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BRIEF NEWS

Fresh Bomb Threat Targets Mumbai Mayor's Office, Big B's Home

Mumbai : Authorities in Mumbai were placed on high alert on Thursday morning following an email threat warning of bomb blasts across the metropolis, including at the airport, Mayor's office, megastar Amitabh Bachchan's bungalow 'Jalsa' and a Punjab National Bank (PNB) branch, an official said. The official said the email, sent at 10.52 am from an account identified as reduak079@gmail.com, was addressed to the Zonal Office of PNB Mumbai, the Local Crime Branch (LCB) at Cuffe Parade and the bank's Zaveri Bazar branch in south Mumbai. The subject line of the email mentioned a bomb blast at a PNB branch in Mumbai at 1.11 pm. It further mentioned dates, including November 27 and December 31, and contained threatening references to bomb attacks.

PM Modi to Visit Philippines Next Week for ASEAN-India Summit

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to travel to the Philippines next week to attend the 23rd Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-India Summit and the 21st meeting of the ASEAN-led East Asia Summit process, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday. The visit will take place from November 16 to 18, Rudrendra Tandon, Secretary (East) at the MEA, announced during a special media briefing in New Delhi on Thursday. "In addition to a very active bilateral relationship with all 11 ASEAN member states, we see our engagement with the ASEAN regional platform also as a key element or building block of our Act East policy," Tandon said. The Prime Minister's programme in Manila will include a dinner hosted by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr for the visiting dignitaries, followed by the ASEAN-India Summit and the East Asia Summit the next day, with bilateral meetings with other leaders in between.

Two Special Police Officers Who Went Missing in J&K, Found Dead

Kishtwar: The bullet-riddled bodies of two Special Police Officers (SPOs) were recovered from Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district early Thursday, a day after they went missing from the remote Dachhan area, officials said. The service weapons of the slain personnel were not found, raising suspicions of a possible militant angle, the officials said. The two men have been identified as Babi Chand (57) and Rashpal Kumar (45). They were posted with the Special Operations Group (SOG) of the local police at Kiyar village in Dachhan and had gone missing on Wednesday while travelling from their camp to an Army post at Dharna-Marwah.

CM Vows to Keep 'Atheist Communists', 'Pro Jamaati' Trinamool Congress Isolated in Bengal

AGENCY



Kolkata: West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari on Thursday vowed to continue his campaign to politically isolate the "atheist Communists" and the "pro-Jamaati Trinamool Congress", accusing both forces of undermining traditional Hindu religious practices and cultural traditions in the state.

Addressing a programme for the distribution of Chhath Puja items in Howrah district, adjoining Kolkata, Chief Minister Adhikari alleged that successive Communist and Trinamool Congress governments had disrespected Hindu traditions and weakened the state's cultural identity.

"The Communists ruled West Bengal for 34 years. They claimed to be atheists and were disrespectful towards traditional Hindu rituals. During the 15-year Trinamool Congress government, the state's traditions and culture were also undermined. Durga Puja pandals and idols were inaugurated during Pitru Paksha," he alleged. The Chief Minister also recalled incidents of stone-pelting at Ram Navami processions in different parts of the state, accusing the previous governments of failing to protect traditional religious practices.

"Your Chief Minister will continue with the task of isolating the atheist Communists and the pro-Jamaati Trinamool Congress from the people of West Bengal so that neither of these forces ever resurfaces on the soil of the state," CM Adhikari said.

He also launched a sharp attack on his predecessor Mamata Banerjee, accusing her (Trinamool Congress) government of discriminating against people from other Indian states who had settled in West Bengal while allegedly maintaining close links with illegal Bangladeshi infiltrators.

"For her (Mamata Banerjee), people from other Indian states who have been living in West Bengal for a long time are outsiders, while illegal Bangladeshi infiltrators were her close associates," the Chief Minister alleged.

He also claimed that members of the previous Trinamool Congress government had illegally transferred more than Rs 20,000 crore abroad over the past 15 years.

He warned that those involved would face legal action and be sent to prison.

The Chief Minister also promised to reclaim govern-

Retail Inflation Hits 6.09% in October as Food Prices Climb

SP BUREAU



New Delhi: Your monthly grocery bill could be getting heavier. India's retail inflation jumped to 6.09% in October from 5.54% in September, crossing the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) upper tolerance limit of 6% for the first time under the current Consumer Price Index (CPI) series.

The biggest pressure came from food prices. Food inflation accelerated to 8.94% in October from 7.74% in September, with everyday essentials such as onions, garlic and ginger becoming more expensive.

The October reading was also higher than the 5.93% forecast in a Reuters poll of economists, pointing to a sharper-than-expected increase in price pressures.

Retail inflation has now remained above the RBI's medium-term target of 4% for five consecutive months. The latest numbers will also put the central bank's inflation-management strategy under closer scrutiny, particularly after it raised interest rates last month. Food prices were the biggest contributor to the rise in overall retail inflation. Food inflation climbed to 8.94% in October against 7.74% in September. Onions, garlic and ginger were among the essential kitchen items that recorded higher prices. Food carries a significant weight in the consumer price index, accounting for nearly 40% of the basket. This means a sharp increase in the cost of groceries and essential food items can push up the overall inflation reading. Transport inflation also accelerated to 5.84% in October, adding to the pressure on household expenses.

For consumers, the impact is straightforward. When the prices of vegetables, groceries and other essentials rise, families have to spend more to maintain the same standard of consumption. This can leave less money for savings, shopping and other discretionary expenses.

What Does Crossing 6% Mean?

The RBI follows a flexible inflation-targeting framework under which it aims to keep retail inflation at 4%, with a tolerance band of 2 percentage points on either side. This means inflation is expected to remain within a range of 2% to 6%. The October reading of 6.09% has taken it above the upper end of this range.

Owaisi, Chandrashekhar Azad Tie Up, to Contest All UP Seats



AGENCY

New Delhi: A new political front has taken shape in Uttar Pradesh ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections, with Asaduddin Owaisi's All India Majlis-e- Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) and Chandrashekhar Azad's Azad Samaj Party (Kanshiram) joining hands to form an alliance. The two parties have formed an alliance named 'Samajik Parivartan Morcha' and announced plans to contest all 403 Assembly seats in the state, with Chandrashekhar Azad as their chief ministerial face.

Announcing the alliance at a joint press conference in Lucknow on Thursday, Owaisi said the new front would seek to prevent the BJP from returning to power for a third consecutive term.

The AIMIM chief described the alliance as a strong political alternative and said it would focus on issues concerning Dalits, minorities, backward communities and other marginalised sections.

'Gala Hi Pakad Liya': PM Modi Recalls Encounter With Journalists



Evolution Of Media And Modi's Early Interactions

Greeting journalists at the event held at the BJP headquarters, the prime minister remarked that "few old faces" seem to be left in the media and lauded the commitment of journalists in getting "breaking news" even during festival times when everyone tries to spend time at home with their family and loved ones. "There are many colleagues from the new generation here. However, those who are senior know that I have had a natural and longstanding relationship with your world for a long time," he said.

AGENCY

New Delhi: Gala hi pakad liya unhone, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday while recalling how a "women's brigade" of journalists in 2001 got the whiff of him becoming Gujarat chief minister and caught hold of him to demand sweets. Addressing journalists at a Diwali Milan programme organised by the BJP, the prime minister lauded the role of the media in keeping Indian democracy vibrant. He said he has seen the media evolve from the days of press releases to Instagram reels and still remembers when he would arrange chairs at such party gatherings for the media.

Going down memory lane, Modi said there were fewer cameras back then but the warmth of relationships was just the same. He said he had learnt a lot and many of his experiences from that time still prove very useful.

Referring to his completing 25 years as head of a government last month, Modi said only a few top leaders in the party knew he was becoming Gujarat's chief minister in 2021.

"One day, a group of journalists stormed into my room. Normally, journalists never treat me like that. But that day, they just barged in. And at that time, there used to be a women's brigade. They possessed immense influence," he said.

"Gala hi pakad liya unhone. Bola mithai khilao (They caught me by my neck and asked me to treat them with sweets)," Modi said.

"I asked why did they want sweets, to which they said you are going to Gujarat to become the CM. I told them that I don't know. They replied that they knew and that I was lying," he said.

Very few people knew about it at that time but this group was already aware. "Anyway, their information was accurate, but it was very difficult for me to answer," Modi said.

NVIDIA Board Mulls Removing Jensen Huang Over 2 Affairs

AGENCY



New Delhi: The board of American semiconductor giant Nvidia is reportedly considering the removal of its co-founder and CEO, Jensen Huang, following revelations of two alleged extramarital relationships, including one involving a businesswoman suspected by US intelligence of having links to Chinese intelligence services. According to The Wall Street Journal, citing people familiar with the matter, Nvidia's board is preparing to meet as early as Thursday to discuss Huang's future at the company.

The reported developments come amid growing scrutiny of the 63-year-old executive following revelations about his personal relationships and their potential implications for the company. The New York Times, meanwhile, reported that Huang had an extramarital relationship with Kimberly Powell, Nvidia's vice president of healthcare, who reports to him. Citing five people who worked at the company, The New York Times said that the relationship had not previously been reported.

According to The New York Times, Huang and Powell, 48, were captured on video behaving affectionately at a hotel in San Jose, California, during an Nvidia conference in March.

Powell joined Nvidia in 2008 and oversees programmes focused on applying the company's chip technology to higher education and healthcare, particularly medical imaging devices, according to the company's website. The reported relationship has also raised questions about Nvidia's internal workplace policies, with the company's code of conduct asking employees to "avoid situations where our actions create conflict", including "personal relationships".

The company also states that it "promptly investigates reports of misconduct," The New York Times reported, noting that several corporations have policies restricting relationships between managers and their subordinates.

The latest revelations come after Huang faced scrutiny over another reported relationship with Alice Huang, a Chinese businesswoman and executive associated with Singapore-based data company Megaspeed, a major Nvidia customer.

The US intelligence officials had identified the Chinese executive as an alleged Chinese intelligence asset. On Sunday, Huang acknowledged his affair with Alice Huang in a letter to Nvidia employees, The Wall Street Journal.

Following Huang's acknowledgement, Nvidia's board reportedly initiated an investigation into the matter, with the inquiry being led by law firm Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, according to The New York Times.



5,180 New Beneficiaries to Receive Madhu Babu Pension in Jharsuguda

RAJ KUMAR SHARMA ■ JHARSUGUDA



The disbursement of pension benefits under the Madhu Babu Pension Yojana to 5,180 new beneficiaries in Jharsuguda district was launched on Wednesday to strengthen social security and ensure timely assistance to vulnerable sections.

The Unified Pension Management Portal (UPMP) was also inaugurated to make pension applications and disbursement more transparent, simple and efficient.

The programme, organised by the District Administration and the Department of Social Security and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities at the MCL Auditorium in Beheramal, was inaugurated by Revenue and Disaster Management Minister Suresh Pujari.

Addressing the gathering, Pujari said the government was committed to ensuring social security and dignity for elderly persons, widows and persons with disabilities. He expressed confidence that UPMP would streamline pension-related services.

Jharsuguda MLA Tankadhar Tripathy said eligible persons earlier faced long waiting periods for pensions even after attaining 60 years of age. The present government had simplified the process to ensure easier access to benefits. He described the initiative as a reflection of the government's commitment to 'Seva, Sushasan and Garib Kalyan'.

During the programme, 1,063 beneficiaries received pension benefits directly in the presence of the dignitaries. A Social Security Awareness Chariot was also flagged off to spread awareness about welfare schemes.

Bargarh MP's representative Shlok Sharma, Collector Kunal Motiram Chavan, Zilla Parishad CEO Bishwaranjan Naik, ADM Brajabandhu Bhoi and Sub-Collector Sabyasachi Panda attended the programme. District Social Security Officer Sunil Kumar Naik and departmental officials coordinated the event. Pragyan Mishra conducted the proceedings, while Aditya Kumar Badi managed overall coordination.

Four Chinese-origin mortars, 80-kg rocket seized in Manipur

■ AGENCY

Imphal : A large cache of arms and ammunition, including four Chinese-origin 82 mm mortars and a rocket weighing around 80 kg, along with 1.147 kg of highly addictive methamphetamine tablets, were recovered in separate operations by security forces in Manipur during the past 24 hours, police said on Thursday.

A police official said that central and state security forces, in two separate operations in Churachandpur and Bishnupur districts, recovered a huge cache of arms and ammunition, including four Chinese-origin 82 mm mortars and a rocket measuring approximately 10 feet in length and weighing around 80 kg.

The recovery of the Chinese-origin 82 mm mortars and a rocket was made during a joint operation by district police and the Army in a forested area near P Geljang village under Kangvai sub-division on Wednesday.

The other arms and ammunition recovered during the operations included three country-made guns with two magazines, one pistol without a magazine, three single-barrel rifles, five Chinese grenades, 30 mortar bombs of different calibres (82 mm and 51 mm), and seven improvised explosive devices (IEDs) weighing between 2 kg and 4 kg.



The recovered items also included five rounds of 5.6 mm ammunition, one country-made MP-5 with a magazine, one country-made mortar, three hand grenades, one high-explosive (HE) bomb, other explosive devices and miscellaneous items.

