

News

Brief

SC upholds validity of UP Madarsa Education Act

New Delhi, Nov 5 (IANS) The Supreme Court on Tuesday set aside the Allahabad High Court ruling which had struck down the Uttar Pradesh Board of Madarsa Education Act, 2004 as unconstitutional and violative of the principles of secularism. A Bench headed by CJI, DY Chandrachud said that the Allahabad High Court erred in holding that the Madarsa Education Act, 2004 was bound to be struck down for violation of the basic structure. However, the CJI Chandrachud-led Bench held the Madarsa Education Act "unconstitutional" to the extent it regulates higher education in relation to 'fazil' and 'kamil' degrees for being in conflict with the UGC Act. Earlier in April, staying the impugned decision, the Bench, also comprising Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, had observed that the Allahabad High Court misconstrued the provisions of the Madarsa Act and the view taken by it was prima facie not correct.

K'taka: Shobha Karandlaje, BJP MLA Yatnal take part in strike

Vijayapura, Nov 5 (IANS) Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje and BJP MLA Basanagouda Patil Yatnal participated in an indefinite strike at Vijayapura city in Karnataka over the Waqf properties row. Union Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Labour and Employment Karandlaje said, "Attending a relentless day and night protest in Vijayapur against unjust Waqf decisions targeting our farmers with land notices. Our stand against this 'land jihad' is resolute. We will not back down in defending farmers rights and fighting against this 'land terrorism'." The protest has been organised in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office in Vijayapura under the leadership of MLA Yatnal. Hundreds of farmers, BJP leaders and activists were participating in the indefinite strike. The indefinite strike is organised demanding nationalisation of the Waqf property.

First part of unamended Article 31C remains in force, rules SC

New Delhi, Nov 5 (IANS) The Supreme Court on Tuesday ruled that Article 31C of the Constitution, to the extent it was upheld in the landmark Keshavananda Bharati case, remains in force. A seven-judge Constitution Bench, after perusal of several judgments delivered in the past, held that first part of the unamended Article 31C was constitutional and continued to remain in force. The Constitution Bench, also comprising Justices Hrishikesh Roy, BV Nagarathna, Sudhanshu Dhulia, JB Pardiwala, Manoj Misra, Rajesh Binal, SC Sharma and AG Masih, was dealing with questions as to whether the term "material resources of the community" in Article 39(b) include privately owned property and whether laws intended to achieve this provision's objective of redistributing material resources for the "common good" be exempted from legal challenges based on violations of fundamental rights.

ISRO to launch EU's Proba-3 Sun observation mission : Dr Singh

New Delhi, Nov 5 (IANS) The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to launch the European Union's Proba 3 Sun Observation Mission in December, said Dr Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, on Tuesday. Speaking to IANS on the sidelines of the Indian Space Conclave 3.0 in New Delhi, he said the space scientists from India will partner with those in Europe to unravel the

mysteries of the Sun. Proba-3, which aims to study the Sun's faint corona closer to the solar rim, will be launched on the PSLV-XL rocket, operated by the ISRO.

"The European Union's large orbiter Proba 3, which will observe the Sun, will go to space from Sriharikota in December," Singh said.

"Space scientists from ISRO and the European Union are going to jointly observe the Sun's atmosphere," he added. Proba-

3 mission includes two satellites that will work together to create a 144-metre-long instrument known as a solar coronagraph.

This will help scientists to study the Sun's corona which is difficult to observe due to the brightness of the solar disk. The 'world's first precision formation flying mission' will enable scientists to study the Sun's elusive corona with unprecedented proximity and detail.

Meanwhile, Singh said the space sector that was "kept under wraps for 60-70 years," has now been opened to the public sector with the 2023 New Space policy, leading to a significant boom in the

industry. He also listed out the ambitious goal of establishing the Indian space station Bharatiya Antariksha Station (BAS) by 2035, and landing the first Indian on the Moon by 2040. Addressing the Indian Space Conclave 3.0, the Minister highlighted that almost every sector in the country is using space technology.

He also added that space technology also fosters the creation of smart cities by providing navigation, satellite imaging, and terrain mapping among others. He also underscored India's vision to increase its contribution to the global space economy from 2 per cent to 10 per cent in the coming years.



SRINAGAR, Jammu and Kashmir CM Omar Abdullah speaking in the Legislative Assembly on the second day in Srinagar on Tuesday. UNI

Man hacked to death by nephew in Bengal

Kolkata, Nov 5 (IANS) Tension is prevailing at Raidighi in West Bengal's South 24 Parganas district after a person was hacked to death by his nephew at a busy market place on Tuesday morning, police said. The deceased has been identified as Sheikh Bahadur, 45, and the accused is his nephew Shahadat Sheikh. The assailant is absconding and the police have started the process of tracking and nabbing him. As per statements given by the family members of the victim as well as the local people, a family feud was the reason behind the brutal killing. The local people have informed the investigating officials that the feud between the uncle and nephew started over a recent theft at the residence of Shahadat Sheikh, for which he had held his uncle responsible. According to the neighbours, since that time, there had been frequent quarrels between the two though no one imagined that the feud would result in such a gruesome end. Eyewitnesses told the investigating officials that on Tuesday morning, Bahadur went to a tea stall located at a local market there. Suddenly, Shahadat arrived at the place with some of his associates and picked up a quarrel with his uncle. Soon the verbal spat between the two turned to scuffling and soon after, the nephew dragged out a sharp weapon and hacked his uncle to death. After that, he escaped from the spot with his associates.

Chhath Puja, a festival deeply rooted in folk faith

Patna, Nov 5 (IANS) Chhath Puja, a unique and deeply spiritual festival celebrated with immense devotion, primarily in Bihar, Jharkhand, and parts of Uttar Pradesh, as well as in Nepal's Mithila region, began on Tuesday.

The festival, which honours Surya (the Sun God) and Chhathi Maiya (His sister), is observed over four days and includes a series of elaborate rituals that symbolise purification, gratitude, and dedication. The first day, known as Nahai Khai, marks the beginning of the

Chhath rituals. Devotees, called Chhathvratris, start the day by bathing in rivers or ponds to purify themselves.

They then wear new clothes and prepare a simple meal that usually includes bottle gourd (kad-du), gram pulse (chana dal), and rice. This combination of 'satvik' (pure, unadulterated) food, devoid of any spices other than rock salt, is believed to cleanse the mind and bring positivity into the lives of the devotees. Eating this prasad is an essential ritual, signifying

purity, discipline, and a fresh start. Following this, the Chhathvratris take a vow to fast strictly for the next three days, during which they must observe rigorous discipline, including abstaining from certain foods, adhering to prescribed standards of cleanliness, and dedicating themselves fully to the worship of the Sun God.

The entire family also participates in these customs, reinforcing familial bonds and unity. Chhath songs, sung in reverence to Chhathi Maiya, add a soulful touch to the festi-

val, carrying forward the folk traditions and devotions that have been passed down through generations. The colours yellow and red have special significance during the festival, symbolising purity and devotion. Although other colours can be worn, yellow and red are preferred for their cultural and spiritual symbolism.

The Chhath festival is marked by its intense and disciplined rituals, which reflect the profound dedication of Chhathvratris to the Sun God and Chhathi Maiya. This festival is

known for its strict fasting rules, as Chhathvratris abstain from water and food for about 36 hours, a challenging practice that devotees approach with faith and conviction. Remarkably, many who observe this rigorous fast say that it is manageable and not burdensome, emphasising the power of devotion in their endurance. On the first day of Chhath (Nahay Khay) cooking is done on a traditional wood-burning stove, fueled specifically by mango wood, a modern kitchen stove is generally avoided.

Maha polls: Nawab Malik locks horns with Abu Azmi for Mankhurd Shivaji Nagar seat

Mumbai, Nov 5 (IANS) As Maharashtra gears up for the Assembly elections, the contest for the Mankhurd Shivaji Nagar constituency has intensified. The Ajit Pawar-led Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) has fielded Nawab Malik from the seat, sparking resistance from the BJP, the bigger alliance partner in Mahayuti, over his purported ties with underworld don Dawood Ibrahim.

NCP chose to overlook BJP's opposition in announcing Nawab Malik as its candidate from Mankhurd Shivaji Nagar, following which the latter

placed its bet on Suresh Krishna Patil aka 'Bullet Patil' as an official candidate of Mahayuti. On the other hand, the Maha Vikas Agahi (MVA) comprising Shiv Sena (UBT), Congress and NCP (SS) has put forth Rajendra Waghmare as its candidate. Mankhurd Shivaji Nagar has joined the list of most-talked-about constituencies in Maharashtra Assembly elections, because of its multi-cornered contest.

All eyes are on whether the splitting of votes will impair incumbent MLA Abu Azmi's chances or will become a defining exam-

ple of differences between the Mahayuti partners. Abu Asim Azmi, a veteran Samajwadi Party (SP) leader has been representing this seat since 2009. Both Nawab Malik and Abu Azmi spoke to IANS and reasoned why they have better chances of outperforming the other. Nawab Malik voiced confidence over his victory, despite objections from the BJP and Shiv Sena. "When I filed my nomination, around 15,000 people showed up in support.

Shiv Sena and BJP only gained 28,000 votes in the Lok Sabha, which isn't enough to secure a

win," Malik told IANS. He further said that the "BJP and Shiv Sena do not stand a chance" in front of him and pointed to SP's Azmi as his primary opponent, alleging that Azmi sought to block his candidacy. "SP leaders tried to sway BJP and Shiv Sena to keep me away from running for elections, but Ajit Pawar supported me, knowing that I am here to fight for public interests. This election is about change -- fighting against drugs and improving education," Malik stated, adding that he believes the public is ready for a transformation.

EAM Jaishankar confident of growing India-US ties regardless of election outcome

Canberra, Nov 5 (IANS) External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar expressed confidence on Tuesday that India-US relations would continue to grow steadily, regardless of the outcome of the US Presidential elections.

Speaking at a joint press conference with Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong at Parliament House in Canberra, EAM Jaishankar also credited former US President Donald Trump with reviving the QUAD alliance in 2017, marking a significant development in Indo-Pacific cooperation.

"We have seen steady progress in our relationship with the US over the last five presidencies, including a previous Trump presidency," Jaishankar remarked in response to a question on how India-US ties may evolve after the elections.

"So, when we look at the American election, we are confident that, regardless of the outcome, our relationship with the US will continue to grow," he added. Highlighting the evolution of the QUAD -- a strategic alliance among the US, India, Japan, and Australia -- EAM Jaishankar noted, "I remind you that the Quad was actually revived under the Trump presidency in 2017." "I was

then elevated from the level of a Permanent Secretary to a ministerial level, also during the Trump presidency.

Interestingly, in the midst of COVID, when most physical meetings had stopped, one of the rare in-person meetings of foreign ministers was of the QUAD in Tokyo in 2020. That, I think, speaks about the strong prospects of the QUAD," he added. The outcome of the 2024 US Presidential election could be announced

as early as Wednesday morning, though delays are possible, with results sometimes taking days, weeks, or even a month to finalise.

On the eve of election day, over 78 million Americans had already cast their ballots as candidates Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump rallied in seven battleground states for closing remarks. The US Presidential race is determined by electoral college votes

rather than the national vote total, requiring at least 270 of the 538 electoral votes to secure a win.

Each state's electoral votes reflect its members in the US House of Representatives plus two Senate seats, ensuring proportional representation. Early voting remains active, with more than 55 million registered voters having already cast their ballots in person or by mail. Meanwhile, EAM Jaishankar, currently on a two-nation tour, will be in Australia until November 7 and will visit Singapore on November 8.

Lalu slams Nitish for his 'feet touching' habit

Patna, Nov 5 (IANS) RJD chief Lalu Prasad Yadav on Tuesday criticised Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for publicly touching the feet of BJP veteran leader R.K. Sinha during the Chitragupta Puja. "He has a habit of touching the feet of the people," said Lalu Prasad Yadav. Nitish Kumar has previously also touched the feet of Prime Minister Narendra Modi on multiple occasions while also making "pleading gestures" with the high police officials over recruitment in the police department. During the NDA parties meeting held in Delhi on 7 June 2024, where Prime Minister Modi praised Kumar for his return to the National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

In a moment of gratitude, Nitish Kumar bowed down and attempted to touch PM Modi's feet, a gesture that the Prime Minister graciously intercepted, accepting the greeting warmly. On 10 July 2024, during an inauguration event for the JP Ganga Path road segment from Gayaghat to Kangan Ghat in Patna, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had an unusual moment with his officer.



Grain Market in Madhupur and Chokha Bazaar in Ahmedabad closed for Diwali vacation.

(Photo : Jayesh Modi)

From Editor's Desk



US election: South Asian community emerges key factor in swing states

New York, Nov 4 (IANS) A South Asian group has organised an event to persuade voters on behalf of Vice President Kamala Harris while capitalising on Indian Americans' high-level support for the Vice President.

South Asians for Harris (SAH), in its election-eve high-power campaign for Harris, organised a "mega" canvass in Pennsylvania on Saturday, bringing in volunteers from New York, New Jersey and Washington.

During the campaign, SAH organised phone banks and text banks – volunteers calling or texting voters – to canvass for Harris in seven states, the group said.

Before Saturday, when it launched its big push, it said that its volunteers had made 30,000 calls to voters in key states and sent 250,000 texts.

In addition, it said that its volunteers had gone door-to-door in the swing states, which can determine the winner and reached 10,000 households.

