

## www.financialnewsindia.com **FINANCIAL NE** National English Daily



■ Vol.- VIII, Issue No.- 138, New Delhi ■ Monday, 17 November, 2025 ■ 8 PAGES, ■ ₹2/- ■ RNI Regd. No.- DELENG/2017/73585, ■ e-mail: financialnews.delhi@gmail.com

NIFTY 50	BSE SENSEX	Bitcoin INR	NIFTY FINANCIAL SERVICES	NIFTY BANK	\$1 (USD)	€1 (EURO)	Gold (24k) 10gm	Silver (1 Kg)	Petrol/L	Diesel/L	LPG/14.2Kg
25,910.05	84,562.78	8,558,264.93	27,491.85	<b>58,517.55</b> ▲	₹88.66 ▲	₹103.02 ▲	₹123,374.00 ▼	₹156,400.00 ▼	₹94.77	₹87.67	₹853.00
+30.90 (+0.12%)	+84.11 (+0.10%)	-296,254.99 (-0.09%)	+95.70 (+0.35%)	+135.60 (+0.23%)	-0.15 (-0.17%)	-0.26 (-0.26%)	-3377.00 (-2.66%)	-6070.00 (-3.74%)	\34.//	(0/.0/	(033.00

#### **CISF's operational strength** set to rise by 8 percent with 11,729 new recruits

New Delhi, Nov 16 (FN Reporter)



In a significant capacity-building milestone, 11,729 newly-trained Constable / GD recruits are going to be part of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)'s operational fold, as they pass out from six Regional Training Centres (RTCs) across the country today. This large-scale induction will result in a 8 percent growth in the overall operational strength of the force, marking one of the most substantial expansions in recent years. The Passing out Parade (PoP) was held at six RTCs including Barwaha - Madhya Pradesh, Deoli -Rajasthan, Behror - Rajasthan, Thakkolam- Tamil Nadu, Bhilai - Chattisgarh and Mundali in Odisha. This comes soon after the Ministry of Home Affairs approved the enhanced ceiling limit of 2.2 lakh personnel for the CISF, enabling the security force to meet rising national security responsibilities.

This development is expected to provide an operational boost to the force that secures more than 360 vital installations—including airports, seaports, nuclear plants, space facilities, and metro networks. The new addition will also play a crucial role in addressing manpower needs at several new and high-importance installations recently brought under CISF security cover, such as Jewar Airport, Navi Mumbai Airport, and other critical infrastructure projects. According to officials, the posting of new personnel has been carried out through a careful, data driven assessment of things like threat perception, volume of public ▶ Cont. to Page-7

# India emerging as premium drinks hotspot: Portuguese Innovator

Bengaluru / New Delhi, Nov 16 (FN Representative)

India's advancing cocktail culture is drawing international Lattention, with premium beverage innovators increasingly viewing the country as a highgrowth frontier. The latest to tap into this momentum is Vitor Hugo Lourenco, Beverage Director of Singapore-based Culinary Arts Group, who is in Bengaluru to introduce a curated collection of six signature drinks aimed at India's expanding premium segment. With professional stints across London, Dubai and Singapore, Lourenco's portfolio blends creative technique with a sharp understanding of global beverage trends. His Bengaluru showcase includes both alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks designed to appeal to an evolving consumer base that seeks quality, storytelling and sensory experience.

Among his headline creations are the 50/50, a balanced Martini; Velvet, a Campari-champagne blend served in a custom roseshaped glass; and Unlighted,



presented with aromatic Palo Santo smoke. His non-alcoholic range aligns with a rising domestic market for "zero-proof" luxury beverages, led by Cristali-No, crafted with milk oolong tea, honey vanilla and sparkling alternatives — and Bubbly, a mix of plum verju, Falernum and sparkling water. For Lourenco, originally from Portugal, mixology is a multisensory craft. "It's not just about taste. The aroma, the touch of the glass, even the visual presentation – it all matters.

A cocktail should unforgettable," he told UNI in an interaction, emphasising consumer appetite for premiumisation and experience-led drinking. His own entry into the industry was unplanned. Aspiring to be a marine biologist, he stepped behind a bar at a hotel in Portugal and eventually rose through roles at the Rosewood Hotel in London and across South England, before moving to Dubai and subsequently Singapore, where he oversees beverage programmes at several high-end venues. Lourenco sees India as a major growth driver for the wider ▶ Cont. to Page-7

# Market valuation of 8 of top 10 firms surges by over Rs. 2 lakh crore

New Delhi, Nov 16 (FN Bureau)

In the past week, the combined market valuation of eight of the top ■ 10 most valued companies surged by Rs 2,05,185.08 crore, with Bharti Airtel and Reliance Industries emerging as the biggest gainers. Reliance Industries Ltd's market valuation jumped by Rs 54,941.84 crore to Rs 20,55,379.61 crore, while the market capitalisation of Bharti Airtel surged by Rs 55,652.54 crore to Rs 11,96,700.84 crore. The mcap of Tata Consultancy Services zoomed by Rs 40,757.75 crore to Rs 11,23,416.17 crore and that of Infosys advanced by Rs 10,448.32 crore to Rs 6,24,198.80 crore.

Among banks, State Bank of India



(SBI) rallied by Rs10,522.90 crore to Rs 8,92,923.79 crore, HDFC Bank added Rs.9,149.13 crore to hit Rs15,20,524.34 crore, and ICICI Bank climbed Rs 20,834.35 crore to Rs 9,80,374.43

crore. HDFC Bank added Rs 9,149.13 crore, taking its market capitalisation to Rs 15,20,524.34 crore, and ICICI Bank climbed by Rs 20,834.35 crore to Rs 9,80,374.43 crore. However, the mcap of Bajaj Finance declined by Rs 30,147.94 crore to Rs 6,33,573.38 crore and Life Insurance Corporation of India's market valuation tanked Rs 9,266.12 crore to Rs 5,75,100,42 crore. Hindustan Unilever rose by Rs 2,878.25 crore to Rs 5,70,187.06 crore. The stock market settled flat on Friday as weak global cues and foreign fund outflows kept investor sentiment subdued. In a rank-wise analysis, Reliance Industries remained the ▶ Cont. to Page-7

#### ■ Shah to chair 32nd meeting of Northern Zonal Council on Nov 17

New Delhi. Nov 16 (Representative) union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah will chair the 32nd meeting of the Northern Zonal Council on Monday, where the crucial issues pertaining to various important aspects regarding member states will likely be discussed, including matters of national importance. The Northern Zonal Council comprises the states/ UTs of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh and Chandigarh. Senior officials from the Government of India, state governments, and union Territories will also participate in the meeting, which is to be held in Haryana's Faridabad. Apart from matters concerning national importance, issues like speedy investigation of cases of sexual offenses against women and children, implementation of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSC) for their swift disposal, ▶ Cont. to Page-7

#### ■ Indians have a significant role in development of Singapore : P. Chidambaram

Chennai, Nov 16 (Reporter) Congress veteran and Former union Minister P. Chidambaram said Indians have a significant role in the development of Singapore. Speaking after releasing the book 'Little India and the Singapore Indian Community: Through the Ages', beautifully chronicling and recording the history of Indians living in Singapore, written by Ms.Soundara Nayaki Vairavan, a Singapore citizen of Indian descent and a Tamil, he said Singapore Tamils have a 200-year history. People of Indian origin have been living there for two centuries, and among them, there are many Tamils, he noted. "As Tamil is an official language of Singapore, I am extremely happy and proud that Tamils stand foremost among Indians living in Singapore", he added. He said "Little India there is a great and prosperous place. ▶ Cont. to Page-7

#### ■ Portal launched for renewal of fire safety certificates in Delhi

New Delhi, Nov 16 (Agency) Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta on Saturday said that a new digital portal has been launched for the renewal of fire safety certificates, which will enable the people to get the required formalities done in a transparent and convenient manner. She said that earlier the process of renewal was manual and people faced several issues, which they will no longer encounter, as the fire department is now going digital for this work. Gupta said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi's digital India vision has shown the way of digital empowerment to the entire country, and the national capital is now on the path with a greater speed. She further said that several positive reforms are underway in Delhi's fire department, and this initiative is one of the steps in the series. She appreciated this initiative of the fire **> Cont. to Page-7** 

#### ■ Red Fort Blast: Police probe cartridge

recovered from the Red Fort blast site—two live and one empty shell. "These cartridges are prohibited for civilian use and are typically restricted to security forces or individuals with special authorization. Investigations are ongoing to determine how the cartridges ended up at the blast scene," a police official said. Separately, sources in the National Investigation Agency (NIA) stated that Dr. Janisar Alam, a resident of the Dalkola area in Uttar Dinajpur district, West Bengal, has been detained. A taxi operator from Haryana was also detained in connection with the case. According to investigative sources, the primary suspect, Doctor Umar, had stayed in a rented house in Nuh's Hidayat Colony **Cont. to Page-7** 

#### link; NIA detains doctor, taxi operator New Delhi, Nov 16 (FN Reporter) The Delhi Police

today confirmed that three 9mm-caliber cartridges were

Finance Centre (GTFC) - Kolkata Kolkata, Nov 16 (FN Representative) PSU lender State Bank of India's chairman C S Setty, who today visited Global Trade Finance Centre in the city, said that the establishment of GTFC for centralization of processing of Trade Finance and International Banking transactions is aimed at enabling faster turnaround, stronger compliance and significant improved customer experience. GTFC, Kolkata, caters to SBI branches in the entire Eastern and Northern part of India. With the strength of 300 plus skilled professionals at Kolkata centre, SBI is reinforcing its Trade Finance operations through digitization, process standardization with uniformity across the branches. Transition of Trade Finance from paper based to digital processes using AI/ML, Blockchain and document digitization is a testament to the **> Cont. to Page-7** 

■ SBI chairman CS Setty visits Global Trade

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Rajnath Singh unveils statue of Uda Devi Pasi in Lucknow

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Priyanka wins hearts as she obliges paparazzi and fans with pictures

### PM Modi leads 'Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas' celebrations, pays homage to tribal icon 'Birsa Munda'

New Delhi, Nov 16 (FN Representative)

Minister Narendra Prime Modi took took centerstage on Saturday in the spirited celebrations of Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas, commemorating the 150th birth anniversary of the revered tribal leader, Birsa Munda. The day's events were highlighted by Modi's special visit to the Devmogra Temple in Gujarat, where he performed pooja and sought blessings for the health and prosperity of all

Devmogra Mata is a revered deity for the indigenous tribal communities (including the Tadavi Bhil and Vasava tribes) residing in the Satpura

mountain range across Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, and Rajasthan. The main and ancient temple is located in Devmogra village, Sagbara taluka, Narmada district, Gujarat, near the city of Rajpipla. The goddess is worshipped as Kani-Kansari, the eternal provider of grains and prosperity. Speaking at the temple, Modi shared, "On this sacred occasion of Tribal Pride Day and the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda ji, I had the good fortune to have darshan at the temple of Devmogra Mata. From Devi Mata, I prayed for the excellent health and prosperity of all fellow countrymen." He encouraged everyone to visit the temple and ▶ Cont. to Page-7

#### India's women never lagged behind in protecting the nation and its religion: Rajnath Singh

Lucknow, Nov 16 (Reporter)

Applauding the contribution of women in India Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Sunday, "India's women power has never lagged behind in protecting the nation and its religion". He said, "Today, the doors of military schools are open to girls. Indian women are strengthening the nation's security circle from the heights of Siachen to the depths of the ocean.

More recently, during Operation Sindoor, women pilots and women soldiers played a crucial role in counter-terrorism operations Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir. I can say that every daughter of India can become Uda Devi to protect India's honor and dignity." Singh made these remarks here on Sunday on the martyrdom day

He, along with UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, unveiled a 12-foot-tall and 6-ton statue of Uda Devi holding a gun at Pasi Square in Vrindavan Colony. Defence Minister said, "Uda Devi's story illuminates the role of women in the freedom struggle. She reminds us that if women can use guns, fight in battle, and kill British soldiers, they are in no way inferior to men. Her sacrifice teaches us that true courage lies in standing firm against injustice, discrimination, and slavery." The brave woman Uda Devi Pasi was martyred during the 1857 War of Independence after killing 36 British soldiers in Lucknow's Sikandar Bagh. Singh said. "When Uda Devi was martyred. British officers took off their hats and saluted her. This was a testament to her bravery. The Pasi community played a key role in the ▶ Cont. to Page-7

of the brave woman Uda Devi Pasi.