In another operation, security forces seized approximately 1.147 kg of highly addictive and banned methamphetamine tablets, including packaging materials, at Sapermeina in Kangpokpi district.

The police official said that on reliable intelligence inputs regarding the transportation of drugs from Imphal to Mao in Senapati district, which borders Nagaland, a joint team of Manipur Police, Assam Rifles, and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) launched an operation to intercept a passenger bus.

Following a thorough search of the vehicle, the joint team recovered the methamphetamine tablets. The estimated value of the seized drugs is Rs 3.25 crore. A suspected drug peddler, identified as Md. Karim Khan (27), alias Achouba, a resident of Lilong Turel Ahanbi in Thoubal district, was arrested.

During preliminary questioning, investigators received information about the alleged involvement of a suspected buyer based in Assam. Acting on this information, a joint team comprising Kangpokpi district police personnel, CRPF and Assam Rifles, with assistance from Assam Police, arrested another accused, identified as Abdul Khalique (40), a resident of Dhansari in Assam's Darrang district, in connection with the case.

Further investigation is underway to ascertain the extent of the alleged inter-state drug trafficking network and identify other persons involved in the illegal trade.

Meanwhile, security forces comprising central and state personnel continue to carry out extensive operations against militants and other unlawful activities in Manipur. Search operations and area domination exercises are underway in fringe.

Andhra Pradesh to bring law to protect investors from regime change, political vendetta

■ AGENCY

Visakhapatnam : Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu on Thursday announced that the state government will bring an Investment Protection Act to safeguard investors from regime changes and political vendetta.

He urged the Union government to bring in similar legislation at the national level to provide greater security and confidence to investors across the country.

In his remarks at the inaugural session of the 31st CII Partnership Summit in Visakhapatnam, he said concerns over regime changes and what he described as vindictive politics were creating apprehensions among investors. CM Naidu said his government was preparing a state-level Investment Protection Act and would send the Bill to the Centre after its passage in the Assembly.



He urged Union Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal to take up the proposal with the Central government and work towards converting it into a national law The Chief Minister expressed confidence that a Central Act offering protection to investors would encourage a stronger flow of investments into India and attract global investors. Earlier, state Human Resources Development, Information Technology, Electronics and Real Time Governance Minister Nara Lokesh said the government will enact a law to protect investors. After pioneering the implementation of escrow accounts, Andhra Pradesh is set to become the first state in India to implement such a law for investors. "Such legislation will provide greater confidence and assurance to industrialists and encourage them to invest," he said.

He requested Union Minister Goyal to facilitate policy clearance and its implementation at the national level. Lokesh urged global industrialists not merely to visit Andhra Pradesh, but to invest, innovate and grow here. He urged them not just to build their factories in the state, but to make Andhra Pradesh their corporate home, assuring them of the government's complete cooperation and support. "We have a coastline of more than 1,000 kilometres.



BJP Questions Satheesan's Stand on LPST Protest

■ AGENCY

Thiruvananthapuram : The BJP on Thursday stepped up its attack on Chief Minister V.D. Satheesan over the handling of the ongoing agitation by Lower Primary School Teacher (LPST) job aspirants, accusing him of going back on promises made when he was the Leader of Opposition in the Kerala Assembly. BJP state president Rajeev Chandrasekha, national secretary K. Surendran and party MLA V. Muraleedharan visited the protesters' venue in front of the Secretariat and expressed solidarity with their agitation. Chandrasekhar said that when Satheesan was the Leader of Opposition, he "made big talks on the then Asha workers' strike". "I am here not to make this a controversy. The people in Kerala gave a vote for Satheesan to solve issues, but it's going to be six months now and apart from talks, no headway has been made. We demand that the job aspirant's demands be met, and till it's met, we will be with them," said Chandrasekhar. Surendran said Satheesan had visited the protest venue while in the Opposition and promised a permanent solution to the grievances of the protesters if the UDF came to power. However, after becoming Chief Minister, he was now betraying them, he alleged. He recalled that CM Satheesan had expressed anguish when a woman protester, Valarmathi, had shaved her head as part of the ongoing agitation, saying he was moved to tears. The same Chief Minister was now using the police to dismantle the protest venue and silence the protesters, Surendran alleged. He said the government was following the same politics of neglect adopted by the previous Pinarayi Vijayan government towards protesters. The BJP's stand that the Congress and the CPI(M) were no different was being vindicated.



TN CM Vijay to join Children's Day celebrations at Kolathur school tomorrow

■ AGENCY

Chennai : Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, C. Joseph Vijay, is expected to participate in Children's Day celebrations at a middle school in Chennai's Kolathur Assembly constituency on Friday, as the School Education Department prepares to distribute cakes to around 61 lakh students, teachers and non-teaching staff across the State. Although Children's Day is observed nationwide on November 14, the celebrations in government schools have been advanced to November 13 as November 14 has been declared a holiday and schools have been instructed to organise their programmes accordingly. According to information on the proposed programme, TN CM Vijay is likely to distribute cakes to children at the Kolathur school and join the celebrations. His participation would mark the launch of the cake distribution initiative announced earlier for Children's Day. The School Education Department has made arrangements to supply each student with a cake weighing 45 grams. A greeting card carrying the Chief Minister's Children's Day message will also be distributed along with it.

The statewide arrangements cover approximately 61 lakh beneficiaries, including students, teachers and non-teaching employees. The department has directed education officials to coordinate the distribution and ensure that the celebrations are conducted smoothly.

District-level monitoring officers have been appointed to oversee the exercise. They have been instructed to coordinate activities connected with cake distribution and monitor the conduct of the programme in their respective districts. Chief Educational Officers and other officials have also been asked to work together to ensure that the arrangements are implemented properly. The monitoring mechanism is intended to support coordination between schools and district education authorities during the celebrations. In

Mega Swachh Jharsuguda Campaign on November 14

RAJ KUMAR SHARMA ■ JHARSUGUDA

With the objective of transforming Jharsuguda into a clean, beautiful and green city, the Jharsuguda Municipality will organise a mega cleanliness drive on November 14 at 7 am.

Jharsuguda MLA Tankadhar Tripathy announced this initiative through a press statement on Thursday. He said that the municipality has identified 50 locations across the city for the campaign.



Various social organisations and local residents are being assigned responsibilities and encouraged to actively participate in the initiative to ensure its success.

Appealing to all citizens to consider cleanliness their collective responsibility, Tripathy urged them to participate wholeheartedly in the campaign and contribute towards keeping their city clean, beautiful and hygienic.

He emphasised that active public participation is essential to building a cleaner, greener and healthier Jharsuguda.

Bihar: Elaborate arrangements underway for Chhath at Aurangabad's historic Deo Sun Temple; security in focus

■ AGENCY

Aurangabad : The historic and mythological town of Deo in Bihar's Aurangabad district is gearing up to celebrate the grand festival of folk faith, Chhath, with elaborate preparations underway to welcome millions of devotees from different parts of the country.

The famous Deo Surya Temple, dedicated to Lord Bhaskar, is expected to witness a massive influx of devotees during Kartik Chhath. In view of the anticipated rush, the district administration has initiated extensive arrangements to ensure the convenience, safety and smooth movement of pilgrims.

Preparations are being carried out across the temple complex, Suryakund and Rudrakund, with cleanliness, beautification and other necessary arrangements being given priority.



The Deo Surya Temple is renowned across the country for its distinctive architecture and religious significance. One of its most remarkable features is its west-facing orientation, unlike most Sun temples, which face east. The temple is also known for its intricate stone carvings and magnificent craftsmanship. It is believed to have a history dating back thousands of years.

Every year, devotees from different parts of the country visit the temple during Chhath to offer prayers to Lord Surya and seek blessings. During the festival, the entire town of Deo resonates with devotional chants and prayers to Chhathi Maiya.

Under the leadership of District Magistrate Abhilasha Sharma, the administration is making comprehensive arrangements covering accommodation, healthcare, security and transportation for the expected influx of devotees.

According to the District Magistrate, 10 accommodation facilities have been arranged for Chhath devotees and pilgrims arriving from outside the district. Additionally, tent cities are being established near the Deo Police Station and in Ward No. 4 of Bhaskar Nagar.

The accommodation facilities will include mattresses, folding beds, clean drinking water, toilets, adequate lighting and security arrangements to ensure a comfortable stay for the pilgrims.

To facilitate the movement of devotees, free transportation services will operate between Deo Mod and the Block Office, as well as between Male Nagar and Bahuara Mod. The administration is making efforts to ensure that pilgrims do not face any inconvenience while travelling to the temple and the fairgrounds.

Chandannagar Jagaddhatri Puja: Administration to Take Everyone Along, Says MLA

DEBASIS GHOSH ■



Chandannagar: Last year, when the guide map was published, MLA Indranil Sen had belittled the Central Jagaddhatri Puja Committee by calling it a "club". This year, by being present at the Committee's guide map release, he made it clear that the administration will take everyone along.

The world-famous Jagaddhatri Puja of Chandannagar will be formally inaugurated tomorrow. Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari will be present to inaugurate the State Festival, Chandannagar Jagaddhatri Puja.

A day before that, the Central Jagaddhatri Puja Committee held a press conference and released this year's outline. A total of 180 Jagaddhatri Pujas, covering Chandannagar and Bhadreswar police stations, are held under the supervision of the Central Committee. On the 19th, immersion will take place with a procession. 68 pujas will go around Chandannagar town with 245 lorries. Around 500 members of the Central Committee will be on the roads to assist the police administration.

Committee secretary Subhajit Sau said the 71-year-old Central Committee has always worked in coordination with everyone. The government is cooperating on administrative matters. They are extending all cooperation to complete the puja smoothly. Last time, an attempt was made to belittle the Committee, but it has been working for 71 years with the blessings of Jagaddhatri, taking the administration and the common people along.

Chandannagar's present MLA Dipanjan Guha said talks are on regarding electricity concession, but no official letter has arrived yet. As an MLA, this is his first year, and his first year in the Central Committee too, so there will be some mistakes. Everyone will have to correct them together, and next time the puja will be done even better. This time, four aspects of Chandannagar are being highlighted: Chandannagar's lights, Chandannagar's revolutionaries, Chandannagar's Jalbhara, and Chandannagar's Jagaddhatri Puja.

One constable and one officer have been tagged with each of the 68 pujas in the procession, so that there is no lack of coordination. The pujas have been divided zone-wise. Keeping in mind that this year's crowd will be much larger, all arrangements are being made.

Former Minister Ujjwal Biswas's Body Taken to Ancestral Home

■ SPNN

Krishnanagar: The mortal remains of former West Bengal minister and senior Trinamool Congress leader Ujjwal Biswas were brought from Kolkata to his residence in Krishnanagar, Nadia district, on Thursday. He was subsequently taken to his ancestral home in Podagachha. Biswas, a three-time MLA from Krishnanagar South, died at a private hospital in Kolkata on Wednesday. He was 72. His demise has triggered an outpouring of grief among political leaders, party workers and supporters.

According to hospital sources, Biswas had been suffering from several serious health complications. He was admitted to a hospital in Mukundapur on the day of Saptami during Durga Puja after developing cardiac complications, pneumonia and kidney-related problems. Earlier, he had undergone bypass surgery at another private hospital on September 30, following which he also suffered a stroke. Subsequently, he developed multiple complications, including a urinary tract infection (UTI) and septic shock. His condition deteriorated as several organs stopped functioning. After remaining on life support for nearly a month, he breathed his last on Wednesday. Ujjwal Biswas first won the Krishnanagar South Assembly seat in 2011 and represented the constituency for three consecutive terms. After the Trinamool Congress formed the government in West Bengal in 2011, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee inducted him into her cabinet as Minister for Technical Education and Training. Although he was not included in the 2016 cabinet, he was given charge of the Correctional Administration Department a year later, a responsibility he held until 2022. Subsequently, he was assigned the Science and Technology portfolio.

However, Biswas suffered an electoral setback in the 2026 Assembly elections when he was defeated by BJP candidate Sadhan Ghosh.

Following his electoral defeat, Biswas became embroiled in controversy. A large quantity of relief materials was reportedly recovered from his residence in Krishnanagar, following which allegations surfaced that supplies meant for the general public had been stored at his house. Police arrested him in connection with the case, triggering considerable public anger.

After spending 30 days in jail in the alleged relief material scam, he was granted bail. However, he was subsequently arrested again in connection with another case. He was eventually released on conditional bail after spending a total of 49 days in custody.

Trinamool Congress sources claimed that the entire episode, particularly his prolonged period in jail, had a deeply adverse impact on his mental and physical health.

Bulldozer Removes Illegal Structures Outside Abhishek Banerjee's House

■ SPNN



Kolkata : The Kolkata Municipal Corporation (KMC) carried out a major demolition drive outside the Kalighat residence of Trinamool Congress (TMC) national general secretary and Diamond Harbour Lok Sabha MP Abhishek Banerjee on Thursday morning. A temporary bamboo structure (shed) erected on the footpath outside his residence at 121, Kalighat Road, was demolished using a bulldozer.

Along with the temporary structure, an iron gate installed outside the main entrance of the boundary wall of the MP's residence, allegedly occupying a portion of the footpath illegally, was also removed using a gas cutter. The gate was reportedly obstructing public access to the footpath.

