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BRIEF NEWS

Cyclone Murasu: Situation Eases Across Andhra Pradesh

Amaravati: Rainfall due to Cyclone Murasu weakened considerably across Andhra Pradesh on Thursday, officials said. Though the cyclone's impact has largely subsided, people in low-lying areas and near drains, canals, and reservoirs have been advised to remain cautious and follow the instructions of the district administration. People have been advised not to cross overflowing streams or causeways. By Thursday morning, rain had largely stopped in most parts of the state, with only very light rain reported in a few places in the south coastal belt. According to the State Emergency Operations Centre of Real Time Governance Society (RTGS), the heavy rain on Wednesday was mainly concentrated in the Godavari belt - West Godavari, East Godavari, Kakinada, Eluru and Polavaram districts - where a few stations recorded very heavy rainfall. On Thursday morning, the activity shifted to Nellore district, but only at light to moderate intensity. Most other districts, including the Rayalaseema region, recorded little or no rain. Rainfall in urban areas has also eased. No town reported heavy rain or fresh waterlogging this morning. The highest cumulative rainfall over the last two days remains in the Godavari towns of Nidadavole, Kovvur, and Kakinada, followed by Mummidivaram and Amalapuram in Konaseema. Reservoirs and drains are now stable. All projects under watch are showing steady or falling inflows. Prakasam Barrage is discharging the same quantity as it is receiving. Thammileru and Budameru, which were rising last night, are now falling.

Armed Gang Loots Gold Worth Rs 3-4 Cr, Cash From UCO Bank in Jharkhand

Giridih: In a major daylight robbery, five armed men stormed into a UCO Bank branch in Rajdhanwar area of Jharkhand's Giridih district and decamped with gold worth an estimated Rs 3-4 crore and around Rs 8-10 lakh in cash, police said on Thursday. The daring heist took place barely 100 metres from the local police station, sending shockwaves across the area and raising serious concerns over security arrangements. According to branch manager Rahul Kumar Gaur, the incident occurred around 1.40 p.m. when five armed men entered the bank. One of them, wearing a helmet, remained at the main entrance keeping watch, while four masked accomplices barged inside and held bank employees and customers at gunpoint. The robbers forced the manager and staff to sit outside the vault, tied their hands behind their backs, and sealed their mouths with adhesive tape.

Two Dead in Delhi Building Collapse, CM Orders Probe

SP BUREAU

New Delhi: A three-storey building under construction in Old Delhi's Chawri Bazar area collapsed on Thursday, killing two people and injuring four, officials said.

More people are feared trapped under the debris, they said.

Following the collapse, the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) suspended two officials, an assistant engineer and a junior engineer.

Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta ordered an inquiry into the collapse and directed the registration of an FIR against the contractor.

The incident was reported at 9.50 am from Gali Sitara, near the Chawri Bazar Metro station. Two bodies were pulled out from the debris by a Delhi Fire Services (DFS) rescue team.



Four people were taken to a hospital by locals before DFS teams arrived. The identities of the deceased are yet to be ascertained, police said.

An MCD official said construction work at the building had been halted around 15 days ago. Workers were removing the support system beneath the roof when the structure collapsed. "The material used was non-engineered and had not set properly, which eventually led to the collapse," the official said.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Central) Rohit Rajbir Singh said the building, located in the Hauz Qazi area, had been constructed up to the third floor and collapsed while the lantern (roof slab) was being constructed.

"Three people have been rescued from there, out of which two were declared dead in hospital," he said.

People living in nearby buildings had been evacuated as an adjoining structure was in a precarious condition and was also being vacated, he added.

Official Action and Ongoing Rescue

Teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), DFS, MCD and police were present at the spot, with rescue operations underway. "We have come to know about these three people. Rescue efforts of the police, fire team and NDRF team are going on," Singh said. He said police had identified the builders and efforts were underway to nab them. The construction was unauthorised, he added. "Around 10 to 15 labourers were here when the construction was ongoing," the DCP said. Gupta also ordered the immediate suspension of the junior engineer (JE) and assistant engineer (AE) concerned and directed officials to ensure the best possible medical treatment for the injured and provide immediate ex-gratia assistance to the affected families. "Stringent action will be taken against those found responsible, in accordance with the law," the chief minister said. Following the chief minister's directions, the MCD suspended the two officials. In separate office orders, the Deputy Commissioner of the Old Delhi Zone placed them under suspension with immediate effect, citing a prima facie case of serious negligence in the discharge of their duties. "In view of the recent incident and the developments arising therefrom, and considering the prima facie case of severe dereliction of duty, you are hereby placed under suspension with immediate effect, pending further inquiry," the orders stated.

CM Approves Compensation for Farmers With Homes Damaged in Recent Floods

AGENCY

Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari, on Thursday, announced compensation for the farmers in the state whose houses were adversely affected by floods during the monsoon this year.

He made this announcement at a programme on the inauguration of the "Chief Minister Kisan Samman Nidhi" at Pursura in Hooghly district.

"Farmers whose houses suffered heavy damage in the floods will get compensation of Rs 1.80 lakh. In case of partially damaged houses, the compensation amount will be Rs 90,000. Those houses suffering minor damage will get a compensation of Rs 40,000," the Chief Minister said. In addition, CM Adhikari said that seeds are being provided to 10,750 farmers of the flood-affected Bhutni Char in Malda district. "A total of four lakh farmers in the state had been given a subsidy of Rs 2 per unit of electricity. The compensation will be given to 46 lakh farmers affected by the floods. Many of them have received the first instalment of the PM Kisan Yojana," the Chief Minister said. He launched a scathing attack on the previous Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress government in West Bengal, accusing it of depriving potato farmers in the state by banning exports to other states.



"During the previous Trinamool Congress government, potato farmers were not allowed to export their products to other states. This resulted in heavy financial losses for them. Henceforth, there would be no obstacle in exporting potatoes to other states. Rather, a subsidy of Rs 50 per quintal will be given for exporting potatoes by car or train. By bringing potatoes under the Prime Minister's Crop Insurance Scheme, the premium portion will also be waived. The West Bengal government will bear the expenditure for that," the Chief Minister said.

He also assured the potato farmers of protection against fluctuating prices in the market. "The state government had purchased 4.75 lakh quintals of potatoes at Rs 950 per quintal. The potatoes have been stored in 567 cold storage facilities. If the market price of potatoes falls below the free bond price of Rs 1,120 per quintal, the state government will provide a subsidy. This means that if there is a price difference in the sale of potatoes, the government will make up for it," the Chief Minister added.

SC's Big Order

24-hr Arrest Deadline Begins With Detention

AGENCY

New Delhi: In a ruling reinforcing personal liberty safeguards, the Supreme Court on Thursday rejected the distinction between "arrest" and "detention," holding that constitutional protections against prolonged custody kick in the moment an individual is detained. The apex court said the 24-hour limit for production before a magistrate cannot be deferred until a formal arrest is recorded, cautioning that such a view would undermine the mandate of Article 22(2) of the Constitution. A bench comprising Justices Ujjal Bhuyan and Atul S Chandurkar said that the view that 24 hours begin only from the formal arrest is contrary to the constitutional mandate of Article 22(2) and 56 of BNSS. The bench made it clear that Article 22(2) does not permit excluding the time taken for inquiry or investigation before the arresting authority affects the detainee's arrest. It said the period of 24 hours in terms of Article 22 would commence from the date and time of detention of the person detained, and not from the time of his formal arrest. The bench said that if detention continues beyond 24 hours, before the person is produced before the magistrate, then he shall be forthwith released from custody.It noted the only exception the Constitution itself provides is the time necessary for the journey from the place of arrest to the court of the magistrate. It said there cannot be any temporary suspension of a fundamental right, declining to accept the view that detention for a brief period is not an arrest.

The bench directed magistrates to record the date and time of detention and ascertain if the 24-hour period has been complied with from the time of detention. The apex court said any attempt to draw an artificial distinction between detention and arrest is constitutionally unsustainable.

The bench noted that Article 22(2) uses the expression "every person who is arrested and detained in custody," and the expressions "arrested" and "detained" are to be seen as joint and conjunctive.

The court made these observations in a judgment passed on a plea filed by four persons challenging the Tripura High Court's judgment denying them bail in a case under the NDPS Act.

The appellants were detained on September 29, 2025, at 2 PM as part of a search and seizure. However, they were formally shown as arrested at 11 AM on September 30, 2025. The apex court said they ought to have been produced before the magistrate within 24 hours from September 29 at 2 PM.



Multiple Flights in Europe Diverted After Bomb Threats

AGENCY

Paris: Bomb threats have forced several passenger aircraft to divert or make precautionary landings across Europe on Thursday, triggering security checks at airports in multiple countries for the second time in a week.

An Aer Lingus flight, EI402, travelling from Dublin to Rome landed safely at Evreux airport in France, about 100 km west of Paris, after being diverted as a security precaution, the Irish airline said in a statement.

A Finnair flight from Helsinki to Rome was escorted by Italian Air Force fighter jets before landing safely at Rome Fiumicino Airport. Italian police subsequently carried out security checks on the aircraft, but found no explosives, according to the airport authorities.

In Belgium, a flight operated by Polish airline LOT landed at Brussels' Zaventem airport following a security alert. The airline later said that no dangerous or suspicious items had been found on board. Bulgaria also reported three aircraft making emergency landings following bomb threats. Two flights, originating from Copenhagen and Madrid, landed in Sofia, while a third aircraft travelling from London landed in Plovdiv, according to local media.

Come Debate in Parliament: Amit Shah's Counter-Dare for Rahul's Challenge

AGENCY

New Delhi: Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday hit back at Congress leader Rahul Gandhi over his latest challenge to Prime Minister Narendra Modi for an open debate on various issues, insisting that the discussion be held in Parliament rather than at protests or public rallies. Addressing a rally during the BJP's 'Save Democracy, Remove Anarchy' foot march in Haryana, Shah asked the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha to formally seek a discussion, saying the government was ready to convene a special session of Parliament if the Congress requested one.

"If you (Rahul Gandhi) wish to engage in a responsible discussion, if your concerns hold truth, substance and logic, then come and discuss them inside Parliament. Let's face each other head-on. But you won't be able to handle the answers; as always, you will just run away," Shah said.

Shah asked him to write to Prime Minister Narendra Modi if he genuinely wanted a debate, adding that merely challenging the Prime Minister publicly was not enough.

"I want to challenge Rahul Gandhi directly. You challenge PM Narendra Modi to a discussion? If you want a discussion, just write a letter to the Prime Minister," he said, reiterating that the government was prepared to convene a special session to discuss the SIR exercise.

Shah also targeted the Congress over its demand for Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's resignation, questioning why the party was blaming the electoral revision exercise for its electoral defeats.



He pointed out that the Congress had lost the Lok Sabha elections in 2014, 2019 and 2024 even without an SIR exercise.

"Where was the SIR in 2014? You were completely wiped out even then. Where was SIR in 2019? You lost. There was no SIR in 2024 either, yet you lost again. There was no SIR in Haryana or Maharashtra...You lost everywhere. You do not allow Parliament to function, and instead gather crowds on the streets to spread chaos, much like anarchy. You're just creating a ruckus and staging boycotts in Parliament," he said.

Shah took another dig at Rahul Gandhi over the anti-CEC protests, likening the Congress's stance to a losing Kabaddi team accusing the referee of cheating.

Recalling how his seventh-grade team repeatedly defeated a ninth-grade team, Shah said the older students eventually decided to accuse the referee of cheating to ensure their victory.

"It seems Rahul Gandhi might have heard those students," he said, adding, "Refree ko hi cheater keh do, hamari jeet pakki ho jayegi..." (Just call the referee a cheater, and our victory will be assured.)

Shah also asserted that the BJP would not limit its response to Parliament, saying the party was prepared to take on the Congress in state assemblies, villages and on the streets.

