came to bat, it was completely different. In the first half, the ball was stopping a bit from the length area, but in the second half I think the ball was coming on very nicely with heavy dew in the outfield. So I really enjoyed the batting." The second game of the series will be played at the same venue on Saturday.

Real Madrid Rout RB Leipzig To Continue Perfect Champions League Start

New Delhi :Real Madrid continued their impressive run in the UEFA Champions League with a convincing 4-1 victory over RB Leipzig on Wednesday. San Francisco giants secured their third consecutive win in the competition, producing a strong attacking performance to overcome the German side.

Madrid's victory featured goals from Bernardo Silva, Arda Guler, Kylian Mbappe and Yan Diomande. Despite Leipzig managing to find the net once, Madrid maintained control of the contest and finished the match with a comfortable three-goal advantage.

The result further highlighted Madrid's attacking strength as they continued their campaign in Europe's premier club competition. The record 15-time European champions showed their ability to turn a closely contested match into a convincing victory through their finishing and attacking quality.

The first half was closely fought, with both teams competing to gain an advantage. Leipzig attempted to remain organised and limit Madrid's opportunities, making it difficult for the Spanish side to establish a clear lead during the opening stages.

However, Madrid eventually broke the deadlock towards the end of the first half. Bernardo Silva opened the scoring from close range, giving the home side an important advantage after a competitive period in which

putting the Spanish giants in a stronger position and increasing the pressure on Leipzig.

Guler's strike gave Madrid greater control of the match. With a two-goal advantage, the Spanish side



neither team had managed to take control on the scoreboard.

Silva's goal gave Madrid a boost heading into the interval. Scoring before half-time allowed the Spanish side to approach the second half with greater confidence, while Leipzig were left needing to respond to the deficit.

Madrid wasted little time in extending their lead after the restart. Arda Guler scored the team's second goal soon after the interval,

ingly comfortable performance for the home side and left Leipzig facing a difficult task if they hoped to get back into the match.

Despite falling three goals behind, Leipzig continued their efforts and managed to pull one goal back. Tidiam Gomis scored for the German side, providing a brief response and reducing the margin on the scoreboard.

Gomis' goal offered Leipzig a measure of consolation after Madrid had built a commanding lead. However, the German club were unable to turn the goal into a sustained comeback, as Madrid continued to threaten in attack.

Madrid eventually restored their three-goal advantage through Yan Diomande. The forward struck a volley into the top corner late in the match, providing a fitting finish to the Spanish side's dominant display.

Diomande's goal completed the scoring at 4-1 and sealed Madrid's third victory in as many Champions League matches. The late strike ensured that Leipzig's response would not alter the outcome of the contest.

The match saw Madrid's goals come at important moments.

Bruno Fernandes Says Manchester United Lacked Belief After 4-1 Defeat to Como



New Delhi :Manchester United captain Bruno Fernandes admitted that his side lacked belief after suffering a disappointing 4-1 defeat against Como in the Champions League on Wednesday. The result extended United's winless run to seven games, increasing the pressure on the club following another below-par performance.

United endured a difficult evening as they conceded a goal in the second minute and struggled to recover. The early setback put the English club on the back foot, and they were unable to produce the response required to turn the match around. The defeat was another setback for Manchester United, who had hoped to improve their results and regain momentum.

Instead, their struggles continued as Como took advantage of defensive weaknesses and made the most of their

Alex Pereira Breaks Silence On Dana White's \$40 Million Boxing Payouts

New Delhi :UFC star Alex Pereira has said he has no problem with Dana White paying large sums of money to fighters competing under Zuffa Boxing. His comments come amid growing questions about whether mixed martial arts fighters in the UFC are being paid fairly compared with athletes in other combat sports.

Pereira shared his views during a conversation with journalist Ariel Helwani, speaking through a translator. The Brazilian fighter made it clear that he was comfortable with his current financial arrangement and did not feel the need to criticise White over the money being offered to boxers.

The debate over fighter pay has become an important topic in combat sports, particularly as boxing promotions explore ways to attract high-profile athletes with lucrative contracts. The amounts offered to some boxers have also prompted comparisons with the earnings of UFC fighters, leading to questions about how athletes are compensated across the two sports. Pereira, however, indicated that other fighters receiving bigger paydays would not automatically make him dissatisfied

with his own deal. His comments suggested that he was focused on his personal agreement rather than comparing his earnings with those of athletes competing in a different organisation.