A large contingent of Kolkata Police personnel and central security forces was deployed outside Banerjee's residence during the demolition drive to prevent any possible resistance or law-and-order disturbance.

CM Shubhendu Adhikari to Attend Bandna Festival in Bankura Today



■ SPNN

Kolkata : West Bengal Chief Minister Shubhendu Adhikari will visit Bankura district on Thursday to participate in Bandna-Sohrai, a major traditional folk festival of the tribal communities. According to district administration sources, the Chief Minister will attend a programme organised at the grounds of Birsa Munda Memorial College in the Raipur block of the district.

Bandna-Sohrai is an important traditional festival celebrated by tribal communities in the Jangalmahal region. Preparations for the festival begin on the new moon day of the Kartik month, which coincides with Kali Puja. Depending on the region, the celebrations continue for three days, five days or even an entire month. At present, the festival is being celebrated with enthusiasm in tribal villages across Jangalmahal. The festivities offer a glimpse of traditional tribal culture through the worship of cattle, the rhythmic beats of dhamsa and madal drums, and the performance of Ahira folk songs.

This will be Chief Minister Shubhendu Adhikari's fourth visit to Bankura in six months since taking oath as Chief Minister. According to the scheduled programme, he is expected to reach the grounds of Birsa Munda Memorial College in Raipur by helicopter at around 2 pm on Thursday.

Special arrangements have been made at the venue to showcase the traditional folk culture of the Jangalmahal region. After attending the programme, the Chief Minister is scheduled to travel by helicopter to a temporary helipad constructed along the banks of the Gandheswari River near Satighat in Bankura town. From there, he is likely to visit a local food festival being organised at Pathakpara Football Ground. Following this, the Chief Minister is scheduled to proceed to the Circuit House. According to sources, he may meet the bereaved families of four youths from Bankura who lost their lives in an avalanche on the Kedartal trekking route in Uttarakhand. The meeting is expected to provide an opportunity for him to express his condolences to the affected families. After completing his engagements in Bankura, the Chief Minister is scheduled to travel by road to Andal Airport. In view of the Chief Minister's visit, the district administration has intensified preparations. Arrangements are being strengthened to ensure security and the smooth conduct of all programmes scheduled during his visit.

Tarakeswar Named Bengal's Cleanest City

■ SPNN

Kolkata : West Bengal has achieved a significant milestone in the field of cleanliness, with the historic religious town of Tarakeswar being recognised as the cleanest city in the state under the Swachh Survekshan Awards 2025-26. President Droupadi Murmu presented the prestigious award at a ceremony held at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on Wednesday. West Bengal's Urban Development and Municipal Affairs Minister Agnimitra Paul received the honour on behalf of the state along with the official delegation.

Following the achievement, Chief Minister Shubhendu Adhikari and Minister Agnimitra Paul expressed their happiness through social media posts. The Chief Minister congratulated the residents of Tarakeswar, local municipal authorities, district administration, the Department of Urban Development and Municipal Affairs, and particularly the sanitation workers who had worked tirelessly to keep the town clean.

Raina Gram Panchayat
Raina, Purba Bardhaman

Notice Inviting e-Tender

e-Tenders are hereby invited from the eligible contractors in connection with the execution of 2 Nos. Scheme under **CFC Fund** under **NIT No.- 04/RGP/CFC/2026-27 & 05/RGP/CFC/2026-27, Date: 06.11.2026. Tender ID: 2026_ZPHD_ 5085338_1 & 2026_ZPHD_5085344_1.** Bid Submission Start Date: **07.11.2026 at 02:00 PM.** Bid Submission End Date: **17.11.2026 up to 05:00 PM.** Bid Opening Date (Technical): **20.11.2026 at 11:00 AM.** Others details may also be seen at **https://tenders.wb.gov.in**

Sd/-
Executive Assistant
Raina Gram Panchayat

SBI Tribeni Branch (00225) | Gold Ornaments Auction Notice
B.T.P.S. Township, Tribeni, Hooghly, West Bengal, Pin-712503, E-mail Id: sbi.00225@sbi.co.in

Sanju Ghosh had availed Gold Loan from **SBI Tribeni Branch,** by pledging gold ornaments, has defaulted in repaying as per schedule. The customer has not properly responded to the notice/ notices or the notice returned undelivered. In these circumstances, it has been decided by the competent Authority that if the gold loan(s) is / are not liquidated before **4 P.M.**on **19.11.2026** the day of auction, i.e. **20.11.2026** pledged ornaments will be publicly auctioned at under mentioned time and date at the branch premises without further notice. All expenses incurred in this connection will be borne by the borrower. Bank reserves the right to postpone/ withdraw the auction at any time and stop the auction in the middle. Successful bidder can pay the full amount and obtain possession of ornaments.

Borrower Name: Sanju Ghosh

Sl. No.	Date of Auction	Proposed Time of Auction	Purity (Carat)	Weight of Gold Ornaments (Gms)	No. of Items
1.	20.11.2026	3.00 P.M To 4 P.M.	20 C	Gr. Wt. 15.200 Net Wt.11.400	1 PC Chain
2.	20.11.2026	3.00 P.M To 4 P.M.	18 C	Gr. Wt. 11.200 Net Wt.7.800	1 PC Chain
3.	20.11.2026	3.00 P.M To 4 P.M.	20 C	Gr. Wt. 6.400 Net Wt. 4.200	4 PC Earring
4.	20.11.2026	3.00 P.M To 4 P.M.	20 C	Gr. Wt. 3.500 Net Wt.2.600	1 PC Finger Ring

Date:13.11.2026, Place:Tribeni, Hooghly — Authorised Officer,State Bank of India

Satgachia-I Gram Panchayat
Ghatakpara, Purba Bardhaman

Notice Inviting e-Tender

e-Tender is invited from Reputed & Bonafied Tenderer vide **i) Memo No.: 359/2026 (e-Tender No.: 01/26-27, Sl. 1-4) & ii) Memo No.: 360/2026 (e-Tender No.: 02/26-27, Sl. 1-3), Date- 05.11.2026** under 16th CFC(Tied & UnTied) Fund. Bid Submission Start Date: **10.11.2026 from 09:00 AM.** Bid Submission Closing Date: **23.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM.** Bid Opening Date (Technical): **26.11.2026 at 10:00 AM.** For details visit www.tenders.wb.gov.in & undersigned GP Office.

Sd/-
Prodhan
Satgachia-I Gram Panchayat

SBI Tribeni Branch (00225) | Gold Ornaments Auction Notice
B.T.P.S. Township, Tribeni, Hooghly, West Bengal, Pin-712503, E-mail Id: sbi.00225@sbi.co.in

Sharmistha Sarkar Chowdhury had availed Gold Loan from **SBI Tribeni Branch,** by pledging gold ornaments, has defaulted in repaying as per schedule. The customer has not properly responded to the notice/ notices or the notice returned undelivered. In these circumstances, it has been decided by the competent Authority that if the gold loan(s) is / are not liquidated before **4 P.M.**on **19.11.2026** the day of auction, i.e. **20.11.2026** pledged ornaments will be publicly auctioned at under mentioned time and date at the branch premises without further notice. All expenses incurred in this connection will be borne by the borrower. Bank reserves the right to postpone/ withdraw the auction at any time and stop the auction in the middle. Successful bidder can pay the full amount and obtain possession of ornaments.

Borrower Name: Sharmistha Sarkar Chowdhury

Sl. No.	Date of Auction	Proposed Time of Auction	Purity (Carat)	Weight of Gold Ornaments (Gms)	No. of Items
1.	20.11.2026	3.00 P.M To 4 P.M.	22 C	Gr. Wt. 2.880 Net Wt.2.600	1 PC Finger Ring
2.	20.11.2026	3.00 P.M To 4 P.M.	20 C	Gr. Wt. 6.500 Net Wt.5.850	1 PC Necklace
3.	20.11.2026	3.00 P.M To 4 P.M.	20 C	Gr. Wt. 2.750 Net Wt. 2.470	2 PC Dul
4.	20.11.2026	3.00 P.M To 4 P.M.	20 C	Gr. Wt. 0.890 Net Wt.0.800	1 PC Locket
5.	20.11.2026	3.00 P.M To 4 P.M.	20 C	Gr. Wt. 1.800 Net Wt.1.600	1 PC Finger Ring

Date : 13.11.2026
Place: Tribeni, Hooghly — Authorised Officer, State Bank of India

Bijur-II Gram Panchayat
Vill.- Jotram, P.O.- Satgachia, Dist.- Purba Bardhaman

Notice Inviting e-Tender

e-Tender are invited from the all benefited agencies for execution of following works under **16th FC (UnTied & Tied) fund** vide **Memo No.- 348/Bijur-II/2026, Tender No.- 08/2026-27, Date-05.11.2026.** Bid Submission Start Date: **05.11.2026 from 05:30 PM Onwords.** Bid Submission Closing Date: **13.11.2026 up to 05.30 PM.** Bid Opening Date (Technical): **16.11.2026 at 01:00 PM Onwords.** For details visit www.wbtenders.gov.in

Sd/-
Prodhan
Bijur-II Gram Panchayat

Satgachia-I Gram Panchayat
Ghatakpara, Purba Bardhaman

Notice Inviting e-Tender

e-Tender is invited from Reputed & Bonafied Tenderer vide **i) Memo No.: 361/2026 (e-Tender No.: 33/26-27, Sl. 1-3) & ii) Memo No.: 362/2026 (e-Tender No.: 34/26-27, Sl. 1-2), Date- 05.11.2026** under 15th CFC(UnTied & Tied) Fund. Bid Submission Start Date: **10.11.2026 from 09:00 AM.** Bid Submission Closing Date: **23.11.2026 up to 06:00 PM.** Bid Opening Date (Technical): **26.11.2026 at 10:00 AM.** For details visit www.tenders.wb.gov.in & undersigned GP Office.

Sd/-
Prodhan
Satgachia-I Gram Panchayat

इण्डियन ओवरसीज बैंक आपकी प्रगति का सच्चा साथी — Indian Overseas Bank Good people to grow with

Phulbagan Branch, 132A/1B, Raja Rajendra Lal Mitra Road, P.O.- K. G. Bose Sarani, Kolkata-700010. Phone- 8925951673, Email- iob1673@iob.in

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Sale of immovable property mortgaged to Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No.54 of 2002)

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of **Indian Overseas Bank** has taken constructive/ symbolic possession of the following property pursuant to the notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 in the following loan account with right to sell the same on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS", "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS BASIS"** for realization of Bank's dues plus interest & costs as detailed hereunder and whereas consequent upon failure to repay the dues, the undersigned in exercise of power conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act proposes to realize the Bank's dues by sale of the said property. The sale will be done by the undersigned through e auction platform provided at the Web Portal **https://baanknet.com/**

Name & address of the Borrowers & Mortgagors:
M/S Sree Radha Gobinda Enterprise
Prop. Mr. Samresh Guha Thakurta
63, 124 Mahesh Banerjee Road, Mahajati, Madhyapalli More, Gunge Road, Agarpara Kolkata 700109, West Benga.
Mr. Samresh Guha Thakurta
Communication Address: MR. Samresh Guha Thakurta, S/o. Naresh Chandra Guhathakurata, Seejan Apartment, Flat No C, Ground Floor, 1 No Mahajati Nagar, Agarpara, Pin- 700109.
Date of NPA : 15.12.2024
Date of Demand Notice : 26.12.2024
Dues claimed in Demand Notice: Rs.19,46,707.24 with further interest & costs.
Date of possession Notice: 18.06.2025
Dues claimed in Possession Notice: Rs.20,54,992.24 as on 16.06.2025 with further interest & costs.
Present O/s- Rs.23,53,994.24 as on 16.10.2026 with further interest & costs.
Possession - Constructive.
***Outstanding dues- Not Known to the Bank, of Local Self Government (Property Tax, Water sewerage, Electricity Bills etc).**

Description of the Immovable Property
All that piece and parcel of the self contained Flat no "C", on the Ground Floor, at South-East corner measuring about 390 sq ft (M/L) super built up area consisting of One Bed Room, One Dinning, One Kitchen, One Toilet, One Verandah with Tiles Floor including Stair Case, without Lift facilities, Registered in the name of Samaresh Guha Thakurta, S/o. Naresh Chandra Guhathakurta & situated at **"Sejan Apartment (Phase I) situated in Mouza-Agarpara,** J.L. No.11, E.P No.4, S.P. No.92, under collector of North 24 Parganas under LR Khatian No.1776, 1777, 1779 under C.S & RS Dag No.1188(P) under LR Dag No.1188/1480 under limits of Panihati Municipality Ward No 8, Holding No.47 (Old) and 53 (New) No.1, MAHAJATI NAGAR under Jurisdiction of A.D.S.R.O Barrackpore (Old) Sodepaur (New) and District North 24 Parganas, West Bengal.
Owner: **(Samaresh Guha Thakurta)**
Flat is butted and bounded as follows:
On the North by: Other part of Flat; On the South by: Open to sky;
On the East by: Open to Sky; On the West by: Lobby & Stair;
Known Encumbrance if any: Not known to the Bank.
*** Bank's dues have priority over the statutory dues.**
The reserve price will be Rs.9,58,720/- and the **earnest money deposit** will be **Rs.95,872/-**
Submission of online application for bid with EMD- **16.11.2026 onwards.**
Last date for submission of on line application for BID with EMD- **27.11.2026 upto 5.00 PM.**
Bid increase amount- **Rs.25,000/- amount in multiples of which the bid is to be increased.**
Inspection Date & Time: On all working days during office hours **till 27.11.2026 upto 5.00 PM**
Date and time of e-auction: On **30.11.2026** between **11.00 A.M. to 2.30 P.M.** with auto extension of 10 minutes each till sale is completed at the platform of **https://baanknet.com/**
For terms and conditions please visit-
https://www.iob.in/e-Auctions.aspx (Bank website)
https://baanknet.com/ (web portal of e-auction of service provider)