"Do you truly believe that an 80-year-old democracy will fall for your deceptions? Rahul ji, we are the people of the streets. The BJP will provide a fitting response to you in Parliament, in the Legislative Assemblies, in our villages, and in our fields; and should you choose to gather crowds, BJP workers will be there to give you a befitting reply," he said.

Describing the 'Save Democracy, Remove Anarchy' rally as the BJP's response to Rahul Gandhi, Shah said the party would not shy away from taking on the Congress across platforms.

Cyclone Arnab: Odisha seeks Rs 2,526 crore compensation; Rs 10,000 crore for permanent restoration

■ AGENCY

Bhubaneswar : The Odisha government has sought Rs 12,526 crore in central assistance, including Rs 2,526 crore towards preliminary damage compensation and Rs 10,000 crore under the mitigation head for permanent restoration and strengthening of infrastructure damaged by Cyclone Arnab and the subsequent floods, Special Relief Commissioner (SRC) Rajesh Prabhakar Patil said on Thursday.



An eight-member Central Inter-Ministerial Team, which is on a visit to Odisha to assess damage caused by Cyclone Arnab and subsequent floods in various districts of the state, attended a preliminary assessment meeting organised by the SRC at the Lok Seva Bhavan here.

During their field visit, the Central team observed extensive damage to crops caused by the cyclone and subsequent floods. Various infrastructure facilities, including roads, power infrastructure, river embankments and canals under the Water Resources Department, have also suffered extensive damage.

The District Collectors informed the team that, given the large scale of destruction, a few more days will be required to complete the comprehensive assessment of the damage. The Central team advised the authorities to conduct door-to-door surveys to assess the losses.

Speaking to media persons after the debriefing meeting, SRC Patil said the preliminary damage assessment has been compiled into a memorandum and handed over to the central team. The meeting was attended by the Chief Secretary and departmental secretaries, during which the central team presented its observations from visits to the affected districts and sought clarifications from various departments.

Patil said preliminary reports received from different departments indicated estimated damages of around Rs 2,526 crore. The assessment covers damage caused by the cyclone and associated flooding. "We have sought Rs 2,526 crore towards damage compensation, while another Rs 10,000 crore has been demanded under the mitigation head.

Congress MLC Satej Patil launches attack on Mahayuti over Gokul Dairy election row

■ AGENCY

Mumbai (Agency): Congress MLC Satej Patil on Thursday launched an attack on the Mahayuti government in Maharashtra over its decision to appoint five state-nominated members-including four non-official directors-to cooperative unions such as the Gokul Milk Union (Kolhapur Zilla Sahakari Dudh Utpadak Sangh). These four non-official directors will be granted voting rights.

Lashing out at the Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis-led Cabinet's decision during a press conference in Mumbai, Satej Patil took a defiant stand, declaring that he will take to the streets for Gokul. He announced a mass protest rally on November 9 from Dasara Chowk to the Kolhapur District Collectorate.

With this, the controversy surrounding the election of Gokul's President has intensified. Out of 25 board seats, Satej Patil's Samvichari Aghadi holds 13 seats, while 12 seats are held by the Mahayuti. However, neither side possesses the required quorum of 14 directors independently to elect the president.

Granting voting rights to four state-appointed directors paves a clear path for the Mahayuti to seize control of the Board. The proposal file has been submitted to the Governor for signature, and a gazette notification is expected shortly.

Expressing outrage over the move, Satej Patil questioned the Devendra Fadnavis government's intentions. "Just because the election results didn't go in your favour, you change the laws. If law changes were needed, they should have been made before the election. They claim they are



appointing 'expert' directors-yet those very people were rejected by the voters. If they were truly experts, the public wouldn't have defeated them. Our legal battle against this will continue," he said.

Patil claimed the Mahayuti government was altering the law simply because the results did not turn out in its favour. "Any legal modification should have been enacted prior to the elections. The government is naming candidates as "expert" directors who were explicitly rejected by the electorate. If they possessed true expertise, the voters wouldn't have voted them out. There is a clear conspiracy to hand Gokul over to Amul. The government is working actively to dismantle the state's democratic framework," he alleged.

To a question on friendship with NCP minister Hasan Mushrif, he claimed that the minister had committed betrayal and entered through the backdoor. He noted that in a similar way director appointments were made in Amul, but the High Court rightfully struck them down. In the case of Gokul, the general public and the milk producers have rejected the Mahayuti outright, he said.

"The Vajpayee government fell by a single vote. Today, that crucial single-vote margin stands with us. Disregarding the public mandate renders people's votes entirely meaningless. If this continues, governments could similarly grab power in municipal corporations by appointing nominated members," stated Patil.

He further stated, "Rahul Gandhi raised awareness nationwide about "vote theft". Now, this government is engaged in direct "power theft". In response, we will lead a protest march on November 9 from Dasara Chowk to the Kolhapur District Collectorate."

MLA Lays Foundation Stones for 14 Projects Worth Rs 20.17 Crore in Kirmira

RAJ KUMAR SHARMA ■ Jharsuguda

Jharsuguda MLA Tankadhar Tripathy on Thursday laid foundation stones for 14 development projects worth Rs 20.17 crore in Kirmira block of Jharsuguda district. The projects include road improvements, a bridge, Bhagabat Tungis and community centres.

Of the total allocation, Rs 15 crore has been earmarked for road construction, Rs 3.66 crore for a bridge and Rs 45 lakh for projects under the Biju Gram Jyoti scheme (BGJO).



The projects cover several gram panchayats. In Bhimjor panchayat, foundation stones were laid for the Bhimjor-Budapada RD road and the PWD-Suyanpada road. In Sulahi panchayat, a community centre at Sulahi village and the Dhengurjore-Mundapada PWD road were taken up.

Similarly, projects include the PWD road to Kuturachuan in Nirgunpada and a Bhagabat Tungi at Kaheinpada in Arda panchayat; the G Panpali railway crossing-Jalipada RD road; roads connecting Uchhakabahahal and Amarbani Pada and Naksapali and Sunapada; and Bhagabat Tungis at Limtikira and Kirmira villages.Community centres at Puteidihi and Sialrama villages in Bandhpali panchayat are also among the projects.

Tripathy said these development works fulfilled long-standing demands of local residents. Once completed, they would improve connectivity and contribute to healthcare, sports and agricultural development, benefiting farmers and the general public.Executive Engineer Ashish Lenka, Kirmira BDO Abinash Lakra, local BJP leaders, elected representatives, sarpanches, government officials and villagers attended the programme.

INBRIEF

Five Arrested for Stealing Copper Wires Worth Rs 80,000 from E-Mart

Jharsuguda: Police have arrested five persons for allegedly stealing around 200 metres of copper wire from the AC cooling system of E-Mart, located on Main Road in Jharsuguda. The stolen wires are estimated to be worth approximately Rs 80,000.

According to police, the theft took place during the night of October 29, after the store had closed. The theft came to light on the morning of October 30. An examination of CCTV footage revealed that some miscreants had scaled the boundary wall to enter the store premises and steal the copper wires.

Acting on a complaint lodged by E-Mart Store Manager Bishnudutta Sahu, police registered a case and launched an investigation.

During the investigation, police arrested five accused, identified as Mangulu Barik (20), Kailash Oram (19), Prashant Oram (22) and Abhishek Oram, all residents of Purunabasti, and Lala Sahu (25) of Telibhata.

Police sources said four of the arrested persons were directly involved in the theft, while Lala Sahu allegedly purchased the stolen copper wires. All five accused were forwarded to court on Thursday.

33rd Historic Andhari Bandurga Festival to Be Celebrated on November 17 and 18



RAJ KUMAR SHARMA ■ Jharsuguda

The 33rd historic Andhari Bandurga Puja festival, symbolising the unique blend of nature conservation and religious faith, will be celebrated with traditional fervour on November 17 and 18 in Andhari forest along the Laikera-Kirmira block border in Jharsuguda district.

The festival, which began in 1994, has played a significant role in protecting the region's natural forests through community participation. The initiative was pioneered by late engineer Subrat Kumar Naik, who mobilised residents of 15 villages and established the Maa Andhari Bana Suraksha Samiti Mahasangha in 1994. His efforts transformed religious devotion towards Goddess Maa Andhari Bandurga into a mass movement for forest conservation. Following his demise, his father, former Sambalpur University Vice-Chancellor late Dr Dhrubaraj Nayak, carried forward the mission.

The community has successfully protected nearly 5,000 acres of natural forest within a 76-square-km reserved forest area, as reflected in Google Earth satellite imagery from 2008 and 2014.

On November 17, a forest conservation awareness rally, special worship of the presiding deity atop Andhari hill and a football tournament will be organised. On November 18, an extensive 25-km cycle rally covering the Andhari hill region will be taken out from the Pakelkhol-Kuarmal market area to promote environmental awareness. Special puja and darshan arrangements will also be made at Pakelkhol-Kuarmal Square on the occasion of Amla Navami.More than one lakh devotees are expected to attend the annual festival. Mahasangha president Dr Sujit Kumar Naik, general secretary Sambit Naik, treasurer Surendra Naik and members of the 15 village forest protection committees are overseeing preparations.

Aizawl International Half Marathon 2027 targets 5,000 runners

■ AGENCY

Aizawl : Mizoram is gearing up to host over 5,000 runners from across India and abroad at the third edition of the Aizawl International Half Marathon (AIHM) 2027, scheduled for February 20, 2027, at Rajiv Gandhi Stadium in the state capital.

The Athletics Federation of India (AFI)-accredited event will offer a total prize pool of Rs 20 lakh, announced by Mizoram Sports and Tourism Minister Lalnghinglova Hmar on Thursday.

Officials said that the marathon, which has emerged as a major sporting event in Northeast India.



JP Nadda reviews J&K's AIIMS Awantipora project, directs fast-tracking remaining construction

■ AGENCY

Srinagar : Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda on Thursday reviewed the progress of AIIMS in Awantipora town of Jammu and Kashmir and directed for early completion of the 750-bed tertiary healthcare facility. The Union Health Minister arrived here earlier in the day and drove to the Awantipora town of Anantnag district during his first visit to AIIMS in the Valley.

Telangana sanctions Rs 88 Cr for building community centres for 38 Backward Class associations

■ AGENCY

Hyderabad : The Chief Minister Revanth Reddy-led Telangana government has sanctioned Rs.88.50 crore for construction of 'Atma Gaurava Bhavans' for 38 associations for Backward Classes in Hyderabad.

Government Orders, sanctioning funds for the construction of community centres called 'Atma Gaurava Bhavans (self-respect buildings)' were issued on Thursday.

Minister for Backward Classes Welfare, Ponnam Prabhakar handed over the official Government Orders documents to representatives from various caste associations.

The Congress government has launched a novel initiative for constructing buildings for all castes, aimed at their social, cultural and educational uplift.

Minister Prabhakar stated that, following the directives of Chief Minister Revanth Reddy and instructions from Deputy Chief Minister and Finance Minister Bhatti Vikramarka, the construction of 'Atma Gaurava Bhavans' for Backward Class caste associations is being accelerated.



He explained that although land had been allocated previously, construction could not proceed due to certain administrative and technical issues. These hurdles have now been resolved with the cooperation of the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA).

He noted that the allocated land has been developed with layouts following a "ready-to-construct" approach, making the sites immediately suitable for building. With the government having now sanctioned the necessary funds, he urged the caste associations to commence construction work without any further delay.He emphasised that the Congress government had a firm commitment to ensure construction of these buildings and make them accessible to the BC community. He stated that the goal was to complete the projects within one year, or within a timeframe determined by the specific requirements of each construction site.

He further assured that all necessary construction permits would be facilitated through coordination between the Engineering Department and the HMDA, utilising a "single-window" clearance system to avoid any delays. Additionally, he mentioned that the BC Welfare Department will conduct monthly reviews of the construction progress and obtain regular status reports.

The minister clarified that there was no truth in reports suggesting the government intends to reclaim plots allocated to BC caste associations.

