



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
26,068.15 ▼	85,231.92 ▼	7,423,858.67 ▼	27,566.15 ▼	58,867.70 ▼	₹89.65 ▼	₹103.07 ▼	₹123,721.00 ▲	₹152,750.00 ▼	₹94.77	₹87.67	₹853.00
-124.00 (-0.47%)	-400.76 (-0.47%)	-250,590.18 (-0.09%)	-295.20 (-1.06%)	-480.00 (-0.81%)	+0.96 (+1.09%)	+0.77 (+0.75%)	+994.00 (+0.81%)	-1401.00 (-0.91%)			

Toxic air grips Delhi again as AQI climbs to 391; authorities tighten GRAP measures

New Delhi, Nov 23 (Representative)

Delhi's air quality on Sunday recorded its 10th straight day in the 'very poor' category, with the city's 24-hour average Air Quality Index (AQI) rising to 391 at 4 p.m., according to data from the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). Foul air was recorded at all 39 monitoring stations across Delhi. Wazirpur (459), Vivek Vihar (457) and Rohini (453) were the

worst affected with AQI readings crossing the 450 mark, and several other stations reported severe pollution levels with readings breaching the 300 level. In the NCR region, Greater Noida's air quality hovered just below the severe mark with an AQI of 399. While in Noida and Ghaziabad, the levels crossed the severe mark and stood at 418 and 437, respectively. Gurugram and Faridabad fared slightly better, logging AQI levels of 295 and 237, respectively, both falling in the 'poor' range. As per

the CPCB classification, air quality readings between 300-400 fall under the 'very poor' category,



which causes respiratory illness on prolonged exposure, while AQI levels above 400, in the 'severe' category, affect healthy people

and seriously impact those with existing diseases. Amid rising pollution levels, the Commission for Air Quality Management for NCR and adjoining areas on Saturday revised the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP). In a press release, the CAQM said measures earlier reserved for the 'severe' category under GRAP Stage IV would now be enforced at Stage III. The pollution watchdog also shifted several stricter measures from GRAP Stage 3 to Stage 2,

and Stage 2 to Stage 1. The steps include ensuring an uninterrupted power supply to reduce diesel generator use, deploying additional personnel at traffic congestion hotspots, issuing pollution alerts across media platforms, and expanding CNG and electric public transport fleets with increased service frequency, along with differential fares to promote off-peak travel. Several measures earlier placed under Stage 3 for the 'very poor' category have now been moved ▶ **Cont. to Page-7**

Scientific storage vital for India's food security: Report

New Delhi, Nov 23 (Reporter)



Efficient post-harvest management, particularly scientific storage of food grains, is vital to India's food security, farmer incomes and reduction of post-harvest losses, which can range from 6-10pc, said a report of PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI). Being one of the world's largest food grain producers, India is currently facing significant challenges in storage and supply chain infrastructure, which impact the preservation, quality and marketability of agriculture produce. India ranks highly globally in arable land and foodgrain production, with major contributions from states like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Odisha and Rajasthan. The 'Foodgrain Warehouse Market in India 2025-30' report said that foodgrain production has shown consistent growth, reaching a record of 332.3 million metric tonnes in 2023-24, which is projected to further increase to approximately 354 million metric tonnes by 2024-25. Moreover, the food grain supply chain in India encompasses multiple policy incentives such as Minimum Support Price (MSP), milling (for rice), temporary storage in APMC Mandis, transportation mainly via Indian railways and final distribution through the Public Distribution System (PDS) via Fair Price Shops (FPS). The total scientific foodgrain storage capacity in India is around 87 million metric tonnes, primarily concentrated in the North and West zones, whereas production is projected to reach about 368 million metric tonnes by 2030-31. It will generate a significant storage capacity ▶ **Cont. to Page-7**

Delhi Assembly Speaker holds review meeting ahead of Constitution Day celebration on Nov 26

New Delhi, 23 Nov (Reporter) Ahead of the 75th Constitution Day Celebrations, Delhi Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta on Sunday conducted a high-level review meeting to assess the arrangements for the occasion. Assembly officials, along with senior officers of the Delhi Police, as well as bigwigs from the PWD and Horticulture departments, attended the deliberations. According to the state assembly officials, honouring the historic adoption of the Constitution of India by the Constituent Assembly on November 26, 1949, the Delhi Legislative Assembly will hold an event on Wednesday. The gathering will host the Lt. Governor of Delhi, Vinai Kumar Saxena and the Chief Minister of Delhi, Rekha Gupta, as Guests of Honour. The highlight of the programme is the unveiling of a Coffee Table Book dedicated to Vithalbhai ▶ **Cont. to Page-7**

Delhi CM announces restricted holiday on Nov 25 to mark 350th martyrdom anniv of Guru Tegh Bahadur

New Delhi, Nov 23 (FN Reporter) Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta today announced that the state government has decided to declare a restricted holiday on November 25 (Tuesday), to mark the occasion of the 350th martyrdom anniversary of Guru Tegh Bahadur. Ms Gupta said that the holiday will offer an opportunity to pay homage to the revered Sikh Guru's unparalleled sacrifice, his spiritual guidance, and unwavering commitment to the protection of humanity. She stated that the holiday is not a mere formality, but a heartfelt tribute from the Delhi government to Guru Sahib's extraordinary sacrifice. CM appealed to all citizens to observe this day with reverence, unity and a spirit of service, and to imbibe his teachings in their daily lives. Gupta said that Guru Tegh Bahadur's life stands as a timeless and powerful symbol of ▶ **Cont. to Page-7**

ECI reports major progress in nationwide Enumeration during SIR phase II

New Delhi, Nov 23 (FN Reporter) The Election Commission of India (ECI) on Sunday announced remarkable progress in Phase II of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), with over 99 per cent of electors across 12 states and union Territories receiving Enumeration Forms (EFs). The Commission's Daily Bulletin revealed that more than 50.47 crore EFs have been distributed, and nearly 40 per cent, over 20 crore forms, have already been digitised. Among the top performers in EF distribution are Goa and Lakshadweep, achieving 100 per cent coverage, closely followed by Andaman and Nicobar Islands at 99.98 per cent, Madhya Pradesh at 99.82 per cent, and West Bengal at 99.75 per cent. In the digitisation drive, Lakshadweep leads with an 88.20 per cent digitisation rate, with Goa and Rajasthan following at 69.38 pc ▶ **Cont. to Page-7**

India-Vietnam ties solidified: PM Modi meets PM Chinh at G20 sidelines

New Delhi, Nov 23 (Agency) Prime Minister Narendra Modi today met with his Vietnamese counterpart Pham Minh Chinh on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Johannesburg of South Africa, reaffirming the strong bilateral ties between India and Vietnam. "PM Pham Minh Chinh of Vietnam and I met in Johannesburg. Our commitment to a stronger, future-oriented friendship between India and Vietnam remains steadfast," Modi said in a post on handle X, highlighting the positive outcome of the meeting. The meeting underscores the growing importance of India-Vietnam relations, with both countries seeking to enhance cooperation across various sectors. Vietnam is a key partner in Southeast Asia, and India is looking to strengthen its ties with the region as part of its Act East policy. The two leaders discussed ways to boost ▶ **Cont. to Page-7**

India, Malaysia vow to deepen ties: PM Modi meets Anwar Ibrahim at G20

New Delhi, Nov 23 (Reporter) Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim held a productive meeting today on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Johannesburg, where they explored avenues to further strengthen and diversify bilateral cooperation. The discussion, described as a "great exchange of views" by PM Modi on his X handle, underscored the mutual commitment of both nations to enhance their partnership. PM Modi stated, "India and Malaysia will continue to work together to diversify bilateral cooperation," signalling a positive trajectory for future relations. This high-level engagement highlights the growing strategic importance of India-Malaysia ties. The leaders focused on boosting economic cooperation across several key sectors, including palm oil, electronics, and digital technology. ▶ **Cont. to Page-7**

G20: PM Modi seeks greater voice for Global South, puts forth concept of Integral Humanism

Johannesburg / New Delhi, Nov 23 (Mayank Nigam)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi sought greater voice for the Global South in global governance structures, in his address at two sessions in the G20 Leaders' Summit in Johannesburg. Prime Minister Modi's participated today in the G20 Leaders' Summit hosted by the President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa. This was Prime Minister's 12th participation in G20 Summits. Prime Minister Modi addressed both the sessions of the opening day of the Summit. He thanked President Ramaphosa for his warm

hospitality and for successfully hosting the Summit. In his address, PM Modi noted that the inclusion of the African union as a permanent member of G20 in



India, Israel to implement FTA in two phases to ensure early benefits: Piyush Goyal

New Delhi, Nov 23 (Agency)

union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Piyush Goyal, on Sunday said India and Israel are considering implementing their proposed free trade agreement (FTA) in two phases to ensure early benefits for the trade community of both countries, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said on Sunday. India and Israel on Thursday inked terms of reference (ToR) to formally launch negotiations for the agreement. "We are considering doing this in two tranches. A decision will be taken when the talks begin. Both ministers are keen to finalise the first phase early so that the trade community

benefits sooner," Goyal said. The minister said he and Israeli Economy and Industry Minister Nir Barkat have agreed that they will first focus on the low-hanging fruits in the FTA. Both leaders also decided not to touch the sensitive issues on both sides. He further said the two countries may look at how innovative and R&D can drive greater investments in each other's countries, work on joint projects where we can leverage on their skill sets and they can leverage on the economies of scale in a large market like India. Piyush Goyal also mentioned that India and Israel are considering implementing their proposed free trade agreement (FTA) in two phases to ensure early benefits for the trade ▶ **Cont. to Page-7**

PM Modi meets Jamaican PM Holness at G20 summit, reaffirms growing bilateral friendship

New Delhi, Nov 23 (FN Reporter)



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday engaged in a cordial interaction with his Jamaican counterpart Andrew Holness on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Johannesburg, reaffirming India's robust and growing ties with the Caribbean nation. "Interacted with Mr. Andrew Holness, the Prime Minister of Jamaica during the G20

Summit in Johannesburg. India and Jamaica are bound by a friendship shaped by history and enriched by cultural linkages. Our partnership continues to grow with a deep commitment to collective progress," PM Modi shared on his official X handle. The meeting highlighted the increasing significance of India-Jamaica relations, with the two leaders discussing avenues to bolster cooperation in trade, investment, and cultural exchange. Emphasising their shared historical and cultural connections, PM Modi and Holness explored ways to further deepen their mutually beneficial strategic partnership.

The Labour Codes celebrate formalisation as a central driver of Atmanirbhar Bharat, an Analysis

New Delhi, Nov 23 (Bureau)

India stands at the dawn of a historic era, a moment of national confidence as the country implements the Labour Codes, widely regarded as among the most visionary and transformative reforms since independence. Their implementation marks the shedding of colonial-era labour laws and the adoption of a modern legislative framework aligned with the aspirations of Atmanirbhar Bharat and the long-term trajectory of Viksit Bharat 2047. These reforms uplift millions of workers and invigorate the Micro, Small

and Medium Enterprise (MSME) sector, where women and marginalised groups play an indispensable role.



