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Four members of same family killed in car crash in Yavatmal, young girl seriously injured

Yavatmal 31 October: Four members of a family were killed in a road accident near Lalguda village on the Wani-Chargao Road on Friday morning after a car driven by a young woman went out of control and hit a truck. The crash took place around 11 a.m.

The deceased have been identified as Riyazuddin Rafiquddin Shaikh (53), Mayra Shaikh



(17), Zoya Shaikh (13) and Aniba Shaikh, 11. A five-year-old girl, Inaya Shakiruddin Shaikh, was seriously injured and has been taken to Chandrapur for treatment.

Police said Riyazuddin, who

owned a garage, was teaching his elder daughter Mayra how to drive when the accident happened. While taking a turn, she lost control of the car, which crossed the road divider and moved into the opposite lane before colliding with an oncoming truck. The impact killed four members of the family on the spot. Police have launched an investigation into the incident.

Maharashtra govt committed to supporting farmers affected by heavy rains: Minister Narhari Jirwal

Nashik, Oct 31 (UNI) In the wake of extensive damage to crops due to heavy rains, the Maharashtra government stands firmly behind the farming community, said Food, Drug Administration, and Special Assistance Minister Narhari

Jirwal. Jirwal was speaking at the inauguration of the harvest season of the Kadwa Cooperative Sugar Factory at Materwadi in Dindori taluka. Addressing the gathering, Minister Jirwal said that agriculture continues to face crises due to

recurring natural disasters. He reiterated that the government's priority is to extend all possible assistance to affected farmers. Relief funds, he added, are being directly deposited into the accounts of those impacted.

He further urged farmers in the region to increase sugarcane cultivation and assured that efforts are underway to increase infrastructure facilities in the area. Road repair work, he said, will commence as soon as the rains subside.

Lawyer seeks HC probe into controversial Powai encounter death of hostage-taker

Mumbai, Oct 31 (UNI) A city-based advocate and social activist, Nitin Satpute, has announced plans to file a petition in the Bombay High Court challenging the circumstances surrounding the death of a 50-year-old man during a police operation in Powai. The individual, Rohit Arya, had held 19 persons, comprising 17 minors and two adults, in captivity within a studio facility. The activist contends that the police action constituted an unjustified use of force and questions the necessity of the fatal response. Legal expert Satpute has articulated numerous concerns regarding the manner in which law enforcement personnel conducted the operation. He disputes the official narrative provided by authorities, asserting that the encounter represents a deliberate misuse of police authority rather than a justified defensive action. According to his statements, the police had alternative methods available to neutralise the threat without resorting to lethal force. He specifically questions why officers did not target the lower extremities of the accused rather than directing gunfire towards vital areas of the body. The advocate further notes that during negotiations, a senior police official was engaged in dialogue with Arya,

suggesting that peaceful resolution remained a viable option. Adv. Satpute has emphasised that the circumstances leading to the hostage situation originated from ongoing disputes between Arya and the state administration. According to available information, Arya had been attempting to recover outstanding government dues amounting to two crore, rupees, a matter for which he had previously undertaken hunger strike action. Adv. Satpute argued that the government bears responsibility for the creation of conditions that precipitated the crisis. He contended that the state's failure to address the legitimate financial grievances of Arya, who was performing work for the government, directly contributed to this tragic sequence of events. Raising further questions about the operational conduct, the advocate pointed out that law enforcement officials had prior knowledge of Arya's connections to a former political figure and could have facilitated communication through such channels to de-escalate the situation. Additionally, he highlighted inconsistencies in official statements regarding whether Arya possessed any lethal weapon. Police authorities have indicated that investigation would be undertaken to establish this

fact, yet permitted the fatal action to proceed. He also noted that even if Arya possessed an air-gun or similar implement, such weaponry would not constitute grounds for justifying a lethal response. The advocate observed that the official police explanation regarding the trajectory of the fatal bullet lacks credibility, as it suggests the projectile struck the chest area only because Arya bent down at the moment of discharge, an account he characterises as implausible. Adv. Satpute acknowledged that the successful rescue of the hostages represents commendable police work and reflects professional conduct in protecting vulnerable individuals. However, he maintained that this accomplishment does not justify the subsequent killing of the accused. He cited references from historical precedents involving similar hostage situations where peaceful resolution was achieved without loss of life, including the Kandahar aircraft hijacking incident. The advocate emphasised that Arya should not be classified as a criminal element or terrorist, given that his actions stemmed from pursuit of legitimate employment-related compensation rather than malicious intent.

Malegaon cops bust fake currency racket, recover 2,000 forged Rs 500 notes

Nashik, Oct 31 (UNI) Two persons were arrested in Malegaon taluka after police seized counterfeit currency notes of Rs 500 denomination worth Rs 10 lakh from their possession, officials said. According to the Malegaon taluka police, a patrol team apprehended the duo while they were moving suspiciously along the highway, allegedly attempting to circulate the fake notes in the city. Upon inspection, police recovered 2,000 counterfeit Rs 500 notes and two mobile phones from them. The arrested individuals have been identified as Nazir Akram Mohammad Ayub Ansari (34) and Mohammad Zubair Mohammad Ashraf Ansari (33), both residents of Burhanpur, Madhya Pradesh. They were detained near Hotel A-One Sagar after

police noticed their suspicious behavior during routine patrolling. When questioned, the two failed to provide a satisfactory explanation about the currency in their possession. A closer examination revealed discrepancies in the printing, paper quality, and security thread, confirming that the notes were counterfeit. Police said the suspects had come to Malegaon to use the fake currency for trading activities. A case has been registered against them, and they were produced in court yesterday, where the court remanded them to eight days of police custody. Sub-Inspector Tushar Bhadane is leading the investigation to trace the source of the counterfeit notes and uncover the network involved in their circulation.

Underworld don Dawood Ibrahim's property in Khed to be auctioned on Nov 4

Kolhapur, Oct 31 (UNI) Underworld don Dawood Ibrahim's property in Mumbke village in Khed tehsil of Ratnagiri district will be auctioned on November 4 by the Central Government under the Smugglers and Foreign Exchange

Manipulators Act. The auction, to be held online as well on ground, of Dawood's land, residences and business properties, is expected to raise about Rs 20 lakh.

Earlier, Dawood's properties have been

Maharashtra Olympic Association tops national rankings: Deputy CM Pawar dismisses corruption allegations

Mumbai, Oct 31 (UNI) Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar today strongly refuted allegations of corruption and mismanagement made by union Minister Murlidhar Mohol and MLC Sandeep Joshi against the Maharashtra Olympic Association (MOA). Speaking to reporters, Pawar said the charges were politically motivated and intended to influence the upcoming association elections. Pawar, who has served as MOA president since 2013, highlighted Maharashtra's sporting achievements under his tenure. Crediting the success to the dedication of athletes and the guidance of senior office-bearers, he said, "Before we took charge, Maharashtra ranked seventh or eighth in national games. For the past three



consecutive events, the state has secured the top position." He added that the association had been honoured in the presence of union Home Minister Amit Shah for its outstanding performance. Rejecting the claim of Rs 13 crore corruption, Pawar clarified that the accused office-bearer was not even the treasurer and had no control over association funds. He said that every rupee spent is

approved by the Executive Council and accounted for by the treasurer, Dhananjay Bhosale. "The delay in submitting accounts for the 38th National Games was due to pending reports from several affiliated sports bodies, including the one headed by Murlidhar Mohol," he said. Further noting the government's grant of a two-month extension for final submission, he added, "Those organisations have

not yet submitted their accounts. They are the real reason behind the delay, not the MOA." The Deputy CM also questioned why criminal complaints were filed at 3 am against MOA officials instead of referring the issue to the Charity Commissioner, as required by law.

"Who pressured the police to act this way? Sandeep Joshi should clarify that." Pawar accused certain political figures of trying to delay the MOA elections through court cases, all of which have since been dismissed by the Bombay High Court. Politics should not enter sports. Let every federation file its accounts on time, including Mohol's own organisation. Not submitting accounts does not mean corruption, said Pradeep Deshmukh, working president of NCP-AP.

Petition filed in Calcutta High Court for court monitored SIR in Bengal

Kolkata, Oct 31 (UNI) Amid SIR controversy in Bengal, a petition has been filed in the Calcutta High Court seeking a court-monitored Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in the state. The plea, admitted today by a division bench comprising Justice Sujoy Paul and Justice Smita Das De, urges the court to oversee the SIR process and extend the time period allotted for the revision exercise. The petitioner has also requested that the court direct the Election Commission of India (ECI) to submit a detailed explanation justifying the need for conducting the SIR. Earlier this week, Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar announced the SIR exercise across 12 states, including West Bengal. The three-stage



revision process in the state is scheduled to begin on November 4, with the draft list to be published on December 9. Following the publication, political parties and individual voters will have the opportunity to raise objections or file complaints regarding the draft, which will be addressed by the ECI and the office of the Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), West Bengal. The final electoral roll is expected to be released on February 7, 2026. The announcement has sparked the SIR exercise across 12 states, including West Bengal. The three-stage

timeline. TMC general secretary and Lok Sabha MP Abhishek Banerjee argued that if the intention were truly to ensure an error-free voters' list, the revision should not be rushed. "Their aim is not to make the list error-free. In reality, SIR stands for 'Silent Invisible Rigging'. The last such revision in Bengal took nearly two years, and now they claim it will be finished in just two months," Banerjee alleged. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), however, dismissed the TMC's objections, asserting that the ruling party's resistance stems from fear that the names of illegal Bangladeshi and Rohingya voters could be removed during the revision process. The Calcutta High Court is expected to hear the petition in detail in the coming days.

Will respond at right time: Omar on LG's remark

Srinagar, Oct 31 (UNI) Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today refrained from commenting on Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's remarks about statehood, saying he had not yet read the statement.

While addressing the UT Diwas celebrations in Srinagar — an event not attended by the J&K Chief Minister or any of his ministers — LT Governor Sinha said that the elected government has full authority and should focus on governance rather than linking progress to the restoration of statehood.

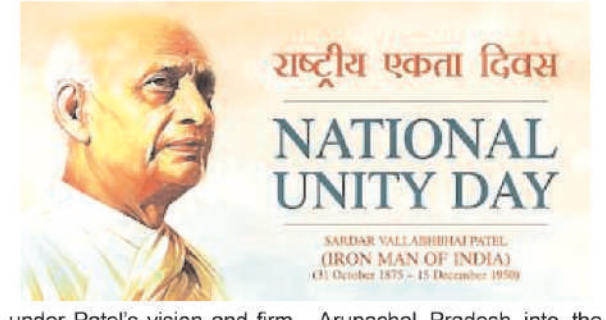
While Omar didn't react, NC president Farooq Abdullah dismissed Sinha's comments outright, saying, "He is lying."

Omar said that he would first like to see the words LG has used."

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas observed at Arunachal Raj Bhavan

Itanagar, Oct 31 (UNI) Arunachal Pradesh Governor Lt General (Retd) K T Parnaik led the Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) celebration at Raj Bhavan, Itanagar, to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India, whose vision and leadership were instrumental in uniting the nation. The Governor, along with officers and staff of Raj Bhavan, offered floral tributes to Sardar Patel, honouring his

enduring legacy of unity, integrity, and nation-building. Addressing the gathering, the Governor said that Sardar Patel's life is a timeless reminder that perseverance, integrity, and dedication can bring about transformative change. He urged the youth to emulate Patel's fearless leadership and strong moral values in today's challenging times. Recalling Sardar Patel's decisive role in the nation's unification, the Governor highlighted how,



under Patel's vision and firm resolve, Major Bob Ralengnao Khathing successfully integrated Tawang and

Arunachal Pradesh into the Indian Union, thereby strengthening India's frontiers. The Governor

described Sardar Patel as a leader who embodied both Shakti (strength) and Vishwas (confidence) — the very qualities that enabled him to unite a diverse land into one great nation. Urging the people of Arunachal Pradesh to draw inspiration from Patel's life, the Governor called upon everyone to imbibe the 'Nation First' spirit envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and contribute wholeheartedly towards building a strong, united, and Viksit Bharat.

Ranchi, Oct 31 (UNI) Jharkhand Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar today met with Sudivya Kumar, Minister for Higher and Technical Education, at the Raj Bhavan. During the meeting, the Governor expressed concern over the current state of higher education in the state and emphasized the urgent need for qualitative improvement in the sector. He stressed that

state should develop such an educational environment that attracts students from outside the state as well, fostering academic curiosity and excellence.

The Governor and the Minister held an in-depth discussion on measures to enhance educational standards, improve infrastructure, and



strengthen the academic ecosystem in state's higher education institutions. On this occasion, the Governor also extended a personal invitation to the Minister to attend the 'Aashirwad Samaroh', a post-wedding blessing ceremony of his son.

'Ekta Pad Yatra' held to mark Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's 150th birth anniversary in Ch. Sambhajinagar

Ch. Sambhajinagar, Oct 31 (UNI) The commemoration of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's 150th birth anniversary through the Ekta Pad Yatra reaffirmed India's commitment to safeguarding its territorial integrity and political unity. Maharashtra's Minister for Other Backward Classes, Bahujan Welfare and Non-Conventional Energy, Atul Save, underscored the "immeasurable contributions made by Sardar Patel during the independence movement and his pivotal work in forging a cohesive nation following partition." The minister emphasised that all citizens must steadfastly uphold the principles of national integration and togetherness. Organised under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, the yatra concluded at the Shahganj memorial to Patel in Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, where Minister Save addressed participants. The event saw enthusiastic participation from government officers, elected representatives, youth groups, and social organisations across the district. Beginning at 7:30 a.m. from the District Collector's office, the procession moved through the city with participants raising patriotic slogans such as Bharat Mata Ki Jai and



Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Amar Rahe. Upon reaching the Shahganj statue, floral tributes were offered, followed by the administration of two pledges — one to uphold national unity and another to encourage the use of domestically produced goods. Addressing the gathering, Dr. Karad revisited Patel's extraordinary contributions to nation-building, while Minister Save urged citizens to strengthen national solidarity and collective resolve for India's progress. Dignitaries at the closing ceremony included Rajya Sabha MP Dr. Bhagwat Karad, District Collector Dilip Swamy, Zilla Parishad CEO Ankit, and other senior administrative officials.

Nepali woman with fake Indian documents arrested

Mumbai, Oct 31 (UNI) The immigration authorities at Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport detained a woman identified as Shanti Arjun Singh Thapa, who was found to be a Nepali citizen living in the neighbouring Thane district for over 30 years on fake Indian documents, an official said here today. The woman arrived at Mumbai Airport from Kathmandu, Nepal, via flight RA-201. During routine immigration checks, she presented her Indian passport, voter ID and boarding pass. When questioned about her travel purpose and nationality, she failed to provide satisfactory answers. Upon questioning, it was revealed that the passenger was actually a Nepali citizen named Chanda Regmi, born on November 25, 1976, in Phutung District, Kathmandu. She has been living in Kalyan, Thane

district, for several years. According to the FIR, besides fake Indian documents, she voted multiple times in Maharashtra elections. During interrogation, she also produced her Nepali Citizenship Certificate issued in the name of Chanda Regmi, confirming her nationality. The immigration department seized the following documents, like the Indian Voter ID Card (HTQ0890426) — Name: Shanti Arjunsing Thapa, Boarding Pass — Flight RA-201 (Kathmandu—Mumbai), Nepali Citizenship Card (No. 9778) — Name: Chanda Regmi, Indian Aadhaar Card (714438844377), Indian PAN Card (AWEPT8066H), Certificate under Section 63 BSA, Statement recorded by Immigration officials, Medical report and General Diary entry from Mumbai Immigration



Department. After confirming her dual identity and fraudulent documentation, immigration authorities handed her over to Sahar Police Station for further investigation. An FIR has been registered against Shanti alias Chanda Regmi, aged 49, under Sections 336(2), 336(3), 340(2), and 318(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) for cheating, forgery, and providing false information to obtain government documents. Police are also conducting further investigations to trace others involved in the racket.

Union Minister Vaishnaw to visit Odisha for slew of official programmes

Bhubaneswar, Oct 31 (UNI) Ashwini Vaishnaw, the union Minister of Railways, Information and Broadcasting and Electronics & Information Technology, will visit Bhubaneswar tomorrow for a series of official programmes, including the Ground-Breaking Ceremony of SiC Sem (Semiconductor Fabrication Unit) at Info Valley. The project is a major step towards strengthening India's semiconductor manufacturing ecosystem, in line with the vision of "Make in India" and "Digital India". Vaishnaw will also attend the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Railways and the Odisha Government at the State secretariat.

NMC issues final order to acquire land in ChikhliKhurd for STP project

Nagpur 31 October: The Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC) has passed a final order to acquire 31,025.0141 sqm (3.1 hectares) of private land in Mouza Chikhli Khurd for setting up a sewage treatment plant (STP) and pumping station under the city's approved development plan. The civic body is set to pay Rs 11.77 crore as compensation. The location



lies on the city's boundary, adjacent to a natural drain flowing towards rural Nagpur. With new residential pockets emerging in the vicinity, officials said the STP is essential to handle future wastewater loads and prevent pollution of natural water bodies downstream.