A poll of Indian Americans conducted by Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote (APIAV) showed that 69 per cent of Indian Americans support Harris, while another by Indian American Impact (IAI) of South Asians in the seven swing states that have inordinate power of determining the winner showed 68 per cent support for.

SAH brought Indian American star power for its campaign, "Why Kamala", producing 12 short videos featuring Reshma Shetty, who acted in "Royal Pains" and the Broadway show "Bombay Dreams"; Tiya Sircar, actor in "Star Wars Rebels" and "The Good Place", and Vasant and Champa Patel from "Meet the Patels".

SAH also held a "Diwali Rally" to canvass voters for Ashwin Ramaswami, who is running for the Georgia state senate.

SAH describes itself as an all-volunteer organisation that mobilises the South Asian community for the Vice President.

It produces a series of voter information decks for many of the US states with information about voter registration and voting.





Glimpses of the Kaveri Meets Ganga presented by Amrit Parampara at Kartavya Path, in New Delhi on November 04, 2024. The Union Minister of Culture and Tourism, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat graced the event.

Kandhamal mango kernel deaths: Odisha minister meets ailing women at hospital

Bhubaneswar, Nov 5 (IANS) Odisha Health and Family Welfare Minister Mukesh Mahaling on Monday paid a visit to the SCB Medical College and Hospital in Cuttack and enquired about the health condition of the two ailing tribal women who along a few others fell ill recently after consuming mango kernel porridge at Madipanka village in Daringbadi area of Kandhamal district.

It is pertinent here to mention that following the deterioration in their health condition, the two women were shifted from MKCG Medical college and Hospital in Berhampur to the SCB hospital for advanced treatment.

The health minister informed the media persons that two women have been undergoing treatment in the Intensive Care Unit of the SCB hospital and their health condition is stable now.

As per the minister, a team of doctors under the leadership of Dr Jayant Panda has been constituted for the treatment of the two ladies.

"The doctors' team as well as the state government has been closely monitoring the health conditions of the two women. We will continue our efforts giving them the necessary treatment till they get cured and return to their homes," said Mahaling



also noted that the consumption of mango kernel is a traditional food in the area.

Notably, eight persons fell seriously ill after consuming mango kernel porridge and rice in Madipanka village in Daringbadi area of Kandhamal district on October 29. All the sick persons were later admitted to the Community Health Center at Brahmanigaon where a lady succumbed the next day on October 30.

The doctors later refer the rest seven sick persons to the MKCG medical college and hospital at Berhampur in Ganjam district.

On the basis of primary inquiry, the state government on Saturday clarified that food poisoning was the actual cause behind the unfortunate deaths.

Meanwhile, the opposition continues to target the state government over the issue. The party alleged that the unfortunate deaths of the two women exposed the failed public distribution system in the state.

'Ready to go to jail if Ladki Bahin Scheme is crime': CM Shinde

Kalyan, Nov 5 (IANS) Maharashtra Chief Minister and Shiv Sena President Eknath Shinde has slammed the opposition for moving court against the 'Ladki Bahin Yojana' and said that if the scheme was a crime, he was ready to go to jail.

"I am ready to go to jail for the Ladki Bahin (beloved sisters)," he said after the inauguration of the office of the party nominee Vishwanath Bhoir from Kalyan West late Monday night. The Chief Minister asked the women voters to support Shiv Sena and the MahaYuti for defeating the Maha Vikas Aghadi, which has been pressing for discontinuing the Ladki Bahin Yojana.

"Dear sisters will get Rs 1,500 every month under the Ladki Bahin Yojana. The opposition has been consistently advocating the closure of the Ladki Bahin Yojana. If they (the opposition) approach you (women voters) during the poll campaign, ask them why they are opposing the Ladki Bahin Yojana," CM Shinde said. Further, the Chief Minister called upon the women to grill the opposition asking them why they went to court to stop the scheme. "This is the government of the common man."

Over Rs 1.1 lakh cr spent in free hospitalisation under PM-JAY since 2018: Centre

New Delhi, Nov 5 (IANS) More than Rs. 1.1 lakh crore has been spent in providing free hospitalisation under the flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) since its inception in 2018, according to the government data.

The official data showed that more than 79 million individuals have benefited from the PM-JAY scheme that provides an annual health cover of Rs. 5 lakh. It has significantly enhanced healthcare accessibility for India's most vulnerable populations.

"The scheme was made available for 107 million poor households in the country from September 2018, covering the bottom of 40 per cent population," as per the data.

Launched in September 2018, AB PM-JAY has seamlessly integrated comprehensive care across primary, secondary, and tertiary levels to provide universal health coverage, particularly for rural and vulnerable populations.

The landmark health initiative addresses immediate health needs and also emphasises preventive care and health promotion, making healthcare more accessible and equitable.

PM-JAY has been key in reducing out-of-pocket healthcare expenditures of households. Before the launch of the scheme, about 62 per cent of healthcare costs were paid directly by individuals -- a burden that drove many into financial hardship. Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Gujarat are the states with the highest number of beneficiaries, the data showed.

PMJAY provides cashless treatment to nearly 2,000 procedures. The scheme covers all the costs related to treatment, medicines, supplies, diagnostic services, physician's fees, room charges, surgeon charges, OT and ICU charges, etc. General medicine, infectious diseases, general surgery, medical oncology, ophthalmology, and orthopaedics are the top specialty care treatments availed by beneficiaries to date. Haemodialysis, screening for Covid-19, and acute febrile illness are the other procedures availed by the people.

How kidney problems raise risk of strokes

New Delhi, Nov 5 (IANS) Metabolic risk factors such as hypertension, high blood sugar, obesity, and abnormal cholesterol are the major conditions that are linked to kidney problems, and worsen the risk of strokes in patients with kidney disease, said experts on Monday.

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) is independently known to exacerbate the risk of stroke. A recent study published in the European Heart Journal showed that people with kidney failure are many times more likely to have a heart attack or stroke. They also have a higher risk of dying as a result, the study showed.

"Patients with reduced glomerular filtration rates (indicating kidneys are not filtering waste properly) face a 40 per cent higher likelihood of experiencing a stroke. In addition, proteinuria (excess protein in the urine), a common feature of CKD, can raise stroke risk by approximately 70 per cent," Dr PN Renjen, Senior Consultant, Neurology, Indraprastha Apollo Hospitals, told IANS.

Renjen said that the interrelationship between CKD, metabolic syndrome (MetS), and stroke is significant and complex. MetS, characterised by obesity, hypertension, dyslipidemia, and insulin resistance, is a major risk factor for CKD and cardiovascular diseases, including stroke. Studies indicate that individuals with MetS have a 50 per cent higher risk of developing CKD compared to those without it. "The mechanisms linking these conditions include oxidative stress, inflammation, and endothelial dysfunction, which adversely affect kidney function and increase stroke risk," Renjen explained. Dr. Darshan Doshi, Consultant Neurology, P. D. Hinduja Hospital and Medical Research Centre, told IANS that chronic inflammation, insulin resistance, and vascular damage establish the link between stroke and metabolic syndrome. "Individuals with metabolic syndrome often face increased stroke risk, and this is compounded in those with chronic kidney disease, particularly patients on dialysis, who are more prone to both ischemic and hemorrhagic strokes," Doshi said.

PGI Chandigarh does organ retrieval for life-saving transplant

Chandigarh, Nov 5 (IANS) In an act of generosity and commitment, the family of a 23-year-old man who tragically sustained serious injuries and despite efforts by treating doctors at AIIMS Jodhpur could not be saved and was declared brain dead on November 2 at AIIMS Jodhpur.

His brave heart family consented to donate his organs after he was declared brain-dead. Since there was no matching recipient for the kidneys and pancreas locally, ROTTO North allocated these organs to PGIMER Chandigarh for a simultaneous pancreas-kidney transplant and assigned the second kidney to ILBS New Delhi.

The liver was successfully transplanted for a matching recipient at AIIMS Jodhpur.

Led by Dr Ashish Sharma, Professor and Head, of the Department of Renal Transplant Surgery, PGI, his team undertook a challenging journey to make this mission possible. Overcoming logistical hurdles, the team travelled by road overnight to Delhi, catching a 6.45 am flight to Jodhpur on November 3.

After the successful retrieval of the organs, the team handed over one kidney to the ILBS Hospital team at the Delhi airport while en route to Chandigarh. They returned on the 3 pm flight on Sunday reaching the PGIMER at 7.05 pm through a green corridor, from the international airport to the PGIMER and prepared to perform the simultaneous pancreas-kidney transplant.

This mission made possible by the selfless donor family and the well-coordinated efforts of AIIMS

9 rewarding ways to use Amazon Pay this Great Indian Festival to maximize your last-minute savings

Mumbai, With the festival season at its peak, many of us find ourselves rushing to finalize last-minute purchases—whether for gifts, travel, or festive essentials. Fortunately, Amazon Pay is here to make these last-minute transactions seamless, affordable, and highly rewarding. Whether you're booking a quick getaway, buying digital gold for Dhanteras, or sending money to loved ones, Amazon Pay offers cashback, discounts, and bumper rewards across various categories. Here's how you can make the most of Amazon Pay this festive season and ensure you don't miss out on any savings:

- Travel with attractive discounts:** Need to plan a quick getaway before the festivities end? Amazon Pay offers exclusive travel deals this festive season to make your last-minute travels even more memorable. Whether visiting family or taking a break, use Amazon Pay and save up to 12% on flight bookings and up to 55% on hotel bookings. What's more, from exclusive discounts to worry-free cancellations, customers can get a full refund on train tickets at a nominal fee.
- Big savings on digital gold:** Still searching for the perfect Dhanteras gift? For Prime customers, Amazon Pay opens doors to even more offers.
- Amazing offers across apps:** such as Uber, Swiggy, Zomato: From ordering food to hailing a cab, Amazon Pay UPI offers exciting rewards across popular platforms such as Uber, Swiggy, Zomato, and Blinkit. Earn up to Rs. 1,500 in offers across these platforms by choosing Amazon Pay UPI for payments.
- Top up your Amazon Pay balance to unlock more cashback offers:** As the festivities come to a close, every rupee saved counts. Get up to Rs. 100 cashback on a minimum order of Rs. 1,000 when paying via Amazon Pay UPI. The savings don't stop there. Get an additional Rs. 100 back when you top up your Amazon Pay balance with Rs. 1000 using Amazon Pay UPI.
- Exclusive rewards for Amazon Pay Later users:** Looking to make large purchases without upfront payments? Through Amazon Pay Later you can avail instant credit up to Rs. 60,000 (subject to eligibility) and shopping rewards worth Rs. 600. Plus, with no-cost EMI options on select cards, last-minute shopping is both convenient and rewarding. Make festive purchases without worrying about your budget, thanks to flexible payment plans.
- Festive benefits for Prime**

18,000 villages covered, natural farming in focus: Gujarat Vidyapith holds mega footmarch

Ahmedabad, Seventeen years ago, when Gujarat Vidyapith in Ahmedabad launched a footmarch of students and faculty members, titled 'Gramjivan Padyatra', only four villages were covered. This year, however, as the century-old varsity held the padyatra after a gap of two years, it spanned across all 18,000 villages of Gujarat.

Another difference this year was the theme — natural farming, a deviation from the usual themes of literacy and de-addiction. More than 1,800 students and faculty members who embarked on the padyatra returned with some requests from farmers — developing a market for natural farming products, modifications in insurance schemes, and validation and certification processes for natural farming products. The observations are set to be documented in a report.

The footmarch — which also witnessed a roadshow — was held under the guidance of Gujarat Governor Acharya Devvrat, who is also the Chancellor of the University. Even as most farmers are aware of natural farming and its benefits, they are reluctant to switch, fearing low produce, according to the students and faculty members.

Sharing his experiences, Jaydeep Rao, a second-year MBA student of



rural management, told reporter, "In the villages we covered, locals know natural farming better than us but still resort to the use of chemicals too to some extent. Their concern is less produce with natural farming while it is more labour intensive."

The padyatra, which has been held since 2007, has previously seen students and teachers visiting few villages in four days to experience rural life as well as spread awareness on literacy, de-addiction, and cleanliness, among other principles of Mahatma Gandhi. The varsity was established by Gandhi in 1920, and to date, it follows Gandhian values of spinning charkha among others. "Many farmers suggested they see growth if

natural farming can be associated with a co-operative sector like dairies in villages. They asked how to differentiate their natural farming products which they wanted a market for," Rao said, adding that participation in the padyatra turned into a lifetime memory for him.

Several obstacles to natural farming were also observed by the students. In villages around Balasir, locals do not have cattle — a necessity for natural farming. A majority of youth here have left their homes in search of better opportunities, leaving behind the elderly.

However, in villages around Virpur, most families are dependent on cattle and dairy produce to earn their livelihoods. There are not many into farming. "There are no

roads in interior most tribal areas where the farmers are using chemical-based fertilizers despite having 60-70 cattle with one family," said Vanshita Amin from Ahmedabad who was a part of an all-female group of 17. The group was led by a faculty member, and covered 150 villages majorly in tribal areas in three days.

She added, "In Sant rampur area, local tribals have cattle for natural farming but if the neighbouring farmer is using chemical fertilisers and have a higher produce, they also follow the same. They are aware of natural farming but not using fearing low produce, thus acceptance levels are low." Listing the differences this year, Professor Ajay Parikh from the Computer Science department told reporter, "This

year, the model was entirely different. From the format to the message — this year's padyatra was completely focussed on natural farming, unlike previous themes of de-addiction and literacy."