With nearly one fifth of MSMEs being woman-led, the Codes open new pathways for Nari Shakti, strengthening equality, productivity and social justice across the sector. From Protection

to Empowerment The Labour Codes inaugurate a new era in which workers, particularly women, are empowered through dignity, fairness and widened access to essential protections. The Code on Wages and the Code on Social Security reinforce equal pay for equal work, ensure the universalisation of protection, and create an environment that supports and encourages women's full participation. The expansion of Employees State Insurance Corporation coverage strengthens health, maternity and income security, ensuring that

women in both rural units and large MSME clusters benefit from comprehensive social protection. The expanded definition of family, which now includes a woman's parents-in-law, reflects an informed acknowledgement of caregiving responsibilities and enhances the social foundations that support women's participation in the workforce. Collectively, these provisions embody a renewed social contract that places women at the centre of India's evolving labour landscape. Healthy and Safe Workplaces The Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code establishes a modern ▶ **Cont. to Page-7**

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58 pc GCCs in India investing in Agentic AI, 67 pc creating dedicated innovation teams

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FICCI's 'Finance Conclave 2025' maps future of finance

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Generative AI at three: Promise, profit, or bubble

Nation Pg-5

Rajasthan women BLOs walk the extra mile in voter list SIR drive

World Pg-6

S. Korean President Lee urges revitalisation of WTO at G20 Summit

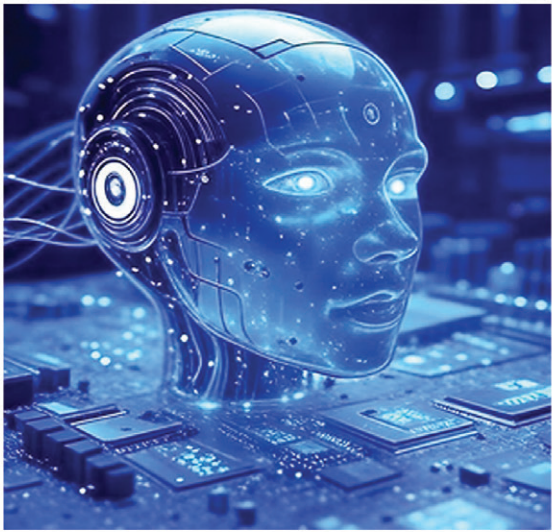
Sports Pg-7

Muthusamy 109, Jansen 93 take SA to 489; India 9/0

Travel Pg-8

68% Of Indian Travelers Turn To YouTube For Inspiration

58 pc GCCs in India investing in Agentic AI, 67pc creating dedicated innovation teams



New Delhi (Agency): India-based global capability centres (GCCs) have moved from AI experimentation to enterprise-scale adoption, with 58 per cent of centres currently investing in Agentic AI and another 29 per cent planning to scale over the next year, a report said on Sunday. About 83 per cent of GCCs are already investing in GenAI, where pilots have increased from 37 per cent last year to 43 per cent as of 2025. According to the EY India's report, GCCs are applying GenAI where it matters most -- enhancing customer service (65 per cent), followed by finance (53 per cent), operations (49 per cent), IT and cybersecurity (45 per cent). Business intelligence adoption has increased to 86 per cent from 80 per cent last year, while data strategy has risen to 67 per cent from 51 per cent. Meanwhile, according to the report, two-thirds of GCCs (67 per cent) are creating dedicated innovation teams and incubation programs to generate, test and globalise ideas from India. "Global enterprises are rethinking how they run their operations. They want simpler models, tighter oversight and a place where AI, data and risk teams can operate in sync. Our survey shows that this shift is well underway at GCCs in India," said Manoj Marwah, Partner and GCC Sector Leader - Financial Services, EY India. The combination of talent, cross-functional maturity and a rapidly advancing AI ecosystem gives global firms something they can't easily build elsewhere. The GCCs we set up now are poised to operate as decision centres shaping enterprise strategy around risk, new products, digital transformation and more, he added. As per the report, GCCs in the nation are becoming key collaborators in global decision-making, with over half of India's centres (52 per cent) holding shared accountability for global decisions, while another 26 per cent are formally consulted. Nearly 20 per cent centres are on their way to operate with full ownership from India for select functions. Moreover, critical responsibilities are being driven from India GCCs, including global strategy leadership (45 per cent) and leadership pipeline development (35 per cent), the report noted.

Bilateral trade to grow, investment to surge with proposed Israel FTA: Piyush Goyal



New Delhi (Agency) : As India and Israel aim to implement the proposed free trade agreement (FTA) in two phases, the bilateral trade will increase and there will be improvement in the mutual relations in innovation, research and development, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal has said.

He said that the visit to Israel as Commerce Minister after 20 years has been very successful. "I hope that after this visit, bilateral trade between India and Israel will increase, there will be improvement in our mutual relations in innovation, research and development, and going forward, there will also be a significant surge in

New Labour Code on Wages aims to safeguard workers, boost growth and jobs

New Delhi (Agency): The new Code on Wages that has now come into effect, promotes fairness, equity, and inclusivity in India's labour market. By ensuring uniform wage standards and social security, it safeguards both workers' rights and employers' interests. Overall, it strengthens economic justice, encourages formalisation, and enhances the dignity of labour, according to an official statement issued on Sunday. Section 5 of the Code on Wages, 2019 establishes a statutory right to minimum wages for all employees, extending its coverage to every sector, both organised and unorganised. Earlier, the minimum wages applied only to scheduled employment, covering roughly 30 per cent of the workforce. The Code ensures minimum pay for every employee, irrespective of industry, category, or nature of employment. It provides a uniform legal safeguard nationwide, reducing wage disparity and benefits vulnerable groups like casual employee, daily wagers, and migrant labourers, the statement explained. It standardises definitions of key



terms and streamlines procedures, reducing ambiguity and ensuring faster, time bound justice for employers. The bigger aim of the labour reforms is to drive economic growth through generation of decent employment opportunities for all, the statement explains. The second National Commission on Labour had recommended that the existing Labour Laws should be broadly grouped into four or five Labour Codes on a functional basis. Consequently, the Code on Wages,

2019 is one of the four codes of the labour laws that has been enacted. The Code safeguards employee interests through fair wages, social security, and protection against exploitation, ensuring dignity and stability at work. It supports women workers through equal pay and representation, fostering inclusive participation. By ensuring fair wages and social security for all workers, it drives productivity and labour welfare. The Labour Reforms simplify the registration and

licensing framework by introducing the concept of a Single Registration, Single License, and Single Return, thereby reducing the overall compliance burden to improve employment. The Code on Wages, 2019 has reduced the number of rules from 163 to 58, number of forms from 20 to 6 and number of registers from 24 to 2. The provision reduces regional wage disparities, provides social justice, prevents wage undercutting by states, and promotes equity across the country. Section 9 read with Rule 11 of the Code introduces floor wages as a statutory provision. The baseline wages will be fixed by the Central government on the basis of minimum living standards of an employee including food, clothing etc. It will be revised at regular intervals. State governments must ensure their minimum wages are not lower than this floor level. The code will reduce migration of labour from one state to another due to reduced wage differentials and prevents wage undercutting by states, and promotes equity and growth across the country.

India strengthens textile, sericulture ties with Georgia during high-level delegation visit



New Delhi (Agency): To strengthen cooperation in sericulture research, textiles, and apparel trade, a high-level delegation from the Ministry of Textiles concluded a successful multi-sectoral engagement in Georgia from November 17 to 21, the ministry said in an official statement on Sunday. The delegation,

which was led by P. Sivakumar, Member Secretary, Central Silk Board (CSB) and Secretary General, International Sericultural Commission (ISC), participated in the 11th BACSA International Conference - CULTUSERI 2025, where Sivakumar delivered the Opening Address representing ISC, highlighting India's leadership in traditional silk knowledge and its relevance to creative and cultural industries. He also presented a technical paper titled "The Chronicles of Wild Silk." During the visit, CSB showcased its innovative "5-in-1 Silk Stole," a premium product integrating Mulberry, Oak Tasar, Tropical Tasar, Muga, and Eri silks. Conceived under the initiative of the Member Secretary, the product was highlighted as a unique representation of India's rich silk heritage with strong market potential.

Q2 GDP data, global signals to drive domestic indices this week

Mumbai (Agency): The second quarter (Q2) GDP data, foreign institutional investors' (FIIs) movement and global cues are projected to drive the Indian stock market sentiment this week. According to analysts, investors will have a close eye on trade developments and economic data like IIP and Q2 FY26 GDP data. "With macro signals turning mixed and global cues offering limited clarity, a balanced approach is advisable. Investors may prioritise sectors with visible earnings traction and renewed interest-such as banking, auto, IT, and consumption-while remaining selective in other pockets," said Ajit Mishra of Religare Broking Ltd. Traders should exercise caution around expiry and key macro releases, using a buy-on-dips strategy only near established support levels, he added. Nifty gave a decisive close above the



26,000 resistance, demonstrating sustained strength and buyers' willingness to defend higher levels. "The index continues to trade above its key moving averages -- the 20-day, 50-day, and 200-day EMAs-- further confirming a broader bullish undertone. As long as it remains above these levels, market sentiment is expected to stay constructive and upward-biased," according to Amruta Shinde of Choice Broking.

India reaffirms commitment to equity, climate justice and global solidarity



New Delhi (Agency): India has expressed satisfaction with major outcomes of CoP30, conveying strong support for the inclusive leadership of the CoP30 Presidency and welcoming several significant decisions adopted in a Statement at the UNFCCC

CoP30 in Belem, Brazil, an official statement said on Sunday. Welcoming progress under the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), India underscored the equity dimension of the decision, remarking that it reflects a recognition of the overwhelming need for adaptation in developing countries. A key element of India's address was the emphasis on long-standing obligations of developed countries to provide Climate Finance. "The Statement expressed appreciation for the efforts the Presidency took in supporting India in beginning the journey towards a long-overdue focus on Article 9.1. It

DPA Kandla sets new record with 81,024-ton coal discharge in 24 hours



New Delhi (Agency): Deendayal Port Authority (DPA), Kandla has set a new record by discharging a mammoth 81,024 tonnes of coal in just 24 hours from the vessel M V MARATHOS at Cargo Berth No. 7, the highest single-day coal

discharge at one of India's busiest ports. The announcement comes days after another major moment for the port. On November 17, DPA Kandla handled 40 ships in a single day, crossing its earlier record of 38 ships set in December 2023.

IndiGo To Replace Tata Motors PV From December 22, Four Banks Added To BSE Bankex

New Delhi (Agency): Interglobe Aviation Ltd (IndiGo) will replace Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd (TMPVL) in the benchmark index BSE Sensex from December 22, 2025, as informed by BSE Index Services Private in a circular. Along with that, it announced a fresh reconstitution of several major indices, including BSE 100, Sensex 50, Sensex Next 50 and Bankex, with the changes set to take effect on December 22



and December 26, 2025. The most direct reason for Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd.'s exclusion is the demerger of its commercial vehicle (CV)

and passenger vehicle (PV) businesses. This split meant that the market capitalization of the new, separated Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd. (TMPVL)

fell below the threshold required to remain one of the top 30 stocks by Free-Float Market Capitalization in the index. Under BSE 100, IDFC First Bank will replace Adani Green Energy Ltd. from December 22, 2025. On the same date, Max Healthcare Institute will replace IndusInd Bank. Under BSE Sensex Next 50, IndusInd Bank and IDFC First Bank will be added in exchange of Max Healthcare Institute and Adani Green Energy.

Bonus, Split and Dividend This Week: HDFC AMC, PFC, Thyrocare, AK Capital In Focus

New Delhi (Agency): Dividend, Split and Bonus: The last week of November will also see action in the stock market as investors will keep a tab on the ex-date of various corporate actions including, bonus shares, stock split and dividend. Ex-date or record date for HDFC AMC bonus, Thyrocare Technologies bonus, Unison Metals stock split, Power Finance Corporation dividend and many more are falling between November 24 and November 28. The spotlight this week is firmly on two prominent companies rewarding



shareholders via capital restructuring. HDFC AMC has set November 26 as the ex-date for its 1:1 bonus issue. This means eligible shareholders will

receive one new share for every share they hold, a move typically seen as a sign of strong financial reserves and a strategy to improve stock liquidity.

FICCI's 'Finance Conclave 2025' maps future of finance in a transforming global economy

Congress obstructs PM Modi-led NDA's good work: Uttarakhand CM

Hyderabad, Nov 23 (Agency)

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) hosted the 'Finance Conclave 2025' in Hyderabad, bringing together leading policymakers, financial experts, industry heads and international stakeholders for an intensive dialogue on the forces reshaping global finance. Held at The Park, the event carried the theme, "Navigating Transformation in a Dynamic Global Economy." The conclave highlighted how the finance function is rapidly evolving from a traditional, transactional role into a strategic driver of business value. Speakers stressed the growing influence of digitalisation, automation, AI and data analytics in redefining financial operations, governance and decision-making. Discussions centred on how technology

can enhance agility, strengthen forecasting accuracy, build robust cross-functional collaboration and empower finance leaders to

He underscored the need to align with global best practices while adapting them to India's context. Hyderabad Chartered



guide innovation, growth and sustainability in an increasingly unpredictable global environment. In his virtual remarks, ICAI President CA Charanjot Singh Nanda noted that ICAI, established before the adoption of the Indian Constitution, has grown into the world's largest accounting body. He emphasised that finance professionals today play multifaceted roles as strategic navigators, regulators and enablers of societal resilience.