Asansol Police Arrest 14 in Drug Crackdown

■ SPNN

Asansol : The Asansol-Durgapur Police Commissionerate has launched an extensive crackdown on the illegal drug trade, registering 12 cases and arresting 14 accused so far. During the operation, police seized large quantities of narcotic substances, along with firearms, ammunition, gold ornaments and cash. In a significant move to dismantle the financial network operating behind the drug trade, eight bank accounts containing approximately Rs 31 lakh have also been frozen.

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Detective Department) Sana Akhtar shared details of the operation at a press conference on



Thursday. She said the special drive was being conducted under the leadership of the Detective Department, with active participation from all police stations under the commissionerate. The campaign is aimed at identifying those involved in the illegal drug trade, recovering contraband and disrupting the financial channels through which the business operates.

Among the major seizures, police arrested an accused in an important case registered under the NTS police station area. A total of 285 bottles of fentanyl and 2.40 lakh alprazolam tablets were recovered from his possession. The seizure is considered a significant development in the ongoing operation against the supply and distribution of prohibited substances in the region.In another operation conducted on Wednesday, police arrested two persons who were allegedly bringing ganja from Odisha. Officers recovered 27.5 kg of ganja from their possession. The arrests are part of the commissionerate's efforts to identify supply routes and prevent narcotic substances from being transported into the region from neighbouring states.Akhtar also highlighted an operation conducted on October 19, during which police arrested alleged brown sugar supplier Arshad Hashmi, alias Pintu, along with one of his associates. The two were allegedly involved in supplying brown sugar on a large scale. Police recovered 300 grams of brown sugar, three firearms, two empty cartridges and 46 live cartridges from their possession. A quantity of gold ornaments and Rs 5.35 lakh in cash were also seized during the operation.The recovery of firearms and ammunition alongside narcotic substances has added another dimension to the investigation, with police examining the possible links between the drug trade and other illegal activities. The seized cash and jewellery are also being examined as part of efforts to trace the proceeds of the alleged criminal activities.The police have taken steps to target the financial infrastructure of the network as well. Eight bank accounts belonging to the accused have been frozen, with approximately Rs 31 lakh deposited in them. The move is intended to prevent the suspected proceeds of the drug trade from being withdrawn or transferred while the investigation continues.

West Bengal Appoints Two Health Advisers to Prioritise Maternal and Child Healthcare

■ SPNN

Kolkata : In a significant move to strengthen maternal and child healthcare services, the West Bengal Health Department has appointed two senior medical professionals as joint advisers to the state health department. Paediatrician Dr Arun Singh and former Head of the Gynaecology Department at RG Kar Medical College, Dr Arup Maji, have been officially appointed to the advisory positions.

According to sources at Swasthya Bhawan, the appointments are aimed at improving the state's healthcare indicators, particularly by reducing maternal mortality and strengthening medical facilities and services for children. The government has taken the decision with a special focus on improving the quality of treatment for pregnant women, newborns and infants.

Dr Arun Singh's return to an advisory role in the state's healthcare administration marks an important development. During the previous Trinamool Congress government, the renowned paediatrician had left West Bengal and moved to another state following differences within the healthcare administration.

Around 14 years ago, Singh was abruptly transferred from Kolkata's SSKM Hospital to Sagar Dutta Medical College. It was alleged that the transfer followed disagreements with Tridib Banerjee, who headed the then task force committee on paediatric healthcare. At that time, Sagar Dutta Hospital did not even have a dedicated department for treating newborn babies. The circumstances surrounding the transfer reportedly contributed to Singh's decision to leave the state.

In January 2025, towards the final phase of the previous Trinamool Congress government's tenure, the senior doctor returned to West Bengal from AIIMS Jodhpur. He was then approached for suggestions on reducing infant mortality, particularly in South 24 Parganas, where the infant mortality rate was a matter of concern.

As part of his recommendations, Singh emphasised the importance of delaying the cutting of the umbilical cord immediately after childbirth and allowing the placenta to be delivered before cutting the cord. The approach was aimed at improving newborn health and reducing complications during the initial period after birth.

According to the senior paediatrician, the initiative produced encouraging results in Canning. There was a significant decline in the rate of newborns requiring admission to intensive care units.

Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari Announces Major Agricultural and Welfare Initiatives at Pursura

■ Debasis Ghosh

Pursura, Hooghly: West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari addressed a public gathering at the field adjacent to Vidyasagar Bhavan in Pursura today, announcing a series of agricultural, financial and welfare initiatives for farmers and the people of the state. The Chief Minister inaugurated the Mukhyamantri Krishak Samman Yojna, under which farmers will receive an additional Rs. 3,000 from the state government over and above the Rs. 6,000 provided under the PM-KISAN scheme, taking the total annual assistance to Rs. 9,000 per farmer.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister highlighted several measures undertaken for agricultural development and flood relief. He stated that plant protection pesticides had been distributed as part of efforts to control agricultural losses. Compensation was also handed over to farmers affected by floods in Khanakul, Hooghly. A total of 5,72,308 farmers were covered under the compensation initiative.

Under the Crop Insurance Scheme, pulses, oilseeds and wheat worth Rs. 9.14 crore are being distributed among 89,135 farmers. He clarified that the programme is not limited to Pursura but is being implemented across blocks throughout the state.

The government is providing financial assistance to flood-affected farmers according to the extent of crop damage:

- Rs. 1,80,000 for farmers who suffered complete crop loss
- Rs. 90,000 for those who suffered partial crop loss
- Rs. 4,000 for those who suffered minor crop damage

The assistance is being transferred directly to the beneficiaries' bank accounts.

The Chief Minister further stated that the government had taken steps to curb black marketing and ensure that farmers receive Rs. 14,000 instead of the earlier Rs. 11,000 as agricultural support price, as mentioned in his address. He also launched the National Mission on Natural Farming from the dais. In another significant announcement, the Chief Minister declared an electricity subsidy of Rs. 2 per unit for four lakh farmers who have agricultural electricity connections.

Providing relief to potato growers, he announced a subsidy of Rs. 50 per quintal of potatoes. Under the Agricultural Produce Marketing Regulation Act, every cold storage facility will be declared a market dealer. The state government will also



establish environment-friendly solar-powered mini cold rooms to facilitate potato storage. For the development of agricultural markets (Krishi Mandis), the government has allocated Rs. 150 crore, with Rs. 3 crore earmarked for each mandi. Speaking about healthcare initiatives, the Chief Minister stated that more than 2.20 lakh people had received medical treatment under Ayushman Bharat. Migrant and economically disadvantaged workers in Tarakeswar, Goghat and Arambagh in Hooghly district had also benefited from the scheme. Those who are not covered under Ayushman Bharat will be able to access healthcare services through the Mukhyamantri Swasthya Bima Yojana.

He also highlighted the government's achievement in providing a 20% Dearness Allowance (DA) before Durga Puja, claiming that this target had not been achieved by previous governments since Independence. The programme at the field adjacent to Vidyasagar Bhavan in Pursura witnessed the inauguration of several government projects and the announcement of multiple development initiatives.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by State Agriculture Minister Dudh Kumar Mondal. Also present were Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Sumana Sarkar, MLAs from Champdani, Chandannagar, Singur, Haripal, Pursura, Arambagh, Khanakul and Goghat, along with senior officials from various departments of Hooghly district.

Among the senior administrative officials present were Hooghly District Magistrate Khurshid Ali Qadri and Additional District Magistrate (LR) Anuj Pratap Singh, along with other dignitaries. Addressing the gathering, Agriculture Minister Dudh Kumar Mondal expressed his gratitude to farmers, acknowledging their vital contribution in ensuring food security for the entire nation. He said that, being the son of a farming family, he deeply appreciated the dedication and hard work of farmers. He added that the state government had undertaken a comprehensive plan to elevate agriculture in West Bengal to a more advanced level.

The Agriculture Minister also announced that under the Pradhan Mantri Free Ration Scheme, the state government would provide 1 kg of sugar and 1 kg of flour to eight crore beneficiaries.

The programme concluded with a renewed emphasis on strengthening the agricultural sector, supporting flood-affected farmers, improving rural infrastructure and expanding welfare benefits across West Bengal.

Tension Between BJP and CPM Workers Over Road Construction Banner in Baidyabati

■ Manashi Ghosh

Hooghly: Tension broke out between BJP and CPM workers over putting up a banner for road construction work in the Harijan Pally area of Sheoraphuli, under Ward No. 8 of Baidyabati Municipality in Hooghly.

Police from Sheoraphuli Outpost and Central Forces have been deployed at the spot.

CPM Councillor Abhijit Guha said, "A greetings banner was put up in my name. BJP workers are obstructing it."

Countering him, BJP Chapdani Mandal-4 President Kartik Gupta said, "A new government has come, that is why the road is being built. It was not built earlier. No one had obstructed it then."

It is to be noted that the board of Baidyabati Municipality has been dissolved and an Administrator has been appointed there.

TMC Leader Imran Hasan Arrested Six Years After Nadda Convoy Attack

■ SPNN

Kolkata : Police have made a significant breakthrough in the case relating to the attack on the convoy of BJP's then national president JP Nadda while he was travelling to Diamond Harbour in West Bengal on December 10, 2020. Nearly six years after the incident, Usthi police arrested Trinamool Congress leader Imran Hasan from an area adjoining Deula late on Wednesday night.Hasan is considered close to Trinamool Congress Rajya Sabha MP Abhishek Banerjee. According to police sources, he previously served as the president of the Trinamool Youth Congress in the Magrahat West Assembly constituency. His arrest is being viewed as an important development in the investigation into the high-profile attack.

Police said Hasan faces allegations not only in connection with the attack on Nadda's convoy but also in several other cases involving threats to political opponents ahead of elections.

BJP Gives Preference to Old Faces for Civic Polls, Candidate List by November 15

■ SPNN

Kolkata : The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is giving preference to experienced leaders and old faces while selecting candidates for the upcoming Kolkata and Howrah Municipal Corporation elections. Leaders and workers who joined the party before or after the 2021 Assembly elections and enjoy considerable popularity in their respective localities are likely to be given priority for the remaining seats. According to party sources, elections to the Kolkata and Howrah Municipal Corporations may be held in the third week of December. However, an official announcement regarding the election schedule is yet to be made. The BJP expects the election dates to be formally announced soon after the conclusion of Kali Puja and is aiming to finalise its list of candidates by November 15.

Applications from aspirants seeking party nominations have already been submitted. At present, senior BJP leaders at the state level are visiting different organisational mandals to gather feedback from grassroots workers and assess the suitability of potential candidates.

The exercise of collecting opinions from local party workers is expected to be almost completed during the Bhai Dooj festivities. Following this process, the names shortlisted at the organisational level will be forwarded to the state committee for further consideration. The party's core committee, along with the election committees for the Kolkata and Howrah civic bodies, will take the final decision on the candidates.

Central observer Sunil Bansal will also be specially present during the crucial deliberations. The BJP leadership is reportedly exercising considerable caution to prevent internal resentment, factional disputes and dissatisfaction over the distribution of tickets.

State BJP president Shamik Bhattacharya had earlier made it clear that organisational commitment and long-standing association with the party would receive special consideration during candidate selection.

Explosives Seized in Birbhum, 21 Illegal Arms Recovered in Asansol

■ SPNN

Kolkata : The Special Task Force (STF) of West Bengal Police has achieved major breakthroughs in two separate operations, recovering a huge quantity of explosives in Birbhum district and 21 illegal firearms along with 65 rounds of ammunition in Asansol. Three accused have been arrested in connection with the operations, while investigations are underway to establish the source and intended use of the seized materials and identify other people involved in the illegal activities.

In the first operation, conducted early Thursday morning, the STF raided an alleged illegal storage facility in Barua Gopalpur village under the jurisdiction of Murarai police station in Birbhum district. During the search, the team recovered a substantial stockpile of explosive materials suspected to have been stored illegally.