# Delhi logs 9° C minimum as AQI stays 'very poor'; NCR cities slip into 'severe' zone

New Delhi, Nov 16 (Representative)

s the mercury dipped in the national capital, toxic haze choked the city, keeping the air quality deep in the 'very poor' category for the third consecutive day. On Sunday, the city's minimum temperature plunged to 9°C, the lowest recorded in the season so far, according to data from the India Meteorological Department(IMD). Northwesterly winds prevailed over Delhi during the past 24 hours, with wind speeds gusting up to 19 kmph, which brought with pollutants from

the northwest region. At 4 p.m. on Sunday, Delhi's 24-hour rolling average AQI inched down to 377

from 386 the previous day, yet remained in the 'very poor' category for the third consecutive day, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)

For nearly a month, residents of Delhi-NCR have been waking up to

bad air days. A week before Diwali, the city's air quality began to slide, with the first 'poor' day recorded on October 14, prompting authorities

to enforce GRAP Stage-I measures. As conditions worsened in the run-up to the festival, driven by



tailpipe emissions from traffic congestion and cracker bursting, Stage-II restrictions were imposed on October 19. With the air turning increasingly toxic, the Commission for Air Quality Management's (CAQM) Sub-Committee ordered the immediate implementation of Stage-III measures across the NCR on November 11. These curbs, meant for 'severe' air quality levels when the AQI ranges between 401 and 450, come in addition to those already enforced under Stages I and II. Stage-III restrictions include a ban on non-essential construction, the closure of stone crushers and brick kilns, and curbs on diesel generator use, among other emergency steps to halt further deterioration. ▶ Cont. to Page-7

# India's wholesale inflation bottomed out, may still remain negative through 2025-26: Report

New Delhi (Agency): India's Wholesale Price Index (WPI) or wholesale inflation has "bottomholesale inflation bottomed out, may still remain negated out" and will probably gain slight momentum from November onwards, even as it may still remain in negative territory for most of the remaining months of 2025-26, Union Bank of India said in a report.

The Bank's 2025-26 WPI forecast is currently tracking below 0.35 per cent amid what are being stated as subdued global commodity prices and a seasonal decline in food prices (with the impact of floods on food inflation seen to be capped). "Food WPI remains depressed-spatial flooding and supply-chain disruptions did not materialise as expected, keeping food prices contained," the report read.

With 2025-26 Consumer Price Index (CPI) or retail inflation projections of the Union Bank of India also running sharply below the RBI's latest estimates, it expects a 25 basis points repo rate cut in the upcoming December monetary policy review meeting.

While real GDP growth momentum remains robust, the report asserts that nominal GDP growth is expected to come



under pressure due to subdued 2025-26 CPI and WPI projections.

India's wholesale inflation turned negative in October, with the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) recording a decline of (-) 1.21 per cent in October 2025 compared to the same month last year, according to official data released by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Friday.

# Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal holds talks on India-Eurasian FTA in Moscow

(Agency): Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal discussions in Moscow with Russian leaders on the proposed India-Economic Eurasian Union (EAEU) Free Agreement, according to a statement issued by the Commerce Ministry on Sunday. Commerce Secretary met the Minister in charge of Trade of the Eurasian Economic Commission, Andrey Slepney, and the Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation, Mikhail Yurin, and also addressed a business networking plenary with members of Indian and Russian industry, the statement said. The discussions built upon the outcomes of the India-Russia Working Group on Trade and Economic Cooperation, with a continued focus diversification,



strengthening resilient supply chains, ensuring regulatory predictability and promoting balanced growth partnership. These efforts reflect the Leaders' direction to reach USD 100 billion in bilateral trade by 2030 and to expand Indian exports through industrial t e c h n o l o g i c a l collaboration. In the meeting with Minister Slepnev, the Commerce Secretary reviewed the next steps for the India-EAEU FTA in goods. The terms of reference signed on August 20,

month work plan aimed at diversifying markets for Indian businesses, including farmers and fishermen. In line with the leaders' guidance, the services and investment tracks will also be examined as the process advances, statement explained. discussions with Deputy Minister Yurin, the Commerce Secretary explored enhance diversification, supplychain resilience and cooperation in critical

# India's youthful energy and Korea's technology a win-win combination: Hardeep Puri



New Delhi (Agency): Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri, said on Sunday that India's youthful energy and South Korea's technology advantage can be a win-win combination for both countries. The minister, who is on a visit to Seoul, said he was "delighted to connect with a group of young Indian professionals and students seeking career and educational avenues in Korea." "They spoke passionately about their dreams and fervour to serve India's growth and

development under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," the minister wrote in a post on X. Puri also met the top executives of several South Korean companies, to explore avenues for strategic India-Korea collaboration, especially in the field of shipbuilding. Korean shipping companies have the knowledge and capacity and India has the demand, the skilled manpower and the right policies to turn this into a winning partnership aligned with the 'Make in India' initiative, the minister "Visited the sprawling shipbuilding facility of Hanwha Ocean in South Korea's Geoje. With robust growth across sectors, the Indian economy, which is among the fastest growing economies in the world, along with our energy sector offer massive investment partnership and opportunities in our journey towards being Viksit Bharat under PM Modi,"

Puri said in an earlier post on X.

#### Eight of India's top 10 firms add over Rs 2 lakh crore in value last week



Mumbai (Agency): India's equity markets staged a forceful comeback this week, lifting the cumulative market capitalisation of eight of the country's ten most-valued companies by Rs 2,05,185.08 crore. Even though two major players ended the day on a lower note, the rebound was driven by a general increase in investor sentiment, which was aided by firm global cues, renewed institutional buying, and easing volatility. The enhanced risk appetite was

reflected in the benchmark indices. The recent corrective phase came to an end, and the week concluded on a solid note as the NSE Nifty rose 417.75 points (1.64 per cent) and the BSE Sensex advanced 1,346.50 points (1.62 per cent). Meanwhile, the two industries that contributed most to the creation of wealth were telecom and energy. With a dramatic increase of Rs 55,652.54 crore, Bharti Airtel spearheaded the rally and increased its valuation to Rs 11,96,700.84 crore. The next most valuable company in the nation was Reliance Industries, whose market capitalisation increased by Rs 54,941.84 crore to Rs 20,55,379.61 crore. Students majoring in banking and IT also took part in the uprising. While Infosys gained Rs 10,448.32 crore to reach Rs 6,24,198.80 crore, Tata Consultancy Services added Rs 40,757.75 crore, increasing its valuation to Rs 11,23,416.17 crore.

#### IITF 2025: IT Ministry showcases India's inclusive AI initiatives



New Delhi (Agency): The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) Pavilion was inaugurated at the 44th India International Trade Fair (IITF 2025) here, to present India's vision for digital public infrastructure, responsible AI and participatory governance, the government said on Saturday. Jitin Prasada, Minister of State for Electronics and IT, MeitY inaugurated the pavilion, showcasing an immersive view of initiatives under Digital India, IndiaAI and MyGov.

# Nagaland sees boost in CSR funding with targeted, need-based projects: FM Sitharaman



Kohima (Agency): Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) investments in Nagaland have not only surged but are increasingly being aligned with local development priorities, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said on Saturday during her three-day visit to the state. After inaugurating the AI & Future Skills Centre of Excellence at Nagaland Tool Room and Training Centre (NTTC) in Dimapur, the Union Finance Minister recalled that several years ago, around 2019 or 2020, there was a genuine concern that CSR support was not reaching Nagaland. This concern, she said, was strongly voiced even by the Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio and in response, the state government organised the 2022 CSR Conclave in Nagaland, which became a turning point. Many companies, some of which had no manufacturing units or service centres in the state, were persuaded to participate and consider Nagaland as a destination for meaningful CSR initiatives. Union Minister Sitharaman said the ongoing CSR-supported programmes at NIELIT (National Institute of Electronics and Information Technology) Kohima and the NTTC in Dimapur were clear examples of this new momentum. At NIELIT Kohima, the Tata Group has stepped in to train youth in advanced areas connected to semiconductor-related technologies, with their experts set to serve as master trainers, she added. In Dimapur, Union Minister Sitharaman shared that only weeks earlier she had requested Cyient Limited Executive Chairman B.V.R. Mohan Reddy to bring to Nagaland the same high-quality skilling programmes that his foundation has been successfully running in Visakhapatnam, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and other cities.

# India may gain slight edge as US exempts several agri products from reciprocal tariffs: GTRI report

New Delhi (Agency): India is expected to gain a small edge as the US administration has exempted agricultural products from the reciprocal tariffs it had imposed on several countries, said trade think tank GTRI.

The United States has removed a set of agricultural products from the reciprocal tariffs introduced earlier this year, meaning these items will now face only the standard MFN duties.

A White House Executive Order issued on November 12 excludes coffee, tea, tropical fruits, fruit juices, cocoa, spices, bananas, oranges, tomatoes, beef and certain fertilizers from the April 2 reciprocal tariff regime, according to a Global Trade Research Initiative (GTRI) report put



out on Saturday.

The exemptions took effect on November 13. These goods are either not produced in adequate quantities domestically or depend on climate conditions the US cannot replicate, GTRI has asserted.

#### India's retail market set for USD 1 trillion leap by 2030: Fireside Ventures

New (Agency): India's consumption story is entering a transformative decade, with the retail market on track to reach USD 1 trillion by 2030, driven by rising disposable incomes, rapid digital adoption and a widening aspirational class, according to a recent report by venture capital firm, Fireside Ventures.

The venture capital firm says the shift is not merely about scale but about the structural rewiring of how India shops. Fireside notes that India's retail



channels are undergoing their most dramatic reconfiguration yet. General trade, which accounted for more than nine-tenths of the market in 2014, is expected to shrink to about 70 per cent by 2030 as modern trade,

e-commerce, quick commerce and direct-to-consumer (D2C) brands gain ground. D2C platforms and quick commerce alone could command up to 5 per cent of the market within the decade.

# Industry must invest in consent, embed data protection, say experts on DPDP Act

New Delhi (Agency): The industry must now prioritise investments in consent, embedding data protection as a core element of digital operations rather than treating it as an expense, said experts in reaction to the government's notification of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, a move seen as a decisive shift toward a "Trust Economy."

According to industry executives and legal experts, the law signals the end of unchecked bulk collection of personal data and ushers in an era where precision, accountability and user rights are central to every



digital interaction.

They noted that for citizens, the

framework transformed di

introduces a ded digital reality--one

where individuals gain the power to correct, erase and meaningfully control their personal information.

control their personal information.

"The Digital Personal Data
Protection Act notification of today
marks the definitive pivot towards a
Trust Economy where bulk
personally identifiable information
(PII) collection will be replaced by a
mandate for precision and
accountability at every digital
exchange. Certainly, the industry
must now invest in consent, making
data protection a foundation for
commerce and not a cost to it," said
Santosh Singh, Senior Vice
President, IT at DS Group.

# KTR hits out at Centre, State over deepening cotton procurement crisis in Telangana

Hyderabad, Nov 16 (Representative)

RS Working President K T Rama Rao on Sunday accused both the union and Telangana governments of "reckless negligence" as a severe cotton procurement crisis deepens across the state, leaving lakhs of farmers unable to sell their crop. In a statement here, KTR said nearly 50 lakh acres were under cotton cultivation this year but neither government had shown the urgency required to protect farmer incomes. He alleged that despite repeated

visits to Delhi by Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy, the cotton issue has not been raised meaningfully, and



MPs from both the ruling parties have failed to press the Centre for action.

blamed the Cotton KTR Corporation of India (CCI) for not procuring sufficient cotton, citing reasons such as high moisture content, problems with Kapas mobile app registrations and alleged corruption in ginning mills and grading processes. "CCI has bought only 1.12 lakh tonnes so far against a projected requirement of 28.29 lakh tonnes this season," he said, calling the shortfall "clear evidence of a deepening procurement crisis." The BRS leader warned that farmers were being denied the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of Rs 8,110 per quintal, while the open market was paying merely Rs

6,000-Rs 7,000 — a loss of nearly Rs 2.000 per quintal for growers. demanded immediate Centre intervention and urged the Telangana government to send a delegation to Delhi and launch a robust action plan. He recalled that in earlier crises the then Chief Minister K Chandrashekar Rao had personally intervened to secure relief for farmers, and asked current authorities to show similar urgency. The demand comes as cotton growers and traders in several districts await firm procurement measures to salvage incomes before markets collapse further.

#### Srinivas appointed Rajasthan Chief Secretary, Sudhansh Pant moves to Centre

Jaipur, Nov 16 (FN Reporter)

Senior IAS officer Srinivas has been appointed as the Chief Secretary of Rajasthan, according to an order issued by the state Personnel (Ka-1) Department on Sunday. Srinivas succeeds Sudhansh Pant, who has

been sent on deputation to New Delhi as Secretary in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. In addition to his role as Chief Secretary, Srinivas will hold additional charges as the Chairman of Rajasthan Mines and Mineral Corporation, Udaipur, and as the Chief Resident Commissioner of Rajasthan in New Delhi.

A 1989-batch Rajasthan IAS was in Delhi as Secretary in the Department for Administrative Reforms, Public Grievances, and Pensions and Pensioners relieved by the Centre on Friday evening at the request of the Rajasthan

government. Pant, meanwhile, will assume his deputation in the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment after November 30, 2025, when the post becomes vacant following the retirement of incumbent officer Amit Yadav. Until then, he will serve as an Officer on Special Duty (OSD) in the Cabinet Secretariat.