The acquisition is being carried out under provisions of the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013, and Section 126 of the Maharashtra Regional and Town Planning (MRTP) Act, 1966. The proposal, submitted by the Town Planning Department in January 2025, pertains to reservation No. S-162 — Drainage and Sewage Disposal Scheme — in the revised Nagpur Development Plan. The plot, falling under Khasra No. 39, has been

earmarked to strengthen sewage management infrastructure in the growing peripheral zones of the city. The department issued the final order following approval from municipal commissioner Abhijeet Chaudhari.

According to planning records, the development plan notifications for Nagpur were approved between 2000 and 2002, subsequently authorising NMC as the planning authority for the region. Further state govt resolutions in August 2019 and April 2021 clarified NMC's jurisdiction, including areas previously under Nagpur Improvement Trust (NIT), except certain Smart City pockets. Joint measurement by the city's land survey department confirmed the area to be acquired at 31,025.0141 sqm. While an additional 360.51 sqm in adjoining Khasra No. 41/2 was initially noted, it has been excluded as

ownership could not be conclusively identified. NMC's Public Health Engineering Department later confirmed that the available land is sufficient for the proposed STP. The civic chief accorded administrative approval through a resolution dated January 18, 2025, authorising land acquisition proceedings. A notification under Section 19 of the Land Acquisition Act was later published in the Maharashtra Gazette on May 1, 2025, and in local newspapers on April 26, 2025. Authorities stated that as per state notification dated March 13, 2015, the requirement for Social Impact Assessment has been exempted for such schemes.

The project falls under essential urban services and will be taken up after compensation formalities as per the 2013 Act. With the final order issued, NMC will move to complete compensation and possession procedures. The STP is expected to form a key component of sewage disposal in Nagpur's expanding urban limits. The PHE department has also issued a work order to install a 35 MLD STP and is expecting to commission the STP in 2026, said an official.

State sanctions Rs24.7cr for makeover of Katol's Chakradhar Swami Temple

Nagpur 31 October: The Shri Chakradhar Swami Datta Mandir in Katol, nearly 60 km from Nagpur, is set for a majestic transformation, with the Maharashtra govt approving a 24.69 crore redevelopment plan aimed at turning the pilgrimage site into a model spiritual and cultural destination for Vidarbha. The present temple structure is believed to be over 200 years old, though the site itself holds an 800-year legacy tied to the life and teachings of Shri Chakradhar Swami Maharaj, the fifth in the sacred lineage of the Panch Avatars revered by the Mahanubhava sect.

The plan envisions a G+2-floor structure featuring a multi-purpose hall built over a stilt parking area, dormitories, and modern sanitation blocks designed to accommodate large gatherings during annual yatras and festive occasions. The complex will also

include lighting systems, CCTV surveillance, fire-safety installations, and a visually striking cable-suspended pedestrian bridge.

According to the govt resolution, the Public Works Department (PWD) has been designated as the implementing agency, while the Nagpur district collector will act as the nodal officer. The plan provides for landscaping, paved walkways, entrance beautification, and dedicated parking zones to ease congestion during peak pilgrimage seasons. The Katol Municipal Council will contribute 12.5% of the project cost, while the remaining amount will be borne by the govt. The Urban Development Department issued the administrative approval on October 24, after a detailed multi-stage review process. The five incarnations — Lord Krishna, Lord Dattatreya, Chakrapani

Maharaj, Govind Prabhu Maharaj, and Chakradhar Swami Maharaj — are celebrated every year, with thousands of devotees from across Maharashtra and neighbouring states visiting the shrine.

"These events make Katol a divine landmark in the Mahanubhava tradition. Even during Navratri, the temple hosts a series of devotional and cultural programmes," said Ramesh Dabhale, a trustee of the temple. Maintenance of the redeveloped complex will rest with the Shri Chakradhar Swami Datta Mandir Trust, Katol.

"The project's approval coincides with the 800th year of Shri Chakradhar Swami's incarnation, fulfilling the promise made by CM Fadnavis during the centenary celebrations," said a source from Katol MLA Charan Singh Thakur's office.

RTMNU winter exams to be held in December

Nagpur 31 October: After weeks of deadlock, the Nagpur University (NU) management council, in an emergency meeting held on October 17, resolved to assign the winter exam duties to Hyderabad-based COMPT EduTech Pvt Ltd, on a one-year contract basis.

The decision followed Promarc Software Ltd's refusal to process the Winter 2025 exam data unless its terms were extended up to the Summer 2026 examinations. With the winter examinations delayed by nearly two months, NU's academic calendar got disrupted due to a prolonged stalemate over awarding the work order for exam processing. The delay stemmed from



uncertainty about whether to engage a new private agency or extend the term of the existing operator, Promarc Software. As per the university's academic schedule, winter examinations were to begin on October 3 for backlog students and from October 15 for regular students.

Acting pro-VC Subhash Kondawar told reporters that the winter examinations would now commence in the first week of

December. He stated that classes for the next semester would begin on time. Kondawar explained that the transfer of data for over 450,000 students has already begun. He added that the university initiated the process of appointing a new agency much earlier, but a court case delayed the decision. In the interest of students, NU initially considered one more extension to the previous agency for the Winter 2025 examinations, although Promarc declined and demanded the Summer 2026 examination work as well, which the university could not approve.

Since an extension until Summer 2026 could not be granted, Promarc cited financial

non-viability and refused the work order. Kondawar stated that future examination processing would be handled in-house once the university's IT cell is fully developed, describing the hiring of the Hyderabad agency as a stopgap arrangement. He informed that the new agency is equipped with advanced software and biometric systems that would facilitate online evaluation of answer sheets by valuers from home. The prolonged delay has already impacted the academic calendar and is expected to affect result announcements and the Summer 2026 examinations.

Regular semester classes for most courses have concluded, yet the examinations have not commenced. The university has not released the timetable, and exam form submissions have also not begun.

Nagpur Metro Runs Out of Sand: Construction Works Hit Across All Stretches

Nagpur 31 October: The construction of Nagpur Metro's Phase II has hit a fresh roadblock, with MahaMetro facing an acute shortage of naturally available sand. The scarcity has forced the agency to partially halt certain works across all four stretches, slowing down the overall pace of progress. Top MahaMetro sources confirmed that the stock of riverbed sand available for ongoing construction activities has almost depleted, with the remaining quantity expected to last only a few days. "The supply of sand has been inconsistent, and our existing stock is nearly exhausted. Some portions of work had to be stopped midway because of this," said a senior MahaMetro official. Officials revealed that the impact of the shortage was delayed due to the prolonged rain, which had already slowed down construction activity. Following that, the Diwali holidays and Chhath Puja further reduced on-ground activity as many labourers went on leave. With work now resuming at full capacity, the sand shortage has again come into sharp focus, prompting officials to explore quick alternative sources.

Maha Metro officials, however, maintained that the situation is under control and alternative arrangements are being finalised. "We are confident that full-scale construction will resume soon," said a senior source. Efforts to address the crisis have been underway for the past 15 days. Senior officials said they are evaluating substitute materials and alternative sources of sand to keep construction going. "We are considering options such as M-sand (manufactured sand) and crushed sand, which is produced by crushing stones and other natural materials," said a senior official, adding that safety and durability tests are being conducted before large-scale use. Nagpur district, along with



several parts of Maharashtra, has been grappling with a persistent shortage of naturally available sand for weeks. The scarcity has disrupted multiple infrastructure and construction projects — from residential developments to major public works. Recently, Revenue Minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule said that Maharashtra's sand shortage is expected to ease within the next 15 days. He informed that the revenue department has completed preparations for the auction of 350 sand ghats, while over 500 sand depots have already been made operational across the state.

The shortage, he said, was temporary and caused by the annual three-month ban on sand excavation (June 30–September 30) mandated by the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

Bawankule added that the government is expediting efforts to promote artificial sand production under the state's M-Sand Policy to reduce dependence on natural sources. "Each district has been permitted to start 50 M-Sand crusher units, and district collectors have been authorised to facilitate their establishment," he said, adding that the initiative will serve as a long-term, sustainable alternative to natural sand mining.

Director, Suptd of illegal 'House of Hope' Ashram in Jaripatka booked

The accused were illegally keeping minor children and running an unregistered Ashram

Nagpur 31 October: A MAJOR action has been taken against the 'House of Hope' organisation in Mecosabag, Jaripatka, for illegally keeping minor children and running an unregistered Ashram. Jaripatka Police have registered a case against Director Jerry Vujes (52) and Superintendent Umesh Jalgaonkar (37) on the complaint of District Women and Child Development Officer (WCDO) Aniket Bhiwade. According to the information received, the organisation was keeping three girls and four boys without permission from the concerned department.

The joint raid was carried out by the Women and Child Development Department and the Education Department under the guidance of District WCDO Officer Sunil Mesre. During the inspection, the officials found that the children were living in the Ashram without valid

Orphaned at 3, twins rise to become govt officials

Nagpur 31 October: From losing their parents at the tender age of 3 to holding respected positions in Maharashtra's govt service, the story of Piyush and Pritam Chaple (24), twin brothers from Saoner taluka, is one of extraordinary courage, determination, and hope. The brothers lost their parents in a road accident two decades ago. With no one to care for them except their ageing grandmother, the twins spent a few early years in her custody before being admitted to a govt-run children's home. "We lost our mother and father when we were merely three years old. Our grandmother tried her best but could not take care of us for long, so she admitted us to a govt home."

We grew up there, studied hard, and decided to stand on our own feet," recalls Piyush, now 24. While Pritam pursued a diploma in polytechnic and studied in Nagpur under the Social Welfare Department's hostel scheme, Piyush completed his HSC and went on to secure admission to the prestigious



Piyush Chaple **Pritam Chaple**
College of Engineering Pune (CoEP). His journey, however, was not easy. Financial hurdles loomed large, but timely support came from district child protection officer Mushtaq Pathan, who arranged scholarships and donor contributions to help him continue his education.

After completing his engineering degree, Piyush joined the Water Resources Department, while his brother Pritam earned a position in the Public Works Department (PWD). Piyush's didn't stop there. Balancing his job and studies, he continued preparing

for the Maharashtra Public Service Commission (MPSC) examinations and finally achieved success last month — he was selected as a section officer at the Mantralaya, the state's administrative headquarters.

The Women and Child Development Department, Nagpur, recently felicitated Piyush for his inspiring accomplishment. Officials praised his determination and highlighted how his journey symbolises the transformative power of education and guidance. "This achievement proves that with proper support, even children without families can reach great heights," said district women and child development officer Sunil Mesre, during the felicitation ceremony. The event was also attended by Child Welfare Committee chairperson Chhaya Raut, Pathan, child development project officer Aparna Kolhe, district probation officer Chandrakant Bonde, and CWC members Shivshankar Shelokar, Vinayak Nandeshwar, Vijaya Shah, and Priyanka Chokhare.

Ground in front of temple becomes garbage dump, Deo Nagar residents fear health hazard

Nagpur 31 October: A massive heap of garbage, covering almost half portion of a ground in front of Shri Guru Datt Mandir in Deo Nagar, is not only an eyesore but also a health hazard. The unattended waste, lying there for months, has led to unbearable stench and unhygienic conditions, drawing repeated complaints from residents. Tripti Saini, a local resident, said that despite the area being near a place of worship, no cleanliness drive has been carried out for weeks. Another resident, Meena Jaiswal, pointed out that though the spot is in front of the temple, no one seems concerned. "Cows can be seen feeding on the garbage every day. It's both disturbing and dangerous," Jaiswal said.

The waste, which includes plastic, food leftovers, and debris, is also attracting flies and mosquitoes. Locals said the situation worsens in the evening as the stench spreads across the area. "Children can't even play nearby because of the filth. It's embarrassing that a temple area looks like this," said Ravi Jatkar, another resident. Residents allege that repeated pleas to the sanitary workers, who come to the area in the morning, have gone unanswered. "We are tired of waiting. It seems like the authorities have completely forgotten this part of the city," said another local.

Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC) officials did not respond to repeated calls from reporters in this regard. Local residents have demanded immediate steps to clear the garbage and ensure regular cleaning to restore hygiene and the sanctity of the temple surroundings.

42 apply for M-sand production unit in district under new policy

Nagpur 31 October: The artificial sand (M-sand) policy introduced by the state govt to curb excessive river sand extraction and boost industry growth is receiving a good response in Nagpur district. Till now, 42 industrialists from the district have applied to the mining department for establishing M-sand production units.

The policy offers a concession of Rs400 per brass in royalty for setting up units across the district, officials said. According to district mining officer Dr Atul Dod, artificial sand is essential amid rapid urbanisation, city expansion and growth of industrial colonies. "Demand for sand has doubled globally and cannot be met by natural extraction alone," he said. An 'offer' was initially made to 50 entrepreneurs who took the first initiative in M-sand production. This limit has now been removed to allow additional applicants to benefit. Basalt stone, the raw



material for artificial sand, is available in large quantities in Nagpur district.

The state govt has directed that M-sand units be established on land approved for quarrying. Studies on the quality of the manufactured sand are ongoing. "While M-sand is unsuitable for plastering, it can be used for road construction, joint filling and column preparation, which will benefit the construction sector," industry professionals said. M-sand

production units will receive incentives like concession in power tariff, industrial promotion subsidy and stamp duty exemption, said officials. Policy changes include the removal of the limit on the number of beneficiaries, relaxation of the land requirement so units can be established on land exceeding 5 acres and authorisation for the district collector to scrutinise applications for M-sand production.

Citizens urged to lodge complaint against corrupt Govt officials

Vigilance Awareness Week 2025 been observed

Nagpur 31 October: THE Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), Nagpur, has appealed to citizens to come forward and register complaints against corrupt government officials to help eradicate corruption from society. ACB officials stressed that people's participation is the most powerful tool in the fight against corruption. As part of Vigilance Awareness Week 2025, being observed from October 27 to November 2, the theme "Vigilance-Our Collective Responsibility" underlined that the fight against corruption is not limited to the government but depends on the active involvement of every citizen. Dr Digambar Pradhan, SP, ACB Nagpur, said that 20 awareness teams have been deployed across Nagpur, Wardha, Gondia, Gadchiroli, Chandrapur, and Bhandara districts.

These teams are visiting government offices, schools, markets, and public places to spread awareness about unethical behavior, honesty, and transparency in public administration. Dr Pradhan explained that ACB takes strict action if any government officer demands a bribe, misuses government funds, or owns assets beyond known income. He assured that the name of the complainant is always kept confidential, and the complainant's pending government work is completed. The money used for trap operations is reimbursed within one month. In 2025 alone, ACB Nagpur has carried out 48 successful trap operations against 68 public servants. The Bureau urged citizens to register complaints by contacting the toll-free number 1064, WhatsApp 9067671064, or ACB Nagpur phone numbers 0712-2561520 / 0712-2560770. "Without public cooperation, it is impossible to eradicate corruption. Every complaint strengthens the fight for a cleaner and more transparent system," Dr Pradhan added. Addl SPMadhuri Bawiskar and Police Inspector Rajiv Karmalwar were present during the interaction.

Rs94 crore sanctioned for Ghughus water project under AMRUT 2.0

Chandrapur 31 October: In a major step towards resolving Ghughus city's long-standing water crisis, the Maharashtra Urban Development Department has sanctioned Rs 94 crore under the Centre's AMRUT 2.0 scheme for a comprehensive water supply project. The project is expected to ensure clean and uninterrupted drinking water for the city's residents. Under the approved structure, the central and state governments will each contribute 45 per cent of the funding, with the Municipal Council bearing five per cent. The project, to be completed within 18 months of the work order, will be executed under the supervision of Ghughus Municipal Council officials.

Following the sanction, MLA Kishor Jorgewar met chief minister Devendra Fadnavis at Mantralaya, Mumbai, to express gratitude and discuss the project's rollout. The two also reviewed other pending development works in the constituency and strategies for Ghughus's overall urban growth. Describing the approval as a 'historic decision', Jorgewar said the initiative will permanently resolve the city's water scarcity and accelerate its development. Work on the project is expected to commence soon.

Shankarprasad Agnihotri to feature in 'Samvad' series

Nagpur 31 October: THE Vidarbha Hindi Sahitya Sammelan is organising an interactive session under its programme series Samvad featuring noted educationist Shankarprasad Agnihotri in conversation with litterateur Sagar Khadiwala at the Utkarsh Auditorium of Morhi Bhavan, Ranani Jhansi Square, Sitabuldi, on Sunday at 6pm.

During the session, Khadiwala will engage Agnihotri in an open discussion about his life journey, challenges, struggles, achievements, and memories.

Amravati, Saturday 1 November 2025

Tribals' colourful, cultural spectacle

Amravati 31 October: THE rich and vibrant tribal art forms of Western Vidarbha including dance, music, instrumental performances, painting and handicrafts came alive recently during the 'Bhagwan Birsa Kala Sangam' competition. Participants from the tribal communities of Akola, Amravati, Buldhana, Washim and Yavatmal districts showcased their traditional talents, creating a colourful and cultural spectacle.

Organised jointly by the Adivasi Ekta Mitra Mandal, Late Laxmanrao Mankar Trust, and Pragati Pratishthan, this State-level tribal art competition was held to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Bhagwan Birsa Munda. The Western Vidarbha divisional round took place with great enthusiasm at Maharshi Public School, Navsari, here. The competition featured various categories including dance, singing, instrumental music, painting, handicrafts.