Talking about the experiences shared by the farmers he met in Kutch, Professor Parikh said, "Many farmers are tired of using pesticides and chemicals as this cost continues to increase every year to achieve higher produce. They want to get out of this cycle but are confused. Among policy decisions, they want better insurance coverage for natural farming products as well as a defined market for certified and validated products." However, there are success stories too as several of them are already using natural farming, he added.

"Students and faculty members' experiences are being documented in the form of a report to help achieve the objectives of padyatra themed on natural farming," Gujarat Vidyapith Vice Chancellor Harshad Patel told reporter. This year, students not only shared theoretical knowledge of natural farming but also had hands-on experience before they ventured out on the padyatra. A training programme for students and staff members has been chalked out by Vidyapith's Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Randheja in Gandhinagar.



Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel participated in the Gau Goshthi ceremony at Shri Sarveswar Gaudham, Kobadi in Bhavnagar district. The Chief Minister said on this occasion that Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi started the Animal Health Fair by worrying about the health of animals. Expressing the state government's commitment to protect life, he outlined the operations of animal hospitals including treatment, diagnosis and vaccination of animals.

Ujmabanu from Bodeli is thrilled about getting a government job that ensures her family's future

Vadodara, Khatri Ujmabanu Javed Bhai from Bodeli has been appointed as the Branch Post Master of the Modas-er Branch. She is thrilled to receive the appointment letter, as it ensures her and her family's future. She is also motivated to inspire girls from her community and tribal area to pursue their dreams. She expressed her gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Postal Department for helping her secure her dream job and an opportunity to serve the people of her area. Ujmabanu Khatri is among the young recruits who received their appointment letters at the first Rozgar Mela of the financial year 2024-25 held

at the Postal Training Centre in Vadodara. Her mother is into tailoring, and her father runs a provision store. She has worked in both the private and gov-

a teacher in a government school, and this is her first government job. She hails from a tribal area and wants to break the taboo related to girls.

"I often see girls from the tribal area and in my community stop learning after the 12th grade and do not get into doing jobs due to family and social issues. I want to break that taboo and set an example for other girls to move ahead in their fields and make contribution in development of their city, state, and country. This job is very important to me as it provides security for me and my family. I thank our honorable Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the postal department for this job, and I promise to reach every person in my area to create awareness about government schemes," said Ujmabanu Khatri.



Yamal Vyas appointed chief of Gujarat's 4th Finance Commission

Ahmedabad, Senior BJP leader Yamal Vyas has been appointed the chairman of the fourth State Finance Commission of Gujarat. A notification in this regard was issued by the state government on Tuesday.

A chartered accountant and company secretary by profession, Vyas is a veteran BJP leader who has functioned in different roles in the party and is currently the chief spokesperson of Gujarat BJP. He was also the member of the third state Finance Commission, under the chairmanship of Dr Bharat Gariwala between 2011 and 2015.

The notification reads, "In pursuance of the provision of article 243-I, 243-Y of the Constitution of India read with section 226 of the Gujarat Panchayat Act, 1993, the Governor of Gujarat is pleased to constitute the fourth State Finance Commission under the chairmanship Yamal Vyas."

The notification added that further orders regarding the detailed terms of reference, the term and condition of appointment of the chairman and the period for which he will hold office will be issued hereafter.

Party sources termed the appointment as a 'well deserved one' for Vyas, while adding that it will suit his interest and expertise.

3.4 magnitude tremor hits Kutch in Gujarat; no casualty

Ahmedabad, A tremor of 3.4 magnitude was experienced in Gujarat's Kutch district early on Sunday, the Institute of Seismological Research (ISR) said. No casualty or loss of property was reported in the district due to the seismic activity, officials said.

The tremor was recorded at 3.58 am with its epicentre located 53 km north-north east of Lakhpat, the Gandhinagar-based ISR said.

Earlier on October 27, Amreli district in Saurashtra region of the state recorded a tremor of 3.7 magnitude, as per the ISR data.

Tremor and earthquake risks are very high in Gujarat. The state has suffered nine major earthquakes in the past 200 years, as per information provided by the Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority (GSDMA).

The 2001 Kutch earthquake was the third largest and second most destructive earthquake in India over the last two centuries, it said.

On January 26, 2001, Gujarat was struck by an earthquake of 6.9 magnitude with its epicentre near Bhachau in Kutch which affected the entire state. The quake left nearly 13,800 persons killed and another 1.67 lakh injured, according to the GSDMA data.

8-foot crocodile rescued from creek near Surat village

Surat, Volunteers from Surat-based NGO Nature Club rescued an 8.3-foot-long crocodile from a creek on the outskirts of a village in Olpad taluka, and handed it over to forest department officials. It was released into a river two days after it was spotted. This year, Nature Club, which works to rescue wildlife, received five calls related to crocodile sightings within the Surat boundaries of the Tapi river. On Wednesday evening, the club received a call about a crocodile spotted in shrimp ponds on the border of the Dhabhari and Lavachha villages.

Acting on the emergency call, a team of 10 volunteers reached the spot and carried out a search operation of four-five hours, but despite clearing a few ponds and spotting traces of the crocodile on the banks, it took them until another call on Thursday evening to find the animal.

A couple of hours after they reached the spot for a second time, the volunteers caught the crocodile in a fishing net. They handed it over to forest officials of Olpad division for further processing late on Thursday night. On Friday, the crocodile was taken to Vadodara where it was released in a river. Speaking to reporter, Nature Club volunteer Kaushik Patel said, "The sweet water crocodile is 8.3 feet long. It was female, weighing 105 kg.. We receive regular calls from people about sighting crocodiles."

Police officer dies while trying to apprehend bootleggers

Surendranagar, A sub-inspector with the Gujarat Police died in a road accident while trying to intercept a vehicle allegedly transporting illegal liquor in Surendranagar district early on Tuesday.

The officer identified as Javed M Pathan, posted with the State Monitoring Cell (SMC), was critically injured after he got stuck in between a police vehicle chasing the bootleggers whose vehicle broke the police barricade on the road between Kathada village and Dasada town around 2.30 am. The SMC had posted a team comprising Pathan and others to apprehend the bootleggers.

According to DySP KT Kamariya, the SMC team had set up the barricade and was awaiting the vehicle (a Creta car) in which the bootleggers were transporting the liquor. The team saw the Creta approaching, overtaking a trailer and both vehicles attempted to break through the police barricade, he said.

"At that time, Pathan, who was attempting to stop the vehicles, suddenly noticed that another car belonging to the State Monitoring Cell was chasing the two vehicles at full speed. The police team attempted to get out of the way but PSI Pathan got stuck in between the SMC car and the trailer. The PSI hit his head on the trailer and received critical injuries," Kamariya said.



Sub Inspector Pathan was rushed to the Primary Health Centre (PHC) at Dasada and then shifted to the Sub-District Hospital at Viramgam in Ahmedabad district. However, he was declared dead by the doctors there. A case has been filed at Dasada police station.

DIG Nirlipt Rai, who heads the SMC, said that the post-mortem of Javed

Pathan has been completed, and the body will be taken for the last rites.

AMC outlines ambitious projects to enhance amenities and public spaces

Ahmedabad, Amdavadi, get ready for a slew of new amenities and facilities in the coming year! The Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation (AMC) has planned several projects aimed at improving infrastructure, adding amenities, and creating more recreational and public spaces.

One of the key projects focuses on developing riverside facilities between Nehru Bridge and Ellisbridge in the western part of the city. The existing road between the two bridges will be upgraded to include a food court, open seating, and a pedestrian pathway. Additionally, a new underground road connecting the two bridges will be constructed. The final master plan is being prepared, and the project cost is estimated to be Rs 77 crore.

Another project slated for next year is the beautification and development of six key roads, with a focus on streetscape enhancement.



The total length of the roads to be developed is 6,680 km. In the first phase, Law Garden and C G Road will be developed as precinct roads at a cost of Rs 105

crore. These developments will help streamline traffic flow and provide dedicated footpaths for pedestrians. Roadside plantation will further enhance the beauty of these thoroughfares.

Law Garden will also undergo a transformation

with a separate marketplace, public plaza, and designated space for street vendors, preserving the area's unique identity. Parking spaces and children's play areas will also be incorporated.

Municipal Commissioner M Thennarsan said that the AMC is committed to improving civic facilities and providing more recreational and entertainment options for residents. With the ongoing Riverfront development and other projects like City Square, citizens will have a variety of places to relax and enjoy themselves. The aim is to provide Ahmedabad with international-standard facilities and place it among the best cities in the country. 6 roads identified for development: NCC Chowk to Subhadrapura Junction Road, Mt Carmel to Jalamram Underpass, GICEA to Panchvati Circle, Mithakhali Crossroads to Vagh Bakri Tea Lounge, Mt Carmel to Commerce Six Roads, Virchand Gandhi Chowk to Mithakhali Circle

Indian Railways Have Trasported Almost 54 Lakh Passengers To Their Destination During The Ongoing Festive Season

Festival Special trains being run by WR to various destinations, including special trains towards the states of UP & Bihar

Ahmedabad, On November 4th, 2024, WR ran 22 special trains while on 5th November, 2024, 15 special trains will be run for the convenience of passengers

To cater to Passengers demand, Indian Railways operates special trains during this festive season. This year, around 7,500 special trains are being run by Indian Railways, whereas last year 4,500 Special trains were run. On 3rd November 2024, Indian Railways ran more than 188 special trains, while on 4th November 2024, 185 special trains were run.

According to a press release issued by Shri Vineet Abhishek – Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, for the convenience of passengers and with a view to meet the travel demand, this year Western Railway is running almost 340 Special trains during the festive season to various destinations including trains to

Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal & Orissa. These special trains are operated in addition to the regular trains run to these destinations from WR. Additional coaches are also being augmented in regular trains as per availability and demand.

On November 4th, 2024, WR ran 22 special trains while on 5th, November, 2024, 15 special trains will be run for the convenience of passengers

Details of trains running from Western Railway on 5th November 2024:

FROM MUMBAI:

- Train No. 09003 Mumbai Central - Delhi Special departing from Mumbai Central at 10.30 hrs.
- Train No. 09043 Bandra Terminus - Gorakhpur Special departing from Bandra Terminus at 00.05 hrs.
- Train no. 09055 Bandra Terminus - Udhna Special departing from Bandra Terminus at 09.50 hrs.
- Train No. 04126 Bandra Terminus - Subdarganj Special departing from Bandra Terminus at

11.15 hrs.

- Train No. 04810 Bandra Terminus - Jodhpur Special departing from Bandra Terminus at 20.00 hrs.

FROM SURAT/ UDHNA/ VAPI/ VALSAD:

- Train No. 08472 Udhna - Puri special departing from Udhna at 17.00 hrs.
- Train No. 09063 Vapi - Danapur Special departing from Vapi at 22.00 hrs.
- Train No. 03418 Udhna - Malda Town Special departing from Udhna at 23.50 hrs.
- Train No. 09056 Udhna - Bandra Terminus Special departing from Udhna at 16.15 hrs.

FROM BHAVNAGAR:

- Train No. 09022 Bhavnagar - Udhna Special departing from Bhavnagar at 19.00 hrs.

FROM RAJOKOT:

- Train No. 09523 Okha - Delhi Sarai Rohilla Special departing from Okha at 10.00 hrs.

FROM AHMEDABAD:

- Train No. 01096 Ahmedabad - Kanpur Central Special departing from Ahmedabad at 14.10 hrs.
- Train No. 09413

Ahmedabad - Barauni Special departing from Ahmedabad at 16.35 hrs.

- Train No. 09403 Ahmedabad - Banaras Special departing from Ahmedabad at 22.40 hrs.
- Train No. 09405 Sabarmati - Patna Special departing from Sabarmati at 18.10 hrs.

Shri Vineet further informed that to ensure smooth travel and to monitor punctuality of trains, special control rooms have been set up at all levels i.e. Railway Board, Zonal, Divisional and station levels. All efforts are taken to provide wide publicity of special trains & to ensure proper dissemination of the information to the public. Regular Tweets, Social Media posts, Newspaper publicity are being done to keep passengers informed about additional train services. Moreover, Ticket Checking staff, RPF & GRP staff are guiding passengers through the Public Announcement System. Also, Western Railway has taken several precautionary measures and various elaborate arrangements have been made for proper implementation of crowd management at the stations.

WESTERN RAILWAY CELEBRATES 74th FOUNDATION DAY

Ahmedabad, Western Railway celebrates and observes its 74th Foundation Day on 5th November, 2024. Since its humble beginning, the railway has had several milestones in its 70+ years of journey in service to the nation. On the eve of the 74th Foundation Day, Shri Ashok Kumar Misra – General Manager of Western Railway released a commemorative coin with the imprint of Western Railway's Headquarters Building, which is celebrating its completion of 125 years. Shri Misra also congratulated all officers and employees across its six divisions for their dedication towards their work and the bountiful achievements made by Western Railway over all these years.