#### Art Competition in Sahadev Nodal School

Kendrapara, Nov 16 (Representative)



On 16 Nov Vivekananda Loka Sansada organised a Drawing Competition at Aul, Kendrapada. Near about 157 students of different schools participated in this activity. Abhay kumar Sutar secretary of this organisation, Kendrapada organised this programme. The activity was coordinated by Narendra Kumar Das. Other active members were Govind Nanda, Praful Parida, Chittaranjan Das, Narayan Sutar, teacher of the School Supraha Malick, Smita Nanda and Dali Bala Behera were present over here and whole heartedly conducted this Programme. Co- ordinator Narendra Dash said "We want to develop the hidden talents of our children. Their skill develop is our motto. The teachers of the School said" We are glad to do such type of social development work.

#### Uddhav Thackeray reinstated as chairman of **Balasaheb Thackeray National Memorial Trust**

Mumbai, Nov 16 (Agency)

Maharashtra government has reconstituted the Balasaheb Thackeray National Memorial Public Trust, reinstating Shiv Sena leader Uddhav Thackeray as chairman, marking a significant to the memorial's administration. The government resolution formalises an elevenmember governing body with varying tenures. Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray will serve as Chairman for a five-year term, alongside former minister Subhash Rajaram Desai, who has been appointed Secretary, and former minister Aditya Uddhav Thackeray, who joins as a member for the same duration. BJP MLA Parag Alavani and former MLA Shishir Shinde

have been appointed to the trust for

a three-year term. The reconstituted body also includes four ex-officio officials: the Chief Secretary of Maharashtra Government, the Principal Secretary of Urban Development Division 2, the Principal Secretary of the Law and Justice Department, and the Commissioner of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation.

Two additional members will be elected from the general trust membership to complete the eleven-member structure. The reconstitution follows earlier objections from the Shinde faction, which had demanded Uddhav Thackeray's removal. Thackeray had stepped down as chairman on November 25, 2019, and the previous terms of other members expired on March 11, 2025. Shinde group leader Ramdas Kadam had previously argued that Thackeray

should not remain associated with the memorial. Secretary Subhash Rajaram Desai has been instructed to update the trust's official records with the Charity Commissioner. revising registration under the Mumbai Public Trust Act, 1950, and the Cooperative Societies Registration Act, 1960. The trust will operate in accordance with its Memorandum of Association and Rules and Regulations. Construction of the national memorial at the Mayor's Bungalow premises in Shivaji Park, Dadar, continues at a rapid pace. The updated governing body is expected to provide strategic direction to the project, with indications that the memorial could be opened to the public within the next year. The trust was originally constituted under a government resolution issued on September 27,

### National Press Day Observed at Delang

Delang, Nov 16 (Representative)

Make In India And Media Parivar (MIMP) Collaboration with Delang Press Club (DPC) Organized National Press Day -2025 on November 16 in the premises of Pravat Club, Delang Station Bazar.On

the occasion of National Press Day, the organization took up plantation work and a collective Vande Matarm Song was sung and discussed about theme Role of media in making a good

The program was Inaugurated by the president of DPC & sr Journalist Prasan Tripathy and talked about the importance of the National Press day. The secretary of DPC & Chairman of MIMP Dillip Kumar Dhaudia,

welcomed and Coordinated the program. Journalist Pradip Ranjan Biswal, Bijaya Kumar Mahapatra, Chandra Sekhar



Biswal, Anima Mishra, Rashmi ranjan Pradhan, Balabantaray, Bibhuti Bhushan Harichandan, Educationalist Basudev Jena, Kanhu ch Lenka, Pravat Ku Jena, Social Worker Baburam Das, Prasant Kumar Rautaray, were prominently participated and shared their valuable talks on the day and its theme.In the conclusion, Chitaranjan Jena Asstant Secretary of DPC gave the vote

# DLSA Kaithal organises special Awareness programme for Senior Citizens

Kaithal, Nov 16 (Agency)

Under the directions of Member Secretary, Haryana State Legal Authority(HSLSA), Panchkula, and supervision of Ajay Prashar District and Sessions Judge and Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Kaithal, an awareness programme was organized by DLSA Kaithal, for awareness and outreach to disseminate information about the key provisions and benefits of the 'Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act. 2007', at conference hall of Punjabi Welfare Sabha near Madan Lal Dhingra Smarak, Kanwal Chief Judicial Magistrate cum Secretary DLSA informed that the objective of this awareness programme to provide important knowledge of special law to all Parents and Senior Citizens and to make them aware about

their Rights under the said Act. Arvind Khurania, Senior Panel Advocate of DLSA Kaithal and Master Trainer of HSLSA being

key speaker told that the this special central Act puts the obligation on children to provide for food, clothing, housing, and medical care and treatment for their senior citizen parents. Children, including a major

son, daughter, grandson, and granddaughter, must provide for these basic needs. "If they fail, parents can seek relief from a Maintenance Tribunal, which can order monthly maintenance

allowance. The Tribunal can also revoke property transfers if a parents/senior citizen was promised care by the children/ legal heirs, but later on neglected by them. The Supreme Court has clarified that the relevant date to determine whether a person qualifies as a "senior citizen" under the Maintenance and

Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act. 2007 is the date of filing of the application before the Maintenance Tribunal. not



the date of adjudication. In a significant ruling safeguarding the rights of elderly parents, the Supreme Court has upheld the authority of maintenance tribunals under the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 to order eviction of children who

fail to fulfil their statutory duty of care.

Rights under this law are not restricted only to senior citizen parents. "The Maintenance

and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, explicitly provides that a senior citizen and/ or a parent (not necessarily a senior citizen and including biological, adoptive, and step-parents), who cannot themselves, maintain is entitled to make an application for maintenance." The Act also provides for situations where there are no children, and if the children

are unable to maintain the parents. In such cases, the Act extends the obligation to provide for maintenance to relatives, which includes any legal heir of a childless senior citizen who is not a minor and who possesses or will inherit the property of such senior citizen after their death. Khurania says "In cases where multiple relatives are entitled to inherit the property, the maintenance is payable by them in proportion to their inheritance

Parents can approach the Maintenance Tribunal, which must decide within 90 days and can order monthly financial support. Children are legally bound to provide for their parents' basic needs, including food, shelter, and medical care. Failure to pay maintenance can result in a fine or imprisonment. If a child neglects a parent after receiving property, the Tribunal can nullify the transfer. Failure to maintain parents can also lead to the revocation of property transfers. Subhash Kathuria President Punjabi Welfare Sabha, Narinder Nijhawan President Senior Citizen Welfare Society, Mahesh Dhamija Secretary, President, Ruldu Ram President Varisth Nagrik Sewa Samiti were among those present in this awareness programme.



[Rule 8 (5) and (6) read with Rule 9(1) of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002] #
[Rule 6 of Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002] \*
[# Immovable Secured Assets/ \* Movable Secured Assets]

To: M/s Mahalaxmi Filling Station (Borrower/Firm) Bhinder Kanod Road, Village Badwai, Domb Distt- Chittorgarh Rajasthan 313603. Smt. Chanchal Srimali w/o Sh Subhash Chandra Trived (Properitor) 27, Surbhi Villa Shrinath comlex Debari Udaipur (Raj.). Sh Subhash Chandra Trived S/o Sh Satya Narayan Trivedi (Guarantor) 27, Surbhi Villa Shrinath comlex Debari Udaipur (Raj.)

Sub: Notice for Sale under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 & Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002 On your failure to repay the dues demanded vide notice issued under Section 13(2) dated 21.12.2023, the Authorized officer had taken possession under Section 13 (4) on 13.03.2024 and hrough e-auction on **15.06.2024** (Mention last e-auction date) by following the process laid do

ander the captioned Act and Rules made thereunder.

The e-Auction(s) conducted as detailed above in respect of the schedule property(ies) was/wer not successful for want of bidders/bids above reserve price.

not successful for want of bioders/biods above reserve price. Thereafter, a person has shown interest in purchasing the Schedule Property(ies) for a price of Rs.1,04,00,000/- (add offer amount) Rs. 1,04,00,000/- which is above the Reserve Price of Rs.75,00,000/- of last failed e-Auction and on terms agreeable to the Bank and the propose purchaser. As the Schedule Property(ies) could not be sold through e-auction(s) held earlier, the Bank has decided to sell the property to the proposed purchaser by way of private treaty.

If you fail to pay the dues outstanding in your loan account as per 13 (2) notice issued earlier with If 5 days from date of receipt of this notice, the schedule property(ies) shall be sold to the propose purchaser as per the terms agreed between the Bank and the proposed purchaser without an further notice to you. Further in case if you have any Purchaser with better offer i.e. more than the above offer amount, please bring the said Purchaser and request him to submit the bid/offer with 10% EMD amount in application format available with our office/banks website within 15 day ailing which property will be sold to the prospective purchaser. If the sale proceeds of the schedu aming which properly with described the property grounds. It is a series proceeds on the scheduler property (les) is/are insufficient to realise the outstanding dues under the loan account, the legaction initiated / to be initiated against you and others shall continue / follow until full recovery of the

SCHEDULE OF PROPERTY (Description of Movable / Immovable Secured Assets)
Equitable mortgage of property situated at:-

. All the part and parcel of equitable mortgage of residential property situated at khasra no. 1818/2, near Kheroda Road NH76, Village Navaniya, Vallabhnagar, Distt Udaipur, admeasuring area 2484 Sq Meters in the name of Smt. Chanchal Srimali w/o Sh Subhash Chandra Trivedi. Bounded by:- East: land of Chanchal Srimali, West: Other agri land North: National highway, South: Public way.

2. All the part and parcel of equitable Mortgage of residential plot at khasra no. 1818/3 Near Kheroda Road NH76, Village Navaniya Vallabhnagar Distt Udaipur, admeasuring area 16602 Sq Feet in the name of Smt. Chanchal Srimali w/o Sh Subhash Chandra area 16002 54 Feet III tile Halle UT SIN. Chanchal Stillat Wi ST Subhash Chandr Trivedi. Bounded by- East: Araji no. 1818MI & Kheroda Road, West: Remaining land o arraji no. 1818/2/1 Road 30', North: Aaraji No. 1818/3 Babulal Suthar, South: Navaniy.

SD/- Authorised Officer & Chief Manage

### New Guinness World Record for largest audience at a campfire storytelling created in the city

Pune Nov 16 (Reporter)

Thile winter chill is knocking the door the environment at the Kharadi campus of Dhole Patil Education Society witnessed the rise in the temperature and energies resulting in the creation of an all new Guinness World Records, achievement for 'Largest Audience at a Campfire storytelling'. 4.623 individuals including the students and their parents participated to set a new Guinness World Records feat while listening to the historical stories about Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj alongside the specially created campfire at the record attempt venue. Pravin Patel, a Senior Guinness World Records adjudicator from London who came to Pune

to adjudicate this record attempt, handed over the official Guinness World Records certificate of setting up a new record as mentioned above to Mr. Sagar Dhole Patil, Chairman of the Dhole Patil Education Society

after the successful attempt. Speaking on the occasion, Sagar Dhole Patil said, "Few months back, 12 forts related to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj under the collective name of 'Maratha Military Landscape' were inscribed as UNESCO World Heritage Sites. The idea to have campfire storytelling was conceived to take this matter of pride closer to the students through an interesting yet a traditional format of storytelling. Campfire storytelling is pretty common and famous amongst the Trekkers world over. Thus, in a bid to reach out the audiences across the

globe about this development related to Shivaji Maharaj's forts, we decided to attempt an all-new Guinness World Records title and I am happy to inform you that we successfully achieved the desired outcome, he added. During this Guinness World Records attempt, noted filmmaker Digpal Lanjekar narrated stories of the bravery and intelligence of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj related to these 12 forts, which got the UNESCO World Heritage Status. This is the 3rd successful Guinness World Records achievement by Dhole Patil Education Society within a short span of about 6 months. The previous records include most prosthetic limbs fitted in 8 hours and most people performing diya rotations (Aarti) simultaneously during the recently held Ganesh Festival.