Around 400 participants, dressed in traditional tribal attire, filled the school campus with colour and excitement. The inaugural ceremony was graced by social workers Nanduj Bilavekar and Gaurav Kakde, along with trustee Rekha Bawaskar and secretary Prashant Bopardikar of the Laxmanrao Mankar Trust. After the inauguration, the competitions began with energetic performances. In the dance category, artists presented various traditional dances such as Gaduli, Susun, Chachari Goglya, Dandar, Gav Bodhni, Gond dance, and Bhivedhi Naikad, that captivated the audience. In the instrumental music segment, performers showcased their mastery of traditional instruments, while the singing round took place with great enthusiasm at Maharshi Public School, Navsari, here. The competition featured various categories including dance, singing, instrumental music, painting, handicrafts.



who shared that the competition aims to provide opportunities, recognition, and respect to tribal artists across Maharashtra. He further informed that the

Eastern Vidarbha round of the competition will be held in Gadchiroli, and the final State-level round will take place next month in Nagpur.

The winners of the final

round, organised by the Tribal Development Department, Government of Maharashtra, will receive attractive prizes. The programme was compered by Sanjay Pachare

Akola farmers get Rs 3 to Rs 21 as crop insurance, call it 'a mockery'

Akola 31 October: AROUND twenty-five farmers from some villages of Maharashtra's Akola district claimed to have received as little as Rs 3 and Rs 21 as compensation under the Government's Crop Insurance Scheme, for the crop losses they suffered due to heavy rains, and called the aid as 'insulting' and 'mockery' of their plight. Expressing disappointment over the scanty financial assistance they received under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), the farmers staged a protest at the District Collector's office on Thursday and returned the amounts through cheques. "This is not relief but mockery," they said.

Soybean, cotton and moong crops have suffered widespread damages across Akola district due to excessive rains in September.

The State Government had assured that financial relief would be provided to the affected farmers before Diwali. According to the farmers, they had submitted all required documents including their land records, Aadhaar and bank details to the revenue officials for processing compensation. However, many farmers said the actual transfer of funds got delayed despite the availability of funds with the Government. Some also alleged negligence by local revenue staff in completing

the formalities. Under the PMFBY, the amount of compensation is directly deposited into farmers' bank accounts, but in several cases the credited amounts were in the range of Rs 3 to Rs 21.85, they said. Youth Congress spokesperson Kapil Dhoke said, "If you cannot respect the farmers, at least do not insult them." Farmer groups have demanded that the Government review the compensation figures and announce a fair payout based on actual damage assessment.

They have urged authorities to conduct a realistic evaluation of the crop loss and ensure immediate and adequate relief to affected cultivators.

Voters' Registration Programme Last date to submit application is Nov 6

Akola 31 October: THE registration programme for the preparation of new voters' lists of Amravati Division Teachers' Constituency based on the qualifying date of January 11, 2025, is underway for the Teachers' Voter Constituency. The application facility for voters' registration is available online. Collector Varsha Meena has appealed to all concerned to register. The Election Commission of India has announced a programme for the preparation of new voter lists in the Teachers' Constituency of Amravati Division based on the qualifying date.

The last date for receiving applications through Form No.-19 as per the Voters' List Programme is November 6. The facility to fill the

application form in Form No-19 for Teachers' Constituency is now available online and eligible teachers can submit their applications online along with the required supporting documents by logging into the website <https://mahaelection.gov.in/Citizen/Login> till November 06. All concerned are requested to take note of this facility and eligible teachers are requested to submit their applications by the above mentioned last date of receipt. Registration Programme.

All concerned are requested to take note of this facility and eligible teachers are requested to submit their applications by the above mentioned last date of receipt.

Officers pledge to root out corruption



Kinge, Deputy Superintendent of Police and others were prominently present on the occasion. As part of the public awareness drive, posters were displayed at the Amravati city bus stand and District Collector's Office premises and

Amravati 31 October: THE Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), Amravati Range, has organised Vigilance Awareness Week from October 27 to November 2, 2025, which commenced with the pledge to eradicate corruption. This week-long observance is held every year to mark the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel on October 31. The theme for this year's campaign is 'Vigilance: Our Shared Responsibility'. The inaugural ceremony was held at the Anti-Corruption Bureau's Amravati Range Office, where officers and staff took the anti-corruption oath. Messages from the Governor and Chief Minister of Maharashtra were also read on this occasion. Maruti Jagtap, Superintendent of Police, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Amravati Range, Sachindra Shinde, Additional Superintendent of Police and Sunil

pamphlets were distributed to educate citizens about anti-corruption measures.

Throughout the week, the ACB will organise various awareness activities aimed at promoting integrity and public participation in the fight against corruption. The Anti-Corruption Bureau has urged citizens to report any corruption-related complaints through contact number Phone: 0721-2553055 0721-2664902, Toll-Free Number: 1066 WhatsApp: 7517571064 or at Superintendent of Police, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Amravati Range, Lalit Centre, Paranjape Colony, Camp, Amravati. The ACB appealed to citizens to actively support the campaign and work collectively toward building a transparent and corruption-free society.

Gor Sena blocks Samruddhi E'way



deployed nearly 700 police personnel, including special units and senior officers, who eventually managed to persuade the protesters to clear the road and restore traffic flow.

Following clearance of the Expressway, agitators shifted their

Washim 31 October: CLOSE on the heels of Bachchu Kadu's Maha Elgar rally in Nagpur which left traffic on the important Wardha Road stranded for hours together, the Gor Sena also staged an agitation at the Malegaon interchange on Samruddhi Expressway on Wednesday, bringing traffic to a standstill for some time.

The agitators were demanding schedule dtribe (ST) reservation for Banjara community. Hundreds of community members started gathering at the spot since early morning raising slogans in support of their long-pending demand for inclusion in the ST category.

Despite initial efforts by police to halt their movement, agitators marched onto the Mumbai bound lane of the express way around 1 pm, bringing traffic to a standstill for nearly 20 minutes.

The demonstration caused inconvenience to commuters as both sides of the road experienced disruption. To avoid escalation, the district administration

march towards the Akola-Hyderabad National Highway, where they continued their protest, resulting in traffic being halted for almost three hours on that route.

Addressing the crowd, Gor Sena National President Prof Sandesh Chavan said that the Banjara community enjoys ST status in several other states and demanded that Maharashtra also implement the Hyderabad Gazette provision that recognises the community under the same category.

He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had earlier assured Banjara spiritual leader Ramrao Babu regarding reservation benefits and the community now expected those assurances to be honoured. Chavan also threatened that if immediate action is not taken, future protests will be far more intense, including marches to the residences of ministers, MPs and MLAs.

Dr Anil Rathod and Ratankumar Rathod also addressed the gathering. Meanwhile, traffic on both major routes was restored and normalised.

Yoga Mahasammelan, camp in Amravati on Nov 8, 9

Amravati 31 October: A MEETING to review preparation for the free Integrated Yoga Camp and Yoga Mahasammelan, to be organised here on November 8 and 9 was held here recently. The event marks the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). Detail discussions were held on the programme outline, formation of the organising committee, and overall arrangements. All the officers and members present pledged to make the camp a grand success through public participation. The meeting was held under the guidance of Nanakram Nebhnani, noted social worker, who also presided over the meet. Chandrakumar alias Lappi Jajodia, chief officer, social worker and Corporate Member of Patanjali Yogpeeth, Haridwar, was also present, along with Balu Patil from Mumbai. Addressing the meeting, Dinesh Rathod, Prant Prabhari of RSS, stated, "Yoga is not for the body alone. It helps balance the mind and soul. Through this camp, we are taking another step towards building a healthy, aware and cultured society." Prashant Panpalia who was



present as the guest and several other dignitaries, including Pradeep Katekar, Prant Koshadhyaksh, Prahlad Sultane, Shankar Nagpure, Prant Prabharli of Yuva Bharat, Sable, Prabhari of Patanjali Kisan Seva Samiti and Ashok Moondra, Prant Member, also guided the participants.

The yoga practitioners from 18 districts will promote the camp from Gadge Baba Samadhi Mandir here from November 1. Kamalkishor Malani, District Patron, assured the provincial heads of full support and efforts to involve donors in the mission. Yogesh Rath, Bharat Swabhimani District Head, shared detailed information about the initiatives of Patanjali Yogpeeth. In a generous gesture, Nankaram Nebhnani and Chandrakumar Jajodia from Amravati announced to donate Rs 5 lakh each while Kamalkishor Malani contributed Rs 1 lakh for the event. They also appealed to people to participate in this free Yoga Mahasammelan for their health and well-being. Various committees for accommodation, food, reception, publicity and technical arrangements have been formed. Giridhar

Deshmukh, District Head of Patanjali Yoga Samiti, conducted the proceedings of the meeting while Santosh Chandak, District Treasurer, proposed a vote of thanks. Archana Doiphode, District Women Wing Head, welcomed the guests with a welcome song. Nandkishor Rath, Harihar Gilorkar, Rajubhau Dange, Neha Kakpure, Bhimrao Sangole, Ganesh Ramekar, Aniket Joshi, Narendra Gawande and several tehsil-level coordinators and yoga practitioners were prominently present for the meeting.

and mental and physical harassment. The tragic incident has sparked widespread outrage among citizens and the medical fraternity, raising serious concerns about the safety and morale of healthcare personnel across the State.

Amravati 31 October: THE Maharashtra State Gazetted Medical Officers' Association has demanded immediate and strict action against those responsible for the suicide of a female medical officer (MO) posted at the Sub-District Hospital in Phaltan, Satara District.

The association has also called for disciplinary action against administrative officials who allegedly neglected the issue. Through a memorandum submitted to the District Collector, the association has warned of a statewide agitation if decisive action is not taken within 8 days.

According to the association, the female medical officer reportedly took her own life due to extreme work-related stress

and mental and physical harassment. The tragic incident has sparked widespread outrage among citizens and the medical fraternity, raising serious concerns about the safety and morale of healthcare personnel across the State.

The association stated that the incident exposes the failure of the administrative machinery, as the deceased doctor had submitted a written complaint to her senior officials on June 19, 2025, detailing the harassment she faced. The letter allegedly went unheeded and no timely action was taken, leading to a situation that ultimately drove her to suicide. The memorandum demands that the government take serious cognizance of the issues raised in her complaint and

initiate legal and disciplinary action against all individuals named in it, including senior officials who ignored the complaint or tried to suppress the matter.

The association further pointed out that the suicide note and the complaint clearly mention the names of the accused. They have demanded that those responsible be booked under section 306 (abetment of suicide), section 376 (rape), as well as relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and the Health Protection Act. They also cleared that if the government fails to announce concrete and decisive action within the next 10 days, all gazetted, non-gazetted, and healthcare staff across the state will be compelled to shut

down all OPD and IPD service, except emergency care.

The association warned, if the government fails to act within 10 days, the Maharashtra State Gazetted Medical Officers' Association (Group A) will launch a statewide protest, for which the government will bear full responsibility. Dr Ravindra Shirsat, President of the association, Dr Dhananjay Saurkar, Vice-president, Dr Shrikant Jhaparde, Secretary, Dr Pravin Kharate, Treasurer, Dr Vandana Korde, Dr Sarita Hajare, Dr Mahesh Jaiswal, Dr Manoj Hindole, Dr Rajendra Pawar, Dr Nilesh Thapare and Dr Rahul Kannamwar were prominently present on the occasion.

HEAD CONSTABLE CAUGHT TAKING RS 20,000 BRIBE

Amravati 31 October: SLEUTHS from Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB), Amravati, caught a Head Constable accepting a bribe of Rs 20,000. Abdul Rahim Abdul Kadir (54), a resident of Zakir Colony, Amravati, currently posted at Bhatkuli Police Station, is the name of accused cop. According to ACB officers, the complainant had a case of abetment of suicide registered against him in Bhatkuli Police Station. While investigating the case, the Head Constable allegedly demanded Rs 50,000 from the complainant in exchange of helping him in the case.

The complainant had already paid Rs 10,000 but was unwilling to pay the remaining amount. Subsequently, on August 11, he approached ACB officer at

Amravati and lodged a formal complaint. On the same day, ACB conducted a verification in the presence of Government witnesses. Abdul Rahim, Head Constable, was found to have allegedly demanded Rs 20,000 as a bribe. Following the verification, after due legal procedures, a case was officially registered against him on October 30 at the Bhatkuli Police Station under relevant sections of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

The operation was carried out under the guidance of Maruti Jagtap, Superintendent of Police, Sachindra Shinde, Additional Superintendent of Police and Sunil Kinge, Deputy SP. The team led by Inspector Pravin Verulkar executed the trap and subsequent legal

Asphalt missing on several road stretches in Morshi town

Morshi 20 October (NAGPUR POST/TC): The condition of the main roads in the city is getting worse with each passing day. Due to large potholes in various places, drivers and pedestrians are facing immense difficulties. After the monsoon, the asphalt on the road stretch has been completely washed away, creating a kingdom of dust and mud all around. The roads in the area around Colony city are also damaged. The roads in the colony area extending on both sides of Simbhora road have not been constructed for many years. The road connecting Simbhora road from Jijamata School, the road leading to Vidya Colony, the road leading to Gokul Colony, the road leading to Gyandee Colony, the road leading to Shivanagar and Balaji Nagar, the road leading to Durga Nagar and the road leading to Amravati Road from the colony behind the Agricultural Produce Market Committee are in dire need of repair.

Still, the municipal council administration is ignoring the basic needs of the citizens, considering them as a nuisance. Although some roads have been constructed with a small amount of cement, they have deteriorated within a year or two due to poor quality work.

Vruddhashram Deepotsav Snehmilan organised

Amravati 31 October: VRUDDHASHRAM Deepotsav Snehmilan, a Diwali celebration under titled Bheti Lagi Jeeva Lagise Aas was jointly organised by the Vidarbha Kumbhar Samaj Sudhar Samiti and Shri Sant Goroba Kaka Samajonnati Bahuuddeshiya Samiti at the Shri Sant Gadge Baba Oldage Home, Walgaon, recently. The event, was marked by enthusiasm, affection and a strong sense of community bonding. As part of the annual Diwali tradition, members of the Kumbhar community and other well-wishers came together to share homemade festive delicacies with the elderly residents of the old age



Home and Madhukar Handekar, Joint Secretary of Vidarbha Kumbhar Samaj Sudhar Samiti entertained the gathering with melodious devotional and folk songs. After the traditional Diwali snacks, the elderly residents were presented with new clothes, sarees, dhotis, pajamas and shirts. The celebration concluded with a

special evening sweet dinner arranged for all.

Speaking on the occasion, dignitaries expressed that the annual visit had grown beyond a ritual, it had become an emotional connection. They shared that spending time with the elderly brought not only joy to the residents but also inner peace to all participants. Sudhakar

Shendokar, President of Vidarbha Kumbhar Samaj Sudhar Samiti, Adv. Gajanan Tambatkar, Vice President, Surendra Sarode, Secretary, Satish Gawande, Youth President and Prabhakar Bhagwat, women's wing and community members participated in the programme.

BUSINESS

Silicon Labs Unveils the Next Evolution of IoT Development with the Simplicity Ecosystem

New Delhi [India], October 30: Silicon Labs (NASDAQ: SLAB), the leading innovator in low-power wireless, today announced the launch of the Simplicity Ecosystem, a next-generation suite of modular software tools with planned AI augmentation designed to transform embedded IoT development. Anchored by Simplicity Studio 6 and complemented by the emerging Simplicity AI SDK framework, the ecosystem unifies installation, configuration, debugging, and analysis into a single intelligent, developer-first environment that delivers automation and insight at every stage of product creation. "The Simplicity Ecosystem represents a major step in making intelligent, context-aware development a reality," said Manish Kothari, Senior Vice President of Software Development at Silicon Labs. "By integrating AI into every layer of our tools, we will give developers a platform that learns, adapts, and accelerates innovation across the entire IoT lifecycle." From Integrated Development Environment (IDE) to Ecosystem

For more than a decade, Simplicity Studio has helped engineers build connected devices with speed and reliability. The new Simplicity Ecosystem extends that legacy by breaking the toolchain into modular, interoperable components, each designed to fit seamlessly into modern workflows, whether GUI-based or automated. The Simplicity Ecosystem supports Silicon Labs Series 2 and Series 3 devices and major IoT standards, including Bluetooth LE, Zigbee, Thread, Matter, Wi-Fi, Wi-SUN, and Z-Wave.

MEIL Energy acquires 250-mw lignite-fired TN power unit for Rs 926 crore



CHENNAI 31 October: MEIL Energy, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Megha Engineering & Infrastructures, has acquired 100 percent stake in Taqa Neyveli Power Company from Abu Dhabi National Energy Company, reportedly for 387 million dirhams, or around Rs 926 crore. The deal value hasn't been officially disclosed. The acquisition marks a significant addition to MEIL's expanding energy portfolio and underscores the group's strategic transitioning from being a large diversified EPC player to an integrated developer, owner and operator of core infrastructure assets. Though the company has not shared the deal value announced Thursday, it has been learned that it has been clinched for Rs 926 crore. Taqa Neyveli owns and operates a 250 mw lignite-fired power plant in Neyveli, in southern Tamil Nadu.