Date: 12.11.2026
Place: Kolkata — Authorised Officer, Indian Overseas Bank

Canara Bank (A Government of India Undertaking)

CANARA BANK
ARM-2 BRANCH
2nd Floor, Circle Office, Spencer Towers, No. 86, M G Road, Bengaluru-560001
Ph: 080-25310099, e-mail: cb6298@canarabank.com

POSSESSION NOTICE (UNDER SECTION 13(4))

Whereas The undersigned being the authorized Officer of the **Canara Bank** under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 13(12) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice Dated On 10.08.2026, calling upon there Borrower / Guarantors: **1) M/s. MA-TARA BEARING & TOOLS COMPANY (P) LTD,** (hereinafter referred to as "the Borrower") Regd. Office & Corporate Office: 84, JC Road, Room No D-6, Manish Towers, 3rd Floor, Bangalore 560002 **Also At:** Plot No. JL No: 83, RS DAG No: 1000/1232, LR DAG No: 1000/1232, LR Khatian No: 4768, Sub-district Dankuni And Hooghly District, WB - 712311. **2) MR. MOHAN KUMAR JAISWAL (DIRECTOR/GUARANTOR), M/s. MA-TARA BEARING & TOOLS COMPANY (P) LTD,** (hereinafter referred to as "the Guarantor") S/o Mr. Lal Sahab Jaiswal, Flat No 304, Second Floor, Siri Galaxy, 11th Sneha Colony, Chikkalasandra, Bangalore 560051. **Also At:** R/a J.L No:83, LR Dag No. 400/1232, LR Khatian No. 4768, PS. Dankuni, Mouza - Dankuni, Hooghly District, West Bangal- 712311. **3) MR. DEEPAK JAISWAL (DIRECTOR/GUARANTOR), M/s. MA-TARA BEARING & TOOLS COMPANY (P) LTD,** S/o Mr. Lal Sahab Jaiswal, Flat No 304, Second Floor, Siri Galaxy, 11th Sneha Colony, Chikkalasandra, Bangalore 560051. **Also At:** R/a J.L No:83, LR Dag No. 400/1232, LR Khatian No. 4768, PS. Dankuni, Mouza - Dankuni, Hooghly District, West Bangal -712311. have guaranteed the payment on demand of all moneys and discharge all obligations and liabilities owing or incurred to the secured creditor by the Borrower **M/s. MA-TARA BEARING & TOOLS COMPANY (P) LTD** for credit facilities (Fund based / Non Fund Based) up to the limit of **Rs. 1,73,19,176.55 (Rupees One Crore Seventy Three Lakhs Nineteen Thousand One Hundred Seventy Six and Fifty Five Paisa Only) as on 10.08.2026** and interest & charges thereon plus further Interest and charges thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.
The Borrowers/Guarantors having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken **Symbolic Possession** of the property described herein bellow in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with Rule 8 & 9 of the Security Interest Enforcement) Rules 2002 on this **9th day of November 2026.**
The borrower/guarantors in particular, and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Canara Bank for an amount of **Rs. 1,79,06,943.55 (Rupees One crore Seventy Nine Lakhs Six Thousand Nine Hundred Forty Three and Fifty Five Paisa Only) as on 10.08.2026** and interest & charges thereon plus further Interest and charges thereon.
The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Details of Movable Assets
Name of Title Holder: M/s. MA-TARA BEARING & TOOLS COMPANY (P) LTD
Hypothecation of Stocks and Book Debt as per Hypothecation Agreement.

Details of Immovable Assets
Name of Title Holder: M/s. MA-TARA BEARING & TOOLS COMPANY (P) LTD
Description of the properties: All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Plot No. JL NO: 83, RS DAG NO: 1000/1232, LR DAG NO: 1000/1232, LR Khatian No: 4768, Measuring to an extent of 10 Katha, within the registration sub-district Dankuni and Hooghly District and bounded on the: **Bounded on the:- East By:** Property of S.K.Nazir **West By:** Property of S.K Babulal **North By:** Balance Land L.R Pag No. 1000/1232 **South By:** Balance Land L.R Pag No. 1000/1232

Date: 09.11.2026 — **Sd/- Authorised Officer**
Place: Dankuni, West Bangal — **Canara Bank**

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Posta Branch, 45A, Ayda Sardhya Ghat Road, Kolkata-700007. Phone - 033 2259 1876, Email- iob0345@iob.in

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR E-AUCTION FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTIES

Sale of immovable property / mortgaged to Bank under Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (No.54 of 2002)

Whereas, the Authorized Officer of **Indian Overseas Bank** has taken **physical possession** of the following property pursuant to the notice issued under Section 13(2) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002 in the following loan account with right to sell the same on **"AS IS WHERE IS BASIS", "AS IS WHAT IS BASIS" and "WHATEVER THERE IS"** for realization of Bank's dues plus interest & costs as detailed hereunder and whereas consequent upon failure to repay the dues, the undersigned in exercise of power conferred under Section 13(4) of the said Act proposes to realize the Bank's dues by sale of the said property. The sale will be done by the undersigned through e auction platform provided at the Web Portal **https://baanknet.com/**

Name and details of Borrower/Mortgagors/Guarantors:
1) M/s. B M Sadhukhan,
Business Address: 41/1/11, Baghajatin Road, Kolkata-700036.
Proprietress: Mrs Rumki Sadhukhan (Borrower/Mortgagor)
Residential Address: Flat No.7, 4th Floor, Block-B, 1 Bangur Avenue, Holding No. 1244/12, Kolkata - 700055.
Date of NPA: **30.06.2019**
Date of Demand Notice: **30.08.2019**
Dues claimed in Demand Notice: **Rs.42,19,715.89** as on 30.08.2019 with further interest & costs.
Date of Possession Notice: **02.08.2025** (Physical) possession taken on **14.08.2025.**
Dues claimed in Possession Notice: **Rs.39,82,115.17** as on 14.08.2025 with further interest & costs.
Outstanding dues of Local Self Government (Property Tax, Water sewerage, Electricity Bills etc) - Not Known. **(Bidders are advised to ascertain the Statutory liabilities. Statutory liability, if any, shall be borne by the purchaser and the Bank assumes no responsibility in this regard.)**

- **Reserve price:** **Rs.19,07,064/- (Rupees Nineteen Lakh Seven Thousand and Sixty Four Only.)**
- **EMD:** **Rs.1,90,706/- (Rupees One Lakh Ninety Thousand Seven Hundred Six Only.)**
- Date & Time of auction: **On 30.11.2026 between 11.00 A.M to 02.00 P.M. with auto extension of 5 minutes each till sale is completed.**
- Submission of online application for bid with EMD: **16.11.2026 onwards.**
- Last date for submission of online application for BID with EMD: **27.11.2026 by 5.00 PM**
- Bid increase amount: Rs.50,000/-
- Auto extension time: 5 minutes
- Known Encumbrance if any: Not known to Authorised Officer.
  Inspection Date & Time: **16.11.2026 onwards.**

DESCRIPTION OF THE IMMOVABLE PROPERTY:
All that part and parcel of the property consisting of Flat No.7 in Survey No. (Holding No.) 1244/12 City or Town Mouza- Shyamnagar, JL No.17 now 32/20, R.S. No.180, Touzi No.228, 229, Dag No.1260, 1254, Khatian No.849, 775, Premises No.1, Bangur Avenue, Block B, 4th Floor, PS- Lake Town, Kolkata - 700055 within the registration sub-district Bidhan Nagar and District North 24 Parganas.
Apartment is situated on ALL that the ground plus Four storey, constructed on the side portion i.e. south west side of the land measuring an area of 981 Sq. Ft. more or less consisting of 3 Bedrooms, 01 Living cum dining space, 02 Toilets, 01 Kitchen, 01 Balcony together with undivided proportionate share of land and common facility of the building is butted and bounded in the manner as follows:
On the North by: Road, **On the South by:** Road,
On the East by: Other's Property, **On the West BY:** Road,
(Owned by: Mrs Rumki Sadhukhan, details of property more described in Indenture Deed No.3512 for the year 2014)
Note : As per rule 3 (5) of Security Interest (Enforcement) rules ,2002 ,we hereby draw your kind attention to the provisions of section 13 (8) of the SARFAESI Act, under which the Borrower has the right to redeem the "Secured Assets" by tendering the amount of dues of the secured creditor at any time before the date of publication of notice for public auction from public for transfer by way of sale "As is where is" ,As is what is, whatever there is and without Recourse. The borrower, Mortgager and guarantors are therefore, requested to pay the entire amount due together with accrued interest, costs and charges, expenses thereon and redeem the secured assets before the date of publication of notice as stated herein.
The right of redemption under section 13(8) of the SARFAESI Act can only be exercised before the public auction commences and not thereafter.
*Bank's dues have priority over the statutory dues.
For terms and conditions please visit:
https://www.iob.in/e-Auctions.aspx
https://baanknet.com/ (web portal of e-auction of service provider)

Date: 12.11.2026 — **Authorised Officer**
Place: Kolkata. — **Indian Overseas Bank**

India Needs Urgent Action as Childhood Obesity Rises

The release of the World Health Organization (WHO)'s first guidelines on the management of obesity among children and adolescents is an important step towards ensuring focused, evidence-based care. Obesity and overweight continue to be major threats to life and health across the world.

Their impact was once considered limited to people in the high-income and older segments of the population. But that contention has been debunked, with incidence increasingly linked to lifestyle patterns, and with children becoming more vulnerable over the past couple of decades. Obesity among children has received special policy attention in recent years. According to WHO, 400 million children and adolescents in the age group of 5-19 years were overweight globally, with 170 million living with obesity, in 2024. Globally, India ranks second in the number of overweight and obese children.

The World Obesity Atlas 2026 estimated that 15 million children in the 5-9 age group and 26 million in the 10-19 age group in India were overweight or obese in 2025. Envisioned as a multimodal programme, the guidelines focus on structured dietary, activity-based, and behaviour-changing measures. They don't recommend pharmacological treatment or bariatric surgery for the 0-9 age group. For the 10-19 age group, treatment is recommended only when the lifestyle-oriented approach fails.

Recommendations for adults include integrated, individual-centred, and long-term care combining lifestyle, medical, and surgical options. The approach underscores early intervention in the form of supportive environments and access to quality care, helping children maintain a healthy weight.

These recommendations serve as both remedies and preventive measures. They are particularly important for India, where obesity is assuming epidemic proportions. Their message needs to be taken to parents, educational institutions, and community collectives.

All stakeholders in obesity care, including policymakers, programme managers, and health workers, should help tailor the recommendations to specific, regional requirements. Simultaneously, ongoing programmes should be upgraded with stronger outreach. The threats posed by obesity and allied diseases have not been fully mapped. Awareness must begin at the family level, with calls to collectively avoid junk food. Children require counselling to reduce screen time and embrace regular physical activity.

According to the WHO, medical treatment alone cannot reverse rising obesity rates. Systemic transformation is essential.

Delhi's Future Planning Must Involve Efficient Partnerships

TARANJIT SINGH SANDHU

Delhi's urban challenges are increasingly interconnected. Transport, housing, water, sanitation, energy, and health care form part of a wider urban system, in which decisions in one sector, more often than not, affect outcomes in others. As the national capital addresses the demands of a growing metropolis, the challenge is to ensure that investment, institutional capacity and technology translate into reliable public services. Public-private partnerships (PPPs) can most certainly contribute to this effort, but their success depends on the quality of governance that underpins them.

The case for PPPs, across sectors, rests on the potential to combine public oversight with private capital, expertise and operational capabilities. However, private participation does not automatically guarantee efficiency, nor does it diminish the government's responsibility to citizens. The central question, therefore, is whether a partnership can deliver a public service more effectively, sustainably, and with significantly greater accountability than the available alternatives. The objective must be better public outcomes, not private investment for its own sake.

This approach requires integrated planning. Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi, has emphasised this principle in the context of PM Gati Shakti, the infrastructure, mobility, and logistics master



plan, stating that it would ensure "true public-private partnership in infrastructure creation from infrastructure planning to development and utilization stage". For Delhi, where infrastructure systems and public services are closely linked, this emphasis on coordination is particularly relevant.

A PPP must first be judged on whether it is the appropriate delivery model for the backdrop against it which it is proposed. Some projects may benefit from private investment and specialised expertise, while others may be better delivered directly by public institutions. Decisions should follow careful assessments of technical feasibility, financial viability, demand, social requirements and the capacity of the public authority to manage the arrangement. Choosing a PPP simply to mobilise capital risks confusing the means with the objective.