#### पंजाब नैशनल बैंक punjab national bank

Punjab National Bank, COSAMD; JAIPUR-SIKAR Email: cosikarsamd@pnb.co.in Contact: 9413360236

#### **SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES** E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rul 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002. Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable

property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of the Bank/ Secured Creditor, will be sold on "As is where is" ("As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on the date as mentioned in the table herein below, for recovery of its dues due to the Bank/ Secured Creditor from the respective borrower (s) and

guarantor (s). The reserve price and the earnest money deposit will be as mentioned in the table below against the respective properties.									
Lot no.	Name of the Branch		A) Dt. Of Demand Notice u/s 13(2) of	A) Reserve Price (Rs. in Actuals)		Details of the encumbrances known to the secured creditors			
	Name of the Account	Description of the Immovable Properties	SARFAESI ACT 2002 and	B) EMD	Date/ Time of E-Auction				
	Name & Addresses	Mortgaged/ Owner's Name (mortgagers of property(ies))	Outstanding Amount  B) Possession Date u/s	C) Bid Increase Amount					
	of the Borrowers/ Guarantors Account	(	13(4) of SARFAESI ACT 2002 C)Nature of Possession	D) Date/Time of inspection					
1.	PNB- Laxmangarh Shri Anil Kumar Nayak s/o Sh. Ram Chandra Nayak	All that part and parcel of the Residential House Situated at Ward No.03, Patta No 9/12, Mohalla		A) Rs.12,01,700/-	17/12/2025 From 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM	Not Known			
	Borrower:- Shri. Anil Kumar Nayak S/o Mr. Ram	Nayakan, Fatehpur, Dist Sikar (Raj)- 332301. Admeasuring 90.91 Sq. Yd In the Name of Shri. Ram	A) 03.05.2023 O/s amt. - Rs.1,75,218.30 as on 31.10.2025 plus further interest and other expenses. B) 21.07.2023	B) Rs.1,20,170/-					
	chandra Nayak; R/o Ward No 3 Mohalla Nayakan, Fatehpur Dist. Sikar (Raj.) PIN-332301	chandra Nayak S/o Mr. Dalu Ram Nayak		C) Rs.10,000/-					
	Co- Borrower:- Shri. Ram chandra Nayak S/o Mr. Dalu Ram Nayak; R/o Ward No 3 Mohalla Nayakan,	Bounded as under:- East- Gulab Daluram Nayak, West- Ramswroop Nayak, North- Rasta Chowk, South-		D) 16/12/2025					
	Fatehpur Dist. Sikar (Raj.) PIN-332301	House of Gori Shankar Nayak	C) Symbolic Possession						
2.	PNB- Ajitgarh	All that part and parcel of the Residential & Commercial property in the name of Smt. Prabhati Devi w/o Shri	- Rs.9,26,073.74 as on 31.10.2025 plus further interest and other expenses. B) 23.09.2025	A) Rs.21,84,000/-	30/12/2025 From 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM				
	M/s Sahara Marbles and Granites Prop. Manish Kumar Meena	Mangal Chand Meena admeasuring 360.00 sq.yard		B) Rs.2,18,400/-		Not Known			
	Borrower:- 1. M/s Sahara Marbles and Granites Prop. Manish Kumar Meena, Opp. Police Station Neem Ka	situated at Svabhiman Library, Main Market Area, Village Thoi, Tehsil Sri Madhopur, Dist. Sikar,		C) Rs.10,000/-					
	Thana Road, Ajitgarh Dist. Sikar- 332701.  Guarantor:- Smt. Prabhati Devi W/o Shri Mangal	of Richhpal Halwai and Raju Lodhi, South- Gali then		D) 29/12/2025					
	Chand Meena, Address: W. No 01, Police Thane Ke Samne, Ajitgarh, Tehsil Srimadhopur, Dist. Sikar 332701	House of Suvalal, East: Gali Then House of Basanti Lal and Mothuram Choudhary, West: Rasta.	C) Symbolic Possession						

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:- 1. The sale shall be subject to the Terms & Conditions prescribed in the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 and to the following further conditions: 2 The properties are being sold on "AS IS WHERE IS BASIS and "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS". 3. The particulars of Secured Assets specified in the Schedul hereinabove have been stated to the best of the information of the Authorised Officer, but the Authorised Officer shall not be answerable for any error, misstatement or omission in this proclamation. 4. The Sale will be done by the undersigned through e-auction platform provided at the Website https://baanknet.com on above mention dated @ 11.00 AM to 04.00 PM. 5 or detailed term and conditions of the sale, please refer **https://baanknet.com,www.pnbindia.in** 

Date: 14/11/2025 Place: Sikar STATUTORY SALE NOTICE UNDER RULE 8(6) & 9(1) OF THE SARFAESI ACT, 2002

Secured Creditor, Punjab National Bank

# **EDITORIAL**

#### Dear Delhi Pollsters, Please Stop Writing Nitish **Kumar Off Every Election**

For a leader who has spent decades in power, Nitish Kumar remains a figure beyond calculations. Ahead of nearly every election, commentators predict his fall. They call him indecisive, fatigued, past his peak, or politically overextended. And yet, Bihar has repeatedly turned to him to anchor the state's politics for the last several elections. The 2025 election results have reinforced this pattern with striking clarity: Nitish Kumar remains Bihar's ultimate X-factor, and it's time we stop writing him off so easi-

What keeps Nitish Kumar at the heart of Bihar politics is plain numbers. Across cycles, he has consistently commanded a formidable 15-20% vote share on his own. In a fragmented state where no single party dominates across caste and regional divides, this is a mammoth share. It is why from 2005 to 2010, 2015, 2020, and the 2024 Lok Sabha election, political formations that have allied with him have usually ended up winning.

Nitish retains credibility among a broad social coalition: OBCs, EBCs, Mahadalits, non-Yaday OBCs, and a steady section of Muslim voters. He is one of the few leaders in Bihar capable of pulling support from communities with competing political interests.

One of the most understated aspects of Nitish's politics is the quiet trust he enjoys among Muslims. Under him, the JD(U) has positioned itself as a centrist, moderate counterweight to majoritarian politics. His presence keeps coalition politics balanced, ensuring that Bihar does not tilt ideologically like many other states have done. This brings him a sizable chunk of the Muslim vote.

However, if there is a single constituency that has transformed Nitish Kumar's political fortunes, it is women arguably the most influential electoral bloc in Bihar today. This support is not sentimental; it is the direct result of policies that touched everyday lives. For instance, the Mukhyamantri Balika Cycle Yojana launched by his government encouraged girls' schooling. Combined with free uniforms and scholarships, it created enormous goodwill for his government among women.

Then there was the Mukhyamantri Mahila Rozgar Yojana, which put ?10,000 directly into the accounts of over a crore women. Add to that the long-running network of self-help groups under the Jivika Didi programme, where lakhs of women accessed credit, savings, and incomegenerating support.

The alcohol prohibition undertaken by his government also vielded clear political dividends for Nitish Kumar, especially among rural women. Less domestic violence, more savings in the household, and a quieter, more stable family environment made women support his government. For many, this positioned Nitish as a leader willing to take politically costly decisions in their

These interventions collectively created perhaps the most dependable female vote bank in Indian politics.

The evidence is visible in turnout: in seats where women outvoted men, Nitish-led alliances historically performed significantly better. For instance, in 2020, women outvoted men in 119 out of 243 seats. The NDA ended up winning a whopping 72 of these seats - a 60% strike rate.

### RJD's decline signals search for a new Opposition in Bihar



Some may point out the RJD's striking 80-seats tally in 2015, and 75 in 2020. But while in 2015 it contested under the banner of JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar, in 2020 LJP's Chirag Paswan's role as the JD(U)'s vote cutter must be factored in. Before Bihar went to the hustings on November 6 and 11, a fleet of Delhi journalists who arrived in Patna were taken aback by the dull and drab electoral canvas around them. 'There is no proincumbency or anti-incumbency sentiment,' some noted in their social media postings.

But underneath a sense of saturation with the now ageing Kumar and his ally BJP, there was a silent, reluctant consensus to vote for them to preclude the RJD. A last-minute handout of Rs 10,000 to women also helped the NDA.

Throughout my reporting in the Magadh region and Mithilanchal, I was astounded by the people's enduring memory of what is often termed the 'jungle raj' - perhaps rejigged by Instagram reels. In Delhi, many underplay that factor. For them, Lalu Prasad's illustrious story of a subaltern underdog taking on Bihar's oppressive feudalism weighs more heavily than acknowledging the ground reality: his steady slip from being the messiah of the poor to a formidable leader of the OBCs to an effacing Muslim-Yadav figurehead.

Some are even accusatory. Anybody stating that fear of the return of lawlessness still is a major factor among voters is vilified for fuelling upper-caste

But endemic fear persists. The most frantic anti-RJD respondents I met across Bihar were the poor:

Those selling noodles and egg-roll in Patna's Marine Drive and in other big cities, kiosk owners, dailywage earners returning late from work to their hamlets. "We're earning a measly Rs 300-500 a day after 12-14 hours of slogging. We are not going to give Rs 200 out of it to 'Yadav musclemen'," they said plainly. While penning this article, the BJP is leading in 92 seats, its ally JD(U) in 84. The RJD is relegated to 25.

But lawlessness is not Lalu Prasad's only legacy. His tenure saw monopolisation of reservation benefits by the dominant OBCs, primarily the Yadavs, creating deep fissures among smaller castes, whom Nitish Kumar patronised and later recognised as Extremely Backward Class (EBC).

Rahul Gandhi's and Tejashwi Yadav's voter adhikar yatra, however pivotal to the survival of democracy, makes no sense to these EBCs, whose only ticket to a turnaround is securing a government job - but who saw government postings unevenly distributed under Lalu Prasad. They are wary of the RJD, even as behind Bihar's flashy infrastructural makeover hides unnerving poverty. More than 94 lakh families in Bihar survive on Rs 6,000 or less a month.

Deep penetration of Hindutva in Bihar's hinterland is now a reality. On the surface, there's hardly

any communal violence, but urban middle-class talking points- laced with hostility for Muslims- now find articulation among Bihar's poor. Even in Dushadh and Saini villages, respondents were full of adulation for Narendra Modi for abolishing Article 370 and building the Ram temple in Ayodhya. This was when they sold livestock to eke out a living, and 50% of their crops were wasted due to the late monsoon.

The Opposition must from Understanding voter psyche is paramount to that exercise. The takeaway is: A cross section of the electorate, especially the EBCs and increasingly the Dalits, are not compatible with the RJD - the blandishment of one government job per household notwithstanding. The RJD's swarming Muslim and Yadav supporters, flashed along with pejorative comments on social media, leads to reverse consolidation.

The late Kanshi Ram said a fight from the scratch must be two-fold: Capturing the principal Opposition space before capturing power.



#### Nitish Kumar outshines allies and adversaries, Tejashwi Yadav emerges as the weakest link



**Rachit Seth** 

On the other hand, Tejashwi Yadav remains the weakest link in the Opposition. Unlike in 2020, the blame for the collapse of the Mahagathbandhan (MGB) cannot be put on the weak shoulders of the Congress. This election (the second led by Tejashwi Yadav) highlighted the RJD's limitations in expanding beyond its traditional Muslim-Yadav vote bank.

What appeared in 2024 to be a shift of Kushwaha voters towards the RJD was also limited in this election. This stems from a limitation in Tejashwi Yadav's political strategy. He continues to rely on traditional vote blocs without attempting a significant social or ideological expansion.

In contrast, examine the Samajwadi Party's the last five years to move beyond his votes through regular and umbrella outreach to PDA (Pichda, Dalit, Alpasankhyak). Breaking electoral barriers, he also met the astronaut Sudhanshu Shukla, seen as a clever political outreach to impress upon uppercaste votes, now dominated by the BJP.

The MGB made some lastminute (too little, too late) efforts, such as declaring Mukesh Sahni as deputy chief minister, to win some Mallah

In the end, the electorate proved smart enough not to give a chance to someone who ventured into an electoral campaign on the ground just before the elections. The MGB even failed to announce that a

Muslim could be a deputy chief minister, thus taking a massive hit in the minority-dominated Seemanchal region.

Bhojpur, a region where the MGB did well in 2020, also disappointed this time, virtually wiping it out. Tejashwi Yaday anchored his campaign on issues of youth unemployment and governance, including health, education, and irrigation. With a constrained caste strategy and weak local outreach in the field, his macronarrative did not translate into last-mile traction.

The NDA was a wider caste and aspiration-based coalition to start with. No wonder the BJP seems to have had its best strike rate in terms of seats. Kumar commands strong loyalty from Bihar's EBC communities, who comprise approximately 36% of the population although this group is divided across 113 castes. His core support comes from the non-Muslim EBCs, around 26% along with Kurmi and Koeri voters, while the BJP traditionally relies on influential uppercaste groups. Still, the BJP has expanded its appeal by promoting leaders from non-Yadav OBC and EBC communities, which has helped it secure around 30% of the vote in recent elections.



#### Big sweep In Bihar, a vote for continuity

**Aakash Mehrotra** 

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has won a landslide victory in the Bihar assembly election, securing more than four-fifths of the 243 seats and sealing another term for a Nitish Kumar-led government. This is an assertion of dominance that exceeds the coalition's expectations, decimating the Mahagathbandhan anchored by the RJD and the Congress. For the two key NDA forces, the result echoes 2020 - the BJP has emerged as the largest party; it had more seats than partner JD(U) in the last assembly election, but Nitish Kumar dominated the alliance as its undisputed leader. Though he is set to continue as Chief Minister, a shift in power equations within the coalition is likely, given the BJP's surge and the veteran leader's declining health. The result carries significance at the Modi government; it will also drive the NDA's poll machine as it enters campaign mode for elections in other states.