The power plant has a long-term power offtake commitment with the state distribution company and has a track record of delivering reliable and efficient power to meet the state's growing energy demands. With over 5.2 GW generation assets in its portfolio, this acquisition strengthens MEIL's position across the energy value chain and supports its goal of building a resilient portfolio of operating assets that deliver reliable services at scale. Commenting on the acquisition, Salil Kumar Mishra, MEIL group chief financial officer, said, the acquisition helps the group to own and operate high-quality energy assets, apart from advancing its long-term strategy of complementing EPC excellence with the ownership of core infrastructure assets.

The acquisition aligns with MEIL's vision to build a robust, diversified energy portfolio through both organic and inorganic growth and reflects the company's confidence in the fundamentals of the power sector, he added. MEIL has made significant investments across power generation, transmission, oil & gas, and renewable energy.

Reliance partners with Google to boost AI adoption across India

NEW DELHI 31 October: Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) on Thursday announced a partnership with Google on Thursday to boost the adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in India. The collaboration, through RIL's subsidiary Reliance Intelligence Limited, aims to make AI more accessible and strengthen India's digital future. As part of the partnership, Google will offer its AI Pro plan with the latest version of Google Gemini to eligible Jio users for free for 18 months. The offer includes access to Google's powerful Gemini 2.5 Pro model in the Gemini app, tools for creating high-quality images and videos, expanded access to Notebook LM for research, 2 TB of cloud storage, and more.

The total value of this 18-month offer is Rs 35, 100. "Reliance Intelligence aims to make intelligence services accessible to 1.45 billion Indians. Through our collaboration with strategic and long-term partners like Google, we aim to make India not just AI-enabled but AI-empowered - where every citizen and enterprise can harness intelligent tools to create, innovate and grow," said Mukesh Ambani, Chairman, Reliance Industries Limited. In line with its goal of building clean energy-powered AI infrastructure, Reliance is also partnering with Google Cloud to provide access to advanced AI hardware, such as Tensor Processing Units (TPUs). This will help more organizations in India develop and use complex AI models, speeding up the AI adoption process. The partnership will help strengthen India's AI capabilities and support the government's vision to make India a global leader in AI.

It also positions Reliance Intelligence as a key partner for Google Cloud, helping businesses across India adopt Gemini Enterprise. Gemini Enterprise is a next-gen AI platform for businesses, combining Google's best AI tools to help teams create, share, and run AI agents securely. Reliance Intelligence will also offer its own pre-built AI agents within Gemini Enterprise, giving users more options from both Google and third-party developers. "Reliance is a longstanding partner in Google's goal of advancing India's digital future - together we've brought affordable internet access and smartphones to millions.

Now, we are bringing this collaboration into the AI era. Today's announcement will put Google's cutting-edge AI tools in the hands of consumers, businesses, and India's vibrant developer community. I'm excited for how this partnership will help expand access to AI across India," said Sundar Pichai, CEO of Google and Alphabet.

EDITORIAL

‘Six-seven’ is a rage. Until parents ruin it, of course

The "ultimate answer to life, the universe and everything", wrote Douglas Adams in The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, is "42". Or, in other words, the product of six and seven. There's one minor snag: No one quite knows what the ultimate question is. In much the same way, it appears, no adult quite knows what "six-seven" — the newest cultural mayfly that teens around the world, including in India, are dropping like confetti in classrooms, playgrounds and at the dining table — means. That is the entire point.

Neologisms of such variety have always marked the boundaries of youth — encrypted codes incomprehensible to adults, insouciant to friends, and doomed to obsolescence. The internet has turbocharged this cycle, turning slang into cultural currency traded across reels and clips, on Instagram and Discord servers. Once upon a timeline, things were "on fleek". Then came "yeet" and "slay". Before that, everything was "lit" and "YOLO, miles above "mid". "Skibidi" came and went in the space of a meme. "Six-seven" has followed the same pattern of digital migration. It appears to have sprouted from a 2024 rap track, "Doot Doot" (6 7) by Skrilla, before mutating through basketball fandom, mostly of LaMelo Ball, 6ft 7in — but of course — and landing in an episode of South Park. Along the way, it also acquired a visual meme code: Upright palms, rising and falling in tandem.

Is it rain disaster or tree felling in HP?

THE recent sight of massive logs swept downstream in flood-ravaged Himachal Pradesh triggered alarm and suspicion. Viral videos showing timber floating in rivers prompted the Supreme Court to flag possible illegal felling. In response, the Himachal government has firmly denied any large-scale illegal logging. It has attributed the phenomenon to this season's unprecedented rainfall, cloudbursts, landslides and glacier movement, which together destabilised hill slopes, uprooting trees. The truth, as often, lies somewhere between extremes. While natural forces undoubtedly play a role in pushing uprooted wood downstream in the Himalayan floods, the frequency and scale of such logs raise legitimate questions. Investigations so far, including by forest-department committees and field inspections, claim to have found no evidence of systematic felling of trees. Yet, it is also true that issues such as weak forest monitoring, lax oversight and occasional collusion, which have been regularly flagged, may obscure the real extent of deforestation and timber trafficking.



ENTERTAINMENT

Kapoor family comes together for Netflix special ‘Dining with the Kapoors’



Mumbai 31 October: Bollywood's first family, the Kapoors, are coming together for a rare on-screen reunion in Netflix's upcoming documentary-style special "Dining with the Kapoors", premiering on November 21, the streaming platform announced on Friday. Created by Armaan Jain, "Dining with the Kapoors" is described as a "heartfelt celebration marking 100 years of the legendary Raj Kapoor, and close to a century of the Kapoor family". Netflix said in a statement. The special, shot in a "fly-on-the-wall" format, features Randhir Kapoor, Neetu Kapoor, Rima Jain, Ranbir Kapoor, Kareena Kapoor Khan, Karisma Kapoor, Saif Ali Khan, Riddhima Kapoor Sahni and others as they gather for the family's legendary annual lunch. According to Netflix, the film offers viewers "an unfiltered glimpse into the Kapoor household" - from stories spanning generations to the family's shared love for food, films and banter. The special is directed by Smriti Mundhra, who earlier helmed popular docuseries "Indian Matchmaking" and "The Romantics" for Netflix. Tanya Bami, Series Head at Netflix India, said the documentary continued the platform's commitment to authentic storytelling.

"As the Kapoor clan comes together to celebrate 100 years of their legendary patriarch Raj Kapoor, the table overflows with food, laughter, and love," she said. "Under the expert direction of Smriti Mundhra, the film offers an intimate glimpse into the traditions, conversations and bonds that define the Kapoor khandaan." Armaan Jain, son of Raj Kapoor's daughter Rima Jain and Manoj Jain, said the project was a heartfelt tribute to his grandfather. "Bringing the Kapoor khandaan together around the table felt like unlocking generations of stories — the laughter, the chaos, the endless food, and of course, the banter that's in our DNA," he said.

"Dining with the Kapoors" is my way of honouring Nanaji (Raj Kapoor) and celebrating the timeless bond that continues to hold us together," he added. "Dining with the Kapoors" is produced by Jain's banner produced by Aavashyak Media.

Zubeen's last film 'Roi Roi Binale' opens to packed house across Assam

Mumbai 31 October: 'Roi Roi Binale' (Tears still flow), the last film featuring popular singer-composer Zubeen Garg who died in Singapore last month, opened to packed shows across Assam on Friday. The first screening took place as early as 4.25 am at a multiplex in Guwahati with people queuing to watch their favourite star on the big screen for the last time. Shows started from morning hours in all cities of the state, with the movie also having a simultaneous nationwide release. With tickets of all shows for the next one week sold out, Garg's musical is expected to break all past box office records for Assamese cinema in the future. Most halls have scheduled up to seven shows a day, running till wee hours the next day to cater to demand. In 'Roi Roi Binale', Garg is playing the lead character, who is a blind musician. It has 11 songs, composed by himself. The film revolves around the life of a musician and his struggle. The trailer showed that his character was lying senseless on a sea beach and one person was trying to wake him up, a startling coincidence with his death. The celebrated singer died while swimming in the sea in Singapore on September 19 Garg is also the producer of the Rajesh Bhuyan-directed 146-minute-long film 'Roi Roi Binale' along with his wife Garima and Shyamantak Gautam.

Rush to promise freebies in Bihar election campaign ignores aspirations of electorate

Governments traditionally were expected to provide public goods, whether roads, bridges, clean water, sewage systems, public health, education, or law enforcement and justice administration. These goods, with large positive externalities and prone to underproduction by private players, cannot be delivered overnight. Nor are the benefits from them visible in the immediate term. The problem arises when expectations get altered. As politicians don't look beyond the next elections and voters turn cynical about state capacity to discharge functions and supply public goods that private markets do not provide as effectively, the result is an all-pervading fiscally ruinous short-termism.

Something of this sort is already apparent in the form of freebies being offered or promised by parties and voters also demanding more of those, while not trusting governments to do what is really

good for them in the long run. Bihar — and previously Maharashtra and Karnataka, which also went to the polls in the last couple of years — is illustrative of this phenomenon. The Nitish Kumar-led NDA government has transferred Rs 10,000 each to over 1.2 crore women ostensibly as start-up money for self-employment, under a scheme unveiled just days before the current Assembly elections. Not to be left behind, the Opposition Mahagathabandhan under Tejashwi Yadav has promised to deposit Rs 2,500 per month in the bank accounts of "eligible women" in Bihar for five years.

This is in addition to 200 units of free electricity and, worse, a government job for at least one member of every family in the state. From where will the money come? The tendency of political parties to rely on short-termism also does a disservice to the shift in Bihar's economy in the past two decades. The share of the services and construction sector in the

state's economy is constantly increasing, while that of agriculture is coming down. The median age of the state's population is under 25 years. The politics in Bihar must, therefore, recognise the aspirations of its young women and men. The state needs policies that are inviting to industry and are conducive to creating jobs; it requires skill-development centres and institutions to nurture its young population.

At the same time, the political parties should realise that when voters see dysfunctional schools and hospitals, and feel it is beyond the capacity of governments to provide clean air and water, they ask for the next best thing: Money. Politicians, too, are happy to oblige. As technology makes it possible today to undertake direct cash transfers at scale. That would not only prove fiscally ruinous but could also make Bihar's aspirational class cynical and disrupt the economic shift underway in the state.

Haryana Formation Day

Haryana pronounced is a state located in the northwestern part of India. It was carved out after the linguistic reorganisation of Punjab on 1 November 1966. It is ranked 21st in terms of area, with less than 1.4% (44,212 km2 or 17,070 sq mi) of India's land area. The state capital is Chandigarh, which it shares with the neighbouring state of Punjab; the most populous city is Faridabad, a part of the National Capital Region. The city of Gurgaon is among India's largest financial and technology hubs. Haryana has 6 administrative divisions, 22 districts, 72 sub-divisions, 93 revenue tehsils, 50 sub-tehsils, 140 community development blocks, 154 cities and towns, 7,356 villages, and 6,222 villages panchayats.

Haryana contains 32 special economic zones (SEZs), mainly located within the industrial corridor

projects connecting the National Capital Region. Gurgaon is considered one of the major information technology and automobile hubs of India. Haryana ranks 11th among Indian states in human development index. The economy of Haryana is the 13th largest in India, with a gross state domestic product (GSDP) of Rs.7.65 trillion (US\$90 billion) and has the country's 5th-highest GSDP per capita of Rs. 240,000 (US\$2,800).

The state is rich in history, monuments, heritage, flora and fauna and tourism, with a well-developed economy, national and state highways. It is bordered by Punjab and Himachal Pradesh to the north, by Rajasthan to the west and south, while river Yamuna forms its eastern border with Uttar Pradesh. Haryana surrounds the country's capital territory of Delhi on three sides (north, west and south),

consequently, a large area of Haryana state is included in the economically important National Capital Region of India for the purposes of planning and development. Some anthropologists believe that the name "Haryana" originated in the period following the Mahabharata, when the Abhiras are thought to have settled in the region.

This community was known for developing advanced agricultural techniques.

Historian Pran Nath Chopra suggests that the name evolved linguistically over time—from Abhirayana (derived from abhira meaning "Abhira" and ayana meaning "path" or "way") to Ahirayana, and eventually became Haryana or Haryana. During the Vedic era, Haryana was the site of the Kuru Kingdom, one of India's great Mahajanapadas.

'I think age suits me, sexy at 60': Shah Rukh Khan during #AskSRK session

Mumbai 31 October: Shah Rukh Khan is looking forward to celebrating his 60th birthday with fans on November 2 and the superstar believes he looks better with age. In an impromptu #AskSRK session on X, which he regularly does to stay connected to fans, Shah Rukh fielded many queries ranging from his birthday plans, upcoming movies, his life philosophy to the career of his two children — Aryan and Suhana.

Shah Rukh began the session by greeting fans with a post on Thursday which read, "Hi everyone. It's been good times....award....series release....anniversary and all good things....thought will share some happy answers with you. So if free please join in for a #ASKsrk love u let's start."

When a fan asked "why are you so handsome?", Shah Rukh came up with a witty comeback. "I think age suits me....sexy at sixty!! Superb at seventy....Enticing at eighty and so forth." said the actor, who recently celebrated the success of son Aryan Khan's series "The Ba****s of Bollywood" and his National Award win for "Jawan".

The questions thrown towards the star ranged from hilarious jokes, heartfelt love and genuine curiosity and Shah Rukh matched them with his signature wit and warmth. On being asked why the actor hasn't given interviews recently the actor joked, "Have nothing new to say....and old interviews have aged well so....haha."

Another fan asked the romance icon, "Sometimes angels come with dimples.



Is it true?" to which the actor promptly responded, "Always....and with floppy hair!"

Asked which character he relates to the most of his son's directorial debut "The Ba****s of Bollywood", "Ghanteka Badshah obviously!!!" Shah Rukh wrote.

Another fan shared that they had arrived in Mumbai to visit the star on his upcoming 60th birthday for the annual fan event at his residence Mannat. "Welcome see you on 2nd," he wrote. Shah Rukh also shared his excitement over the release of his old hits during his birthday week. "I am so excited for all these films releasing in my birthday week. I am going to try and watch them all....u tell your friends to do the same please. And Dil Se was really Dil Se," Shah Rukh wrote in reply to a fan's question.

Questioned about his current priorities, the actor said, "Spending time with my kids....remain tough and healthy so I can entertain....and be generally more patient and loving." "Sir iss baar Mannat pe fans ko greet karne aaoge?" another writer asked alluding to his birthday celebrations. "Of course but may have to wear a hard hat!!!" the actor wrote alluding to the ongoing renovations at his home. "Sir, I love u, do

you also love me!! Or it's one sided?" another fan asked. Shah Rukh was also asked whether there was any role he wanted to revisit from his career. His reply, "So many people feel I do the same stuff for years so don't know if I can do any differently ha ha. But every role has a part of me in it so they are all dear."

When a fan shared that he had been bumped and now fans were calling him "Devdas" and even taking him to watch the movie to get over his heartbreak, Shah Rukh wrote, "Don't be. Cracks in heart appear only so that the light can come in. Try dancing with Jaggu dada and my song comes....Chalake chalake...."

Asked about being directed by Aryan in "Ba****s...." and now working with Suhana in "King", the actor said, "Onsets I respect them like my colleagues....and appreciate their inputs and hard work. Offsets....I just wish and pray their hard work pays off."

"A yeah I am also so happy I didn't realize I miss my films so much. I hope you watch the films at the festival and feel hugged many times!!" The actor said he would like to watch some of his old movies as he rarely catches them. "When I chance upon them....I feel very shy and awkward," he added. Asked what's the hardest part of being a celebrity, Shah Rukh said, "No hard part....but just to focus on the core value of why one became a celebrity.

Mine is to entertain....so have to work hard on that and nothing else matters." Shah Rukh also asked "King" director Siddharth Anand to share update with fans

Nandu, Avika Gor's Ugly Story in Theatres on Nov 21

Mumbai 31 October: Promising to deliver an intense mix of love, suspense, and emotion, "Ugly Story" — starring Nandu and Avika Gor in the lead roles — is all set to release worldwide on November 21st. The film is produced by C.H. Subhashini and Konda Rixman under the banner Raya Ziya Productions, while Pranav Swaroop has written and directed the project.

With Sri Sai Kumar Garg handling the cinematography and Shravan Bharadwaj composing the music, "Ugly Story" is shaping up to be a visually captivating and musically rich romantic thriller. Srikanth Patnaik and Mithun Soma take charge of editing, ensuring a sharp and gripping



narrative flow.

The title glimpse, teaser, and songs released so far have received an excellent response from audiences, creating strong anticipation for the film's release. With a fresh pairing of Nandu and Avika Gor and an intriguing romantic thriller backdrop, "Ugly Story" is one of the most awaited releases of the season.