According to a press release issued by Shri Vineet Abhishek, Chief Public Relations Officer of Western Railway, the Bombay, Baroda and Central India Railway (BB&CI) was incorporated in 1855, starting with the construction of 29-mile broad gauge track from Anklesh-

war to Utran in Gujarat state on the West Coast with Surat as its headquarters then. Later that year on 21st November, 1855



GM/WR Shri Ashok Kumar Misra is seen releasing the Souvenir Coin on the eve of Western Railway's 74th Foundation Day at WR Headquarters at Churchgate.

the Company concluded an agreement with the East India Company to construct a railway line from Surat to Baroda and Ahmedabad.

94,000 children vaccinated in polio campaign in Gaza

United Nations, Nov 5 (IANS) The UN-supported third phase of the polio vaccine campaign concluded in the besieged northern Gaza Strip, with 94,000 children vaccinated, but thousands still remain out of reach, according to UN agencies.

Nearly 79 per cent of children in northern Gaza have been vaccinated against polio, the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) said on social media on Monday. The third phase of the vaccine campaign, which had been postponed since October 23 due to the escalating conflict, resumed on Saturday to Monday during agreed-upon humanitarian pauses, reports Xinhua news agency.

Early Saturday morning, 216 medical teams, supported by the Palestinian Ministry of Health, the World Health Organization (WHO), the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), UNRWA, and partners, deployed across 106 fixed sites in the north. In addition, more than 200 social mobilisers engaged communities and raised awareness around vaccination efforts, according to UN agencies. Richard Peeperkorn, a WHO official, said the target was to reach all children in the north with the second and final dose.

"We covered many more children than we expected, but we missed some," he said at a briefing via video for reporters at UN headquarters on Monday, adding that constant evacuation orders from Israel had recently displaced thousands of people.



NEW HAMPSHIRE, A moderator counts ballots for the U.S. presidential election in Dixville Notch, New Hampshire, the United States, Nov. 5, 2024. Voters in Dixville Notch, New Hampshire, went to the polls early Tuesday morning, marking the official start of Election Day voting for the 2024 U.S. presidential election. UNI

Greece uncovers 'terrorist' attack plan by domestic group

Athens, Nov 5 (IANS) Greek authorities have uncovered a "terrorist" attack plan by four Greek nationals suspected of participating in a domestic group, Greek Citizen Protection Minister Michalis Chrysochoidis said.

A bomb that exploded prematurely in a central Athens apartment last Thursday, resulting in one casualty, one injury and severe material damage in the building, would have caused major destruction to any intended target, Chrysochoidis told local media on Monday. The findings of an ongoing police investigation into the explosion so far indicate that a 36-year-old man who died, a 33-year-old woman who is hospitalised, a 31-year-old man who was arrested last week and his 30-year-old girlfriend who was arrested on Monday, were members of a group of Greeks "aspiring to become the next generation of domestic terrorists," Xinhua news agency quoted the official as saying. The suspects have already been charged with formation and participation in a "terrorist" group, possession of explosives, construction of a bomb and involvement in "terrorist" acts, authorities said.

Argentine President swears in new Foreign Minister

Buenos Aires, Nov 5 (IANS) Argentine President Javier Milei swore in Gerardo Werthein as his new Minister of Foreign Affairs, the President's office said in a statement. Werthein, a 68-year-old veterinarian and businessman, has served as Argentina's ambassador to the United States since May, reports Xinhua news agency. His predecessor, Diana Mondino, was removed from office by Milei on October 30. Mondino's departure marks the fourth departure from Milei's cabinet since he took office in December last year.

Germany to continue commitment to defence: Scholz

Berlin, Nov 5 (IANS) German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said Germany will continue its commitment to strengthening defence forces in the coming years, including modernising the Bundeswehr with a special fund of 100 billion euros (\$108 billion). Scholz made the remarks at a joint press conference with visiting NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte in Berlin on Monday, reports Xinhua news agency. Noting that Germany has reached the target of spending 2 per cent of its economic output on defence for the first time this year, Scholz said that "we will continue resolutely down this path." "All NATO allies must invest more, and I trust that Germany will continue to step up," Rutte said at the press conference. During the visit, the two sides discussed continued support for Ukraine.

Minister announces resignation following roof structure collapse

Belgrade, Nov 5 (IANS) Serbian Minister of Construction, Transport and Infrastructure Goran Vescic announced that he will step down, following the collapse of a roof structure at the Novi Sad railway station. The collapse left 14 people dead and three others injured on Friday, as reported by Xinhua news agency. In a statement released on Monday evening, Vescic expressed condolences to the victims. "I offered my resignation on the day of the accident. Tomorrow morning, I will formally submit my resignation to the Prime Minister," Vescic said. The Serbian government declared November 2 a national day of mourning for those who died in the collapse of the roof structure at the Novi Sad railway station.

UK to raise university tuition fees for first time in 8 yrs

London, Nov 5 (IANS) UK Education Secretary Bridget Phillipson has announced that university tuition fees in England will increase by 3.1 per cent next year, the first rise since 2016. The hike, attributed to inflation, will bring the maximum annual fee up to 9,535 pounds (\$12,335). Alongside this, maintenance loans for students will also see a 3.1 per cent increase to help cover living expenses, reports Xinhua news agency. Phillipson highlighted financial challenges in higher education and hinted at upcoming reforms aimed at expanding access for disadvantaged students. Shadow Education Secretary Laura Trott criticised the move, suggesting it adds students to a list of those adversely impacted by recent budget decisions.

Spain: Floods hit Barcelona as rescue work continues in Valencia region

05/11/2024 11:21
Madrid, Nov 5 (IANS) The region of Catalonia in the north-east of Spain was hit by flooding, as rescue work continues in the neighbouring region of Valencia in the wake of the floods that claimed 217 lives six days previously. Spain's Minister for Transport, Oscar Puente, on Monday, confirmed that local rail services in the region had been cancelled after the Spanish Meteorological Agency (AEMET) issued a red alert for torrential rain for the provinces of Castellon, Tarragona and Barcelona, reports Xinhua news agency. "Do not travel unless strictly necessary," informed Puente. Barcelona's El Prat airport was badly hit by rainfall, estimated to be around 150 litres per square metre, with over 80 flights cancelled or delayed and numerous arrivals diverted to other airports. Images posted on social media from the airport show large areas under water, while parts of the terminal buildings were also flooded, with water cascading down flights of stairs. Several roads in the region have also been closed by the flooding, but fortunately, no lives have been reported lost.

Iran, Azerbaijan hold joint naval drill in Caspian Sea

Tehran, Nov 5 (IANS) The Iranian and Azerbaijani naval forces staged a joint rescue and relief drill in the Caspian Sea, Iran's official news agency reported. The exercise, dubbed "AZIR-EX2024," was hosted by Iran's Navy and themed "Cooperation for Peace and Friendship," reports Xinhua news agency, quoting IRNA on Monday. It added the drill involved the Iranian army's maritime and aerial units, including homegrown Deylaman destroyer, Peykan (Arrow), Separ (Shield), Joshan (Armor) guided-missile cruisers, a Bell 212 helicopter, and watercraft belonging to other Iranian armed forces, as well as Azerbaijan's rescue and relief vessels. Mohsen Razaqi, spokesman of the exercise, said the two countries' vessels successfully carried out rescue and relief operations, having transferred passengers from a burning watercraft to the coast and extinguished the fire.

Deeply concerning: EAM on Brampton temple attack; Slams Canada for surveillance of diplomats

Canberra, Nov 5 (IANS) External Affairs Minister (EAM) S. Jaishankar on Tuesday expressed concern over the recent attack on a Hindu temple in Brampton, Canada, calling it "deeply concerning" during a press conference with his Australian counterpart Penny Wong at Parliament House, Canberra. "What happened yesterday at the Hindu temple in Canada was obviously deeply concerning.

And, you would have seen the statement first by the official spokesperson and also the expression of concern by the Prime Minister yesterday.

So, that should, I think, convey to you how deeply we feel about it," Jaishankar said. Jaishankar also condemned Canada's surveillance of Indian diplomats, slamming what he described as Canada's "pattern of making allegations without providing specifics." "When we look

at Canada for us, the fact that they're putting our diplomats under surveillance is something which is unacceptable," he remarked. Referencing the videos of the temple attack, Jaishankar said, "Do look at the video, and I think it would tell you, in a way, the political space today, which is being given to extremist forces there (Canada), that so we believe in freedoms.

We also believe freedom should not be misused." Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong echoed Jaishankar's condemnation of the attacks on the Hindu temples, expressing solidarity with the Indian community. "In the wake of Diwali,

It is very upsetting for members of the faith community and the broader Indian community. I would again say that people

across Australia have a right to be safe and respected.

People also have a right to peaceful protest; people have a right to ex-



press their views peacefully," she said, simultaneously stressing that violence and vandalism should be handled by law enforcement, referencing

the attacks on Hindu temples in Canberra last month. "We are a multi-cultural democracy, we cherish that fact, but we also cherish the principles that

Peel Regional Police have confirmed the arrest of three individuals connected to the incident, facing charges including assault with a weapon and assaulting a police officer.

Earlier on Sunday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also condemned the attack, calling it a "deliberate" act of violence in a strong statement on X. "Such acts of violence will never weaken India's

resolve. We expect the Canadian government to ensure justice and uphold the rule of law," PM Modi wrote. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) in India also voiced its "deep concern" over the safety of Indian nationals in Canada, calling for the protection of places of worship. MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stated, "We condemn the acts of violence perpetrated by extremists and separatists at the Hindu Sabha Temple in Brampton, Ontario," and urged the Canadian government to prosecute those responsible. The MEA emphasised that its consular services would continue, undeterred by "intimidation, harassment, and violence," underscoring India's commitment to safeguarding its citizens abroad.

enable that multi-cultural democracy to flourish -- respect and a right to express different views peacefully," she added. The Brampton inci-

The 'Samosa Caucus' in US Congress and who belongs to it

Washington, Nov 5 (IANS) With a handful of Indian-Americans either eyeing a seat in the US Congress or seeking reelection, there are hopes that the 'Samosa Caucus' may grow in numbers over the coming few months. 'Samosa Caucus' is a nickname given to a group of Indian-American lawmakers in the US Congress. It refers to the growing number of Indian-American legislators who are of South Asian descent, particularly those of Indian origin. The name is a playful nod to the popular Indian snack 'samosa'. The term was coined around 2018 by Raja Krishnamoorthi from Illinois, to celebrate the growing influence of Indian-Americans in US politics. The Caucus includes members from both the House of Representatives and the Senate who have roots in India or South Asia and who often work together on issues relevant to the Indian-American community, as well as broader issues of interest to South Asian constituents in the US. Dalip Singh Saund was the first Indian-American elected to the US Congress and served from 1957 to 1963. He repre-

sented California in the House of Representatives as a Democrat. The next Indian-American to enter the House was 40 years later, with the election of Bobby Jindal, from Louisiana in 2004. A Republican, he served one more term and left to run and win for the governorship of his home state. There was a gap of five years before the arrival of the next Indian-American to take oath as a member of the US

Congress. Ami Bera has served continuously since first entering the House in 2013, representing California. He was joined in the House in 2017 by Raja Krishnamoorthi from Illinois; Pramila Jayapal from Washington State; and Ro Khanna, also from California. Krishnamoorthi coined the phrase 'Samosa Caucus', to describe the group in a nod to their Indian heritage.

US election: Meta extends ban on new political ads till later this week

San Francisco, Nov 5 (IANS) Meta has announced to extend ban on new political ads on Facebook and Instagram even after the US presidential election on November 5. In its political ads policy update, Meta has extended the ban on new political ads past Tuesday, the original end date for the restriction period. "The restriction period for ads about social issues, elections or politics is being extended until later this week," said the social media platform.

"As a reminder, ads that have run prior to 12:01 AM PT on October 29, 2024 and served at least one impression will be allowed to continue while the restriction period is in effect with limited editing capabilities," said Meta. Meta, however, did not specify the day it will lift the restriction.

The social media giant had announced in August that any political ads that ran at least once before October 29 would still be allowed to run on Meta's services in the final week before Election Day. "We previously announced that, as we have since 2020, we will block new social issue, electoral, and political ads during the final week of the general election in the US.



EAST NUSA TENGGARA, This photo provided by Indonesia Armed Force Information Center (Puspem TNI) shows members of the Indonesian Marine collecting body packs of victims after Mount Lewotobi erupted at East Flores in East Nusa Tenggara, Indonesia, Nov. 4, 2024. The eruption of Mount Lewotobi late Sunday night killed at least 10 people, the National Disaster Mitigation Agency (BNPB) announced on Monday. UNI

Special puja at Kamala Harris' ancestral village for her win in US Prez polls

Chennai, Nov 5 (IANS) Special puja was being held at the Shree Dharmasastha Temple at Thulaseendrapuram in Tiruvayur district, Tamil Nadu, the ancestral village of US Vice President Kamala Harris, for her victory in the Presidential polls. The Sree Dharmasastha Temple in Thulaseendrapuram is the ancestral temple of Kamala Harris' mother, Shyamala Gopalan. Kamala's grandfather, P. C. Gopalan, played a key role in renovating the family's ancestral temple, and the family regularly visits to attend pujas dedicated to their family deity.

A temple board shows that Kamala offered Rs 5,000 as a donation to the temple, a gesture carried out by her aunt, Sarala Gopalan, on her behalf. Kumaresan, a villager in Thulaseendrapuram told IANS, "The whole village is praying for Kamala, who has roots here. Several poojas have been conducted for her across many temples, including her ancestral Sree Dharmasastha Temple." He added, "She is a woman fighting for a position that can influence global affairs, and we are proud to be part of her legacy.