Accountants' Society President CA Ananda Rao Potnuru highlighted the highly interconnected nature of today's global economy, where shifts in one part of the world have immediate repercussions elsewhere. He stressed that financial governance must evolve from compliance-driven frameworks to intelligence-driven standards, with AI, cybersecurity and data at its core. Seema Grover, Head of Finance – India & Emerging Markets

at Dr. Reddy's Laboratories spoke about the strengthening of corporate governance frameworks through institutions such as ICAI, SEBI and NFRA. She outlined the conclave's sessions, which explored the future of corporate governance, the transformative potential of AI and automation in finance, and strategies to navigate global economic shifts with confidence. CA Salil Kumar Mishra, CFO of MEIL Group said that modern finance leaders must function like co-founders, contributing to every dimension of business beyond accounting. He highlighted the need to embrace technology-driven thinking, predictive finance and strategic insight, emphasising that weak financial planning can derail even large infrastructure projects. Earlier in his welcome address, FICCI Telangana State Council Chairman V. V. Rama Raju said the finance function is transitioning into a key strategic

pillar as organisations navigate geopolitical tensions, supply chain disruptions, inflation and rising global volatility. He stressed that the future of finance will be digital, data-driven, sustainable and deeply aligned with organisational goals. During a panel discussion, Nestle India Independent Director P.R. Ramesh raised concerns about declining global trust in financial reporting. He highlighted how limited access to financial information restricts board members' ability to thoroughly review company accounts, making governance heavily dependent on auditors. He emphasised the urgent need to strengthen systems that uphold transparency and accountability. The Finance Conclave 2025 concluded on an impactful note, equipping attendees with actionable insights, strategic foresight and transformative ideas to navigate the future of finance with clarity and confidence

Jaipur, Nov 23 (Reporter)

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami today accused the opposition Congress of creating hurdles to good initiatives, including the Anti Conversion Law, being taken by the ruling NDA dispensation under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the national interest. Dhami, who was on a visit to the pilgrim city Pushkar to attend a function of the Uttarakhand Dharmashala (rest house), made the above accusation in response to a newsman's query about writ petitions filed in the Supreme Court against passage of the Anti-Conversion law in some states, including Rajasthan. The visiting CM claimed, "Those who have been indulging in the appeasement politics for many decades are

behind these obstructive tactics. They have been trying to block - obstruct or at least cause hindrances for all those good work which should have been done soon after the Independence. Since those were not done earlier, now PM Modi Ji has been doing it, that good work is not being relished by that party and their leaders." However, the people of the country have understood their intent and are now familiar of their tactics, he said and observed that is why they (Congress) are being rejected by the people. "In the recent assembly polls in Bihar, they have been defeated. Earlier, in the Maharashtra and Haryana assembly elections too, they were rejected by the voters," he said. Uttarakhand CM Dhami has hailed the performance of the two-year-old Bhajan Lal Sharma-led BJP government in Rajasthan.

BirlaNu announces new Fibre Cement Board Plant in Nellore

Nellore, Nov 23 (Agency)



BirlaNu (formerly HIL Ltd), part of the multi-billion-dollar CKA Birla Group and a leading home and building products company, today announced the establishment of a new Fibre Cement Board Plant in Nellore district of Andhra Pradesh. In Phase 1, BirlaNu will invest around Rs.127 crore to set up a large-scale Fibre Cement Board unit, the first of its kind in Andhra Pradesh, creating nearly 600 direct and indirect employment opportunities for skilled and semi-skilled talent in the region, the company said in a release here. In Phase 2, BirlaNu plans to expand the site with additional units for PVC Pipes & Fittings and Construction Chemicals, deepening the company's integrated manufacturing capabilities in Andhra Pradesh. The Greenfield project will enhance our manufacturing footprint; address rising domestic and global demand for high-quality building materials and create meaningful employment opportunities, the company said. Designed as a state-of-the-art facility built on advanced manufacturing technologies and sustainable production practices, the unit will play a pivotal role in accelerating regional economic development. Akshat Seth, Managing Director and CEO, BirlaNu, said: "Our new Fibre Cement Board Plant in Nellore marks an important milestone in BirlaNu's expansion journey. Andhra Pradesh offers a compelling environment for industrial growth, supported by robust infrastructure and a progressive development approach." The facility will incorporate fly ash, a by-product from coal-based thermal power plants, as a key raw material reducing industrial waste, lowering landfill needs, and advancing circular-economy practices. The project is also expected to spur the growth of ancillary and support industries, further strengthening the industrial ecosystem in Nellore and its surrounding districts. With 32 manufacturing facilities across India, Germany and Austria, supported by innovation centres in India and Germany, BirlaNu brings globally benchmarked quality and advanced engineering to more than 80 international markets.

MP CM invites industrialists of South India to invest in state

Hyderabad, Nov 23 (Reporter)

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav today invited industrialists to invest in their state as it has a lot of potential to provide opportunities for various sectors. While interacting with various industrialists of South India during the 'Investment Opportunities in Madhya Pradesh' session held here, Yadav said that there is no political agenda behind his visit to Hyderabad and only to personally invite the industrialists and businessmen to his state to strengthen



the mutual relations. While praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, he said the central government has created

a lot of opportunities for all sectors. He said that a Metro Coach manufacturing plant has been set up in Madhya Pradesh for Rs 1,800 crore by BEML Rail Hub and now, "we are prepared to export rail coaches as well". Earlier, the

Madhya Pradesh chief minister visited Greenko's headquarters in Hyderabad, holding a key meeting with the company's top management. Later, he held one-to-one discussions with industrialists over investment plans and upcoming projects in sectors such as IT, ITES, ESDM, biotech, manufacturing, and MSMEs. A key round-table meeting focused on the biotech sector was also held, where detailed discussions took place on the favourable environment emerging in Madhya Pradesh for innovation-based industries and research-driven projects.

Ananth Technologies to inaugurate 1st private-sector centre of excellence in Navigation

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 23 (Representative)

Ananth Technologies Ltd (ATL), a leading private-sector contributor to India's space and defence programmes, will inaugurate its Centre of Excellence in Navigation at the ATL facility in KINFRA Park, Menamkulam, near Kazhakootam, here on November 25. Established in 1992, ATL—headed by Chairman and Managing Director Dr. Subba Rao Pavuluri—has grown rapidly with centres in Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Thiruvananthapuram. The Thiruvananthapuram unit has been closely supporting ISRO in the realisation of avionics packages for all ISRO launch vehicles. The new Centre of Excellence marks ATL's advancement into the development of precision navigation systems for both space and defence applications. The

company is currently working on cutting-edge indigenous technologies in this critical domain as part of its contribution to the



national Atmanirbhar mission. Officials noted that this is the first such dedicated navigation-technology facility in the private sector, and it is expected to play a significant role in meeting India's future navigation-system needs. The facility will be inaugurated by the Secretary, Department of Space and Chairman, ISRO, in the presence of ISRO centre directors and senior officials from ISRO and the defence sector.

Nemetschek Group & IIT Madras sign MoU to foster research in low-carbon and lean construction

New Delhi, Nov 23 (FN Representative)

Nemetschek Group has announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IIT Madras to establish a platinum membership research partnership under the Centre of Excellence 'Technologies for Low-Carbon and Lean Construction (TCL2)'. 'TLC2' is a research initiative of IIT Madras focused on developing and implementing innovative solutions to make the construction industry more sustainable. It aims to minimize waste, reduce the carbon footprint and foster efficiency in the construction sector. The partnership is funded by Nemetschek Group's AI and Data innovation hub. Prof

Ashwin Mahalingam said, "Our engagement with Nemetschek offers a unique opportunity to advance cutting-edge research in sustainable construction technologies. The partnership empowers our faculty and students to work closely with industry pioneers to address real-world challenges, particularly in digital fabrication and modular construction, enhancing the impact of our academic programs." The partnership will cater diverse areas of collaboration including joint research projects, advisory and visiting appointments, employee continuing education and curriculum development. Pete Nicholson, Senior Vice President of Key accounts and High Growth Regions at Nemetschek Group, said, "This partnership with

IIT Madras highlights Nemetschek's commitment to advancing innovation and sustainable development in

powerful AI technologies ethically, we aim to accelerate productivity, efficiency and sustainability--



India's construction sector." "By combining applied research in low-carbon and lean construction with

essential for meeting the demand of India's extensive infrastructure investments and ensuring a future-

ready construction ecosystem across the country," he said. This partnership is also intended to promote employment opportunities as Nemetschek's digital tools with civil engineering programs will drive more recruitment opportunities for IIT Madras students. Charles Sheridan, Chief AI and Data Officer of Nemetschek Group, said, "Our investment in the TLC2 centre of excellence reflects Nemetschek's dedication to integrating cutting-edge AI and sustainable technologies in construction. Collaborations like this empower us to co-create impactful solutions, leverage academic excellence and accelerate digital transformation in the Indian AEC industry."

New scientific study strengthens India's fight against illegal Mongoose trade

Kolkata, Nov 23 (FN Bureau)

Concerned over large scale poaching of Mongoose for its fur (hair) used in clandestine markets for making costly fine quality brush for painting, the scientists and zoologists have made a major breakthrough, developing a mechanism to identify its fiber from the mammals or artificial. India is home of several species of mongooses- Small Indian Mongoose, Indian Grey Mongoose, Indian Brown Mongoose, Ruddy Mongoose, Crab-eating Mongoose, and Stripe-necked Mongoose. These small carnivorous mammals play a crucial ecological role by regulating populations of rodents, snakes, birds, and various invertebrates. Despite their ecological

importance, they face severe pressure from illegal wildlife trade, primarily driven by the demand for mongoose hair used in high-quality paint brushes, according to Dhriti Banerjee, Director, Zoological Survey of India. "Every year, an estimated 100,000 mongooses are killed, with nearly 50 animals required to produce just one kilogram of usable hair. These brushes are sold within India and smuggled internationally to markets in the Middle East, the United States, and Europe often without consumer awareness of their illegal origin," the ZSI chief said. "Major trafficking routes pass through Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu, while international smuggling commonly occurs via Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and across the Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bangladesh borders," he

said. To strengthen legal protection, all mongoose species were progressively elevated under the Indian Wildlife



(Protection) Act, 1972, ultimately being placed in Schedule I, the highest protection category. Despite these measures, enforcement agencies often face challenges in identifying mongoose hair in confiscated items. Modern paintbrush processing removes the follicle and basal region of the hair, leaving no nuclear DNA.

Mitochondrial DNA recovery is also frequently unsuccessful due to chemical processing and degradation. In such cases, tricho-taxonomy the study of hair structure provides a practical, rapid, and non-destructive method for species identification, Banerjee said. He said a development toward this goal has been achieved through a new study published in Discover Conservation, which presents the first complete tricho-taxonomic identification system for all these Indian mongoose species. The diagnostic features documented in this work provide a rapid and non-invasive method for identifying confiscated mongoose hair, thereby supporting law enforcement agencies in combating illegal wildlife trafficking.

The study was carried out using museum specimens housed at the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI). Scientist at the Zoological Survey of India M. Kamalakannan, who conceptualized and co-led the study, said "This research fills a critical forensic gap by providing species-level identification tools based entirely on hair morphology. It will greatly assist wildlife enforcement agencies in identifying mongoose hair in seized items and curbing illegal trade. The study will also serve as a useful and cost-effective reference for identifying mongoose species in India." Shantanu Kundu, foreign collaborator from Pukyong National University, Republic of Korea, added, "Our combination of microscopic analysis and statistical modelling provides a scientifically

solid baseline. These findings can also complement future molecular or DNA-based approaches to further enhance accuracy in species identification." As an authorised organisation of the Government of India, the Zoological Survey of India, functioning under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC), regularly receives confiscated materials from enforcement agencies across the country, including paintbrushes suspected to contain mongoose hair, for species identification. The ZSI provides the scientific analysis required to support investigations and curb illegal trade. "This study further strengthens our wildlife forensic capabilities and will assist frontline agencies in protecting India's native biodiversity," Banerjee concluded.

EDITORIAL

Generative AI at three:
Promise, profit, or bubble

We are approaching the third anniversary of ChatGPT's release. When OpenAI launched it, the world was stunned. For the first time, the wider public directly experienced the power of Generative Artificial Intelligence (Gen AI): large language models (LLMs) could generate coherent, context-aware paragraphs from just a few words of instruction. Three years later, we stand at a crossroads, not only for the global economy but for human civilisation itself. It is now evident that Gen AI is a transformative technology that is reshaping nearly every aspect of our lives, from education to business and beyond.

Gen AI differs from every previous wave of disruptive innovation in several fundamental ways. Its adoption has been astonishingly rapid and global, both in the number of users and in its spread across borders. Nearly 70 per cent of new API users of OpenAI's platforms now come from outside the United States. In the last five decades of American technological dominance, no other innovation has seen such swift and widespread international uptake.

Moreover, with reinforcement learning and continuous model upgrades, LLMs are becoming increasingly adaptive, forming a self-improving loop that enhances their performance over time. While the industrial revolution automated muscle power, Gen AI automates cognition and decision-making. That marks a profound shift, as these were tasks once considered uniquely human.

As Prof Diganta Mukherjee of ISI Kolkata observes, "AI is the next big thing after computerisation. The way we replaced repetitive processes at the lower end of the value chain in the early 1990s is now being replicated at a higher level, with AI taking over more complex yet still repetitive tasks such as decision-making."

While no other technology has achieved such widespread adoption, the challenge with AI today lies in the scale of investment it has attracted. The top five AI-focused companies - Apple, Nvidia, Microsoft, Alphabet, and Amazon - now account for nearly one-third of the S&P 500 index. Overall, AI-focused companies have driven roughly 80 per cent of the S&P 500's gains in 2025. Yet, the incremental improvements in successive AI models, particularly LLMs, are becoming less visible to the public. The current challenges facing the AI ecosystem can be broadly grouped into three categories.