Two persons were arrested in connection with



the seizure. They have been identified as Mohammad Raza Sheikh, alias Guda, a resident of Rajgram, and Mukesh Singh, a resident of Tilpara in Suri.

According to the details of the operation, the seized materials included 1,150 gelatin sticks, 989 detonators and approximately 12,000 metres of detonating cord. The quantity of explosives recovered from the premises has raised serious concerns regarding their possible use and the circumstances under which they were stored.

A case has been registered in connection with the recovery. The Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) of the STF has also joined the investigation to examine the possible purpose behind storing such a large quantity of explosive materials. Investigators are looking into the source of the explosives, their intended destination and whether any organised network was involved in their procurement or distribution.The second operation was conducted as part of a wider crackdown on illegal firearms in the Asansol-Durgapur Police Commissionerate area. The STF carried out raids in the Pandaveswar police station area between Wednesday and Thursday.

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On Children's Internet Rights and Need for Online Safety

The Supreme Court of India has recognised internet access as a fundamental right under Articles 21 and 19(1)(a) of the Constitution extending to all children irrespective of age. Rejecting blanket internet restrictions for children as "unproven measures of proven disproportionality", the court has rightly held that protecting the young cannot mean denying them access to information, education and independent expression. But the apex court has also expressed substantial concerns about children's online safety. Children face sexual exploitation, extortion, exposure to harmful content and psychological distress from unchecked internet use. The scale of the problem is disturbing. A 2024 study by Childlight estimated that more than 300 million children worldwide experienced online sexual exploitation or abuse in a year. A World Health Organization study found worrying social media use among adolescents that led to higher suicidal ideation.

These findings demand effective regulation.The apex court has laid out detailed guidelines on how to ensure that children are not deprived of internet access without being exposed to a dangerous environment. The responsibility for a safer digital world has been placed equally on social media intermediaries and regulatory authorities. The directions include a national database of verified digital identifiers and URLs associated with child sexual exploitation material, two-hour* reporting deadlines for removal of offensive material, dedicated grievance officers, independent scrutiny and transparent complaint mechanisms.

The court has also asked the State to consider hefty penalties for persistent non-compliance and the forfeiture of revenue earn-ed from exploitative content. For children, it recommends parental supervision, private-by-default accounts, restrictions on unsolicited contact and age-appropriate digital education. Interestingly, these proposals appear to be at odds with the international momentum towards regulation, especially that of social media, for minors. Australia, for instance, has prohibited under-16s from holding accounts on specified social media platforms, while Britain plans similar restrictions from 2027. In India, some states have examined age-based curbs, although the Centre has denied considering an under-18 prohibition. The Sup-reme Court's preference for proportionate safeguards is a constitu-tionally grounded alter-native. But the mea-sures outlined by the court might not be enough. Relying on social media intermediaries is a voluntary model that has proven to be flawed. The government must thus establish enforceable standards and independent audits rather than rely on voluntary corporate compliance.

Saving Innocent Israelis Not Appreciated

MANOJ RAGHUVANSHI

BJP spokespersons have repeatedly pointed out that Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra have not praised the heroism of Captain Smit Machchhar. The Indian pilot who saved 174 lives deserved highest commendation. But appreciating his bravery was fraught with the risk of displeasing those who did not want innocent Israelis to be saved.

To be fair, the Congress President, Mallikarjun Kharge and, AICC General Secretary, Jairam Ramesh, did utter some suppressed words, acknowledging the good deed of Captain Machchhar. But their compliments were quite muted compared to the passionate and loving admiration heaped upon Captain Machchhar by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a one-to-one online interaction with the brave soul. Modi's energy was matched only by the happy gracefulness of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Bibi applauded Captain Machchhar again and again, on his own behalf, and on behalf of the Israeli people.

Captain Machchhar is a world hero today, drawing tributes and acclaim from many countries, including some Islamic nations. He has been chosen to receive the highest civilian award in Israel.

Nevertheless, Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra continued to maintain silence, inviting unsavoury interpretations that they are feeling hesitant to glorify Captain Smit Machchhar, and to condemn the terrorist attack by the Omani co-pilot, Hamam al-Hammami.



Priyanka's self-proclaimed soft corner for Palestine is known. So is Asaduddin Owaisi's. The AIMIM Chief had come in for criticism when he said "Jai Philestine" after his swearing in as a member of Indian Parliament. It is notable that Owaisi did praise Smit Machchhar. But as a rule, Indian Muslim leaders refrained. Terrorist Hamam al-Hammami's foiled plan to crash the Fly Dubai plane into Ben Gurion airport in Israel got reduced to the issue of Israel vs Islamic terrorists. This may not seem to be a matter of direct concern for the first family of Congress. But it is rumoured that their apprehension is that, if they praise Captain Smit Machchhar, they might lose Muslim votes in India.

The Congress Party was not always like that. In fact, it was quite the reverse. Immediately after independence, the President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, and the Deputy Prime Minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, insisted that Somnath Temple must be reconstructed. Jawaharlal Nehru refused. But the presence of Hindu stalwarts at the top level in the Congress generated such irresistible force that the immovable Jawaharlal Nehru gave in. The consecration ceremony of Somnath Temple on the 11th of May, 1951 was attended by India's first President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad. The Independence movement had created a powerful Hindu leadership within the Congress. Men like Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Madan Mohan Malaviya, Lala Lajpat Rai, Bipin Chandra Pal, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Gopal Krishna Gokhale, N. V. Gadgil, C . Vijayaraghavachariar ….. the list is long.

At Independence, the Congress was considered a "Hindu party". The first election symbol of the Congress was a pair of bullocks with a yoke. After the 1969 split, the Congress led by Indira Gandhi chose the election symbol of cow and calf. There was nothing un-Hindu about mainstream Congress. Several Congress leaders wore the tilak on their forehead. But then, Maulanas within the party, clad in traditional Islamic attire, were also asserting their might. The friction between the Hindu stream and the Muslim stream had gone on for decades. (This friction is now 1314 years old).

A big blot had happened in 1923. Until then, for 27 years, all the six stanzas of Vande Matram were respectfully recited during every 'varshik adhiveshan' of the Congress.

Patience, Discipline And Goodwill: Sangh's Answer To A Restless Century

ARUN ANAND

Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked the Sangh's foundation day on Vijayadashami with a post on X: "Today, on the special occasion of RSS Sthapana Divas, my greetings to all Swayamsevaks. I also pay homage to all those greats who have nurtured the RSS over the years. The RSS has completed a remarkable century of service, nation-building and social harmony. Countless Swayamsevaks have worked for society with a deep sense of duty and a nation-first spirit. May this spirit keep strengthening national development in the times to come."

The prime minister, himself a former pracharak, has never hidden what the Sangh means to him. In March 2025,



on the Lex Fridman podcast, he spoke of the Sangh as the organisation that gave him a life of purpose. On August 15, 2025, he spoke about its hundred years from the ramparts of the Red Fort, calling it in a way the world's biggest NGO. On October 1, 2025, he released a commemorative postage stamp and a Rs 100 coin to mark the centenary. The thread has been unbroken.

Meanwhile, the RSS' message, reflected in Sarsanghchalak Mohan Bhagwat's Vijayadashami speech in Nagpur, lands at a charged moment. The Western world is in turmoil, with riots on its streets driven by Left-Islamist alliances and a misguided youth. India saw a glimpse of that script this year in the Cockroach Janta Party (CJP) protests. The grievance was genuine: alleged leaks of medical entrance exam papers. But as the movement grew, it drifted from the exam hall towards the language of overthrow, violence and anarchy. Bhagwat's Vijayadashami address speaks to exactly this danger, and sets out the Sangh's worldview for meeting it. Bhagwat began by accepting that problems exist: "In our vast society, problems do exist. There are likely to be numerous shortcomings in the system as well. It is only natural that these may lead to agitations. However, such agitations should aim to provide solutions." He then described how movements get hijacked: "However, when this is not the case and a movement becomes a tool of politics, driven by hostility and antagonism towards an individual, a group, or an ideology, forces seeking to undermine Bharat take advantage of the situation. Deepening the differences of opinion and turning them into mutual hostility evoke a feeling of victimhood in the context of various problems, and thereby creating faithlessness towards the systems of the country, and create an atmosphere of discord, intense discontent, separatism, disorder, and chaos in the country is their modus operandi. Global powers that wish to keep India subdued also occasionally play their part in this process."

His test applies to everyone: the group leading an agitation, the government and administration keeping order, and political leaders alike. None, he said, should sow discord, animosity, resentment or division in one undivided society, however high emotions run. Actions must stay within the Constitution and the law, and speech and conduct must keep the dignity of civilised discourse. Above all, the lure of votes, cheap popularity or political gain must not overpower prudence and goodwill.

On the wider danger, he said: "A storm has swept in from the West, driven by a demonic resolve to destroy and devastate all that is decent, auspicious, and rooted in cultural and human values, both in Bharat and across the world. Even the so-called developed nations across the world are afflicted by this storm and find themselves helpless before it."

Those most exposed are the young. Bhagwat observed that in many countries, the younger generation absorbs what social media delivers without telling the appropriate from the inappropriate, and that those countries, having seen the damage, have introduced regulations and restrictions on such platforms. He said Indian society increasingly sees the same need, particularly for OTT platforms, and asked the government to give the matter due consideration.

Regulation, though, is only half his answer: "At the same time, even when information is freely available, the younger generation must be taught to exercise discernment between what is appropriate and what is inappropriate."

As the RSS completed its centenary celebration, the Sarsanghchalak reiterated the clear goal of Sangh. For anyone who wants to critique the Sangh, this is the passage to read first: "The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) is working to awaken this very Hindu spirit and build the entire society into a well-organized and strong society. Without strength even the sustenance, prestige, and protection of individual life to global life is not possible. Therefore, advocating or working towards building an organised and strong Hindu society is not contrary to the spirit of respecting all faiths or to the emotional unity of the nation. Since the Hindu society's worldview and nature are inclusive, we must understand that such efforts will only strengthen the emotional unity, goodwill, and good conduct among all of us." Addressing the effort to defame the organisation, he said: "There are also ongoing attempts to cast doubt on the goodwill of Sangh and the sincerity of its intentions by citing certain undesirable and/or unexpected incidents occurring here and there, with which the Sangh has neither any connection nor any association or support. The work of the Sangh is founded on pure, selfless, and virtuous love.

Ballot, Not Barricade. That Is Your Revolution, Gen Z

Let me speak directly to my Gen Z, the Yuva of Bharat. That is the generation I write for, argue for, and refuse to give up on. You are being played! Not by the government. Not by the system, but by a well-oiled, well-funded, ideologically rehearsed ecosystem-one with a singular agenda-to manufacture a generation of permanent protesters out of a generation that was born to build.

India is growing at a pace that is forcing even the IMF to revise its numbers upward. This very quarter, the Fund was compelled to upgrade India's growth projection from 6.5 per cent to 7 per cent. From sui to space, from UPI to ISRO, the Bharat growth story is not a government press release.

It is documented, data-backed, and a globally acknowledged reality. The Indian Yuva is at the centre of that story as engineers, entrepreneurs, coders, creators, and contributors to a civilisation reclaiming its rightful place. And yet, someone wants you on the street instead. Let us be clear about something. India has earned its revolutions. The rebellion against British colonial plunder was not anarchy; it was civilisational self-defence.

The JP Andolan against Indira Gandhi's Emergency was not disorder, it was democracy fighting back against a despotic ruler who had strangled the Constitution with her own hands. Those were different times, drastic times: times when the protest was the only constitutional tool left standing. Those times are not these times. When a democratically elected government is functioning within its full constitutional mandate, when the judiciary is not just intact but actively engaged, when elections are held on schedule, when the EVM remains the most powerful instrument of change available to every single citizen, anarchy dressed in the language of constitutionalism is not resistance. It is sabotage.