The Brazilian also said he had no desire to pursue a boxing payday simply because other fighters were earning more money. While the financial opportunities available in boxing can be attractive, Pereira's remarks showed that he was not interested in changing his plans solely to chase a larger cheque. Dana White has been a central figure in the UFC's development and is also associated with the Zuffa Boxing venture. The emergence of another platform offering substantial payments to fighters has added a new dimension to discussions about athlete compensation and the financial differences between combat sports. Questions about UFC fighter pay have persisted for years. Fighters, commentators and fans have debated how revenue should be distributed between promotions and athletes, particularly when major events generate significant commercial interest through broadcasting, sponsorships and ticket sales.

Harry Brook Breaks Shubman Gill's Huge World ODI Record, Scripts History For England

New Delhi : Captain Harry Brook smashed the fastest ever double century in men's one-day cricket internationals and the first for England on Thursday. Brook took 114 balls for the double ton and holed out two balls later for 202 off the final ball of England's innings against Sri Lanka in a tri-series match. He clobbered 10 sixes and 21 boundaries to lead England to 429-4, its fourth highest ODI total. Brook reached his first century off 75 balls with a ramped boundary over fine leg; reached 150 with a similar shot, and took 39 balls to hit the second century, reached with a paddle sweep against Janith Liyanage in the final over. Joe Root (69), Will Jacks (66 not out) and Tom Banton (50) also contributed



to England's monster total after being sent in.

Sri Lanka fast bowlers Eshan Malinga (0-91) and Dilshan Madushanka (0-89) were blazed all around Rawalpindi Cricket Stadium while Dasun Shanaka, returning to ODIs after more than two years, was smacked for 74 off his six overs.

Asian Para Games 2026 Day 4 Highlights India Sweeps All 3 Podium Spots In High Jump T63, Medals Galore In Athletics

New Delhi : India continued its impressive performance at the Asian Para Games 2026 by adding 26 medals to its overall tally on Day 4 in Aichi-Nagoya. The latest medal haul took India's total to 88, with athletes delivering strong performances across para archery, para athletics and para badminton.

Para archer Sheetal Devi emerged as one of India's leading performers on the day, winning two gold medals. She secured the top position in both the individual and mixed team events, adding to India's success and strengthening the country's medal count at the continental competition.

Sheetal's double-gold performance highlighted India's growing strength in para archery. Winning medals in two different events requires consistency and the ability to perform under pressure, and her results provided a major boost to the Indian contingent.

Her success also brought attention to India's para archery team, which has continued to make its presence felt at major international competitions. The individual event tested her personal skills, while the mixed team competition required coordination and teamwork to achieve the desired result.

However, para athletics once again made a significant contribution to India's medal haul. The contingent delivered an impressive performance, winning five gold

medals, four silver medals and two bronze medals on Day 4.



The 11 medals won in para athletics formed a substantial part of India's overall daily tally. The results demonstrated the depth of talent among Indian para athletes, who competed across different events and contributed valuable points to the country's overall medal count.

The five gold medals were particularly important

for India's campaign. Gold-medal performances help athletes gain recognition for their achievements while adding to the country's standing in the overall medal competition.

India's four silver medals in para athletics further strengthened the day's results. These performances showed that Indian athletes were competitive across multiple events, with several competitors finishing among the leading participants in their respective categories.

The contingent also secured two bronze medals in para athletics, adding further depth to India's medal haul. Together, the gold, silver and bronze medals made athletics one of the most productive sports for India on the

fourth day of competition.

Para badminton also delivered encouraging results for the Indian team. Indian athletes secured seven bronze medals across various events, contributing significantly to the country's overall total of 26 medals for the day.

The seven bronze medals reflected India's competitive presence in para badminton. Athletes across different events managed to reach the podium, ensuring that the sport made a valuable contribution to the national contingent's overall performance. Although bronze medals do not carry the same ranking as gold or silver, they remain important achievements at a major international event.