Paresh Rawal stands by 'The Taj Story'

Mumbai 31 October: Addressing the controversies around his film, Rawal explained how it causes a significant loss to the "social fabric, people's psyche and a country like India, which often witnesses delicate situations." "We are trying to clear the obvious and present the historical facts from primary sources," he added. Actor Zakir Hussain, who will be seen portraying the role of a lawyer, added, "There are some subjects which create controversies. This is a historical event and has been mentioned in several books, beginning in the 16th century. When the Taj Mahal was being constructed, someone travelled there and wrote his own description. Over time, things tend to change in meaning. We are bringing a healthy debate to the audience." Filmmaker Tushar Amrish Goel spoke about the performances from both Paresh Rawal and Zakir Hussain.

"With Zakir sir's versatility and Paresh sir's talent, I got humour along with a bit of bitterness. The combination of both elements made our story and our film," he said. Ahead of its release, the Delhi High Court has refused to grant an urgent hearing to a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) filed against the release of The Taj Story.



Rs.185 Crore Skill Development Centre Set for Wardha, Aims to Boost Agri-Entrepreneurship and Local Employment

Wardha, 31 October: In a significant push for skill development in the Vidarbha region, a new Professional Skill Development Centre of the Yashwantrao Chavan Maharashtra Open University (YCMOU) will be established in Wardha.



The project, championed by the district's Guardian Minister, Dr. Pankaj Bhoyar, has received the necessary approvals, including 10 acres of land and an allocation of ₹185 crores for construction.

The centre aims to address the growing need for a skilled workforce by focusing not just on the district but the entire Vidarbha region. It will specifically cater to the needs of the agriculture sector and its allied industries, which often face a shortage of trained manpower. The proposal, submitted by Dr. Bhoyar to YCMOU, has now received a green signal from the university. The Vice-Chancellor stated that this centre will play a crucial role in fulfilling the educational aspirations of the Wardha district and the Vidarbha region as a whole. The university plans to construct the facility in two phases, with the goal of creating a premier high-quality education hub in Maharashtra. Wardha, a district sanctified by the stay of Mahatma Gandhi, will see this project as a step towards realizing his dream of moving focus towards rural development through education and economic growth. "This is an effort to generate

sufficient skilled manpower for the agriculture and other small-scale industries in this region," said Guardian Minister Dr. Pankaj Bhoyar.

Key Objectives of the Centre:

Fulfilling local employment needs and generating new jobs.

- Improving industry-education coordination.
- Creating skilled manpower for the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority in Palghar.
- Setting up workshops for E-vehicle repairs.
- Establishing a Logistic Park.
- Promoting education for all, including tribal education and opportunities for the differently-abled.
- Fostering research & development and cottage industry training.
- Offering courses in regional languages and digital learning.

Infrastructure Plan:

■ Phase 1 (Rs.115 Crores): This phase will include the Divisional Office, Professional and Entrepreneurship Development Centre, academic blocks, a well-equipped library, study rooms, computer labs, a digital learning lab, a lab for the differently-abled, the Logistic Park building, and a self-study material repository.

■ Phase 2 (Rs.70 Crores): The second phase will focus on constructing two student hostels, an indoor sports complex, a student activity centre, and residential quarters for officers and staff.

The establishment of this centre is expected to be a transformative step for the educational and economic landscape of Vidarbha.

Konkan Agricultural University to Conduct Research on Bael Trees in Mahatma Gandhi's Ashram

Sevagram, 31 October:

Mahatma Gandhi's Ashram at Sevagram is known as a center of peace and simplicity. The Ashram premises house various kinds of trees, among which the bael (wood apple) trees hold a special place. These trees, significant in Ayurveda, are now going to be the subject of scientific research by Konkan Agricultural University.

The initiative is being undertaken in collaboration with the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial. The study aims to explore the medicinal, economic, and ecological importance of the bael trees located in the ashram premises.

Prof. Prashant Desai, an Ayurvedic researcher from the university, shared that the research will focus on understanding the properties of the bael fruit, bark, leaves, and roots. He said that the trees in Gandhi's Ashram are unique because of the natural, chemical-free environment in which they have grown for decades. "Bael trees have immense medicinal and spiritual significance in India. We are planning to collect samples from the Ashram and prepare scientific reports. This will help in developing herbal medicines and increasing awareness about traditional plant-based health systems," said Prof. Desai.

The research team will study the environmental and biological features of these trees and document how naturally grown bael trees contribute to the ecosystem. The study will also identify potential uses in Ayurveda and organic farming.

Uses:

The bael fruit, leaves, bark, and roots are used in Ayurveda for treating various diseases related to digestion, skin, and inflammation.

The study is expected to highlight the Ashram's traditional connection with nature and Gandhi's ideals of sustainability and simple living.

Candle March at Medical Square



Nagpur 31 October: A candle march was held today at Medical square by Maharashtra Pradesh Youth Congress to protest against the suicide of a female doctor at the District Sub-Hospital in Phaltan, district Satara, who was fed up with the constant harassment and torture by local police officers and some local political leaders of the ruling party.

It is a very unfortunate and regrettable incident that a woman committed suicide due to torture. This is an incident where the protector has become the prey, and the state's Home Minister is busy campaigning in another state.

The dignitaries present also warned that the Youth Congress will protest against Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis by holding such a strong protest until the victim's sister gets justice.

On this occasion Maharashtra Pradesh Congress Committee General Secretary Girish Pandav, Organizer Raunak Chaudhary, State Vice President Tanveer Ahmed Vidrohi, State Secretary Akshay Hegde, South Nagpur Youth Congress President Sushant Lokhande, City Youth Congress Vice President Raza Ali, State Secretary Sumit Dholke,

Nikhil Wankhede, Nagpur City NSUI District President Pranay Singh Thakur Nagpur, City Traders Cell President Shrikant Dholke, Social Worker Suresh Jichkar, Women's Congress's Roma Chaudhary, Social Media Cell's Sameer Timande, Suhas Nanvatkar, Latif Sheikh, Sumit Dholke, Chirag Chaudhary, Ashutosh Ramteke, Shatrughan Chandel, Harsh Chavan, Rishabh Jais, Ashwin Shahur, Arvind Sahirsagar, Nupur Mate, Kshil Mohod, Himanshu Shahakar, Pawan Shripad, Prasad Zade along with other office bearers were present.

Wardha Cyclists Ride to Amravati for Bird Lovers' Convention



Wardha: 31 October, Twelve nature enthusiasts from Bahar Nature Foundation embarked on a cycle journey to Amravati to participate in the two-day Maharashtra Bird Lovers' Convention held at Sant Dnyaneshwar Auditorium. The initiative aims to promote environmental awareness and sustainable living.

The cycling team includes Bahar's founder-president Prof. Kishor Wankhede, president Dr. Babaji Ghevde, secretary Jayant Sabane, treasurer Rajdeep Rathore, and

members Darshan Dudhane, Atul Sharma, Sushma Sharma, and others. They were flagged off from Rashtrasant Tukdoji Maharaj Chowk by honorary wildlife warden Sanjay Ingle Tigavkar, along with well-wishers and environmental supporters. The group is expected to reach the venue by November 1, engaging in eco-dialogues en route. At the convention, Bahar's young scientist Darshan Dudhane will present on "Avian Reproductive Biology," contributing to the scientific discourse on bird conservation.

Automatic Approval for Applications to Change Consumer Name on Electricity Bills MSEDC takes another step forward in Digital Consumer Service

Nagpur, 31 October : MSEDC (Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited) has started providing automatic approval for online applications for the Change of Name of consumers on electricity bills, aiming for quality and prompt consumer service. After uploading the necessary documents and paying the processing fee, the process for changing the consumer name on the electricity bill will now be completed in just three to seven days. Previously, this process took a month as per the stipulated performance standards. The Honorable Chief Minister and Energy Minister, Shri. Devendra Fadnis, had directed MSEDC to make consumer-centric changes in its digital services to provide prompt, at-home services to electricity consumers. Accordingly, Shri. Lokesh Chandra, Chairman and Managing Director of MSEDC, decided to grant automatic approval for online applications for Change of Name on the bill. For this purpose, an online system has recently been developed and implemented.

Applications for a change in the consumer's name on the electricity bill are typically submitted when there is a change in the ownership of a house or other property due to sale-purchase, inheritance rights, or other reasons. MSEDC provides facilities for consumers to submit online applications, upload necessary documents, and pay the Processing Fee through 'Log-in' on the MSEDC Mobile App and the website www.mahadiscom.in.

The time limit for the application, scrutiny, and approval process was fixed at one month according to the performance standards of the Honorable Maharashtra State Electricity Regulatory Commission (MERC). Now, with MSEDC granting automatic approval to these applications, the Change of Name action will be completed in just three to seven days. The online application for a consumer name change and the uploaded documents will be inspected by the concerned sub-division office. If any deficiencies are found, the concerned consumer will be immediately informed via 'SMS' on their registered mobile number. Simultaneously, a message confirming the completion of the consumer's name change process will also be sent to the consumers.

The automatic approval for consumer name changes applications will primarily benefit domestic as well as other consumers with prompt access to MSEDC's digital service. Prior to this, MSEDC had already commenced granting automatic approval for online applications for electricity load increases up to 157 kW for all industrial, commercial, domestic, and other consumers in the low-tension (LT) category. This has greatly benefited electricity consumers. In the last month alone, 4,164 electricity consumers, including 2,460 industrial ones, increased their electricity load by a massive 22,000 kilowatts with a single click. Now, by automating the approval for consumer name changes on electricity bills, MSEDC has taken a major lead in digital consumer service.

Deputy Chief Public Relations Officer, MSEDC, Nagpur

VNIT Nagpur to Host All India Inter-NIT Tournament from Nov 1 to 3

Nagpur 31 October:

The Visesvaraya National Institute of Technology (VNIT), Nagpur, is set to host the All India Inter-NIT Tournament from November 1 to 3, featuring competitions in handball, tennis, and yoga. Addressing the media, VNIT Director Prof. P. L. Patel said that around 565 students from various NITs across the country, along with 300 participants from the host institute, will take part in the three-day sporting event. The inaugural ceremony will take place at 11:30 am on November 1, with Dr. D. K. Baidya from NIT Silchar and RBI



Regional Director Sachin Shende, a VNIT alumnus, as the chief guests. The event will also be attended by Associated Dean Dr. Gali

Hema Chandra, Sports Head Dr. P. S. Nagrale, Dean of Student Welfare Ratnesh Kumar, and Director Prof. Prem Lal Patel.

Major Ticket Checking Drive by Nagpur Division – Rs.11.89 Lakh Collected in a Single Day

Nagpur 31 October: Nagpur Division of Central Railway conducted a Massive Ticket Checking Drive covering 22 trains on 29.10.2025.

A total of 80 ticket checking staff, 1 RPF personnel, and 4 Chief Inspectors participated in this large-scale drive. The entire operation was closely supervised and monitored by commercial officers of the division.

During the drive, strict action was taken against passengers travelling without tickets, with irregular or improper tickets, and those violating railway rules. A total of 1907 cases were detected, resulting in earnings of Rs.11,89,875/-.

On average, each ticket checking staff realized Rs.14,873.44 and handled 23.84 cases during the drive.

Such regular and extensive ticket checking drives aim to promote awareness among passengers about travelling with valid tickets and to enhance railway revenue. Nagpur Division remains committed to continuing similar drives in future to curb unauthorized travel.

Nagpur Division Observes National Unity Day with "Run for Unity" and Pledge Ceremony

Nagpur 31 October: On the occasion of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day), commemorating the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Nagpur Division of Central Railway organized a series of events to celebrate the spirit of unity, integrity, and national strength on 31st October 2025.

A "Run for Unity" was organized at DSA Railway Stadium, Nagpur. The run commenced from the stadium, proceeded to Samudai Bhavan, Ajni, and concluded at the starting point, symbolizing the collective resolve for national integration. A large number of railway officers, staff, their families, and local residents participated with great enthusiasm, spreading the message of togetherness and harmony. ADRM (A) Shri Amol Kumar Pingle appreciated the efforts of the organizing team and participants, stating that the event was a befitting tribute to the Iron Man of India and a reflection of unity among citizens. Later, a National Unity Day Pledge Ceremony was held at the DRM Office premises. The event began with an introductory address, followed by ADRM (A) Shri Amol Kumar Pingle administering the unity pledge to all officers and staff. ADRM (T) Shri A.K. Singh, senior officers, The celebrations concluded with a reaffirmation to uphold the ideals of unity, integrity, and national pride—the core values championed by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and employees from various departments participated with patriotic zeal and commitment.

Man crushed to death after coal-laden tipper overturns in Nagpur

Nagpur 31 October: In a tragic road accident on Wednesday afternoon, a 38-year-old man was crushed to death when a coal-laden tipper truck overturned on the Nagpur-Jabalpur Road near Velahari village under Beltarodi Police Station limits. The deceased, identified as Rakesh Govindrao Halbe (38), a resident of Titur, Kuhl tehsil, Nagpur district, was on his way to work at Sunbiz Company, Butibori, riding his Honda motor cycle (MH-40/CJ-3335) when the accident occurred between 12:30 pm and 2:30 pm.

According to police, the tipper-trailer (MH-40/CD-8615), loaded with coal, was being driven at high speed in a rash and negligent manner when the driver lost control, causing the vehicle to overturn. Halbe, who was riding

close by, was trapped underneath and sustained severe injuries. Local residents and police personnel rushed to the spot and managed to pull him out from under the overturned vehicle.

He was immediately taken to AIIMS Hospital, Nagpur, where doctors declared him brought dead. Following a complaint lodged by the victim's uncle, Baba Maroti Halbe (52), a resident of Plot No. 18, Mahavishnu Nagar, Hudkeshwar, Nagpur, Woman PSI Ghodse of Beltarodi Police Station has registered a case against the tipper driver under Sections 281, 106(1), and 324(4) of the Indian Penal Code for rash and negligent driving causing death. Further investigation into the incident is underway.

Teacher commits suicide ; stir in education sector.



Mul 31 October: The death of Vivek Vinod Harmwar (age 40), a teacher at Balvihar at Balvihar Primary School in Mul, has created a stir in the city and has spread grief among the teaching community.

According to the initial information received, his family members had been out of the village for a few days. After noticing that Vivek Harmwar was not present at the school even though the school was open today, fellow teachers tried to contact him. When his relatives did not receive a response, this unfortunate incident came to note.

Vivek Harmwar was known as a friendly, dutiful and calm teacher in the city. His sudden death has created an atmosphere of sadness among students, parents and the education sector. The reason for the incident is still unclear and further investigation is underway by the police.

National Unity Pledge Taken on Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's Birth Anniversary at MGAHV



Wardha, October 31, 2025: On the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Mahatma Gandhi Antrashtriya Hindi Vishawidyalaya Wardha, observed National Unity Day on Friday, October 31.

The program, held in Kasturba Auditorium, was presided over by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Kumud Sharma, who offered floral tributes to Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and led the gathering in taking the National Unity Pledge. The pledge was collectively

repeated by all attendees, reaffirming their commitment to national integrity, unity, and strength.

Prof. Sharma remarked that Sardar Patel's birth anniversary is celebrated every year as Rashtriya Ekta Diwas to honor his role in unifying India and to inspire citizens to uphold the spirit of unity and dedication.

On this occasion, Controller of Examinations and Registrar Dr. Surendra Gadewar, Dean of Student Welfare Prof. Awadhesh Kumar, and Dean of the Faculty of Translation and

Prof. Hanumanprasad Shukla also paid floral tributes to Sardar Patel.

The event witnessed participation of deans, heads of departments, faculty members, research scholars, staff, and students. Additionally, members from the university's Regional Centres in Kolkata and Prayagraj, along with Sarvagna Shri Chakradhar Swami Marathi Language and Philosophy Study Centre, Riddhipur (Amravati), joined the ceremony online.

MSEDCL Bags 'Wind India-2025' Award at International Conference on Wind Energy Sector

Nagpur, 31 October : MSEDC (Maharashtra State Electricity Distribution Company Limited) is prioritizing renewable energy in alignment with the policies of the Central and State Governments. The long-term Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) till 2030 also include wind-solar hybrid energy. Recognizing this effort, MSEDC was honoured with the 'Wind India-2025' award by the Hon'ble Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy, Shri Pralhad Joshi, at the International Conference of the Indian Wind Turbine Manufacturers Association (IWTMA), which represents India's wind energy sector, held in Chennai on Thursday (Oct 30). Under the guidance of Chief Minister and Energy Minister Hon. Shri Devendra Fadnis, Additional Chief Secretary (Energy) Smt. Abha Shukla has prepared a Resource Adequacy Plan for the state's power sector.

This plan has primarily encouraged power generation from various renewable sources, including solar energy, as well as wind-solar hybrid, wind, bagasse, biomass, and small hydropower. Furthermore, under the leadership of Chairman and Managing Director Shri Lokesh Chandra, MSEDC has entered into long-term Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) at preferential tariffs for non-conventional energy sources. This includes long-term PPAs for 4,344 MW of wind-solar hybrid power. The award was conferred upon MSEDC by the Hon'ble Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy, Shri Pralhad Joshi, on Thursday (Oct 30) at the three-day International Conference held at the Chennai Trade Centre. Chief Engineer Shri Dnyanesh Kulkarni (Renewable Energy, Mumbai) accepted the award on behalf of MSEDC. Also present on



the occasion were Energy Ministers Shri S. S. Sivashankar (Tamil Nadu) and Shri K. J. George (Kerala), Union Secretary Shri Santosh Kumar Sarangi and Joint Secretary Shri Rajesh Kulhari (New and Renewable Energy), Shri Johann Saathoff (Parliamentary State Secretary, Germany), and Shri Girish Tanti, Chairman of the organizing committee and the Association. According to the Energy Department's Resource Adequacy Plan, an additional 45,000 MW of power, including a whopping 38,000 MW of green energy, will be added by 2030.