Look at the pattern. Because there is always a pattern. JNU erupts and two faces emerge for national primetime: Kanhaiya Kumar and Umar Khalid. The anti-CAA protests ignite and Sharjil Imam arrives, complete with his maps and his proposals for cutting the Northeast off from Bharat. Jamia burns and the ecosystem gifts us its sheroes. And now, from the current round of mobilisation, we are being asked to accept Neha Bora-after the July rounds of protests that gave us cockroaches or so they would like to call themselves-AISA president, Rahul Gandhi's new poster girl, and Marxist agitator as the new youth icon of India.

The 3.5% Misnomer And India's Resilience Against Street Anarchy

COLONEL ROHIT DEV

The Armed Forces are the Last Bastion of Sovereignty and Peace. India has been consistently growing in the last decade, sowing dreams of Viksit Bharat and enabling the 'Pathways of Prosperity' through Commitments, Policies, Investments and Implementation processes.

While the nation has truly embarked on a path of Make In India, Digital Bharat, Ease of Doing Business and more, there have been undercurrents, duly curated by Deep State with support of anti-India Cabal and inimicals to India's growth and dexterity.

Many, who want to retard India's progress and some who seek control through weakened governance or installation of a puppet regime, believe that recent success of street anarchy in Bangladesh, Nepal, etc. will work to dislodge India's sojourn towards development. There are two types of setting for such anarchy, first in undemocratically or hybrid governance structured countries like Czechoslovakia, Indonesia, Tunisia, etc. and second in democratically structured countries like Ukraine, Lebanon, Nepal, Ukraine etc.

As per a Harvard thinker, Ms Erica Chenoweth, who postulated this as a rule in 2013, if a protest reaches 3.5% of the total population threshold during peak mobilisation of a protest, then it is most likely that the protest will achieve its



aim to topple a government. This rule arose out of insights originally published by political scientist Mark Lichbach in 1995 in his book, The Rebel's Dilemma: Economics, Cognition, and Society.

While most 'takeovers' have been away from this 3.5% rule, two examples are as per the book; in the case of Bangladesh and Czechoslovakia. Let us analyse this 3.5% rule and reasons for success of protests through the tabulation below for all the above examples and then put a focus on Bangladesh, as some believe that case is similar for India as well.

The process for a street anarchy to translate into a regime change needs mobilisation, paralysis; primarily caused through logistics breakups, disruptions etc, defection or inaction by police and armed forces, etc. and eventually leading to collapse. The depiction is as per the graphic. While in the case of Lebanon, with its inbuilt sectarian power sharing, it reached a stage of collapse after more than 22% of peak mobilisation, the case of Bangladesh and Nepal are more recent to understand the dynamics. The case of Bangladesh is a little peculiar, as that country by western outlook, was a government which was non-democratic as well. India tried to stabilise the outlook by getting Ms Sheikh Hasina to meet with Mr Joe Biden during G20 Summit at New Delhi, but it seems that Langley had other ideas, because the wheels were already in motion for an unrest led takeover.

Let us examine how Bangladesh seems different when one sees the process described in the graphic above.

(a) The near 3.5% threshold was met.

(b) Focus was on the Capital Dhaka and targeting government structures and legislators with much aimed personally at Ms Sheikh Hasina herself.

(c) Police retaliations were severe and that led to a lot of escalation of violence.

(d) Paralysis was invoked by help of foreign media, marches to the capital which adversely impacted logistics and eventually the economy, creating more angst and allowed numbers to swell up faster. (e) Just like in Czechoslovakia in 1989, which also was close to the Rule at 3.21%, in Bangladesh the "loyalty shift" of Police and Armed Forces happened to a degree of certainty with their inactions as well.

(f) Politically charged atmosphere was backed by foreign interference which had worked there for a long time, to curate narratives, support through communication Apps and created a wedge directly aimed at Ms Sheikh Hasina.

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Pakistan: Polio worker kidnapped in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa during vaccination campaign

■ AGENCY

Islamabad: A polio campaign team supervisor was kidnapped by unidentified assailants from Jamrud in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province during the ongoing polio vaccination campaign, local media reported on Thursday.

District Police Officer (DPO) Waqar Ahmad said that armed assailants kidnapped the polio campaign team supervisor, identified as Jalil Khan, and took him to an undisclosed place on Wednesday, leading Pakistani daily 'The Express Tribune' reported. Following the incident, a heavy contingent of police was deployed in the area, and blockades set up to find Khan.

Pakistan and Afghanistan are the only two nations in the world where wild poliovirus remains endemic. Polio workers in Pakistan have been frequently targetted in attacks, particularly in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

On Tuesday, two police personnel were killed, and another was injured after unidentified assailants opened fire on them when they were heading to join a polio team for security duty during the vaccination campaign in Mohmand district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.



Headquarters Deputy Superintendent of Police Liaquat Ali said that the attack took place near the Hashim Kor police checkpost in Pindiali tehsil of Mohmand, Pakistan's 'Dawn' newspaper reported.

On Monday, four polio workers were kidnapped by unidentified assailants after being subjected to gunfire in the Tank district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

As per the details, four polio workers were kidnapped by unidentified gunmen in Tank and taken to an undisclosed place. Police have launched a probe into the incident, The Express Tribune reported.

In a separate incident, two polio workers were abducted by gunmen in the Azam Warsak area in Lower South Waziristan district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and subsequently released.

Gunmen linked to the proscribed Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) were allegedly responsible for the kidnapping of two members of a polio vaccination team. However, both of them were later released, The Express Tribune reported.

The attack on members of the polio vaccination team comes while Pakistan continues to report a surge in polio cases.

Pakistan reported the eighth polio case in 2026 from the Khyber district of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province on November 1, the National Emergency Operations Centre for Polio Eradication (NEOC) said.

An official of the polio programme said that the affected child is a 13-month-old girl belonging to Bara tehsil of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Dawn reported. He said that this case was the second one from Khyber district and the sixth from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

South Korean PM Sees No Major US Alliance Change



■ AGENCY

Seoul: South Korean Prime Minister Han Seong-sook said on Thursday she anticipates no big changes in relations with the United States after US President Donald Trump's Republican Party suffered a crushing defeat in this week's midterm elections, adding that the US Democratic Party also considers the Korea-US alliance important.

"As both the Democratic and Republican parties have considered the alliance between the two countries important, I think there will not be very big changes in relations with South Korea," Han said during a parliamentary budget committee meeting after a lawmaker asked her to assess the election results, Yonhap News Agency reported.

She said the Democratic Party's victory was stronger than expected.

"There are parts that we should analyse one by one in detail and other parts that require additional measures," Han said when asked about Seoul's diplomatic strategy toward Washington, adding that each relevant ministry is currently reviewing such issues.

In September, South Korean Prime Minister Han Seong-sook met with US Ambassador to South Korea Michelle Steel to discuss ways to expand bilateral cooperation across various sectors and further strengthen the bilateral alliance.

During the meeting, Han said the two countries have expanded their partnership beyond security into areas such as the economy and culture, building on their longstanding alliance. She asked Steel to play an active role in further advancing bilateral ties during her tenure.

Han also expressed hope that Seoul and Washington would expand economic cooperation and mutual investment, and achieve "greater outcomes" in advanced industries, including shipbuilding, semiconductors and artificial intelligence.

In response, Steel pledged efforts to build a "stronger" alliance by enhancing cooperation in various areas, including security and investment, stressing that the alliance was "blood-forged," according to Han's office.

Steel, who was born in Seoul, also highlighted South Korea's remarkable economic growth and growing global cultural influence compared with when she left the country decades ago.

"Today, I met with Prime Minister Han Seong Sook and reaffirmed the deep and unwavering ROK-US alliance. I look forward to continued close cooperation in the future for our two countries' shared priorities. Had a great meeting with PM Han Seong Sook today and reaffirmed the deep and enduring US-South Korea Alliance. Looking forward to continued cooperation on shared priorities," Steel posted on X.

Bangladesh: 50 injured, 200 factories shut as protests by garment workers turn violent

■ AGENCY

Dhaka: As many as 50 people, including law enforcement personnel, were injured, while more than 200 factories in Savar and Ashulia were forced to declare holidays as protests by garment workers in Bangladesh turned violent, local media reported on Thursday.

The protests continued across several industrial areas, with workers demanding a minimum monthly wage of Tk 30,000.

Reports suggest that multiple areas, including Savar, Ashulia, Gazipur and Narayanganj, witnessed demonstrations, road blockades and confrontations, leading to the deployment of additional security personnel to curb the unrest.

Violence broke out in



Savar's Padma Mor area of Hemayetpur and subsequently spread to Ulail, where workers clashed with police in front of the Al-Muslim Group factory.

While workers pelted police personnel with bricks and stones, the law enforcement personnel used tear gas shells, sound grenades, and rubber bullets to disperse them. A vehicle belonging to the officer-in-charge of Savar Model Police Station was set ablaze, Bangladeshi daily Dhaka Tribune reported. According to Dhaka District Superintendent of Police Shamima Parveen, at least 50 people, including policemen, workers and pedestrians, were injured in the violence. She said OC Saiful Alam also suffered serious injuries. The unrest erupted after workers assembled near Padma Mor to press for their wage demands. Clashes broke out when police tried to remove protesters who had blocked the road, with the confrontation subsequently spreading to nearby areas. Workers blocked the Dhaka-Aricha highway, bringing traffic to a complete standstill in both directions and triggering severe congestion. Dhaka District SP Shamima said between 30,000 and 40,000 workers had assembled in the area from both sides. Several factories in Hemayetpur, Ulail and nearby areas subsequently announced holidays amid the unrest. Meanwhile, three platoons of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) personnel were deployed in Savar and Ashulia to ensure security across the industrial belt.

Florida Governor Calls GOP Midterm Rout Near-Extinction Event

■ AGENCY

Washington: Florida Governor Ron DeSantis has faulted Senate Republicans for failing to curb the H-1B visa programme, the main route by which Indian technology professionals work in the United States, as he blamed the party's midterm losses partly on its own voters staying home.

Asked by Fox News host Laura Ingraham how big a mistake it was not to get rid of the Senate filibuster, DeSantis said he "saw no indication that the current group of Republican senators were interested in doing that type of conservative change." "I mean, why haven't we done immigration, shut off H-1B visas? Why haven't we codified Trump's immigration executive orders?" he told Ingraham. He also asked why Republicans had not "stripped jurisdiction from the federal courts over deportation cases."

"There's so many things that could have been done, they didn't even attempt it," DeSantis said.

He said the midterm result was "a rebuke of the president and the Congress by Democrats, independents and some Republicans that crossed over." But, he added, "a lot of our voters who stayed home, they stayed home because they were frustrated with the lack of productivity from Republicans in the House and Senate." "So it's really both sides of Pennsylvania Avenue. It's not just one," he said. At a news conference in Florida on Wednesday, DeSantis called Tuesday's results "close to an extinction-level event for Republicans in many parts of the country.

White House Vows to Defend Trump Agenda After Midterms



■ AGENCY

Washington: The White House has vowed to resist attempts to reverse President Donald Trump's policies during the final two years of his presidency, predicting that Democratic challenges on immigration, taxation, energy and other issues would fail.

The White House Office on Wednesday (local time) defended the administration's record and raised the prospect of another impeachment effort, while offering no details of a specific proceeding or legislative proposal.

"In the final two years of his presidency, Democrats will try -- and fail -- to reverse everything President Trump has done," the statement said.

The release, issued a day after the November 3 midterm elections, portrayed the coming political contest as a defence of Trump's existing policies.

One killed after roof of shop collapses in Karachi

■ AGENCY

Islamabad: At least one person was killed after the roof of a shop collapsed in Karachi on Thursday, local media reported.

The incident took place during construction work at the shop in Karachi, according to Rescue 1122's Chief Operating Officer Abid Shaikh, the Dawn reported.

He said that three victims were extricated from the rubble and taken to a hospital for treatment. Shaikh stated that search and rescue operations are being conducted to find and rescue any remaining people trapped under the debris.