Equally important is a project's long-term viability. Assessment cannot end with construction costs, financing or the completion deadline. A project may attract investment but prove financially unsustainable, or provide infrastructure that cannot be maintained adequately. Services may also become unaffordable to their intended users. Feasibility studies, realistic demand projections, financial and legal due diligence, and stakeholder consultations must, therefore, inform decisions from the outset.

Risk allocation is central to this process. The Kelkar Committee's 2015 report on revitalising the PPP model highlighted the importance of rational risk-sharing and a stronger focus on service delivery. Risks should be assigned to the party best equipped to manage them, rather than transferred indiscriminately. Poorly designed contracts, unrealistic projections, and unclear obligations can lead to disputes and financial pressures, with consequences for public finances and service users. Careful preparation cannot eliminate uncertainty, but it can make risks more transparent and manageable.

Nor does the government's responsibility end when a contract is awarded. Effective partnerships require transparent procurement, measurable performance standards, regular monitoring and credible dispute-resolution mechanisms. Long-term contracts must also account for changing demand, technology and operating costs without compromising accountability. Public authorities need the institutional expertise to oversee these arrangements and intervene when agreed standards are not met.

Consider the Objectives Ethanol Can Help Meet

RAHUL TONGIA

Science alone makes ethanol seem like an inefficient fuel. The conversion efficiency of sunlight-to-biomass-energy is a low percentage figure for sugarcane, compared to around 20% for sunlight-to-electricity through solar panels. And food security is sacrosanct. So, why go for ethanol?

The typical reason why a fuel is chosen is economics: People always want a cheaper alternative. But this isn't always a sufficient driver. Energy security is another consideration. A third factor, especially in the case of ethanol in India, is what we can call human-fiscal equilibrium. Even if ethanol doesn't save us money, it changes the recipient of this money - from foreign sellers of oil to India's farmers.



These are the reasons why ethanol should remain on the table as a component of our energy portfolio. More so, when it is in the form of vehicles capable of running on ethanol alone - the E100 category, for which the Centre has just released rules - which is distinct from a goal of 100%, economy-wide replacement of petroleum by ethanol.

The conventional argument against ethanol is that it comes from sugarcane, but India must prioritise sugar for food rather than divert cane for ethanol production. That doesn't always hold.

There are three routes of ethanol production from sugarcane: One, from cane juice (which impacts sugar production), from B-heavy molasses (which marginally impacts sugar production), and from C-heavy, residual molasses (which doesn't impact sugar production). India has shifted ethanol production away from the first type based on national needs.

Now, there is another aspect to the debate: the shift away from sugarcane to grains for ethanol production. In recent times, about two-thirds of India's ethanol need for 20% blending with petroleum has come from grains. This has involved fresh, fit-for-human-consumption grains and, crucially, reject-grains both.

Grain-based ethanol production not only reduced dependence on sugarcane but also resolved the seasonality challenge of extraction from the cane crop. Thus, the diversity of inputs already partly mitigates the impact on food security. Throw in technology-aided improvements in productivity and new farming techniques such as precision and vertical farming, and the pressures on land and food supply ease to a fair degree. In case of a bumper harvest exceeding food security needs, the excess grains can be directed towards fuel production.

That said, how much ethanol is optimal is a complex question. Complete substitution of imported fuels isn't the goal even though blending offers both direct savings and increased financial value as a hedge-fuel against swings of the oil market.

Against such a backdrop, a blending range offering, based on macroeconomic and agricultural realities, would perhaps offer more flexibility than a static blend mandate, with accompanying innovation in vehicle technology to facilitate different levels of blended-fuel uptake. Flexible vehicles that tolerate different levels of blending will also be instrumental in addressing several concerns of owners about vehicle fitness that have arisen (though not always founded in science) after ethanol substitution was rolled out.

Powering agri-R&D also must be made concurrent with ethanol-based substitution: The holy grail isn't just better conversion of starches into sugars but the ability to use cellulosic agricultural products and wastes; this would dramatically increase fuel availability without impacting food security. To that end, there is a long enough window for us to act. Higher ethanol use will not happen overnight, and needs a large ecosystem to align.

Consumers need to be compensated for the lower energy density (per litre) of ethanol, which brings us to a key challenge for ethanol substitution: the impact on government finances. India heavily depends on taxes on fossil fuels, and ethanol may or may not get taxed similarly. But read against oil price volatility, the savings on the import front from blending may compensate for the losses on the tax front. Additionally, in the case of petrol (not diesel), the larger risk to government revenue comes from electric vehicles.

Thus, any conversation on ethanol has to be more holistic than it currently is. There are issues that need to be worked out - which, in turn, need a range of stakeholders to align (if not always on solutions, then at least on the larger objectives) - but this most certainly doesn't obviate the value of ethanol substitution.

It is also important to consider the second-order gains for the economy: Once the pressure to meet transport fuel needs from crude refining is lowered, it will free up crude supply for other petrochemicals of higher-value-add or production of larger volumes of refined fuel for exports.

Ultimately, the ethanol question for India boils down to all the objectives it can meet, not the blending-mandate-versus-food-security one alone.

Energy Security Must Not Compromise Food Security

AMITABH KANT

India's ethanol programme is one of its clearest energy security successes, reaching 20% blending (E20) five years ahead of the 2030 target and cutting the crude import bill. The government has now notified rules allowing flex-fuel vehicles to be certified to run on E85 and E100. The notification enables these fuels rather than mandating them.

Any meaningful uptake would raise demand substantially, as an E100 vehicle runs almost entirely on ethanol and, because ethanol carries less energy, needs more fuel per kilometre than an E20 vehicle. Meeting this demand would depend heavily on sugarcane, rice and maize, which will compete for the land, water, and grain India needs for food and animal feed.

The question is how much the country can afford to divert. Events over the past month suggest the margin is already thin.

Earlier this month, the government directed oil marketing companies to bring sugar diversion for ethanol down to zero for the 2026-27 supply year, amid concerns over sugar output after weak rains.

The same tender, seeking around 11 billion litres, cut the price for maize-based ethanol by ?3 a litre. Maize was already the largest feedstock in 2024-25, supplying nearly half of India's ethanol, and with cane juice and B-heavy molasses excluded this year, distilleries will need considerably more of it. The pressure on maize is already reshaping what farmers grow.

The Economic Survey 2025-26 warns that ethanol's price signals are pulling farmland towards maize and away from pulses and oilseeds, which risks entrenching India's dependence on edible oil imports. The Survey calls this an emerging tension between Aatmanirbharta in energy and Aatmanirbharta in food.

Rice tells a similar story where between June 2025 and June 2026, the Food Corporation of India (FCI) supplied 6.35 million tonnes of rice to distilleries at nearly 40% below its acquisition cost, effectively extending economic support to ethanol through the food system.

A further 7.2 million tonnes has been allocated for 2026-27. With central stocks in July at nearly three times the buffer norm, this is surplus grain for now. But surplus depends on good monsoons and open-ended procurement.

On-Ground Protection Fails If Police Remains Inacessible

KUMAR ASHISH

A woman who gathers the courage to report domestic abuse, a girl threatened with online blackmail, and a child rescued from trafficking share one fundamental expectation that the law will protect them, society will support them, and justice will not come too late. For a police officer, these are human lives whose dignity and future depend, in part, on how effectively institutions respond. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023, which came into force on July 1, 2024, provides an important foundation for strengthening the protection of women and children. Its dedicated chapter on offences against women and children, read alongside the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, and specialised legislation such as the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, offers an opportunity to advance more responsive and accessible justice. The challenge is to translate this legal framework into everyday security. BNS's promise must find expression in trust, prevention, timely protection and rehabilitation.

The first interaction between a complainant and the police can determine whether a person feels empowered to seek justice or retreats into silence. A sensitive response can prevent further harm; indifference can deepen the trauma. The growing misuse of artificial intelligence and social-media platforms makes cyber awareness and specialised investigative skills essential. Police personnel must be trained in digital forensics, evidence preservation, and victim-sensitive procedures. Families and educational institutions must also help children recognise grooming, coercion, and online exploitation.



That policing must be accessible, proactive, and compassionate, informs AAWAZ DO, an initiative developed to address concerns involving women's safety, harassment, online exploitation, dowry-related abuse and domestic difficulties. With women police personnel playing a leading role, the initiative sought to make grievance reporting more accessible and ensure timely assistance. Started in October 2024 in collaboration with the district administration, district judiciary and civil society organisations such as Mission Mukti Foundation, its reported outcomes in Saran district of Bihar included the rescue of more than 300 minor girls from human-trafficking networks and assistance to over 800 women facing online extortion, blackmail, coercive demands and domestic or dowry-related difficulties. More than enforcement outcomes, these figures reflect the importance of creating channels through which vulnerable citizens can approach the police before their circumstances deteriorate further. The larger lesson of AAWAZ DO is that specialised, accessible policing can help bridge the gap between legal provisions and people's lived experiences. Such initiatives require trained personnel, clear operating procedures, confidentiality safeguards and effective coordination with medical, legal and rehabilitation services. They must complement the statutory responsibilities of police stations and be evaluated through verifiable outcomes. The law becomes a living assurance of justice when the most vulnerable citizen knows where to turn and trusts that someone will respond.

Human trafficking demands coordinated action across districts and states. Investigations must pursue not only immediate perpetrators but also the networks that recruit, transport and exploit victims. However, rescuing a child is only the beginning. Safe accommodation, medical care, psychological support, educational continuity and long-term rehabilitation are essential to prevent renewed exploitation. Victims need support throughout the justice process, delivered with dignity and sensitivity.

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India, South Africa discuss ways to enhance bilateral cooperation

■ AGENCY

Pretoria: India and South Africa held the 12th round of Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) in Pretoria, reviewing their Strategic Partnership, exploring avenues to expand bilateral cooperation and discussing regional and global issues of mutual interest, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Thursday.

According to the MEA, during the consultations held on Wednesday, both sides reviewed the entire spectrum of the Strategic Partnership, including high-level exchanges, institutional mechanisms and cooperation in areas such as trade and investment, defence and security, development partnership, science & technology, education, counter-terrorism, cheetah conservation, culture and people-to-people ties.

They also exchanged views on regional and global issues of mutual interest, including cooperation in multilateral fora.

The Indian delegation was led by Janesh Kain, Joint Secretary (East & Southern Africa), MEA, and the South African delegation was led by Ambassador David Malcomson, Acting Deputy Director General, Directorate of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO).



"India and South Africa share historically close and friendly relations marked by regular high-level visits and other exchanges. The year 2027 will mark the 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Strategic Partnership between the two countries, providing an important milestone to further strengthen and diversify bilateral cooperation," the MEA stated.

Both sides also reaffirmed their commitment to deepen the India - South Africa Strategic Partnership and agreed to hold the next round of Foreign Office Consultations in India at a mutually convenient date.

Earlier in September, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held a meeting with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa on the sidelines of the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi, where the two leaders discussed bilateral ties and global issues of mutual interest.

"They affirmed that the close and longstanding relations between India and South Africa is rooted in shared historical struggles, strong cultural affinities, robust economic ties, and deep people-to-people connections," the MEA mentioned in a statement.

PM Modi stated that India and South Africa will work closely for Africa's progress, the priorities of the Global South, and a more balanced global order. "Delighted to meet President Cyril Ramaphosa on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in Delhi. We reviewed the full breadth of the India-South Africa Strategic Partnership, including: The India-SACU trade agreement. Mining and critical minerals. Infrastructure. Food security. DPI and emerging technologies. Skilling. Our partnership is rooted in history and firmly focused on the future. We will work closely for Africa's progress, the priorities of the Global South and a more balanced global order," PM Modi posted on X, following the meeting.

Ten killed as passenger vehicle plunges off road in Nepal's Makawanpur



■ AGENCY

Kathmandu: At least 10 people were killed, and four others were injured when an electric passenger vehicle plunged off a road in central Nepal's Makawanpur district on Thursday morning, a senior Armed Police Force (APF) officer said.

"The dead included five men, three women and two children as the vehicle plunged around 700 metres below the road at Chisapani Gadhi in Bhimphedi Rural Municipality-6 of the district early Thursday morning," Superintendent of Police Niwan Kumar Khadka of the APF, who is stationed in the district, told IANS. "Of those injured, two are in serious condition."

The APF said the passenger vehicle was carrying 15 people and was travelling from the capital, Kathmandu, to Malangawa, the district headquarters of the southern Sarlahi district.

"Of those injured, three are receiving treatment at Hetauda Hospital in the provincial capital of Bagmati Province," Khadka said.

After receiving information about the accident early in the morning, security personnel were deployed to the scene.

"There were 12 bodies scattered around the area, and 10 of them were immediately confirmed dead," Khadka said. He added that the cause of the accident had not yet been established.

According to Nepal Police, 2,707 people were killed in road accidents during the 2025-26 fiscal year, which ended in mid-July. The country has been recording an average of seven road fatalities and 82 injuries every day, police data show.

A World Bank study in Nepal found that the economic cost of road traffic injuries has tripled since 2007 and is equivalent to 1.5 per cent of the country's gross national product.

Road crashes also have a devastating and disproportionate impact on poor communities. More than 70 percent of all road fatality victims in Nepal are vulnerable road users, including pedestrians, cyclists and motorcyclists, the World Bank said.