By projecting Nitish - sushasan babu and the state's most popular leader - as the face of the campaign, the NDA played its cards right. Incumbency, it appears, has turned out to be an advantage for the man who enters his fifth successive term at the helm. The high voter turnout, particularly of women, is likely to have helped the NDA. Pro-women schemes and the government's controversial cash transfers to over 1.5 crore women may have been key factors, if elections in other states are any indication. Welfare outreach, infrastructure development, and the assurance of personal safety may also have appealed to the voter. The NDA had in place an effective caste combination with the right balance of upper, backward, and extremely backward castes, and the Dalits. While all the NDA constituents, including the minor parties, cause, the worked on a shared Mahagathbandhan faltered in presenting a unit-

## IT Policy targets broader growth base

Zulfikar Majid



Karnataka's newly announced IT Policy marks a significant milestone in the state's economic strategy, combining ambition with a welcome commitment to dispersing growth beyond Bengaluru's confines. At a time when the global technology landscape is evolving rapidly, the policy outlines a clear roadmap to consolidate Karnataka's leadership in IT and emerging technologies, while also addressing long-standing regional imbalances. The policy sets ambitious growth targets.

According to IT Minister Priyank Kharge, the state aims to almost triple software exports from the current Rs 4.09 lakh crore to Rs 11.5 lakh crore by 2030. It aims to generate over 90 lakh direct and indirect jobs and increase the IT sector's contribution to the Gross State Value Added (GSVA) from 26% to 36%. Backed by a financial outlay of Rs 967.12 crore for incentives, concessions, and enabling programmes, the framework signals seriousness of purpose rather than mere intent.

Its strongest feature, however, is the push to take the IT ecosystem "Beyond Bengaluru". Seven tier-2 and tier-3 cities Mysuru, Mangaluru, Hubballi-Dharwad, Belagavi, Tumakuru,

Kalaburagi, and Shivamogga have been identified as regional technology hubs. To attract companies to these locations, the policy offers targeted incentives including recruitment assistance, talent-reloca-

tion reimbursements, operational concessions. This decentralisation thrust is essential for balanced regional generation technologies by declaring the state an "AInative destination". It aims to investments anchor Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain, Quantum Computing, Green IT, and advanced cybersecurity. The policy also emphasises workforce and talent development: Talent Return Programme seeks to attract mid-career Indian professionals back to the state, while the Women in Global Tech Missions Fellowship proposes to train 1,000 women in leadership and advanced technologies. Incentives for faculty upskilling strengthen the talent pipeline by aligning academia with evolving industry needs.

is the policy's focus on next-

However, even as the policy

rightly reinforces Karnataka's technology leadership, the state must not lose sight of the need for a balanced economic structure. Services, particularly IT/ITeS, dominate the GSVA, while manufacturing accounts for a relatively modest share. For growth to be inclusive, regionally equitable, and resilient, Karnataka must complement its IT prowess with a stronger manufacturing base. While the new IT Policy is a step in the right direction, the state's overall progress will ultimately depend on how effectively it harmonises the drivers of its economy - technology-driven services, engineering-led manufacturing, and agriculture, to create widespread and sustainable prosperity.



development and could relieve the urban pressures on Bengaluru. Equally significant

# Rajnath Singh unveils statue of Uda Devi Pasi in Lucknow

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Uttar Pradesh Minister Adityanath on unveiled a statue of freedom fighter Uda Devi Pasi in Lucknow.

Addressing the event in Lucknow, Rajnath Singh said that not just the Pasi community, but the whole nation is proud of Uda Devi.

Being an MP from Lucknow, Singh added that it is a matter of "great pride and honour" to have been associated with the land of Uda Devi and Baba Saheb Ambedkar as his place of

"Uda Devi not only made the Pasi community proud but also the entire nation. Every Indian should feel proud of her. I am truly delighted to be present among you all in Lucknow today for this event related to



to the Dalit community and sacrificed her life in this very region of Lucknow. Lucknow shares a special bond with the prominent Dalit figure, Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar. Bhadant Bodhanand Ji, who was like a teacher to Baba

him, resided in Lucknow. That is why we all recognise Lucknow as the land of Baba Saheb's affection... It is a matter of great pride and honour for me to have a land associated with Uda Devi and Baba Saheb Ambedkar as my place of work," the Defence Minister added.

The Defence Minister further said that Uda Devi's sacrifice teaches us that true courage lies in standing tall and strong against injustice, discrimination, and slavery.

He said that Uda Devi's life is a great example of the invaluable value of women's empowerment and equality. "Uda Devi's sacrifice

teaches us that true courage lies in standing tall and strong against injustice, discrimination, and slavery. Uda Devi's life is a great example of the invaluable

India's women have never lagged behind in protecting their country and religion. Today, the doors of Sainik Schools have been opened to girls. Indian women are strengthening the nation's security circle from the heights of Siachen to the depths of the ocean... During Operation Sindoor, women pilots and soldiers played a crucial role in counterterrorism operations in Pakistan and Pakistanoccupied Jammu Kashmir... I can also say without hesitation that every daughter can become Uda Devi to protect the honour and pride of India," the Defence Minister added.

Uda Devi Pasi was a heroic Dalit woman freedom fighter who played a pivotal role in the Indian Rebellion of 1857 against the British East India Company.

#### Assam prioritising awareness campaigns to combat drug menace

Guwahati (Agency): Assam and other northeastern states have witnessed a huge spike in narcotic cases in the last few years, with peddlers resorting to many modern tactics. Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said that with modified tactics, the drugs are being delivered by traffickers sitting in far-off places, which is very dangerous. "In Assam and Meghalaya, primarily drug carriers have been operating, and it is a long battle for us against them, and it will continue. However, the traffickers have been using various methods to deliver the consignments, and often they have been using drones as carriers of narcotics items," he stated recently. According to the CM, the menace of the drug is huge, and this must be dealt with by spreading awareness among school and college students who can easily come under the influence of narcotics. The Education Department in Assam has been giving priority to anti-drug awareness campaigns. In Golaghat district, Cluster Resource Centre Coordinator (CRCC), Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan told the news agency, "This year's Children's Day celebration was marked with a powerful learning experience to spread awareness campaigns." In Nahorbari M V School



in the Golaghat district, more than 250 students and teachers engaged in an anti-drug awareness session. Kakoty said, "The session was aimed to educate students about the harmful effects of substance use and empower them to make informed, healthy choices. The Children's Day programme featured poster-making activities, interactive games, and open discussions to help students the far-reaching understand consequences of drug abuse on individuals, families and communities." "Children's Day is a reminder that every child deserves a safe and healthy future.

#### ED seizes Rs 22 lakh from Punjab engineering firm over illegal deals in Syria, Turkey

Jalandhar (Agency): The ED seized Rs 22 lakh during searches at four premises of an engineering goods export company in Punjab's Phagwara for receiving payments through unauthorised channels against articles shipped to Syria, Iran, Turkey and Colombia, an official said on Sunday. The Directorate of Enforcement Jalandhar Zonal Office, conducted the search operations on Friday at the linked Phagwara-based firm Opal Engineering Corporation (OEC) involved in the export of engineering goods. During the search, Indian currency of the amount of Rs 22 lakh,



incriminating and electronic evidence were recovered and seized. The ED also collected evidence that transactions were also settled in cash in India and abroad. The firm faces the action for alleged violation of provisions of FEMA, 1999, by receiving payments from unrelated third parties without following the due ED procedure. The investigation revealed that

the company exported goods to countries -- Syria, Iran, Turkey and Colombia -- but the export proceeds were not realised as per guidelines prescribed under FEMA, 1999 and RBI guidelines, said a statement. The proceeds were adjusted against payments received from unrelated parties, from different countries and by taking payments into personal accounts, the ED said. There were no tripartite agreements or any other documentary proof for adjustment entries from unrelated parties. The firm used an intimation to a fake Customs email address to claim the genuineness of the same, it said.

#### Vice-President Radhakrishnan hails CAG as guardian of Bharat's 'moral wealth'



Vice-President Radhakrishnan on Sunday emphasised the importance of accountability, transparency, and integrity for upholding the moral wealth of Bharat, lauding the contributions of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India. Speaking at the Audit Diwas

Celebrations 2025 as the Chief Guest, the Vice-President appreciated the pivotal role of the CAG, calling the institution the "guardian of the public purse". He highlighted that by upholding fairness and truth in auditing, the CAG stands as a pillar of accountability, transparency, and integrity -

#### HM Amit Shah to chair Northern Zonal Council meeting in Faridabad today

New Delhi (Agency): Union Home Minister Amit Shah will lead discussions on key issues concerning states and the Centre at the Northern Zonal Council's meeting in Haryana's Faridabad today, an official said. Under HM Shah's chairmanship, the 32nd meeting of the Northern Zonal Council may discuss broad issues of national importance, including the speedy investigation of cases of sexual offences against women and children and the implementation of Fast Track Special Courts (FTSC) for their swift disposal. Issues like providing brick-and-mortar banking facilities within the designated area of every village; implementation of the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS-112); and various regional-level common interest issues such as strengthening nutrition, education, health, electricity, urban planning, and the cooperative system may also come up for discussion, said a statement issued on Sunday. The Northern Zonal Council comprises the states/UTs of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Delhi, Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, and Chandigarh. Senior officials from the Government of India, state governments, and union territories will also participate in the meeting, chaired by HM Shah. This meeting on Monday will be organised by the Inter-State Council Secretariat, Ministry of Home Affairs, with the Haryana government as its host. The Union Home Minister is the chairperson of the Northern Zonal Council, and Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini is its vicechairperson. The role of the Zonal Councils is advisory; however, over the past few years, these councils have proven to be an important factor in promoting healthy bonds of mutual understanding and cooperation in various fields. Five Zonal Councils, including the Northern Zonal Council, were established under Sections 15 to 22 of the States Reorganisation Act, 1956. With the cooperation of all state governments, Central ministries, and departments, a total of 63 meetings of the various Zonal Councils and their permanent committees have been held in the last 11 years, said a statement. The Zonal Councils provide a forum for resolving and progressing issues and disputes between the Centre and the Member States/UTs, among the Member States/UTs, and within the zone, it said.

#### ED freezes 110 bank accounts of Dubailinked narco, betting network



(Agency): **Enforcement Directorate** (ED) seized Rs 70 lakh in cash and froze 110 mule bank accounts during searches at five locations across Delhi-NCR and against narcotics trafficking and transfer money, official said on Sunday. The ED, Delhi Zonal Office, conducted search operations under the provisions Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002, on Friday, the official said in a kilograms

cocaine by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) in November 2024, which led to the registration of Complaint No. 36/2024 by NCB against several individuals and entities involved in a global drug trafficking syndicate. In connection with an ongoing investigation the narcotics into trafficking and money laundering network, the ED seized unaccounted cash amounting to Rs 70 lakh, along incriminating documents. devices, and financial records, said the ED

#### Three Maoists neutralised in Chhattisgarh's Sukma

Raipur/Sukma (Agency): Three Maoists were killed in an encounter with the security forces in the dense Karigundam forests of Chhattisgarh's Sukma district on Sunday. Weapons were recovered from the site, marking another blow to the Maoist insurgency in the Bastar region. The operation started in the Chintagufa police station area, where intermittent firing continued the rugged terrain. Superintendent of Police (SP) Kiran Chavan said that intelligence inputs had alerted authorities to the Maoists' presence in the mountainous zones. The Maoists have been identified as Madvi Deva -Jan militia Commander and Konta Area Committee Member, Podium Gangi - Konta Area Committee Commander and Sodi Gangi - Area



Committee Member of Kistaram. All of them were carrying an equal reward of Rs 5 lakh each. "A joint team of District Reserve Guard (DRG) and local police was dispatched at dawn as part of our ongoing anti-Naxal campaign," SP Chavan said. "Upon reaching the spot, the insurgents initiated gunfire, prompting a swift retaliatory response from the forces. So far, three Maoists have been killed, and the search operation is ongoing to sanitise the area.

#### online betting network statement. The case that used Dubai-based pertains to the seizure of cryptocurrency wallets to 82.53 Punjab Police bust Pakistan-linked

Amritsar (Agency): The Punjab Police have busted a Pakistan-linked arms and drug network, arresting five people and seizing six pistols and more than 1 kg of heroin. According to the police, officers from the Amritsar Commissionerate intelligence inputs. They recovered six sophisticated pistols, five of .30 bore and one Glock 9mm, along with 1 kg 10 grams of heroin.

Early investigations show that the accused were in touch with handlers based in Pakistan through social media and drones, helping coordinate the smuggling and delivery of illegal weapons and drugs into Punjab.

In a post on X, the official



arms and drug network, five arrested

account of the Director General of Police shared, intelligence inputs, Amritsar Commissionerate dismantles a Pakistan-linked arms

narco network and apprehends five persons and recover six sophisticated pistols (five .30 bore & one Glock 9mm) along with 1 Kg 10 gm Heroin."

FIRs under the Arms Act and

the NDPS Act have been registered at Cheharta and Cantonment police stations.

The police stated that the investigation is ongoing to identify additional handlers and dismantle the entire network, emphasising that they remain committed to stopping cross-border smuggling and ensuring public safety. "Preliminary investigation reveals, the arrested accused are in contact with Pak-based handlers through social media and drones and coordinate the movement and delivery of illegal weapons and narcotics in Punjab FIRs under the Arms Act and NDPS Act stand registered at PS Cheharta and PS Cantonment.