Reports suggest that roof and building collapses are a recurring problem in Pakistan, where weak safety enforcement and substandard construction materials



have repeatedly contributed to such tragedies.

On October 27, one person was killed, and seven others were injured after the roof of an under-construction building near Northern Bypass in Multan city in Pakistan's Punjab province.

Meanwhile, at least 31 people, including 30 students and a female teacher, were killed after a school collapsed in the Afridi Abad area of Pakistan's Peshawar on October 15.

Capital City Police Officer (CCPO) Mian Saeed had said that the owner of the school has been taken into custody and a case will be lodged over the incident, The Express Tribune reported.

Saeed said the roof of the school had been poorly constructed and the building was located in narrow streets, which created difficulties for rescue operations. He said that 110 children were enrolled in the school.

In August, a couple was killed, and their daughters injured after the roof of their house collapsed in Islamabad following three days of heavy rainfall, Dawn reported.

In July, at least 11 people were killed and six others injured after a three-storey building collapsed in Harbanspura town of Pakistan's Lahore.

According to the spokesperson, three brothers lived in the building with their families while their sister and her children were there for birthday celebrations, just before the building collapsed. Lahore DC, Captain Muhammad Ali Ijaz (retd) had ordered an investigation to determine the cause of the incident.

Multicultural marriages in South Korea edge down in 2025

■ AGENCY

Seoul: The number of multicultural marriages in South Korea edged down in 2025 from a year earlier, data showed on Thursday, taking up 8.9 per cent of all marriages.

The country recorded 21,399 multicultural marriages last year, down 0.2 per cent, or 51, from 21,450 in 2024, according to data from South Korea's Ministry of Data and Statistics.

Marriages involving foreign wives accounted for 71.4 per cent of multicultural marriages, followed by those with foreign husbands at 18.9 per cent and those with naturalised citizens at 9.7 per cent, Yonhap News Agency reported.The average age for first marriages was 37.1 years for husbands and 29.7 years for wives.Husbands were older than their wives in 75.2 per cent of multicultural marriages. In 36.1 per cent of all multicultural marriages, the husband was at least 10 years older than his wife.

Vietnamese wives accounted for 25.3 per cent of all multicultural marriages, followed by Chinese wives at 15.1 per cent and Thai wives at 9.2 per cent.The corresponding figures for husbands from the United States, China and Vietnam were 6.8 per cent, 5.6 per cent and 3.6 per cent, respectively.

Meanwhile, the number of divorces among multicultural couples rose 1.4 per cent on-year to 8,104 in 2025.

The number of babies born to multicultural families fell 0.5 per cent on-year to 13,347, the latest findings showed.

In October, South Korea's culture ministry said that foreign tourist arrivals in South Korea this year are estimated to have already set an all-time annual record.

40 Pakistani soldiers killed in 25 operations across Balochistan, claims BLA

■ AGENCY

Quetta: The Baloch Liberation Army (BLA) has claimed responsibility for 25 operations across several areas of Balochistan over the past few days targeting Pakistani forces that resulted in the death of 40 security personnel and injuries to dozens of others, local media reported.

In a statement issued on Wednesday, BLA spokesperson Jeeyand Baloch claimed that the group carried out a series of attacks between October 26 and November 3 against Pakistani military personnel, intelligence operatives and armed groups it described as "death squads".

He said that the attacks involved both field operations and intelligence-based operations, with several military and logistical vehicles destroyed.

According to the BLA, its fighters ambushed two Pakistani military vehicles in Kharan district on November 3, attacking a convoy at Zomi area in the morning and another at Nauroz Qalat later that night. The group claimed that the Zomi attack killed at least three personnel.

It also said a military installation at Rotinko was targeted with heavy weapons, causing casualties



and material losses, The Balochistan Post reported.

The group further claimed responsibility for attacks in Ahmad Wal and Mastung on November 2. It said three personnel were killed and several wounded when troops moving on foot and in vehicles were targeted in Ahmad Wal.

In a separate incident near Madina Hotel on the main highway in Mastung, the BLA claimed that more than four personnel were killed and several others injured in an assault on a military convoy.

The BLA claimed that four personnel were killed and at least seven were critically injured in an attack on a military convoy near Sajid in Washuk district on October 28.

Another attack on a military vehicle in Panjgur's Gowargo area the same day left one security personnel dead and several injured.

It further claimed that its fighters killed more than nine personnel and wounded several others in an ambush on a Pakistani military convoy of over 30 vehicles in Khuzdar's Karkh area on October 26.

The convoy comprised vehicles belonging to the military, police, Counter Terrorism Department (CTD) and Anti-Terrorism Force (ATF), along with vehicles assigned to the Deputy Inspector General Imran Qureshi and the district's senior superintendent of police. The group also claimed that its fighters launched a heavy weapons assault on the main military camp in Nushki's Ahmad Wal area on October 26, causing extensive damage. On October 30, they ambushed a military truck convoy in the same locality, killing two personnel.

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Adani Ports to Acquire Europe's Evos for 2.56 Billion

■ SP BUREAU

Ahmedabad : Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Limited (APSEZ) on Thursday announced the acquisition of Netherlands-based Evos B.V., Europe's second-largest independent liquid storage operator, in an all-cash transaction valued at an enterprise value of 2.56 billion euro.



Under the agreement, APSEZ will acquire a 100 per cent stake in Evos from Igneo Infrastructure Partners.

The deal values Evos at an equity value of 1.18 billion euro and implies an acquisition multiple of 11.7 times CY25 EV/EBITDA.

The transaction will be funded through debt and remains subject to regulatory approvals and works council consultation.

"APSEZ, India's largest and one of the world's fastest growing Integrated Transport Operator, agrees to acquire 100 per cent stake in Netherlands-headquartered Evos B.V. (Evos) from Igneo Infrastructure Partners. The proposed transaction is an all-cash deal at an enterprise value of 2.56 bn euro," the official statement said.

For calendar year 2025, Evos reported revenue of 392 million euro and EBITDA of 219 million euro, translating into a robust EBITDA margin of 56 per cent. Following the acquisition, the combined entity's pro forma net debt-to-EBITDA ratio is expected to stand at 2.76 times and decline to around 2.5 times by FY27.

Commenting on the deal, Karan Adani, Managing Director of APSEZ, said the acquisition marks a significant milestone in the company's journey toward handling one billion tonnes of cargo and building a truly global integrated transport platform.

"Evos marks an important milestone in APSEZ's trajectory towards handling 1 billion tons of cargo and building a truly global, integrated transport platform. We are delighted to welcome Evos into our portfolio, giving us significant presence across key global liquid storage and energy hubs," Karan Adani noted.

"We look forward to partnering with Europe, supporting its sustainable energy transition and creating enduring value while maintaining the financial prudence that underpins our growth," he added.

Headquartered in the Netherlands, Evos operates 6.3 million cubic metres of storage capacity across eight strategically located port-based terminals in the Netherlands, Germany, Spain, Belgium and Malta.

The company has a presence in major energy and industrial hubs, including the Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp region, Hamburg and the Mediterranean.

6G could add $1.24 trillion to global economy by 2040: Industry

■ AGENCY

New Delhi : Sixth-generation mobile technology or 6G could generate an additional $1.24 trillion for the global economy by 2040, but inadequate spectrum allocation could put nearly half of that potential at risk, a report by an industry body showed on Thursday.

According to a report by the GSMA estimates that next-generation mobile networks could contribute the equivalent of 0.7 per cent of global GDP by 2040 through advancements in artificial intelligence, industrial automation, immersive digital services and next-generation connectivity.

However, the mobile industry body warned that as much as $520 billion or 42 per cent of the projected economic value, could be lost if governments fail to make sufficient spectrum available to support large-scale 6G deployment. "Decisions on spectrum policy taken over the next few years would play a critical role in determining how much of that value can ultimately be realised," said GSMA Chief Regulatory Officer John Giusti.



In addition, manufacturing and financial services are likely to be the biggest beneficiaries of 6G, accounting for 20 per cent and 19 per cent of its projected economic contribution, respectively, according to the industry body. Construction is expected to contribute 13 per cent, while the information and communications technology sector is projected to account for 12 per cent.

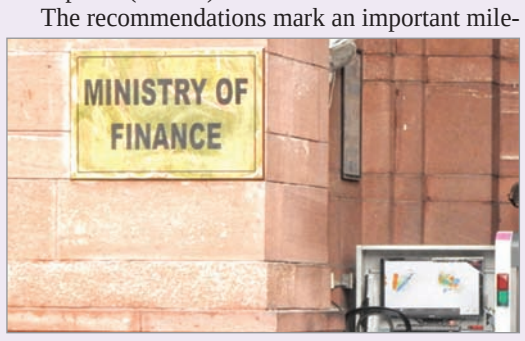
The report comes ahead of key international spectrum discussions scheduled for the World Radiocommunication Conference in 2027 where policymakers are expected to determine future spectrum allocations for emerging technologies.

Group Recommends 1,100 Crore Asset Monetisation

■ SPNN

New Delhi : The government on Thursday said the Inter-Ministerial Group (IMG) has recommended asset monetisation proposals involving assets valued at over Rs 1,100 crore for consideration and approval by the Alternative Mechanism (AM).

The proposals primarily relate to surplus land and building assets of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) identified for monetisation.



The recommendations mark an important milestone in the Government of India's efforts to unlock value from surplus and underutilised public assets and facilitate their productive utilisation, according to a Finance Ministry statement.

The IMG was chaired by the Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), and co-chaired by the Secretary, Department of Telecommunications (DoT).

The initiative reinforces the government's commitment to efficient public asset management, transparent and value-maximising monetisation, and productive utilisation of surplus assets to support investment and economic development.

The recommended proposals will be placed before the Cabinet-delegated Alternative Mechanism for consideration and approval. Following the requisite approvals, further monetisation activities will be undertaken in accordance with prescribed procedures. The recommendations reflect the growing momentum of the Government's asset monetisation programme, which seeks to enable CPSEs and other Government entities to realise the economic potential of surplus assets through systematic assessment, professional transaction preparation and competitive price discovery.

The National Land Monetization Corporation (NLMC) is a wholly ownedGovernment of India company under the administrative control of the Department of Public Enterprises, Ministry of Finance.

India's premium housing drives market recovery as sales rise 6 pc in Jan-Sep: Report

■ AGENCY

New Delhi : Home sales across India's seven major residential markets rose 6 per cent year-on-year to 2,14,562 units during January-September 2026, reversing the 12 per cent decline recorded in the corresponding period of 2025, led by demand for premium housing, a report said on Thursday.

The report from JLL said that recovery was led decisively by premium housing with apartments priced at Rs 1 crore and above posting 23 per cent Y-o-Y growth and capturing 72 per cent of total sales during the period, up from 62 per cent a year earlier.



The recovery was driven by sustained urban migration, upgrades to infrastructure, and shifting lifestyle preferences among homebuyers, the report noted.

Developers continued to align new supply with the prevailing premium-led demand pattern, with residential launches across the top seven cities rising 15 per cent YoY to 2,59,425 units during January-September 2026. The sub-Rs 1 crore mass housing segment continued to lose ground, with sales falling 23 per cent YoY as affordability pressures and a continued shift in buyer preference toward larger, higher-specification homes reshaped the demand mix.

"Sales momentum has been led decisively by the Rs 1.5-3 crore segment, which grew 54 per cent year-on-year, while developers have matched this demand with a massive 70 per cent increase in launches," said Siva Krishnan, Senior Managing Director and Head of Residential Services, India, JLL.

Sales in the third quarter rose 12 per cent quarter-on-quarter to 76,181 units, led by Hyderabad with 70 per cent growth, followed by Kolkata at 28 per cent and Bengaluru at 13 per cent. Sales declined marginally in Delhi-NCR and Mumbai, by 5 per cent and 2 per cent respectively. Although market dynamics have shifted, with homebuyers placing greater emphasis on quality, location, and amenities, the core demand drivers remain unchanged.