According to Nepal Police records, overspeeding is the most common traffic rule violation in the country, followed by driver negligence and operating vehicles without a licence.

Durga Temple vandalised in Bangladesh; another Hindu man found murdered

■ AGENCY

Dhaka: In yet another disturbing incident targeting a Hindu place of worship in Bangladesh, a goddess Durga temple located inside Laxminarayan Cotton Mill in the Siddhirganj area of Narayanganj was vandalised, local media reported.

Knit Concern Group, a ready-made garment manufacturing company, has been accused of blocking access to the temple and carrying out the vandalism.

Police took the group's director, Monir Hossain Mollah, and security department in-charge Ibrahim into custody on Wednesday evening for questioning in connection with the incident.

According to Bangladeshi Bengali daily Dhaka Tribune, Narayanganj Additional Superintendent of Police (Crime) Tarek Al Mehedi confirmed the development and said, "We are talking about the land-related complications between the temple committee and the Knit Concern Group. We are looking at how to resolve the issue. On the other hand, the temple committee has also complained about vandalism and obstruction of entry to the temple. Action is being taken to take action in that regard."



According to Tarun Lal Begi, the General Secretary of Laxminarayan Cotton Mills Durga Temple Committee, the temple gate's existing lock was removed on Tuesday evening and replaced with a new one to prevent people from entering the premises.

He alleged that members of the Knit Concern Group carried out the act in defiance of the administration's instructions. He further claimed that the group's director, Monir Hossain Mollah, along with his associates, vandalised the decorations and pandal inside the temple.

Furthermore, amid continuing violence against minorities in Bangladesh, another Hindu man was found dead, with his body stuffed in a sack and dumped in the Mukteshwari River in Jashore district, local media reported.

The deceased, identified as 65-year-old Ranjan Mondal, who owned a fish farm, was found near Helarghat in the Mashiahati area of Monirampur upazila in Jashore on November 7.

Ro Khanna tops Indian American campaign cash list

■ AGENCY

Washington: Representative Ro Khanna reported $16.6 million in campaign cash as of now, the largest balance among eight Indian American House members and members-elect, as per a review of Federal Election Commission records. His campaign reported no debt.

The California Democrat's balance exceeded the roughly $11.1 million reported by the other seven combined.

Khanna's campaign reported receipts of $15.3 million and disbursements of $9.5 million during the 2026 election cycle through October 14. His accumulated cash balance was higher than his receipts during that period.

Among the other incumbents, Representative Pramila Jayapal of Washington reported $1.75 million in cash, while California's Ami Bera held $1.65 million.

Virginia's Suhas Subramanyam reported about $746,000. Jayapal and Subramanyam reported no debt; Bera reported $80,000.

Jayapal's campaign received $2.9 million and disbursed $3.2 million during the cycle. Bera reported receipts of $1.5 million and disbursements of $1.7 million. Subramanyam received $1.7 million and disbursed about $1.1 million over the same reporting period. The two Indian American members-elect reported substantially smaller cash reserves before their victories. Amish Shah, who defeated Republican Jay Feely in Arizona's 1st Congressional District, reported receipts of $5.7 million and disbursements of $5.5 million through October 14. He had about $206,000 remaining and nearly $37,000 in debt.

Democrats accuse US envoys of weakening Ukraine



■ AGENCY

Washington: Three senior congressional Democrats have accused President Donald Trump's envoys Jared Kushner and Steve Witkoff of weakening Ukraine's negotiating position and undermining NATO, urging the President to reject concessions they said would benefit Russia.

In a joint statement issued Wednesday (local time), Representatives Gregory Meeks and Adam Smith, together with Senator Jack Reed, challenged the envoys' approach to territorial questions and wider European security arrangements.

Meeks is the senior Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. Smith and Reed hold the corresponding positions on the House and Senate Armed Services committees.

African American Democrat makes history elected from Mississippi to Senate; boosts party's ranks to 55

■ AGENCY

New York: Scott Colom has made history by becoming the first African American elected from Mississippi to the US Senate in 151 years, vaulting the Democratic Party's tally to 55 in the upper chamber of Congress. Republican Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith conceded defeat to him on Wednesday after the media called the election for Colom, who leads with 4,669 votes or less than half a per cent. "I kept the faith," Colom said at his victory rally in Jackson, recalling how everyone thought it was unlikely he could win in a diehard Republican state with a history of racism. "All I did was have the courage to imagine a night like this," he said. He is also the first Democrat to win a statewide race in the deep red state in 44 years. "I respect the decision of Mississippi voters," Hyde-Smith said in a video message, "I want to congratulate Scott Colom and wish him well as he takes on the tremendous responsibility of representing our great state."



With only one more Senate contest to be declared, the Democrats' blue tsunami puts the party in firm control of the 100-member Senate. Counting is still continuing in Alaska, where Democrat Mary Pelotola has a slim lead over Republican Dan Sullivan amid a controversy over an independent candidate with a name similar to his entering the race. Republicans say Democrats put up the similarly named candidate to confuse voters. There is a sense of irony in Colom's victory because Hyde-Smith had blocked his appointment as a federal judge, prompting him to run for Senate. Colom was a public prosecutor. He was helped by a misstep by Hyde-Smith, who was asked by an interviewer about the high price of beef, and she said, "You have so many proteins to choose from." Colom turned that around against her, telling voters they had a choice in electing a senator.

Democratic veterans press for end to Iran war

■ AGENCY

Washington: Democratic military veterans in Congress and newly elected colleagues called for an end to the Iran war, as their party used Veterans Day to press for stronger protections for service members and expanded access to veterans' healthcare. Representative Chris Deluzio, a Pennsylvania Democrat and Iraq War veteran, announced the joint appeal on Wednesday (local time) under a call to end the conflict and stand with veterans.

DNC Chairman Ken Martin and the party's Veterans and Military Families Council co-chairs, Otto Lee and Marge Hoffa, said honouring military service also required scrutiny of decisions that put troops in danger.

They pledged to seek an end to the conflict while pursuing lower costs, broader healthcare access and protections for military families.

Separately, Senator Tammy Duckworth urged Congress to pass legislation extending protections for veterans exposed to toxic substances during the Iran war. Speaking on Veterans Day in Belleville, Illinois, the Illinois Democrat said her New PACT for Iran Veterans Act would address gaps that could prevent returning personnel from receiving care and benefits. The proposal would establish a presumption of toxic exposure for veterans who served in Iran, including its airspace and territorial waters, according to her office. It would also require periodic reviews of overseas assignments for toxic hazards and a review within 180 days when the military begins a contingency operation. "Because no servicemember should fight a war overseas only to come home and be faced with another battle to get the care they've rightfully earned through their service," Duckworth said.

Engulfed by scandals, AI chip powerhouse Nvidia's CEO Huang facing ouster: Reports

■ AGENCY

New York: Engulfed by scandals, Jensen Huang, the CEO of Nvidia, whose chips are a driving force in the AI revolution, is facing ouster by the company's board, a development with far-reaching consequences for the US economy and its technological leadership.

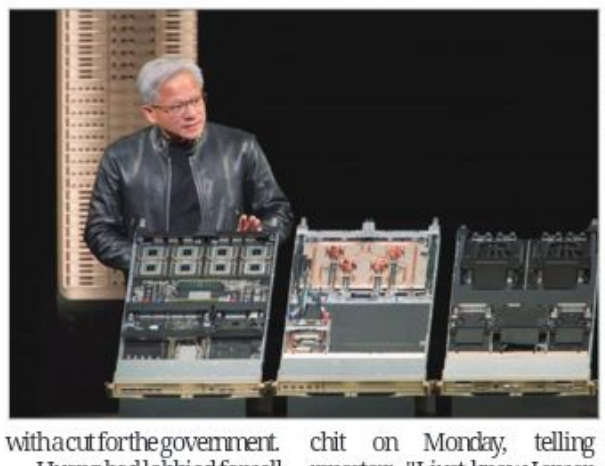
The board was meeting Wednesday evening (local time in the US) to decide on the fate of Huang, who has admitted to an affair with a woman who is suspected of being a spy for China, and was reported to be involved with another woman working for him, according to several independent news reports.

In what could be a classic honeypot spy trap involving Alice Le Huang (not related to him despite the shared surname), the scandal reaches into the highest levels of technology, business and government.

The upheaval comes as President Donald Trump prepares to go to China for the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit next week, where he will meet with President Xi Jinping.

China has denied any intelligence links to Alice Huang.

Huang was closely identified with President Donald Trump, who loosened the ban on selling high-end chips to China by allowing him to sell a second-level chip to Beijing with a cut for the government.



Huang had lobbied for selling advanced chips to China, opposing the US ban to keep China from catching up with it in the AI race.

Trump gave him a clean chit on Monday, telling reporters, "I just know Jensen very well; I just think he's a very honourable man."

The scandal comes on the heels of the Republican Party rout in the midterm elections, and the party itself has called Huang for a closed-door briefing with the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee and threatened him with a subpoena if he does not come.

When the Democrats take over Congress next year, he and his links in the US and abroad will come in for greater scrutiny.

Huang built Nvidia from a chipmaker for gaming computers to the lynchpin of the AI revolution, powering virtually all major Western AI companies and helping keep the US lead in the domain.

The danger to US AI dominance is that Huang kept an iron-fisted control over the company without a hierarchy or an obvious successor to him, and that could cloud the company's future.

About 60 department heads reported directly to him, and a successor would have to not only wield the same level of control but also be knowledgeable enough and capable of continuing the company's pioneering work.

The company stock fell from its peak of $243.37 on October 6 to $158.78 in after-hours trading on Wednesday, a decline of nearly 35 per cent, and acting as a drag on many indexes.

Nvidia was the richest US company by value but, as the scandal unravelled.

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Astrobase to Invest Rs 800 Crore in Andhra Pradesh

■ SP BUREAU

Visakhapatnam : Astrobase Space Technologies on Thursday announced an investment of Rs 800 crore in Andhra Pradesh to significantly expand its rocket testing and launch vehicle development infrastructure, marking a major step in strengthening India's private space transportation ecosystem.

The space technology company signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Andhra Pradesh Economic Development Board during the 31st CII Partnership Summit 2026 in Visakhapatnam to expand its existing rocket engine testing facility at Thimmasamudram in Sri Sathya Sai district.

Under the expansion plan, Astrobase will add 339 acres to its existing facility,



increasing the total footprint to around 360 acres from approximately 22 acres at present.

Commenting on the development, Astrobase Space Technologies CEO and Co-founder Neeraj Khandelwal said the expansion marks a significant milestone in Astrobase's efforts to build advanced space transportation capabilities from India.

"This expanded infrastructure will enable us to undertake critical testing programmes, including static hot-fire tests and stage-level hop tests, while accelerating the development of reusable launch vehicle technologies," Khandelwal noted.

"India has already demonstrated remarkable prowess in space exploration and technology. The next frontier is to translate this strength into the ability to transport payloads to space more frequently, reliably and at scale," he added.

The project is expected to generate around 500 direct jobs and nearly 1,000 indirect employment opportunities in the region.

The announcement comes shortly after Astrobase unveiled plans to invest Rs 500 crore in Karnataka for a dedicated manufacturing facility in Bengaluru.

The proposed unit will house advanced additive manufacturing and fabrication infrastructure, non-destructive testing and quality inspection facilities, along with engine and stage assembly capabilities to support the development of its Everest engine and AB220 medium-lift launch vehicle programme.

The two-day 31st CII Partnership Summit, being held in Visakhapatnam on November 12-13, is organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in association with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) and hosted by the Andhra Pradesh government.

The summit is expected to facilitate investment proposals worth up to Rs 11 lakh crore and create around 2.5 lakh jobs across sectors.

GreenLine deploys electric trucks for Kirloskar Ferrous' logistics operations

■ AGENCY

Mumbai : GreenLine Mobility Solutions Ltd., an Essar Group venture and India's leading green logistics operator of LNG and electric-powered heavy commercial trucks, announced its partnership with Kirloskar Ferrous Industries Limited for the deployment of electric trucks to support its logistics operations.

The partnership was marked by the flag-off of electric trucks at Kirloskar Ferrous' plant in Taloja in Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra. The deployment brings electric mobility into Kirloskar Ferrous' goods transportation, adding another application for lower-emission solutions in industrial logistics.

The collaboration reflects the evolving role of alternative-fuel transportation in industrial supply chains, with businesses exploring solutions that can support their environmental objectives alongside operational requirements.

Commenting on the partnership, Madhur Taneja, CEO, GreenLine Mobility Solutions Ltd., said: "At GreenLine, we are focused on advancing lower-emission freight transportation through solutions suited to different logistics requirements. LNG continues to play an important role in our approach to decarbonising long-haul transportation, while electric trucks offer opportunities in applications suited to electric mobility. Our partnership with Kirloskar Ferrous marks a further step in expanding our electric truck deployments and working with businesses to integrate cleaner transportation solutions into their supply chains."