One: LLMs have already trained on nearly all publicly available human content, leaving little new data to improve them. Adding AI-generated material offers minimal gains. This saturation exposes ethical issues, especially around fair compensation for creators. In 2023, artists Sarah Andersen, Kelly McKernan, and Karla Ortiz sued AI image companies, claiming their works were used in training without consent or payment. They argue this violates copyright law through unauthorised copying and imitation of their styles, creating "21st-century collage tools". AI firms counter that using public images qualifies as fair use for transformative purposes. The case, still unresolved, will likely set a precedent for how copyright law, written long before AI, applies to systems that learn from creative works at scale. Its outcome could redefine how AI companies source data and how artists protect their work.

India's just transition needs a broader blueprint

Rishu Garg

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The discussions at COP30 in Belem, Brazil, have called for action on a just transition towards a low-carbon economy, underscoring that climate action and social equity cannot be separated. For India, the stakes are especially high. India surpassed 256 gigawatt (GW) of non-fossil capacity on September 30 2025 - a significant milestone in its net-zero journey. While this is commendable, it is important to ensure that the process is fair and inclusive from all aspects.

What is 'just transition'? The discussion of a just transition began in the late 1970s and early 1980s, as global awareness of environmental issues grew. In 1993, American labour leader Tony Mazzocchi proposed a 'Superfund for Workers' to support those leaving hazardous jobs. Trade unions later expanded the concept to ensure that workers are not disproportionately affected (in terms of livelihoods and health) while moving from high-carbon to low-carbon economies. International bodies such as the International Labour Organisation and the United Nations now frame just transition as a process that delivers environmental sustainability alongside equity. However, in India, NITI Aayog has emphasised just transition primarily in the context of coal, ensuring that mine closures and workforce shifts are managed in a just, timely, and accountable way. This framing is important but partial. Countries such as Indonesia define just transition as 'An energy transition in which the conditions resulting in social, economic, and environmental risks and oppor-



tunities are equitably distributed among stakeholders according to their capacity and conditions. A just transition also affirmatively enables vulnerable, underserved stakeholders to participate in decision-making that mitigates the risks and captures benefits from opportunities'. India, too, would benefit from such a broader framing. Although just transition has become almost synonymous with coal in India, it needs to be considered in the context of the expanding renewable energy sector. Solar parks, wind farms, and associated transmission lines require significant tracts of land, which may affect local liveli-

hoods and ecosystems. For example, in Rajasthan, overhead transmission infrastructure across desert landscapes has contributed to the decline of the Great Indian Bustard, a critically endangered species. Another emerging challenge is solar waste. As India's earliest installations approach end-of-life (20-25 years), states such as Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu - home to large solar parks - will face rising volumes of panel waste. In the absence of clear recycling pathways, toxic materials from this waste can leach into the environment, compound-

ing the pressures on the very communities that parted with land for renewable projects. To ensure justice in the transition, there is a need for a universal framework that applies to all technologies and is based on shared benefits, transparent decision-making, and the repair of any harm. One such framework - proposed by McCauley and Heffron in 2018 - has three pillars: distributional justice (ensures that costs and benefits are shared fairly), procedural justice (makes decision-making transparent and inclusive), and restorative justice (includes restoring shared community resources, investing in health and education, and safeguarding ecosystems).

To avoid repeating the inequities of the fossil fuel era, India should embed a framework of justice into its institutional architecture. Clear indicators, for example, local jobs and benefit-sharing (distributional), community participation and transparent approvals (procedural), and social and ecological investments (restorative), can be applied across all renewable technologies.



The Little Things We Call Luxury



Juveca Panda Chheda

While doing our yearly Diwali cleaning last month, my husband and I got talking about what luxury means to us. For the first time, neither of our answers matched what the world typically associates with the word. For us, luxury looked a lot less like status and a lot more like comfort, convenience, and unfettered little moments of joy. Somewhere along the way, luxury has been rebranded into something performative-something you're supposed to display, not experience. Brands now dictate what luxury should mean, the best example being the curious case of the "Hermès purchase history": buying things you don't really want or need just to "build credit" and be deemed worthy of a Birkin or

a Kelly. I say this as someone who appreciates beautiful things-but the irony isn't lost on me. We chase luxury like a treasure hunt, without noticing that some of the richest treasures in our lives have nothing to do with waitlists or sales associates. The sound of my dogs sprinting toward the door the second they know I'm home-a greeting no monogram can replicate. Waking up to bird-song in a city as loud and restless as Mumbai-a moment so small and yet so grounding. Listening to music that lifts my mood within seconds, or that quiet sense of calm that washes over me whenever I look at the sea-like my mind is finally exhaling. A really good workout that resets my entire day and pulls me back into my body

instead of scattering me across a dozen thoughts. Then there are the luxuries we don't even recognise as luxuries because they feel so ordinary-like inside jokes with family. I still can't explain to anyone why the word "bridge" sends my parents, brother, and me into uncontrollable laughter (we eventually let my husband in on it). These are the kind of moments that dissolve stress faster than retail therapy ever could. We talk so much about quiet luxury, slow luxury, and sustainable luxury, but what we're really craving is something simpler: the luxury of time. Not the rushed, leftover scraps of time we squeeze between tasks, but time that feels wide enough to hold joy, rest, humour, and connection. Time is the container that holds every other luxury worth having. In a culture that rewards speed and sameness, having even a few unhurried moments to feel your own life has become rare-and like all rare things, that's what feels truly luxurious.

Given the nature of my work, I've spent years thinking about value-not just what things cost, but what they return long after the novelty fades. Over time, I've realised that none of my most-cherished luxuries are things I can buy; they are moments I can experience fully only when I have the time to notice them.

Congress power play risks governance vacuum

Gourab Mukherjee

When the Congress returned to power in Karnataka in 2023, the first major challenge was not administrative but political: choosing between Siddaramaiah and D K Shivakumar for the Chief Minister's post. After days of infighting and intense negotiations in Delhi, Siddaramaiah was selected as Chief Minister while Shivakumar was made Deputy Chief Minister. Rumours of a '2.5-year formula' that circulated then - with Siddaramaiah handing over the reins mid-term - have now grown into open demands. A group of MLAs aligned with Shivakumar rushed to Delhi to press the High Command to honour what they claim was a commitment made in 2023. Senior ministers have publicly stated that no such agreement existed and that Siddaramaiah was elected for a full term. The Congress leadership's silence has only deepened the uncertainty.

Adding to the confusion is Siddaramaiah's own ambiguous messaging. Though he had twice declared - before the 2018 and 2023 elections - that they would be his last, he has now hinted he may contest once more under pressure from his supporters. He has swung between claiming he will complete the full term and saying he will continue only at the High Command's pleasure, even asserting he will present next year's budget, further fuelling speculation. Another twist is the widespread belief that he hopes to remain in office until January or February 2026, when he is expected to break D Devaraj Urs's record as the longest-serving chief minister. Meanwhile, Shivakumar's announcement that he would quit as KPCC president has only added to the theatre, intensifying rumours that he has received the green signal from the leadership. While these may appear to be internal matters for the Congress, the impact of this perpetual leadership suspense on governance is deeply disconcerting.

Stand up and show respect, it's a government order

Srinath Sridharan

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In the great art of Indian public life, few things are as revealing as the small notices pasted on government boards and department walls. They look like routine instructions, but often tell you where the State places itself, and where the citizen stands in the hierarchy of power.

The latest of these is a new government resolution in Maharashtra that quietly commands officials to be courteous to legislators. It frames this to make administration more 'reliable' and 'accountable'. On the surface, it sounds benign. Almost sweet, the way parents expect their children to behave. But the simplest rules often carry the most interesting sub-text.

The resolution issued by the General Administration Department turns this expectation into formal instruction. Officers at every level, from Mantralaya to district and taluka offices, must extend full courtesy to public representatives. When an MLA or MP enters an office, officials are expected to stand. They must

listen attentively. They should speak politely, and avoid language that could be read as harsh or disrespectful. They must maintain a register of every correspondence, and reply issued to the elected representative. All replies must go out within two months, and any delay must be recorded with reasons. The order also warns that negligence or failure to follow the protocol will invite action under the Maharashtra Civil Services Rules and the state law that seeks to prevent delays in government work. It reads like a civics lesson wrapped in bureaucratic handwriting. A reminder that an elected representative is not an ordinary visitor. That the people's mandate deserves a visible gesture of



deference. All of this is fine. No citizen objects to politeness. Officials can show courtesy. They often do already.

Yet our public life whispers something about a democracy where the river of respect flows mainly upward, like water pumped against gravity. It

leaves us with a question that no one in the circular voices out loud. Will respect ever flow downward too? Even the word downward feels wrong in a democracy, because it implies citizens are lower in the hierarchy. The citizens who wait on the other side of the counter in

our everyday experience, it is not the MLA walking into the tehsildar's or registrar's office who feels helpless. It is the citizen who walks in clutching a document stamped by every office except the one that truly matters. It is the elderly pensioner who has no idea which counter to approach next. So, the rule reminds us of a truth we already know. Courtesy in India is often a political act. The namaste and the deference can feel staged, meant for the cameras and the permanent studio that many politicians carry with them, thanks to social media. It is the version of respect that starts at the top and trickles down only when the person below has power of a different kind. What the citizen wonders is this.

Rajasthan women BLOs walk the extra mile in voter list SIR drive

Jaipur (Agency): The accuracy of the voter list remains the most crucial pillar of India's democratic framework, and Booth Level Officers (BLOs) form the backbone of this exercise, moving door-to-door to distribute forms, verify records and complete demanding technical tasks such as digitisation. During the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of Voter Lists - 2026, several BLOs across Rajasthan have set inspiring examples of commitment, often working in harsh conditions. Among them, Masuda's Kamala and Sri Ganganagar's Samesta have emerged as symbols of dedication and women's empowerment. Kamala, the BLO for Part No. 215 of the Masuda Assembly Constituency, displayed extraordinary determination while navigating difficult terrain in Beawar district.



With challenges ranging from poor roads and patchy mobile networks to the complete absence of transport in remote hamlets, she continued her work unhesitatingly. Walking nearly 4 kilometres daily from Sobdi village to scattered settlements, she spent her days visiting homes for form collection and returned in the evenings to

complete digitisation -- often with limited connectivity. By November 18, Kamala achieved 100 per cent completion in both form distribution and digitisation. On November 19, rather than pause after meeting her targets, she began helping neighbouring booth BLOs with their form work and digitisation, reinforcing a spirit of teamwork and

community support. In Sri Ganganagar, BLO Samesta balanced equally demanding responsibilities at home and in the field. A second-grade teacher at Raipur School (7 LNP), she managed Part No. 160 of the Ganganagar Assembly constituency while caring for her 7-month-old daughter and 5-year-old son. Supported by her husband, Hoshiyaar Singh, she resumed field duties with full determination despite the workload at home. She distributed counting forms to 983 voters and completed digitisation for 806 forms within the stipulated time. Her ability to balance motherhood with administrative duties stood out as a remarkable example of willpower and dedication. She noted that strong support from people in her constituency made the process more efficient and enhanced the quality of work.

After Karur tragedy, Vijay resumes public outreach at Kancheepuram, attacks DMK



Chennai (Agency): Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) leader Vijay returned to a public forum for the first time since the Karur stampede tragedy, addressing a tightly controlled indoor meeting near Kancheepuram on Sunday. The actor-turned-politician, who has kept away from public events after 41 people died in a stampede during his Karur rally, delivered a sharp political speech aimed at the ruling DMK, while outlining his party's welfare-focused agenda. The TVK had earlier planned to launch Vijay's campaign from Salem on December 4, after he met the families of those who died in the Karur tragedy, whom he invited to Mamallapuram for a private condolence interaction. However, citing the Karthika Deepam festival and other logistical concerns, the police advised that the Salem rally be postponed. In this backdrop, the party held a fully indoor "People's Meeting" at a private engineering college in Sunguvarchatram. Entry was restricted to 2,000 participants from Kancheepuram district, each carrying a QR-coded pass. The party emphasised that the session was not a public rally, but a controlled indoor interaction. Addressing the gathering, Vijay repeatedly invoked C.N. Annadurai and MGR, saying his political journey was inspired by their ideals. "Annaiyar was born in this very district. MGR kept him on the party flag because he believed in his vision. But what are those who inherited his party doing today?" he asked. Vijay said the ruling party's hostility towards TVK would not deter him. "Personally, I have no enmity towards anyone. They may hate me, but that does not matter. But if they come to power by lying and pretending to be doing good, how can we stay silent? We will question them," he said.

22 hospitalised due to breathing issues caused by air pollution in Rajasthan

Sikar (Agency): Local residents and students from Sikar district were admitted to the hospital after air pollution caused breathing difficulties across the city.