India warehousing leasing rises 12 pc in Q3 2026: Report

■ SP BUREAU

Mumbai : India's warehousing sector regained momentum in the July-September quarter of 2026 (Q3 CY26), with leasing activity across the country's eight major markets rising 12 per cent year-on-year to 19.1 million square feet, led by robust demand from manufacturing companies and third-party logistics (3PL) operators, a report said on Thursday.



The recovery comes after a softer second quarter and was supported by higher manufacturing activity, expanding outsourced logistics operations and inventory build-up ahead of the festive season, according to a report by Knight Frank India.

The report noted that the sector's growth remained resilient despite geopolitical uncertainties and elevated oil and freight costs.

Manufacturing and 3PL occupiers together accounted for 76 per cent of total warehousing demand during the quarter, as per the report.

Manufacturing leasing grew 11 per cent year-on-year, driven by demand from automotive, engineering, consumer durables and electrical equipment companies, while leasing by 3PL operators surged 27 per cent as businesses increasingly outsourced warehousing and distribution operations to gain greater flexibility amid volatile operating costs.

Consumer-focused sectors also expanded their warehousing footprint ahead of the festive season.

Leasing by e-commerce firms rose 5 per cent year-on-year, while FMCG and FMCD occupiers recorded sharp increases of 101 per cent and 43 per cent, respectively.

Shishir Baijal, International Partner, Chairman and Managing Director of Knight Frank India, said the warehousing market is being reshaped by the twin drivers of manufacturing expansion and the growing role of specialised logistics providers.

Gold, silver corrections offer buying opportunity

■ SPNN

New Delhi : Gold and silver are likely to remain supported over the medium to long term despite heightened volatility in 2026, with price corrections offering accumulation opportunities for investors, a report said on Thursday, even as the rally of yellow metal takes a pause.

"Unlike the largely one-directional rally witnessed in 2025, precious metals have experienced sharper swings in 2026, driven by changing expectations around US interest rates, persistent inflation, elevated bond yields and geopolitical developments," the report from Motilal Oswal Financial Services said.

Gold's near-term trajectory will remain sensitive to the US Federal Reserve's monetary policy, inflation trends, movements in the US dollar and real bond yields, said Navneet Damani, Head of Research - Commodities, Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

Meanwhile, central-bank diversification, sustained investment demand and fiscal uncertainties continue to provide structural support to gold, Damani added.

The report maintained a buy-on-dips strategy for gold, identifying an accumulation zone of $3,800-$3,900 per ounce internationally, with a short-term target of $4,200 and a medium-term target of $4,500-$4,700. In India, assuming USD/INR at 96, it cited a preferred accumulation zone at Rs 1,35,000 per 10 grams, with a short-term target of Rs 1,48,000 and a medium-term target range of Rs 1,60,000-Rs 1,68,000.

The report said that investment demand has remained resilient despite high prices. Global gold ETF holdings increased by around 187 tonnes during August and September 2026, reaching a record 4,256 tonnes, while third-quarter inflows touched a record $31 billion. In India, gold ETF inflows rose 71 per cent month-on-month to Rs 44.5 billion in September, while silver ETFs attracted Rs 19.7 billion of inflows. Gold surged to a record high of nearly $5,600 per ounce in January 2026 before correcting below $4,000 and subsequently recovering. Silver rallied above $100 per ounce before undergoing an even steeper correction.



Blinkit introduces Rs 2,500 fee for non-emergency ambulance rides

■ AGENCY

New Delhi : Quick commerce platform Blinkit on Thursday introduced a flat fee of Rs 2,500 for non-emergency ambulance bookings, while continuing to offer emergency transfers free of charge, as the company seeks to ensure greater availability of its fleet for critical medical situations.

Announcing the change, Deepinder Goyal, founder of Eternal, said the move was prompted by growing instances of ambulances being used for routine purposes such as doctor consultations, regular check-ups and hospital-to-home transfers that could otherwise be handled by conventional transport services.

According to Goyal, Blinkit's ambulance service has handled around 42,000 cases over the past two years, including nearly 20,000 emergency runs, without charging patients for the service.

"I started Zomato with a spirit of service. Blinkit Ambulance is what that spirit of service looks like today. In the last 2 years, we have served 20,000 emergency cases (42,000 cases in total). We haven't charged a single rupee for any of them. And we want to keep it that way," Goyal noted.



However, the company observed that a significant share of bookings involved non-emergency requirements, putting pressure on the availability of ambulances for urgent cases.

"With everything free, a growing share of bookings are for routine checkups, hospital visits and hospital-to-home transfers, trips that an Uber or private transport could have handled just as easily. Every such booking keeps a fully equipped emergency ambulance with paramedics off the road when someone's life may depend on it," he stated.

"So we are making a change from now onwards: Emergency transfers - free, as always. Non-emergency transfers - Rs 2,500, charged after the trip. Broadly in line with what private ambulances charge. This money goes to Eternal Foundation, which runs these ambulances and will help us scale them even further," Goyal added. He said the company expects the fee to substantially reduce non-emergency usage and help maintain the availability of its 10-minute ambulance service for life-threatening situations.

"10-minute ambulances have saved and can save thousands of lives, and we need to keep them available for emergencies that need them the most," he said in a post on X.

SUBH DHANTERAS

The Connection Between Dhanteras and Diwali

Dhanteras is the opening observance of the traditional five-day Diwali festival, although regional calendars and practices may differ. In the days that follow, households continue their preparations, light lamps and take part in celebrations associated with Diwali. The main Lakshmi Puja is an important feature of Diwali itself, while other days are associated with different religious stories and regional traditions. In 2026, the commonly listed festival sequence is Dhanteras on November 6, Naraka Chaturdashi or Choti Diwali on November 7, Diwali and Lakshmi Puja on November 8, Govardhan Puja on November 9, and Bhai Dooj on November 10. Some regional observances may differ according to the relevant calendar. Dhanteras establishes the mood for the days ahead. It introduces themes of prosperity, health and renewal, while the wider festival season brings together family gatherings, religious observances, food, gifts and the lighting of lamps. The sequence also demonstrates the diversity of Diwali traditions across India. Different regions emphasise different stories and rituals, yet the festive period continues to serve as a shared occasion for cultural expression and family connection.



As markets prepare for the festive rush on November 6, Dhanteras brings together ancient beliefs, family traditions and modern aspirations. From the gleam of precious metals to the humble earthen diya, the festival invites a deeper reflection on what wealth truly means in contemporary India. The first signs of Dhanteras often appear long before the festival itself arrives. Shopkeepers begin decorating their storefronts, jewellery showrooms prepare special displays, earthen lamps fill roadside stalls, and households turn their attention towards cleaning, decorating and preparing for Diwali. The familiar sparkle of gold and silver returns to shop windows, while conversations about auspicious purchases become part of everyday life. On Friday, November 6, 2026, this festive atmosphere will once again spread across India as millions of families celebrate Dhanteras, also known as Dhantrayodashi. The occasion marks the traditional beginning of the five-day Diwali festivities and is associated with prayers for wealth, prosperity, health and well-being. For many families, Dhanteras is synonymous with buying gold, silver, utensils or a new household item. For others, its importance lies in lighting lamps, offering prayers to Goddess Lakshmi and Lord Kubera, remembering Lord Dhanvantari and welcoming good fortune into the home. Yet the festival's significance extends far beyond shopping. It reflects India's enduring relationship with wealth-not simply as money or possessions, but also as health, security, knowledge, family happiness and the ability to build a better future. In a country where ancient traditions continue to coexist with digital payments, online shopping and changing consumer habits, Dhanteras presents a fascinating picture of cultural continuity. Its rituals have endured across generations, even as the ways in which people celebrate and interpret them have evolved. This year, as the festive season gathers momentum, Dhanteras offers an opportunity to revisit the meaning of prosperity and consider what it takes to create a truly abundant life.

The Mythological Roots of Dhanteras



The stories associated with Dhanteras are an important part of its religious and cultural identity. One widely known tradition connects Goddess Lakshmi with the Samudra Manthan, or the churning of the cosmic ocean. According to Hindu mythology, the churning brought forth several divine treasures, including Goddess Lakshmi, who is associated with wealth, beauty and prosperity. Her presence in the festival reflects the belief that prosperity should be welcomed with reverence and gratitude. Worshippers pray for financial stability, happiness and the wise use of resources. Lord Kubera, traditionally regarded as the guardian of wealth and the treasurer of the gods, is also worshipped on Dhanteras. Together, Lakshmi and Kubera represent important aspects of prosperity in Hindu religious practice. Another central figure is Lord Dhanvantari. In Hindu tradition, he emerged from the cosmic ocean carrying a pot of amrita, the nectar associated with immortality, and is revered as the divine source of Ayurveda.

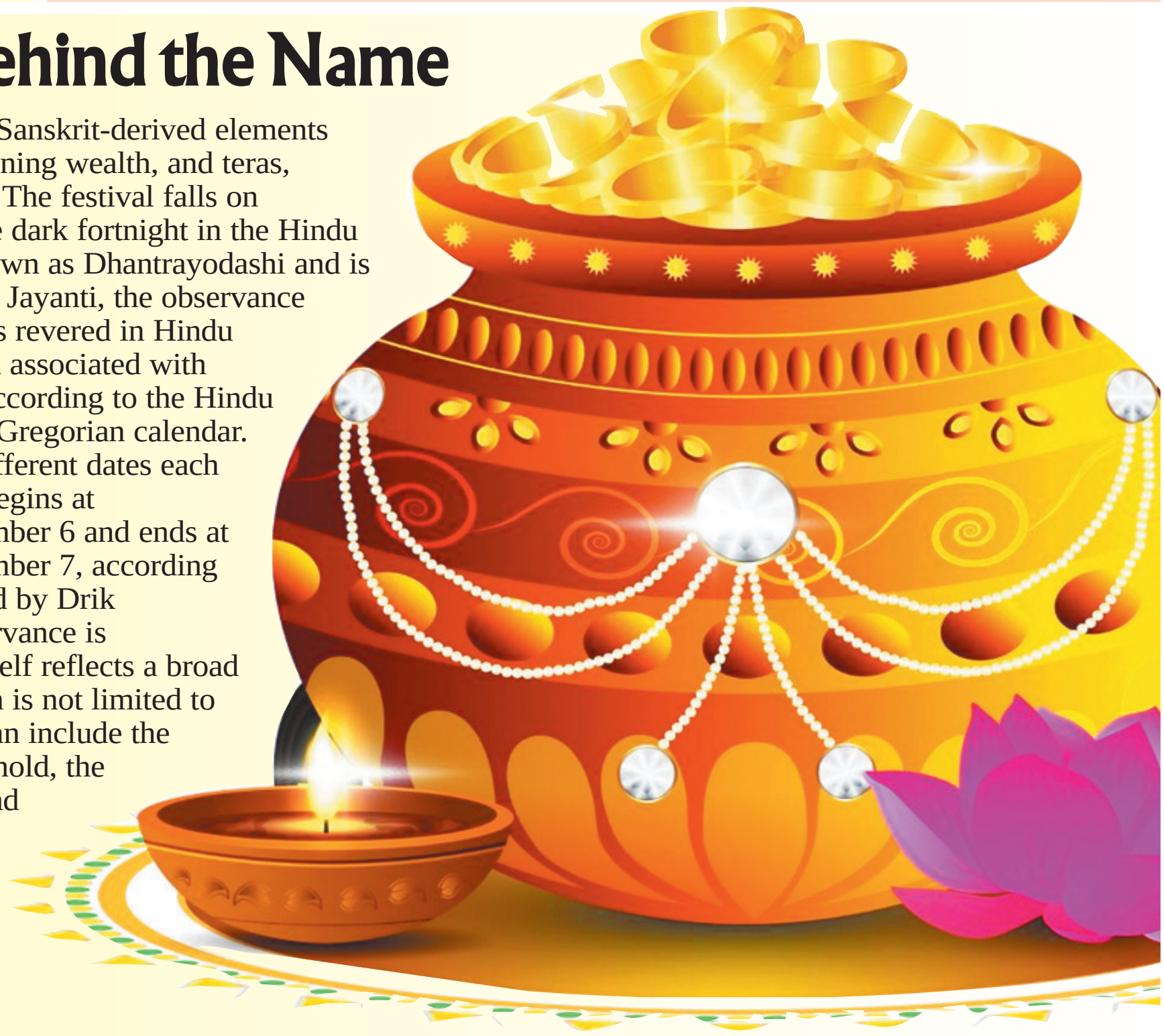
His association with Dhanteras introduces an essential dimension to the festival: the relationship between wealth and health. Material prosperity can make life more comfortable, but it cannot replace physical well-being. A healthy person may have the energy to work, care for family members, pursue education and participate in community life. Health, therefore, is often understood as a form of wealth in its own right. The stories of Lakshmi, Kubera and Dhanvantari bring together these different aspirations. One represents prosperity, another the guardianship of wealth, and the third the importance of health and healing.