Piyush Goyal to inaugurate 45th India International Trade Fair

■ SPNN

New Delhi : Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal is set to inaugurate the 45th India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2026, organised by the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), on Friday at Bharat Mandapam here, an official statement said on Thursday. The event from November 14-27



will bring together more than 3,500 exhibitors from India and abroad across 17 halls, covering over 1,00,000 square metres of exhibition space. The first five days, from November 14-18, will be 'Business Days' reserved for B2B visitors, and the Fair will open to the general public from November 19-27. It will witness participation from 32 states and Union Territories and 51 Central Ministries, Government Departments, PSUs and Public Sector Banks. Bihar, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh are the Partner States, while Assam, Delhi, Jharkhand and West Bengal are the Focus States. The participating States and UTs will showcase their regional products, local industries, traditional crafts, culture, tourism potential and development initiatives.

"International participation will include 11 countries, with pavilions featuring exhibitors from Thailand, Iran, Ghana, Nepal, Afghanistan, the UAE, Turkey, China, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh, providing opportunities for international business engagement and trade linkages," according to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Jawed Ashraf, Chairman, India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), said that 'IITF 2026' will celebrate India's progress, diversity and heritage, with a special focus on youth through around 600 startups at the Hall of Inspiration and district-level crafts, cuisine and culture at the ODOP Pavilion.

Alkem Labs' Q2 profit falls 12 pc to Rs 675 crore

■ AGENCY

Mumbai : Pharmaceutical major Alkem Laboratories on Thursday reported an 11.8 per cent year-on-year (YoY) decline in consolidated net profit to Rs 675 crore for the quarter ended September 2026 (Q2 FY 27), even as strong growth in domestic and international businesses helped drive double-digit revenue expansion.

The company's consolidated net profit fell from Rs 765 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year (Q2 FY 26), according to its stock exchange filing.

During the quarter, Alkem also recorded a one-time gain of Rs 35 crore. Revenue from operations rose 13.8 per cent to Rs 4,552 crore in Q2FY 27 from Rs 4,001 crore a year earlier, supported by healthy growth across key markets.

At the operating level, earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) increased 11.3 per cent year-on-year to Rs 1,025 crore, compared with Rs 921 crore in the year-ago period.

However, EBITDA margin narrowed to 22.5 per cent from 23 per cent a year ago.

The company's India business continued to remain its largest revenue contributor, with domestic sales rising 9.5 per cent year-on-year to Rs 3,027.5 crore.



The domestic market accounted for 68 per cent of total sales during the quarter, compared with 70 per cent in the corresponding period last year.

According to IQVIA data, Alkem's domestic business grew 13.8 per cent during the quarter, largely in line with the Indian Pharmaceutical Market.

Its acute portfolio expanded 12.1 per cent, while the chronic segment grew 22.4 per cent, significantly outpacing market growth of 16 per cent.

The company also outperformed the broader market across several focus therapies, including vitamins, minerals and nutrition, pain management, anti-diabetic, cardiac, urology, respiratory, neuro/CNS and dermatology.

Alkem's international business delivered robust growth, with sales rising 22.3 per cent year-on-year to Rs 1,454 crore.

US sales increased 2.4 per cent to Rs 783 crore despite continued pricing pressure, while non-US sales surged 58 per cent to Rs 671 crore. Excluding the impact of Occlutech, non-US business growth stood at 28.6 per cent.

India's commercial real estate investment rises 15 pc in Jan-Sep: Report

■ SP BUREAU

New Delhi : Investment in India's commercial real estate sector rose 15 per cent year-on-year in the first nine months of 2026, while cross-border inflows reached $5.5 billion, according to a report released on Thursday.

The growth came as commercial real estate investment across the Asia-Pacific region climbed 27 per cent from a year earlier to nearly $200 billion during the period, according to a report by Savills. India remains one of the few markets in the region offering both relatively high rental yields and income growth, it added.



Grade A office assets in the country generate yields of 7.75 per cent-8 per cent, while rents are increasing by up to 8 per cent annually. "India continues to strengthen its position as an attractive destination for global real estate investors," Anurag Mathur, chief executive of Savills India, said.

Strong occupier demand, healthy rental growth and competitive yields were supporting investor confidence, while growing interest from overseas buyers reflected both current returns and long-term growth prospects, he added.

The report also highlighted India's urbanisation trend, noting that around 36 per cent of the population lives in cities and that about 12 million people are being added to urban areas every year. Across Asia-Pacific, investment activity remained concentrated among large institutional investors. The 25 biggest buyers accounted for 47 per cent of regional deal volumes in the first half of 2026, up from 34 per cent two years earlier. Among property segments, data centres posted the strongest growth with investment volumes rising 79 per cent year-on-year, followed by retail assets at 36 per cent.

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited clocks 16 pc rise in its Q2 profit to Rs 1,936 crore

■ SPNN

Bengaluru : State-run aerospace and defence major Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) on Thursday reported a 16 per cent year-on-year (YoY) increase in consolidated net profit to Rs 1,936 crore for the second quarter ended September 2026 (Q2 FY 27), aided by healthy revenue growth, although pressure on margins weighed on investor sentiment.

The company's net profit rose from Rs 1,669 crore in the corresponding quarter of the previous financial year (Q2 FY 26), according to its stock exchange filing.

Revenue from operations grew 14.8 per cent to Rs 7,613 crore during the quarter, compared with Rs 6,629 crore a year earlier.

However, operating performance remained under pressure. Earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation (EBITDA) increased 11.6 per cent year-on-year to Rs 1,739 crore.

EBITDA margin narrowed to 22.8 per cent from 23.5 per cent in the year-ago quarter, as per its regulatory filing.

The decline in margins came as total expenses climbed sharply to Rs 6,132 crore in the September quarter from Rs 5,296 crore a year ago.

However, HAL shares fell as much as 4.15 per cent during the day to an intra-day low of Rs 4,738.80 apiece.

During noon trade, the stock was trading 2.45 per cent lower at Rs 4,822.65.

Despite the post-results decline, brokerage firm CLSA maintained a positive outlook on the defence manufacturer.

The foreign brokerage raised its target price on HAL to Rs 5,625 from Rs 5,581 and retained its 'Outperform' rating.

CLSA said it expects deliveries of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mk1A to commence soon and believes recent remarks by Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh on restoring the Indian Air Force's combat strength to its sanctioned level support the view that the programme faces no fundamental hurdles.



Govt signs Rs 64 crore deal with Astrome for AI-enabled intelligence satellite constellation

■ AGENCY

New Delhi : The Technology Development Board (TDB) has signed an agreement with Bengaluru-based Astrome Technologies to provide financial support of Rs 64.05 crore for the development of an indigenous artificial intelligence-enabled electronic intelligence satellite constellation aimed at national security applications, an official statement said on Thursday.

The project -- with a total cost of Rs 128.11 crore -- will be funded under the Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund and seeks to develop a sovereign space-based electronic intelligence, or ELINT, constellation, according to a statement from the Ministry of Science and Technology.



"The programme seeks to advance critical technologies from Technology Readiness Level (TRL)-4 to TRL-9, with financial support being provided through Optionally Convertible Debt (OCD)," it said.

Astrome plans to develop and deploy a constellation of 50-kg class microsatellites designed to provide wider coverage and more frequent observation of designated areas. The company will also develop inter-satellite communication technology, allowing satellites to exchange information and operate as an integrated network in low-Earth orbit.

The project is intended to strengthen India's indigenous capabilities in space-based intelligence gathering, data processing and secure communications, as countries increasingly look to space-based systems for strategic and security applications.

Rajesh Kumar Pathak, TDB Secretary, said the programme reflected the potential of India's deep-tech ecosystem to develop advanced space-based technologies combining artificial intelligence, electronic intelligence and next-generation communications.

Astrome said the funding would help accelerate the development and integration of critical technologies and support efforts to advance the programme to operational readiness.

Earlier in October, the TDB signed an agreement with Manastu Space Technologies Private Limited for financial support of Rs 116 crore under the RDI Fund. The project, costing Rs 277.63 crore, focuses on developing a scalable, integrated green propulsion system for satellites and launch vehicles across the 5 mN to 300 N thrust class, according to the government.

Beyond Books: Why Vocational Education Now Starts in Middle School

For generations, the path to success for an Indian student has been seen as a straight line: study hard, score high, get into a good college, and earn a degree.



But the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 is rewriting this rulebook. It is introducing vocational education much earlier; not as a fallback for poor performers, but as a vital part of a well-rounded education. For students in classes 8th to 10th, this is a game-changing opportunity to explore the world of work before making big career decisions. Under the Samagra Shiksha scheme, vocational modules are now being offered to students from Class 9 onwards as an additional subject. But the exposure starts even earlier.

The NEP recommends "bagless days" and fun-learning courses in Classes 6 to 8, where students get hands-on experience in activities like carpentry, plumbing, and pottery. This is not about training for a specific job yet; it is about awakening a different kind of intelligence-the intelligence of the hands. Why is this important for a 13 or 14-year-old? Because the teenage brain is discovering its interests.

Hands-On Learning: Why Vocational Education Suits Different Learning Styles

Not everyone learns the same way. Some students can read a chapter in a textbook and understand everything perfectly. They are the "academic" learners. But many students are different. They learn best by doing. They need to touch, build, experiment, and see the results of their work. For these students, the traditional classroom can be a frustrating place. Vocational education is the answer they have been waiting for. The Indian education system has long been dominated by rote learning-memorizing facts and formulas to pass exams. This system often fails to engage students who are kinesthetic learners, those who learn through movement and physical activity. These students might be labeled as "distracted" or "not serious" about their studies, when in reality, they are simply wired differently.



Vocational education, with its focus on practical training, is perfectly suited for these hands-on learners. When you learn a trade like carpentry, electronics, or baking, you are not just reading about it; you are doing it. You are using your hands, your senses, and your problem-solving skills in a real-world context. This type of learning is deeply engaging and highly effective. The NEP 2020 recognizes this and has made it a priority to integrate vocational education into the mainstream. The goal is to eliminate the hard separation between "vocational" and "academic" streams. This is a recognition that all learning is valuable, and all students deserve an education that suits their strengths. For a student in Class 8 or 9 who feels bored or disengaged in traditional classes, a vocational subject can be a revelation. It can reignite your love for learning. It can show you that you are smart, capable, and talented-just in a different way. You might struggle to memorize a history timeline, but you might be a natural at diagnosing and fixing a faulty machine. You might find essay writing difficult, but you might have a gift for creating beautiful, functional objects. Vocational education is not a "lesser" path. It is a different path, and for many students, it is the better path. It respects your learning style. It builds your confidence. It teaches you skills that are in demand. It is an education for your head, your heart, and your hands.

Your Life, Your Path: How Vocational Education Lets You Design Your Own Future



One of the biggest pressures facing students in classes 8th to 10th is the pressure to conform. Everyone is expected to follow the same path: study hard, get good marks, choose a "respectable" stream like Science or Commerce, and then go to college. But what if that path doesn't fit you? What if your talents and interests lie elsewhere? Vocational education offers a powerful alternative: the freedom to design your own path. The traditional education system is like a train on a fixed track. It takes you from one station to the next, but you have very little say in where it goes. Vocational education, on the other hand, is like a map with many roads. You can choose the road that leads to your destination. You can change roads if you discover a new interest. You can even create your own road.

The NEP 2020's emphasis on vocational education is a recognition that students are not all the same. They have different talents, different learning styles, and different dreams. Some students thrive in a university lecture hall. Others thrive in a workshop, a studio, or a laboratory. Both paths are valid. Both paths lead to success. The National Credit Framework (NCrF) is a crucial tool in this new approach. It allows you to earn credits for your vocational training, which can be transferred to academic programs. This means you are not locked into one path. You can move between vocational and academic streams. You can pursue a vocational qualification and later decide to go to college. You can start working and later decide to upgrade your skills. Your education becomes a lifelong journey, not a one-time event.

For a student in Class 9 or 10, this is incredibly liberating. You are not forced to choose between being "academic" or "practical." You can be both. You can study Mathematics and also learn coding. You can study History and also learn photography. You can build a future that is uniquely yours, based on your strengths and your passions. The government has approved over 138 job roles across various sectors, giving you a vast menu of options to choose from. You can explore these options, try them out, and see what fits. Your future is not a pre-written script. It is a blank page, and vocational education gives you the pen to write your own story.

The Jobs of Tomorrow: How Vocational Education Bridges India's Skill Gap



India has a unique problem. On one hand, millions of young people graduate from schools and colleges every year, eager to find work. On the other hand, industries complain that they cannot find workers with the right skills. This is the "skill gap"-the disconnect between what is taught in classrooms and what is needed in the real world. For students in classes 8th to 10th, understanding this gap is crucial because vocational education is the bridge that can help you cross it. The world of work is changing rapidly. Globalization and new technologies are creating jobs that require 21st-century skills and advanced vocational training.

These are not just jobs for the future; they are jobs that exist right now. From drone operators and solar panel technicians to data analysts and AI specialists, the demand for skilled workers is soaring. Yet, our traditional education system has focused almost entirely on academic subjects, leaving a massive shortage of skilled talent. This is where vocational education comes in. By offering NSQF-aligned courses in schools, the government is trying to create a workforce that is ready for the demands of the modern economy. For a student in Class 9 or 10, choosing a vocational subject is not about giving up on academics. It is about adding a practical, marketable skill to your toolkit. It is about making yourself employable. Consider the sectors that are booming. The healthcare sector needs trained General Duty Assistants and Home Health Aides.