#### WBSSC announces candidates' list for SLST interview for teaching jobs in Bengal schools

Kolkata (Agency): The West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC) has released the list of candidates selected for interview who had appeared in the State Level Selection Test (SLST) exam, held in September. The list of candidates selected for the interviews for teaching jobs for Classes 11 and 12 was published late Saturday night. According to the sources in WBSSC, more than 20,000 job seekers have been called for an interview. The process of verifying their documents will begin on November 18. State Education Minister Bratya Basu thanked



WBSSC for its efforts to complete the recruitment process as per the Supreme Court's orders. He also asked qualified job seekers, who were not called for the interview, to have faith. "The West Bengal Central School Service Commission today published a preliminary list of interview-

candidates detailed information of the candidates applying for the posts of teachers of classes XI-XII on its website," the minister said in a post on X. He informed us that the recruitment process will be completed by December. "The document verification process of the said candidates is going to be officially initiated from November 18, 2025-which is another shining example of our commitment to complete the recruitment process by December, in a transparent, strong and responsible manner, as promised by our guardian, the Honourable Chief Minister.

#### Clashes erupt in Mexico City anti-crime protests, injuring 120



Mexico City (Agency): More than 100 people were injured and 20 arrested during a massive protest in Mexico City against the president's handling of violent crime, local government officials said. Thousands marched on the capital's historic main public square, the Zocalo, in a demonstration fueled by young Mexicans with ties to a global wave of Generation Z protests as well as supporters of the domestic "Sombrero Movement," which emerged after the recent assassination of a mayor known for his fight against organized crime. AFP observed participants of all ages taking part in the rally in front of the National Palace, where President Claudia Sheinbaum lives and works. Several protesters, some wearing balaclavas, toppled the metal barriers protecting the palace and threw paving stones at riot police, who responded with tear gas, according to AFP journalists. "For many hours, this mobilization proceeded and developed peacefully, until a group of hooded individuals began to commit acts of violence," Pablo Vazquez, Mexico City's security chief, told reporters. Twenty protesters and 100 police were injured, with 40 officers hospitalized for cuts and bruises, he added. Police arrested 20 people for theft and assault, Vazquez said, and had also launched an investigation into the assault of a journalist from La Jornada newspaper, which alleged police officers were behind the incident.

Sheinbaum, in power since October 2024, maintained approval ratings above 70 percent in her first year in office but faced growing criticism of her security policies in the wake of several highprofile murders. "This is one of the most corrupt governments we've ever had," said Valentina Ramirez, a student interviewed by AFP. "It's a corrupt narco-government that wants to defend the corrupt and the cartels instead of the people. On Saturday, several protesters wore sombreros similar to the style of hat made famous by Carlos Manzo, a mayor in western Michoacan state who was assassinated on November 1. He had been known for his crusade against drug-trafficking gangs in his hometown Uruapan. The assassinated mayor's widow, however, distanced her husband's movement from the demonstration on Saturday. Bernardo Bravo, a leader of lime producers in the same region, had also been shot dead in late October. Earlier this week, Sheinbaum questioned the motivations for the demonstration and said at her regular morning news conference that the protest was "inorganic and "paid for."

# Tens of thousands rally in Manila over corruption scandal that implicates top Philippine officials

Thousands gathered Sunday for the start of a three-day rally organized by a religious group in the Philippine capital demand accountability over a floodcontrol corruption scandal that has implicated powerful members of Congress and top government officials. It's the latest show of outrage accusations widespread corruption in flood-control projects in one of the world's most typhoonprone countries, which has erupted in recent months following the discovery that thousands of flood defense projects across the country made from substandard materials or simply did not exist. Construction companies were accused of giving dozens of influential politicians and officials huge kickbacks in order to win



avoid accountability for anomalies in the projects. Police estimated that 27,000 members of the Iglesia Ni Cristo, or Church of Christ, gathered in Manila's Rizal Park before noon, many wearing white carrying anticorruption placards, for the

afternoon demonstration. groups scheduled to hold a separate anti-corruption protest later Sunday at the "People Power" monument in suburban Quezon city. Iglesia is an influential group that votes as a bloc and is courted by political

candidates during elections. The police, backed by the military, went on full alert and deployed thousands of personnel to secure the weekend rally, although the government expects the weekend rallies to be peaceful, according to a confidential

Associated Press. During a Sept. 21 anti-corruption demonstration, a few black-clad protesters threw rocks, bottles and firebombs at policemen near presidential palace, injuring more than 100 officers. Criminal complaints have been filed against 97 protesters. National police chief Lt. Gen. Jose Melencio Nartatez Jr. ordered law enforcement to exercise "maximum tolerance" in Sunday's rallies. Flood control is an especially sensitive issue in the Philippines, one of the Asian countries most prone to deadly typhoons, flooding and extreme weather. Two typhoons left at least 259 dead this month, mostly from flash floods and landslides, as millions of others were forced to

#### **Macron: French national** held in Venezuela released

Paris (Agency): A French citizen who has been detained in Venezuela since late June has been released, Emmanuel Macron announced on Sunday. "Camilo Castro is free. I share the relief of his family and thank everyone who worked for his release," the head of state wrote on the social media platform X. Castro, a 41-year-old yoga teacher, disappeared on June 26 at the Paraguachon border crossing, which separates Venezuela from Colombia, where he lives. He had gone to renew his expired Colombian residency visa, his family said in August. In mid-September, Castro's mother said she had not received any news from him other than a voice message at the end of July in which he "called for help." According to research conducted by his family and Amnesty International, he was being held by the Venezuelan authorities.



Amnesty has denounced what it said a policy of disappearances" of opponents and foreign nationals since the electoral authorities declared President Nicolas Maduro winner of a disputed vote in July 2024. "The Venezuelan authorities appear to be using this practice to justify their narratives about 'foreign conspiracies' and as a bargaining chip for use negotiations with other countries,

#### **China Coast Guard ship formation** sails through Japan-administered Senkaku Islands as tensions rise

Beijing (Agency): A China Coast Guard ship formation passed through the waters of the Senkaku Islands on Sunday on a "rights enforcement patrol," the China Coast Guard said in a statement, as Beijing ramps tensions with Japan over its prime minister's remarks on Taiwan. A diplomatic spat between China and Japan has intensified since Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi told parliament on November 7 that a hypothetical Chinese democratically-ruled



military response from Tokyo. The remarks sparked an angry response from Beijing, which has signalled that it expects Takaichi to retract them in some fashion. China claims Taiwan as its own

Taiwan could trigger a territory and has not ruled out the use of force to take control of the island, which sits just 110 km (68.35 miles) from Japanese territory. Taiwan's government rejects Beijing's sovereignty

#### Japan PM's attempts to alter non-nuclear principles to draw backlash: Media

Tokyo (Agency): Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi was considering reviewing the country's longstanding Three Non-Principles, which is certain to draw backlash. In updating National Security Strategy and two related documents, last revised in 2022, Takaichi was considering revising the third principle, which nuclear weapons from entering Japan's territory, Xinhua news agency reproted quoting Kyodo News government sources). If the principle



is changed, it will represent a significant shift in the country's security policy and is certain to draw domestic international backlash, the report said.

The Three Non-Nuclear Principles, possessing, producing and not allowing introduction of nuclear weapons into Japanese territory, were first declared in the Diet, Japan's parliament, by then Japanese Prime Minister Eisaku Sato in 1967 and viewed as a national credo. The strategy, one of the three documents approved by the Cabinet in 2022, states, "The basic policy of adhering to the Three Non-Nuclear Principles will remain unchanged in

#### Afghan police seize large cache of weapons



Kabul southern Afghanistan's Helmand province have seized a cache of weapons and ammunition and arrested one suspect during a recent operation, provincial police spokesman Mullah Ezatullah Haqqani said Sunday. According to Haqqani, the confiscated include Kalashnikov rifles, three hand grenades, a mortar

launcher, an M16 assault rifle, a shotgun, as well as hundreds of bullets, cartridges and other illegally stored military equipment, Xinhua News Agency reported. The ammunition discovered Helmand's Gereshk district, where police also apprehended an individual suspected of involvement in the case. The detainee has been transferred to custody for further investigation. Earlier on November 9, provincial police spokesman Haqmal Saad said Afghan police had seized illegal weapons and explosives in the eastern Panjshir province and detained an alleged smuggler.

#### South Korean Prez Lee vows stern punishment for lax workplace safety after Ulsan power plant collapse

Seoul (Agency): South Korean President Lee Jae Myung on Sunday pledged to determine whether there were safety lapses at a thermal plant site in the southeastern city of Ulsan, where seven workers were killed, and sternly punish those found accountable. Lee made the remark after authorities on Friday recovered the last of the seven workers who were trapped when a 63-meter tower at the plant collapsed on November 6. The bodies of the six others had been recovered. "As the person ultimately in charge of public safety, I am genuinely and deeply sorry," Lee wrote on Facebook, Yonhap News Agency reported. "Despite the people's



wishes, all seven trapped workers returned to their families as bodies. My heart is deeply torn." Lee called the accident one that "should not have happened" and vowed to prevent similar accidents. "I will make sure that a tragedy like this is not repeated.

#### Israeli forces step up operations in southern Syria: Monitoring group

Damascus (Agency): Israeli incursions in southern Syria have surged in recent weeks, with more than 30 recorded in the first half of November, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights The Britain-based monitoring group said on Saturday that Israeli troops carried out ground penetrations, detained civilians and soldiers, bulldozed roads and farmland, and set up temporary military checkpoints in Quneitra and Daraa provinces. It called the activity an "unprecedented surge" and noted it occurred "in the absence of any formal response" from Damascus, Xinhua news agency reported. The Observatory



said the raids and daily violations underscore "mounting security challenges along the southern border," where Israeli forces have increased their presence since late 2024. Israel has warned that southern Syria must not become "another southern Lebanon" and has threatened "painful blows" against armed groups or Syrian

forces approaching the frontier. In mid-2025, the Israel Defense Forces established at least nine permanent outposts inside Syrian territory and created a 15-kilometer "zone of control." The escalation intensified in July after Israeli strikes and raids followed clashes in the Druze-majority province of Sweida. Israel said it would continue to "operate forcefully" until "perceived threats" were neutralised. Despite condemnation from the United Nations, Egypt, and Türkiye over violations of Syrian sovereignty, Israeli officials maintain their actions are defensive and say Syrian authorities lack full control of the south.

#### Israeli PM, Russian president discuss Middle East issues over phone

Jerusalem (Agency): Minister Prime Israeli Benjamin Netanyahu and Russian President Vladimir phone held a conversation, during which the two leaders exchanged views on the Middle East situation, according to statements from both sides. Netanyahu's office said in a statement that the two leaders spoke at Putin's initiative, on Saturday evening following a series of previous talks on regional issues. It did not provide further information on the talks, Xinhua news agency reported. According to



the Russian presidency, the two leaders exchanged in details the recent developments in Gaza in light of the ceasefire, Iran's nuclear program, and Syria's

further stabilization, among other issues. On Thursday, Russia introduced its own draft UN resolution on Gaza, challenging a US push for the UN Security Council to approve a separate proposal that would support US President Donald Trump's Gaza peace plan. According to media reports, the US proposal wants an international stabilization force in Gaza with broad independence from the UN, and grants Israel continued control over the security perimeter surrounding Gaza for an unspecified period.

# Payas, Swastika shine as champions crowned in National TT

Panchkula, Nov 16 (FN Reporter)

**¬**he fourth UTT National Table Ranking L Championships came to a fitting close today at the Tau Devi Lal Indoor Stadium here, where Delhi's Payas Jain and PSPB's Swastika Ghosh claimed the men's and women's singles titles respectively. Both secured their first crowns of the season with hard-fought 4-2 wins, displaying grit and precision in finals that swung repeatedly before settling in their favour. In the Men's Singles final, Payas Jain held off a spirited challenge from Akash Pal of the Railways, prevailing 12-10, 10-12,

7-11, 11-9, 11-7, 11-8. The fluctuating scores reflected the intensity of the contest, with Payas raising his game just when needed to close out the last three games. The Women's Singles final delivered similar drama. Swastika Ghosh edged past Syndrela Das of West Bengal in a gripping sixgame battle, 12-10, 12-14, 12-10, 11-8, 9-11, 12-10, marked by long rallies and bold shot-making under pressure. Among the youth categories, Priyanuj Bhattacharyya (Assam) captured the Youth Boys U-19 title, defeating M. Balamurugan 4-1, showing superior composure in the closing stretch. In the Youth Girls U-19 final, Syndrela Das of West Bengal bounced back strongly, producing a commanding

4–0 win over Shriya Anand of Tamil Nadu, sealing her title dominantly with a 4-0 triumph. Akash advanced to the final with a commanding 4-1 victory over Manush Shah. After splitting the first two games, Akash raised his intensity, taking control with sharp attacking play to close out the match 3-1 against the RBI paddler. In the other semifinal, Payas produced a clean, composed performance to defeat Maharashtra's Jash Modi in straight games. Despite some close moments—particularly a tight second game—Payas maintained consistency to win 4-0. Swastika marched into the final with a dominant display against Tamil Nadu's Selena Deepthi,

registering a convincing 4–0 victory. Her controlled aggression and superior tempo helped her seal the match. Syndrela completed the final



lineup after recovering from a slow start against PSPB's Yashaswini Ghorpade. After dropping the opening game, she responded strongly to win four straight games, using improved placement and rhythm to prevail 4-1.