Speaking to reporters about the situation, Sikar Additional District Magistrate (ADM) Ratan Lal said that they are investigating the matter. "The children brought here are nearly fine. We are investigating this and have deployed the Pollution Control Board. Twenty-two



patients, including fifteen children, have been admitted. Prima facie, the cause of this is burning of clothes in a nearby furnace," ADM Ratan Lal said.

According to the Central Pollution Control

Board bulletin, the air quality in Sikar was recorded in the Moderate category, with an index value of 172.

Meanwhile, the national capital woke up to dense smog on Sunday morning as the average Air Quality Index (AQI) stood at 381 at 7 am, falling under the 'very poor' category despite the Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)-IV in effect across Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR), according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

ACB-EOW raids rock Chhattisgarh in multi-crore DMF, excise scam probe

Raipur (Agency): The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) and Economic Offences Wing (EOW) launched simultaneous raids at over 20 locations across Chhattisgarh on Sunday, targeting the alleged multi-crore District Mineral Foundation (DMF) and excise scams that have plagued the state's mining and liquor sectors. The operations, spanning from Raipur to Jagdalpur, have sent shockwaves through officialdom and business circles, with homes and offices of implicated bureaucrats, contractors, and businessmen sealed off for intensive searches. The raids follow earlier actions, including October's EOW sweeps at 14



sites in Raipur, Durg-Bhilai, and Rajnandgaon, where digital evidence pointed to money trails benefiting a web of politicians and middlemen. The raids kicked off at dawn, with ACB teams descending on a prominent businessman in

Sargipal, Kondagaon district. The entire property was cordoned off under heavy security, and investigators have been poring over documents, computerised records, and financial ledgers for more than two hours.

J&K: At minus 2.8 degrees Celsius, Srinagar witnesses coldest night of season



Srinagar (Agency): Jammu and Kashmir's Srinagar city recorded the coldest night of the season so far with the minimum temperature dropping to minus 2.8 degrees Celsius, while Jammu recorded 10.1 degrees Celsius as the night's lowest. Meteorological Department officials said the minimum temperature in Srinagar dropped to minus 2.8 degrees Celsius. "Srinagar city witnessed the coldest night of this season so far at minus 2.8

degrees Celsius today, while Pahalgam recorded minus 3.5 and Gulmarg zero as the minimum temperature. Jammu city had 10.1, Katra town 9.8, Batote 4.5, Banihal minus 0.5 and Bhaderwah 0.5 as the minimum temperature today," the officials said. The officials also predicted no appreciable change in the weather in Jammu and Kashmir till December 2, and in the coming days, the minimum temperature is likely to drop further. Due to the winter cold having set in earlier, authorities have announced winter vacation for classes up to the 8th standard from December 1. People are seen protecting themselves from chilly winds blowing into the Kashmir Valley from the snow-clad mountains by wearing woollens and wrapping thick mufflers around their necks.

Akhilesh 'misleading' voters fearing defeat:

UP Deputy CM on SP chief's 'SIR misuse' remark

New Delhi (Agency): After Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav accused the BJP and Election Commission of India of "misusing" the ongoing Special Intensive Revision process, Uttar Pradesh Deputy Chief Minister Keshav Prasad Maurya on Sunday said the former Chief Minister's remarks indicate "nervousness" as his party has "no real ground presence". Deputy CM Maurya said, "After the NDA victory in the Bihar elections, Akhilesh Yadav claimed he would win in Awadh and defeat us in Magadh, but we have won in Magadh and we will also win in Awadh in 2027, despite their doubts about the outcome." BJP leader Shah Nawaz Hussain also hit out at the SP leader, saying, "Since tasting defeat in Bihar, Akhilesh Yadav and his party have been making excuses. They know the Samajwadi Party will also perform poorly in Uttar Pradesh, so they are pre-emptively creating narratives. The same excuses Rahul Gandhi and Tejashwi Yadav gave during the SIR, and Yadav is following in their footsteps." Both leaders asserted that the BJP had no need to interfere with electoral processes and that the SP chief was attempting to "mislead voters" ahead of the next



Assembly elections. Yadav launched a strong attack on the BJP and the Election Commission, accusing them of "misusing" the SIR of electoral rolls. He claimed the BJP was working in tandem with the EC to "cancel" more than 50,000 votes in Assembly segments where INDIA bloc parties performed well in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. Yadav warned that the SIR process was being conducted in a "targeted manner" in Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal, alleging political motives behind the voter verification drive. The Election Commission is currently conducting the SIR across 12 states and Union Territories, with the final electoral roll scheduled for publication on February 7, 2026.

Rs 100-crore drug haul in 4 NE states in a week; 12 held

Aizawl/Agartala (Agency): Various law enforcement agencies, including the Assam Rifles and the BSF, have intensified their crackdown on narcotics smuggling, seizing drugs worth around Rs 100 crore and arresting 12 peddlers, including four Myanmar nationals, over the past week, officials said on Sunday. An official said that Assam Rifles, Border Security Force (BSF), Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), Excise and Narcotics Department of Mizoram, Tripura, Manipur and Mizoram police either jointly or individual operation have seized the drugs including highly addictive methamphetamine tablets, heroin, cocaine, dry Ganja (marijuana), foreign-origin cigarettes from Mizoram, Tripura, Manipur and Assam. Nexus among the drug peddlers of Mizoram, Tripura, Assam and Myanmar are conducting the illegal trade of narcotics, whose main hub is Myanmar's Chin state. On November 17, dismantling an international drug syndicate involving Pakistan, in a breakthrough against narcotics trafficking, the Assam Rifles, in a joint operation with the Customs Department, seized 800 gm of cocaine valued at nearly Rs 8 crore and arrested two drug peddlers in Tripura. A Customs Department official had said that, acting on specific intelligence inputs about a drug-trafficking syndicate smuggling high-purity cocaine into India through the Punjab border from Pakistan, the Agartala Customs Department has busted a major narcotics network operating across multiple states.

Delhi Crime Branch arrests key interstate narcotics supplier, recovers heroin worth over Rs 8 cr

New Delhi (Agency): In a major breakthrough against interstate narcotics trafficking, Delhi Police's Crime Branch has arrested Tushar, a key member of a narcotics syndicate, wanted in two separate Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act cases involving the recovery of high-purity heroin worth over Rs 8 crore.

On November 21, Delhi Police received secret information regarding Tushar's presence at Mahaveer Enclave in the national capital city. Based on technical surveillance, a Crime Branch team, led by Head Constables Pramod Kumar and Ravinder Singh of WR-II, traced the accused to Gali No. 5, Mahaveer Enclave. A targeted raid was



conducted, resulting in the arrest of Tushar.

The bust not only apprehended a proclaimed offender but also disrupted a significant interstate drug supply network operating in Delhi-NCR.

"This is India, and its democracy is secure":

JD(U) leader on Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind chief's statement

Patna (Agency): Senior Janata Dal (United) leader Neeraj Kumar on Sunday said democracy in India is "secure", adding that members of the Muslim community are holding top positions in the bureaucracy and other important institutions.

The remarks came in response to Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind President Maulana Arshad Madani's statement alleging the government of ensuring that "muslim never raise their heads".

Speaking to the news agency, Neeraj Kumar said,



"This is India, and its democracy is secure. Today, members of the Muslim minority community are holding top positions in the bureaucracy and other institutions. While everyone is entitled to their political and religious views, one

should consider how to work toward the development of minority communities. In this regard, one can learn from Nitish Kumar."

Earlier, Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind President Maulana Arshad Madani on Saturday expressed concerns about the challenges faced by Muslims, highlighting what he described as discrimination against Muslims in India, pointing to issues such as the jailing of individuals like Azam Khan and the situation at Al-Falah University.

He contrasted the

situation in India with the election of Muslim mayors in cities like New York (Zahran Mamdani) and London (Sadiq Khan), to counter the notion that Muslims globally have become "helpless, finished, and barren".

He claimed that "no Muslim can become a university vice-chancellor" and if they become "they will be sent to jail," while referring to government actions against Al Falah University, following the involvement of their doctors in the Delhi terror attack.

S. Korean President Lee urges revitalisation of WTO at G20 Summit



Johannesburg (Agency): President Lee Jae Myung has urged the Group of 20 (G20) nations to work to revitalize the World Trade Organization (WTO) to enhance global growth potential, saying the world must establish a predictable trading and investment environment. Lee made the call during the first session of the G20 summit, as the multilateral trading system is facing turmoil, reports Yonhap news agency. "We must establish a predictable trading and investment environment to enhance growth potential," he said. "The revitalisation of the World Trade Organization serves the interests of all nations." Lee pledged active cooperation with the WTO Ministerial Conference to be hosted in Africa next year, saying South Korea will work to ensure the adoption of the Investment Facilitation for Development (IFD) Agreement into the WTO's legal framework at the upcoming meeting. Cameron hosts the next meeting in March. The IFD aims to make investment processes easier, more transparent and more efficient, particularly for developing countries. During the session, Lee also proposed solutions to ease excessive debt burdens on developing countries, which he said constrain their ability to invest in growth and the momentum for sustainable development. "To advance toward the future, we must strategically allocate resources toward sectors with the greatest growth potential, thereby creating a virtuous cycle that generates wealth and reduces our debt burden at the same time," he said. As an example, he highlighted South Korea's increased investment in future growth sectors, including artificial intelligence (AI), and introduced a fiscal policy that expands spending in high-performing sectors with the long-term goal of lowering the nation's debt ratio. Lee also stressed the need for stronger international cooperation to improve the effectiveness of development projects in developing nations. Noting South Korea's participation in the reform road map for Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), he vowed continued efforts to improve the structure of the institutions that finance development projects in developing countries. He described the first G20 summit held in Africa as "highly meaningful," voicing support for the African Cooperation Framework, a multilateral policy initiative aimed at promoting the sustainable development of African nations.

Death toll from Vietnam flooding climbs to 90



Hanoi (Agency): The death toll from flooding and landslides in Vietnam's central region rose to 90 as of Sunday, local media reported. Twelve people remained missing, local daily Thanh Nien reported, citing the Vietnam Disaster and Dyke Management

Authority. Torrential rains and flooding have damaged 1,154 houses and more than 80,800 hectares of rice and other crops in the region, reports Xinhua news agency, quoting the local media. Vietnamese Prime Minister Pham Minh Chinh has called for stepping up

response measures to severe flooding and natural disasters in the central provinces. The Vietnamese government has provided emergency aid worth 700 billion Vietnamese dong (about 26.6 million US dollars) to certain hard-hit regions for recovery efforts, Vietnam News Agency reported. Over 28,400 houses remain inundated, while 946 others have been damaged, according to the report. The economic losses are estimated at nearly 9 trillion Vietnamese dong (about 358 million US dollars), the authority said. Power has been restored for most affected areas, with around 75,000 households still without electricity.

Number of Koreans aboard 1945 sunken Japanese ship likely to be unveiled by year-end

Seoul (Agency): The number of Koreans aboard a Japanese ship that sank in 1945, killing up to over 3,000 people, will likely be revealed by the year-end following an analysis of passenger lists, the interior ministry said on Sunday. The government has commissioned the Foundation for Victims of Forced Mobilisation by Imperial Japan to carry out an in-depth analysis of 75 passenger lists and related items received from the Japanese foreign ministry between



September last year and March this year. The analysis is expected to be completed by mid-December after the interior ministry sorts through passengers listed more than once and corrects misprints and mistranslations. Currently, a total of 18,300 people are listed in the documents, reports Yonhap news

agency. The Utsunomiyama Maru was transporting Koreans, many of whom were forcibly mobilised for wartime labour, back to their homeland in August 1945, days after Korea's liberation from Japan's 1910-45 colonial rule, when it sank off Japan's Aomori Prefecture following an explosion in the hull.