We are praying earnestly for her victory. The village is hopeful for Kamala's success, and if she wins, they plan to celebrate with 'annadanam' (free food distribution). DMK councillor Arulmozhi and her spouse T. Suthakar have conducted a special 'abisheka' (coronation) with sandalwood, turmeric, and other sacred items, along with puja to the presiding deity at the Dharmasastha Temple, the family deity of Kamala's ancestors. Suthakar told IANS, "We are praying for the victory of our daughter of the soil. Let her become the president of the most powerful country in the world." A Madurai-based spiritual organisation, Anushanathin Anugraham, was also organising special pujas for Kamala Harris' victory. Priests are chanting Vedic mantras to Kanchi Mahaperiyava, Lord Krishna, Lord Murugan, Valli, Deivanai, Lord Rama, and Goddess Kamatchi Amman, performing dhyanam for Kamala's success. Posters in Tamil have appeared across the village, praying for Kamala's victory.

Sudan records 2 to 3 million malaria cases annually: Health minister

05/11/2024 10:50
Port Sudan, Nov 5 (IANS) Sudanese Health Minister Haihtham Mohamed Ibrahim said that Sudan records between two and three million malaria cases annually. "Sudan records the highest rate of malaria infection in the Eastern Mediterranean Region," Ibrahim said on Monday at a press conference in Gedaref, the capital city of Gedaref State in Sudan.

Sudan also records the highest malaria death rate in the Eastern Mediterranean Region, accounting for 50 per cent of the total deaths," he noted, referring to the interventions undertaken by the ministry to reduce the malaria death rate, Xinhua news agency reported. On Monday, the Sudanese Health Ministry launched the integration of the malaria vaccine into routine childhood vaccinations, covering Gedaref State and Blue Nile State in Sudan.

We have started introducing the malaria vaccine approved by the World Health Organisation in the two states, to be followed by the rest of the high-risk states next year," the minister said.



Manolo Marquez names India's 26 probables for Malaysia friendly

New Delhi, Nov 5 (IANS) Indian senior football men's team head coach Manolo Marquez on Tuesday announced 26 probables for the FIFA International Friendly against Malaysia to be played on November 18 at the GMC Balayogi Gachibowli Stadium in Hyderabad. The team will assemble in Hyderabad for the training camp on November 11. Last month, India hold Vietnam to a 1-1 draw in an international friendly at the Thuan Truong Stadium in Nam Dinh. Goalkeepers: Amrinder Singh, Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Vishal Kaith. Defenders: Aakash Sangwan, Anwar Ali, Asish Rai, Chinglensana Singh Konsham, Hmingthanmawia Ralte, Mehtab Singh, Rahul Bheke, Roshan Singh Naorem, Sandesh Jhingan. Midfielders: Anirudh Thapa, Brandon Fernandes, Jeakson Singh Thounaojam, Jithin MS, Lalengmawia Ralte, Liston Colaco, Suresh Singh Wangjam, Vibin Mohanan. Forwards: Edmund Lalrindika, Irfan Yadwad, Farukh Choudhary, Lallianzuala Chhangte, Manvir Singh, Vikram Partap Singh

New York City Marathon is world's largest with over 55,000 finishers: Organisers

New York, Nov 5 (IANS) New York City Marathon set the new world record for the largest marathon as 55,646 athletes completed the five-borough race on November 3, leapfrogging Berlin's Marathon where 54,280 runners completed the race in September. "From the 1st finisher to the 55,646th. Congratulations to the finishers of the 2024 #TCSNYC Marathon, you are now record holders for the largest marathon in world history," the organisers posted on X. According to the New York Road Runners, 56,012 people started the race with 55,646 of them finished the race, of which 30,795 are men's finishers with 24,731 women's finishers and 120 non-binary finishers, the most ever women's and non-binary finishers. International runners were well-represented, too, with 17,859 crossing the line in Central Park.

Gasquet enters pre-quarters in his final Metz appearance

Metz (France), Nov 5 (IANS) Richard Gasquet secured a thrilling opening-round comeback against Thiago Monteiro to stay alive in his final campaign at the Moselle Open. The 38-year-old, who made the first of his 33 ATP Tour finals in Metz, saved a match point to prevail 4-6, 6-4, 7-6(6) and record his first tour-level win since May. Former No. 7 Gasquet produced a clinical performance on serve throughout the match. The wild card, however, was particularly dialled in during the final set, during which he won 19 out of 20 points behind his first delivery, according to ATP Stats. Gasquet will face star Alex Michelsen in the second round. "It's important for me to play here, it's the last time I'm playing in Metz, so I want to do well. It's a big honour for me to receive a wild card," said Gasquet, who is retiring at the conclusion of Roland Garros 2025. "I am really happy with the way I played, the way I felt, so it's a big win for me. Everything started here [in Metz]. It's where I reached my first ATP Tour final."



JSW MG Motor India Records Sales Of 7045 Units In October 2024 With 31% YoY Growth

Gurugram, JSW MG Motor India today announced sales of 7,045** units in October 2024, a YoY growth of 31% over the corresponding month in the previous year (October 2023).

The company's New Energy Vehicles (NEVs) remain a significant part of its overall sales, contributing over 70% of total volumes – the highest share of monthly sales by any passenger car manufacturer in the country - thereby demonstrating its commitment to promoting the adoption of NEVs.

Marking yet another significant milestone in India's journey towards clean mobility, JSW MG Motor India electrifies the EV market by selling 3,116 units of the MG Windsor - the country's first intelligent Crossover Utility Vehicle (CUV) - within the first month of its launch. These robust sales numbers are the highest among all other passenger electric cars which were sold during October 2024.

The company remains committed to sharing its sales numbers on the VAHAN portal, in consonance with its announcement in the previous month. As reported on VAHAN, the carmaker's YoY growth was 34% (excluding Telangana) this month.

The boost in sales during the festive season reflects the rapidly growing popularity of the company's electric vehicle portfolio.

LANXESS India wins the 'DigiTech Front Runner of the year' FICCI Chemicals & Petrochemicals Award 2024

Mumbai, LANXESS India has won the FICCI Chemicals & Petrochemicals Award 2024 for 'DigiTech Front Runner of the year' category in chemical sector. Smt. Anupriya Patel, Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare and Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India presented the award to LANXESS in the presence of Smt. Nivedita Shukla Verma, Secretary, Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India and other stakeholders of the sector.

Namitesh Roy Choudhury, Vice Chairman and Managing Director, LANXESS India along with Balaram Khot, Whole-time Director & Head of PTSE received the Dig-

itech Front Runner of the year award on behalf of the organization at an event held in Mumbai on 17th October 2024.

The award recognizes the organization's commit-

Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) organizes Chemical & Petrochemical Awards ceremony as a part of the India Chem series of events to felicitate companies for their contribution in the development of chemical and petrochemical industry.

Commenting on the success, Namitesh Roy Choudhury, Vice Chairman and Managing Director, LANXESS India said, "We are truly honored to receive this esteemed award. By leveraging new technologies and adopting a digital mindset, we streamline our processes and drive improvements in productivity, connectivity, and overall organizational performance to deliver enhanced value to our customers, employees and other stakeholders."

ment to digitalization, emphasizing on our capabilities and tools that enhance process improvement, asset reliability, safety, sustainability, and cost savings. Through the strategic implementation of digital solutions across our value chain, we continue to drive operational excellence and sustainable growth.



RIYADH, Elena Rybakina of Kazakhstan competes during the round robin match against Zheng Qinwen of China at WTA Finals tennis tournament in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. UNI

Edu Gaspar resigns as Arsenal Sporting Director

London, Nov 5 (IANS) Edu Gaspar has resigned from his capacity as Arsenal's Sporting Director. An 'Invincible' in his playing days at the North London club, the Brazilian is rumoured to be joining Nottingham Forest owner Evangelos Marinakis' footballing empire.

"This was an incredibly hard decision to make. Arsenal has given me the opportunity to work with so many amazing people and the chance to be a part of something so special in the club's history. It has been a special journey and I thank Stan, Josh, Tim and Lord Harris for the support they've given me. "I've loved working with so many great colleagues across our men's, women's and academy teams, especially Mikel, who has become a great friend. Now it is time to pursue a different challenge. Arsenal will always remain in my heart."

Dubai, UAE, Get ready to MOVE! Dubai Fitness Challenge (DFC) starts tomorrow with an epic first week planned, full of fun, fitness and community experiences for all.

A free, 30-day health and fitness activation like no other, DFC challenges you to commit to just 30 minutes of exercise every day for 30 days, with a whole host of activities, mega mass participation events, fitness villages and community hubs lined up to support you every step of the way. Running until Sunday, 24 November, don't miss this opportunity to jumpstart your health and wellness journey and make fitness your daily habit.

Here's a taster of what's lined up for week one of DFC 2024.

Three 30 x 30-day Fitness Villages: Buzzing hubs of activity every single day of the Challenge, 30 x 30 Fitness Villages at Kite Beach, Zabeel Park and Al Warqa'a Park will offer non-stop classes and

Dubai Fitness Challenge is Here!

How will you kick off your 30x30?

workouts for everyone.

Join the 30 x 30 Challenge and workout as the waves lap against the shore at the iconic DP World Kite 30 x 30 Beach Fitness Village – an epicentre of inspiration, camaraderie and transformative fitness experiences. The perfect spot to get active, this village offers a wide range of fitness activities across multiple zones, from intense workouts to more relaxed exercise sessions, plus dedicated kids' classes for the little ones. Why not challenge your mates at the Decathlon Sports Court, cool off at the Emirates NBD Aqua Park, or practise your swing in the DP World Cricket Arena? Other zones include the DP World Sports Hub, e& Main Stage, Emarat Padel Courts, Emirates Airline Rebounder, Emirates NBD Watersports, MIRA Teen Fit - Boxd - Martial Arts, Sun & Sand Sports Beach

Volleyball, talabat Core - Cardio - Resistance, Yoga, Wasi Gymnastics, Wasi Parkour, and WHOOP Lift - Ride - Row. Open weekdays from 8 AM to 1 PM for schools and 3 PM to 11 PM for the public, and from 7 AM to 11 PM on weekends, this fitness village is more than just a workout spot – it's your chance to connect, stay active, and crush your 30 x 30 goals.

The ultimate destination for outdoor fitness, the Dubai Municipality Zabeel Park 30 x 30 Fitness Village will offer a variety of fitness areas designed to accommodate all abilities, including a new Cricket Zone, Running Club, Spinning Zone, 3 on 3 Basketball Court and a Kids' Fitness Zone, making it the perfect place for outdoor activity. With plenty of opportunities for fitness, fun, and photo-worthy moments along the way, you can also join dance sessions and fitness classes

Ajaz Patel credits preparations and adaptability for NZ's historic Test series win in India

New Delhi, Nov 5 (IANS) Spinner Ajaz Patel feels that New Zealand's preparations back home and their adaptability to different conditions helped them register a historic 3-0 Test series sweep over India last week.

India were blanked at all three venues - Bengaluru, Pune and Mumbai - by visiting spinners led by Ajaz and Mitchell Santner with Glenn Phillips playing an assisting role. "If I'm honest with you, we had a great winter back home where we prepared on turning wickets and we made sure we had different surfaces that we tried and practiced on so we were, I guess, conditioned to bowling on different surfaces as well."

So yeah it's a lot to do with preparation but then

it's also about backing your skills and kind of I guess you know going out there and doing it really," Ajaz was quoted by Cricbuzz. "It's been three different surfaces and three different games, and I guess we're well aware that one of the challenges of going to Asia is that the conditions are going to change all the time and you have to be adaptable and even within the game the conditions change very quickly. I mean even in this Mumbai Test I was bowling."

I think in the first innings and I felt like I was bowling really well but the wicket wasn't really turning and then I came back after lunch, and all of a sudden everything started happening," he added on his bowling experience in India. Ajaz, who was the leading wicket-taker with 15 scalps for New Zealand, elaborated on how he tackled the conditions with a change in pace and said, "So I guess when you come to the subcontinent, it's about having that skill set and that range of being able to whether it be bowl in the high 90s or bowl in the low 80s and being able to be adaptable in those ranges, I guess from the outset."

It's also reading the surface quickly because the conditions, like I say, do change at a constant (rate). "Sometimes the conditions in the morning can be very different to the conditions in that middle session and so as a spinner, it's about knowing how to get the most out of that, how to change your pace, how to go up and down while still having the ball shape," he added.

The left-arm spinner credited spin consultant Rangana Herath for his contributions and strategic insights that helped the New Zealand spinners come out on top against the Indian batters.

Business & Technology



BharatBenz conferred with 'Well-Known Trademark' status by the Intellectual Property Office, India

Chennai – BharatBenz, the flagship brand under Daimler India Commercial Vehicles (DICV), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Daimler Truck AG, Germany, has been officially presented with 'Well-Known Trademark' status by the Intellectual Property [IP] Office India. This 'Well-Known Trademark' status signifies BharatBenz's remarkable brand value, solidifying its standing as an iconic player in the Indian market, widely recognized by customers and society alike.

Satyakam Arya, Managing Director & CEO, Daimler India Commercial Vehicles, commenting on this momentous achievement, said, "We are immensely proud to achieve this prestigious recognition as a 'Well-Known Trade-

mark.' As a young and dynamic brand, BharatBenz has made a significant impact in the Indian commercial vehicle market. This status highlights our brand's journey and reputation since launch and reflects the deep trust our customers and partners place in us. Over the past 12 years, BharatBenz has played a vital role in nation-building, securing a strong market position through an unwavering commitment to performance, innovation and safety."