Ayush Shetty, Tanvi Sharma Exit French Open Badminton

New Delhi : Indian shuttlers Ayush Shetty and Tanvi Sharma bowed out of the French Open badminton tournament after suffering defeats in their respective events in Paris on Thursday. Competing at the USD 950,000 tournament, both players faced challenging opponents in the pre-quarterfinal stage, bringing their campaigns to an end.

Tanvi Sharma was the first among the Indian players to take the court, facing South Korea's An Se Young, the reigning world No. 1 and top seed in the women's singles competition. Tanvi struggled to match the South Korean's pace and consistency, eventually losing the contest in straight games.

An Se Young secured a 21-11, 21-14 victory over Tanvi in a match that lasted 37 minutes. The South Korean controlled the proceedings for much of the encounter, using her speed, court coverage and precise shot placement to put pressure on the Indian shuttler.

Tanvi attempted to compete against the top seed but found it difficult to sustain her challenge against an opponent known for her consistency and defensive skills. An Se Young maintained her advantage in both games and prevented the Indian from forcing a deciding game.

The opening game saw An Se Young establish control as she moved towards the finish line with a comfortable margin. Tanvi was unable to overcome the deficit, allowing the South Korean to take the first game 21-11 and move a step closer to securing her place in the next round.

In the second game, Tanvi put up a better fight and

managed to score 14 points. However, An Se Young con-



tinued to dictate the rallies and maintained her lead to close out the game 21-14.

The victory confirmed the top seed's progression in the

An Se Young's position at the top of the world rankings made her a formidable opponent for the young Indian shuttler. Facing a player of her calibre offered Tanvi an opportunity to test her game against one of the leading names in international badminton, although the result went in favour of the South Korean. Later in the day, Ayush Shetty was scheduled to take on Japan's Kodai Naraoka in the men's singles second round. Naraoka, seeded sixth in the tournament, entered the contest as a strong opponent, with

the match expected to test Shetty's ability to compete against an established international player.

However, Shetty was unable to complete the match because of an undisclosed injury. The Indian shuttler forfeited the contest while trailing 17-21, 6-11, handing Naraoka a place in the next round.

Shetty had remained competitive during the opening game, scoring 17 points before Naraoka secured it 21-17. The Japanese player then carried his advantage into the second game and

moved ahead 11-6 before Shetty withdrew from the contest.

The precise nature of Shetty's injury was not disclosed, leaving uncertainty over the extent of the problem and whether it could affect his participation in upcoming tournaments. His withdrawal meant that he could not continue challenging the sixth seed for a place in the subsequent round.

The exits of Tanvi and Shetty marked a disappointing day for the Indian contingent in the singles events at the French Open.

BSE Sensex		Nifty 50		Nifty 500		Nifty Next 50		Nifty 100		Nifty Bank		Nifty Midcap 100	
Close	Percent change	Close	Percent change	Close	Percent change	Close	Percent change	Close	Percent change	Close	Percent change	Close	Percent change
73,249.39	-0.62%	22,687.65	-0.54%	21,696.55	-0.65%	67,354.15	-0.45%	23,637.80	-0.52%	54,925.70	-0.093%	57,063.95	-0.87%
Previous close	Open	Previous close	Open	Previous close	Open	Previous close	Open	Previous close	Open	Previous close	Open	Previous close	Open
73,709.69	73,343.33	22,811.35	22,687.75	21,837.90	21,715.75	67,655.30	67,205.10	23,762.45	23,628.30	54,976.90	54,734.45	57,565.85	57,232.55
High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High	Low
73,720.83	73,005.11	22,785.00	22,554.85	21,793.95	21,542.60	67,543.10	66,487.25	23,729.55	23,471.85	55,134.45	54,459.35	57,421.40	56,568.90

Top Gainers

Company	Current	% Gain
Bajaj Finance	942.10	1.74
Cipla	1,330.90	1.29
ICICI Bank	1,398.50	0.97
Bajaj Auto	10,155.00	0.82
UltraTechCement	10,958.00	1.00

Top Losers

Company	Current	%Loss
Nestle	1,189.90	-2.78
HDFC Life	528.35	-2.09
TMPV	270.00	-2.07
Tech Mahindra	1,829.10	-0.31
Reliance	1,184.50	-2.03

Commodities

Commodity	Price	Change (%)
Gold Dec 04	144,810.00	-1,269.00 -0.87
Silver Dec 04	203,924.00	-5,244.00 -2.51
Crudeoil Nov 19	9,427.00	219.00 2.38
Naturalgas Oct 27	263.10	-1.60 -0.60

Nifty below 22,700, Sensex down 460 points

Aryan Age Correspondent

Mumbai : Indian benchmark stock market indices ended lower for the third consecutive trading session on October 22 as escalating geopolitical tensions pushed crude oil prices above \$110 per barrel, raising concerns about inflation and the broader economic outlook. Weak global market cues added to the selling pressure, with investors remaining cautious amid uncertainty over international developments and their potential impact on the Indian economy.