India welcomes key outcomes at UNFCCC CoP30; reaffirms commitment to equity, climate justice and global solidarity

Belem (Agency): India expressed "strong support" to Brazil for the inclusive leadership at the 30th edition of the Conference of the Parties (COP 30) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and reaffirmed New Delhi's commitment to equity, climate justice and global solidarity. India welcomed several significant decisions adopted at the conference, in the "High-level Statement" at the Closing Plenary of the UNFCCC CoP30 in Belem, Brazil, on Saturday. The statement conveyed India's gratitude to the CoP President for his leadership, which it said was rooted in inclusion, balance, and the "Brazilian spirit of Mutirão," and guided CoP30 with integrity. Welcoming progress under the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), India underscored the equity dimension of the decision, noting that it reflects recognition of the overwhelming need for adaptation in developing countries, according to a statement from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. A key element of India's address was the emphasis on the



long-standing obligations of developed countries to provide climate finance. The statement expressed appreciation for the Presidency's efforts in supporting India in beginning the journey towards a long-overdue focus on Article 9.1. It added that India sincerely hopes that, in the spirit of international cooperation, promises made 33 years ago in Rio would now be fulfilled due to the first steps Parties have taken in Belem. India

expressed satisfaction with the major outcomes of CoP30, foremost among them the establishment of the Just Transition Mechanism. The statement called it a significant milestone and expressed hope that it would help operationalize equity and climate justice at both global and national levels. India thanked the Presidency for providing space to discuss unilateral trade-restrictive climate measures, which it said are increasingly affecting developing

countries and violate the principles of equity and CBDR-RC enshrined in the Convention and its Paris Agreement. The statement stressed that these issues cannot continue to be brushed under the carpet, adding that Parties have made a beginning to reverse this trend. Reiterating India's principled approach to climate action, the statement highlighted that the burden of climate change mitigation must not be shifted onto those least responsible for causing the problem. It stressed the need for greater global support to vulnerable populations, a large majority of whom are in the Global South, so they may protect themselves from the escalating impacts of climate change. India reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to science-based and equitable climate action. It observed that India remains committed to a rules-based global order that is equitable and respectful of national sovereignty. The nation also reaffirmed its commitment to working with all Parties to ensure that climate ambition is inclusive, just, and equitable.

US says Russia-Ukraine peace draft made with Moscow's 'input'



Washington (Agency): The Russia-Ukraine peace proposal has been prepared with contributions from Moscow, US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said, noting that earlier suggestions from Kyiv were also factored in. As he left for Geneva for discussions on the proposed settlement, Rubio stressed that the document had been drafted entirely by the United States. State

Department spokesman Tommy Pigott earlier stated that the peace framework was put together by Washington while incorporating views from both Russia and Ukraine. Pigott wrote on X that "as Secretary Rubio and the entire Administration has consistently maintained, this plan was authored by the United States, with input from both the Russians and Ukrainians." President Donald Trump has insisted that the US-backed peace blueprint aimed at ending the Russia-Ukraine conflict is not his "final offer" to Kyiv. His comments came after a coalition of Ukraine's Western allies expressed concern that the current draft required major changes. Addressing reporters outside the White House on Saturday (local time), Trump said that if President Volodymyr Zelenskyy refuses the proposal, he can "fight his little heart out".

Ending Ukraine crisis requires consent of Ukraine, Europe: German Chancellor Merz



Berlin (Agency): German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said that ending the crisis in Ukraine requires the consent of both Ukraine and its European partners, rather than major powers. Speaking at a press conference on Saturday, during the G20 Summit in Johannesburg, Merz said that the conflict unfolding on the European continent and its outcome concerns the security of Europe as a whole, Xinhua news agency reported. "Wars cannot be ended by great powers over the heads of the countries involved," Merz said,

adding that the end of this crisis can "only occur with Ukraine's unconditional consent." Merz said that foreign policy advisors from Germany, France, Britain, and representatives from the EU are scheduled to hold further consultations with US and Ukrainian representatives on Sunday in Geneva. Merz

noted that reliable security guarantees must be established for Ukraine. While acknowledging there is currently a chance to end the conflict, Merz cautioned that the parties remain far from a common, satisfactory result. Meanwhile, delegations from Ukraine and the United States will hold consultations in Switzerland in the coming days on the possible parameters of a future peace agreement with Russia, Rustem Umerov, secretary of Ukraine's National Security and Defence Council, said.

Ukraine, US to hold consultations on peace plan in Switzerland



Kyiv (Agency): Delegations from Ukraine and the United States will hold consultations in Switzerland in the coming days on the possible parameters of a future peace agreement with Russia, Rustem Umerov, secretary of Ukraine's

National Security and Defence Council, said. "This is another stage of the dialogue that has been ongoing in recent days and is primarily aimed at aligning our vision for the next steps," Umerov wrote on Facebook. He stressed that Ukraine is approaching the peace process "with a clear understanding of its interests," Xinhua news agency reported. Earlier in the day, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky signed a decree establishing a delegation for talks with the United States, Ukraine's other partners and Russia, on a peace deal to bring an end to the Ukraine crisis. The delegation will be led by Andriy Yermak, head of the Presidential Office.

Houthi court sentences 18 Yemeni UN aid workers to death for 'spying for Israel'

Sanaa (Agency): A Houthi-run court in Yemen's capital Sanaa sentenced 18 Yemeni aid workers employed by United Nations humanitarian agencies to death for allegedly spying for Israel. The ruling says that the "convicts" will be executed by firing squad in a public place in Sanaa. Meanwhile, the same court handed two others, including a woman, 10-year prison terms on the same charges. In a statement broadcast by Houthi-run al-Masirah TV on Saturday (local time), the court accused the convicts of providing Israel, the United States, Britain, and Saudi Arabia with information on dozens of Houthi leaders' locations, movements, and secrets related to political, military, and security matters, as well as information about missiles, including their launch sites and storage facilities. The court added that the convicts recruited several citizens, installed surveillance cameras, and received payments in return, actions that led to attacks on multiple military, security, and civilian sites, causing dozens of deaths and extensive infrastructure damage, reports Xinhua news agency.

Former Brazilian President Bolsonaro arrested for preventive custody

Brasilia (Agency): Former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro was taken into preventive custody by police in Brasilia under an order issued by the Federal Supreme Court. According to initial information provided by the Federal Police, the arrest is not the result of a sentence, but a precautionary measure requested by investigators. Bolsonaro was detained at around 6:00 a.m. local time (0900 GMT) on Saturday and immediately taken to the Federal Police headquarters in the capital.

The detention comes in the final phase of an investigation into an alleged coup plot in the country. Bolsonaro, who was in power from 2019 to 2022, had been under house arrest since August 4 and had his preventive detention ordered on grounds of safeguarding public order. As part of that process, he had been sentenced to 27 years and three months in prison, reports Xinhua news agency. On Friday, Bolsonaro's defence team submitted a request to Supreme Court Justice Alexandre de Moraes,



the case's rapporteur, seeking permission for the former president to remain under

house arrest, citing health problems. No timeline has been set for Bolsonaro's testimony, and authorities have not said whether additional measures will be taken throughout the day. His legal team has not issued further statements on the next steps. The preventive arrest takes place amid multiple investigations opened by the Federal Supreme Court and the Federal Police related to Bolsonaro's actions during his administration and after leaving office.

Muthusamy 109, Jansen 93
take SA to 489; India 9/0

Manipur Polo International: India
Teams register a win & a draw

Guwahati, Nov 23 (FN Representative)

South Africa’s lower order produced a stirring fightback on Day 2 of the second Test, carrying the visitors to 489 all out in 151.1 overs before India reached 9 for no loss at stumps in 6.1 overs. Senuran Muthusamy’s maiden Test hundred and Marco Jansen’s thrilling 93 were the centrepieces of a remarkable recovery that frustrated India throughout the day. South Africa went into lunch strongly placed at 428 for 7 in 137 overs, with Muthusamy unbeaten on 107 and Jansen on 51. Their eighth-wicket partnership had already transformed the innings, and the momentum carried forward into the evening session. The visitors crossed 450 in 140.4 overs, aided by clean hitting from Jansen, who continued to dispatch India’s short bowling. He launched Mohammed Siraj high over mid-

wicket in the 140th over, followed by another boundary off the next ball. Jasprit Bumrah was driven through long-off as Jansen moved swiftly into



the 80s. The stand was finally broken in the 138th over when Muthusamy, on 109 off 206 balls, top-edged a pull off Siraj to fine leg, departing to warm applause after South Africa’s best innings of the series. India claimed the next wicket when Simon Harmer was bowled by Bumrah for 5 in the 143rd over. But Jansen kept attacking, launching Jadeja for three towering sixes in the 139th over and then pulling Siraj again in the 140th, continuing his counterattack even as

partners fell around him. By the drinks break, South Africa were 483 for 9 in 149 overs, with Jansen moving into the 90s and Keshav Maharaj on 8. Jansen looked destined for a maiden first-class hundred, but heartbreak followed. In the 151st over, a googly from Kuldeep Yadav spun away, catching Jansen’s inside edge before crashing into the stumps. He fell for 93 off 91 balls, with six fours and seven sixes — a brilliant innings that ended abruptly and painfully for the left-hander. South Africa were bowled out shortly after for 489 in 151.1 overs, Maharaj unbeaten on 12. India then faced a short but steady examination before stumps, closing at 9 for no loss in 6.1 overs. Yashasvi Jaiswal flicked Jansen for four off just the second ball of the innings and remained unbeaten on 7, with KL Rahul on 2 at the close. With South Africa posting a formidable total and India beginning cautiously, the contest is finely set heading into Day 3.

Imphal, Nov 23 (Agency)

The second day of the 15th Manipur Polo International Tournament at the historic Mapal Kangjeibung today witnessed high-intensity matches as India Polo Team-B (Manipur) secured a convincing victory, while India Polo Team-A (IPA) played out a thrilling draw against the visiting Colombia Polo Team. India Polo Team-B (Manipur) defeated India Polo Team-C (Chhattisgarh) with a strong performance, ending the game with a score of 9–4. Team B dominated from the opening chukker, quickly setting the pace with two goals. They continued their momentum into the second chukker, adding two more goals. The third chukker saw them score another goal, maintaining firm control of the match. By the fourth chukker, Team B stretched their lead with two additional goals. Although the final chukker produced no goals, their earlier dominance ensured a clear victory. India Polo

Team-C managed to score four goals overall, with a single goal each in the second, third, and fourth chukkers. However, they were unable to match the pace and coordination displayed



by the Manipur side. With superior teamwork, fast attacks, and disciplined defence, India Polo Team-B secured the victory comfortably, delighting the home crowd. Another match featured a nail-biting contest between Colombia Polo Team and India Polo Team-A (IPA), ending in a dramatic 8–8 draw. The Colombian team pressed early, scoring one goal in the first chukker. They kept their momentum in the second chukker, adding two more goals. With sharp riding and well-coordinated strikes, Colombia took the match’s early advantage. India

Team-A responded strongly. Matching the Colombians stride for stride, the Indian side put up a goal in the first chukker, followed by another in the second. Their comeback gained strength in the third chukker with a goal that narrowed the gap. The highlight of the match came in the fourth chukker, where India Polo Team-A produced an impressive performance, scoring five goals in a spirited offensive burst. This remarkable effort turned the match around and levelled the scoreboard. Colombia added one more goal in the fourth chukker, while both teams were unable to score in the fifth, sealing the match as a well-fought draw. Both matches showcased the spirit of polo, with smooth coordination, swift riding, and commendable sportsmanship from all teams. The umpires—Zacharry Calaman, Frederico Puyana, and Lt. Col. Aman Singh—ensured fair play throughout the games. Timekeeping was managed by L. Bedamani Singh, while scoring duties were carried out by Kh. Dhiren Singh.

Divi Bijesh shines again at Asian Youth Rapid Chess Championship 2025

Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 23 (Agency) Kerala’s rising chess prodigy Divi Bijesh has added yet another prestigious title to her rapidly growing list of achievements, clinching the Asian Youth Rapid Chess Championship 2025 held in Thailand. The 10-year-old from Thiruvananthapuram emerged champion in the Under-10 Girls category, scoring an impressive 6 points from seven rounds and reaffirming her dominance in international age-group chess. This triumph comes close on the heels of her victory at the Commonwealth Chess Championship 2025, where she secured the Under-12 Girls title just a week earlier. The year 2025 has been exceptional for Divi. She became the World Cup U-10 Girls Champion, World Cadet Rapid Champion, World Cadet Blitz Vice Champion and World Schools Chess Vice Champion. With more than 75 medals already to her credit, Divi is also Kerala’s youngest Woman Candidate Master (WCM) and holds the distinction of being India’s first U-10 Girls World Cup Champion. A fifth-grade student at Alan Feldman Public School, Kazhakkootam, Divi continues to be celebrated as one of the brightest young talents in Indian chess.

Hockey India announces free tickets for Junior World Cup

Madurai, Nov 23 (FN Representative) In a landmark move to encourage greater fan engagement and celebrate the sport’s growing popularity, Hockey India today announced that entry for all matches of the FIH Hockey Men’s Junior World Cup to be held in Chennai and Madurai from November 28 to December 10, will be completely free of cost. The tournament will feature 24 teams, making it the largest edition in Junior World Cup history. Fans can secure their free virtual tickets through www.ticketgenie.in or the Hockey India mobile app. Upon registration, spectators will receive a digital ticket, ensuring a smooth and paperless entry process without the need for physical redemption. Speaking about the initiative, Hockey India President Dr. Dilip Tirkey said, “This is a historic moment for Indian hockey, and we want every fan to be a part of it. By offering free tickets, our aim is to open the gates for students, young athletes, families, and hockey lovers across Tamil Nadu and beyond. The atmosphere created by passionate fans has always been our biggest strength, and we are committed to making international hockey accessible to everyone.” Hockey India Secretary General Shri Bhola Nath Singh said, “Tamil Nadu is hosting the Junior World Cup for the first time, and we want to ensure the stadiums are packed with energy. Free entry removes all barriers for spectators and reinforces our vision of promoting hockey at the grassroots. We encourage fans to come in large numbers, support the young talent from around the world, and experience world-class hockey.” The 24 teams are grouped into four Pools. Hosts India are placed in Pool A, alongside Chile, Oman, and Switzerland. India will open their campaign against Chile on 28th November in Chennai, followed by matches against Oman (29th November) and Switzerland (2nd December).