Entering a predominantly cowl-based truck market, BharatBenz distinguished itself by introducing advanced safety standards, including fully factory-built, air-conditioned metal cabins that reflect the brand's commitment to

road safety in India. This pioneering approach underscores BharatBenz's dedication to safety and efficiency, with each vehicle engineered to deliver optimal performance and minimize Total Cost of Ownership (TCO).

Reaffirming the brand's safety commitment, Satyakam added, "Today, BharatBenz continues to meet global safety standards, including Europe's ECE R29-03, providing enhanced protection for drivers in the event of a crash, and setting a new benchmark for safety and reliability in India. We believe it is essential to foster greater awareness of safety in the Indian market, and we are proud to be at the forefront of driving this change."

DP World Enhances Operational Safety and Efficiency with its New Fleet Fitted with Advanced ESC

Mumbai, DP World, a leading global provider of smart end-to-end supply chain solutions, has taken yet another step in enhancing the operational safety and efficiency with its new fleet of prime movers, equipped with advanced Electronic Stability Control (ESC).

This industry first initiative reflects DP World's ongoing efforts to leverage cutting-edge technology in delivering secure and dependable supply chain solutions and is a significant step forward in DP World's commitment to the safety and well-being of its drivers on road. This cutting-edge technology provides enhanced stability, ensuring that drivers remain safe and in control, even in difficult road and climatic conditions.

Additionally, the new fleet also comes equipped with a Tail Guarding System, which prevents reverse collisions by eliminating blind spots, using proximity sensors to stop the vehicle when necessary.

Through the implementation of these state-of-the-art advanced safety features, DP World is ensuring a safer, more efficient working environment for its drivers, reinforcing its dedication to operational excellence and the welfare of its team.

Speaking on this development, Ravinder Johal, Chief Operating Officer, Ports & Terminals, Operations & Commercial, Middle East, North Africa & Subcontinent, DP World, commented, "At DP World, the safety and

security of our cargo and truckers are our top priorities. By incorporating advanced technology in our new fleet of trucks, we are proud to support the government's vision for enhanced road safety. We are committed to continuously improving our safety standards, ensuring our drivers are protected, and reducing the potential impact of accidents. We believe this approach will inspire broader adoption of safety practices across the industry."

The introduction of Prime Movers equipped with Electronic Stability Control (ESC), combined with an Anti-lock Braking System (ABS), enhances vehicle safety and performance, while providing safety to truckers and all its operational staff.

7 essential vaccinations for children for healthy growth after they turn 1*: Dr Raju C Shah

Ahmedabad, 4th November 2024: While immunisation coverage in the first year of life is high in India, the rate tends to drop after the first birthday. Hence, a significant number of children in the country remain partially vaccinated[i]. It is essential for children to receive key vaccinations even after their first birthday to strengthen their immunity against serious vaccine preventable diseases, ensuring a happy and healthy future.[ii]

The Indian Academy of Pediatrics (IAP) recommends 7 vaccinations for children aged 1 to 2 years: two doses of chickenpox and hepatitis A, a second dose of meningitis# and MMR, booster doses of PCV and DTP Hib IPV and an annual dose of flu. [iii] These 7 essential vaccinations** protect against 14 diseases***, such as chickenpox, hepatitis A, Hepatitis B***, meningitis, measles, mumps, rubella, pneumonia, influenza,

diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, and Hib infection.

Speaking on the need for these essential vaccinations, Dr Raju C Shah, MD, D Ped., FIAP, FRCPCH(UK), National President, IAP (2005), President, Pediatric Association of SAARC (2005-8), Ankur Institute of Child Health said, "Many parents do not feel the need to follow the immunisation schedule after their children's first birthday. I urge all parents to complete their children's immunisation schedule and give them the 7 crucial vaccinations between the age of 1 and 2. Vaccinations can prevent serious complications of infectious diseases that can disrupt their early development and pose long-term health problems."

Even after the age of 1*, children are vulnerable to infectious diseases due to their developing immune systems, which increases their risk of infection and complications.

[iv] These complica-

tions can disrupt their developmental milestones and formative experiences.

[v] Research has shown that incomplete immunisation may also lead to a poorer nutritional status.[vi] This can further exacerbate their susceptibility to infections and delay recovery. Moreover, childhood illnesses can pose significant challenges for parents as they need to arrange financial support for medical care and increase the likelihood of other family members falling ill due to potential exposure.

The recommended vaccinations have proved to effectively control preventable infections, prevent epidemics, eliminate diseases, and reduce the economic burden on families and healthcare systems.[ix] Parents are encouraged to consult their paediatricians to adhere to the immunisation schedule and prioritise these 7 vaccinations to ensure their children's health, happiness, and future well-being.

Turkish Technic and SunExpress Sign Component Pool Support and Landing Gear Overhaul Agreements

Istanbul, Turkish Technic, a leading provider of maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) services, has recently signed two significant agreements with SunExpress Airlines, a joint venture of Turkish Airlines and Lufthansa. The first agreement encompasses comprehensive Component Pool support, granting SunExpress access to Turkish Technic's extensive inventory and tailored component solutions. This service will cover both the Boeing 737NG and Boeing 737MAX fleets, ensuring optimal component availability and minimizing aircraft downtime.

Regarding the agreements Mikail Akbulut, CEO and Board Member of Turkish Technic, remarked: "As our long-standing partnership thrives with new agreements, we are pleased to enhance SunExpress' operational efficiency through our comprehensive component services. These agreements ensure seamless operations for SunExpress' fleet."

We are always delighted to strengthen and expand our long-standing collaboration with SunExpress. Turkish Technic remains committed to delivering world-class MRO solutions, driving operational excellence, and fostering long-lasting business partnerships within the aviation industry."

Commenting on the continuation of the partnership, Max Kownatzki, CEO of SunExpress, expressed: "Our well-established collaboration with Turkish Technic reflects our commitment to safety and efficiency. The component support and landing gear maintenance services will help us maintain our operational reliability and performance at the highest standards. We believe that our partnership will continue to enhance our operational excellence, ensuring safe and reliable services for our customers."



Hero Motocorp surges ahead during The Festive Season With Its Highest-ever Festive Sales

Mumbai, Hero Moto-Corp, the world's largest manufacturer of motorcycles and scooters, achieved its highest-ever retail sales during the recent 32-day festive period, starting from Navratri.

With sales of over 15.98 lakh (1.6 million) units, the company registered an impressive 13% growth compared to the festive season of 2023.

The robust demand for Hero MotoCorp's products was evident across both urban and rural India. The 125cc motorcycle segment, with Xtreme 125R, emerged as a key growth driver, while the 100cc segment also contributed positively to the company's strong sales performance.

VIDA, Hero Moto-Corp's electric vehicle brand, crossed a significant milestone by achieving 11,600 retail sales during the same period. VIDA network's ongoing expansion, leveraging Hero Premia and Hero 2.0 outlets, in conjunction with a heightened emphasis on the Top 30 towns, is yielding positive results. The upcoming portfolio expansion is set to infuse the brand with further impetus.

The Harley-Davidson X440 achieved sales of over 2800 units, highlighting the brand's popularity. As the company aims to expand the Premia network to over 100 locations by the end of this fiscal year, it will enhance the reach and accessibility of this aspirational brand.

Niranjan Gupta, Chief Executive Officer, Hero MotoCorp, said "For the second consecutive year we have achieved our highest-ever festive retail sales, which is a testament

Swiggy's high valuation, ongoing losses raise concerns about long-term sustainability: Angel One

New Delhi, Nov 5 (IANS) Swiggy's Rs 11,327 crore initial public offering (IPO) faces several risks and challenges that potential investors should consider, leading online brokerage Angel One has said, adding that the company's high valuation, coupled with its ongoing losses, raises concerns about its long-term sustainability. According to a blog by the online trading platform, the food delivery platform has "consistently incurred net losses and negative cash flows since its establishment in 2014, raising concerns about its path to profitability."

"Revenue growth may also be at risk due to fierce competition and high operational costs, which could impact margins," said Angel One. The Zomato rival is set to launch its highly-awaited IPO from November 6 to November 8. As the company prepares to go public, investors are keenly eyeing its financial performance, strengths and weaknesses to estimate its potential. According to the Angel One blog, in FY2024, Swiggy spent 16.46 per cent of its revenue on advertising, a substantial expense that may strain profitability if not managed efficiently. Additionally, Swiggy's reliance on a large workforce of 4,57,249 delivery partners brings risks related to retention; difficulties in maintaining this workforce could disrupt service efficiency, it noted.

"Strikes and disputes among delivery partners further pose a threat, potentially affecting continuity of service and increasing operational costs. Managing 557 active dark stores is another critical challenge, as inefficiencies could lead to higher operating expenses, impacting Swiggy's overall financial performance," the note read. These factors collectively underscore the operational and financial challenges Swiggy may face post-IPO, Angel One noted, advising that "investors must carefully weigh the risks and rewards before investing."

"The company's high valuation, coupled with its ongoing losses, raises concerns about its long-term sustainability. Ultimately, the success of Swiggy's IPO will depend on various factors, including its ability to sustain growth, improve profitability, and navigate the competitive landscape," said the online brokerage. Earlier, SAMCO Securities said in a note to investors that waiting until Swiggy demonstrates improved financial results and a clearer path to sustainable growth would be a more prudent investment approach.

"Given Swiggy's current financial position, competitive pressures, associated risks, and valuation, its IPO appears overvalued. Therefore, We advise

India's home textiles industry to see 6-8 pc growth this fiscal

New Delhi, Nov 5 (IANS) India's home textile industry is set to witness 6-8 per cent growth this fiscal, riding on resilient demand from the US and expansion in the domestic market, according to a report on Tuesday. Following a 9-10 per cent rebound in revenue growth last fiscal, the credit profiles of home textile companies will remain stable, supported by healthy cash accrual and moderate capital expenditure (capex) plans on the back of deleveraged balance sheets, according to the report by Crisil Ratings. The home textile industry derives 70-75 per cent of its revenue from exports — the US alone accounts for 60 per cent — and the remaining 25-30 per cent from the domestic market.

According to Mohit Makhija, Senior Director, CRISIL Ratings, three factors will drive growth of the home textiles industry this fiscal. "One, resilient consumer spending and normalised inventory levels at major retailers in the US will spur exports, though container availability bears watching. Two, the industry's continued focus on expanding domestic presence will aid growth," he mentioned. Third, the domestic prices of cotton, the key raw material, are likely to remain close to international levels, resultantly retaining the competitiveness of domestic companies," said Makhija. Therefore, for the home textiles exported by India, the country's share in US imports will remain steady this fiscal. In January-August 2024, it was 30 per cent, same as in calendar year 2023. With domestic raw material prices remaining close to international prices, the operating margin is likely to remain stable at 14-15 per cent this fiscal, in line with last fiscal.

The margin will remain insulated from the recent volatility in freight cost as most exports are on a free-on-board basis, said the report. While most companies are now looking to optimise utilisation this fiscal, a few large ones are planning capex, but on deleveraged balance sheets. According to Pranav Shandil, Associate Director, CRISIL Ratings, with steady operating performance and moderate capex in fiscal 2025, the interest coverage for home textile companies should remain stable at 5-6 times.

India, Kazakhstan form JV firm to strengthen titanium supply chain

New Delhi, Nov 5 (IANS) Indian Rare Earths Limited, (IREL) and Kazakhstan's Ust-Kamenogorsk Titanium and Magnesium Plant JSC, (UKTMP JSC) have signed an agreement to establish an Indo-Kazakh joint venture company, IREUK Titanium Limited, for the production of Titanium Slag in India, according to an official statement issued on Tuesday.

The JVC will act as a catalyst in developing the titanium value chain within India as it will benefitate low grade Ilmenite into high grade titanium feedstock and also result in employment generation opportunity in the state of Odisha. The offtake arrangement by UKTMP JSC will also be instrumental in bringing valuable foreign exchange for the country and aid UKTMP JSC in raw material security.

CHANGE OF NAME

I have changed my old name from **MANSI NISHARG SHAH** to new name **MANSI NISARG SHAH**
Add. 252, M.M. Jain Society
Ramnagar Sabarnati
Ahmedabad-380005

C073

CHANGE OF NAME

I HAVE CHANGED MY SON'S OLD NAME FROM **"MOHAMMAD"** TO NEW NAME **"MOHAMMAD ABDULMAJID SHAIKH"** & HE WILL BE KNOWN AS NEW NAME WHICH EVERYONE PLEASE NOTE.
SD: **ABDULMAJID MOHYUDDIN SHAIKH**
ADDRESS: NOOR MANZIL, BEHIND PARDI HOSPITAL, VALSADI ZAMPA, KILLA PARDI, TA. PARDI, DIST. VALSAD, GUJARAT -396125

C073E

CHANGE OF NAME

I have changed my old name from **NISHARG NARESHKUMAR SHAH** to new name **NISARG NARESHBHAI SHAH**
Add. 252, M.M. Jain Society
Ramnagar Sabarnati
Ahmedabad-380005

C073A

CHANGE OF NAME

I have changed my old name from **KAILASHBAHEN GANPATBHAI PATEL** to new name **KAILASHBEN MANOJKUMAR PATEL**
Add. D-26, Swaminarayan Park-1, Opp. Madhav Park-4, Vastral, Ahmedabad

C073D

CHANGE OF NAME

I have changed my old name from **MAHENDRAKUMAR BABULAL CHAUHAN** to new name **MAHENDRABHAI BABULAL CHAUHAN**
Add. 6, Mansi Apartment Chawala Society, Khokhara, Ahmedabad-380008

C073C

CHANGE OF NAME

I have changed my old name from **MAHAMEDVARIS JAFARHUSAIN MANSURI** to new name **MOHAMEDWARIS JAFARHUSEN MANSURI**
Add. 2266, Moti Pole, Kachhiya Sheri, Tangarwad Jamalpur, Ahmedabad-380001

C073B

Tokyo Stock Exchange to extend trading hours by 30 min.