In the U-19 Boys semifinals, Priyanuj rallied past Tamil Nadu's M. Senthil Kumar 3–1 after dropping the first game, while fellow TN player Balamurugan beat Punit Biswas 3–1, surviving a tense third game before closing out the match. The Girls' semifinals were tighter. Shriya defeated Avisha Karmakar 3-1 despite a second-game setback, and Syndrela edged Sayanika Maji 3–2 in a gripping five-game thriller, staging a

strong fourth-game comeback before dominating the decider. Ouarterfinals across all divisions featured both dominant wins and close calls. In Men's Singles, Manush and Akash posted 3–1 victories, while Payas and Jash cruised through in straight games. Women's Singles produced a mix of sweeps and battles—Swastika and Syndrela advanced easily, while Selena and Yashaswini needed five games. In the Youth categories, Priyanuj, Balamurugan, and Punit claimed confident U-19 Boys wins, with Senthil Kumar surviving a tight 3–2 clash. In the Girls, Avisha edged Hansini in a thriller, while Shriya, Sayanika, and Syndrela advanced with convincing performances.

#### ■ State level Taeconda Competition Khordha Dist. felicitated as Runner's up



Jatani, Nov 16 (Representative) State level Taeconda competition was organised in the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium at Cuttack. 800 competitors from 20 districts participated in this competition, where Khordha district was honoured with the prize of Runners up. 40 players from Khordha district participated in this state level competition. At Jatni a felicitation programme was organised and sucessful players were awarded with Gold, Silver and Bronze medals. Players of this district who

participated in this game and won the prizes are namely Jasmin Das, Nioni Ray, Divyam Das, Ratik Sahu, Ayush Kumar Behera, Sharmistha Panigrahi, Priyansi Nayak, Prajna Giri, Tanushree Priyadashini, Sanchita Pradhan, Diptarag Pattanayak, Pratik Behera, S. Susmita, Aradhya Muduli, Sreya Mohanty and Madhusmita Mallick. The secretary of District Taeconda Association Mr. Ajay Kumar Sahu efficiently conducted the match as the Chief Manager of the Game. In this State level Competition, Puri district occupied the First Position.

#### ■ Ranji Trophy: J&K eye 1st innings lead against Hyderabad

Jammu, Nov 16 (Reporter) In the thrilling Ranji Trophy Elite Group-D encounter against Hyderabad at the JKCA Hostel Ground today, J&K are poised to secure a crucial first-innings lead in this closely contested battle of equals. Jammu and Kashmir's medium pacers Aquib Nabi and Sunil Kumar delivered devastating spells, proving lethal with the ball following an outstanding innings by Abid Mushtaq. Hyderabad were tottering at 88/6 in their first innings at stumps on day-1 against J&K's paltry total of 170 runs. Tanay Thyagarajan (13) and G Anikethreddy (02) were at the crease. Skipper Rahul Singh Gehlaut was the only batter who showed some resistance, scoring 48 runs off 84 balls with 6 boundaries.

For J&K, Aquib Nabi continued his brilliance with the ball, capturing 3 important wickets by conceding 30 runs in his 11 overs, while Sunil Kumar bagged 2 wickets by giving away 15 runs in his 8 overs. Earlier, put into bat, J&K bundled out for paltry 170 runs in 47.1 overs. Abid Mushtaq played a brilliant innings of power-packed 57 runs off 49 balls, studded with 9 delectable boundaries, while Sahil Lotra (36) and Abdul Samad (34) were the other notable contributors. All other batters failed to show much resistance as J&K were tottering at 32/5 at one stage Tanay Thyagarajan and Kartikeya Kak took 3 wickets each, while Cti Ralshann

bagged 2 wickets for Hyderabad.

#### ■ Spain coach respects Turkiye ahead of last World Cup qualifier

Madrid, Nov 16 (FN Reporter) Spain coach Luis de la Fuente has shown his respect towards Turkiye ahead of their final qualifier although his side has all-but sealed its place in the 2026 FIFA World Cup with a 4-0 win in Georgia on Saturday. Despite missing players such as Lamine Yamal, Nico Williams and Pedri, the reigning European champions produced another dominant display and have won all five qualifying games without conceding a goal while scoring 19. Although Spain is not mathematically assured of qualification until Tuesday, it would need to lose 7-0 at home to Turkiye to miss out on direct qualification. However, De la Fuente still doesn't want to celebrate booking a World Cup ticket.

"We have a lot of respect for our rival [Turkiye] and for every team we play, so we have to keep our feet on the ground until we have qualified," he said. De la Fuente was happy with a perfect qualifying campaign that has extended his side's unbeaten run across all competitions to 30 matches. "It's a great motive to be proud of these players. I am very lucky, but we still have a long way to go. We still want to achieve more things and get even better results, and it's very nice to be able to coach this group of young players, who never tire of working to improve," he said.

#### ■ Tokyo Deaflympics: Dhanush Srikanth smashes world record to win Air Rifle Gold

Tokyo, Nov 16 (Agency) Dhanush Srikanth smashed the world record in 10m Air Rifle en route to win India's first gold medal in shooting at the 25th Summer Deaflympics now underway here. Srikanth also broke the Deaflympic qualification record to book his spot in the finals. In the finals, Dhanush shot 252.2 to better his own world record of 251.7 to clinch the gold medal, while his teammate Mohammed Murtaza Vania secured silver with a score of 250.1. The women shooters added a silver and bronze to make it a four-medal haul for India in shooting on the first day of the competition.

In the women's 10m Air Rifle Final, Mahit Sandhu picked up the silver with a score of 250.5, 1.9 points behind gold medal winner Ukraine's Violeta Lykova (252.4). India's Komal Milind Waghmare made it a double podium finish for the Indian women, winning the bronze medal with a score of 228.3. Dhanush's score in the finals is more than what Germany's Maximillian Dallinger shot in the finals of the same event at the ISSF World Championships last week. The German became the World Champion with a score of 252.0, which is 0.2 less than what Dhanush shot in Tokyo.

# Indrajith, Andre Siddarth tons propel TN to 282-5 against UP in Ranji tie

Chennai, Nov 16 (FN Representative)

A fluent unbeaten ton by middleorder batsman Baba Indrajith and a gritty but equally important century by No.6 batter C Andre Siddarth, pulled Tamil Nadu out of woods and lead the team to a good position at close on the opening days of the Elite Group A Ranji Trophy cricket match against Uttar Pradesh at CDDCA Stadium in Coimbatore today. Thanks to their superb centuries, Tamil Nadu finished the day at 282 for five in 81.3 overs when stumps were drawn afer Siddarth fell in the last over of the day. Batting first after winning the toss, the home team with just four points in its previous four outings and and looking for its batters to click in unison, started disastrously losing three wickets in 12 overs.

After the three top order batsmen were ripped through by medium pacers Aagib Khan who picked

up two wickets removing prolific run getter Narayan Jagadeesan and in form Pradosh Ranjan Paul in a space of four



overs after his new ball partner Kunal Tyagi provided the first breakthrough dismissing opener Balasubramaniam Sachin, the team was pegged back further when they lost their fourth wicket that of P Vidyuth (11). With the innings in a spot of bother, Indrajith and Andre Siddarth came together and did the rescue act. Blending caution with aggression, both anchored the innings and paced their partnership with some

positive cricket. While Indrajith appeared more fluent in his knock, remaining unbeaten on 128 in just 157 balls (8x4, 5x6), Andre's innings was full of grit and determination and dropped anchor at the other end.

He scored 121 in 2025 balls with 12 fours and a six and added 211 runs for the fifth wicket in 44.1 overs. During the course of his 17th first class hundred, Indrajith crossed the milestone of 5,000 runs in Ranji Trophy when he reached 14, while Andre, while notching up his second first class hundred and the career best one (previous best 106 not out), crossed 1,000 runs when he scored his 68th run. However, Andre's dismissal in the last over of the day brought a disappointing end to the day's proceedings after rescuing the innings from 71 for four in the 38th over. Brief scores : Tamil Nadu 282/5 in 81.3 overs (Baba Indrajith 128 batting, C. Andre Siddarth 121, Aaqib Khan 2/13, Kunal Tyagi 2/23) vs Uttar

#### Sreejesh a natural leader, has transitioned very well into coaching: Sardar Singh

Gurugram, Nov 16 (Reporter)

Former India Hockey captain Sardar Singh has lauded his ester while teammate goalkeeping icon PR Sreejesh for sucsessfully transitioning into the coaching role. "Modern hockey demands discipline, sacrifice and continuous learning, and Sreejesh has handled his transition from player to coach exceptionally well. He has always been a natural leader, and the boys are lucky to have him guiding them in such an important tournament," Sardar said while speaking at the Rabindranath World School Sports Meet at Tau Devi Lal Stadium, Gurugram. Two time Olympic medallist PR Sreejesh is now the head coach of the junior men's national team, he retired from Hockey after Paris Olympics. As India hosts the FIH Men's Junior Hockey World Cup from November 28 to 10 December 2025 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, former India captain Sardar Singh said the tournament is a major opportunity for the country's rising stars to showcase their talent on home soil.

Looking ahead to the World Cup, he stressed the importance of team effort. "To win at this level, every player must

step up. The boys have trained hard in the Bengaluru camps and the team has depth across all positions. Tournaments like this come only once in four years, so they should enjoy the moment, stay injury-aware and give their absolute best," he added. Reflecting on India's evolving hockey landscape, Sardar said, "Indian hockey has grown tremendously in the last 10 years. Hosting major tournaments at home helps juniors watch elite hockey live, learn from it, and feel connected to the sport's strong cultural roots. Playing in front of home fans is every athlete's dream and it gives them a big boost." Sardar also praised the energy and enthusiasm of students at the school sports meet, saying initiatives like these strengthen India's sporting culture. Chairperson of Rabindranath World School, Manisha Tomar, said, "It is an honour to host Sardar Singh. His presence and guidance deeply inspire our students and reinforce our commitment to nurturing young athletes. His interaction today has motivated our children to dream bigger and pursue sports with greater discipline. We believe events like this play a crucial role in building confidence, character, and a strong sporting culture within the

#### Continued from Page-1

#### CISF's operational strength...

movement, men-women ratio, sector-specific operational demands. Out of the 11,729 new recruits, 1,896 are women personnel, and keeping in view operational priorities and existing vacancies, a majority of them are being posted to airports and DMRC units, where women play an essential role in security screening and passenger handling. Officials say that the force is set to further strengthen its footprint across India's most sensitive and high-traffic installations, reaffirming its commitment to providing secure, efficient and technologyenabled protection to the nation's critical infrastructure.

#### India emerging as...

Asian market. With Bengaluru's bar ecosystem maturing, domestic consumers trading up, and global travellers seeking high-quality beverage experiences, India's premium drinks category is accelerating both in scale and sophistication. His current visit, supported by the Conrad Group, focuses on exploring partnerships, exchanging global trends and integrating Indian ingredients into contemporary mixology. "India is not just a market; it's an experience. The future is bright, and there's so much potential to create something memorable here," he notes. As international talent converges with India's fastevolving beverage scene, industry players expect the country to cement its position as a premium drinks hotspot in the region.

#### Market valuation of 8...

most valued company, followed by HDFC Bank, Bharti Airtel, Tata Consultancy Services, ICICI Bank, State Bank of India, Bajaj Finance, Infosys, Life Insurance Corporation of India and Hindustan Unilever. The stock market settled flat on Friday as weak global cues and foreign fund outflows kept investor sentiment subdued. At close, Sensex was 84.11 points or 0.10% higher at 84,562.78, while the Nifty went up 30.90 points or 0.12% to settle at 25,910.05. The Sensex began the trade on a negative note by declining 449.35 points or 0.53% to 84,029.32 while the Nifty started the day off lower by 138.35 points or 0.53% to 25,740.80.

#### PM Modi leads 'Janjatiya...

receive blessings, concluding with a heartfelt "Jai Devmogra Mata!" The celebrations gained momentum as Modi led a grand roadshow, connecting with throngs of enthusiastic supporters eager to honor Birsa Munda's enduring legacy. He also paid tribute by garlanding a statue of the tribal hero, symbolizing deep respect for his pivotal role in championing the rights and dignity of India's tribal communities. Janjatiya Gaurav Diwas is a day that celebrates the bravery, resilience, and rich cultural heritage of India's indigenous peoples. Modi's presence and tribute underscored the government's ongoing dedication to tribal welfare and inclusive development, embodying the unity and pride that the occasion represents.