Norris, Piastri disqualified from F1 Las Vegas GP

Beijing, Nov 23 (Reporter) Formula 1 championship leader Lando Norris and McLaren teammate Oscar Piastri have been disqualified from Las Vegas Grand Prix after post-race checks revealed excessive wear to the skid blocks on both cars. Norris had finished second behind race winner Max Verstappen, extending what had appeared to be a comfortable title lead over Piastri, who crossed the line fourth. But the FIA launched a formal investigation after the chequered flag, with both drivers summoned to the stewards at 11:45 p.m. local time on Saturday. Technical delegate Jo Bauer reported that the rearmost skid blocks on both McLarens measured below the mandatory minimum nine millimeters when inspected against the team’s submitted legality documents. McLaren representatives were heard before the decision was issued. The ruling marks the first time in McLaren’s history that both cars have been removed from a grand prix classification for the same infraction. The penalties significantly reshuffle the final order. Verstappen retains his win, but George Russell moves up to second, with Mercedes teammate Kimi Antonelli stepping onto the podium in third. The revised classification also sees Charles Leclerc move up to fourth, with Carlos Sainz fifth and Isack Hadjar sixth. Nico Hulkenberg is now seventh, ahead of Lewis Hamilton, while the Haas pair of Esteban Ocon and Ollie Bearman move up into the points-paying positions, in ninth and tenth respectively. The title picture also tightens. Rather than extending his advantage, Norris remains 24 points clear of Piastri. Verstappen’s victory brings him level with the Australian in the standings, leaving the trio separated by fewer than 25 points with two grands prix and one Sprint remaining. Enforcement of skid block regulations has already impacted other drivers this season. Hamilton was excluded from the Chinese Grand Prix for the same breach, while Hulkenberg lost his points finish in Bahrain.

Continued from Page-1

Toxic air grips Delhi again...

to Stage 2. These include staggered working hours for government offices in Delhi, Gurugram, Faridabad, Ghaziabad and Gautam Buddh Nagar. The Centre may also consider staggered timings for its offices in the region, the agency recommended. Restrictions previously meant for Stage 4 during severe AQI, such as allowing public, municipal, and private offices to function with only 50 per cent staff and requiring the remaining employees to work from home, will now be applicable at Stage 3, the notification stated. In line with the CAQM’s directive, the Delhi government has directed private offices to operate with 50 per cent on-site staff and allow the rest to work from home as a precautionary measure, as the capital continues to grapple with deteriorating air quality. On Sunday, the city’s minimum temperature recorded a drop of nearly 1.5 degrees Celsius from the previous day’s minimum and stood at 10.4 degrees Celsius while the maximum settled at 26.7 degrees Celsius, according to the India Meteorological Department (IMD). The forecast for the minimum temperatures are likely to be normal during next 24 hours and below normal, registering a drop between 1.6 and 3.0 degrees Celsius thereafter, said the IMD.

Scientific storage vital...

deficit estimated at approximately 69 million metric tonnes by 2030, implying a large investment opportunity. Moreover, the foodgrain storage market is projected to grow from roughly Rs 37,336 crore in 2025-26 to Rs 43 953 crore by 2030-31, with a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 3.3pc. It’s driven by expansions under PPP silo projects, PEG schemes and government buffer stock requirements. Private sector dominance is also increasing in India’s foodgrain sector with major players like Adani Agri Logistics, Globus Manufacturing, LT Foods, StarAgri, NCML and others. The report suggested the need of some policy reforms to harmonize escalation clauses, skill development, promoting warehouse-as-a-service, raising awareness on financing options, incentivizing hermetic storage and enabling digital traceability.

G20: PM Modi seeks...

growth and over exploitation of nature, particularly when the G20 Summit was being held for the first time in Africa. In this context, he noted that the idea of "Integral Humanism" based on India’s civilizational wisdom must be explored. Integral Humanism, he expanded, takes a holistic view of humans, society and nature and that is how harmony between progress and planet could be achieved. Elaborating India’s approach to growth, development and well-being for all, Prime Minister proposed six ideas for the G20 to consider. They are: * Creation of a G20 Global Traditional Knowledge Repository: This would harness collective wisdom of humanity for the benefit of future generations. * Creation of a G20 Africa Skills Multiplier: This program would aim to create a pool of one million certified trainers for skilling the youth in Africa. This would create local capacities and foster long-term development in the continent * Creation of a G20 Global Healthcare Response Team: This would comprise healthcare experts from each of the G20 countries and could be deployed to deal with global health challenges in any part of the world. * Establish a G20 Open Satellite Data Partnership: Through this program satellite data of G-20 Space agencies would be made available to developing countries for agriculture, fisheries, disaster management, among other activities. * Creation of a G20 Critical Minerals Circularity Initiative: This initiative would foster recycling, urban mining, second-life battery projects and innovation of various types, and help in strengthening supply chain security, and develop cleaner pathways of development. * Creation of a G20 Initiative on Countering the Drug Terror Nexus: This would address drug trafficking, , including of fentanyl, and break the drug-terror economy. Prime Minister Modi addressed a session on "A Resilient World- G20 Contribution to Disaster Risk Reduction; Climate Change; Just Energy Transition; Food Systems". He appreciated that the Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group initiated by India is being taken forward. He noted that the approach to disaster resilience should be "development-centric", rather than "response-centric" as exemplified in the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure set up by India. Prime Minister Modi called for greater collective action on climate agenda to strengthen food security. In this context, he noted the value of millets in promoting nutritional security and environmental sustainability. Highlighting the Deccan Principles on Food Security adopted during India’s presidency, he noted that such an approach should become the basis for creating a G20 roadmap on food security. He also called upon developed countries to meet their climate action commitments on providing affordable finance and technology to developing countries in a time bound manner. He also interacted with several world leaders on the sidelines of the G20 Summit today.

India, Israel to implement...

community of both countries. On Thursday, both the India and Israel inked terms of reference (ToR) to formally launch

negotiations for the agreement. The ToR include market access for goods by eliminating tariff and non-tariff barriers, investment facilitation, simplification of customs procedures, increasing cooperation for innovation and technology transfer, and easing norms to promote trade in services. We may come out with the first phase on an FTA, so that we can kickstart the benefits faster," Goyal said. He also spoke on a big metro project in Israel, saying the Middle East nation has just come out with pre-qualification documents for a USD 50 billion metro project in Tel Aviv. "It involves 300 km of underground tunnelling and is one of the largest projects, and they are keen that Indian companies should also bid for it," he said. "We have several players, both in the public and private sectors, who have done massive works. We have 23 cities which are setting up metros in India," Goyal said, adding that Israel would "very seriously" like India to be a part of that project and "I hope Indian companies take interest and join the bidding process. The Israel-India Business Summit held in Tel Aviv saw the participation of top political leaders, senior industry executives and major business organisations from both countries talking of accelerating bilateral economic cooperation and charting new areas of collaboration.

Delhi Assembly Speaker holds...

Patel, the first Indian elected Speaker of the Central Legislative Assembly under British rule. Vice President of India, C.P. Radhakrishnan, will inaugurate the book commemorating 100 years since Patel occupied that chair on 24 August 1925, a statement read. According to the Delhi Assembly officials, the Coffee Table Book showcases rare archival photographs, key documents and select excerpts from Patel’s speeches and writings. The book will serve as a rich tribute to Patel’s enduring legacy and India’s democratic journey by featuring curated archival material on the evolution of India’s legislative institutions and visuals of the new Parliament.

Delhi CM announces restricted...

resistance against tyranny, religious intolerance and injustice, adding that he was not just a revered Guru of the Sikhs, but also a guardian of humanity. "By laying down his life, he defended India’s religious freedom and affirmed that truth and righteousness must be upheld, whatever the cost," she added. Ms Gupta pointed out that Guru Sahib’s supreme sacrifice represents an immortal chapter in history, reminding that defending people, their freedom and dignity is the true essence of humanity. Ms Gupta reaffirmed that his message of courage, compassion, tolerance, brotherhood and respect for all faiths remains as relevant today, as it was three centuries ago. Reflecting on Guru Tegh Bahadur’s life and legacy, the CM stated that his teachings will continue to inspire the creation of a peaceful and inclusive society.

ECI reports major progress...

and 65.52 per cent, respectively. To expedite the verification and digitisation process, the ECI has urged all recognised political parties to appoint additional Booth Level Agents (BLAs), aiming to ensure accuracy and inclusiveness ahead of forthcoming elections.

India-Vietnam ties...

economic cooperation, including in areas like manufacturing, infrastructure and digital technology. They also emphasized enhancing collaboration in trade and defence, alongside the importance of cultural and people-to-people ties, noting the significant Indian diaspora in Vietnam. Both nations are expected to continue working together on key regional initiatives, including the Indo-Pacific Economic Corridor and the ASEAN-India Free Trade Agreement.

India, Malaysia vow...

Malaysia is a crucial partner in Southeast Asia, and strengthening this bond is central to India’s Act East policy and broader engagement with the region. Furthermore, the Prime Ministers emphasized the foundational role of cultural and people-to-people ties, recognizing the significant Indian diaspora residing in Malaysia. The meeting sets the stage for future collaboration on major regional initiatives, such as the Indo-Pacific Economic Corridor and joint efforts under the ASEAN-India framework.

The Labour Codes celebrate...

standard for workplace welfare in India. The requirement for canteens, toilets, drinking water, canteens and rest areas ensures that MSME workplaces evolve into environments that are safe, respectful and conducive to productivity. By defining standard working hours, introducing flexible arrangements such as work-from-home where suitable, and ensuring eligibility for paid leave after one hundred and eighty days, the Codes enhance work-life balance and align India’s labour environment with contemporary expectations of worker welfare. Mandatory free annual health check-ups for employees aged forty years and above advance the

Lakshya Sen clinches Australian Open title with dominant victory

Sydney, Nov 23 (Representative)

India’s top-ranked men’s singles shuttler Lakshya Sen clinched his sixth career BWF World Tour title, and his first of the season, by winning the Australian Open 2025 in commanding fashion on Sunday. According to Olympics.com, Sen, needed 38 minutes for a clinical 21-15, 21-11 victory over world No. 26 Yushi Tanaka of Japan in the final of the BWF Super 500 tournament. This was the first head-to-head meeting between the two shuttlers. Sen’s triumph in Sydney is his first BWF World Tour title since the Syed Modi International in December last year. Sen took control early in the opening game, stringing together four straight points

to lead 7-3. Tanaka briefly closed in at 17-15, but the Indian badminton player, seeded seventh, responded with another four-point surge to wrap up the game. The second game unfolded on similar lines as Sen built a six-point advantage at the interval before closing out the match with ease. This triumph marks Sen’s first BWF World Tour title since winning the Syed Modi International in December 2024. His growing list of titles includes the Super 100 titles in 2019 - the Dutch Open and SaarLorLux Open - along with the India Open Super 500 in 2022 and the Canada Open Super 500 in 2023. Sen also became only the second Indian badminton player to win a title on the BWF World Tour this year. Ayush Shetty won the US Open Super 300 title in June.

focus on preventive health and long-term well-being. These developments reinforce India’s steady movement towards a future in which worker welfare and economic efficiency are mutually reinforcing. Formalisation and Financial Autonomy of workforce The Labour Codes celebrate formalisation as a central driver of Atmanirbhar Bharat. The requirement for appointment letters, timely wage payments, and clear statutory definitions of worker and employee strengthens transparency, consistency and accountability within the employment relationship. The formal extension of protection to commuting accidents marks a significant expansion of welfare coverage, reflecting the evolving realities of mobility among India’s workers. These provisions collectively strengthen the formal labour market and provide millions of workers with documentation, security and financial autonomy, contributing directly to India’s broader goals of inclusive and sustainable economic development. Skill, Re-skilling and Voice The Worker Re-skilling Fund represents a forward-looking innovation that supports workers navigating transitions in a dynamic labour market. By enabling re-skilling and up-skilling, it prepares the workforce for emerging sectors such as renewable energy, advanced manufacturing, electronics and digital services. A strengthened grievance redressal mechanism ensures workers have accessible channels through which their concerns may be addressed. This aligns with the ethos of broad-based participation and reflects a labour ecosystem grounded in dignity, accountability and opportunity. Mobility and Inclusive Growth The expanded definition of the interstate migrant worker modernises the legal understanding of labour mobility and fosters continuity of welfare entitlements. The provision for portability of social security benefits, including Public Distribution System access and Building and Other Construction Workers Cess Fund entitlements, strengthens the protection available to workers who seek opportunities across different regions. These measures reflect India’s commitment to supporting labour mobility while ensuring that workers remain securely integrated into formal welfare architecture. A Global and National Imperative By universalising social protection, updating definitions and simplifying regulatory structures, the Labour Codes position India as a leader in modern labour governance. International institutions, including the International Labour Organization, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, have acknowledged the significance of these reforms. Enhanced gender participation, supported by these Codes, contributes to unlocking substantial economic potential and reinforces India’s commitment to inclusive growth and global competitiveness. Conclusion, A New National Euphoria The implementation of the Labour Codes signifies the arrival of a new phase in India’s development journey. These reforms elevate the dignity of labour, strengthen MSME Shakti, empower women, support migrant workers, and consolidate a welfare-oriented labour architecture. They exemplify the principles of Atmanirbhar Bharat, accelerate progress toward Viksit Bharat 2047, and contribute to a labour ecosystem defined by resilience, equity and opportunity. As these reforms take root, they generate a positive and confident national environment, setting the stage for a future in which every worker contributes to and benefits from India’s economic ascent.