Skills for the 21st Century: How Vocational Education Prepares You for Tomorrow's Jobs

The world is changing at an incredible pace. The jobs that exist today might be automated tomorrow. New industries are emerging, and old ones are transforming. In this rapidly evolving landscape, what is the best way for a student in classes 8th to 10th to prepare for the future? The answer is not just a strong academic record. It is a set of practical, adaptable skills. This is where vocational education shines. Vocational education is no longer just about traditional trades like plumbing and carpentry. While these are important, modern vocational education encompasses cutting-edge fields like Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Blockchain, and Cybersecurity. These are the skills that will define the future economy. By introducing these subjects in schools, the government is preparing students for the jobs of tomorrow, not just the jobs of today.



The Employability Skills module, which is a mandatory part of all vocational courses, is a game-changer. It teaches communication skills, self-management, information and communication technology skills, entrepreneurship, and green skills. These are the "soft skills" that employers value above all else. They are the skills that allow you to adapt to any job, in any industry, at any time. They are the skills that make you future-ready. For a student in Class 9 or 10, learning a vocational skill is like buying an insurance policy for your career. It gives you options. If you decide to go to college, you have a practical skill to fall back on. If you decide to start working after school, you have a qualification that employers recognize. If you decide to start your own business, you have the entrepreneurial skills to make it happen.

The government has approved a wide range of job roles for Classes 9 to 12, from AI Devices Installation Operator to Solar Panel Installation Technician. These are not just jobs; they are careers in growing, future-proof industries. By choosing a vocational subject, you are not limiting your options; you are expanding them. You are building a foundation of skills that will serve you for a lifetime. The future belongs to those who are adaptable, skilled, and curious. Vocational education is the perfect training ground for these qualities.

Earn While You Learn: The Path to Early Financial Freedom

Every teenager dreams of financial independence. The ability to buy what you want, treat your family, and not have to ask for pocket money is a powerful motivator. For most students in classes 8th to 10th, this dream feels far away, something that will happen only after years of college and then a job. But vocational education offers a shortcut. It offers a path to start earning much sooner than you might think. The traditional academic route is long. Four years of college followed by the struggle to find a job can take a toll, both financially and emotionally. Vocational education, on the other hand, is focused and practical. It gives you the specific skills you need to enter the workforce quickly. For students who want to start their careers early, it is a smart and viable choice. The government's Samagra Shiksha scheme offers vocational courses from Class 9 onwards.



While these are primarily for skill development, they lay the foundation for future employment. After Class 12, the opportunities multiply. You can pursue advanced vocational training, apprenticeships, or even start working in your chosen field. The National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) ensures that your skills are recognized and certified, making you a credible candidate for jobs. The stories of young people who have taken this path are inspiring. Anurag, who missed her Class 10 exams due to hospitalization, found her way into healthcare through a General Duty Assistant program. She now earns a stipend of Rs 14,000 and has a clear goal of becoming a qualified nurse.

Anshu, who wanted to support his family while studying, enrolled in a Retail Management program and now earns Rs 18,000 as an intern, while also pursuing his dream of becoming a lawyer. These are not exceptions; they are examples of what is possible. Vocational education gives you the power to earn while you learn. It gives you the confidence that comes from being self-reliant. It allows you to contribute to your family's income and save for your own future.



'Rely on seam, not swing,

' Nabi reveals Rohit, Kohli's advice in

■ AGENCY

Mount Maunganui: India pacer Auqib Nabi said the advice he got from Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Shubman Gill was to rely on seam movement rather than swing while bowling with the white-ball in New Zealand, citing that their reasoning was batters at the highest level are good enough to handle the moving ball.

Nabi, 30, has taken two wickets in his four ODIs so far - both coming in India's rain-affected victory over New Zealand in Wellington. Before that, he warmed up for the series with figures of 3-69 and 3-28 for India A against New ZealandA in Lincoln.

"Actually, this is my first time bowling in New Zealand. So it's a little different here. You have to depend more on the seam movement because the top level batsmen can play the swing. So that was their feedback. If you do a scrambled seam ball or hit the deck, there is a chance to get more wickets here," Nabi said in the pre-match press conference on the eve of the fourth ODI, with India 2-0 up after the third match was lost to rain in Hamilton.

In September, Nabi fulfilled a dream by making his debut for India in the second ODI against the West Indies in Guwahati, but on a flat pitch, he was smashed for 84 runs without taking a wicket. In New Zealand, where pitches have been familiar, Nabi said conditions in New Zealand were not very different from what he is used to at home in Jammu & Kashmir.

"I think it's similar in terms of weather because we have similar weather there as well. It's just that the opposition is a little different. This is an international level, that is a domestic level.

Mahli Beardman set for ODI debut against England, confirms Marsh

■ SPBUREAU

New Delhi: Australia's fast-bowling stocks will have a fresh face when they take on England in the opening ODI on Friday, with captain Mitch Marsh confirming that young Western Australian quick Mahli Beardman will make his international debut in the 50-over format on his home ground.

The 21-year-old pacer's selection offers him an opportunity to announce himself at the highest level in front of his home crowd, as Australia begin the series without their established pace trio of Pat Cummins, Mitchell Starc and Josh Hazlewood.

Marsh, who also represents Western Australia alongside Beardman, confirmed the youngster's place in the side during his pre-match press conference on Thursday. Australia will, however, disclose the remainder of their playing XI at the toss.

Beardman's elevation comes after a season in which he has had to work his way back from a back stress injury that kept him out for seven months following his T20 international debut against Pakistan in Lahore in January. He made an immediate impression in that first appearance, returning figures of 2-33.

The right-arm pacer resumed competitive cricket in September and subsequently made an impact during Australia A's 50-over tour of India. His five wickets across two matches included a haul of 4-23 in the opening game, where he dismissed Test players Sai Sudharsan and Devdutt Padikkal.

His ability to generate serious pace has added to the interest surrounding his arrival in the Australian side. Beardman has said he has regularly touched the mid-140kph range early in the domestic season, and is keen to make that aggression his defining feature.

Speaking ahead of the England series, he told cricket.com.au, "If I put my best foot forward and play some good cricket, then I know that there will be some opportunity there. It's just a stay ready piece at the moment for any Aussie stuff ... (keep) trying to bowl fast and (have that) be a little bit of a point of difference is my aim."

Australia's bowling combination will look relatively inexperienced beyond leg-spinner Adam Zampa and Xavier Bartlett, the second-most experienced specialist bowler in the squad.



Seifert Praises India's Bowling Unit



Wadia Backs Hardik's Championship Mindset

■ SPBUREAU

New Delhi: Punjab Kings chairman Ness Wadia has described Hardik as a proven match-winner who can strengthen the franchise's title ambitions, while also acknowledging Arshdeep Singh's contribution to the team following the trade that sees the Indian pacer move to a new franchise. Speaking on the developments, Wadia highlighted Hardik's versatility and decorated record, pointing to his success in international cricket and the IPL as qualities that could prove valuable to Punjab Kings as they look to mount a title challenge.

"Hardik is a proven match-winner. His ability to contribute across different roles makes him a valuable addition to the Punjab Kings squad. With three ICC trophies and five IPL titles to his name, he brings a premium level of experience and a championship mindset as we work towards our goal of becoming champions. We are delighted to welcome him to the family," Wadia said. The chairman also reflected on Arshdeep's association with Punjab Kings, describing the fast bowler's progress as a source of pride for the franchise. While the trade brings that chapter to a close, Wadia said the team wished him well in his next assignment. "Arshdeep's journey has been a special one for Punjab Kings, and we are incredibly proud of all that he has achieved, both with the franchise and for Indian cricket.

■ AGENCY

Mount Maunganui: New Zealand wicketkeeper-batter Tim Seifert said India's bowling attack was too well-rounded for his side to single out any one bowler to target in matches and credited the discipline shown by the visitors' line-up for keeping the hosts under pressure in the ongoing ODI series.

India currently lead the series 2-0 after the third match was lost to rain in Hamilton. In both of New Zealand's defeats in Auckland and Wellington, they were undone by Indian pacers Arshdeep Singh, Anshul Kamboj, Auqib Nabi and Gurnoor Brar, who's the leading wicket-taker of the series with seven scalps.

"They all bowl very well, they all do something slightly different. Having Arshdeep (Singh) as a left hander, I think it's crucial as well. But to be honest, they work well as a unit. They all do something a little bit different. To their credit, they didn't miss much on those wickets the last two games. I can't really target anyone individually; I think they do a very good job together," Seifert said in the pre-match press conference.

He also admitted that conditions had made life difficult for New Zealand's batters. "It's good. I think look, obviously the result hasn't necessarily gone our way, but we've obviously been put in some tricky situations with the wickets as well. So, look, it's a new bunch of guys here. A few guys have left (for the Test series starting on November 19), so we're just focusing on the next two games ahead."

Seifert further said the remaining matches were a chance for a changed side to come together ahead of the 2027 Men's ODI World Cup. "We always look to try and go out there and win every game.

"Don't get me wrong, you want to look win every series, but the big picture is obviously the World Cup coming up as well. So it's about you know learning and jellying as a team, and there's obviously a few changes as well, so it's giving those guys the opportunity."

He also expressed confidence that big-hitting batter Fin Allen would fit in comfortably in the middle order. "Look, he's a talented player. He's done very well for New Zealand also around the world as well. So with his skill set he can adapt where wherever. It'll be exciting to seeing him potentially come in the middle order there."

Seifert has been opening the batting in the series and confirmed he would also keep wicket in the fourth match. "I've enjoyed it. It's been a wee while - also opening the batting for the first time as well. My other games have been in the middle order, so it's been a new role as well, which I've enjoyed, and hopefully we can win a toss or have a good wicket. Yes, I will be keeping." Asked about changes in personnel on both sides for the last two games, Seifert said the challenge stayed the same, whoever took the field. "Oh look, to be honest, no matter who India play or whoever we play as well, we're out there for the challenge, and everyone's an international cricketer out there.

"So, whoever steps into their role, they're gonna try their best. Same with us, whoever steps into the role that the boys have left, everyone's gonna try their best as well," he concluded.



Srikanth beats world No. 8 Naraoka

■ AGENCY

Kumamoto: Former World No. 1 Kidambi Srikanth outplayed World No. 8 and home favourite Kodai Naraoka in a three-game thriller, advancing to the quarter-finals of the Japan Masters, a BWF World Tour Super 500 tournament here at the Kumamoto Prefectural Gymnasium.

Joining Srikanth in the last eight is newly crowned Hylo Open champion Lakshya Sen, who registered a comfortable win over his Chinese opponent.

Despite entering the match with a 0-4 head-to-head record against Naraoka, Srikanth showed great composure to take the opening game 21-15, winning seven consecutive points after trailing 12-14.

The Japanese shuttler fought back strongly to force a decider and held the early advantage in the last



game. However, Srikanth kept his nerve, drew level at 7-7 and regained control to close out the match 21-18 in 60 minutes.

This win was not Srikanth's only big one of the season. He beat Paris 2024 bronze medallist Lee Zii Jia of Malaysia en route to a runner-up finish at the US Open in June and stunned then world No. 9 Victor Lai of Canada to reach the China Masters Super 750 quarter-finals in September.

Srikanth will next face another Japanese opponent, World No. 15 Koki Watanabe, in the quarter-finals. Meanwhile, eighth seed Lakshya Sen continued his strong run with a dominant 21-8, 21-14 victory over China's Dong Tian Yao in 35 minutes. He will take on Japan's Yushi Tanaka for a place in the semi-finals. India's doubles challenge, however, came to an end on Thursday as men's doubles pair Hariharan Amsakarunan and MR Arjun, along with women's doubles duo Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand Pullela.

'The ceiling moved for Indian motorsport': Jeet Jhabakh 'proud' of historic APRC title win in debut season

■ SPNN

New Delhi: Indian racer Jeet Jhabakh reflected on winning the historic FIA Asia-Pacific Rally Championship title as he etched his name into the history books. Jeet, 34, and co-driver Musa Sherif, 55, became the first all-Indian driver and co-driver pair to win the overall APRC title, finishing with 73 points from the three rounds held this season, as the China



round was cancelled.

Jeet, who made his international debut this season, also defied convention by becoming the first driver in the 38-year history of the FIA APRC to win the title in a two-wheel-drive car, a feat never before achieved.

Speaking to IANS exclusively, Jeet opened up about his achievement in his first international season, admitting that the feeling of the win has not yet sunk in and that his victory has rightly raised the ceiling in Indian motorsport.

Chess continues to be part of Esports World Cup in 2027

■ AGENCY

Riyadh: Chess has been confirmed for the Esports World Cup 2027. For the third consecutive year, the world's best chess players will head to the EWC in pursuit of glory, aiming to defeat Magnus Carlsen, the Esports World Cup's two-time champion.

Since its debut in 2025, Chess has become a staple event at the Esports World Cup, attracting fans across the esports ecosystem and



the traditional Chess landscape as the game breaks boundaries, becoming a phenomenon both online and offline.

Having doubled its player contingent from the previous edition, India recorded its largest-ever representation in the Chess competition at Esports World Cup 2026, with four Grandmasters.

Nihal Sarin, Aravindh Chithambaram and Pranesh M competed under the banner of esports and gaming content organisation S8UL Esports, while Arjun Erigaisi represented Gen.G Esports. India's representation also extended beyond its players.