Tokyo, Nov 4 (IANS) The Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE) will extend its trading hours by 30 minutes starting Tuesday, shifting the market's closing time from 3:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the first such adjustment in 70 years. The TSE's trading schedule will be 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., with a one-hour lunch break, resuming from 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. for a total of five and a half hours. The move aims to boost market activity and appeal to both domestic and international investors by expanding trading opportunities, Xinhua news agency reported. Although there were prior discussions about extending trading hours, concerns about administrative burdens on securities firms had prevented such changes until now.

erates surplus Ilmenite in the course of its operation at Odisha and supplies quality minerals and rare earth compounds worldwide. UKTMP JSC, Kazakhstan is one of the world's largest vertically integrated titanium producers, from raw material extraction to high value-added products that includes titanium sponge and ingots.

WESTERN RAILWAY - AHMEDABAD DIVISION

COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

NOTICE INVITING TENDER No : DRM-SnT-ADI-SJC 06(Re-Invoice) of 2024-25 DRMS and T acting for and behalf of The President of India invites E- Tenders against Tender No : DRM-SnT-ADI-SJC 06 (Re-Invoice) of 2024-25 closing date 25.11.2024, 15:00 Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. (1) Name of Work : Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract for Automatic fire alarm system of Ravel make (For Three Years) over Ahmedabad Division Re-Invoice). (2) Estimated Cost of Work : ₹98,69,515.92/- (Rs Ninety Eight Lakh Sixty Nine Thousand Five Hundred Fifteen Rupees and Ninety Two Paise only) (3) Earnest Deposit Money : ₹1,97,400/- (Rs. One Lakh Ninety Seven Thousand Four Hundred only) (4) Date and time of closing : Not later than 15.00 hrs of 25.11.2024 (5) Date and time of opening of Tender : Opening on 25.11.2024 at 15:30 hrs. (6) Web site of E-Tendering : www.irops.gov.in 223

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Deloitte India opens entries for Enterprise Growth Awards 2024 to celebrate excellence in regional businesses

New Delhi, Deloitte India has launched the first edition of the Enterprise Growth Awards 2024 (EGA 2024), an initiative to recognise the contributions of exceptional family-owned businesses, unicorns and soonicorns in North, South, East and West India. These regional awards, now open for participation, will celebrate companies that demonstrate outstanding leadership, vision and growth and make significant contributions to the development of their local communities.

The awards process will carefully evaluate companies based on key criteria such as financial performance, innovation and social impact. One of the criteria for family businesses to participate is having a sales turnover between INR1,000 crore and INR5,000 crore, with significant promoter ownership (over 26 percent). Start-ups with a valuation of between US\$500 million and US\$1 billion are also invited to apply. The awards will review financial records from the past three years to assess each company's growth journey and contributions to their communities.

"Family-owned businesses, emerging growth companies, unicorns and soonicorns from various regions of India are vital to our economy, yet they often remain under-recognised. These companies play a crucial role in regional development and national progress, contributing significantly to job creation, innovation and economic growth. By launching EGA, we aim to spotlight these often-overlooked champions of the industry, providing them with the recognition they deserve. By celebrating their achievements, we seek to foster a dynamic network of high-growth companies across India, encouraging collaboration and knowledge-sharing to drive sustained advancement and support India's long-term economic growth. We encourage all eligible companies to participate and make this initiative a success," said K. R. Sekar, Partner and Leader – Deloitte Private, Deloitte India.

"Through the EGA, we aim to do more than just highlight business success. We want to acknowledge these companies' dedication, resilience and long-term commitment. Family-owned businesses, unicorns and soonicorns face unique challenges as they grow, and their ability to overcome these while contributing meaningfully to their communities speaks volumes about their values and vision. This initiative is about recognising their perseverance as much as their performance.

Nestlé India and SM Sehgal Foundation celebrate 5 years of Project Vriddhi

Mumbai, Nestlé India and SM Sehgal Foundation celebrated the successful completion of five years of Project Vriddhi in Nuh district. The project was launched in 2019 in Rohira village to strengthen community-led rural development. Since its inception, the Project has positively impacted the lives of 18,000 beneficiaries across 14 villages.

This milestone was marked by an event in the Kaliyaka village, attended by school authorities, panchayat and community members from villages who have been positively impacted by the project.

Commenting on this significant milestone, Mr. Suresh Narayanan, Chairman and Managing Director, Nestlé India said, "At Nestlé India we strongly believe in business as a Force for Good. As part of our commitment to build a better society, Project Vriddhi was launched focusing on rural development. The project has created long-lasting change in these villages, through interventions across water and sanitation, raising nutrition awareness, enhancing farm productivity, and setting up of digital learning centres. The transformation journey of these villages has witnessed a multiplier effect on several development indicators empowering local communities to drive their progress."

Ms. Anjali Makhija, Trustee & CEO, SM Sehgal Foundation, stated, "The project has grown from strength to strength, since 2019. We feel immensely satisfied to see the tangible impact of Project Vriddhi in the lives of rural communities. Village Development Committees have been established to oversee the upkeep of the project."

Since its inception, the Project Vriddhi has scaled several milestones. These include restoration of eight ponds with 25 million litres of storage potential; engaging over 1000 farmers through good agricultural practices, transformation of six schools and around 395 children being equipped with digital and life skills; training of 280 women in nutrition groups, 133 kitchen gardens, and village development committees to sustain the developments.

Nvidia CEO wants SK hynix to advance supply of HBM4 chips by 6 months

Seoul, Oct 4 (IANS) Nvidia CEO Jensen Huang has asked SK hynix to deliver its next-generation high bandwidth memory (HBM), named HBM4, six months earlier than scheduled amid rising demand for artificial intelligence (AI) computing chips, SK Group Chairman Chey Tae-won said on Monday. "Last time we met, he asked me to bring forward by six months the supply schedule of HBM4, which had already been set," Chey said in his keynote speech at the SK AI Summit 2024 in Seoul. SK hynix is a key supplier of HBM chips to Nvidia. It became the first in the world to supply fifth-generation eight-layer HBM3E chips to Nvidia in March and recently initiated mass production of its advanced 12-layer HBM3E chips, reports Yonhap news agency. The company earlier announced plans to supply the upcoming HBM4 chips in the second half of

WESTERN RAILWAY - VADODARA DIVISION

PHOTOCOPYING WORK

e-TENDER NOTICE No : DRM-BRC 097 OF 2024-25 Sealed Tenders for and on behalf of the President of India are invited by Divisional Railway Manager (WA/C), Western Railway, Pratnagar, Vadodara-390 004 for the following works. Tender No: DRM-BRC 097 of 2024-25. Name of Work : Pratnagar:- Photocopying work for Engineering department at DRM office for 24 months. Approximate cost of the work (in Rs.) : ₹9,98,222.40 Bid Security to be deposited (In Rs.) : ₹20,000.00 Date and time for submission of tender and opening of tender : Tender is to be submitted on 22.11.2024 before 15.00 Hrs. and is to be opened on same date at 15.30 Hrs. Web side particulars and notice for location where complete details can be seen & Address of the office from where the tender form can be purchased : Divisional Railway Manager (WA/C) Western Railway, Pratnagar, Vadodara-4 Western site @ www.irops.gov.in 216

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Business Brief III

SKF announces seizure of counterfeit products in Vapi

Vapi, SKF India, in its ongoing initiative to ensure genuine and reliable products for its customers, announced one of the largest known counterfeit product seizures in Vapi, Gujarat. In collaboration with the Gujarat police, SKF India's Group Brand Protection (GBP) team has been investigating major counterfeit operations for some time.

On 18th October, enforcement actions were taken against three locations in the Vapi area, resulting in the seizure of approximately 3,000 +counterfeit SKF bearings valued at around 50 lakh INR. The raid led to the filing of an FIR, and the owner's son was taken into custody. Furthermore, the police executed enforcement actions against another firm, where a significant quantity of counterfeit DGBBs and SABBs was discovered, and all counterfeit SKF products were seized, resulting in another FIR being filed against them.

"Counterfeit products pose serious risks to our customers and the integrity of our brand," said Mr. K G Sathyanarayan, Head of India Brand Protection at SKF India. "We have zero tolerance for counterfeits and are committed to protecting our customers from these substandard products. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Gujarat police for their support in this significant operation, which underscores our dedication to combating counterfeiting in the industry."

Hyatt Set To Expand Brand Presence In Nepal With Hyatt Regency Lumbini

CHICAGO, Hyatt Hotels Corporation (NYSE: H) today announced that a Hyatt affiliate has entered into a management agreement with Veda Hospitality Private Limited, a part of the Golyan Group Limited, for Hyatt Regency Lumbini. The property will be the fourth Hyatt branded hotel in Nepal, reaffirming the significance of the market in Hyatt's ambitious growth plans for Southwest Asia.

Revered as the birthplace of Lord Buddha, the serene and spiritually significant town of Lumbini stands as an unparalleled destination for tourists as it draws travelers from across the world to the sacred site. It also boasts an UNESCO World Heritage status, with Lumbini's vast gardens featuring historical treasures, including the Ashoka Pillar, diverse monasteries and international temples reflecting global Buddhist traditions and fostering cultural exchange.

Nestled on the banks of the scenic Dano River, the property will be conveniently located within a short driving distance from the highly visited pilgrimage destination, Mayadevi temple, as well as other major attractions. It will also be near the Gautam Buddha International Airport, the city of Butwal, and the Nepal-India border, providing global business and leisure travelers with seamless access. Hyatt Regency Lumbini is expected to open by 2028.

All-New Dzire set to revolutionise the sedan segment; Pre-bookings now open

New Delhi, Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL), India's leading passenger vehicle manufacturer, today commenced bookings for its highly anticipated 4th Generation Dzire. India's highest-selling compact sedan", the All-New Dzire is set to revolutionise the segment with its progressive design, segment first features and unparalleled value proposition. Building on the remarkable legacy of the Dzire brand, this new generation model represents a significant leap forward in Maruti Suzuki's commitment to offer exceptional vehicles to the Indian market.

Commenting on the announcement, Mr. Partho Banerjee, Senior Executive Officer, Marketing & Sales, Maruti Suzuki India Limited, said, "The Dzire's extraordinary journey since 2008 has made it India's favourite sedan, winning the trust of over 27 Lakh customers. With the All-New Dzire, we have crafted something that's not just the best in its segment but goes beyond conventional expectations. Its modern design philosophy, superior comfort and cutting-edge technology represent the perfect synthesis of what customers love about Dzire and what they aspire for in a modern sedan. By combining advanced powertrain options with thoughtfully curated features, the All-New Dzire is poised to deliver an exceptional experience."

Samsung Tops India's Smartphone Market with 23% Value Share in Q3: Counterpoint Research

GURUGRAM, Samsung was the number 1 smartphone brand by value in India for the third straight quarter in 2024, according to data released by Counterpoint Research. In Q3 2024, the Indian smartphone market achieved its highest-ever value led by Samsung which accounted for 23% market share, the research agency said.

"The market is increasingly shifting toward value growth fuelled by a premiumization trend supported by aggressive EMI offers, and trade-ins. Samsung currently leads the market by value with a 23% share, maintaining its position by prioritizing its flagship Galaxy S series and enhancing its value-driven portfolio. To strengthen its market presence, Samsung is integrating Galaxy AI features into its mid-range and affordable premium models in the A series, encouraging consumers to upgrade to higher price segments," Senior Research Analyst Prachir Singh said.

Castrol India appoints Kedar Lele as Managing Director

Ahmedabad, Castrol India Limited, a leading lubricant manufacturer, has announced the appointment of Kedar Lele as its new Managing Director, effective 1 November 2024.

Kedar joins Castrol India after an illustrious two-decade-long career at Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL), where he last served as the Executive Director of the company, responsible for Sales & Customer Development, South Asia.

Commenting on the appointment, Rakesh Makhija, Chairman, Castrol India Limited, said, "We are delighted to welcome Kedar to the Castrol India. His vast experience in driving growth and leading large teams in complex markets makes him an outstanding choice to lead Castrol India." Sharing his views, Kedar Lele, MD, Castrol India Limited, said, "Castrol is a widely recognised brand in the lubricants industry, and I am very excited to lead Castrol India in its next leg of growth and transformation. A key priority for me will be to continue to expand our portfolio coupled with effective deployment models to drive business growth.



News

in a Nutshell

Darjeeling politics: Ajoy Edwards to announce formation new party today

Kolkata, Nov 5 (IANS) Ajoy Edwards, the founder of Hamro Party based out of the hills in Darjeeling district of West Bengal, will announce the formation of a new political party in the hills on Wednesday.