The renewable energy capacity in Maharashtra will increase from 13% to 52%. This will involve an investment of approximately ₹3 lakh 30 thousand crore and create about 7 lakh jobs. Furthermore, there will be a saving of ₹82,000 crore in power purchases over the next five years, which will gradually reduce electricity tariffs for all categories. Photo Caption – MSEDC was honored with the 'Wind India-2025' award by the Hon'ble Union Minister of New and Renewable Energy, Shri Pralhad Joshi, at the International Conference on the Wind Energy Sector in Chennai. Chief Engineer Shri Dnyanesh Kulkarni accepted the award on behalf of MSEDC.

Deputy Chief Public Relations Officer, MSEDC, Nagpur

Amravati, Saturday 1 November 2025

Maha Govt directs all schools to sing full version of Vande Mataram from Oct 31 to Nov 7

Nagpur 31 October: The Maharashtra Government has directed all schools across the State to sing the complete version of the national song Vande Mataram from October 31 to November 7, media reports said. At present, the schools in State sing only the first two stanzas of the song. However, in celebration of the milestone, the circular states that schools of all mediums must perform the full version and also display exhibitions depicting the history and significance of the song.

The directive was issued by the School Education Department on October 27 through an official circular. The move marks the 150th anniversary of Vande Mataram, penned by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay.

However, the move has been opposed by Samajwadi Party leader Abu Azmi. He said making Vande Mataram compulsory was not right because everyone has different beliefs. Islam gives a lot of importance to



respecting one's mother but it does not allow prostrating before her, he said. Targeting the BJP without naming it, Azmi said, "You do nothing, don't carry out any development. Just indulge in Hindu-Muslim (politics) and win (elections)."

When a tiger tastes blood, it keeps looking for it. So they keep doing research on issues that could upset Muslims. Reacting to it, Maharashtra BJP media chief Navnath Ban said, "If Abu Azmi is allergic to Vande Mataram, then he should

move to Pakistan or any other country of his choice. If he wishes to live here, he needs to respect Vande Mataram and recite it," according to the media reports. In the circular, the school department also attached a letter written on February 18 by Radha Bhide of Thane-based Rajmata Jijabai Trust to Pankaj Bhoyar, Minister of State for School Education, making the demand that the complete version of Vande Mataram song be sung in schools from October 31 to November 7.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor Concludes 34th iCARE Initiative, Empowering Rural Women Entrepreneurs Through Self-Help Groups

Bangalore, 31 October : Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) today announced the successful completion of its 34th iCARE activity under its Employee Volunteerism Program – iCARE (i, Community Action to Reach Everyone), marking another significant milestone in its journey of social impact. Aligned with TKM's core DNA of continuous improvement (Kaizen), respect for people, and commitment to sustainability, this initiative reflects the company's enduring focus on empowering communities and fostering inclusive growth through innovative and eco-conscious solutions. Additionally, TKM provided environmentally friendly materials, soap-making tools, and vessels to help these SHGs continue and grow their micro-enterprises.

This initiative promotes eco-conscious practices and strengthens the entrepreneurial ecosystem for rural women, enabling them to achieve greater financial independence and community impact. Through this initiative, TKM aims to support women-led SHGs such as Sreelakshmi Swasahaya Sanga and Basaveshwara Swami Mahila Swasahaya Sanga in the rural villages of Ramanagara district, Karnataka.

These groups are engaged in the production of natural soaps and soap

powders and aspire to expand their businesses to neighbouring villages. Speaking about the initiative, Mr. Sudeep Dalvi, Chief Communication Officer, Senior Vice President, and Head State Affairs, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said "Through its 34th iCARE initiative, TKM continues to uphold Toyota's core philosophy of giving back to society by empowering communities through meaningful and sustainable actions."

This activity reflects TKM's belief that true societal transformation begins with empowering the underserved, rooted in its Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) values. By supporting rural women micro-entrepreneurs in SHGs, TKM aims to create inclusive economic opportunities, strengthen local ecosystems, and promote environmental sustainability. With this activity, TKM is not only promoting environmentally friendly practices but also creating livelihood opportunities for women entrepreneurs in rural areas—driving socio-economic impact that supports our vision to Grow India—Sustain India. Through partnerships with local government bodies and institutions, TKM continues to drive sustainable impact across its six core CSR pillars—Education, Health & Hygiene, Environment, Skill Development, Road Safety, and Disaster Management.

Justice Bisht (Retd) appointed Administrator of Meditrina Hospital, Nagpur

Nagpur 31 October : In a significant development, the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) has appointed Justice Virendrasingh Gyansingh Bisht (Retd), former Judge of the Bombay High Court, as the Administrator of Meditrina Institute of Medical Sciences Pvt. Ltd., Nagpur, formerly known as VRG Healthcare Pvt. Ltd. The appointment follows a petition filed by Ganesh Ramchandra Chakkarwar, Founding CMD, Director, and substantial shareholder of the company, against co-directors Dr. Sameer Paltewar and Sonali Paltewar, alleging large-scale financial irregularities, mismanagement, and diversion of company funds.

According to the Tribunal's order, Meditrina Institute had slipped into severe operational paralysis due to an ongoing internal conflict. The absence of an effective board resulted in frozen bank accounts, halted medical supplies, unpaid salaries, and declining patient footfall, severely impacting hospital operations and public healthcare delivery. In its ruling, the NCLT observed, "Considering the entire facts of the case, and in particular, that the respondent company is headed by the Board of Directors, one of whom is in jail and the remaining two directors are at loggerheads, we are



of the view that an Independent Director/Administrator is required to be appointed to break the functional deadlock and to ensure that the interests of the company, its stakeholders, and the general public at large are protected.

"The case was argued on behalf of Chakkarwar by a legal and corporate advisory team comprising Corporate Consultant Prof. C. S. Vikas Suresh Chedge, Adv. Partho Sarathy Sarkar, Adv. Pratik Sarkar, Adv. Nicky Pokar, and Adv. Anubhav Arun Mardikar.

The appointment of Justice Bisht as Administrator is seen as a turning point for the troubled healthcare institution, expected to restore transparency, ethical governance, and stable management after months of uncertainty and internal strife.

Anushka Merchande, Shayantani Ghosh, Niharika Chouksey, and Abhishek Sharma talk about celebrating Halloween

Nagpur 31 October: Halloween is right around the corner, and excitement is in the air as people across the world prepare to celebrate this fun-filled festival with great enthusiasm. Every year, on 31st October, the eve of All Saints' Day, people come together to enjoy the spooky season through costume parties, trick-or-treat, and all things mysterious! Embracing the same festive spirit, Zee TV actors Anushka Merchande, Shayantani Ghosh, Niharika Chouksey, and Abhishek Sharma share their excitement and plans to make this Halloween extra special.

Anushka Merchande, who essays the role of Anika in Saru, said, "Halloween is such a fun celebration because it lets you be someone else for a day, whether it's a superhero, a ghost, or a character you've always loved. As an actor, that's something I connect with deeply. I love experimenting with creative



looks and makeup, and Halloween gives me that chance to go all out. This year, I'm planning to attend a themed party with my friends. I haven't decided on my costume yet, but it's definitely going to be something spooky with a twist! Wishing everyone a safe and fang-tastic Halloween!"

Sayantani Ghosh, who

essays the role of Maya in the upcoming show Jagadhatr, said, "I've always found Halloween fascinating because it celebrates imagination in such a playful way. I remember as a kid, I used to be so curious about this festival, the costumes, the decorations, and the spooky stories. Now, I really enjoy being part of it with my friends, dressing up, and having a good laugh. I think it's also a great reminder to embrace our fears and find fun even in the mystery. This Halloween, I plan to have a cozy get-together with my loved ones, watch some light

horror movies, and just enjoy the vibe."

Niharika Chouksey, who essays the role of Anu in Tum Se Tum Tak, said, "Halloween is one of those festivals that brings out everyone's creative and mischievous side. I love the idea of dressing up in spooky costumes and playing harmless pranks on friends,

it's all in good fun! I think the joy of Halloween lies in doing something different from your everyday routine. This year, I'm thinking of going all glam-spooky with my costume, maybe a gothic princess or a mysterious sorceress. I can't wait to celebrate and create some spooky memories!"

Abhishek Sharma, who essays the role of Devansh in Vasudha, said, "Halloween has always been such a fun and creative festival. I love how it brings people together, whether it's through costumes, laughter, or just sharing a few spooky stories. It's that one day when everyone gets to step into a different character and enjoy the lighter side of fear. I wish everyone a happy and safe Halloween filled with fun, creativity, and lots of treats!"

As the spooky season approaches, the stars of Zee TV remind us that Halloween isn't just about scares; it's about fun, creativity, and celebrating togetherness with a playful spirit.

'Diwali Fair' Celebrated with Great Enthusiasm at Podar Prep, Jagannath Nagar



Nagpur 31 October: The festival that brings joy and happiness—Diwali—was celebrated with double the excitement at Podar Prep, Jagannath Nagar, through a special event, the 'Diwali Fair'. The celebration aimed to spread festive cheer, entertain parents, and help students understand the significance of our Hindu festivals and culture.

As part of the event, the

tiny tots of the Pre-Primary section participated enthusiastically in decorating the school with paper garlands, colorful rangoli designs, and origami lamps.

The celebration was successfully organized under the initiative of the Headmistress, Mrs. Rashmi Kumar, with the guidance of event-in-charge teacher, Mrs. Swati, and the wholehearted support of all the teachers.

Geeta Tyagi joins the cast of Zee TV's upcoming show Jagadhatr as Rekha

Nagpur 31 October: Zee TV is all set to introduce its new fiction show Jagadhatr, a story that beautifully captures the strength of women who fight unseen battles every day. Starring Sonakshi Batra as Jagadhatr and Farman Haider as Shivay, the show follows the journey of a young woman who is subdued and overlooked at home but transforms into a fearless undercover agent when she takes on crime.

Adding to this compelling narrative, talented actress Geeta Tyagi joins the cast as Rekha, Jagadhatr's stepmother. Rekha is a complex woman, emotionally layered, torn between responsibility and resentment. While she fulfills her duties as the matriarch of the house, her relationship with Jagadhatr is marked by distance and unspoken tension. Her character represents the silent conflicts within families, where love, ego, and regret often coexist.

Speaking about her role, Geeta Tyagi said, "I'm portraying Rekha, Jagadhatr's stepmother, a woman whose life is shaped by her past and her choices. She isn't your typical negative or positive character; she's deeply human. At times, she's stern and distant, but she also carries hidden emotions that surface as the story unfolds. I was drawn to the layers in her personality, she's not black or white, but someone who lives



in the grey, and that's what makes her real. I'm excited for the audience to see how her relationship evolves with Jagadhatr as the story progresses."

Adding further, she said, "When Jagadhatr was offered to me, I found the concept refreshing and layered.

The idea of showing a woman leading a dual life, being dismissed at home but powerful in her mission, really stood out. And Rekha, adds so much emotional complexity to Jagadhatr's world. I'm thrilled to be part of such a story and an incredible team."

With Geeta Tyagi's entry as Rekha, Jagadhatr promises to delve deeper into the emotional roots of its story, exploring not just courage and identity but also the intricate ties of family and acceptance.

Watch Jagadhatr's inspiring journey unfold soon only on Zee TV!

CM Chashak State Basketball: Nagpur challenge ends in semi-finals

Nagpur 31 October: Host Nagpur's both men's and women's teams crashed out in the CM Chashak Maharashtra State Senior Basketball Championship organised by Nagpur District Basketball Association at DKM courts in the city on Thursday. Nagpur women's fine run in the tournament ended with a heartbreak as they went down to Mumbai South West in a close semi-final while Nagpur men lost to Mumbai Central in a high-scoring last-four game. Nagpur women conceded a huge lead in the first quarter but bounced back in the second only to lower guard once again in the third quarter.

The final score read 57-48 with break-ups of scores being 20-9, 14-20, 14-7, 9-12. Mumbai South West's Nisha Sharma (28) was unstoppable scoring points after points. Riya Kungahdar and Nandana supported with identical 10 ten goals each. For hosts, Gunjan Mantri (17), Siya Deodhar (13) and Dhara Phate (11) scored in double digits. In the other semi, Mumbai South East pipped Pune to make it a all Mumbai women's final. In men's



semis, Mumbai Central got the better of Nagpur 100-85. The visitors opened up a 13-point lead in the opening quarter and kept the pressure. City boys matched them in the third quarter but it was too little and too late. Quarter-wise scores read 24-11, 26-17, 23-24, 33-27. Mumbai's Subin Vel (33) and Yash Shetty (21), and Nagpur's Tanuk Gurnule (27), Sonu Kumar (18), Saurabh Mankar (10) and Yash Jivtode (10) played well. In other semi, Pune beat Mumbai South East 69-67.

State-Level Divyang Cricket Tournament to Begin in Nagpur Today

Nagpur 31 October: The 4th State-Level Divyang Cricket Tournament for the Namdev Dada Balgar Trophy will be held on November 1 and 2, 2025, at the KTPS Cricket Ground, Karadi, Nagpur. The event is jointly organised by the Vidarbha Divyang Cricket Association (VDCA) and the Amravati District Cricket Association. The tournament, named after Namdevji Balgar Dada,



a veteran social worker devoted to the welfare of differently-abled individuals since 1972, aims to promote inclusivity and empowerment through cricket. A total of 100 players with disabilities from across Vidarbha will participate in the competition. Six teams representing Nagpur, Amravati, Akola, Buldhana, Yavatmal, and the Rest of Vidarbha will compete in a league format. Based on their

performance, the top 30 players will be selected for the upcoming national-level tournament, under the guidance of Baburao Yadav, former Ranji player and Chief Selector of VDCA. VDCA office-bearers extended their best wishes to the participants, expressing hope that the tournament will inspire more differently-abled athletes and foster the spirit of sportsmanship across the region.

Renault announces the return of the iconic Duster

New Delhi, 31 October: Renault India, a wholly owned subsidiary of the French carmaker Renault Group, today officially announced that its much-awaited new SUV will proudly carry forward the legacy of the iconic nameplate—Duster.

Originally launched in India in 2012, the Renault Duster redefined the SUV landscape and pioneered a segment that today accounts for nearly one-fourth of the passenger vehicle market. The Duster is also going to be the first product to be launched under the brand's International Game Plan 2027 in India. The car is a key pillar company's India centric transformation strategy. Renault is rethinking.

Speaking on the occasion, Stephane Deblaise, CEO Renault Group India said "Renault Duster is more than just a name—it's a true legend. A

symbol of adventure, reliability and innovation, its comeback shows our commitment to the Indian market and our desire to offer vehicles that meet the needs of our customers. New Renault Duster will rely on its iconic heritage while adopting a modern design, advanced technology and enhanced performance."

The announcement marks a significant moment for Indian automotive enthusiasts, many of whom have long awaited the return of the beloved SUV. With close to 1.8 million customers globally and more than 200,000 happy owners in India, the Duster enjoys a cult following and remains one of the most successful SUVs in Renault's global portfolio.

The icon will be unveiled on Republic Day – 26th January 2026. Until then, stay in the loop by joining the waiting program starting today.

Kadu’s farm stir timing may skew local body pollsmath

Nagpur 31 October: Almost a year after Bacchu Kadu lost the assembly polls from his stronghold Achalpur (Amravati), the Prahar Janshakti Paksha (PJP) founder is back with a bang. His farmers' agitation, which blocked the key Nagpur-Hyderabad highway for over 24 hours, forced the govt to take cognisance and send emissaries for negotiations on Wednesday. While Kadu's agitation was the result of a series of meetings and small agitations over the last few months, it was the grand finale in Nagpur that catapulted him to state-level fame, which made even Maratha quota activist Manoj Jarange drive all the way to Nagpur to meet Kadu. Both men have one thing in common.

Their agitations focused on CM Devendra Fadnavis and his alleged 'unfulfilled promises'. As Maharashtra readies for local body polls, which were positioned to be a contest between the ruling Mahayuti alliance and the opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA), the emergence of Kadu, who unlike Jarange is active in electoral politics, now threatens to skew the arithmetic. While Kadu's party, which is rooted in rural politics, is certain to gain, the big question is who loses? Will it be the BJP, which swayed the assembly polls in agrarian Vidarbha last year, or the Congress, which is looking to keep its grip on the rural vote bank?

Upendra Kothekar, BJP's Vidarbha Sangathan Mantri, feels the impact on local body polls of Kadu's agitation is being overrated. "When people vote in local body polls, they look at the candidate and limit their focus on hyper-local issues. As far as loan waiver is concerned, that money will go to banks, and the govt is trying to put



money into farmers' hands through various schemes. I believe the farmers are well aware of who is really working for them and are smart enough to cast their vote keeping all these things in mind," said Kothekar.