For devotees, the festival offers an opportunity to seek blessings across these dimensions of life. For the wider public, its symbolism provides a reminder that economic success and human well-being are closely connected.

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The Meaning Behind the Name

The word Dhanteras combines two Sanskrit-derived elements commonly understood as dhan, meaning wealth, and teras, referring to the thirteenth lunar day. The festival falls on Trayodashi, the thirteenth day of the dark fortnight in the Hindu lunar month of Kartik. It is also known as Dhantrayodashi and is closely associated with Dhanvantari Jayanti, the observance honouring Lord Dhanvantari, who is revered in Hindu tradition as the divine physician and associated with Ayurveda. The date is determined according to the Hindu lunar calendar rather than the fixed Gregorian calendar. Consequently, Dhanteras falls on different dates each year. In 2026, the Trayodashi tithi begins at approximately 10:30 a.m. on November 6 and ends at approximately 10:47 a.m. on November 7, according to the New Delhi calendar published by Drik Panchang. The festival's listed observance is November 6. The festival's name itself reflects a broad understanding of abundance. Wealth is not limited to currency, jewellery or property. It can include the resources needed to sustain a household, the health that allows people to work and enjoy life, and the relationships that provide emotional security. This wider meaning helps explain why Dhanteras continues to hold significance for families with very different incomes and lifestyles.



SAMAY PARIBARTAN KOLKATA | 6 November 2026 | FRIDAY

'Once a King, Always a King'

Wishes pour in from cricket fraternity as Virat Kohli turns 38

■ SP BUREAU

New Delhi: Birthday wishes poured in for Indian batting stalwart Virat Kohli as he turned 38 on Thursday, with former teammates, fellow cricketers, BCCI vice president and IPL franchises joining in to celebrate one of the most influential players of the modern era.

Former India opener Shikhar Dhawan was among the first to extend his wishes to Kohli, highlighting the batting stalwart's passion and hunger for the game.

"Happy Birthday, Virat Kohli! Your passion, hunger and love for the game continue to inspire millions. Have a fantastic year ahead, bro!" Dhawan wrote on X.

Former India batter Suresh Raina also wished Kohli, referring to him as the 'King' while recalling the memorable moments he has given cricket fans over the years.

"Happy Birthday, King Kohli! From breathtaking cover drives to unforgettable run chases, you've given cricket fans countless memories and emotions. Your passion, fighting spirit and hunger to win make you truly special. For me, watching you bat is pure joy. Keep inspiring, keep conquering and keep making India proud! Once a King, Always a King!" Raina posted on X.

Former India wicketkeeper-batter Dinesh Karthik, who shared the dressing room with Kohli at both international and franchise levels, also extended his greetings.

"Same fire, every single year. 38 never looked this fit. Happy birthday, Virat," Karthik wrote.

India pacer Mohammed Shami also took to Instagram to wish the batting stalwart, extending wishes for "many, many happy returns of the day."

BCCI vice-president Rajeev Shukla praised Kohli's remarkable achievements and commitment to the sport, saying his contributions had set new benchmarks for aspiring sportspersons.

"Your remarkable achievements, fighting spirit and commitment to the game have set new benchmarks and continue to motivate generations of aspiring sportspersons.

"May you continue to scale greater heights, create many more memorable moments and inspire the nation with your brilliance both on and off the field. Wishing you a wonderful year ahead, filled with good health, happiness and continued success," Shukla wrote on X.

While the BCCI posted a creative poster showcasing Kohli sitting on the chair wearing his Test jersey, with his iconic photos hanging in frames on the wall.

"566 Intl. Matches & Counting, 28601 Intl. Runs & Counting, 86 Intl. Centuries & Counting. Winner of ICC Men's ODI World Cup 2011, ICC Champions Trophy 2013 & 2025, and ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024.

● Cricket Fraternity Pours Birthday Wishes on Virat Kohli

- Indian batting stalwart Virat Kohli received heartfelt birthday wishes from former teammates, fellow cricketers, BCCI vice-president Rajeev Shukla and his IPL franchise Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) as he turned 38 on Thursday.
- Former India opener Shikhar Dhawan praised Kohli's passion, hunger and love for cricket, saying his dedication continues to inspire millions.
- Former India batter Suresh Raina wished him as 'King Kohli', recalling his breathtaking cover drives, unforgettable run chases and fighting spirit. Raina concluded his message with the words, "Once a King, Always a King!"
- Former wicketkeeper-batter Dinesh Karthik praised Kohli's consistency and fitness, while India pacer Mohammed Shami also extended his birthday greetings.
- BCCI vice-president Rajeev Shukla lauded Kohli's remarkable achievements and commitment, stating that his contributions have set new benchmarks and continue to motivate aspiring sportspersons.
- The BCCI shared a special birthday poster celebrating his achievements.while RCB described him as the defining.

Will grab the chance with both hands

says Beardman on potential ODI debut against England

■ AGENCY

Perth: Young fast bowler Mahli Beardman said if he potentially gets an ODI debut against England in the upcoming white-ball series, he will grab the chance with both hands. Beardman is in the running for his first ODI cap in the series opener at Optus Stadium on November 13, in front of his home crowd.

"The selection is well above my head, so if that opportunity arrives, I'll try and grab it with both hands. I feel like I'm ready to go out and play some good cricket again," Beardman told reporters on Thursday.

He gets an early chance to stake his claim on Saturday, when Western Australia take on England in a one-day warm-up at the WACA. "I think it's just an awesome hit out. I think it's a great chance to really get some insight into their top order and how they play. It's an opportunity to get a look at them earlier than the rest of the squad and pass some information on," added Beardman.

The youngster has been around Australia's squads for two years. His most memorable outing so far came in last season's Big Bash League (BBL) finals, when he roughed up Steven Smith and came out on top in a gripping battle between generations.

His only international game so far came in a T20I in Pakistan earlier this year. He removed Shadab Khan and Shaheen Shah Afridi off successive balls at the death and finished with 2-33 from four overs. Shortly afterwards, a stress fracture in his lower back flared up again and brought an early end to his season.

"The timing of it was pretty rough. I feel like I was feeling quite nice at the back of the Big Bash. It was just one of those things... I think it's understanding my body as I'm growing and developing. It was extremely frustrating, but I'm super fortunate to be able to come back. Spent a good four or five months in the gym and built my body up," said Beardman.

He has since shown what he can do by tearing through a strong India A batting line-up on Australia A's recent tour. "I think the goal is as high as I can go. "I don't think there's a number.

Deepti, Sutherland, Sobhana nominated for ICC Women's Player of the Month award

■ AGENCY

Dubai: India's off-spin bowling all-rounder Deepti Sharma, Australia's seam-bowling all-rounder Annabel Sutherland and Bangladesh batter Sobhana Mostary have been shortlisted for the ICC Women's Player of the Month award for October 2026.

Deepti makes a strong case to win the monthly honour after shining with both bat and ball as India got 3-0 ODI and T20I wins over Zimbabwe at home. The 29-year-old's standout show came in the second ODI at the BCA Stadium in Vadodara.

She struck an unbeaten 106, her second ODI hundred after she first hit one in 2017, and picked up three wickets as India won by 121 runs to seal the three-match series. It was the only time she batted in the series, and Deepti finished with five wickets at an economy rate of 3.42 as India completed a 3-0 sweep.

In the T20Is in Raipur, that came before the ODIs, Deepti again batted just once. She made 49 off 37 balls in the series opener at the Shaheed Veer Narayan Singh International Stadium and picked two wickets as India won that series too.

On the other hand, Sobhana scripted history in Brisbane, where her 118 off 134 balls in the second ODI against Australia became the highest individual score by a Bangladesh woman in the 50-over format. She struck 18 boundaries in the knock, which took Bangladesh to 220/6 in their 50 overs.

The effort was not enough to prevent a defeat, and Bangladesh went on to lose the series 3-0. Sobhana, however, ended with 129 runs at an average of 43 and a strike rate of 73.71.

Meanwhile, Annabel was on the other side of that series and made a big contribution. In the series opener in Brisbane, she took 4-30 and then made an unbeaten 25 as Australia cruised to a seven-wicket win.

Arsenal look to extend winning run: Emery set for milestone in Matchweek 10

■ SP BUREAU

New Delhi: Arsenal look to extend their impressive home record when they host promoted Hull City, while Aston Villa manager Unai Emery is set to reach a significant milestone as the 2026/27 Premier League season enters Matchweek 10.



Emery will take charge of his 200th Premier League game when Aston Villa travel to face Manchester United, who are enduring a difficult run of form with seven consecutive league matches without a win. The Spaniard will become the fifth manager from his country to reach the milestone after Rafael Benitez, Roberto Martinez, Pep Guardiola and Mikel Arteta as compiled by Jio Star.

Arsenal, meanwhile, head into their fixture against Hull with the league's strongest defensive record. The Gunners have conceded just five goals, kept six clean sheets and faced only 24 shots on target this season.

Mikel Arteta's side have won their last seven home league matches and are unbeaten in their last 17 home games against promoted teams. Hull, who will be playing their 200th Premier League match, have gone seven games without a victory.

Bournemouth forward Evanilson will also have an opportunity to create history when his side take on Ipswich Town.

Brisbane Heat end 706-day wait for WBBL win as Charli Knott's hundred powers team home



■ AGENCY

Sydney: Brisbane Heat ended their long wait for a WBBL win after Charli Knott's stellar hundred powered the team home with a strong victory over Adelaide Strikers at the Drummoyne Oval here on Thursday. Heat registered their first win in the Women's Big Bash League after 706 days by defeating the Strikers by 14 runs. They were winless in the last edition of the tournament and also lost both of their opening two matches this season before a much-relieved win for the former two-time champions. Heat's last win in the WBBL came on 29th November 2024, when they reached the WBBL 10 final. Opener Knott played a knock of her life as she scored 104 from 61 balls with 12 fours and four sixes to power her team to 184/4.

Will take ODI World Cup-winning belief into Champions Trophy

New Delhi: India women's head coach Amol Mazumdar said he wants his side to carry the strong belief that won them the 2025 Women's ODI World Cup into the inaugural ICC Women's Champions Trophy, to be played next year.



The six-team tournament is scheduled to be played from February 14 to 28, 2027, with Vadodara and Mumbai's Brabourne Stadium being the hosts. The inaugural edition of the competition will begin a week after the Women's Premier League (WPL) final is held at the Brabourne Stadium on February 7.

"I think we learned a lot in that tournament. The pendulum swung one way initially, before shifting in our favour. So, I think it was a combination of the amazing talent these girls have, the preparation we put in, and a collective effort."Apart from these three, the fourth one I would like to add is the strong belief we had in that competition that culminated in winning the World Cup. I think I would like to take that into 2027," Muzumdar told JioStar.

He also revealed that he had absolutely no idea what he would tell his players in the team huddle before the ODI World Cup final took place against South Africa at the DY Patil Stadium in Navi Mumbai, which India won by 52 runs to claim the title for the first time.