The domestic equity market opened lower on Thursday and remained in negative territory for most of the trading session. Selling pressure was visible across sectors, reflecting investor concerns over rising crude oil prices and the possibility of further volatility in global financial markets. Both



the Sensex and the Nifty declined as market participants adopted a cautious approach.

The benchmark indices witnessed further weakness during intraday trading, with the Nifty slipping below the 22,600 mark. The index touched an intraday low of 22,554.85 before recovering some of its losses towards the end of the session. Despite the recovery, the Nifty failed to return above the 22,700 level and closed

lower for the day.

At the closing bell, the BSE Sensex declined by 460.30 points, or 0.62 per cent, to settle at 73,249.39. The NSE Nifty 50 fell by 123.70 points, or 0.54 per cent, to close at 22,687.65. The decline extended the losses for both benchmark indices to a third consecutive session.

Rising crude oil prices remained one of the key concerns for investors. International oil prices climbed above \$110 per

barrel amid escalating geopolitical tensions, increasing uncertainty over energy supplies and the outlook for global economic activity. Higher crude prices can have significant implications for India, which relies heavily on imported oil to meet its energy requirements.

An increase in crude oil prices can raise the country's import bill and put pressure on the trade balance. It can also increase costs for industries that depend on petroleum products, transportation and energy. If higher oil prices persist, they may contribute to inflationary pressures and complicate the economic outlook for businesses and consumers.

The impact of expensive crude oil is particularly important for India because movements in international energy prices can influence fuel costs, transportation expenses and the cost of producing goods.

Retail portion of Jio Platforms' IPO fully subscribed

New Delhi : The retail portion of Jio Platforms Ltd's initial public offering (IPO) was fully subscribed within two hours of the second day of bidding on Thursday, according to data available on the BSE. Strong investor demand continued to support the public issue, with qualified institutional buyers leading subscriptions across investor categories.

By 11 am on Thursday, the retail individual investors' category had received bids equivalent to the number of shares reserved for the segment. The development marked another milestone for the Rs 30,213-crore public issue, which had already attracted substantial investor interest on its opening day.

According to the exchange data, the IPO was subscribed 3.47 times overall by 11 am on the second day of bidding. The figures indicated that investors had placed bids for more than three times the total number of shares available under the

issue at that point in the subscription period.

Qualified institutional buyers (QIBs) emerged as the strongest contributors to demand, with their reserved portion subscribed 9.42 times. This category includes institutional investors such as mutual funds, banks, insurance companies and other eligible financial institutions. Their strong participation accounted for a significant share of the overall demand for the offering.

The non-institutional investors (NIIs) category was subscribed 2.34 times by 11 am on Thursday. This segment generally includes high-net-worth individuals and other eligible investors bidding outside the retail category. The subscription level indicated that demand from non-institutional participants had also exceeded the shares reserved for them.

The shareholders' portion of the IPO was subscribed 2.06 times, according to the BSE data.

Moscow Innovation Cluster Partners with Ouchhh Studio to Drive Innovation in Digital Art

New Delhi : The Moscow Innovation Cluster and Ouchhh Studio have signed a long-term partnership agreement that will give Moscow-based media technology developers access to global Digital Art practices, methodologies and approaches to scaling projects. The partnership is expected to help local teams advance their technologies and expand internationally.

The collaboration builds on the CreaTech and EdTech track, one of the key areas of the 2026 Moscow Startup Summit. Solutions developed by residents of the MediaTech Cluster were showcased at a dedicated stand, giving startups direct exposure to international opportunities through the event.