BJP's Nagpur city president Daya Shankar Tiwari said Kadu is being propped up to hurt his party. "A senior leader from western Maharashtra, who has decades of experience in politics, is behind this. Before every election, this leader props up some agitation and targets BJP. But all of these tactics will fail because farmers know the truth," Maharashtra Pradesh Congress chief

said loan waiver will be given, and farmers are aware of this. "Leaders of Vanchit Bahujan Aghadi (VBA), which has a sizeable cadre base in Vidarbha, feel that Kadu is not being true to the cause of farmers. Taking on Kadu's party PJP, Nagpur-based VBA leader Prince Shamkule said, "If they (PJP) really wanted to fight, they should have fought for farmers to get 150% profit over input costs, and for granting agriculture the status of an industry. Instead, they are fighting in a way that keeps farmers dependent — encouraging them to live on loans and beg like paupers. To trust such people is not to bring

about change in the system, but to preserve the same system of slavery." Political analysts feel that Kadu will eat into MVA vote bank as those already with BJP and its allies may not shift en masse. Even PJP itself agrees with this analysis and is not averse to a grand alliance with the opposition parties.

Prakash Karemore, PJP's Nagpur district president, who played a key role in the agitation, said, "Our analysis is that MVA's voters will come over to our side in larger numbers as compared to those from Mahayuti. Hence, the best option will be if MVA approaches us for a grand alliance so that a strong opposition can face the ruling alliance in the local body polls. "With time being short for local body polls, there is no doubt that Kadu's resurgence will have an impact on votes, especially in areas like Amravati and Nagpur, where his party has a presence. The attack may clearly be on the govt in terms of the agenda, but on the ground, experts believe that vote split will mathematically benefit the BJP-led alliance.

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Doctors to discuss 'living will', end-of-life decisions ahead of Mahacriticon 2025

Nagpur 31 October: "Relatives must let a critically-ill patient with no hope of recovery go in a dignified way rather than let them suffer on a bed for six months or a year," said Dr Deepak Jeswani, organising chairman of Mahacriticon 2025, ahead of a unique public forum on 'Dying with Dignity' to be held on November 2 at JR Shaw Auditorium, IMA Hall.

The event, organised by the Society of Critical Care Medicine (SCCM), Nagpur, aims to promote awareness about end-of-life care, withdrawal of futile treatment, and the importance of having a living will — also known as an advanced medical directive.

Senior intensivist Dr Shiva Kumar Iyer and neurologist Dr Roop Gursahani will lead discussions on the ethical and psychological aspects of dying with dignity. Other experts, including Dr Prafulla Shembalkar, Dr Praveer Waradkar, Dr Rajan Barokar, and Dr Kashish Vats, will address topics such as 'What is a good death?', 'What is a living will?', and 'Palliative



Care and End-of-Life Issues'. Dr Jeswani explained that the concept of a 'living will' makes it easier for doctors and families to make decisions about withdrawing active treatment when recovery is no longer possible. "So far, this was not possible. With a living will, primary and secondary medical boards can take a call to withdraw life support and allow a peaceful exit," he said. Highlighting the ethical dimension, Dr Nikhil Balankhe clarified that euthanasia — legally permitted in certain countries — is different from end-of-life care or living wills.

"The intent here is not to hasten death but to ensure a peaceful and pain-free one," he said. Dr Nirmal Jaiswal added that earlier, such decisions were made

through mutual consent between doctors and relatives. "Now, withdrawal of life support in futile conditions has been legalised. Often, relatives who are not directly caring for the patient insist on continuing treatment, while primary caregivers know the true suffering involved," he said.

The forum precedes Mahacriticon 2025, the state conference on Critical Care Medicine to be held on November 7-9 at a hotel in Ramdaspath. Organisers, including Dr Sudhir Chafle (organising secretary), Dr Ashish Ganjare (chairman, SCCM Nagpur), Dr Utkarsh Shah (secretary), and Dr Kaustubh Upadhye (treasurer), have appealed to the medical and paramedical professionals to attend the awareness session.

Resolution of ‘Zudpi Jungle’ issue brought relief for thousands in Vidarbha:CJI

Nagpur 31 October: Chief Justice of India Bhushan Gavai on Thursday said efforts to resolve the long-pending 'Zudpi Jungle' issue, which was before the courts for years, brought much-needed relief to thousands of citizens across Vidarbha and gave immense satisfaction to him. "With this decision, a longstanding problem troubling countless institutions and residents is finally settled," he said while speaking at the inauguration of a grand memorial dedicated to his late father and veteran Republican leader, RS (Dadasaheb) Gavai, in Amravati CM Devendra Fadnavis inaugurated the memorial in the presence of deputy CMs Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar. Guardian minister Chandrashekhar Bawankule, minister of states Pankaj Bhoyar and Ashish Jaiswal, and several legislators and officials including divisional commissioner Shweta Singhal, collector Ashish Yerekar, and Amravati municipal commissioner Soumya Sharma-Chandak were also present.

Describing the memorial as a tribute that will guide the next generation, Fadnavis said, "RS Gavai's legacy is honoured through this memorial and the forthcoming reference volume documenting his life and work. His ideals and contributions will continue to inspire students and young citizens." The CM announced that a modern auditorium will also be developed in the same complex to serve

as a hub for academic and cultural activities. Justice Gavai termed the completion of the memorial a "dream fulfilled," noting that the project — from foundation to inauguration — was completed on schedule.

"This monument will serve as a learning space for citizens and students alike, portraying the life journey of my father with imagination and respect," he said. Shinde remarked that Dadasaheb's personality was shaped by Babasaheb Ambedkar's thoughts. "He embodied humility and grace and kept the Ambedkarite movement alive through his tireless work," he said, adding that Gavai's deep connection with grass roots citizens and his service to the common man were exemplary. Ajit Pawar noted that Dadasaheb's centenary year is approaching and announced govt support for related commemorative programmes. "He maintained excellent coordination with all — MLAs, MPs, and colleagues — and his leadership was marked by powerful oratory and inclusive politics," he said. The Rs 35-crore memorial features a 15-foot bronze statue of RS Gavai, a museum chronicling his political and social journey through 16 digital wall displays, rare photographs, and audio-visual kiosks. It also houses a 200-seat auditorium, souvenir gallery, and modern amenities like a video wall, cafeteria, and multi-purpose hall.

5,500 cops ensured protesters remain calm for over 30 hours



Nagpur 31 October: Blending restraint and tactical manoeuvring, over 5,500 police personnel toiled relentlessly for 30 gruelling hours to ensure that the recent protests revolving around farmers' demands, led by independent MLA Bacchu Kadu, ended without a single incident of damage, loss of life, or property destruction on October 28 and 29. Despite proactive measures by the city police to curb the influx, an estimated 800 to 1,000 tractors entered Nagpur, turning the Nagpur-Hyderabad highway into a sea of vehicles. Sources in the police department revealed that prior intelligence had flagged the potential for large-scale tractor arrivals. In

response, the Nagpur city police dispatched urgent letters to authorities in adjoining districts, but none paid any heed.

These communications had urged local forces to intercept and divert the convoys, emphasising the need to prevent any escalation within city limits, which failed for unknown reasons. "We anticipated the movement and coordinated extensively," said a senior police official on condition of anonymity. "Our goal was to de-escalate before things spiralled out of control, but the Nagpur police team ended up facing the challenges for 30 hours at a stretch," said a senior official. What followed was a high-stakes

psychological operation under CP Ravinder Singal, from the early hours of the protest's peak on October 28 to its dispersal late on October 29. Police teams, deployed in shifts but maintaining round-the-clock vigilance, engaged in what insiders describe as a 'mind game' to keep the agitators under constant pressure without resorting to physical intervention. Protesters, including some instigators allegedly seeking to provoke a crackdown, attempted to bait the forces into using lathis, tear gas, or other coercive measures by refusing to budge from the highway. Kadu challenged the cops to arrest him from the highway after the high court order was handed over to him, urging him to vacate the carriageway and allow smooth vehicular movement. Such actions, police strategists believed, would have painted the demonstrators as victims, garnering widespread sympathy. "We were aware of the trap," the official added.

"In today's age of social media and instant viral videos, one wrong move could have turned this into a sympathy wave for the protesters, damaging public trust in law enforcement." Instead, officers relied on dialogue, barricades, and

subtle diversions with DCPs in action at ground zero. What could have escalated into a volatile confrontation between police and agitators, potentially turning into a Punjab farmers-like protest, was deftly managed through psychological pressure rather than coercive force, showcasing the city police's evolving approach to crowd control.

The city police, with heavy deployment of cops with combat gear, kept the agitators under pressure with a body language projecting they were ready to pounce with lathis and shields. Mobile police units patrolled key areas, negotiating with leaders like Kadu himself, who was seen addressing crowds from atop a tractor.

The police water cannons and riot gear were kept on standby but never deployed. Traffic was rerouted to minimise disruptions, and plainclothes officers monitored for any signs of vandalism. Remarkably, not a single vehicle was damaged, no shops looted, and no injuries reported — a testament to the force's endurance. The operation involved personnel from multiple units, including the Rapid Action Force and local constabulary, many of whom went without adequate rest.

Travellers relieved as road reopens after 2 days, but uncertainty keeps many away

Nagpur 31 October: After two days of massive disruption, travellers finally heaved a sigh of relief on Thursday morning as the Nagpur-Hyderabad National Highway (NH-47) — the city's most crucial entry point — was reopened for traffic following the intervention of the high court. However, even as vehicles began to move again, uncertainty and fear of fresh protests kept many commuters and transport operators from resuming regular travel. The highway, along with the Samruddhi Expressway and the Nagpur-Jabalpur Highway, was blocked for nearly two days due to a large-scale protest led by former MLA Bacchu Kadu.

Thousands of farmers marched towards Nagpur demanding a complete loan waiver and laid a siege to NH-47 — a key route connecting the city with Chandrapur, Wardha, Yavatmal, and other districts of West Vidarbha. The blockade effectively sealed off major entry and exit points to Nagpur, stranding hundreds of vehicles and passengers.

Traffic movement on all three routes came to a standstill, with several passengers forced to walk long distances after being stuck for hours. It was only after a directive from the high court that the farmers decided to move out, and authorities intervened and cleared the roads late on Wednesday night, allowing vehicles to pass by Thursday morning. For transport operators, the reopening brought relief but also lingering anxiety. "These buses were stuck for 36 hours because of the agitation. Many people walked from Jamtha to Buti Bori or Jamtha to Nagpur as they were stuck. It was a nightmare. We closed the service for two days and partly resumed it on Thursday after the road was opened," said Devabhau Nikhade, who operates a fleet of short-distance private buses between Wardha-Nagpur and Yavatmal-Nagpur. He added that despite the clearance, travellers remain hesitant to hit the road. "Whatever buses the private operators ran on Thursday did not see much traffic. People are still scared that if the agitation reignites, they would be stranded in the jam for hours," said Nikhade.

The Maharashtra State Road Transport Corporation (MSRTC) also faced major disruptions, with many of its buses cancelled or diverted during the protest. Services were only partially resumed on Thursday. Daily commuters like Anurag Upadhyay, who travels from Wardha to Nagpur, said uncertainty continues to loom. "I was lucky that I did not get stuck in the jam as I was going back to Wardha on Tuesday evening. The road on the other side was completely blocked. I have not travelled since the last two days because of the agitation. I too am watching the news continuously to see what decision comes as agitators may again block the road again," said Upadhyay.



Sex workers rescue runaway teen wandering in Ganga Jamuna red light area

Nagpur 31 October:

In a heartwarming tale of humanity, vigilant sex workers in Central Nagpur's Ganga Jamuna red-light area on Thursday spotted and rescued a lost, school-bag-toting 16-year-old girl from Betul, Madhya Pradesh. She had innocently strayed into their midst while searching for a women's hostel. The swift intervention by these unsung heroes led to the teen's rescue, as they handed her over to Lakadganj police.

Payal Moundekar, a final-year law student, first alerted Zonal DCP Rahul Madane after spotting the girl. A group of residents of Ganga Jamuna, comprising Lata Moundekar, Jyoti Rathod, Pinki Dhanawat, and Priya Dhanawat, ensured the girl was escorted to Lakadganj police station along with the cops. IG Sandip Patil, now in charge of CP Nagpur, also monitored her rescue with instructions to deal with the case with sensitivity. The minor, whose identity is being withheld for privacy, had arrived in Nagpur by bus earlier in the day. Police found a bus ticket from Betul to Nagpur and also some cash in her bag.

Having escaped from home three days ago, the teenager landed in Nagpur and unfortunately strayed into the dingy lanes of Ganga Jamuna. Senior inspector Hemant Chandewar of Lakadganj police station messaged different police stations in Betul, following which he found a missing complaint for the girl filed at Bhainsdehi police station. "The girl has left home earlier too," said police, adding the girl was friendly with a boy, but he was still at his home. Chandewar said the girl was not cooperating and misleading cops with various addresses. "She furnished a cellphone, but it was switched off.

We are now waiting for Betul police," said Chandewar, adding the minor would be presented before the Child Welfare Committee. It was the sharp instincts of the area's sex workers that turned the tide. While going about their evening, they noticed the disoriented teenager wandering vulnerably — wide-eyed, backpack in hand, asking strangers for 'hostel' directions. Alarmed by her youth and innocence, the women immediately sensed danger. "She looked lost; we couldn't let her fall into the wrong hands," one rescuer said anonymously. Without hesitation, they approached the girl, shielded her from prying eyes, and contacted Zonal Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) Madane.

Their urgent call sparked a lightning-fast response. Within minutes, a police team rushed to the scene, ensuring the girl's safe extraction before any exploiters could approach her. At the station, the teenager also underwent medical checks and counselling.



Nagpur rural police crackdown on illegal liquor trade

Nagpur 31 October:

The rural police registered two cases against individuals illegally possessing and selling country liquor. Acting on a tip-off, Mouda police raided Mauja Gumthala and seized 22 bottles of country liquor from a white bag. A case was filed under Section 65(E) of the Maharashtra Prohibition Act. In a separate operation in Umred, police raided a site and caught one Bharat Dighore (58), a resident of Shipur, selling liquor illegally. Cops seized six bottles of country liquor from the accused. The swift actions underscore police commitment to curbing illicit liquor sales.

3rd merit list out, over 200 students barred from medical admissions in Maharashtra

Nagpur 31 October: Nagpur: The Maharashtra State Common Entrance Test (CET) Cell on Thursday released the third merit list for medical admissions to 1,764 vacant MBBS and BDS seats across the state, excluding 220 students who submitted incorrect or incomplete documents. According to the statement released by the CET authorities, 170 students uploaded incorrect documents while 50 failed to upload any documents at all, resulting in a ban from current and future admission rounds. The 1,764 vacant seats comprise 789 MBBS and 975 BDS seats. Within this, govt medical colleges have 168 MBBS and 60 BDS vacancies, while private institutions account for 621 MBBS and 915 BDS seats. "These 1,764 seats are available for the third round of medical admissions across the state," the CET office stated. Students who secured a seat in this third round are required to report to their allotted colleges for admission between October 31 and November 4, 2025.

The CET Cell clarified that of the 171 students who submitted applications with incorrect documents, only one student rectified the issue after receiving a notice to upload original and authentic papers. The remaining 170 students did not comply, leading to their exclusion. Similarly, out of 108 students who initially failed to submit any documents, 58 responded after notification. The CET Cell confirmed that the names of these students have been excluded from the third merit list, emphasising that adherence to documentation rules is mandatory for medical admissions.

2 caught with 239kg banned flavoured tobacco worth Rs9L

Nagpur 31 October: Kelvad police station arrested two individuals on Thursday for smuggling prohibited flavoured tobacco products, seizing contraband worth approximately Rs9.30 lakh. Acting on a tip from a confidential informant, a team of Kelvad police patrolled Mouja Bihara Phata, about 8km west of the station.

Around midday, they intercepted a suspicious four-wheeler (MH31 DC 7637) near Pancha. A thorough search uncovered 238.9kg of banned aromatic tobacco hidden in bags, including well-known brands. Valued at Rs2,50,206, the haul poses severe health risks, including addiction and life-threatening illnesses. The driver, Javed Dadda Sheikh (35), and co-accused Dilip Ramdas Mahajan (36), both from Gumgaon Ward No. 3, taluka Hingna, district Nagpur, were taken into custody. Police also impounded the vehicle (Rs6,50,000) and two OnePlus mobiles (Rs30,000 total). Interrogation revealed the duo knowingly violated the Maharashtra govt's prohibition on the production, sale, storage

Montha effect: Rain batters parts of Vidarbha

Nagpur 31 October: Heavy rains lashed several parts of Vidarbha over the past 24 hours under the lingering impact of the remnant circulation of severe cyclonic storm Montha. The system, now a well-marked low-pressure area over east Vidarbha and south

Chhattisgarh, is expected to weaken further within the next 24 hours, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Thursday. Heavy rains also lashed several parts of Nagpur since Wednesday night and the showers continued till Thursday morning.