According to him, the Hamro Party will cease to exist from Wednesday and instead, a new political party will surface. "We are having trouble in getting the Hamro Party registered as a political force and hence, we have made a decision on this count," said Edwards on Tuesday. It is learnt that the former member of Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA) will be part of the new political party. The other members will include some prominent leaders of Bimal Gurung-led Gorkha Janmukti Morcha (GJM) including a former legislator from that party and the owner of a popular hill-based local television channel, among others. Talks are also on with another leader from the hills and the founder of the Jana Andolon Party Harka Bahadur Chhetri. According to Edwards, one of the two prime objectives of the proposed new political force would be the revival of movement in demand of the separate Gorkhaland state including the hills scattered over Darjeeling, Kurseong and Kalimpong and the plains of Terai and Dooars regions.

MUDA case: K'taka HC issues notice to Siddaramaiah, next hearing on Nov 26

Bengaluru, Nov 5 (IANS) The Karnataka High Court on Tuesday issued notice to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in connection with a plea seeking a CBI probe into the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) case. Adjourning the hearing in the case to November 26, a bench, headed by Justice M. Nagaprasanna, also issued notices to Siddaramaiah's wife Parvathy, brother-in-law Mallikarjuna Swamy and land owner J. Devaraju asking them to file an objection if they have any against the petition. The bench directed the Karnataka Lokayukta to submit a report on the progress of the investigation in the case till November 25. Public prosecutor B. N. Jagadish sought two weeks to file objections. RTI activist Snehamayi Krishna on September 27 submitted a petition before the High Court demanding a CBI probe against CM Siddaramaiah. Krishna had stated in his petition that he does not think Lokayukta can ensure a transparent probe. He said that the Lokayukta institution comes under the state government, and officers are designated by the government. Therefore, he was not confident of a transparent and unbiased investigation into the case. On Monday, the Karnataka Lokayukta served notice to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to appear on Wednesday for questioning in connection with the alleged irregularities.



NEW DELHI, People buy worship materials ahead of the 'Chhath Puja' festival in New Delhi on Tuesday. UNI

K'taka Police registers FIR against Kumaraswamy, son on SIT Lokayukta's complaint

Bengaluru, Nov 5 (IANS) Karnataka Police registered an FIR against Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel, H.D. Kumaraswamy, on Tuesday as per the directions of a court. The petition in this regard was submitted by Lokayukta ADGP and Special Investigation Team (SIT) Chief M. Chandrashekar, in which he has accused Kumaraswamy of defaming and threatening him and his family.

Sanjaynagar police in Bengaluru have registered the FIR against Kumaraswamy. The police have named Kumaraswamy's son Nikhil Kumaraswamy and NDA candidate for Channapattana seat as the second accused in the case. C.B. Suresh Babu, the JD(S) party floor leader in the Legislative Assembly is named as the third accused in the case. Chandrashekar had filed a complaint against

Kumaraswamy with Sanjaynagar police alleging that the leaders threatened him and his family.

The police had taken a non-cognisable miscellaneous case. Chandrashekar had approached the court demanding registration of an FIR against Kumaraswamy.

The development is likely to trigger a tussle between Kumaraswamy and Chandrashekar. Kumaraswamy had lashed out at Chandrashekar for seeking permission to question the Raj Bhavan staff over the issue of information leak on a confidential file.

He had called Chandrashekar a criminal and accused him of being involved in extortion. In reply to the charges, ADGP Chandrashekar wrote a letter to his staff and refuted all allegations calling it false and malicious.

Toxic foam on Yamuna raises concerns as Chhath Puja begins in Delhi

New Delhi, Nov 5 (IANS) As the four-day Chhath festival begins with the traditional 'Nahay Khay' on Tuesday, a disturbing sight marred the religious fervour along the banks of the Yamuna River near Kalindi Kunj in Delhi.

Devotees gathered in large numbers to offer prayers and perform the ritual holy bath, a significant part of the festival dedicated to the Sun God. However, their devotion was overshadowed by the sight of toxic foam floating on the river's surface, a stark reminder of the city's persistent pollution woes. Amid the rising pollution levels that have plagued the national Capital, sections of the Yamuna River, particularly around Kalindi Kunj, were seen covered in thick, frothy foam, leaving both environmentalists and devotees concerned. As the festival enters its first day, the foam — an un-

pleasant and potentially hazardous byproduct of chemical pollution — has once again raised an alarm about the state of the river, which is central to the Chhath Puja rituals. Each year, devotees of Chhath Puja gather by the Yamuna to perform sacred bathing and prayers as part of the traditional worship. However, this year, the sight of foam on the river's surface has led many to question the efficacy of the measures taken by the administration to address the growing pollution problem. The foam, a result of untreated sewage and industrial waste being dumped into the river, has become an annual issue during the festival, yet no lasting solutions seem to have been implemented. "I love the Yamuna River, and I have come here to take a bath on Chhath Vrat, but the condition of the river is very bad. It feels very unfortunate," said Kiran, a

Ravi Shankar Prasad distributes Chhath Puja essentials to underprivileged in Patna

Patna, Nov 5 (IANS) In a heartwarming gesture, BJP Lok Sabha MP Ravi Shankar Prasad distributed essential Chhath Puja items to the lesser privileged in Patna, Bihar, as the four-day festival commenced on Tuesday. Joined by Bihar Cabinet Minister Nitin Naveen, Prasad also extended his heartfelt wishes to all devotees celebrating the festival. Chhath Puja, a deeply revered festival of faith, attracts countless devotees who come together to offer gratitude to the Sun god, marking it as a symbol of cultural identity. As Prasad greeted devotees and distributed the items, a large number gathered to collect the essentials, showering blessings on the leaders for their support during the festivities. Speaking to IANS, Prasad extended his wishes, saying, "Greetings to all Chhath devotees on this great festival of public faith. We begin with prayers, distributing prasad, and making offerings. Best wishes to everyone on this significant occasion." The Chhath Puja celebration unfolds through a series of meticulously observed rituals over the next four days, starting with Nahay Khay (bathing and eating), where devotees take a purifying bath and consume a simple meal. On the second day, devotees fast throughout 'Kharna', breaking it only after sunset by sharing a meal of roti (chapati) and kheer (rice pudding) in the company of family and friends. The third day, the festival's most significant ritual, sees devotees gather at water bodies — rivers, ponds, or sacred sites — before sunrise. Ideally standing waist-deep in water, they offer arghya (water) to the setting Sun while chanting prayers. On the last day, the same is done to the rising sun.

polluted water can lead to skin irritations and other health risks, especially for those who wade into the river to perform rituals. This scene of environmental degradation in the Yamuna also highlights the systemic issue of untreated sewage being discharged into the river, which has been an ongoing challenge for years. The river's pollution levels have reached alarming proportions, with high concentrations of chemicals and industrial waste dissolving into the water, further complicating efforts to clean it.

Despite the Delhi government's repeated assurances of measures to tackle the pollution in the Yamuna, the situation seems to have worsened over time. The lack of effective intervention during major religious events like Chhath Puja raises questions about the sincerity of the administration's efforts to improve water quality and safeguard public health.



THIRUVAMBADI, Congress General Secretary Priyanka Gandhi at a public meeting at Kodencheri, in Thiruvambadi, Wayanad on Tuesday. UNI

Post Yechuri, Kerala CPI-M all set to dominate

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 5 (IANS) With the passing of Sitarum Yechuri, who was often seen taking a pro-Congress line, and the acting General Secretary Prakash Karat toeing the line of the Kerala unit of the CPI-M of strongly opposing Congress, things are in favour of Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

The next CPI-M Party Congress will be held in Madurai in April, for which the party's state-wide meetings have all commenced. Over the years, with the CPI-M in West Bengal and Tripura getting pushed out of the main political scenario in those states, the mantle is on Vijayan and the Kerala unit of the party to go forward. According to sources, at its leader's meeting held in Delhi recently, this was the focal point of discussion and the broad agreement was the party, though part of the INDIA Block, need not show any more mercy to the Congress party in Kerala and has decided to take on none other than Lok Sabha's Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi and his sister, the candidate at the upcoming Lok Sabha by-election slated for November 13. The broad consensus was that the CPI-M would

be treating both Congress and BJP as its political opponents in Kerala. A political critic on the condition of anonymity said that CPI-M will have to play its cards very well as Kerala is its last bastion and any wrong move would be disastrous for the party.

"The election results to the April Lok Sabha elections is the writing on the wall for CPI-M as BJP has been able to move forward in its vote share and like in West Bengal and Tripura, BJP gained when CPI-M became weak and in Kerala — the first signs of it happened when the second biggest ally of the BJP-led NDA the BDJS making ground," said the critic, and added that if the CPI-M has to claw back, it has to take a very strong anti-Congress position. At the April Lok Sabha polls, the BJP-led NDA made a gain of 2.60 per cent votes, with CPI-M led Left's share declining by 2.95 per cent and the Congress-led UDF came down by 2.27 per cent. Now with Karat at the helm, who is considered close to Vijayan, unlike Yechuri, it remains to be seen if the next party General Secretary will be from Kerala and as matters stand, it cannot be ruled out as Vijayan continues to hold sway.

R.G. Kar: Protesting Bengal doctors allege gaps in CBI charge sheet

Kolkata, Nov 5 (IANS) Protesting junior doctors from West Bengal government hospitals on Tuesday alleged there were several gaps in the CBI charge sheet filed in the R.G. Kar Hospital murder-cum-rape of their colleague. West Bengal Junior Doctors' Front (WB-JDF), an umbrella body of the junior medic spearheading the agitation to demand justice for the victim of the August 9 incident, demanded answers on what it claimed to be an inordinate delay in sending samples from the crime scene for forensic test.

"Why did it take five days to send the evidence for forensic examination from the date collection?" asked a representative of the protesters, referring to alleged lack of answers on critical issues in the charge sheet. The agitating medics have questioned the federal agency's first set of charges, filed against prime accused Sanjay Roy last month, just a week before a hearing in CBI Special Court on November 11. On Monday, the process of framing of charge in the

matter was completed at the Special Court in Kolkata. The Front also alleged that the charge sheet did not give any details about the activities of accused Sanjay Roy for the 27-minute period between 3.36 A.M. and 4.03 A.M. on August 9, the day when the victim's body was recovered from the seminar

hall in the R.G. Kar Hospital premises. The Front alleged that the charge sheet was also silent on the "sticky white fluid" found on the body of the victim. The Front said the presence of the fluid was mentioned in the post-mortem report but the CBI charge sheet has not indicated whether it was sent for a DNA test or not. The WB-JDF claimed that the first charge sheet filed by the CBI appeared to be based on the findings of Kolkata Police who carried out the initial investigation before the case was handed over to the federal agency by the Calcutta High Court. WB-JDF representatives, accompanied by thousands of common people, have been organising protests outside the CBI's Salt Lake office in the northern outskirts of Kolkata to demand speedy justice for the victim.

Bengal CID summons former BJP MP a day before bypolls

Kolkata, Nov 5 (IANS) The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of West Bengal Police has summoned former BJP Lok Sabha member from Barrackpore constituency in North 24 Parganas of West Bengal Arjun Singh for questioning in connection with a Rs 4 crore scam at Bhatpara Municipality in the same district. Singh has been asked to be present at the CID headquarters along with some relevant documents on the morning of November 12, a day before six Assembly constituencies in West Bengal will go to bypolls.

matter was completed at the Special Court in Kolkata. The Front also alleged that the charge sheet did not give any details about the activities of accused Sanjay Roy for the 27-minute period between 3.36 A.M. and 4.03 A.M. on August 9, the day when the victim's body was recovered from the seminar hall in the R.G. Kar Hospital premises. The Front alleged that the charge sheet was also silent on the "sticky white fluid" found on the body of the victim. The Front said the presence of the fluid was mentioned in the post-mortem report but the CBI charge sheet has not indicated whether it was sent for a DNA test or not. The WB-JDF claimed that the first charge sheet filed by the CBI appeared to be based on the findings of Kolkata Police who carried out the initial investigation before the case was handed over to the federal agency by the Calcutta High Court. WB-JDF representatives, accompanied by thousands of common people, have been organising protests outside the CBI's Salt Lake office in the northern outskirts of Kolkata to demand speedy justice for the victim.

Six-year-old boy dies as school gate falls on him in Hyderabad

Hyderabad, Nov 5 (IANS) Tension prevailed at Hayathnagar Zilla Parishad school on the outskirts of Hyderabad on Tuesday as the family members of a six-year-old boy who died after an iron gate fell on him staged a protest, demanding justice. The boy's parents and other relatives staged a sit-in in front of the school. Hayathnagar corporator Jeevan Reddy and

leaders of the Students Federation of India (SFI) also joined the protest, demanding justice for the family of the deceased.

The protesters demanded that the principal own responsibility for the death of the boy. They were also demanding Rs 20 lakh compensation for his family. Rangareddy District Education Officer (DEO) Sushinder Rao reached the school. He

was holding talks with the protesters. Ajay, studying class I in the same school, died when the iron gate fell on him on Monday. The incident occurred around 4 p.m. when Ajay was playing near the gate.

According to Hayathnagar Circle Inspector P. Nagaraju, some children had climbed the gate and swung it to and fro. As the welding joints were weak, the gate fell on Ajay.

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HAPPY
DIWALI
&
HAPPY
NEW YEAR