Ouchhh Studio is one of the world's best-known media art studios, with offices in seven countries. Founded by artist Ferdi Alici, the studio creates large-scale multimedia installations that transform scientific data, architectural patterns and information about the universe into audiovisual performances. Over the past 18 years, Ouchhh has delivered more than 75 projects across all continents in collaboration with scientists, researchers and technology companies. Its work has received international design

awards.

"Partnering with Ouchhh is a strategic step towards connecting Moscow with the global digital art community. We are creating opportunities for Moscow's technology companies to contribute to international digital art projects, exchange expertise, experiment alongside industry leaders, and transform bold ideas into real-world applications," said Olga Romanets, Deputy CEO of the Moscow Innovation Cluster Foundation. Residents of the MediaTech Cluster, which opened in September in Skolkovo, will gain access to Ouchhh's expertise and creative methodologies. The studio will host a series of lectures, workshops, and masterclasses for technology companies, exploring how scientific data can be transformed into compelling artistic experiences and how artificial intelligence can be applied in professional creative practice. Joint initiatives in AI-driven art and digital content creation are expected to showcase Moscow's media technologies on the international stage. Ouchhh's expertise in combining architecture, data, and immersive storytelling could also inspire innovative approaches to representing and experiencing urban

environments. For Ouchhh, the partnership represents an opportunity for meaningful two-way collaboration. According to Ferdi Alici, the studio is ready to share its artistic vision, creative methods and experience in producing large-scale installations, while startups bring fresh perspectives, new technologies and unconventional ideas.

The partnership is expected to include not only joint artworks, but also the launch of new startups and mentoring opportunities for young creators. Alici also highlighted the studio's longstanding interest in Russia's rich cultural and scientific heritage.

"Our goal is not simply to bring Ouchhh's work to Moscow, but to create something here that can only emerge from the meeting of people, ideas and cultures — and then share it with the world. We want to contribute our global experience while also learning from the talented creators, engineers and scientists working in Moscow," said Ferdi Alici, founder of Ouchhh. The partners have already begun preparing joint projects. The first educational sessions for residents of the MediaTechCluster are expected to take place in the near future.

800VDC shift in AI data centres may create USD 5 billion market for solid-state transformers: Goldman Sachs

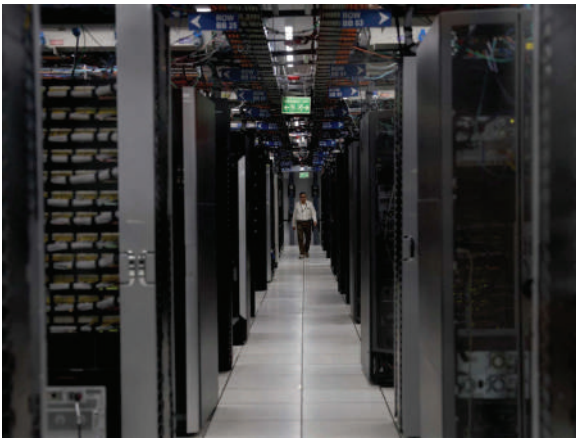
New Delhi : The shift to 800-volt direct current (800VDC) power systems in artificial intelligence (AI) data centres could create a market opportunity of up to USD 5 billion for solid-state transformers by 2030, as rising computing demand increases the need for efficient power infrastructure, according to a Goldman Sachs research report.

The report estimates that around 10 gigawatts (GW) of new data centre capacity using 800V GPUs could be added in 2030. This would account for around 6 per cent of the total installed data centre capacity and 60 per cent of new capacity additions that year.

Goldman Sachs said the growing power needs of AI systems are pushing electricity requirements from tens of kilowatts per rack to more than one megawatt. This is putting pressure on conventional power distribution systems.

The adoption of 800VDC technology could improve power efficiency

(AC) infrastructure to support high-voltage direct current (DC) systems. Sol-



by up to 5 per cent and reduce copper requirements by as much as 45 per cent. It could also help data centres manage sudden changes in electricity demand.

Commercial adoption is expected to begin with power sidecars in early 2027. These systems allow existing alternating current

id-state transformers and fully integrated 800VDC architectures are expected to follow in late 2027 and early 2028. He transition could also create opportunities in circuit protection, energy storage, power conversion and cooling systems. Goldman Sachs estimates that the market for

solid-state circuit breakers alone could reach up to USD 8 billion.