According to IMD data, Gadchiroli recorded the highest rainfall in the region with 72.2mm, followed by Chandrapur (66mm) and Amravati (59.6mm). Bhindara (27mm), Wardha (31mm), Washim (17.4mm), and Nagpur (10.8mm) also experienced moderate spells, while light rain occurred in other districts. Relative humidity across Vidarbha remained between 83% and 99%, and maximum temperatures stayed 3°C to 6°C below normal, with Nagpur recording just 25.4°C. The IMD has forecast heavy rainfall with thunderstorms at isolated places in Vidarbha on Friday, October 31, followed by a gradual return to dry conditions from Saturday. "Minor damage to structures and crops cannot be ruled out due to localised heavy rainfall and gusty winds. Farmers are advised to take necessary precautions," the department said. Also, Chandrapur

district has emerged among the wettest in Vidarbha this monsoon season, registering 16.5% excess rainfall over the long-term average, driven largely by exceptionally heavy showers in Ballarpur, Jiwti and Korpana tehsils. Official data up to October 30 shows the district received 1,330.8 mm rainfall against a normal of 1,142mm. However, the excess has also come at a cost. The district administration reported crop losses across 1.10 lakh hectares, affecting more than 1.26 lakh farmers due to repeated flooding and prolonged waterlogging. The district's October rainfall stood at 130.7% of normal, significantly boosting cumulative seasonal totals. On a year-to-year comparison, Chandrapur's rainfall this year (116.5% of normal) marginally surpassed last year's 115.1%. The Nagpur division overall recorded 112.2% of the normal rainfall, placing Chandrapur among the best-performing districts in the region. Experts say the replenished reservoirs and satisfactory soil moisture will support Rabi sowing, though localised waterlogging in high-rainfall pockets could pose short-term challenges for farmers.

Congress demands judicial probe into Dularchand Yadavs' murder

Patna, Oct 31 (UNI) The Congress today demanded a judicial inquiry into the murder of Dularchand Yadav, who was campaigning for Jan Suraj candidate in Mokama, alleging that the incident was politically motivated and symptomatic of Bihar's deteriorating law and order situation under the NDA government.

Addressing reporters here, Congress MP Akhilesh Singh said an inquiry should be conducted by a sitting judge of the Patna High Court, asserting that only a judicial probe could uncover the truth. "We demand strict action and a judicial investigation. The circumstances in which this murder took place indicate political interference. Only a sitting judge's inquiry can ensure that the real culprits are exposed and justice is delivered," Singh said. He further alleged that



arms and ammunition were recovered from the convoy of an NDA candidate, calling it a serious breach of electoral and public safety laws. Ordinary citizens' vehicles are checked every 40 or 50 kilometres, and they cooperate with the authorities, but an NDA candidate's convoy was carrying weapons, he said, astonishingly. He said this is

Mokama incident. "How did firearms reach the convoy of an NDA candidate? This raises serious questions about the state's security apparatus and the misuse of power. Only an impartial probe can bring out the truth," he said.

The Congress leaders warned that the incident reflects a pattern of rising political violence in Bihar and vowed to take the issue to the people.

"This is not just a law and order issue but an assault on democracy. Bihar's voters will give their verdict against this jungle raj in the upcoming elections," he asserted. As it is, Dularchand Yadav was killed while moving in the carcade of Jan Suraj candidate Piyush Priyadarshi during the campaign in Ghoswari in the Mokama assembly segment of Patna district last evening.

Powai hostage crisis evokes memories of 2008 BEST bus hijacking

Mumbai, Oct 31 (UNI) The recent hostage crisis at RA Studios in Powai has drawn strong parallels with a similar tense standoff Mumbai witnessed nearly 17 years ago, reviving memories of the 2008 BEST bus hijacking incident. On October 30, 2025, Mumbai once again faced a hostage situation when Rohit Arya held 17 children and two adults captive at an acting studio, before being shot dead by police. Yesterday's events unfolded in a manner that resembled a real-life thriller, echoing scenes from the film A Thursday, where a teacher takes school children hostage. The accused, identified as 50-year-old Rohit Arya, who claimed to be a web series director from Nagpur, had reportedly called children, aged between 13 and 17, to the studio for auditions. Once they arrived, he allegedly confined them

inside and released a video threatening to harm them, end his life, and set the premises on fire unless allowed to communicate with certain individuals, including former Education minister Deepak Kesarkar. According to investigators, Arya had claimed to have produced an educational film for the state government but was not paid, and he sought justice over unpaid dues.

Following prolonged negotiations, Mumbai Police launched a rescue operation and secured the safe release of all the hostages. Arya suffered fatal injuries in the exchange of fire that followed, after which the Crime Branch took over the probe. The dramatic crisis immediately reminded many of the October 27, 2008 incident, when 25-year-old Rahul Raj from Bihar had hijacked a BEST bus on Route 332 in Andheri during morning peak



hours. He had threatened passengers with a firearm and an iron chain, assaulted the conductor, and fired shots inside the bus. Rahul Raj had declared that his target was Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) chief Raj Thackeray, in response to attacks by MNS workers on North Indian job applicants appearing for railway exams in Mumbai. Police surrounded the bus for about 40 minutes before shooting Rahul Raj when he refused to surrender. Then Deputy Chief Minister R. R. Patil had defended the action, stating, "If anyone uses a bullet, obviously he would get a bullet." The incident triggered a political storm, with Bihar leaders including Nitish Kumar, Lalu Prasad Yadav and Ram Vilas Paswan, accusing Maharashtra Police of staging a "cold-blooded killing" and demanding a judicial inquiry.

ECI may form joint panels for Bengal constituencies to ensure transparency

Kolkata, Oct 31 (UNI) The Election Commission of India (ECI) is examining a proposal to set up joint supervisory committees for each of the 294 Assembly constituencies in West Bengal to monitor the progress of the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The proposal, mooted by several political parties, seeks representation from both the Chief Electoral Officer's (CEO) office and political parties in these committees to ensure transparency in the revision process. According to sources in the CEO's office,

the move aims to address growing concerns raised by political parties over the conduct and outcome of the SIR exercise. "The argument is that such constituency-wise supervisory panels would help avoid controversies and enhance public confidence," an official in the CEO office said.

The ECI has reportedly found merit in the proposal, viewing it as a safeguard against disputes that may arise during the revision process. The three-phase SIR for 12 Indian states, including West Bengal, is scheduled to

begin on November 4. Meanwhile, following a stern directive from the CEO's office, all 143 "unwilling" booth-level officers (BLOs) in the state have reported for duty within the stipulated deadline. These officers, who had earlier refused to collect their enrolment letters, have now joined their assignments, sources confirmed. The CEO's office had warned that the ECI could recommend suspension or even legal action against any government employee refusing BLO duties on Wednesday.

NADP HONOURED FOR "STRONG INDUSTRY CONNECT & STUDENT-CENTRIC INITIATIVE" AT IIRF 2025, NEW DELHI

New Delhi, October 31, 2025 — The National Academy of Defence Production (NADP) has been conferred the prestigious award for "Strong Industry Connect & Student Centric Initiative", based on the IIRF 2025 national survey conducted by the IIRF Centre for Institutional Research (ICIR). The award was presented at the 8th Annual Industry-Academia Conclave held at Le Méridien, Janpath, New Delhi, in the presence of over 200 eminent leaders from academia and industry, including Directors of IITs, IIMs, and Vice-Chancellors from across India.

Aerospace & Defence, and L&T Precision Engineering Systems; in FMCG with ITC Limited; in Consulting with KPMG Aerospace & Defence; in Banking & Finance with Indian Bank; and in Agriculture, Dairy, Food Processing, and Finance with Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Saras Dairy, Jeevan Mushroom, KRG Consultants, and Finschool. The Academy also connects with Manufacturing giants like Indorama Synthetic India Ltd. and Jayswal NECO Industries Limited, Pharmaceuticals through Quincare Pharmaceuticals Ltd., IT & Cybersecurity via Delaplex Ltd. and Palo Alto Networks, and Logistics & Energy through BOLT CARGO, GK JCB, and L&T Energy Hydrocarbon.



On receiving the award, Dr. J P Dash, Principal Director of NADP, stated: "This honour reaffirms NADP's role as a strategic integrator for defence education and industry collaboration. We are proud to be recognized for our commitment to empowering students and aligning with national priorities. Looking ahead, NADP is initiating partnerships with the Wadhvani Foundation to scale digital skill-building across defence PSUs and MSMEs, and with Taksheela Global Education to bring global perspectives into our classrooms and executive programs. These initiatives will further strengthen our mission to integrate technology, tradition, and transformation in defence education."

This recognition marks a defining moment in NADP's journey as a national institution committed to defence capacity building and techno-managerial excellence. NADP's flagship PGDM (Business Management) program, mentored by IIM Indore, has achieved 100% internship placements with leading organizations across sectors. These include top names in Defence & Aerospace such as Larsen & Toubro (PES), Tata Advanced Systems Ltd., Jindal Defence Systems Pvt. Ltd., Bharat Forge, KPMG

governance structure includes senior leaders from Munitions India Limited, Mahindra and Mahindra Limited, and L&T Defence, ensuring strategic alignment with national defence priorities. Its industry connect is further reinforced through a wide network of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with premier institutions such as IIM Visakhapatnam, IIM Nagpur (INFED), IIM Indore,

IIIT Nagpur, VNIT Nagpur, DIAT Pune, NADT Nagpur, Ramdeobaba University, IBS Hyderabad, MILIT Pune, Military College of Material Management Jabalpur, Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA), SMMCA Nagpur, Tetrahedron Manufacturing Services Noida, IIPA New Delhi, Eudoxia Research University USA, and SAMVAW Foundation. These collaborations span mentorship, exchange, entrepreneurship, innovation, and international exposure. The Academy's student-

centric initiatives reflect a deep commitment to holistic development. From Sahas wilderness camps, Sahaj Yoga sessions, and Toastmasters Clubs, to CSR-driven events like Samvedana, students are nurtured as responsible citizens and strategic thinkers. NADP also promotes emotional and spiritual intelligence, health awareness, and career readiness through MOOC incentives, outbound training, and innovation programs that have led to patent filings by students and faculty.

As NADP continues to evolve as a centre of excellence, this award stands as a testimony to its vision of building Atma Nirbhar Viksit Bharat through empowered youth, strategic partnerships, and a future-ready curriculum focused on defence leadership and innovation.

Heavy rain & snow lash North Bengal and Sikkim; flights, travel plans disrupted

Kolkata, Oct 31 (UNI) Continuous moderate to heavy rainfall has been pounding North Bengal and adjoining regions — including Sikkim, Nepal, and Bhutan — since Thursday, triggered by a low-pressure system formed from the remnants of cyclone Montra. The inclement weather disrupted several travel plans today, including that of union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who was scheduled to visit Bhutan. She arrived in Siliguri yesterday but had to return to Delhi from Bagdogra Airport today morning due to poor visibility and adverse flying conditions. Meanwhile, higher reaches of Sikkim, including Nathu La along the Indo-China border, have begun receiving heavy snowfall, extending to nearby tourist destinations such as Tsongmo (Chhanggu)



Lake and Yumthang Valley. Snow clouds have also been sighted over Nepal's Annapurna Base Camp area, affecting trekkers and tourists. The meteorological department has issued an orange alert for heavy rainfall, predicting precipitation between 7 and 20 cm across North Bengal and Sikkim through Saturday afternoon. The district administrations in Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri — which faced devastating landslides and floods earlier this month — have been placed on high alert.

Hostage-case twist: Ex minister Kesarkar's praise for accused in past video, 2 cr dues alleged

Mumbai, Oct 31 (UNI) An old video has surfaced featuring former Education Minister Deepak Kesarkar praising a cleanliness initiative associated with Rohit Arya, the man involved in the recent Powai hostage incident. The footage, originally shared by Arya on his Instagram account, shows Kesarkar commending the 'Cleanliness Monitor' programme, which Arya had organised in collaboration with the Education

Department. In the video, Kesarkar explains that the initiative targeted students from Classes 5 to 8, encouraging them to develop good cleanliness habits and promote proper waste disposal.

He remarks that when children point out littering, adults become more conscious of their actions. He also links the effort to Mahatma Gandhi's message on cleanliness and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's principles

of discipline, noting that the programme commenced on October 2. According to reliable sources, Arya had undertaken a government project for the Education Department during Kesarkar's tenure as minister, but full payment for the work was not released. The Pune-based individual was reportedly under severe mental stress due to the pending dues related to the school project. Arya had claimed that around two crore

rupees were owed to him by government departments and had earlier staged protests and a hunger strike near the former minister's residence over the issue. On October 30, Arya allegedly contacted children under the guise of organising a web series audition to draw attention to his payment dispute.

During the police rescue operation at the Powai studio, Arya sustained bullet injuries and later died

Nagaland holds unity march on Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary

Dimapur, Oct 31 (UNI) The district level padayatra under the Sardar @150 Unity March was held across Nagaland to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India, today. The event was organised by Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) under the union ministry of youth affairs and sports, in coordination with the district administrations. In Dimapur, the rally was flagged off by Khrua Keyho, additional DCP, Dimapur, from City Tower and culminated at Dimapur Government College, covering a distance of around three km. More than 300 students, including NCC cadets, NSS volunteers, and youth club members, participated in the march carrying messages of unity, discipline, and national integration.

SELFIE COMPETITION....



Our esteemed reader Sadafi Shuhra Mahmood with her family.

West Bengal recruitment scam: ED conducts raids at 7 locations, seizes Rs 3 crore, incriminating documents

Kolkata, Oct 31 (UNI) The Enforcement Directorate today said it has seized Rs 3 crore in cash, digital devices and many incriminating documents of benami investments during a marathon raid at seven locations in and around Kolkata in relation to the alleged recruitment scam in municipality

and civic bodies of the West Bengal government.

The raids were conducted on October 28 and 29 at 7 places, including the offices and residences of main suspects of the Municipality Recruitment scam. The raids were conducted at Radiant Enterprise Pvt Ltd, Garodia

Securities Ltd, Jeet Construction and Consultants etc and the residences and offices of those involved. During the course of searches various incriminating documents including property documents, digital devices and cash amounting to Rs 3 crore (approx.) have been seized.

a bounty of Rs 1 crore, were neutralized. It was the first time in Jharkhand's Naxal history that such a large number of insurgents were eliminated in a single coordinated action. The operation, led by senior IPS officers including then IG (Operations) Amol Homkar, was conducted across Jhunjhunu, Parasnath, and Lughu Pahar regions. Earlier in January, police forces had gunned down two Maoists in Lughu Pahar while also arresting Ranvijay Mahato, a

wanted cadre carrying a Rs 15 lakh reward. The success in April marked the culmination of two months of intense planning, intelligence gathering, and field execution. The medals stand as a testament to Jharkhand Police's strategic capability and unwavering resolve in combating extremism. The union Home Ministry's recognition not only boosts morale but also underscores the national importance of Jharkhand's role in maintaining internal security.

Bihar will become a flood free state in India, NDA promises in its election manifesto

Patna, Oct 31 (UNI) NDA today promised to make Bihar, a flood free state of the country, if voted to power in ongoing assembly elections. Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and senior BJP leader Samrat Chaudhary, after release of manifesto by top leaders of NDA, told media persons here that floods ravaged north Bihar almost every year causing huge losses to life and property.

Such a national disaster, Flood Management

often negated a large chunk of good works done for welfare and development of the people in affected areas, he added.

Our government will ensure Bihar to become a flood free state of India by rolling out a detailed action plan for the purpose. Chaudhary said adding that under the plan, interlinking of rivers and construction of embankments and canals would be on top priority.

Board would be established for better coordination and technical assistance to various projects relating to find a solution to flood problems.

Fisheries and agriculture sectors would also get a big boost once measures taken for making Bihar, flood free state, were completed. BJP leader said. Such measures would bring economic upliftment of people living in flood prone areas, he stated.

14 Jharkhand police officers honoured for anti-naxal bravery

Ranchi, October 31 (UNI) Jharkhand Police has once again brought pride to the state with its remarkable achievements in anti-Naxal operations. Fourteen police officers and personnel, including IPS officers Amol Venukant Homkar and Michael Raj, have been awarded the union Home Ministry's Medal for Excellence in Service. The medals were announced on the occasion of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's birth anniversary on October

31. The medal is conferred each year by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) to recognize exceptional service in specialized operations, investigations, and forensic sciences. This year's honours notably highlight Jharkhand's success in counter-insurgency efforts against Naxalite groups. Those who received the medal include IPS officers Amol Vinukant Homkar, Michaelraj S., Indrajeet Mahatha, Surendra Kumar Jha, and Manoj

Swargiary, along with Deputy Commandant Mitihlesh Kumar, Sub-Inspectors Jitendra Kumar and Mantu Kumar, and constables Dinbandhu Shekhar, Paras Kumar Verma, Vikas Karmakar, Bhagirath Rajwar, Shivanandan Hansda, and Ajay Mehta. The honour comes as recognition for the major anti-Naxal operation launched in January 2025, which culminated in a historic encounter in April. In that operation, eight Maoists, including a top rebel carrying

Swargiary, along with Deputy Commandant Mitihlesh Kumar, Sub-Inspectors Jitendra Kumar and Mantu Kumar, and constables Dinbandhu Shekhar, Paras Kumar Verma, Vikas Karmakar, Bhagirath Rajwar, Shivanandan Hansda, and Ajay Mehta. The honour comes as recognition for the major anti-Naxal operation launched in January 2025, which culminated in a historic encounter in April. In that operation, eight Maoists, including a top rebel carrying