68% Of Indian Travelers Turn To YouTube For Inspiration, Says Google-Kantar Report



New Delhi (Agency): The Indian travel industry is witnessing a massive surge in consumer confidence and spending, with 88% of travelers eager to travel, Google-commissioned Kantar report "Travel Rewired: Decoding the Indian Traveler." The report highlights a significant shift toward premiumization, value maximization, and a strong reliance on digital touchpoints across the traveler journey from inspiration to booking. Commenting on the evolving traveler journey, Shaurob Kapadia, Head of Travel & FoodTech, Google India, said, "Traveling is now a form of self-expression, yet the path to booking is often fragmented. We are seeing our digital ecosystem simplify this complexity. YouTube is the inspiration hub, Search is the essential touchpoint for planning, with AI emerging as the critical enabler for travelers. At the same time, we are enabling brands with our AI-powered ads suite and the YouTube creator ecosystem to optimize for micro-moments, ensuring personalized messaging that converts peak interest into a booking." The definitive trend is toward higher spending and comfort. Domestically, 72% of travelers say cost is less of a consideration, and 81% expect to splurge. This premiumization is even more pronounced for international trips, where the average spend is 3.2X that of a domestic journey. Video Powers Discovery, and Creators Fuel Inspiration Video has become central to travel discovery, with YouTube emerging as the top source for inspiration (68%). YouTube is driving aspirational travel and deep engagement across formats: 59% of travelers relying on creators describe them as highly influential 2 in 5 travelers use YouTube Shorts specifically for inspiration On leveraging YouTube's multi-format ecosystem, Pallavi Chopra, Chief Marketing Officer, redBus, said, "Our continued success with long-form video ads on YouTube for awareness and consideration led us to test the full potential of its multi-format capabilities. We strategically incorporated YouTube Shorts ads during the last holiday season, treating them as more than just a reach platform. This combination proved powerful for brand consideration: Shorts delivered a 2X lift in branded search and achieved a 7% lower customer acquisition cost. This synergy of long-form and Shorts is now essential for driving an efficient, always-on, full-funnel strategy from awareness through conversion." Digital Touchpoints Driving Final Bookings Travelers are highly digital, with 85% preferring to book online, and brand trust emerging as the top factor in both accommodation and airline choices. During the research phase: Travelers rely on Search and YouTube for details on accommodations (reviews, location, videos) For airlines, they look for reputation, reliability, and in-flight experience Google Search plays a critical role in guiding travelers on Key activities (51%) Accommodation options (46%) Shashank Jain, Head of Technology and Marketing, PRISM, added, "Search has always been a key channel for us to drive bookings, and we wanted to up our game during the holiday season. Combining the efficiency of our Search campaigns with the expansive reach of Google's AI-powered Performance Max unlocked a powerful synergy. This strategy drove a 50% increase in return on ad spends and a 25% better cost per acquisition, while successfully tapping into previously untapped demand for incremental bookings. Performance Max is now an integral component of our core media strategy at PRISM, proving its unique value as a key driver of efficient growth and market share expansion." Decoding the Traveler Archetypes The report identifies four distinct archetypes of Indian travelers based on unique aspirations and digital behaviors: Memory Makers These travelers pursue niche "moment-cations" (gig-tripping, sports, set-jetting), using an average of 10 inspiration touchpoints. Their planning is heavily creator-driven: 71% cite YouTube as their top inspiration source 89% use YouTube for creator-led travel information Globe Trotters A high-value segment with a preference for luxury and convenience. Their careful investment is driven by research: 56% spend more than a week planning 88% use YouTube for creator-led information Novice Travelers Mostly young and new to the category, 67% are first-time travelers, planners, or payers. Cost-conscious and quick to finalize: 88% use YouTube for creator-led information Religious Pilgrims A budget-conscious segment with complex search behavior across multiple languages (Hindi, Tamil, Marathi). An overwhelming 92% use YouTube for creator-led travel information To capture this high-intent market, brands must optimize the full funnel across every inspiration touchpoint, using both authentic creator voices and AI-powered solutions to deliver hyper-localized, personalized messaging that resonates with each traveler archetype.

Beyond The Five-Star:

Safari, Stargazing And Wild Adventures That Redefine Luxury

New Delhi (Agency): Luxury travel is shifting, becoming less about polished five-star settings and more about extraordinary experiences. Travellers are now seeking places where nature takes the lead, where wide savannahs, quiet deserts, starlit oceans, and untouched wilderness create moments of stillness and rare beauty that stay with you long after the journey ends. From the Masai Mara's savannahs at &Beyond Bateleur Camp to Utah's desert at Camp Sarika at Amangiri with private tented pavilions and open skies, from the Maldives' starry nights at Anantara Kihavah Maldives Villas to Sumba Island's cliffs at NIHI Sumba with cliffside villas and Spa Safari experiences, these escapes redefine luxury. Here, nature sets the pace, adventure meets comfort, and every moment feels meaningful. Yasmin Ikrami, CEO and founder, JourneyLabel, a luxury travel company, says, "Luxury today



is about stays that move beyond five-star and into a deeper sense of exclusivity. Travellers want places that feel rare and remarkable, a quiet valley touched by soft morning light, a desert that stretches into a calm that settles the mind, a riverbank where nature moves with its own gentle rhythm. These

surroundings lift a stay from comfort to something truly memorable, and they shape the way luxury travel is experienced today." A safari in the Maasai Mara offers a chance to feel truly close to nature, but for travellers seeking refinement along with adventure, &Beyond Bateleur Camp is a

standout. Tucked beneath the forested Oloololo Escarpment, the camp has two intimate sections with nine spacious tents each, offering uninterrupted views of the Mara. Think polished wooden floors, leather Chesterfield sofas, and copper bathtubs, all paired with butler service. Two lap pools overlook the wilderness, and activities include cultural experiences, night drives, and bush walks led by expert guides. Staying here means soaking in the wild beauty of the Mara while relaxing in old-world safari elegance. Where the Desert Sleep For a desert experience that feels both thrilling and serene, Camp Sarika at Amangiri is the perfect choice. The camp's ten tented pavilions blend seamlessly into the Utah desert, offering guests privacy and quiet. Each tent opens onto a terrace with a private pool and views of the surrounding mesas. Firepits and wide-open skies make evenings magical, ideal for sunset drinks or stargazing.

Where The Night Comes Alive:

10 Global Destinations To Visit After Dark



New Delhi (Agency): Here are 10 of the world's most mesmerizing destinations that truly come alive after dark, each offering a unique blend of natural beauty, cultural vibrancy, or architectural brilliance under the night sky Salar de Uyuni, Bolivia: The world's largest salt flat transforms into a surreal, reflective mirror during the rainy season. At night, the shallow water covering the flats reflects the starry sky so perfectly that it feels like walking through space. It's a dreamlike experience that defies gravity and orientation.Tokyo, Japan: Tokyo's skyline is a futuristic spectacle after sunset. From the glowing billboards of Shibuya and Shinjuku to the lantern-lit alleys of Golden Gai, the city pulses with energy.

Nighttime also brings out Tokyo's best food scene, with izakayas, ramen joints, and night markets buzzing with locals and tourists alike.Paris, France: Paris earns its nickname after dark. The Eiffel Tower sparkles every hour, the Seine reflects the golden glow of bridges and monuments, and late-night cafés hum with conversation. A nighttime cruise on the Seine offers one of the most romantic views in the world.Dubai, UAE: Dubai's skyline dazzles at night, with the Burj Khalifa lighting up the city. But the real magic lies in the desert: nighttime safaris offer stargazing, traditional music, and Bedouin-style dinners under the stars. The contrast between the city's glow and the desert's silence is unforgettable.New

York City, US: From Times Square's electric chaos to rooftop bars with skyline views, NYC thrives after dark. Broadway shows, jazz clubs in Harlem, and midnight strolls across the Brooklyn Bridge make the city's nocturnal charm irresistible.Reykjavik, Iceland: Winter nights in Iceland offer a front-row seat to the aurora borealis. Just outside Reykjavik, the skies come alive with green and purple ribbons of light. Combine it with a soak in a geothermal hot spring for a magical experience.Bangkok, Thailand: Bangkok's night scene is a sensory overload. Explore night bazaars, feast on street food at Yaowarat (Chinatown), or sip cocktails at sky-high bars like Vertigo or Sky Bar. The Chao Phraya River glows with reflections from temples and boats.Rome, Italy: Rome's historic sites take on a mystical aura at night. The Colosseum, Roman Forum, and Trevi Fountain are beautifully lit and far less crowded. Evening walks through cobblestone alleys reveal the city's timeless romance.

Year-End Travel Made Easy: How Backpackers Are Planning Smarter



New Delhi (Agency): As the year draws to a close, India's travel landscape is shifting not with uncertainty, but with intention. Backpackers, solo travellers, and families alike are eager to end 2025 on the road, but the way they plan, spend, and choose destinations has evolved dramatically. The mood is optimistic, but grounded; adventurous, yet mindful. Among solo backpackers, one thing is clear: the desire to travel hasn't diminished, it has simply become more thoughtful. "As 2025 draws to a close, the mood among backpackers is cautiously optimistic, they're eager to travel, but smarter about how and where they spend," says Pranav Dangi, founder, Hosteller. According to him, gone are the days of long, multi-country itineraries funded by impulsive decisions. Instead, today's travellers prefer shorter, experience-led getaways that don't drain their savings. "We're seeing a strong trend of budget-conscious solo travellers wanting immersive, flexible

trips without burning through savings. A few days in the hills, a beachside digital detox, or community hostels that offer both affordability and connection, that's the new template." Dangi adds that financial planning is playing a key role. Transparent pricing, early booking discounts, and hostel loyalty programs make budgeting easier than ever. "Most solo travelers are setting aside 15-20% of their monthly income for end-of-year trips, showing that travel remains a priority, just more intentional." Destinations, too, reflect this desire for slow, meaningful experiences. Bir, Varkala, Kasol, Gokarna, and Coorg are topping wish lists for their calm environments, community vibes, and scenic escapes. "With the right planning, flexible transport, shared stays, and community experiences, backpacking stays one of the most rewarding and affordable ways to travel," he says. "For many, it's not about holding back, but travelling lighter, smarter, and slower.

5 Best Destinations In India To Watch Dolphins And When You Should Visit

New Delhi (Agency): Among the most loved and adored creatures of the marine world, Dolphins are often associated with tropical islands and ocean cruises overseas. However, India is not short of its own Dolphin-watching bases and destinations where you can catch a glimpse of this playful species in all its glory. Due to its vast geographical landscape and water bodies, India is home to dolphins from the holy Ganges to the pristine waters of the Lakshadweep. These destinations attract a range of tourists, including wildlife enthusiasts, curious individuals and those eyeing a perfect photo and video opportunity



for their social media page. Hailed as India's dolphin capital,

the Chilika Lake in Odisha is considered the best place in the

country to watch the rare Irrawaddy dolphins, which are known for their rounded heads and playful behaviour inside the water. The Irrawaddy dolphins are most evident near the Satapada and Rambha regions of the lake. The winter vibes of November-February, when the migratory birds also raise the water's aesthetic value, is usually the best time to visit the Chilika lake to see Dolphins. Known as a perfect getaway with friends and family for its famous beaches and a party-like atmosphere, Goa's waters are also the best place to spot the Indo-Pacific humpback and bottlenose dolphins.