#### India's women never lagged...

freedom movement. They sacrificed everything." The Lucknow MP on the occassion praised Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath for his dedication on development. He said, "I would like to thank CM Yogi for accomplishing what many people failed to do in so many years. I never imagined a Chief Minister who would care so much about society. Yogi ji has demonstrated

this. Bringing to the forefront the suppressed heroes of society is no easy task." Both Deputy CMs Brajesh Pathak, Deputy CM Keshav Prasad Maurya, union Minister Kamlesh Paswan were present in the program.

#### Shah to chair 32nd meeting...

emergency response systems and their implementation, strengthening health, nutrition infrastructure and other key matters in these states will likely be discussed. Various regional-level common interest issues such as education, electricity, urban planning, and the cooperative system will also be part of the meeting. Those issues proposed by the permanent committee of the north zonal council states will be part of the talks. Notably, issues proposed by the states are initially presented to the permanent committee of the concerned Zonal Council for discussion, and later remaining issues are then presented to the Zonal Council meeting for further deliberation. This meeting is being organized by the Ministry of Home Affairs Inter-State Council Secretariat, hosted by Haryana. Union Home Minister Shah is the chairperson of the Northern Zonal Council, while the Chief Minister of Haryana is its vice-chair. The CM of one member state acts as the vice-chairperson, as per rotational basis every year. From each member state, the Governor nominates two ministers as members of the council. Each such council has also formed a permanent committee at the level of Chief Secretaries. With the belief that strong states make a strong nation, the Zonal Councils provide a structured mechanism for dialogue and discussion on issues affecting two or more states or the centre and states, and through this, serve as an important platform to enhance mutual cooperation. The role of the Zonal Councils is advisory, however, over the past few years, these councils have proven to be an important factor in terms of coordination. With the cooperation of all state governments, central ministries, and departments, a total of 63 meetings of the various Zonal Councils and their permanent committees have been held in the last eleven years.

#### Indians have a significant...

People there live like us, yet more comfortably, more prosperously, and more happily. Anyone traveling to Singapore from here cannot avoid visiting Little India". Noting that Indians have a significant role in the development of Singapore, the former union Minister said there exists racial harmony among the people of Singapore. "The Goddess Mariamman Temple is the very first temple there, and the Thaipoosam festival at the Dhandayuthapani (Lord Muruga) Temple is celebrated on a grand scale. Notably, a large number of Chinese participated. Such is the flourishing level of religious harmony there", he said. Observing that Ms Soundara Nayaki's book on Little India gives great joy, Mr Chidambaram said "the reason is that it reflects our culture and our history. I appreciate this book. She contacted many people and gathered information and data. This book captures Little India in a beautiful manner, and I wish Soundara Nayaki continues to write." Mr. Edgar Pang, Singapore's Consul-General in Chennai, received the first copy of the book and renowned cardiac surgeon Dr. V. Chokkalingam delivered a felicitation speech. The book was first released in Singapore on April 25. The country's former Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. George Yeo released it. This year, Singapore celebrates its 60th birthday. Writer Mrs. Soundara Navaki Vairavan said that she considers this book her small contribution to Singapore on that occasion. Leaders and dignitaries from various fields participated and graced the book launch held in Chennai.

#### Portal launched for...

department as a step towards ensuring ease of doing business. CM said that the Delhi government is working extensively on modernizing the fire department, expanding rapid response systems, and further strengthening security across the city. In the recent past, several reforms have been initiated in the fire services, aimed to modernize and make it future ready with induction of the latest technology. Advanced fire fighting equipment are being added to the service, to make it more efficient in dealing with situations, especially keeping in view the narrow lanes and congested areas, where it becomes difficult for the emergency services to reach. Delhi minister Ashish Sood was also present on the occasion, along with senior officials concerned. Earlier, the minister had said that the goal is to provide modern services to the people of Delhi while ensuring the utmost safety of the fire personnel.

#### Red Fort Blast: Police...

just before the Delhi bomb blast. Police sources indicate that on November 10, Umar left this rented accommodation in his i20 car, carrying the explosives. The house is said to belong to the sister-in-law of a university electrician, Shoaib, who is already in police custody. In a related development, a major investigation has been launched following the recovery of 14 mobile phones from the residence of Dr. Adeel. The devices contained explicit photographs, video calls, and records of latenight encrypted conversations with numerous women from Kashmir, conducted through apps like Session and WhatsApp. According to officials, the evidence points to a coordinated honey-trap operation. The modus operandi involved alleged use of these women to build intimate relationships with local doctors. The primary objectives were to extract personal information and vulnerabilities from the medical professionals, gain influence within hospitals, and secure access to medical facilities for unidentified "patients" sent by handlers. UNI ATK

#### SBI chairman CS Setty...

Bank commitment. As a strategic step towards the future of Global Banking, Trade becomes increasingly digitized and dynamic. Bank is reimagining the trade finance capabilities to meet the evolving needs of businesses across India and beyond. "Combining cutting-edge technology with deep domain expertise, we aim to set new benchmarks in speed, security and customer experience and further strengthen our position as a trusted enabler of India's Global Trade Ambitions." he added

#### Delhi logs 9° C minimum...

Despite these policy interventions, Delhi has not seen a single clean-air day in the past 34 days, with the AQI oscillating between 'poor', 'very poor', and 'severe'. The capital's air continues to degrade due to a combination of factors- calm winds, falling temperatures, farm fires, festival firecrackers, and transport emissions. In the neighbouring NCR region, Ghaziabad (419) and Greater Noida (419) reported even poorer air quality, placing them in the 'severe' category. The weather department has predicted the smog and shallow to moderate fog across the capital over the coming week, during the morning hours. IMD has forecast a further drop in the minimum and maximum temperatures, intensifying the cold wave conditions. An appreciable decline of 3-5 °C in maximum temperature and 1.6-3.0 °C for the minimum temperature has been predicted by the met department for the next five days in the city.

Priyanka Chopra wins hearts as she obliges paparazzi and fans with pictures

Actor Priyanka Chopra is all set to make her come back to Indian cinema with SS Rajamouli's Varanasi. She recently attended the film's grand event in Hyderabad and stunned everyone with her beauty. A video from the event has now surfaced online, showing the Desi Girl obliging fans and paparazzi

#### Privanka Chopra obliges paparazzi with pics

The video shows paparazzi requesting photos with Priyanka before she headed inside. The actor, without any hesitation, posed for quick pictures and was heard saying that she would have to rush when SS Rajamouli called her. Her warm gesture won the paparazzi's hearts, who were later heard thanking her and saying, "Love you, PC." As she exited, she was seen greeting them with folded hands. At the event, Priyanka gave Princess Jasmine vibes in a white lehenga-choli paired with traditional jewellery. Her stunning look quickly surfaced online, and fans couldn't get enough of her. She also sent Mahesh Babu's fans into a frenzy as she spoke about him on stage. She said, "What do you call him? Bob? Oh no, no-Lion? There are many names, but I know him as MB, the legendary, incredible Mahesh Babu." As fans began chanting, she added, "You and your beautiful family, Namrata, Sitara, have made me feel like Hyderabad is my home."

#### About Varanasi

The film marks SS Rajamouli's return to direction after the success of RRR, starring Ram Charan and Jr NTR. It also marks Priyanka's return to Indian cinema after her 2019 film The Sky Is Pink. She will essay the role of Mandakini in Varanasi. The film stars Mahesh Babu as Rudra and Prithviraj Sukumaran as the antagonist, Kumbha. The movie is slated to release in cinemas on Sankranti 2027.

Priyanka Chopra's upcoming work Apart from this, Priyanka also has the Russo Brothers' spy-action series

Citadel 2 in the pipeline. She will also be seen in Frank E. Flowers' The Bluff, alongside Karl Urban, Ismael Cruz Córdova, Safia Oakley-Green and Temuera Morrison. The action drama is yet to finalise a release date

**Nora Fatehi responds** to allegations in Dawood Ibrahim linked drug syndicate case

A major drug racket has been revealed by the Mumbai Police with several big names in a list that includes actors Shraddha Kapoor, Nora Fatehi and Alishah Parkar, the nephew of underworld don Dawood Ibrahim, among others. Allegedly run by Mohammed Salim Mohammed Suhail Shaikh alias Lavish, the report exposed a network of high-profile parties across India and abroad.

he used to organise drug parties in the country and abroad, which were attended by fashion and film celebrities, besides gangster Dawood Ibrahim's nephew Alishah Parkar. As per India Today, the entire operation was run from Dubai, where Salim lives. His son, Taher Dola — brought back from the UAE in August — has reportedly shared key details with investigators. Documents accessed by the outlet allege that Bollywood actors, models, rappers, filmmakers and even Dawood Ibrahim's relatives

attended these parties. Nora Fatehi takes a stand Amid the escalating controversy, one of the first to speak out. has been Nora Fatehi. The singer-actor issued a strong personal statement. Taking to Instagram Stories, she wrote: "FYI I DONT go to Parties.. Im constantly on flights.. Im a work holic, i dont have a personal life.. I dont associate myself with people like that.. and on my off days im at home on a beach in dubai or with my high school friends! I spend my entire days and nights working on my dreams and goals! Dont believe anything you read! It seems like my name is an easy target! but i wont allow it to happen this time! It happened once before, you guys tried to destroy me with LIES and it didnt

work.. i watched silently as everyone tried their best to slander my name, smear my reputation and use me as clickbait! Please refrain from using my name and image on situations that have absolutely NOTHING to do with me! This will come with a heavy heavy price! Respectfully." Her response comes after reports claimed that the remand copy explicitly mentions her name among others.

Officials claimed that during interrogation, Salim alleged that

# Sumbul Touqeer to have a working birthday, says fans' love makes it special every year

shows has made her a household name, bringing

her love from fans from all over the country.

That love multiplies on her birthday every year

Sumbul Touqeer to have a working birthday, says fans' love makes it special every year Actor Sumbul Touqeer's work in television



#### Mira Rajput beams with pride as daughter Misha's baking stall sells out instantly phase. Her children, Misha and six-year-Entrepreneur and wife of Shahid Kapoor, Mira Rajput, is beaming with pride after her nine-year-old daughter, Misha Kapoor, launched her very own baking stall. To

Mira's delight. Misha's handmade cookies

and muffins sold out within minutes. The

proud mother shared her joy on social

media, posting adorable videos of the reats and celebrating her daughter's budding entrepreneurial spirit. Mira is a proud mommy "So proud of my baby today! Mish Mash Bakery: Youngest founder in the fam," Mira wrote. She also showcased Misha's freshly baked goodies, Oats & Raisins and Deep Dish Choco Chip cookies, priced at Rs 200 each. Earlier this month, Mira shared another heartwarming moment that kept her motivated during a challenging

old Zain, surprised her with sweet handwritten notes to brighten her workday. In a photo she shared from her desk, two little paper stands held their mes sages. Zain wrote, "Happy Day, From Zain to Mira," while Misha penned, "I love you; so many good things are on the way. I am so happy for you. Love, Misha." Mira captioned the post, "Mondays that make it worth it," expressing how deeply the gesture touched her.

#### Mira's entrepreneurial journey

Alongside being a hands-on mom and lifestyle influencer, Mira Rajput has steadily grown her entrepreneurial footprint. She co-founded Akind, a clean skincare brand with Tira; launched Dhun Wellness, a luxury holistic wellness space in Mumbai; and invested in Zama Organics, a fast-growing sustainable grocery brand. With these ventures, Mira has built a strong identity as a modern, mindful entrepreneur.

# **Shah Rukh Khan dazzles at** Shahrukhz tower launch

Shah Rukh Khan walked into a packed ballroom in Mumbai and ended up making history without even trying. The Danube Group, led by founder Rizwan Sajan, flew in to launch Shahrukhz, the first-ever tower to carry the superstar's name. The launch took over a five-star hotel and felt more like a celebration than a corporate reveal. As fans craned their necks for a glimpse, Shah Rukh stood on the stage with a smile.

Rizwan wanted the event in India, not Dubai, Shah Rukh revealed. And the Bollywood superstar made it clear the sentiment meant something to him. "I really wanted the event to take place here, as I come from here," he told the crowd. "Wanting to make their lives better. As and when this project begins to roll, I hope people find their lives growing beautifully and exponentially, as they should," he added.

A personal moment for Shah Rukh Khan The actor also opened up about what the honour would have meant to his mother. "My mother would be very happy. It is a very big honour," he said. "When my kids come, I will say, 'Papa ka naam likha hai, dekho.' I have seen all the details of this building for the past two months. It is state-of-the-art and affordable. For people who are starting off in Dubai, it will be a moment and an inspiration to make their lives," he explained.

#### Inside the Shahrukhz project

The tower itself is massive: 56 floors, roughly three to four years of construction ahead. A statue of Shah Rukh's famous arms-open pose will stand at the entrance, making the building instantly recognisable and very selfie-friendly. Highlighting the idea behind the project, Shah Rukh said it "will be the great-