Liquid cooling is also emerging as an important requirement for AI data centres, as high-density computing systems generate more heat and require efficient cooling solutions.

The report further highlighted potential opportunities for cable manufacturers. Although the new power architecture could reduce overall copper requirements, demand for specialised, high-value cables and high-temperature superconducting technology could support profit margins. Goldman Sachs identified Nexans as a potential beneficiary.

However, the report cautioned that the market remains at an early stage. Adoption timelines and market-size estimates could change as the technology moves through pilot programmes and wider commercial deployment.

Bank of Baroda Mumbai Zone Organises Cycle Rally to Promote Vigilance Awareness



Aryan Age Correspondent

Mumbai : Bank of Baroda's Mumbai Zone organised a cycle rally at Ballard Pier on Saturday morning, October 17, 2026, to promote awareness about integrity, transparency and ethical practices. The event was conducted as part of the bank's ongoing Vigilance Awareness Campaign 2026, which aims to encourage honesty, accountability and a corruption-free working environment.

The rally brought together employees of Bank of Baroda, who participated enthusiastically in the initiative. Through the event, the bank sought to spread the message that vigilance and ethical conduct are essential for maintaining public trust and strengthening institutional accountability.

The cycle rally was flagged off by Shri Sanjeev

Singh, Deputy General Manager (C&A), Mumbai Zone. His participation highlighted the importance the bank places on vigilance awareness and the role of employees in promoting transparent and responsible practices.

Participants cycled through the Ballard Pier area carrying placards and banners highlighting the importance of integrity and vigilance. The messages encouraged people to remain alert to corrupt practices and support efforts to build a society based on honesty and fairness.

The event was organised to take the message of vigilance beyond the workplace and reach the wider community. By using a public activity such as a cycle rally, Bank of Baroda aimed to encourage greater awareness of the importance of ethical behaviour in everyday life and professional responsibilities.

'Let Chief Ministers Run States Like CEOs': Nikhil Kamath's China Challenge For India

New Delhi :What if India's chief ministers ran their states like corporate chief executive officers, competing to attract investments, create jobs and generate economic growth while retaining a greater share of the gains they produce? Zerodha co-founder Nikhil Kamath believes China's governance model offers valuable lessons for India, particularly in encouraging competition among regional governments to improve economic performance. Although China does not identify itself as a capitalist country, its local governments often compete aggressively with one another to attract businesses, promote industrial develop-



ment and strengthen their respective economies. Kamath argued that this competitive approach could provide useful insights for India, where states have different economic strengths, investment opportunities, infrastructure capabilities and development priorities. According to him, encouraging states to

compete more actively for investment could help improve economic outcomes and make regional administrations more focused on growth. "Every municipality or the mayor of each province competes with another province like he were a capitalist organisation," Kamath said during the discussion.

Government Caps Trade Margins on 137 Cancer Drugs, Raising Concerns for Private Hospitals

New Delhi : The government's decision to cap trade margins on 137 non-scheduled cancer drugs is emerging as a significant regulatory challenge for private hospitals, potentially affecting a revenue stream that has become an important contributor to their profitability. The move is aimed at controlling excessive mark-ups on expensive cancer medicines and making treatment more affordable for patients. However, it could also put

pressure on the financial performance of hospitals that depend on oncology services and the sale of high-value medicines. The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has introduced a cap of 30% on trade margins for the identified cancer drugs, calculated on their maximum retail price (MRP), excluding the Goods and Services Tax (GST). The revised pricing framework is scheduled to come into effect from November 9. The deci-

sion brings a wide range of sight and seeks to limit the



expensive cancer therapies under tighter pricing over

mark-ups charged at different stages of the pharmacu-

tical distribution chain. The list of medicines covered under the revised framework includes several widely used and high-value oncology drugs, such as pembrolizumab, osimertinib, bevacizumab and venetoclax.

These medicines are prescribed for different types of cancer and can account for a substantial share of treatment expenses. By restricting the margins associated with these drugs, the government intends to reduce the

additional costs incurred by patients purchasing cancer medicines.

The decision is expected to have implications beyond pharmaceutical distributors and retailers, particularly for private hospitals with established oncology departments. Cancer treatment is a specialised area of healthcare that frequently involves expensive medicines, diagnostic procedures, chemotherapy, immunotherapy and targeted therapies.